



Vampire Haiku

Ryan Mecum

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You hold in your hands a recently discovered poetry journal—the poetry journal of a vampire. William Bitten was en route to a new land on the Mayflower when he was turned into a vampire by a fellow passenger, a beautiful woman named Katherine. These pages contain his heartbreaking story—the story of a vampire who has lived through (and perhaps caused) some of America's defining events. As he travels the country and as centuries pass, he searches for his lost love and records his adventures and misadventures using the form of poetry known as haiku. As Bitten documents bloody wars, a certain tea party in Boston, living the high life during the Great Depression, two Woodstock festivals, the corruption of Emily Dickinson, and hanging out with Davy Crockett, he keeps to the classic 5-7-5 syllable structure of haiku. The resulting poems are hilarious, repulsive, oddly romantic, and bizarre.

Read along, and you just may find a new appreciation for—and insight into—various events in American history. And blood.

Vampire Haiku Details

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Author : Ryan Mecum

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Nicay ?The Nerdy side of a Queen says

Vampire Haiku by Ryan Mecum, nice title isn't it? I got curious when I first laid my eyes in this book. Ryan Mecum wrote this book through the use of the 5-7-5 syllables of Haiku. It was a journal type book but in a Haiku way. William Batten, the character in this book and the one who made the journal was a vampire. Ooppss.. Sorry spoiler.

"Five syllables first,
then followed by seven more,
and then five again."

William Batten, as he explores living in a vampire life was pretty amazing. And how he survived living alone and drinking blood as the years pass by. I was really fascinated by the writing style of this book that I crave for something more. Writing Haiku was not as easy as it seems. I had tried it before, but thinking and writing with sense with only 5-7-5 syllables were really hard.

Plus, this book was a great read for this Halloween and it was amazing to read some other ways of writing, an old old way. 4/5 stars.

Lori says

Thanks to Ryan, who agreed to mail me out a copy of this book to review.

What's better than curling up with a book of poetry on a snowy evening? How about curling up with a book of Vampire poetry! Ryan Mecum has a way with words in this quirky collection of haiku's written by a man who was turned into a vampire by the woman he loved. He chronicles his journey to America, and documents not only the search for his beloved, but also the times through which he exists, and his influence on historical moments.

Here are some of my favorite entries:

*"How to eat someone:
Hold tight, bite neck, suck hard, drink.
Repeat as needed."*

"Blood tastes like cherries

*mixed with a lot of copper
and way too much salt."*

*"I don't get women.
I go and murder for love
and she's mad at me."*

*"I play with my food
by sucking blood through the holes
then blowing it back"*

I am dying to get my hands on his Zombie Haiku. Who knew word groups of 5 - 7 - 5 could be so much fun?

FreYal Omar says

I loved it!

karen says

somewhat disappointing. the reason the zombie one was so freaking hilarious is because zombies are these lumbering, inarticulate, limb-dropping monsters, and the thought of them, in their free time, composing elegant little haikus, makes laughter in me. vampires dont have the same contrast, so the laughter in me is smaller. i like this one though:

you would be surprised-
the amount of wooden stakes
that are in most rooms

but the design gets an a-plus...

Vanessa says

Got this hot off the press and read it in one sitting, laughing and "ewww"ing the whole time. That's a good thing. This small, delightfully gross book by the (surprise!) Zombie Haiku author Ryan Mecum provides even more 5-7-5 gems of pop culture and gore.

I was having a bad day and this little book turned my pointy frown upside down.

sj says

This little book takes on the guise of a journal kept by William Batten, a passenger on the Mayflower, who

had decided to chronicle his adventures in the form of "small poems."

*While loading the boat,
I notice some packed coffins.
Pessimistic Bunch.*

Less than a week into their journey to the New World (now I have this song in my head), he meets a mysterious (and gorgeous, obvs) female who he finds out is (again, obviously) a vampire. The rest of the story details the history of what became America from the perspective of someone who has *literally* watched it all happen.

*Blood tastes like cherries.
Mixed with a lot of copper.
And way too much salt.*

Witch trials, wars, Son of Sam, Waco, myspace...all those horrible things we talk about with hushed voices - he was there. He did that. Wanna know why Babe Ruth kicked so much ass? William can tell you. Amelia Earhart's disappearance? Yeah, he knows what happened there, too.

While I'm not a bloodsucking fiend, I found it incredibly easy to relate to William. We both hate Bram Stoker and Stephenie Meyer, we share a love for Buffy and have similar taste in music.

*Most all real vampires
Prefer classical music -
And maybe Tom Waits.*

The entire book had me giggling, the pictures inside (photos and drawings) were great and the ending was pretty hilarious.

Dear Mister Mecum,
I greatly enjoyed this book.
Write more just for me.

Jenn Swanson says

While an entertaining book it was not nearly as good as *Zombie Haiku* was. Still entertaining and vampire fanatics will probably enjoy it.

Lexi (Pink Jellyfish) says

Amazing...

Fav. quote:

"Those were not vampires.

If sunlight makes you sparkle,
You're a unicorn."

Rosetta Lynn says

I have always been Fascinated with vampires and how they might see the world. i loved the heart felt poems in this story. if anyone ever needed a strange love story here it is!

Ryan says

Sucked (get it?).

Amy says

Not a bad book. Really quick read.

Mary Rose says

Joss Whedon is a vampire hunter.

Serena says

Ryan Mecum's *Vampire Haiku* mixes humor and poetry in diary form for vampire William Bitten, who was turned in 1620. He falls in love with a beautiful woman on the Mayflower named Katherine, who turned him into a vampire. Soon he's parted from his love to roam America on his own and make his own friends. There are tales of some well known historic figures from Davy Crockett to Amelia Earhart and famous events in history like the Civil War and Woodstock.

Readers may initially be attracted to the cover haiku, which also appears on page 37:

*"You know that your drink
is down to the last few sips
once the toes curl up."*

Bitten has a twisted sense of humor, but readers will enjoy is little anecdotes about becoming a vampire and bumbling around learning how to feed, etc. Mecum uses his linguistic and historic knowledge to create fun and witty haiku. Although they are not precisely haiku in the traditional sense, they mostly adhere to the form's syllable count. It is fun to see Bitten reveal insider knowledge about the deaths of Davy Crockett and other major historical figures. In some cases, the poems will have readers cringing in disgust.

*"Discarded band-aids
are rare unexpected treats.
My version of gum." (page 113)*

There are even moments in the book where the vampire makes fun of the modern vampire crazes from the goth kids to the latest vampire movies. One of the best haiku in the book is about the Twilight movie:

*"Those were not vampires.
If sunlight makes you sparkle,
you're a unicorn." (page 117)*

Will Bitten ever find his true love, Katherine, or will he stop searching for her and settle down? Overall, those interested in humor and vampires will find *Vampire Haiku* to be a treat.

Beth says

Not as good as his first "Zombie Haiku" but still entertaining. If I read this first it would have been better I think. I had high expectations for this one. Good for a few chuckles. 5-7-5 all the way!

Valary says

quick, quirky, humorous take of vampire-tinted American history
