



A Vampire's Promise

Carla Susan Smith

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Trust Your Instincts

Rowan Harper is nothing but a smart-mouthed bookstore clerk with a crappy love life on the night she walks into Rosie's Bar. Most of the drama in her life is borrowed from her best friend's adventures. But when she meets Gabriel--tall and movie star gorgeous--everything changes. Never mind that she turns down the drink he offers, or that he brims with secrets she can't begin to guess at. He ignites a desire in her she never suspected--and shows a fascination with her she can't explain.

He has no family, no job, no bank account; he knows where she lives and her favorite flower. An aura of mystery cloaks him, even as Rowan grasps for facts, even as she fears an answer that could destroy her happiness. Gabriel can guide her through a wonderland of new sensations. But only if Rowan trusts him enough to follow. . .

94,350 Words

A Vampire's Promise Details

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From Reader Review A Vampire's Promise for online ebook

***?az?? - th? ?ock C?ick ?airy* says**

What did I just read?

An ARC was provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

It's been a long time since I've read a vampire novel. I received a copy of this book and thought, oh well, time to get back to the PNR world. Boy, was that the worst choice.

I admit, this book could be intriguing and it certainly is hot. But to a girl who knows TWILIGHT, NEW MOON, ECLIPSE AND BREAKING DAWN like the back of her hand... man, this was a riot. The resemblance of some scenes, the familiarity of their feelings... I thought.. okay, here's one book which is like.... in a more ADULT, rated PG way.

(view spoiler)

Oh yeah... totally not my style.

Would I read the next book? Yes, if someone promises that there wouldn't be any hint of a resemblance with a certain series and if someone promises that there would be no cliffhanger.

Douglas Meeks says

Let us start with the characters of Rowan and Gabriel, the author drags out the slow burn romance for the whole book, never allows Gabriel to share what he will and she never questions what he won't.

Obviously from the title we all know what he is but this story was so full of tiny details and pages upon pages of sexual activity (sex used as filler) that everything we really wanted to know got pushed onto the last few pages and a teaser for the next book. I should say this is NOT a technique I would advise authors to use since it might make me buy the next book or it might make me never pick up another of her books.

So to make this an actual review, the story was good but it written more like almost a 250 page teaser. We got a lot of the history of Rowan and almost zero of Gabriel, by the end of the book I probably knew as much about her best friend Laycee as I did about Gabriel.

The story of the romance between these two lovers is long and drawn out, filled with pages of sex and day-in-the-life type situations. You keep reading because the real story seems to be just around the next page or two but never actually comes to fruition and the big reveal at the end of the book tells you almost nothing.

3 Stars for the story it should have been, I will get the next book so I can get the story I should have gotten with this book but I may be wary of another book by this author.

? Sassy ~ Amy ? says

WARNING!! Written in 'First Person' & First book in continuing series with dead stop cliff hangers!

I will complain in a minute about what bugged me, but this author was so good in her writing & this book, that I was totally torn.

Rowan meets Gabriel at a bar... He asks her on a date & during that later date she meets his "friends". Not until the end of the book does she realize he is a vampire, but it is hinted to, as it is written in first person, so you already know by the blurb that he is, but she doesn't.

Ha! She's a virgin too... Working to fix that. He knows things about her she never told. Favorite shake at an place she hasn't been for years etc. She can't figure that out... He says they are good guesses.

This book had the eerie vibe that 'Twilight' (not the rest of the series) before she knew what Edward was & the "Say it!" line... But this one was darker & more provocative. He even has a cool car!

I wish books would warn you when they are written in first person! I have a hard time with so much inner dialog that the story is almost lost when it's written that way. I actually think it makes the book a whole lot longer too. Sometimes it works & sometimes it doesn't.

My problem with the writing in first person started right away for this book. The character description of Rowan was through herself & she described her friend as an eye catcher, skinny & about 5'5'. Rowan says she's about 4 inches taller & "Not" (her words) skinny. And when she said the "not" I start picturing a 200lb nerd girl & it won't go away... sorry.

The writing & the actual story were excellent! I was a bit ticked off at the end & finding out it was one of a few in this series. I think there should be a warning there too! Some of us can't handle without the next book already being written.

Meigan says

First off, don't be swayed by the cover. It isn't really indicative of the actual story. The cover makes the book seem like it's going to be a sex-fest; heroine gets swept away by half-naked hulkster, where they while their time away making endless love. Not so, my friends. At least not all the time.

If I may be honest, I put this book off for quite some time because of the cover. I know that's shallow and completely unfair, but there you have it. So you can imagine my surprise when I started reading it and almost from the first page, I was chuckling.

Rowan Harper was quite an endearing lead. She works in a bookstore, doesn't have very many friends (she has some close ones, many are just acquaintances). She's normal to look at, nothing stands out - except her attitude and wit. She's quite the mouth and has a habit of talking internally to something she calls her "inner bitch". She and her "inner bitch" often have debates, sometimes arguments, and the voice of reason doesn't always win out. Which is actually a good thing, because then she wouldn't have met Gabriel.

Gabriel. The Viking god. Well, not really, but that's how Rowan sees him. And he is of Norwegian ancestry and kind of looks like a god. Somehow, someway, out of all the women in the world, he sets his sights on normal, average Rowan. And this is how the story begins...

I was quite surprised by this book, not only because of the cover vs story as I stated above, but because I actually liked both of the main characters for a change. I couldn't find a darn thing wrong with either one, which makes me think this series will become one of my favorites. Sure, Rowan came off as naive and skittish at times, certainly she didn't make the smartest of choices by accepting advances so soon after meeting Gabriel, but it made for good storytelling.

The only thing that didn't strike my fancy was the setting and the world building, or lack thereof. Rowan had stated several times about how life works in a small town, but I didn't get that and I wanted to. Small towns are one of my favorite types of settings, when done right. Not only does the reader get a stronger grasp of the town/community/area in general since there's less to focus on, but having the setting richly drawn also enhances the characters to a certain extent. The reader gets a much deeper connection because most of the characters interact more when the town is only so big. That's my only criticism.

Yes, there are vampires as indicated by the title, but they aren't in the forefront. In fact, the vamps don't come out to play until after the first half. Although it's not hard for the reader to figure out who is and isn't one, it was certain characters' reactions to the news that was the good part. I fought several times not to roll my eyes, and that small bit of frustration made me like some of the characters (and their idiocy) even more.

3.5 rounded up to 4 because I found myself making time to come back and read this. And reader beware - this falls into the "new thing" of series books where each one has to end on a cliffhanger. Annoying, yes, but I'm still looking forward to the next book in the series.

**eARC received on behalf of the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Lucinda says

A page-turning paranormal romance with a sprinkling of enchanting mystery

This rather visually bland book is a misleading reflection of the surprisingly wonderful content within, and so I would in this instance **not pre-judge** this! Any assumptions I had regarding this story were dissolved, as C S Smith's well-crafted narrative {that's beautifully woven} took me completely by surprise. It is such a rare event when I encounter something such as this; an undeniably gripping story of inspired ideas and searing vision within a hugely popular genre. "**Trust your instincts**" has never been more ironically accurate, and so I cannot state how delighted I am to have had the chance to read such an addictive book.

A Vampire's Promise is a seductively sizzling tale of intense passion that's darkly delicious and as sinful as chocolate! The mystery shrouding Gabriel (aka. The Viking) and the magnetism between him and Rowan is

so electrifying, you are instantly drawn to him like a moth to a flame. He is a multi-layered enigma of physical attraction, who ignites a strong desire and fascination of overwhelming power and ambiguity. I was unable to tear my eyes from the pages, drawn into such a tantalizingly tempting underworld of shocking secrets and erotic Vampirism.

3.5 stars!

Carla Susan Smith's deeply beguiling, haunting novel is simply stunning! I would highly recommend this to fans of Charlaine Harris, J Frost, Kerri Arthur etc. and lovers of paranormal romance containing colourful characters. *I would like to thank the author for providing me with an *e-copy* of her book to read & review*

SN the Viking says

Rowan lives a super boring life, living in a secluded spot all alone. She works in a bookstore, read lots of books, is still a virgin and she so wants to change that BADLY, has no family and are living vicariously thru her recklessly and outgoing BFF Lacee. Who are having an affair with the married chef of police, and that is how Rowan gets into this new adventure in her life.

Gabriel tall blond hair super star looking Viking I was sold, when he was from Norway too I went to heaven. He is the poster boy for my type, I think the author has been on a little trip in my brain and made he from my dreams. Yummy!!! He stays mysterious and a little brooding thru the book with a huge revelation at the end. From the title we know he is a vamp, but OMG!! He is a new edition to my supernatural harem. I hope to really get to know this hunk of a vamp in the next books in this series and I cannot wait for it.

I really like this book, the writing style was to my taste and I got into it pretty quickly. I like the flow in the writing and that we only got the story from Rowan POV. I absolutely loved Rowans character, she was witty with a quick comment and great sarcasm. I laughed and giggled my way thru the snarky comments from first to last page. She is down to earth, smart and she is not your typical virgin so that worked for me. Rowan is a fighter and with little experience in relationships in general I get why she did not ask to many question of Gabriel even if I found that a little annoying. The heat was real good in it too, there was some fine scenes (view spoiler) I would classify this as a UF with PNR heat level.

The last 20% took me by surprise and what a good surprise it was. It got real dark, we are not talking vamps with glitter here that's for sure. I love dark paranormal so I was real happy with it. There is a cliffhanger end and I want to get my hands on the next book in this series like yesterday.

Over all I loved this book and I have found a new UF series to follow, I need to see where this is going. I think this is an awesome debut novel from a new author. I am going to keep an eye on her and her future work.

I give this book 4,5 stars rounding up to 5 star.

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

Monique says

I really enjoyed Rowan and Gabriel's story. It was a satisfying read: Funny (Rowan's first-person narrative is sometimes hilarious), mysterious, and also horrifying at the end. I like the author's writing style. The ending stumped me somewhat, however (I would have preferred one, stand-alone book, to its conclusion, instead of a cliff-hanger).

But...I'll admit that I'm sucked into the story, and will be purchasing book 2. (I got the first book as a Kindle freebie).

I bumped this from four stars to five stars! You know how you'll re-read something that you really like? I've read this THREE FRICKIN' TIMES ALREADY!

And now...I've finally started reading A Vampire's Soul...lol

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

Well, I tried. I don't like the tone of this book. I didn't like lines like this:

This was a car, for God's sake! Talk about being ridiculous. But it was nice to know the Viking had a "she" in his life that weighed a hell of a lot more than I did.

Or this:

I'm sensible enough to see myself for what I am, which means I'm not that bad to look at. A C-cup may be a little on the generous side, and I wish my legs weren't quite so long, but thankfully, I've never relied on my looks to keep a guy interested.

So... you grudgingly accept your generous breasts and long legs? WOW. Must be hard. Nobody likes a woman with nice boobs and long legs. /sarcasm

I also didn't like the oddly but sneakily judgy tone against other women. So tired.

I did find this line amusing:

He might be a deranged serial killer. Yeah, but he did have a nice smile. Of course, so did most

serial killers. I think it's some sort of prerequisite.

I made it to 12 or 14%, and all that had happened was the characters met, arranged a date, and then were about the go on the date. This is shaping up to be romance-heavy in a way that ignores any semblance of plot other than getting the two main characters together. I've read too many vampire books to be entertained by that.

Sheila Melo says

"The world as I knew it came to a screeching halt and tumbled off its axis. And I knew, no matter whatever else happened to me in the rest of my life, something had just changed. It was one of those pivotal moments that happen once in a lifetime. One that said nothing was ever going to be the same."

FINAL DECISION: A first book that takes too long to get to the big reveal -- that unfortunately is not a secret because of the title of the book -- but has promise for the series. I want to know what is happening now that Gabriel's secret has been revealed to Rowan.

THE STORY: Rowan Harper is a spunky woman who works in a bookstore, reads romances and has never been able to get her sex life right. One night at a bar, she meets a sexy, mysterious man. Gabriel is amazing in every way, but there is so much she doesn't know about him. What Rowan does know is that she feels like she has met Gabriel before even though that is impossible. He seems to know so much about her while she can't find out anything about him.

OPINION: I picked up this book because I got the third book from Netgalley in order to provide a review. Once I saw that this book was merely a series, but truthfully a serial, I knew I needed to start at the beginning.

This book begins with a introduction of Rowan who doesn't seem to have a lot of strong connections in her life. Her mother abandoned her; her father is dead; the only friend we meet in involved with another man; she has been unsuccessful in her sex life. When she meets Gabriel in a bar, she is wary because she seems too handsome, too sexy and doesn't seem the type of man who would be interested in her.

Rowan seems so normal and plain that it was difficult for me to get attached to her in this book. Clearly there are secrets that we haven't learned, but I needed to feel more connection with Rowan earlier.

Gabriel is sexy and mysterious and oh, he's a vampire. That would be a spoiler, but the "secret" is too obvious because of the title of the book.

What I really liked in this book is the Gothic and strange feel. Rowan is stumbling through revelations. I liked that there are a lot of secrets in this book that will be developed in the series.

The biggest weakness of this book is that too much is kept back here and that made the book a bit slow at times. As a reader, I knew almost immediately that Gabriel was a vampire and I got tired of waiting for Rowan to find out. Despite the title, this book is almost a pure contemporary until the end when Rowan discovers Gabriel's secret.

I do think the setup for the rest of the series has promise and hopefully as we delve into the vampire world the action will increase.

WORTH MENTIONING: This book begins a series that follows the same characters. The story is not completed in this one book. Reader beware.

CONNECTED BOOKS: A VAMPIRE'S PROMISE is the first book in the Vampire's Promise series.

STAR RATING: I give this book just a smidgen under three stars -- but lets round up to 3. This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com

Lorna says

4.5 rounded up to 5

Can you say book hangover? That's exactly what I have right now after reading this book. After finishing another book at 4 a.m. today, I decided to start this book with every intention of reading just a few pages before bed. Two hours later I made myself go to bed. I was able to finish it this evening. I could not put it down. I received this book from Net Galley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Rowan is a single bookstore clerk, whose idea of a fun Friday night is watching re-runs of CSI. Her best friend, Laycee, calls her to come meet her at a dive bar since she had been left there by her boyfriend. While there, the best looking guy in the place is watching Rowan and not her knockout best friend. New experience for Rowan and she refuses the drink he sends to her table. When she goes to leave, she runs smack into the guy and he manages to convince her to meet him the next night. Thus starts a wonderful courtship between the two. What she doesn't know is that Gabriel is a vampire. Due to the name of the book, the reader is in on the secret from the start.

What I liked about this book:

I loved the main characters of Rowan and Gabriel. Rowan has finally found the man she has been waiting for her whole life and Gabriel has found Rowan. The question here seems to be, has he met her before? Rowan has a lot of deja vu moments. And she has even more questions. Why doesn't he ever stay the whole night, why is there a voice in her head at times, why does Gabriel answer questions that she only thinks and doesn't ask out loud? It's told from Rowan's point of view and that was pretty funny at times. Certain phrases like "I crossed over from Clueless Land into the Continent of the Totally Lost" were used and kept the story lighter at times when it should have been horrific. That's just one that jumped out at me.

The romance was ridiculously good. The lust on Rowan's part especially, was off the charts. And no they don't immediately fall into bed, and it actually takes awhile. Refreshing for a book of this type, I thought.

Over and above the romance, I really enjoyed Rowan's relationship with her best friend Laycee. Although Laycee is described as looking like gorgeous trailer park trash, she's the best friend everyone wants, although Laycee has a married (separated) boyfriend and that was a whole other part of the story.

At first I was thinking this story was kind of a Twilight for adults, if that makes sense. I am a big Twilight fan (don't judge!) so this is not a disparaging comment. Young woman meets gorgeous vampire and they fall in love. Pretty simple. Not even close. And no he doesn't glitter in the sun! Actually now that I think of it, he might glitter because he is never in the book unless it is at night. The fact that at 39% of the way in, I was

wondering if there were other books out by this author is really telling. I was enjoying the read that much. That was a first for me to start wanting other books by the author before I was even done with the first book. And by the way, this was a first novel by this author which is just really surprising. If she can write this well on her first try, I can just imagine how she will be writing a few years down the road.

What didn't I like about this book:

The only thing that comes to mind is the cover. The description of Gabriel just doesn't fit the cover at all. In fact, if the blurb hadn't drawn me in, I might not have even tried the book.

Who would I recommend this book to:

Any paranormal romance fan will love this book-I can almost guarantee it!

So now the wait begins for the second book in the series. I might have to start stalking the author to find out when that's going to happen!(PureTextuality.com)

Iris (Paranormal Cravings Book Reviews) says

Absolutely loved it! Amazing new Paranormal Romance.

Don't let the cover scare you off! This is an amazing book and great introduction of an page-turning paranormal series. Cant wait to read the second book.

5 star with a FAT PLUS!

Lover of Romance says

I received a ARC copy in exchange for a honest review.

Rowan, works in a local bookstore, and unlike her best friend, who draws men like bees to honey, she hasn't had much luck in the men department. Rowan is still a virgin, and not because she wouldn't love to have a lover or two, but she has never met anyone that she wanted to share that part of herself with. When she comes to the local bar, to satisfy her friend, she meets a man that tilts her world with just one look. Rowan is blown away with "Gabriel" who is a sexy viking type, and looks at her as if she is the only woman on earth and he thirst for her blood. What shocks her is that he wants her, especially when there is so many other beautiful women that she knows she can't even compare herself too. But Gabriel is persistent, seductive, and charming, and even though she doesn't want to risk her heart, she can't help but find herself sharing her life with him, and knowing he is full of secrets, she knows that he is her destiny...

A Vampire's Promise is the first book that I know of that this author has written....and all I can say is SUPERBLY DONE!!! Impossible for me to put this one down. I don't read too many vampire romances, but this one was so delicious and lick your lips worthy, and I will warn you though it has one kicker of a cliffhanger, so much so that I knew I had to get the second book in NG. Gabriel and Rowan are quite a team, and Gabriel is quite the hero of the story. Gabriel is a vampire, but is quite the gentleman around Rowan. I loved seeing how old world he is, believes in courting a girl, and not just wanting sex the first night. As the story progresses, you see these two slowly kindle a flame that blossoms into a beautiful and tender love

story. You know that Gabriel's secret is bound to come out soon, but you also don't want to put the special relationship they have created together on hold. I could barely get through this book fast enough, I was soaking this story 100%, and I could barely contain my excitement of this story and how much it revved my energy up. I almost felt like I was being the one seduced and slowly courted. The emotional display is so vividly displayed, that you can't help but immerse yourself completely in the story. It is addicting and almost magically pulls you in.

Overall a whopper of a romance. A tale full of zest, sensuality, and the seducting power of two souls truly coming together. A story to captivate you both body and soul!! A ENTICING ROMANTIC TALE TO TUG AT THOSE HEARTSTRINGS!!!

Eva says

Don't buy unless you like 50 Shades of Gray or secretly have fantasies about cheating your husband. Super cheesy, badly written. I shoul've known from the cover.

I will hide the spoilers. (But read it anyway since it shows how bad this book is.)

So here are my goodreads status updates while I was reading this.

23.0% "I don't like the writing style where they write like they are texting. For example "Honestly. Shit." or "Okaaaay." Feels like I'm reading a Wattpad story."

15.0% "WHY isn't there any marriages that lasts in this book?"

(view spoiler)

44.0% "They say man are simple but woman are simpler. Just be handsome and big, have an expensive car (or two) and don't be too pushy. (Just a little) That's all. Easy."

45.0% "Said she was would kick my ass" Amazing grammar. Well done."

56.0% "Can you please stop with this "like a romance novel" bullshit? IT IS A ROMANCE NOVEL!" At least the writer think it is.

58.0% "Am I reading New Moon? Because (view spoiler)

77.0% "Well, what does an erection and a PhD has in common? Let me tell you, not a single thing."

80.0% "Gabrial is just like a mix of Edward and Dimitri."

86.0% "Katja is just like a mix of Rosalie and Katherine."

90.0% "OMG. Promise? Really? How much more cheesy this book can be?"

Here you go. All my thoughts about this book.

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 sooo 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

Jillian (NetGalley Addict) says

*Kensington Books via NetGalley provided me with a complimentary review copy of this book.

---Review contains spoilers---

Rowan has a boring love life and vicariously lives through her best friend, everything changes when she goes to pick up said friend from a bar and meets Gabriel. He's gorgeous and he wants her, can Rowan be with a

man she only has at night and has so many secrets?

The beginning of this book was great, you have a woman meeting a mysterious man at a bar who is unbelievably hot, they go on a few dates and things start getting very interesting in a good way.

Then all the sudden Gabriel leaves and Rowan is left floundering trying to figure out how to deal with him not being there. He comes back a few months later with no real firm explanation for why he was gone and they pick up where they left off.

Rowan doesn't tell her friends that she is back with Gabriel, she doesn't ask him where he spends his day or what he does for a living. At seventy percent there seems to be no real storyline, it's all about them having sex and Rowans inane inner monologue.

There seemed to be no real plot in this book, the title of the book is A Vampire's Promise but we don't find out what that is, we get an infinitesimal hint at what it could be but the cliffhanger at the end keeps you from finding out anything important. I may have not liked this book because I thought the Rowan was weak and naive, I can't stand a female lead who ignores things and is weak. While the first few chapters caught my interest, the rest of the book just wasn't for me.
