



## Thicker Than Water

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Seventeen-year-old Kia barely survived her parents' divorce several years ago. Now her mom is in the hospital battling cancer and Kia is stuck with her workaholic father, leaving her searching for an escape from the everyday horrors of her life.

She finds this escape with a group of people acting out a dark fantasy. These "vampires" spend all night in dark clubs, wearing gothic outfits, and even baring fake fangs. But when Kia meets Damon, she begins to wonder if maybe a true vampire exists among them, one who could be the answer to all of her problems . . .

## Thicker Than Water Details

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Author : Carla Jablonski

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## From Reader Review Thicker Than Water for online ebook

### Aleah says

I read this during my, "scene" days in middle school back when I was having a teenage angst-ridden identity crisis. Whenever I would feel alone, I would skim through the pages and instantly feel relieved to know I was not. I thoroughly enjoyed Kia's struggle for self acceptance and security as I've dealt with both missing facets my entire life. The plot and dialogue can be cheesy and tiresome at times, but I love this book profusely since I relate(d) to it.

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### Katrina says

This wasn't what I thought it was going to be. It was actually kind of strange. I was expecting a book about vampires, and as it turns out, vampires don't exist. It wasn't exactly a plot twist, but I think it was an interesting way to go since there are so many books out there about vampires or werewolves. The book was okay, but if you're looking for a good vampire story to sink your teeth into, you may want to look somewhere else.

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### Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Amber Gibson for TeensReadToo.com

Kia feels powerless over her life. Her mom is dying from cancer, and no matter how many times Kia visits her, her mom never seems to get any better. On top of that, Kia is stuck living with her father, who is a joke of a parent. It's like he doesn't even know how to be a dad because he's so absorbed in his work. To help her deal with the pain, Kia sometimes resorts to cutting herself. It's not some petty cry for attention; Kia keeps her cutting a secret. Even from her best friends, Carol and Aaron.

One day, at the hospital, Kia meets a girl named Hecate, whom she connects with right away. Hecate introduces her to a new scene, opening Kia's eyes to a whole new world. An underground world where vampires rule. Where people dress up in elaborate Victorian costumes, with red contacts and fake fangs. Carol and Aaron find the vampire gothic club scene more than a little disturbing, but Kia feels more at home in the dark vampire world than anywhere else. These people seem to understand her in a way that nobody else does. They don't judge her, but just welcome her and support her. Plus, Kia's first night at the club introduces her to Damon, a captivating vampire DJ.

There's something about Damon that is so intriguing that Kia can't stop thinking about him. She finds herself returning night after night, just hoping to see him and hoping to feel his touch. Damon is very important and respected member of this vampire world, and just knowing that he's chosen Kia, singled her out as his own, gives Kia a rush.

As her mom becomes weaker and weaker, Kia immerses herself deeper into the vampire culture, though she doesn't quite understand all of it. Kia withdraws from her friends, Carol and Aaron and starts ditching school. It's not like her dad has any idea what's going on in her life, since he's always on business trips.

The more Kia learns about the vampires, the more curious she becomes and the more she thinks that Damon just might be the answer to all of her problems. All clues point to Damon being a real vampire.

Carla Jablonski does a fantastic job in blurring the lines of fantasy and reality as she shows how impressionable Kia is and how quickly Kia's life changes as her wishful thinking impairs her judgment. Although everything will never again be as it once was, Kia needs to learn to deal with her life, however unfair it may be, rather than running away from her problems.

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### **Sienna says**

Pages: 256

Main Characters: Kia, Hecate, Damon, Carol, Evan, Mom, Dad

This novel is a lot like "Sweetblood" by Pete Hautman in that it stars a troubled teen girl who turns to goth clothes and vampire lore to escape the realities of her life. However, in this novel, Kia isn't dealing with her own illness but rather with her mothers as well as resentment toward her parents divorce.

It's part messed up love story. When Kia meets Damon, it's very "Twilight" reminiscent in its swept up style. She is very taken in by the subculture of underground vampirism and vampire clubs. She knows that a lot of the people she meets aren't really vampires but begins to have doubts, especially the more wild nights she has with Damon and this supernatural life he seems to lead.

The ending of this book is a let down for a lot of people. However, being a fan of tragic realism, I found it rather poetic in a way. It isn't happy. Don't prepare to feel joy at the culmination of this story.

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### **Diana says**

Well, thanks to someone's review I read, which was not marked with a spoiler alert but spoiled the book anyways, I already pretty much knew where the story was going. It kind of ruined it for me but that doesn't change what I felt about this book. This is not a good book because of a few different things:

1. This girl's age is unbelievable. She doesn't act 17 in any kind of way, more like 14 or 15 to me. A younger age would have been more believable for me.
2. The characters are unlikable people. Especially her friends because they come off really snobby but they are supposedly social outcasts.
3. There is no real plot. None. Nothing. Just a story with a slight twist that kind of leads nowhere.

The cover is the most interesting thing about this book, sad to say.

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### **Marlena says**

This book was quite good and seemed promising, with the vampire plot detailed and the characters very

interesting. ....And then came the end, which was so much of a letdown that it was on par with the "And (insert main character's name) woke up and realized it had all been a dream"  
Yeah-that disappointing.

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### **Marisol says**

I really enjoyed this book, the storyline was interesting, heartbreakng and heartwarming. It mentions some graphic situations without glorifying them. However, I wish the book was longer. I wish to know more about Kia's journey, dealing with grieve and telling others about her dark secret. The writing was well done and easy to understand. The vampire scenery plot was also interesting and completely new from anything I have read before.

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### **Amanda-Lee (StoryWings) says**

Although not what I expected, Thicker Than Water drew me in and kept me coming back for more.

Kia is struggling. Her mum is dying of cancer and her Dad doesn't really know what he's doing. She has a couple of close friends but she can't even tell them her deepest thoughts or troubles. One day at the hospital she meets a girl who invites her to a vampire party.

Kia is intrigued by the idea so goes along with her friends and for the first time in a long time, feels accepted. As Kia gets pulled deeper though she starts to reorganise her priorities, the feeling she gets when she is with the "vampires" is too good, and she always wants more.

Kia starts to forget about everything else with her obsession with the vampires and it doesn't go unnoticed, but she doesn't care. Until Kia is so far in she doesn't know where the line between real life and make believe is drawn.

Kia is both a likeable and an unlikeable character. She is strong in the fact that she puts on a good face when it comes to dealing with people and doesn't burden people with her issues. But on top of that she is also quite selfish. She thinks only of herself and even when she realises that she hasn't gone to see her dying mother in over two weeks she still carries on doing whatever she wants.

The other thing I didn't like about Kia was her willingness to push her new vampiric beliefs on everyone after telling her best friend Aaron that Wicca was stupid.

Thicker Than Water was a very interesting dive into the world of a vampire cult. They bit each other, drank blood (mostly fake though), had houses with "Royal Courts" and even almost a pecking order. Kia quickly rose through those ranks through her association with Damon, a vampire DJ who ran a lot of the parties, DJ at most of them and even hosted some very exclusive ones.

Thicker Than Water held an unrelenting mystery of is it real? Through Kia's eyes it is definitely understandable that she started to fall into the trap. Even I did.

I think that's why I got through Thicker Than Water so quickly, even though Kia was a bit annoying, I had to

know if it was real.

Thicker Than Water pulled me along with its very clever lure, Kia grated on my nerves a little but other than that it was a very fast-paced, extremely interesting read.

find this review at [storywings.blogspot.com](http://storywings.blogspot.com)

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### **Izeum says**

Firstly this book might as well be a sorta non fiction book. If you're looking for a fantasy book this isn't for you.

So on the realistic side the book handles cutting fairly well. But it does annoy me that the main character (who's goth) just has to be a cutter huge \*eyeroll\*. Goths need less of that stereotype not more.

In regards to the goth side:

There's no way you'll find a big group of goths in Highschool, you'll be lucky if you even find one. If this had been set in a university it would have been more realistic for the number of alternative people.

"What kind of freak does that" isn't something any goth would say as insulting. If anything a goth would say that about themselves as a form of crude Humor.

Kia gets overly upset at anyone talking even remotely negatively about vamps or gothy things. Real life goths make a joke of it, considering how often goths get negative attention for their goth or vamp stuff. You'd be one pissy goth and likely have high blood pressure if you were even half as touchy as Kia is. Sexual dancing isn't really a goth thing at all, we prefer to stomp industrial style. Though fetish goths nights are a thing and they're not seen as weird.

I was surprised to find a reference to blood bath events (the club rains down/covers everyone in fake blood). These are hosted by pretty much all goth clubs, they're fun and they will (like the novel hints) wreck/severely dirty your clothing.

In regards to the witch craft side:

Wiccan doesn't equal witch. The term that should have been used is pagan, Wicca is often considered fluff. Also witchs don't wear turbans.....

The main character, being a goth, and being freaked out by paganism/witchcraft is weird and just plain wrong. The goth subculture is highly accepting of witchcraft and most goths are pagans of some kind.

In regards to the vampire lifestyler side:

Vampire lifestylers don't take themselves even close to this seriously.

Also goths don't hate the vampire life stylers, they accept and enjoy them. They definitely don't give fellow goths a bad name.

Most actual vampire lifestylers are silly, over the top and just looking to have a fun time playing dress up. Blood drinking is a rarity but it does happen, only with full consent of course.

The ending:

The weird break off/up with Damon was quite ridiculous and one of the most cringy things I've read in a while. Really it would have been more fitting for him to have turned out to be sang or even a real mythological vampire. The underage bomb was interesting I guess.

The actual end to the book felt out of place and very insatisfying.

Over all thoughts:

It was nice to see an author touch the vampire lifestyler and goth subcultures with some realism and not completely shit on them (though it does paint vampire lifestyler subculture in a dark light).

Over all it was an enjoyable read with a bad ending. It gets somethings right about goth and vampire lifestylers but lots is woefully inaccurate.

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### **Whitney Echols says**

I get the whole "reality vs fantasy" thing, but this book was a waste of time. And how the author thought this was appropriate writing for kids, is beyond me. The whole idea that a kid would believe vampires exist and at no point did any of the other characters explain that it was role-playing, is not realistic, at all. I know it's fiction, but this was ridiculous, at best.

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### **Educating Drew says**

Warning: So there might be spoilers in this but not really. I mean, even though I talk about the book rather candidly I don't think that it will ruin the experience if you ever pick up the book. So I guess what I'm saying is, read at your own risk.

"Suicide was not appealing, nor was it the reason she sliced her skin. And this was no 'cry for attention' since to get attention for it, someone would have to now and no one did. Kia made sure of that." (9)

Immediately upon meeting Kia we find out she's a cutter. Just like most fiction espouses through their characters and their characters' thoughts, cutting is about a release, not suicide. Kia stresses this to herself (us the readers?) over and over again. There's too much inside of me, I have to get it out, and it's only released through my blood. Please know that I'm not mocking cutting as much as how it is usually written about. I'm always skeptical because this is a close-to-me-"issue".

Soon we find out why Kia is cutting. Her mom's got cancer and she's been in and out of the hospital and her condition doesn't look good - er WE know it doesn't look good - but she still believes that her mom is going to make it. And her dad, the ex-husband, is emotionally distant, doesn't go to visit the ex-wife with his daughter and instead travels a lot for work. Pretty predictable, huh? Kia has two close friends, the token gay boy who totally wants a boyfriend and the bestie who is focused at school and making out with boys. They are mere backdrops and hardly fleshed out (even though there is some "hey let's get into Wicca" moments with the three of them when they start their own coven of sorts, except, it's not. Like a coven I mean).

And also, can I tell you that Kia is goth? I mean, she's a cutter. Aren't ALL cutters goth? (Insert snark). But truly, the goth is important here. 'Cuz at the hospital Kia meets this cool older chick Hecate (which means what, really?) who introduces her to the underground counter-culture scene of nightclubs and vampires.

Are they real? The vampires? That's what Kia wants to know. Especially when she sees the Vampire rockstar DJ Damon (were you surprised his name was Damon?) He's hot. He's dark. He's got fangs. And he's known for being one that "turns". They call it siring? Kia wants Damon. And she wants him to know that he can confide in her and admit that he is a vampire. And she confronts him in this final emotional breakdown

where...guess what? He's so NOT a vampire; he's just a regular guy hanging out in da clubz. CUZ THIS IS REAL LIFE PEOPLE.

So, let's start over. Because the above does have some snark in it. Really? Could you tell. I wasn't totally impressed with this book. I mean, there were parts where I had to roll my eyes. Such as: "Kia looked at her friends. Their faces looked like matching moons, shining in the now-dark park, illuminated by the old-fashioned streetlamps just overhead." (28). I mean, really? REALLY? But get this, peeps, it's still a book I'm putting on my bookshelves at school. Wanna know why? 'Cuz it tells the TRUTH.

Think about it. Here's this girl who's livin' a world of misery and she can't turn to anyone and all of a sudden she's been invited into the underworld and she feels that she's not so different and I mean VAMPIRES CAN REALLY EXIST, CAN'T THEY? They're on television and the movies and books and - and - and -- (!)(!)(!) So it's totally real. A young girl will get enamored and create something that she wants to believe in.

I LOVE THE EXECUTION OF THE NOVEL. I love that Damon's all like, "Jesus! I'm not a real vampire. Real vampires don't exist." It's brilliant. I want all of my lovesick students to read this. I want them to get caught up in their creativity and their imagination without -- without, I don't know, believing it whole-heartedly.

Don't bite people's necks, man. Don't think that there's immortality. Don't believe the worlds that we create to make things better.

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### **Brittney. Break my heart why dont ya says**

To be honest i didnt like this book at al it was sorta wierd and with the vamp thing. I like vamps but it was really bad I warn you DO NOT READ THIS BOOK !!!

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### **Leah says**

I was disappointed in the sudden twist the story takes. In the end I was just kind of freaked out. Maybe that was what the author was aiming for.

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### **Brittanie says**

All this is is some girl whining about how she can't stop cutting herself when life throws her curve balls. I guess it would mean more to someone who's gone through that problem, but I personally find it to be very whiny and teen angst ridden. I couldn't finish it.

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### **Red says**

Not only was this book a misuse of most pagan elements, but it offers vampires and just chucks teenagers playing pretend, it offers witchcraft and then spits on it, it goes all over the place and was not a fun read. I

found myself wondering if this was a Madlib because some elements get thrown in so haphazardly it looks like the wheel just landed on words like "cult" and "vampire" and then tried to apply them to a teenager cutting herself over her mom's cancer which she doesn't even really focus on so much as use as a crutch.

Skip it!

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