



## Vampire Blood Trilogy

*Darren Shan*

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## **Vampire Blood Trilogy** Darren Shan

This trilogy comprises of 'Cirque Du Freak', 'The Vampire's Assistant' and 'Tunnels of Blood'.

## **Vampire Blood Trilogy Details**

Date : Published 2003 by HarperCollins

ISBN : 9780007143740

Author : Darren Shan

Format : Paperback 511 pages

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another vampire book, woot woot, lol, i absolutely LOVE this series,(even though im not done), it starts off about a boy, living a normal live, until this circus come in time and it change his life completely. he becomes

a vampire assistant in exchange to save his friend life. he travels around the world with the circus meeting the most extraordinary people you can think of. this first three books takes him to a journey unlike any other, this is a fun and cute reading, but its very enjoyable with lots of twists and turns.

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### **Ronda says**

As I read the first of these three volumes, my initial two thoughts were (1) Snakes are not slimy and (2) I don't really like Darren's character very much--and this bugged me. Now that I've finished these three stories, I have to admit that I ended up liking Darren's character after all and enjoyed the story--and, book 3 left me wanting more. Is Evra safe? Will Darren see his family again? Steve? Debbie? Does Mr. Crepsley rejoin the Generals? What about the Little People? Is Lefty a friend? Long and short? I was pulled in.

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### **Paige says**

This teen book about a young English boy who visits the Cirque Du Freak and ends up a vampire's assistant was ok. It was written for teens and should only be read by teens.

The saga of Darren Shan is told in first person. The author does a great job channeling the thoughts, logic, and behavior of a young teen boy.

As an adult reader, it is infuriating but as a pre-teen it is probably perfect and more realistic.

A quick summary:

Darren Shan is a middle school boy. His friend finds a flyer advertising Cirque Du Freak, an illegal 'freak show'. This show changes everyone's life. His friend recognizes one of the performers as a vampire, begs to be changed to a vampire, is rejected then vows to be a vampire hunter. The next thing you know, Darren becomes a vampire's assistant. The end of part one has Darren leaving town and his friend Steve vowing to follow him to the end of the Earth to kill him. Funny thing--Steve is never, ever mentioned again. So much for that threat. Another thing--why do we need to know that Mr Crepsley went by another name? That is not explained either.

Part two is about Darren making a friend. Yeah for him. Darren and his mentor re-join the Cirque so that Darren can have a friend. There is lots of talk of the Little People and Mr. Tiny but no details ever emerge.

Part three is about Darren, Evra, and Mr Crepsley traveling to a town, Darren getting a girlfriend, a vampire that is terrorizing the town (no one knows it, but he is killing humans).

Evra and Darren walk around town a lot--Evra with his scales (snake boy) and Darren in his ridiculous pirate suit--but don't do anything. Then we meet the weird vampire. The book only gets worse. Of course Darren saves everyone in the end with his quick thinking!

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### **Saki-chan says**

*Esto forma parte de un conjunto de reseñas que hice hace tiempo para un blog en el que participaba, las copio y pego más o menos como estaban y les agrego quizás algún comentario extra, tachados, groserías, u otra cosa que no puse desde el principio porque el blog no es mío y la dueña no es una loca como yo.*

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**18 junio, 2013**

De todas las que he leído, esta es mi saga favorita. Son 12 libros ridículamente cortos, debido a esto la Editorial Montena decidió publicarlos por trilogía en 4 ejemplares. Tiene una película que quizás conozcan llamada "El Asistente del Vampiro", no la he visto pero mucha gente me da fe de que es malísima, además de estar llena de spoilers; y esto es un verdadero problema porque al ser cada libro muy corto uno puede darte sin querer spoiler de toda la primera parte U\_U.

No exagero cuando digo que es de la mejores sagas juveniles de vampiros de los últimos tiempos, probablemente la mejor de todas.

Narrada en primera persona cuenta las aventuras de un chico llamado Darren Shan (sí, se llama igual que el escritor, todavía no sé que pensar al respecto) de 12 años aproximadamente, no les crean a esos resúmenes que dicen que Darren tiene 16, ¡Darren tiene doce! u once en último caso, yo misma lo calculé ya que nunca te dicen formalmente su edad. Su vida cambia cuando entra por primera vez al Cirque Du Freak donde conoce a nada más y nada menos que a un vampiro, el cuál posteriormente lo convierte en su asistente por razones que no les diré para no arruinar la sorpresa.

Los libros tienen la habilidad de mantenerte en suspenso, siempre dejándote con ganas de más , en menos de lo que te das cuentas te los lees todos y entras en un estado depresivo porque ya se terminó. T\_\_\_\_\_T

Los vampiros que presenta son muy distintos a lo acostumbrado , no obstante guardan suficientes semejanzas con los clásicos para dejar contentos a los fans del género.

Aunque Darren es el personaje central de la historia y del que sabemos más, los otros no dejan de ser interesantes, sobre todo Larten Crepsley el vampiro, que se roba el show a lo largo de toda la saga, tanto así que tiene su propia precuela  
~~la cual obviamente leí como fan obsesiva que soy y también se las recomiendo mucho.~~

La novela no es romántica, así que si quieren una bella historia de amor bien pueden ir escogiendo otra cosa. La mitad de la saga y todo "El Circo de los Extraños" va de Darren adaptándose a su nueva vida de vampiro, hay un ligero romance en Túneles de Sangre pero no pasa de ahí, y la otra mitad trata de una guerra donde nuestro protagonista jugará un papel muy importante.

Muchas muertes, sangre y cientos de tragedias, pero ¿qué esperaban? Ser vampiro no es cosa fácil...

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*Todavía la considero mi saga favorita, aunque no me gusta demasiado el final... es muy raro.*

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## **Vani says**

Another Vampire story out in the book shelf! My sister and I got this book that has 3 novels in one. To be honest, I don't think one book could stand alone. The good thing about this book however is that it is not

about some forbidden love between a Vampire and mortal (thank goodness!). it is about family and friendship and how one boy (Darren Shan) can sacrifice his life to save a life of a friend and also his happiness to save his family and every one he loves. This book is light, funny and will leave you with just the right amount of pinch in the heart!

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### **Claire says**

Just a really short review.

I read these books years ago and now got my hands onto it again. I love these series. The way Darren Shan can write it so good. He can make a single scene pages, chapters long and it will still be interesting. This particular book series, has a very interesting story with many plot twists. Written by a writer who does not shy away from killing characters. Which I like. I like characters to be vulnerable. Even heroes can't always win, right? They don't.

Don't think that this series is just for kids. I read them for the first time when I was 18-ish, maybe older and loved them to the bone. I'm a bit older now (26), and still love them. I know, not a huge age difference and no, I am not old. But many people seem to think that these books are for children about the age of 12-13. Well they're not. I bet my brother would also enjoy them and he's 33. Heck, if it was my mother's genre, she would love it. The writing is nice and easy, but still full of adult speech and words your 13 year old will not understand.

So go buy the series and love them.

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### **Marta99gil says**

La verdad me ha sorprendido mucho este libro. Lo compré sin tener ni idea ya que no había visto hablar de él nunca, pero su trama (no se preocupe qué) me recordó a Teen Wolf. Es un libro precioso desde el principio a fin, con su parte divertida, romántica y sus aventuras. Amé este libro y los personajes se les cogía mucho cariño. Estoy deseando leer su segunda parte ?

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### **Deviki says**

When the movie came out i didn't bother watching after i heard bad reviews about it ...not because i don't like his movie but i heard comments and bad rating for the movie so i decided to read.....it turns about a VERY GOOD STORY !! and i realized why the movie had bad rating/.....its a complete different story !! And I think they added a few characters ....i think if i watched the movie i would have the same impression....THIS BOOK SERIES STORY WAS BETTER !! I wish they stuck to the storybook version.....overall if i ever meet this writer i would give a big BEAR HUG and a kiss !!!

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## **July C. B says**

**3,5 estrellas.**

Una historia de vampiros algo diferente e interesante, que mejora hacia el final.

RESEÑA PENDIENTE.

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## **Annemieke / A Dance with Books says**

I watched the movie *The Vampire's Assistant* years ago. And honestly, I can't remember much from it besides the bare bones. However I remember finding the idea interesting and when I found the bind-up of the first three books of the series at Boekenfestijn, I instantly grabbed it.

The overall idea of the world of *Cirque Du Freak* is solid. It moves away from the stereotypical vampire within mainstream media without losing the essence. That a vampire is a predator. I also mostly enjoy the freak show, though sometimes I wished more was done with that. However there are plenty more books in this series. The plot in the first book is a tad wonky, and overall the plot in the first three books do rely heavily in places on not communicating with other people. If some actually talked and were honest, some of the issues would not have occurred. I do appreciate how the author doesn't shy away from heavier topics, like the funeral at the end of the first book. Plenty of authors would have skipped past that part, especially in middle grade.

I have to say that I am glad I got the bind-up and that I read it all right after each other. The books themselves are short. I think they are ideal for the target group, middle grade. I do wish that in the second book the prologue had not been such a summary of the first book and that the first chapter had not been in third point of view. The rest of the book, and the other books, are in first point of view. It didn't add a whole lot either.

The characters are okay. Darren, the main character, I liked initially in the first part of the first book, but with the events in the second half of that book I lost some respect for him because of the decisions he made. However it does show him as a flawed character. Throughout these first three books you do see him grow. This especially shows in the third book. He knows more about being a (half) vampire and doesn't need to rely as heavily on Mr. Crepsley.

I have not decided how I feel about Mr. Crepsley. He's a bit of a grumpy vampire, and especially in the first book, not all that likeable. I quite enjoy Ezra's character. He evens out Darren.

There are plenty of characters to explore in the next few books, and I can see some possible story lines with them with the hints we've been given so far. I think this is an excellent middle grade book for children that love a bit of horror and macabre.

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## Too Many Thoughts says

This was a great book. I want to read the next in the series! It took me a while (and when I say a while I mean it, it took me a MONTH to finally start consistently reading it) to get through the first book in this 3 in 1 because I found the main character (Darren) a bit too childish for my liking.

What with the picture of the 17-old guy on the front cover I asumed that Darren's character voice in the story would be more mature and I wasn't thrilled by his juvenile thinking. But as I got to the end of the first book I started to become more familliar and accustomed to Darren and began to like him and realised he's not ALL that childish. He's really quite brave and loyal.

One thing that does annoying a lot about this piece of writing is that there are too many exclamation marks! In every single chapter there was a setence that was punctuated with a !, so it lost it's affect.

Aside from those two things, this is a pretty good book.

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## Motahare Ghaderi says

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## Antonella says

Para empezar, quiero decir que esto fue un regalo de mi papá y al principio no entendía por qué me regalaría algo tan oscuro y creepy como lo fue este libro pero después entendí que era como su forma de decirme "eres una niña bien rara pero te amo, así que si esto es lo que te gusta, haré lo posible por facilitártelo" y eso hasta el sol de hoy es de las cosas que llevo conmigo.

Dejando la parte emocional de lado, la introducción me aterrorizó de sobremanera (tenía 12 años) pero nunca lo solté, ya después de eso se entiende que es como un thriller pero en realidad a mí me hacía gracia. En cuanto a su "mejor amigo", FUCK YOU BITCH.

Ya avanzada la historia sentí mucha pena por Darren, porque siendo un niño tranquilo y leal se metió en los peores problemas y sufrió las más fuertes traiciones. Ahora bien, me parece un libro muy ameno pero que a la vez tuvo sus momentos filosóficos y de reflexión, lo cual me gustó bastante.

nota: LA DESCRIPCIÓN DEL CIRCO ES MI PARTE FAVORITA DE TODO EL LIBRO I MEAN

nota2: EVRA IS MY BABY DONT HARM HIM HES GREAT

nota 3: Coloqué a el circo de los extraños en "bad endings" porque no sabía que había más libros (lmao) y porque eso me enseñó que odio los cliffhangers.

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## Shannon says

The Cirque Du Freak saga by Darren Shan was absolutely amazing, Cirque Du Freak is a young adult fictional story based on the main character, Darren Shan, a young boy whose entire world is changed by a



couple stupid choices. Upon first reading the book, I was definitely intrigued by the introduction of the first book. With passages such as:

"In real life, vacuum cleaners kill spiders. If you cross a busy road without looking, you get whacked by a car. If you fall out of a tree, you break some bones. Real life's nasty. It's cruel. It doesn't care about heroes and happy endings and the way things should be. In real life, bad things happen. People die. Fights are lost. Evil often wins."

On top of this albeit, negative, but intriguing introduction, Darren swears that the events in the book are all completely real.

Darren's adventure begins at a freak show, where he observes some amazing and shocking things, such as a spider named, "Madam Octa". His initial interest in Madam Octa is what leads him to learn of the cold vampire by the name of Mr. Crepsley.

Now I know what your thinking, "Vampires? I'm out." Have faith in me. This isn't some trashy Twilight ripoff with a more PG spin. This young adult story was tailored to target a young audience, creating interesting storytelling and even encasing the essence of a little boy, too naive and inexperienced in the ways of the "real world". It is this innocence that keeps the reader captivated and sympathizing the young Darren Shan.

Throughout the stories, you get to witness the young boy grow and mature. He slowly starts to become more independent and learns to conquer some of the challenges of being a (half) vampire all on his own, such as making friends. Darren's best friend, Evra, is a performer of Cirque Du freak and easily my favorite character so far. Mr. Crepsley is definitely a close second though. Evra is a shy young boy with a dark past, though doesn't make much of an appearance after the third book.

This book had many funny and even cringe-worthy moments, but my all time favorite would be when Darren was looking for his fangs in a mirror and Mr. Crepsley caught him. This segment introduced some playful banter and even a kinder side to Mr. Crepsley that the reader hadn't seen before. However, one part that I would change, would be the part in which Darren drinks blood from his good friend while in public. The scene is overall awkward and although crucial to a later problem, could have been approached much better. I recommend this book to people who are looking for an easy, but fun and interesting read about a newer twist on vampires. This story isn't like your typical vampire romance novel and even has its own backstory, and fully thought out hierarchy of vampire lore, laws, and much more! This story is charming, and although only a small portion of a twelve part saga series, definitely seems to be worth the read.

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## **Gabriel says**

I read this book some years ago, but it stuck with me in the back of my mind, because it was so unlike anything I've ever read while I was a skinny, too-many-limbs-to-count teen.

The beginning captures your interest, first because it is written in first perspective and secondly because it actually doesn't start with a rainy evening, a clouded day or anything remotely close to what a usual paranormal book starts with - especially when it comes to vampires.

The world is well thought out and it is clear that a lot of attention has been put into the details and in how to make everything come together.

The idea of a circus is not one I have come across before and it breathes new life into a world which have slowly been taken over by whimpy vampires with no weaknesses who eats animal blood.

But, as you grow older, the books are still good and still an enjoyable read, but you'll probably notice the mistakes more.

I haven't read them in a long time, but I probably will soon and then I'll return and edit this review to match my new look on the series.

As a side note:

At least the vampires don't sparkle. Nor do they eat animal blood. Or anything else. They die from the sun and by getting a stake through the "heart".

And by throwing together a new vampire world and having a side story with a circus, Darren Shan have now moved to my *independent authors* shelf.

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## **Aisyah (‘?• ? •?’) ? says**

First, let me just put it out there that Darren Shan is da man!

I freaking LOVE LOVE LOVE The Saga of Darren Shan.

I read the books when I was 15 I think, I recall some of it made me laugh, cry, get angry and upset, while reading others I felt shocked, disgusted, horrified, and at one point I felt horribly sad and depressed because of the feels in these books...

Starting with the first book...

It was fun, exciting, fresh, *unique*. So very different from the YA novels I'm used to. I love the characters made up of circus performers, they intrigued me and I remembered feeling jealous of Darren because I wished I could meet them too, especially the legendary Larten Crepsley ~~who btw has his own series~~ ~~mind you~~. A mentor to poor Darren, the reluctant fledgling vampire.

Enough about me gushing already, if you like adventure books mixed with paranormal spooky stuff, creepy vampires, sassy characters, mystery and magic, make sure to check out this series. It's going to be *awesome*.

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## **Darlyn says**

Superb!! I totally love the first three series of The Darren Shan Saga a.k.a. Vampire Blood. What I like the most is that the author is Darren Shan himself. Well, maybe it is the twist of his own life journal but I found it rather amusing and a bit neat.

There are few interesting facts about vampires in the series.

1) Vampires are immortals. But they don't live forever as they will die eventually. Vampire's aging 1 year in 10 years of human world. So I guess if I'm 100, then he's only 10. Wow. While half-vamp is 1 in 5 human years.

2) Vampire don't have fangs. Face the truth people. They only slit the throat open with their nail and sucked the blood in a small dose in order to survive.

3) They can and they have to eat regular human food to survive. A vampire that live only on blood are vampenenze and they slaughtered the victims. But, they are loyal and can be trusted. Keep their promise more than anything.

4) Cirque Du Freak has incredible people. I wish I could watch it my self. =)

That is actually some of awesome facts I found. In this book, I didn't see any spectacular writing, the thing that drew me in was the plot. The whole thing was near perfect. However, I just love it as it is now. If I were 15, this would be my best read EVER for this year! I love Harry Potter and I love Darren Shan too! I never read Percy Jackson yet, but i know I will collect this series. I know my review doesn't give much this time because I love the book. I am not a horror book fan but this one is different.

I give this book 5 stars because of it's incredible imagination. Also, there's some cool actions from the characters. I highly recommend this book to any person who loves a good vampire story. And whoever love Harry Potter, R.L. Stine and Christopher Pike!

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### **Diana-Katry Kornis says**

I have read the first 2 books in Estonian but I remembered little, so it was nice to re-read it and also to read further. The story has its charm but you can never be certain that the story is happy...It isn't exactly sad or scary either and it's easy to read. I like it.

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