



Hemovore

Jordan Castillo Price

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Mark Hansen thought working as artist's assistant would be glamorous, especially if that artist was a vampire. Black tie events, witty repartee, gracing the pages of the local style section.... Didn't happen. Not even once.

Jonathan Varga is an enigma. True, he's quiet, generous, and scrupulously polite. But he has zero social life, refuses to be interviewed or photographed, and insists he can only consume feline blood.

Why supermarket blood won't suffice, Mark hasn't asked. He's rarely at a loss for words—he can dish an insult and follow it with a snap as quick as you can say "Miss Thang." But one look at Jonathan's black-as-sin gypsy eyes, and Mark's objections drain away.

So he endures the perpetual grind of their routine: Jonathan hiding in his studio, swiping black paint onto black canvases. Mark hurling insults while he buffs the office to a shine with antiviral wipes. Each of them avoiding the other in a careful choreography...until a blurb in *Art in America* unleashes a chain of harrowing events.

As secrets from Jonathan's past are brought to light, it becomes clear that all his precautions weren't nearly enough.

Second expanded edition includes bonus novelette *Sweet*

Hemovore Details

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Author : Jordan Castillo Price

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From Reader Review Hemovore for online ebook

Eugenia says

My review won't do this audiobook justice!

Let's just say that Joel Leslie knocked this one out of the park. Thanks for the Home run, Joel!

The story was good, a vampire and his human assistant were running away from a Slovak vampire stalker. JCP created a different type of vampire world, one in which they are “out” but also discriminated against due to the high level of passing the vampire virus. It reminded me of the 80's when people know little about HIV transmission and contracting it was a death sentence. Discrimination against those who had it was rampant.

Read this book, listen to it if you can—even the audio sample will give you an idea of the characters JCP created and Joel Leslie breathed life into.

L.A. Witt says

The audio is 10+ hours long (including a novelette), and I listened to it within 24 hours. That should tell you how much I loved it. The story is awesome and the narration is utterly flawless.

Jenni Lea says

2nd listen was just as perfect as the 1st

Perfect book was perfect.

I don't really know what to say other than this was the best audio book I've ever listened to. Joel Leslie complemented the story so well it felt like it was written with the sole intention of him narrating it.

I have the BIGGEST book hangover now and I'm unsure as to how I'm going to get over it, how I'm going to listen to anything else and not compare it to this.

The story moved me. I think I loved it even more than her Psycop series. I loved Mark's cattiness and Jonathan's mysterious stoicism. In a fantastical book filled with vampires, over the top antics and shenanigans, the story felt surprisingly real to me. I connected with Mark. I understood him. I related to him.

I can't recommend this enough. If you haven't listened to this amazing story yet, I urge you to do so now. I guarantee you won't be sorry that you did.

Bookwatcher says

CLick here, to a really well done review... It's Emanuela's review, and she really did a great job!

Mine review??? well, it's not a review, it's just something I want to do to tell you...

Jonathan drink cat's blood!!!!!!

Nooooo he is not the vilan!!! He is the good guy!!!!

YES YES!!! So Jonathan is a vampire and Mark, the only narrator, is willing to give him his blood (and other male body fluids)

BUT NO! many cats will be sacrificed...

to keep Jonathan alive

so... hummmmm... yeah, I LOVED this book, the characters and the plot, BUT i still prefer the Jordan Castillo Price Psy Cop serie.

many cats.... many many cats... were necessary to keep Jonathan alive... for so long

Dreamer says

Yeah, really enjoyed this. Artist and vampire Jonathan has been assisted for four years by his V negative employee Mark. Then arch enemy and stalker Lazslo appears on the scene and the guys go on the run. Very little sex but did enjoy the humour.

"I don't feel well at all. Do you think you could go find a cat?" Okay. Now I knew how women felt when they thought they were going to get a diamond ring and ended up with an onion ring.

Annery says

The best thing is finding something new from one of your favorite authors, even if it's only new to you, and the icing on the cake is that the book is fantastic!

Jordan Castillo Price once again gives us an alternate yet utterly recognizable world, so close in the "same but different" details of everyday life that I almost expected a PsyCop to show up, namely Vic, or to read about a current art exhibit of monochromatic art, think Mark Rothko but darker.

Witness the beautiful enigma that is Jonathan Varga (he's Hungarian *claps*) and his assistant, aide, human

and silent devotee Mark Hansen. Jonathan had me in mind of Tom Hiddleston circa "**Only Lovers Left Alive**" (I've wasted an inordinate amount of time trying to load a photo to no avail, you can see one on my profile). Mark has been pining for Jonathan for as long as he's been working for him and in the interim has learned everything there is to know about being V-Positive. One of the heartbreaking horrors of the infection is the absolute NO TOUCHING for fear of contagion. If this brings to mind, for those of us old enough to remember, the early days of the AIDS outbreak, I don't think it's coincidental. On a less *heavy* note you can just read this as different take on Vampirism, but hasn't Vampirism always functioned as a metaphor for sex and related things we don't confront directly? So this is a book about intimacy when you can't touch, about being different in the eyes of society and treated accordingly and how to thrive in spite of it all, told with poignancy and humor from Mark's POV. It's about what's important and what makes us human and the difficulty of expressing love or affection when you can't touch.

On to the plot ...

Jonathan is a recluse painter whose contact with the outside world is mostly through his assistant Mark who does everything from negotiating the sale of his "**BLACK**" paintings to getting Jonathan's food (view spoiler). As usual the past never stays past and Mark and Jonathan are propelled into danger and adventure as only Jordan does it, by which I mean realistic and funny in the midst of real emotions. I love how Mark's internal monologue vacillates between lusting for Jonathan and food LOL ... sometimes food wins. Also a special mention should be made for the kids of V-Luv. The way the original edition ended just left me wanting and now Jordan added a novelette called **Sweet** which was precisely that: sweet. It gave us that extra something namely seeing Mark & Jonathan with their friends. I loved it.

Trio says

While I would easily give *Hemovore* five stars based on the story and the writing alone, with Joel Leslie's narration... well this one goes to eleven. He added so much to these characters, if I didn't know better I would think Jordan Castillo Price wrote it just for him!

A truly creative story, *Hemovore* explores a world where vampires, or V-positives, live amongst the rest of us. The whole story is told from the point-of-view of the main character, Mark Hansen, and let me just say, he is hilarious! I certainly never expected to laugh out loud over a novel like this, but Leslie imbues Mark's snarky little comments with so much personality! I could just imagine him sitting there telling his tale, and I was completely captivated.

There are a host of fantastic characters in *Hemovore* and Joel Leslie provides creative accents and amazing variety in their voices, he really is a pro.

Spectacular audio aside, *Hemovore* is an astoundingly creative story. Jordan Castillo Price has really put some thought into what modern society would be like if there was an HHV virus and we all lived side by side. There are great details from hoagie flavored water (so vampires can still enjoy their favorites) to how a 'mixed' couple kiss hello and goodbye. With explanations of what is legally required, to the accepted etiquette accepted of polite society, it's easy to imagine this world thanks to Price's thoughtful insight.

I've thoroughly enjoyed everything I've read by Jordan Castillo Price and *Hemovore* is right up there with the best! This was a truly interesting story and I highly recommend it.

An audio copy of the second edition of Hemovore was provided by the author for the purpose of this review.

Lost in a Book says

Loved it! The world building and Mark's snark prowess were on point. I didn't know anything about the book before going in and therefore was completely unprepared for the level of darkness and angst land involved. For some crazy reason, I thought it was going to be a vampire comedyish read. *Shrug* Still, really really enjoyed it.

Lauraadriana says

Jordan Castillo Price NEVER EVER disappoints...She is just that good.

Well this is not your everyday vampire story. In this world Mark Hansen is the assistant of artist Jonathan Varga. Jonathan is V-positive he has the Hemovore virus, which is very contagious and turns the infected into a vampire. This virus is an issue of contention in this Chicago, there are haters, supporters, groupies and in the midst of this Mark is just trying to figure out the easiest way to get some contraband cat blood for Jonathan.

Mark's POV was fantastic, original, and just so deliciously caustic. He was bitchy and smart. As for Jonathan, we saw him through Mark's eyes, and even if those eyes refused to see how much he felt for Jonathan, we know it from the first.

A lot happens in this story. There is the look at the illness itself how it affects the ones infected and their loved ones. The stigma surrounding it and how society reacts to it with hatred, disdain, on one side of the spectrum, and with morbid fascination and almost naivety on the other.

One of my favorite things about JCPs stories is the world we get to read about. What I love is that her world is *my* world, except smokier, edgier, grittier and hell of a lot more interesting.

This story had it all action, intrigue, mystery, a bit of angst, a whole lot of sexual tension, and fantastic twists and turns.

JCP is an original...Her writing to me is always something to savor.

If you read M/M (or if you don't) and have not read her, finish whatever you are reading and give her a try.

Fair warning you may not be able to stop once you start.

Highly Recommend.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4 Stars

I've got to give credit to JCP for she knows how to world build. This was quite the unique take on vampirism where this isn't necessarily a paranormal phenomena but more an alternate reality. Here, vampirism is an infectious virus that one can easily contract by the barest exposure to contaminated bodily fluids. Humanity is thus sharply divided into those who are positive and those who are negative, where those not infected live in a paranoid induced state of constant disinfection, which in all honesty is for good reason since there's an approximate 80% fatality rate should one contract the virus.

This story focuses mainly on Mark. He's uninfected and is basically the assistant/gopher for artist vampire Jonathan, whom he has been secretly lustng after for years. Sadly though, even if the attraction was mutual, there's no way they could ever be a viable couple since touch is basically not possible. However, this depressing state of stasis is interrupted as Jonathan's past comes back to haunt him, and he and Mark become targets of a sinister enemy they desperately try to outrun.

I admit this started out a bit slow for me but with the added suspense, it became the catalyst for this doomed to be forever platonic relationship to morph into something so much more in a blink of an eye. Though smexy-lite in comparison to JCP's other series such as Psycop or Channeling Morpheus, this made up for it in sardonic humor and the ever changing status of these two as new revelations or twists come to light.

For the audio version, Joel Leslie narrates and I have to say I was quite pleasantly surprised. My previous exposure to Leslie showcased some very strong accents that were a bit hard for me to take. Though there are accents in this, it just worked this time around. I definitely give him credit for his huge repertoire of distinct voices, voices he keeps consistent and straight throughout, which for me, counts for a lot. Leslie also brought great self deprecating dry and wry humor to Mark's voice that had me laughing out loud in and amongst the more serious parts of the story. This starkly contrasted against Jonathan, who's a lot more somber and reserved but also mysteriously intriguing.

So overall, if you like JCP, if you want something different and unconventional, then this is another great addition to her eclectic library. I hadn't read the first edition when it came out 8 years ago, but this one has the quasi-epilogue "Sweet" that brings great closure to lingering questions some may have had with the first edition. Again, I appreciate the wholly original tale, it snuck up on me and the more I think about it, the more I appreciate all of its nuances.

Thank you JCP, for the audio in exchange for an honest review

Xing says

Read up to 60%, then quickly skimmed the rest.

Did I mention that I very rarely like vampire stories? Anyways, this is how Hemovore works: Mark Jensen is a 40 year old guy who works as an assistant to a famous vampire artist by the named Jonathan. Mark secretly

has a crush on the sexy Hungarian vampire, but isn't even sure Jonathan is even gay. And on top of everything else, a relationship would be out of the picture, since the Hemovore virus (responsible for turning humans into vampires, if they don't die from it first!) spreads through contact with fluids. So one day, things change when a mysterious person purchases twenty of Jonathan's paintings. Before Mark knows it, he and his vampire crush are on the run.

So I definitely give props to JCP for creating a relatively refreshing world, where a virus is responsible for the rising of vampires. Not only that, she managed to create a relatively humorous narrator (Mark), who pulled a few chuckles from me.

Unfortunately, that was pretty much it. And not even Mark's humor was able to pull me past the 60% mark. The pacing of the story really slowed down about 40-50% of the story. I got really bored at the roundabout way things were happening. At times, the main issue was pushed aside for the very mundane tasks that seemed to pile up endlessly (i.e. get more money, get more food, purchase more clothes, blah blah blah). Even upon skimming, I realized I had completely lost interest with the plot.

Then there's the romance. I just couldn't feel emotionally invested with Mark and Jonathan. Mark has a crush on the sexy vampire, but the vampire's feelings just comes out of nowhere. The chemistry between these two felt stagnant, and so I just...didn't care.

Probably not the best review out there, but what can I say? It's done, and now I'm ready to move on.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

3.5 Stars

“Now I knew how women felt when they thought they were going to get a diamond ring and ended up with an onion ring.”

I'm already a fan of Jordan Castillo Price because of her PsyCop and Mnevermind series. This book is not like either of those. The PsyCop series is heavy on the steam and numerous sex scenes - in some books overdone - and the Mnevermind is about a sweet bonding with an unusual pair. For Hemovore the storyline is also unique in that this is a strange sort of vampire tale - the virus, which is highly contagious, has a dangerous stigma attached to it and no one's happy to have it. There's even support groups for those who dare to be in any kind of relationship with the infected, which provides a fun support group for the storyline two when the main characters get in a spot of trouble.

The storyline is good with twists, turns, stumbles and tension. There's a great group of supporting players in the form of "helpers" who go from being amusing to just keeping the story unique. Really liked it and the characters - Price's easy-flowing writing style and humor help of course.

Told through the point of view of an assistant, who is constantly wiping things down with antiseptic wipes and sprays, their world is shattered when they have to go on the run from an enemy and clear their names. Mark has a great sense of humor and, with a few extra pounds and pushing 40, he's a delightful main character. Jonathan isn't exactly exciting, and while their relationship is sweet it does miss intensity at some points.

This one focuses on sweetness instead of steam, but still, great build-up for a new relationship.

Heather C says

I think I'm re-addicted to JCP because I LOVED MARK AND JONATHAN!!

I know I use the word "love" a lot in my reviews, but my affection for this book goes way up above and beyond a measly ol' *love*. I'm talking...okay, even after "googling" love synonyms I still can't find a word strong enough to express my adoration for this book!

I will just say that this was very different from any other vampire book I have *ever* read before where Vampirism is actually an easily contracted virus with an 85% mortality rate. It isn't sexy or romantic or desired. People that are V-Positive, AKA a vampire, are pretty much shunned and ostracized. Okay, enough with the plot review!

I was *so* into the love story between Mark and Jonathan! There was sexual tension galore with and slow build of the romance. I'm *totally* okay that it wasn't sex scene after scene after sex scene. You know me, I'm all about the tension!!

Mark was snarky and witty and I loved all the dry humor you usually get in a JCP story. So many laugh out loud moments when it was not *at all* an appropriate time to be laughing.

I loved all the action and the plot twists. The pace was non-stop and I could never figure out or guess what was about to happen. I can not even begin to count the number of *gasp* moments I had.

I did NOT want this book to end, *dammit!!!*

I think this is my favorite JCP book so far and it's going right on my "faves" shelf!

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

For a book that started off with me making a face (not a good one) to end up...

Surprised no one more than I. Talk about finishing strong.

What I had trouble with initially was Leslie's interpretation of Mark and Mark tells **the whole story**. Mark's a bitchy smartass. Leslie clearly knows this but the problem was *I didn't*, so I kept thinking, 'why's he so bitchy?'. This is simultaneously the pro and con of an audiobook. Had I read it I would've come to this realization on my own, but having it read to me *in that tone* had me thinking after 10.5 hours someone might get stabbed. I should've known better. Leslie, once again, does a magnificent job distinguishing and bringing to life all of these characters. Seriously, how many accents can he do?

Once the lightbulb moment occurred Mark began to charm me with his wit, snark and dandyism. He and Jonathan are one of those rare couples that belong together, like, if they're not together the world doesn't make sense and I fell for them. Hard.

As Mark and Jonathan traverse crazed vampire ex-lovers, poverty, grand theft auto, tunnels, underwear in a bag and water of dubious origins there's never any doubt how much they mean to each other. Even when they fight, because they have very little in common, the tension builds and builds.

Hemovore is briskly paced with impressive and creative world building. It's quirky in it's delivery and leaves an indelible mark with its eccentricities especially in its deviation from your average vamp story. Make no mistake, through all the snark and banter there is a poignancy and heartache in this world JCP has created with a divide between V+s and V-s that's chilling in its similarity to the inception of HIV and its similarly polarizing effects.

That measly little symbol is the only thing keeping them apart. Honestly, I was just hoping that they'd at least be able to hold hands at some point! **Instead I got a kiss that was truly epic.** I know that word may seem trite and overused but in this case it's absolutely true. I think I maybe "accidentally" freebased some of the love heroin they produced.

I was sitting firmly on **4 Hearts** until the Sweet novelette happened and I found myself Pretty Woman duck face clapping in my car. Don't worry there were only a couple people around. It's one of the few advantages of living in the sticks. So I figured, if that doesn't merit an extra heart what does?

Recommend to everyone. I think pretty much anyone would find this enjoyable.

A review copy was provided.

Kaje Harper says

I'd almost forgotten how much I like a story like this, one that is original and exciting and works logically and gives me two gay main characters who have other concerns besides getting each other naked. Not that there is no sexual tension in this book. It informs most of the narrator's thoughts. But there is very little on-page sex, and the book is in no way diminished by that. I love a scientific take on paranormal tropes and this is one of the good ones. A great read, and highly recommended.
