



A Vampire's Soul

Carla Susan Smith

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“Wicked fun not to be missed!” —*USA Today* bestselling author Rebecca Zanetti

Into The Dark

Rowan Harper’s world has been wrenched apart. The man she thought she loved—the man she does love—is a vampire, and not the kind that glitters.

Running away isn’t an option. Gabriel isn’t just her lover. She’s bound to him in ways she can’t comprehend, ways that put both of them in desperate danger even as Rowan’s desire for him blazes anew.

The rules of her life before are gone. But she has a power of her own, a power she is remembering in fits and starts even as time races against her. With her life and Gabriel’s very soul on the line, Rowan has to choose who to believe—and who to trust...

Winner of the OKRWA “Finally a Bride” contest.

89,000 Words

A Vampire's Soul Details

Date : Published by eKensington (first published January 1st 2014)

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Author : Carla Susan Smith

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From Reader Review A Vampire's Soul for online ebook

bjhix says

ARC provided by Kensington Books via NetGalley for a fair and honest review

****minor spoiler****

This book is a sequel to A Vampire's Promise, one that I would highly recommend. At the end of A Vampire's Promise, we are left at a cliff hanger, where Rowan, our heroine, has discovered exactly what the man of her dreams is and hasn't yet started to deal with it.

I will start by saying that I absolutely love Carla Susan Smith style of writing. She does keep it real, to a point that you can relate to the main character of the story. The story flows very nicely and the book keeps a steady pace so that you don't get bored reading unnecessary information. It also throws in very healthy doses of humor that will make anyone that is familiar with small town living get a big kick out of.

Rowan has what she calls her "inner bitch" – instead of an inner conscience, that speaks to her – and darned if her inner bitch and mine aren't the best of friends. I think they might belong to the same club, in fact. Many times I find myself laughing outright at a comment that her inner voice makes that I know myself I would have been thinking in the similar situation.

My only issue while working to the conclusion of this story is that it does spend way too much time IN Rowan's mind. Twisted up with her fighting back and forth within herself trying to make the decision of what is right and wrong. She loses ground by setting aside her spunky individuality and her principles due to great sex and a beautiful man.

Pretty much the entire book takes place at her home or in "another place" – which was boring. It might have been refreshing to see her take a step back from the whole situation – get the heck out of Dodge and clear her head. Something like that would have been more in line with the original Rowan we met in Vampire's Promise.

But all in all, it is an excellent book, one that I do recommend, I was looking forward to reading it after reading the first book and once I started reading it I couldn't put it down. I hope to see more from Carla Susan Smith in the future, because I think I might have a new favorite author.

Mara says

This is a joint review for A Vampire's Promise and A Vampire's Soul, as the two books are actually part one and part two of the same story.

So my first thought is a warning: be aware that you need both books if you want a complete story, as neither is a stand alone one. I say it first as many reviews might end on the negative side when the reader is taken by surprise at the lack of ending of A Vampire's Promise.

This reviewer isn't a happy camper with this trend in publishing, but I knew it since the beginning and I decided to ask for a copy anyway. It seemed to me a good way to try something that otherwise I would have missed.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only problem A Vampire's P and S have. The biggest is that there is no plot to sustain all those pages. If the editor had cut a lot of inane dialogues (some of it was soo cheesy to be unbelievable) and some totally unnecessary scenes we would have one single half-decent PNR. Well, maybe not. There seems to be no real storyline here except sex. And this is the second biggest problem.

This is the kind of PNR that stands in the "mated/fated/all that jazz" field, and in the lower end of it. To me it means that the author takes the easy way out and doesn't make the couple fall in love. They see each other and bam, wham they start to have sex and declare themselves in love. Moreover, in some of these books, these included, the excuse of fate gives us the most idiotic heroines. The ones that declare "if someone else told me this, I would have say run. But he told me this and he's different". So, we have an heroine that accept the offer of a stranger, then later on in the story has unprotected sex (repeatedly) with him, accept his word that he can't get her pregnant or pass diseases, all of it without knowing absolutely nothing of him until almost the end of the first book. Smart, she's not. Why do we need to make our heroines look stupid and suffering of a split personality (see inner monologues) is beyond my comprehension.

I never felt any connection between the leading couple and could not understand how she accepted him (both in the first book (view spoiler), and in the second (view spoiler)). But then there were so many of the usual cliché to be unbelievable. Virgin heroine, check, Fated couple, check, Jealous other vampire, check. Vampire as sons of the fallen, check. The only thing missing was the compound.

Honestly I kept skipping the inane sex scenes (inane as they were in the way of the threadbare story, she became wet and aroused every page, also when the story clearly necessitated a completely different reaction), so I kept skipping a lot. But above all I kept looking at the % to see how long to the end. I forced myself to read them as I had requested them both, and it seemed really wrong of me to DNF (even when I kept wanting to do it, even in the second half of book two.)

If Book One was completely centred on the couple, Book two threw us a few bones and tried at a plot. Why tried? Because it moved from giving us nothing to throwing everything and the kitchen sink. But it didn't get any more interesting (or asexual...).

Pity, as there was a hint of an intriguing world.

For all the verbal jigs at Twilight this book set was very Twilight-esque including some details.

These were Arcs, and there were a few editing glitches along (wrong punctuation, wrong verbs)

Arcs courtesy of the publisher via Netgalley

Marta Cox says

Second book that I have read by this author and finally thankfully we get the story that the first book A Vampires Promise well promised! I really enjoyed that book but it lacked basic paranormal content and just teased the reader a little too much. In this the follow up the author lets her imagination loose and takes the

reader along for the ride!

It's always been obvious to the reader that Gabriel is a vampire but it took Rowan quite a while to catch on! Finally when she does it opens up a whole new can of worms as she starts to realise that maybe just maybe Gabriel and her are well and truly connected and it's soul deep! Not wishing to give too much away it's fair to say that Rowan has made an enemy who wants her dead but that's the least of her worries. It's clear that her memories have been tampered with and if she is to find ever lasting happiness with Gabriel she needs to get them back but why is he so reluctant to help? Gabriel has secrets but surely their love will prevail? Well maybe not as events began so long ago are about to affect the here and now and perhaps Rowan's trust should not be given so easily? It's a precarious line that we tread when we decide between good and evil, one slip and all will be lost!

So pleased that we finally get answers as I found the first book so frustrating and maybe the two could have been combined which might have made for a more rounded book? Yes it would have been a longer story but I did feel somewhat that a paranormal romance should be just that paranormal! Luckily in this instalment we get lots of interesting details and characters and there's even action! Our heroine is as much a live wire as ever and her inner bitch is hilarious but unfortunately I just don't really find her that charismatic although she is brave and loyal and prepared to sacrifice for the man she loves. There are interesting supporting characters and my favourite would have to be the best friend Laycee who just lights up every scene that she's in but also brought real emotion into the story as it finished and trust me not many authors can make me feel sad. I'm also hoping that the character Ryiel will get his story told as I do love a brooding male! Lots of sex and I do mean lots! There's so much humour in this author's work too and it helps set it apart from the more mundane paranormals available. I will read more by Ms Smith and I am so pleased that this book captured my eye.

Carla Smith says

Can't really comment - it's my book! :-) (Of course it's marvelous!)

Douglas Meeks says

This review was hard, not because I did not like the book because I did but because I really thought about giving it 3 Stars for having to go through 270ish pages of book 1 of this series A Vampire's Promise to get to this book which is the real story I was looking for in book 1.

This novel incorporates all the things we usually enjoy about urban fantasy/paranormal romance. It has a couple who are in love with each other to the point of self sacrifice. You have the "big evil thing" hovering around in the background (in this case it's kinda 2 things but you don't know it). You have the heroine's best friend that actually is fleshed out pretty well (something many authors fail at doing) and the stoic friend of the hero and some other secondary characters that actually add to the story.

I really can't go into much detail about the plot beyond the synopsis because most of it would be a spoiler which I don't do and hate it when reviewers do it.

Bottom Line: This is a great novel, I wish she had taken book 1 & 2 and combined them into 1 close to 5 Star novel but she did not, I give it 4 Stars for the total story and not really what was limited to either book. I enjoyed it but felt a lot of pages were wasted on sex that meant nothing and added nothing plus when you add in book 1 you have a needlessly verbose telling of this story. It DOES however have a really good

ending I thought.

SN the Viking says

This book picks up right where book 1 A Vampire's Promise ended so you get the continuity, I really liked that. I absolutely loved A Vampire's Promise and gave it 5 stars. I especially liked that it turned rater dark at the end, I was so hoping this follow up would continue down that street. To my disappointment it didn't, not that I did not like this book though but it did go in a totally different direction than I anticipated. Some if it I like some I did not like as much. I would have liked the dark to have continued and I was not a huge fan of the vampire myth thing here with the real dream thing that was kind of boring. I don't know why, I thought maybe it was a bit too much and a bit like some of the Anne Rice Vamp books.

Overall I did like it and it was a real good follow up book. Gabriel was still a hot as they come and he is one of my book boyfriends for sure. I do love a blond Viking, it gets me hocked in a heartbeat.

Rowan is one of my favorite book heroines, she is likable with a no fuss attitude, wonderful snarky, quick witted and overall believable.

The bi characters with Rowans BFF were interesting and made the book better. Gabriel's "brothers" were intriguing and I want to get to know them more. I hope we got more books from this series featuring them and getting to know this universe better. Katja took the bad vampire bitch to a new dimensions and she kicked the story up a notch I think.

The cover on the first book was cheesy but it said vampire book to me, this cover is just plain ugly.

Overall I liked it a lot. This author writes real good, I like the writing style very much and if she continues like this there are going to be some awesome books in the future.

I give solid 4 stars and I am going to continue reading this series.

Book provided by Kensington Books via NetGalley for an honest review.

angelblue says

A Vampire's Soul picks right up from where it left off in the previous book. I have to admit that I struggled with this one. After finishing strong in the first book (even though it was a cliffhanger) I was really looking forward to reading A Vampire's Soul. As Rowen regains her memories of Gabriel danger draws nearer and nearer to her in the form of Katja. She is jealous of Rowan and wants Gabriel for herself. This is the part of the book that I really enjoyed, the danger and suspense, What I didn't care for were the flashbacks or dreams that Rowan had as she regained her memories. It seemed confusing to me, I'm still not sure how they originally met (maybe it was in the book but I didn't catch it) Maybe they were too drawn out or just too

much information but I found myself putting the book down and needing to take a break from it. Now saying that I still loved what else was going on in the book. Rowen is a hoot! Her, as she calls it, "inner bitch" would be my best friend in real life. I adored her. She's snarky, smart and does not take crap from anyone! Including the psychotic Katja who is determined to kill her.

Gabriel is...well he's Gabriel. Gorgeous, alpha and perfect. His past was heartbreaking to hear about and just made me love him that much more. He was so patient with Rowen, not trying to push her and giving her space when she needed it. The secondary characters in the book were well rounded and contributed to the story quite well. I loved Rowen's BFF and I wish the ending would have been able to be worked out differently between her and Rowen. Gabriel's brother Ryiel is someone that I definitely want to learn more about. This angel/vampire world that the author has set up has a lot of potential and I hope she continues with the series. I really enjoy her writing style and will definitely be on the look out for more books by Carla Susan Smith.

*I received a copy from the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Priscilla says

Why, why did I pick this book up? I don't know I guess I was kinda hoping this book was gonna go somewhere but no I mean I think at the end it actually gives you some story but I quit. People if your going to write a book and publish it? Put a story in there! This was all about the stupid freaking thoughts of this stupid girl named Rowan, who I really wanted to smack with her Ostrich head stuck in the sand! Waste of my freaking time!

Sheila Melo says

"Are you so sure this you love feel for the vampire can endure? That it will withstand temptation, greed, and lust, and all the other petty vices your kind are so easily swayed by?"

FINAL DECISION: Much better than the first book in the series, the story picks up now that Rowan has discovered Gabriel is a vampire. This book sets the stage for the drama of the series as Rowan is in danger. I enjoyed the action and drama in this book.

THE STORY: Rowan has discovered that her sexy boyfriend is actually a vampire. Now that the truth is revealed, Rowan begins to learn the truth about her connection with Gabriel. The two also struggle against enemies both old and new. As Rowan discovers a world that she didn't know existed, she has to make a choice whether or not to accept Gabriel as who is actually is.

OPINION: I enjoyed this book as an adventurous paranormal romp. After the slow first installment in the series, this one really picks up the pace. Now that Rowan knows that Gabriel is a vampire, her life is going to change. The knowledge begins the process of Rowan having to confront the past, along with its enemies and friends.

As Rowan doesn't fully remember the past, there are a lot of ambiguous figures who begin to appear in her life. She struggles with trying to determine friend and foe. Also, she begins to realize that she must choose

between her life as she knows it and Gabriel. The events in this book demonstrate that she will be forced to choose between them.

We do discover more about Gabriel's past and how Rowan is connected to Gabriel. There was a lot of action in this book. I wish there was more romance and connection between Rowan and Gabriel, but this book is more about the external conflicts and Rowan's own acceptance of Gabriel's vampirism than it is about their relationship.

WORTH MENTIONING: This series is a serial meaning that the story of this couple is not resolved here but continues in subsequent books. If books ending on cliffhangers or with unresolved issues bother you, I suggest you pass on this series.

CONNECTED BOOKS: A VAMPIRE'S SOUL is the second book in the Vampire's Promise series. It is a serial and continues the story of Gabriel and Rowan. I don't think it's necessary to read the first book because this one gives all the information you need.

STAR RATING: I give this book 3.5 stars. This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com

Keri says

LOVED it!!!!

This was everything I was hoping for and then some. We finally get the answers as to what being a promise means for Rowan and what Gabriel has gone through searching for her. There were actually a few times I felt like my head was smoking from all the information we were getting thrown but I survived. I don't want to ruin this for anyone so I will keep my review vague. Of course there were a few predictable areas, but plenty of out of the norm plot to keep this flowing nicely. Rowan was once again spunky and funny but refreshingly she finally voiced all, well not all, the questions I had been pondering. My heart broke for Gabriel and what he endured and I finished this book loving him more than I did the first time. Rowan and Gabriel still managed to steam up the pages and I feel like we finished this book in a good place, but there is definitely room to take this story and expand on some new characters(cough...Ryiel...cough cough). If you haven't read Vampire's Promise it is a must before this story and I highly highly recommend you add both to your reading lists!

This was a complimentary copy from the author via Netgalley in exchange for a honest review.

Lover of Romance says

Rowan has just learned that her boyfriend, the love of her life, has kept a secret so much more than she ever imagined....he is a vampire! Rowan is blown away and has no idea how to handle this shock. At first Gabriel gives her space, but as the truth starts to sink in, she starts to realize that he is still the same loving and passionate man she first fell in love with. Now she might be in danger from a woman scorned that is jealous of her bond with Gabriel. And on top of that she learns that she is bound to him in ways she doesn't know yet but will change her life forever. After she learns everything and her full memories return to her, will she be able to grab at the chance at a future with Gabriel or lose him forever....

A Vampire's Soul is the second book, and it continues right from where the first book ended (which I loved,

so you don't miss out on anything) and we see Rowan really struggling with the truth about Gabriel. At first glance you think...well why would she struggle with it so badly? But if you have read the first book, her finding the truth isn't the best way, and in fact I sympathize with her, because you see how shocked she is, and hasn't had much time to process it. In some parts of the book we don't see Rowan and Gabriel too much, but you see more side characters more involved in the story, and I loved that when Rowan does except Gabriel for all that he is, she does it with every part of her, nothing held back. One of my favorite aspects of Rowan, is that she doesn't hide anything, she is frank and honest and I enjoyed how refreshing her character is.

There is quite a huge element of danger and suspense added to the story, and then we see more about Gabriel and Rowan's past together, and there is a lot more to their bond than you ever realize. It definitely is heart wrenching at times, and my heart went out to this couple, that definitely deserve their happy ever after. There is quite a few layers in this story, very unique, that for being less than 300 there is so much happening in this story that pulls you in and you find yourself enthralled by the magic of the storytelling of this author that weaves a tale of passion and intrigue and an intense world that you ache to see more of. I definitely will be keeping this author in mind for the future. These two books are definitely going on the favorite list. I would highly recommend this author to any romance lover that is searching for a tender yet powerful vampire love story to capture your heart. MAGNIFICENT!!!

Liz F says

Reviewed for Rakes of Romance

Review copy courtesy of the publisher via NetGalley.

A Vampire's Soul is a satisfying wrap-up of the story author Carla Susan Smith's started in A Vampire's Promise. But don't let that fool you - this is a fully fledged story with so much going on, you won't believe that you read the whole thing in one sitting.... but you will!

Rowan is still trying to figure out what the hell she saw at the giant mansion she was taken to when she saw with her own eyes what Gabriel was truly capable of. I was pretty much on Rowan's side the entire story - no TSTL moments. And I especially understood how she could get so pissed when everyone talks about her being Gabriel's Promise but no one would explain to her what exactly that meant! I wanted her to choke the shit out of everyone who said that to her! LOL! Rowan is still a strong woman and stands up for herself and for the people she cares about. I think that's what I liked most about her - she'll do whatever it takes to take care of her "family" which includes Gabriel and Rowan's best gal pal. Rowan was a smart-ass and she was ballsy and that's what I like to see in a heroine.

Gabriel is still smoking hot! Unfortunately, we don't see him until about 9 chapters in, which is a teensy bit too long in my opinion. But, then again, absence DOES make the heart grow fonder so there's that! LOL! We finally find out who and what Gabriel is and I have to say that it surprised me. In a good way, of course. There's lots of stuff that I want to talk about regarding Gabriel but I don't want to say what he is because that would totally ruin the surprise. Needless to say, Gabriel has been around a long, long time and has been waiting for Rowan all of that time. He's such a... well, he's such a great romantic hero! I hate to be so obtuse about it but that's what he is and he's just awesome!

Of course, Rowan and Gabriel are hot together but they've been hot together since the first book! I was

disappointed that it took so long to see Gabriel but Rowan is dealing with having JUST discovered that he was a vampire so I totally didn't mind her taking her time with it. Also, there are several chapters that are essentially dedicated to an information dump so it's a lot to take in but that's really where Rowan (and the reader) gets the lowdown on what's been going on behind the scenes, so to speak. More than anything, it's world building and that in itself is pretty fricking amazing since we're into Book 2 before we find out the vampire rules for this world!

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's not strictly required to read A Vampire's Promise first but you'll really be doing yourself a disservice by not reading it before this one. Book 1 was mostly about getting to know all the characters and this one is mostly about getting information and getting into and out of danger! Lots of other-worldly characters join the cast in this installment and it was way too much fun. I highly recommend this book to any fans of vampire books or paranormal romance in general.

Karen's Book Haven says

Finally get the answers to the cliffhanger that was in Vampire's Promise. A couple of hot sex scenes but this book is about answering most of the questions left from Book 1. I've seen on Carla's facebook page that she's working on book 3. Happy dance!!!

Spanxmcb (Yovanka) says

The second installment in the Vampire's Promise series. Another entertaining read! Although Rowan remains alarmingly slow on the uptake - which is mildly annoying - and although some of the plot twists are predictable, there are a good number of laughs in this one as we discover exactly what Rowan is keeping safe for Gabriel and learn more of what her being his "Promise" actually means.

Smith doesn't shy away from violence, it's dark, but not too dark for the genre. And we get to see both our heroine and hero come to each other's rescue. Rowan graduates from her small town roots in book one and I anticipate we will see many more worldly and exotic locales in future books. Now that things are out in the open, how deep the rabbit hole of this vampire world goes will be interesting to discover.

At the end of this book Smith really opens it up for any length of installments, so it will be interesting to see just how layered and complex the history of these characters will get and how many books that will produce. Knowing that book 3 is being released soon is a comfort, but given when the first two books were published, it's been a long wait for some readers.

Hardly a perfect book or series, but growing on me and getting better each time.

Dawn says

Captivating

Holy Moses talk about wanting more....Absolutely loved this.Cannot wait for more from Carla Susan Smith.Amazing,love,love ,loveI Cecil will read more from this author.

