



Blood Debt

Tanya Huff

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It began with a ghost in his bedroom. A tormented soul hungry for vengeance, The sort of nocturnal visitation that even a five-hundred-year-old vampire like Henry Fitzroy found tiresome. It would lead Vicki Nelson, PI, into her most deadly investigation yet.

The wraith is determined that Henry and Vicki track down its killer - and is prepared to use a little persuasion by way of the innocent inhabitants of Toronto to ensure their support. Forced to investigate, Vicki discovers a host of souls in desperate torment and evidence to suggest that trailing the killer will only lead to further deaths - starting with her own.

Blood Debt Details

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From Reader Review Blood Debt for online ebook

Casey says

This is the last of the "Victory" Nelson books and the one I liked least. Vicky was always a bit argumentative but it just got annoying in this book. Even though there was an excuse for her and Henry to lock horns as much as they did, it was exhausting.

I finished it because I read the others but I don't know if I'm going to go on to read the spin-off series.

I didn't really hate the book, it was ok (an option not offered by goodreads), but I know I've read far better fanfic.

Carina says

This is the last book in the series that I own and was, I believed the last in the series. I mentioned in my review of the previous book, Blood Pact, that this feels a bit like a filler novel - Blood Pacts ending is definitely the more emotive one but Blood Debt does still have the necessary tones of finality about it.

This book ties off a number of the looser ends, we see that the characters have evolved from Blood Price - Tony even makes the point of mentioning it to Celluci - from book to book the evolution is, perhaps not as obvious, but looking between the first and last it is clearly there.

I think the plot is an interesting one - and we haven't had any ghosts before in the series.... but I do wonder why the ghosts appear. I mean, why did the victims of the demon from Price or the mummy from Lines not appear and ask for retribution? The only answer I guess is that the big bad of this book is human and that the powers of the demon and the mummy outweigh the power of the victims to return as ghosts?

*Something I *just* realised - out of five books a 'normal' human is the big bad in three of them, and out of the other two you have a double act of 'normal' human and demon, and 'normal' person granted superpowers by their death god and the death god - typically in the vampire novels of this ilk you have supernatural big bad after supernatural big bad (and yes I'm referring to the LKH books here more than anything else) - it is nice to see some that are more grounded...*

I don't think this is the best book of the bunch, even if I do tend to read it the fastest. I do wish that it was as good as Pact but Debt just doesn't have the necessary emotional punch for it to be the series best book.

Ana says

La saga parecía que era entretenida, nada profunda, pero de lectura fácil para esos momentos en los que solo quieres pasar el tiempo leyendo. El cuarto decayó bastante, pero este quinto ya ha sido más de lo mismo. Cambia a los personajes, pero es prácticamente el planteamiento del cuarto. Y, lo que podría haber tenido interés con el cambio de la protagonista, se queda diluido sin conseguir que enganche. Comencé la saga

después de haber visto la serie y me pareció entretenida, pero este último ha hecho que me quede un regustillo amargo y una impresión de que se podía haber sacado algo más.

Roberta says

Sono rimasta davvero molto delusa dalla conclusione di questa splendida saga, di cui ho amato anche la trasposizione televisiva.

Non accade nulla di concreto tra i vari protagonisti, ma la situazione rimane la stessa dell'inizio.

L'unica nota positiva è la speranza che prima o poi i due vampiri riescano a convivere pacificamente, ma si intuisce che ciò avverrà dopo molti anni, almeno dopo la morte di Celluci.

Vicky è sempre la stessa, tranne per il nuovo lato vampiresco che le permette di manipolare ulteriormente le persone.

Celluci è molto, ma molto più simpatico ed ha alleggerito l'atmosfera per tutto il libro.

Henry per la prima volta non mi è piaciuto per nulla; è sempre stato il mio personaggio preferito, ma ha perso ogni aspetto affascinante ed è diventato qualcosa che non mi piace.

Tony non mi è mai sembrato un personaggio interessante e non è cambiato.

Avrei preferito un bel lieto fine fra Vicky e Henry, come ho sognato fin dal primo libro, ma ormai pare che io sia destinata appunto a sognare.

Angela says

Inspired by the recent starting up of the TV show *Blood Ties*, I've gone and plowed through all five of the Blood books by Tanya Huff. These are all re-reads, but it's been long enough since I read them all that it was almost like reading them all over again. And it was a pleasure, especially after reading a lot more current urban fantasy--in her rather understated kind of way, Huff did her part to contribute to what you see in the more recent run of books.

First and foremost: as vampires go, Henry is a fabulous vampire character. He's got his share of hokey I Am Vampire schtick, sure, but by and large he is refreshingly clear of the woe-is-me angst you see in a lot of vamp stories. I also like Huff's treatment of vampires--that they're not actually really dead, but instead are living creatures that are dramatically changed. For example, they still have a heartbeat, albeit extremely slow. Second: I dig Vicki as a tough, no-nonsense heroine. Third: I really like that the mortal side of the love triangle, Michael, holds his own against Henry. He too is a fabulous character. And Huff's always fun to me to read just because queerfolk are involved in her stories too. Not in any special LOOKIT ME I'M QUEER way, but just... there. Part of the story. Like life. And! Fun to read fantasy novels set in Canada as well.

Of the set, I think my favorites are books 3 and 4, *Blood Lines* and *Blood Pact*--where we get an ancient Egyptian mummy trying to take over Toronto, and then, Vicki's mother dying and some scary Dr. Frankenstein-y things going on.

All in all, highly recommended for fun romantic tension and suspenseful action, neither of which ever go out of their way to be over the top with the Dark Dark Darkity Darkness. I approve. Four stars.

Jennavier says

This has never been my favorite UF series but in this volume it gets incredibly dull. Huff does not do the mystery section well at all and the interpersonal comes to the forefront. While the characters are slightly more interesting it feels like they just go through the same dance over and over again. I honestly stopped halfway through, skimmed a little, and jumped to the end. I don't feel like I missed anything.

Evy-Cakes says

I read the book in one night and I cried, laugh, become frustrated at the same time. This book has a different feeling than the rest of the series. I really don't know how to feel about the interaction between Henry and Vicki. I understand why they butt heads and I'm glad in a way that Tanya stuck with what she wrote previously about vampire behaviour but I really missed the way they were before. All in all, it was a good book.

Amanda says

This is the fifth and last book in the series by Tanya Huff about Vicki Nelson, Henry Fitzroy and Mike Celluci. We pick up the tale as Henry finds himself haunted by a tormented ghost and realises he needs the specialist help of Vicki.

It is hard to review this book completely without spoiling the events at the end of Blood Pact, but I shall attempt it!

Although there is a ghost involved, the mystery itself is the most mundane out of the five books - concerning an organisation set up to profit from the harvesting of organs. Since Huff persists in signposting her villains, making identifying them extremely easy, these books are not whodunnits and so Huff has to rely on ramping up the tension from supernatural elements. Here there are just human foes - when you have humans on one side and vampire on the other, you already know who will win (or who should do!), which means the central mystery has no real tension or ambiguity over the resolution.

Instead Huff concentrates on writing tension into the relationships between the three main characters, who have been involved in a love triangle from the second book in the series. I liked the way Huff dealt with Vicki and Henry in this book - it was both heart-breakingly sad and yet hopeful at the same time.

Mike remains a fabulous character. He is by far my favourite character of the series. I love his nobility and his desire to see justice done - but within the parameters of the law. Henry describes Mike best with this:

"Henry had done what he could, but he hadn't been strong enough to finish; he needed more blood. Michael Celluci had offered his, even though he believed that it meant he'd lose everything.

In over four hundred and fifty years of living as an observer in humanity's midst, it had been the most amazing thing Henry Fitzroy had ever seen."

Mike is snarky, clever, exasperated; I love the way he deals with Vicki, alternating between tenderness and

arguments - the only thing I wish is that he would get a damn haircut so that Vicki doesn't need to constantly brush that curl of hair back off his face!

Tony comes to the fore here as well. His desire to extricate himself from Henry; his desperation to do the right thing but not hurt others is admirable and written in a realistic way.

I enjoyed the snappy pacing and dialogue-heavy writing. Huff also does a fine job with descriptive passages - bringing places and situations to life with a few efficient words.

I'll make a brief comment on how dated these books sometimes feel - here Tony works in a video store and spends time rewinding the tapes; and one of the characters expresses surprise at the use of a cellphone. Having said that, I shall also say that these books stand up well to the test of thirteen years passing. They still sound fresh and engaging. In a genre now crowded, Huff was one of the first to pair detecting with supernatural forces - and, when reading about Vicki and Henry, you still gain a sense of how exciting and *new* they must have seemed when first released.

Chris says

Not my favorite in the series, and the reason is not because it is the last. There are some wonderful things in here, including Tony and Mike bonding.

Hannah says

MORE? MORE! @ P.S. I love that book!

THE WORLD: So just as in previous books we have a typical our world but with a little spice of paranormal. All these dark creatures we heard of in spooky stories exist in this world. Do you wanna visit? I sure do.

CHARACTERS: As the title of the series suggests, Vicki Nelson is our main character. However, opposite to the way we are used to see her, now Vicki is different. She is a vampire and a young one as a matter of fact so her being a private detective is rather on hold. I mean she still does go solve the mystery, otherwise there would be no series, but all the typical case solving pathway she used to have...that is gone. Now she is brave, scary and passionate vampire who cannot stay still. I mean come on, if you were a vampire would you be a little mouse under the brush? Lol. Next to Vicki as always we have Henry Fitzroy, a bastard son of Henry VII Tudor who was turned into a vampire instead of dying from sickness as our history books tell us and Mike Celluci, Vicki's partner cop who is also madly in love with her. Well Henry also loves Vicki but after her being turned into a vampire the whole passion went away. Apparently vampires do not do well together, they prefer being on their own.

So now that I reminded you of our little team in this book let me tell you that this whole change of balance was a little bizarre. Now I never was a big lover of Vicki but somehow I either got used to her by now or just...well I guess I got used to her. Henry on the other hand used to be my fav but in this book he started to get on my nerves. All the territory and old ways conflicts...ain't my thing. And then there is Mike...my

relationship with his started bad, I used to hate Mike and just really every time he came up I got annoyed. But now...by book five I freaking love Mike and he is my favorite character in this series hands down. Team #Celluci!

LOVE: Our typical love triangle of Henry/Vicki/Mike took a different direction after Vicki became a vampire. Now that Henry is all about old ways and vampires being apart it is pretty much Vicki and Mike. So I guess that is also the end game. Me is happy happy.

PLUS: I do not adore this series but there is something about them that always makes me smile. It is sad they are almost over. I will miss Tanya Huff's writing.

MINUS: Maybe there could have been a little bit more action but other than that it was a typical Vicki Nelson book.

OVERALL: I think there is one more book, it is either about Mike or another installment in the series, don't remember. One way or another, I will definitely be reading it!

MORE? MORE! @ P.S. I love that book!

Pam Baddeley says

Last in a series of re-reads for me. I had fond memories of this series, having read it years ago, but on this re-read found the main character, Vicki, increasingly annoying in her one dimensional Mrs Angry personality.

In this, she has progressed onto really mindless anger at times, because in the author's universe vampires cannot tolerate each other's physical presence, as intrusions on their hunting territory after the initial year or so when the 'parent' has taught the 'child' enough to pass as human when necessary and survive. That period having passed, Vicki has remained in Toronto with Mike Celluci now in the same relationship to her that she used to have to Henry, and Henry has moved to Vancouver with Tony as his sole regular blood donor and sexual partner. But Henry requests Vicki's help when his nights are plagued by a spirit visitor who lacks hands and who responds to questions either by disappearing if the answer would be positive or by letting loose a physic wave of despair when the answer is negative - killing old people or babies in the vicinity and causing serious upset in anyone else. The body is found in the harbour but still cannot be identified - but the clue it provides is that one of the kidneys has been removed. And the culprits appear to be organ bootleggers operating for profit from a private clinic.

The relationship between Vicki and Henry established in earlier books is gone: the two spend their time snarling at each other or mindlessly launching attacks. Vicki becomes even more unlikeable than she was when alive as a result, although the two do find a balance finally, albeit precarious. Their friendship retreats again to a phone or email based one, which both can tolerate.

One element which was always a bit 'dodgy' was the dependence of the 17 year old Tony, ex street kid, on Henry, and his role as sexual partner back when Vicki was alive and also in such a relationship with Henry. The author does seem to finally realise this with Tony showing signs of wanting to break away and have a normal life, which he achieves by story's end.

One problem in this story is that the only supernatural element if you discount vampires themselves - in

Huff's universe corporal beings with weaknesses and limitations - is the ghost (and the host of others that Henry senses) who keeps appearing to him, requesting vengeance in its indirect way. The villains are all normal humans, albeit criminal, violent or borderline sociopathic - rather like in the previous story, but in that, one of the victims was Vicki's own mother. Here, there isn't really much interest in that side of things, and the tension has to be racked up rather artificially by peril to Mike Celluci, and the constant sparring between the two vampires. The best character in the books, and probably in the whole series, is Mike with his superficial grumpiness hiding a noble nature - one that can't tolerate seeing Vicki cross the line into vigilantism. I had become increasingly irritated by Vicki and in this book find both her and Henry rather a pain frankly. Therefore, only a 2 star 'OK' rating and I won't be bothering with volume six which apparently was added at some point.

Richard Schwindt says

I liked the nexus in the first books between two humans and one vampire. Two vampires and one human, not so much. There's too much snarling between Vicki and Henry; that started to get on my nerves and threatened a not bad story. Vicki, half blind and feisty, was cooler than she is with super vampire powers. Mind you, I have always liked Celucci; the least flaky of the three and he makes even more sense in this installment. He has a rough go of it in Blood Debt; running point against some nasty organ thieves. The ghosts pestering Henry are underwritten and don't add much to the plot but the East Vancouver setting fits the story well. I don't think the series ever lived up to the first book but if Huff ever decided to have another go at it, I'd bite.

Susan says

first read 1997
first logged re-read 7/1/2001
re-read 11/22/2013
re-read 3/6/2015

Deborah Ideiosepius says

This is the last of the Vicki Nelson series, an ex-cop with degenerative eye disease and an assertive personality, Henry Fitzroy, vampire, 450 years old and Mike Celluci, cop Vicki's' ex partner on the force and her lover.

While I was really sad to see the end of this series, I respect the decision to stop while the going is good and move on to different things (sob, sob) too many authors keep going when the mojo has left them and the stories suffer, but the Vicki Nelson 'Blood' series are all good, and this, the final one is different to the others.

First, the supernatural theme here is ghosts, ones that appear to Henry Fitzroy at sunset as her is waking up, and who clearly want something from him. Henry calls in Vicki, supernatural PI, but he has to do it from across the continent, because Vicki is now a vampire herself and vampires cannot share a territory.

This story is set in Vancouver, and manages to be unique in quite a few ways to all the previous books in the

series. I am having a certain amount of trouble describing them all without spoilers, so I will just say that I really enjoyed this one, as much as the others, all are different enough to keep me engrossed, I loved the theme of a different aspect of supernatural mythology to each book. It seemed to me that the characters and the story both changed and developed enough from book to book to make it interesting, and not so much that it was not a linear story-line.

Reading them, in sequence, one after the other really works for this set of books.

mlady_rebecca says

I think I was right with my review of the fourth book. The author wrote herself into a corner. The feel of this book didn't match the feel of the previous books. Vicki's personality changed too fast, and she seemed to make Henry's personality change in comparison. Only Celluci seemed to be the same person, only more lost in the hidden world of the supernatural.

This isn't a spoiler for this book, but I'll hide it anyway. At the end of "Blood Pact" (book 4), Vicki is dying and Henry changes her. So this book starts with Vicki and Henry living on different coasts, only staying in touch over the phone. Only Henry is being haunted by a ghost that kills mortals with his anguished screams, and Henry needs help to get rid of him.

Personally, the territorial fighting annoyed me. Made the vampires seem more generic, and less the characters I had fallen in love with. It's mostly Vicki changing, but since we really hadn't seen Henry with another vampire, we also see a different side of him.

By the end, I felt sorry for Celluci. He doesn't seem the type to easily bend his will to another, and that's what Vicki was demanding. They "worked" before because they were equals. Maybe this is the influence of other vampire books -- oh, what series could I possibly mean? *g* -- but the power balance between their personalities doesn't match the power balance between who they are. Tony, on the other hand, did seem sufficiently submissive towards Henry.

So, in the end, the couple who seemed to have the greatest potential parted, and the couple that seemed to be forcing an untenable situation stayed together.

I was also more disappointed with the lack of actual sex scenes with this book. There is fade to black and just foreplay, then there is not much more than "hero and heroine have sex" footnotes. It felt like the author put in an "add sex scene" note and never came back to fill it out. I know every book doesn't need to be explicit, but give us something.

The scene with Henry and Vicki after the battle ... I think we needed to see at least some of that.

I'm also personally disappointed that we didn't see the couple Henry bunked with. That would have been a fun scene to see played out more fully.

So, overall, my least favorite book in the series. Probably would have dropped to 3 1/2 stars if I had the 1/2 star option, but based on the rest of the series I'm giving it the benefit of the doubt and rounding up.

