



# The Edge of Hope

*Alina Popescu*

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## **The Edge of Hope** Alina Popescu

Everyone she loved betrayed her. She felt lost and broken. Getting away from the pain and embracing a new path, Alexa decided to leave her old life behind and chase a long forgotten dream in Malta. There she met a gorgeous man, bearing the scent of fresh love. He led her to a new city to explore, Amsterdam. Is the tall, dark, and delicious man a dream come true or just a risky gamble?

Alexa chose hope and new beginnings over fear and warning signs only to be brutally dragged into a world she never really thought existed. Vampires, their feuds, and her future held tightly in their hands.

Trapped in a mysterious world, Alexa gives love chance after chance. Following her quest of self-discovery in a blood bound world, will she survive the journey?

## **The Edge of Hope Details**

Date : Published April 3rd 2014 (first published April 1st 2014)

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Author : Alina Popescu

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## From Reader Review The Edge of Hope for online ebook

### Kristen Cansler says

You know whenever you read a book and it just hits the spot? That was the type of read The Edge of Hope was for me. It reminded me why I love paranormal romance (especially the fanged variety) so much. And it didn't hurt that Alina Popescu sprinkled enough references to World of Warcraft throughout to make my little MMO gaming heart flutter.

Alina has a very interesting approach in how she blends her story. It has elements of fantasy tucked between the romance and vampires. At first, I was afraid the attempt was going to fall flat. But no, I was proved so very wrong. It creates an interesting story. There are also several mentions to pop culture in the book that had the fangirl in me squeaking.

The main character, Alexa, has a strained history with men. Her ex tossed her away for her best friend. My main gripe with this story stems from that. I wasn't able to fathom Alexa willingly putting herself in a relationship so soon after her heartbreak. She didn't come off as the type that jumped from relationship to relationship, loving the idea of love instead of the person she was with. So why did she even put herself in a position to jump so quickly to a new relationship? Who knows. Either way, Alexa is still a good character. She's a fighter, almost to a fault.

The other characters in this book are a varying degree of "Oh, I wanna put him in my pocket to keep forever!" and "Can I just kill this person now?!". They're all thought out well and fit into their roles. The dialogue in this one is amazing and showcases each character's voice as truly their own.

Anne Rice fans, you'll love this book. I promise you'll have plenty of fangirl moments as you enjoy this story. If you haven't read Anne Rice, you'll still be quickly swept up in this brilliant paranormal romance.

\*\*I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. My thanks to Alina Popescu.

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### Tina says

\*\*\*THIS ARC BOOK WAS GIVEN TO ME IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW\*\*\*

\*\*\*Tina #NerdGirlMama's Review\*\*\*

I have to say that the cover actually caught my eye and I wanted to read the book. I love vampires, but I am a movie vampire lover more than books as I have not had the chance to read many books on vampires. TEOH is an amazing book and I am glad I chose to read it. It does start out a little slow and for me I had to re-read Chapter one before continuing to read the book. Sometime between chapter 2 and 3 I was drawn into this story and wow the writing is so meticulous that you can imagine and visualize the story as it happens.

Alexa the main character is a fighter, independent woman who is down but by no means out, she will claw her way out no matter what and she find a way to have fun even at her lowest point. We all could learn a thing or two from a character like this. Anthony, Lewis, and Hesrha are your supporting vampire characters and the others are more vampires, but by no means is this a blood and gore run of the mill vampire story.

This is a tale of how Alexa a writer who is writing a book about vampires is thrust into the actual world of vampires and learns their history, hierarchy, and lives among them as she has no choice. Alexa will make the most of it and even though she knows she can be killed in an instant she does not back down, she has a sarcastic mouth and she sometimes talks when she should have kept quite in an open mouth insert foot kind of way that could get her killed, but you come to enjoy this about her at the same time.

This is a well written page turner with plot twist and turns all through the book and Alina is definitely a Author to watch out for, as she can write in such a way that the words just flow and you are drawn in and do not want to put the book down. This one ended with a major cliff hanger and I hope we do not have to wait too long before we get the second book. This is a must read and do not forget to add to your TBR list, you will not regret it.

\*\*\*Review has been done in conjunction with Nerd Girl Official\*\*\*

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### **Mireille says**

I was sent this book by a friend and I truly enjoyed it. I do have to 'kill' said friend tho, for not telling me it was the first of a series, which made me go very WTF at the ending..... and if that had been the actual story end, I would have had to conclude I didn't really like it. As it is, it is only a cliffhanger and a very suspense full one at that, so I will be waiting anxiously for the continuation.

The main character Alexa comes alive from the very first page. She is a writer and writing a book about vampires with a clever way of marketing her book, before it is even fully completed. This was very amusing to me. To have your main character be a writer is not new, but in this case it makes for an interesting way of telling the story. It also makes the set up for her contact with the vampire world very believable.

Imagine you are a vampire, and very amused by all the tales in the world about you that are very incorrect. And suddenly you hear rumours about someone who has your origins much more right than the rest. Wouldn't you be intrigued and wanting to find out how this happened? How she knows?

Well so was Anthony. Or was this not his main objective? You find out in this first installment of Bad Blood, and much much more. I am very curious as to what will happen next, to learn more about these vampires origins and their hierarchy. And if the bad guys and good guys are as they are 'advertised'. I hope part 2 will come out soon!

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### **JustJen "Miss Conduct" says**

**3.5 star** review by The Blogger Girls.

This story is about Alexa, who is currently trying to write a book about vampires. In the meantime, she has been promoting her book through various channels. The lines often blur between what's made up and what's real, what we believe and what we have been led to believe. She meets Anthony, who appears to be interested in her upcoming book. He wines and dines her a bit but turns out to be a bit more than he claimed – a not very nice vampire. Through Anthony, Alexa meets Louis, a much nicer vampire, whom she actually falls for.

Louis is a much older vampire with greater powers that he keeps somewhat hidden from the rest of vamp society. He teams up with Alexa to find the truth behind the kidnappings and deaths of important older vamps. They go back and forth quite a bit and have some fabulous dialog. Alexa is a fighter, and Louis is right by her side.

This took a while for me to get into, mostly because I wasn't quite feeling the connections between the characters. I was also a bit unsure as to where this was headed, and it didn't really grab my attention until that became more clear. I loved the way the Anne Rice and other vampire references were mixed into the story, and there is a lot of fun dialog throughout. I also loved the various details about the vampire hierarchy and their abilities. It's always nice to see a different take from the same old, same old.

This is a very promising start to a fun new series, and I look forward to the next installment, especially after the twisty cliffhanger ending.

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### **Christina Teilmann says**

I'll be the first to admit that neither paranormal nor romance are among my favourite genres, and when the two genres are combined... well, that's usually a recipe for a cliché-ridden disaster in my book. Lots and lots of eye-rolling and sighing ensue when I, against my better judgment, begin reading yet another paranormal romance story (Why do I keep reading it? I must be a masochist on some level). I'll also admit that the main reason I bought this book was because it was only 99 cents and came recommended by a friend of mine.

Frankly, my expectations weren't very high. But I was very pleasantly surprised by this story. Its characters were believable (albeit at times a bit volatile, but that's ok), relatable and likable, and the story steers clear of most of the clichés of its genre (not all, but most) and has a few surprising twists along the way that I certainly didn't see coming. It doesn't revolutionise the genre but adds a few interesting details to common vampire lore that I quite liked. For some reason, I think of it as True Blood set in Europe. (I LOVE the tv-show True Blood, or I did, for the first few seasons before it got lame and over the top.) It doesn't plagiarise True Blood in any way, it's just that the feel of it is the same; witty dialogue, good pace. It's like True Blood, while True Blood was still good.

All in all, a good, solid 3-star read (3 stars is a good rating in my book), and I definitely plan to read the next book in the series. So in short: If you're a fan of this genre, this book will not disappoint you, and even if you don't normally like books in this genre, there's still a good chance that you might enjoy this story.

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### **Christina Henderson smith says**

What a great book! I found her version of vampires quite interesting. Alexa has ended up in Malta after the betrayal of her ex and her best friend. She hopes to be able to make progress with writing her first novel, which is about vampires. She meets a new man and feels a connection. He invites her to stay with him in Amsterdam. Pretty soon she finds out what she thought was fantasy was actually reality. With lots of twists and turns this story kept me at the edge of my seat and I can't wait for book 2!

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### **Jolene says**

This was a 4fang read. The book was well written and had a good flow. The characters were well planned out, but just didn't quite have the love it factor. Reviewer for Paranormal Romance and Authors that Rock.

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### **Tinnean says**

It had its moments, but it ended on a cliffhanger.

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### **Devika Fernando says**

As part of Alina Popescu's Blog Tour for celebrating the release of her new novel "The Edge of Hope", I had the chance to read the book – and am I ever glad that I did!

I am a huge fan of vampires, at least when it comes to books that are well written. As such, I know that the topic can get repetitive. I have to admit that I started reading TEOF with mixed feelings, but I quickly cast all doubts aside and let the story carry me away. The author has managed the difficult mix between keeping some of the traditional framework intact and adding nice little twists. Vampire folklore isn't exactly re-invented, but Anthony, Louis, Hesrah and the rest aren't your every-day bloodsuckers either. Without revealing too many spoilers, let me just tell you three things: These vampires have a hierarchy and heritage all of their own. These vampires might seem like humans some of the time, but they prove to have special abilities, too. These vampires are freaking attractive, so beware of some major fangirling. Oh, and did I mention that these vampires don't sparkle in the sunlight?

All that aside, I found more to like about Popescu's debut novel that is the first instalment of the "Bad Blood Series". Take Alexa, the heroine, for example. She came alive right from the first few sentences and she's somebody a lot of people could identify with. As a strong-willed woman who has been tossed around by life—and men—and falls into depression sometimes, but hasn't given up on life, she can teach us a thing or two about how to fight for what we believe in and what we want. Being a writer myself, I found it fascinating that the main character is a writer and that the story circles around another story, namely, her own vampire novel. Clever trick!

We get treated to the obligatory bad guy and to the one and only Mr. Right—or should I say, Vampire Right?—for Alexa and there's quite some chemistry and steam to be enjoyed. As paranormal romance goes, this is a wonderful read. The witty dialogs, the fast-paced action after some introductory chapters and the cliff-hanger ending all work together to create a tight, interesting story that isn't just any other vampire fiction, but has the potential to stand out. I can't help it, I keep imaging the book as a TV series or a movie because it is so promising. What an awesome debut that leaves you wanting more—preferably the sequel, right now!

P.S.: If you're a fan of Anne Rice's "Vampire Chronicles", like me, then there's a nice surprise waiting for you in "The Edge of Hope".

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### **Karen Lanman says**

I really enjoyed the book. I'm looking forward to book 2 now. The unique twist on the origins of vampires hooked me from the start. The lots and character twists grabbed my attention and kept it. Anthony, Louis,

Alexa, and Hesrah take us down the rabbit hole and don't let go.

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### **Kirsty Bicknell says**

Make no mistake Alina Popescu's vampires in Edge of Hope do not sparkle and they do not drink animal blood! The plot is well formed and as compelling as the vampires themselves; I finished the book within a day; but the history Alina Popescu creates of the vampire's origins is more complicated than in any other paranormal novel I have read. Yet it is exactly from this this vision of the author's which the strong, single-minded, human blood-drinking vampire emerges.

When the reader meets Alexa she is in Malta, trying to write a vampire story and avoiding an interview with an overly interested journalist. However, her meeting with Anthony is inevitable, as is their ensuing relationship but when he emails her to ask her to live with him for a month in Amsterdam I did scream "Nooooooooo" at my Kindle, but then that would be the end of the story right??!

Thankfully the reader never views Alexa as weak because Alina Popescu shows that she is at war in her head over agreeing to visit Amsterdam and reveals how Anthony manipulates Alexa's insecurities about not wanting to return to Bucharest.

In Amsterdam Alexa is forced to welcome the good and worst elements of being a member of the paranormal world. Alina Popescu's writing becomes darker, as she heightens the sense of unease and apprehension which surrounds the characters. The reader is introduced to Louis and Hesrah, two vampires who Alexa befriends. I love the first time Hesrah gets drunk, a brilliant moment!

The relationship between Alexa and Louis is complicated by a blood bond and an intense sexual chemistry, but Alina Popescu still teases the reader with their continual flirting and banter!

The Edge of Hope is an excellent story BUT I was left gasping in shock at its cruel cliffhanger and I have discovered that book two may not be released until the Autumn :-( ! I recommend that you go buy this book . . .but read SLOWLY!!!!

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### **Aimee Brissay says**

Let me start by saying that I'm usually not fond of 1st person stories. However, this one is great. It's so well written, I barely noticed the POV.

I love vampire stories, but I loved this one even more so. It brings innovation to the genre, and the plot has so many twists it will keep you guessing up to the very end. The characters are realistic and well developed, the vampires grittier than your everyday kind. The world is big and from what I can guess it will open up even further in the future.

In conclusion, The Edge of Hope is a must read for any vampire story lover!

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### **Sammie J. says**

I really didn't know what to expect from this book but I was surprised and found myself enthralled with Alexa's story. The flow and pace of the story was good I was captured from the first chapter the pace did slowdown for me in the middle a bit but then picks back up again. I liked the storyline, I actually found it

refreshing that the author didn't make a relationship easy and Anthony was far from what he first shows himself to be.

After Alexa is rudely awakened into a world she wrote about, she doesn't take to it lightly she fights it and let's everyone know she is no walk over. I adored her relationship with Louis and Heshra who both play a big part at the end of the story which is a cliff-hanger. I was left wanting to hurt a few characters but also wanting to know what happens next. I can't wait to find out more about the Inner sanctum and the Trueborn. I will have my fingers crossed something nasty happens to Anthony as he needs to be put in his place.

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### **C4ROL says**

The edge of hope by Author Alina Popescu review

I dont know where to start this book was absolutely brilliant it definitely deserves 5 stars i am giving it. It got me gripped from the 1st chapter it pulled me in i loved it loved it did i said i loved it ? i loved Alexa she is so down to earth you can relate to her way of thinking and strong minded and Louis is ..... Well i don't know where to start tall sexy handsome intense ? & you have to have a bad guy to mix it up But this book is so much more the authors personality shines though in every step on the book great book I would highly recommend it to any one and i will cant wait for more just hope we dont have to wait long for book 2

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### **Alina says**

I was one of the lucky people to have received an ARC, hence my early review. After reading the ARC, I couldn't wait to get my hands on the book as well, as it is definitely worth it.

The book follows Alexa, a Romanian girl cheated by her ex with her best friend (or, as you can imagine, her now ex-best friend), who has taken a well-deserved holiday away from everything and to focus on her novel about vampires. It's here that she meets tall, dark-haired, gorgeous Anthony, who seems interested in more than just her work. Despite all the alarm bells going off in her head, she decides to ignore them. Thus, she finds herself dragged in the world of vampires, powerful creatures who will stop at nothing in order to prevent their secret being revealed.

What I loved most about this book? Apart from being really fast-paced (which means there's never a dull moment), the dialogues are quite savoury, it really made me chuckle and even laugh out loud at moments. The story has everything: romance, suspense, mystery, blood. Oh, and a cliff-hanger at the end, but it will only make you read book II more.

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