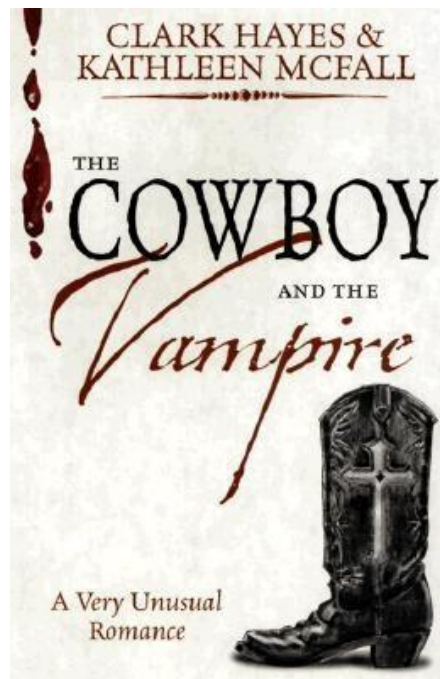




The Cowboy and The Vampire

Clark Hays , Kathleen McFall

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Reporter Lizzie Vaughan unknowingly has 2,000 years of royal Vampiric blood in her veins, and neither she nor her cowboy partner Tucker realize how weird their life is about to become.

The Cowboy and The Vampire Details

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Author : Clark Hays , Kathleen McFall

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From Reader Review The Cowboy and The Vampire for online ebook

Kate says

The Cowboy and the Vampire is so far from the typical vampire tale that one might even consider it more of a spoof on the Romance or Horror genre rather than a serious attempt to present a truly “Darkly Romantic Mystery”. With a driven New York reporter and a lackadaisical true-blue cowboy from Wyoming, Hays and McFall have presented not only a unique twist to the usual vampiric lore, but also a wickedly creative slant on the origin of the vampire and their true purpose in the overall scheme of mankind. While the novel has been presented as a Mystery, this reader would beg to differ feeling it would be better described as a Romantic Thriller. Then again, it could be classed under several different umbrellas: Romance, Western, Romantic Comedy, Horror...you get the picture! The Cowboy and the Vampire is a whole mish mash of genre and, whether by design or by mistake, may be of interest to a wide variety of readers.

The technical writing talents of Clark Hays and Kathleen McFall are very nearly flawless. Without a doubt, The Cowboy and the Vampire is astonishingly well-written with solid foundations, clear and concise descriptive narrative, and expertly developed world building. Also not to be forgotten is an endearing cast of characters whose very eccentricities and quirky personalities will have readers at times rolling their eyes in disbelief, at others chuckling with mirth, and all the while said characters will manage to worm themselves straight into the readers heart!

While I did enjoy this story, there were some facets which very nearly ruined the experience. Case in point; for those who have read, or have a copy of, The Cowboy and The Vampire I direct you to page 48 where Lizzie and Tucker have just discussed Lizzie’s desire to stay in Wyoming for a while. Readers are treated to a cowboy’s view of what it means for his love interest to move in with him. While I am certain Tucker’s private thoughts are probably typical of any red blooded bachelor, some might feel that those shared are also chauvinistic and even somewhat degrading to women. Another instance where the private thoughts of Tucker may be construed as somewhat insulting can be found earlier in this same chapter, on page 42. I’m not so sure readers, specifically female readers, will be very receptive to being compared to constipation and other such bodily functions. In this situation, Tucker is patiently waiting for Lizzie to gather her thoughts and provide him with an explanation about what happened in New York that was so serious as to send her running to Wyoming on the spur of the moment. During the wait, Tucker’s mind wanders in contemplation about the similarities between human behavior and letting nature take its course.

Now, the above is not to say that The Cowboy and the Vampire is not an entertaining read, only that Hays and McFall may have taken a wee bit of a risk in using these “not so flattering” comparisons and view points.

While The Cowboy and the Vampire wouldn’t make the top 25 of my 2011 reading adventures, it was definitely an unusual and entertaining experience. From New York to Wyoming to New Mexico, readers are lead on a roller coaster of an adventure wherein a cowboy, a lone reporter come vampire queen, and a myriad of friends and foes will fight for the future of mankind...

While not a masterpiece, The Cowboy and the Vampire is most definitely a job well done!

Iris says

What's more different than a cowboy and a city girl? How about a cowboy and a city girl who happens to be a vampire queen? As incongruous as that sounds, the characters seem to make it work. As a city girl myself, I found Lizzie's sarcasm and attitude during her capture to be hilarious. The New York attitude shone through every word and gesture. Tucker was a bit of a stereotype, the broke cowboy, living in his trailer with nothing but a dog and his horse for company. Stereotypes aside though, I found myself enjoying this book. What's not to like? You have a hunky cowboy, a gutsy heroine and an atypical overweight vampire with a fondness for junk food. Can't wait to read book 2!

Michelle says

When I came across this book, I was intrigued by the title but honestly didn't have high hopes for the content since I avoid romance novels like the plague. However, I popped it into my beach bag and set out for a day on the sand.

SPOILERS

I couldn't be happier with Mr. Hays creation of The Cowboy, Tucker. Lizzie and Tucker meet, fall in love and have sex (or vice versa). Then Lizzie gets kidnapped by vamps. Tucker is too late to save the day and Lizzie is turned. Now Tucker is in love with the Queen of the vamps, they have more sex, he robs a blood bank for her (a sign of true love) and there is an epic battle. In the end, good wins!

Or does it?

One of my favorite parts of this story is that god created vampires along with humans. Vampires are the siphons for/of evil. If they follow the plan for their kind, they help maintain the balance of good and evil by destroying sin. But what happens when the vamps go rogue? The cross and other religious relics no longer have power because people don't believe. That leaves humans with one less weapon against evil. Which is when a conspiracy theorist, militia buddy comes in handy.

I made a statement in my original review that this is not a romance. I was wrong. This is the best kind of romance. There is no mushy gushy, size matters discussions just a cowboy fightin' for his life and his vampire girlfriend fighting to keep her undead self from being a pile of ash or an unholy vessel.

I grieved a little for Snort and almost threw the book into the lake when it looked like Rex was about to become a meal. Who says a gay vampire and a straight old coot can't become friends? Then there is the slinky vamptress everyone loves to hate but turns out the have a soul after all.

I could ramble on and on about the many things I enjoyed about this book but you should just go read it for yourself. I even broke my own cardinal rule about never reading a book twice because I loved it so much and I needed a bit of a refresher before I sunk my teeth into book #2.

Elke says

This was one of my first vampire romance novels, way back when that genre was still in its fledgling state

and only a handful of authors wrote that kind of stuff, and a book did not automatically have to be followed by dozens of sequels.

This book surely is no milestone in profound literature, but I remember that I enjoyed reading the combination of romance, action and lots of fun very much. Also, I was intrigued with the idea of combining a vampire story with the cowboy theme, something not done all too often.

A light but very entertaining read, definitely recommended to all vamp/romance aficionados.

Reread: Oct 1-8, 2012

To be 'prepared' for the long awaited sequel, I reread Cowboy & Vampire, which I first read several years ago and honestly couldn't remember too well, other than I LOVED it. I was surprised how much about this book I had shamelessly forgotten, and to find out that this book offers so much more than light entertainment.

Though romance is a very important part of C&V, it is far from being just another vampire romance book - for counterbalance, there is an equal amount of bloodshed and action, not to forget the humor. Furthermore, the authors developed a fresh concept for the origin of vampires.

I really enjoyed meeting the Cowboy and Vampire again and can't wait to read the sequel 'Blood and Whiskey'.

Bitten_by_Books says

Tucker's living the perfect cowboy life. Residing alone in his trailer with his dog, Rex, his horse, Snort, and some mischievous alpacas that refuse to stay on their own side of the fence, he feels as though he has it all. And then Lizzie arrives from New York City and throws everything he has ever known into utter chaos. Lizzie Vaughn is a reporter carrying a secret of her own, one buried so deep that not even she knows it exists. So when she is kidnapped by a group of vampires claiming she is their queen, Tucker finds himself with a rescue to pull off...and a vampire war to help win.

Tucker is your typical cowboy. He ropes and rides and drinks beer—a lot of beer. He never thought he would fall for a city girl like Lizzie, and neither did I, to be honest. But he does, and it works. He is the lighthearted complement to her more serious self. He brings her humor where she brings him stability. Tucker's voice is so fresh and enjoyable that I looked forward to his parts of the story more than any other. If all cowboys were like Tucker, I would read more westerns.

Lizzie is pretty much Tucker's complete opposite. Where he is totally country, she is the epitome of a big city girl. She is also much more refined than Tucker ever hopes to be. Her more reserved personality helps hold Tucker to the task at hand and keeps him from wandering off in the woods. She gives him the guidance he needs to make something of his life. I was afraid that I was not going to like Lizzie at first, but she turned out to be not as much of a city girl as I had expected. She was a nice surprise.

The Cowboy and the Vampire: A Very Unusual Romance is one of the funniest and most engaging books I have read in a long time. Jam-packed with adventure, vampires, true love, and a cast of characters you will not soon forget, you find yourself turning the pages thinking, "What more could possibly happen to these two?" And then, you find out. I never imagined the melding of a contemporary western and a paranormal romance could ever be so seamless or so much fun.

Originally reviewed on Bitten by Books by Amyee at 4.5 Stars. Read the original review here:

<http://bittenbybooks.com/the-cowboy-a...>

Clark Hays

Kathleen McFall

Willow Brooks says

Really quick.

Umm... I think this was a comedy. Not really sure but it is definitely a funny little adventure. So many reviews have already told this story. It's full of craziness. I love that dog, I think he was the most sane character in this book.

If you want a read for the entertainment value only then this book is for you. I will warn that this book does take bible scriptures and add on to them to include the vampire. It may make you say, "WTH!" If that makes you uncomfortable, I don't know what to tell you other than find a different book.

Lizzie's Father was a strange one aside from being a vampire. He had a little something something wrong with him. You'll see what I'm talking about when you read it I don't want to put out spoilers.

This was nuts. The vampire, dog, cowboy, both MC's fathers, bad villain vampires. I'm still shaking my head.

Be prepared for a little cliffhanger.

Happy reading.

Jennifer (Books&Barks) says

The Cowboy and the Vampire, written by the husband and wife team of Clark Hays and Kathleen McFall, is one of the most interesting takes on the vampire legend that I have read recently. First published several years ago, before the craze for all things supernatural really hit, The Cowboy and the Vampire has now been re-released and can hopefully pick up some of these new fans of the vampire genre. The novel mixes religion and vampire lore to create an enchanting world that combines the lonesome wild west with the bustling city of New York.

Lizzie Vaughan, a reporter from New York, travels to LonePine, Wyoming for a story and ends up meeting Tucker, an honest to goodness real-life cowboy, horse and dog included. They get off to a rough start - Lizzie manages to get his nose busted - but before long the two find themselves in a relationship. Even after returning to New York, Lizzie can't forget about her cowboy. After discovering that a new story about the myth of the vampire is actually no myth at all, Lizzie runs back to Wyoming and the safety of Tucker's arms. Unfortunately for them, Wyoming isn't far enough to escape the clutches of Julius, a master vampire who turns Lizzie into a vampire as well. That's because, unbeknownst to her, Lizzie comes from a lineage of royal vampires and her blood has the potential to be very powerful and can change the world as they know it. Thus starts the adventure of a lifetime for Lizzie and Tucker, and several of their friends and allies. One faction of vampires is led by Julius, who hopes to see vampires take over the world, and the other is led by Lazarus (yes, that Lazarus!) who hopes to protect the balance of good and evil and continue the purpose for

the complete existence for vampires. Will Lizzie and Tucker survive this battle?

I absolutely adored the character of Tucker. I loved his down to earth personality, which has been shaped by his life of living in the wilds of Wyoming. It was especially funny reading about his observations of New York City. Add in his faithful dog companion, Rex, and what's not to love? Tucker is lucky to have Rex around, as the little dog saves the day on more than one occasion. The book just wouldn't have been the same without this special relationship between the two. The love between Tucker and Lizzie is also special. Tucker is willing to do anything for Lizzie, even when it seems that all hope is lost. After learning of Lizzie's turning, "his mind struggling to keep up with a heart that at the sight of her breathing had immediately and without question resigned itself to her changed circumstances" (pg 202), Tucker robs a blood bank just so she doesn't have to kill anyone to survive her first few days as a new vampire. How many people would be willing to do that for the ones that they love?

Tucker's dad brings the practical into this supernatural story. Learning about vampires is ultimately no big deal for him. In his own words, "You just got to do the best you can, no matter what comes along" (pg 299.) Other quirky characters in the story, such as the militia loving, weapon creating Lenny, Lazarus' long-time friend and fellow vampire Sully, and the vampire seductress Elita, make for a wonderfully entertaining story. I was actually quite surprised by some of the changes that take place by the end of the novel, especially when it comes to Elita. I would love to read more about her and how her character evolves.

I can't wait to find out more from the world of The Cowboy and the Vampire and hope that a second book in the series is released soon. While this book does have a complete ending, there's still so much more that can come from Lizzie and Tucker. Overall, if you're a fan of vampire novels, and you like westerns too, I'd definitely recommend The Cowboy and the Vampire. And if you aren't a big fan of westerns, I'd still suggest you give it a try!

Alex Lamm says

Wow. What a fun and fluid read this was! I read it in just a couple days and it looks like it has been to hell and back with me. A good sign.

Page one and I was already hooked.

The plot's structure is really what drew me in. Short chapters, back and forth and giving hints as to what may or may not happen. It gets you thinking and hungry for more and very involved. I had to keep reading because if I didn't I would probably find myself sneaking a few pages in the bathroom at work. Bad, I know. When you get to the end, you really can't even believe it's the end because it gives the reader closure, but offers up so many other stories that are about to unravel in front of your blood-shot eyes. The what-ifs are too much to deal with. Vampires, cowboys AND city slickers? GTFO.

I mean, think about Dusk Till Dawn and how much you loved that film, then apply that excitement to this book. DONE.

What's important about how this was written is how much you see the characters develop organically and you truly want to know more about them as individuals. I think that the only route to take is to read the other books, there's no question. I don't care if you like vampires or not, just read this dang thing.

Amazon, please send another book my way!

Yodamom says

Tough cowboy Tucker live on his ranch, with his dog and his horse. His comfortable life is changed when he meets a NYC reporter who wants to interview a 'real cowboy' She ends up reviewing him between the sheet and they begin an affair with her traveling to visit him on his ranch. The lust turns to love and so it begins. There is one big crack in the romance, more than one. She is descended from a long line of vampires and is wanted by Mr. Big Bad Vampire for her monthly visitor. It seems that devouring that will give him the powers to control the world. This Mr. Big bad is also her father. He kidnaps her and it's up to Tucker and the only smart one in the book to save her, the dog. The ending was a cliffhanger, not something I care to follow up on.

I was interested with the story in the beginning, it had a great concept. But when the vampires came in to it went quickly down hill, fast and deep. They were cheesy villains, they acted stereotypical bad B movie vampires. The stupid bits with the cowboy lingo from these upper crust NYC characters ?? I was shaking my head, it was so ridiculous. Was it to be funny ? Maybe, but it feel flat for me. The incest, why ? Why did this guy have to be her father, and why did it have to go there ? Too much, taboo for this reader.

Tucker, he was an idiot. He put everyone in danger. He went to hit his dog for being smart. He risked his father his friends, and no it wasn't a romantic save. His dog was the only character I cheered for. I wanted to rescue him from this story.

I didn't like it. I didn't find it funny. I could not recommend it.

Coyle says

This needs to be a movie. Hollywood: I command you to get on that right now!

Sharon Hamilton says

This was a great twist on a classic vampire story. The two voices of the main characters, written by both husband and wife writers, makes for a creative soup that was thoroughly enjoyable. I'd like to see how these two manage to live out the rest of their "existence" and hope the writers think about a series here.

There were so many favorite parts, and I don't want to give away any of the plot, so am unable to illustrate just one. But let's say that the vampires are different than you expect, and so are the cowboys. Such little delicious surprises at every turn of the page. The dialog was superb. It could be a primer on deep POV through dialog for anyone studying the craft of writing.

Ryan Dejonghe says

This is one of the weirdest stories I have ever read. It's right up there with Neil Gaiman's man-swallowing woman parts and talking tents. Instead, here we have rocket-launching, womb-sucking, Bible-bending, non-

pointy-toothed vampires. And love. And cowboys. Depending on what you are looking for, that might be a good thing.

If I had to liken this book to a movie, it would either be to Tucker & Dale vs. Evil, or maybe more appropriately, Quentin Tarantino's From Dusk to Dawn. That's cool, right? Don't go into this expecting high literature or an in-depth emotional love story. If you give it too much thought, you're going to have a rough ride.

Here's what I mean. I just finished reading THE GOLDFINCH and Egger's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel before reading this. The double negatives, the "or" after a "neither", and the switching perspectives (switching back-and-forth from first person to third person narrative) were causing my brain to fizzle. The deus ex machinas were the proverbial nail in the coffin (you like that pun?). Once I set aside my brain's function and just went along for the ride, it was pretty fun.

Backstory time. Okay, this is another breed of vampires without sharp, neck-piercing teeth. According to the story, these vampires were created by God. While the Bible mentions God creating light and day, it really was "a metaphor for separating humanity from vampires." The history gets a little tricky around the time of Jesus, when Malthus choose Mary Magdalene as a mate, turning her into a vampire, and Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead, turning him into a vampire. What we know today is mixing "Messianic bloodline and the Reptilian bloodline is strictly prohibited." Go ahead; I'll wait here why you re-read that. Let it sink in.

So...besides miraculous events of death rising, how do these non-pointy-toothed vampires turn folks into fellow vampires? Well, buckle-up. The main vampire of the story, Julius, turns his daughter into a vampire by cutting a hole into her womb, then slicing himself, sucking his own blood, and then...we'll let his daughter describe the rest: "[he put his] lips between my legs, pushing his blood inside my womb, mixing it with my own." I'll let you do the anatomical math and figure out where her dad was putting his lips.

What about the cowboy? Oh, yeah. So, Lizzie, the daughter of Sir Modern Day Dracula, is a high society magazine writer and coincidentally is doing an article on a cowboy and an article on vampires. The word coincidentally comes to mind often in this story (shut-up, mind, shut-up; just enjoy it). So, between interviewing cosplay vampires, she flies out to meet said cowboy and falls in love and lust. And, as Tucker the cowboy said, "She'd grabbed my heart by the horns, wrestled it down and slapped her brand on it."

The vampires arrive in the West, hurt the cowboy's dog and horse, and take his girl. His first logical choice is to fly to New York and save her. Of course. But first he must stop off at his convenient (there's that word again) friend's house, who is afraid of watching TV because of the government spies, but can capably makeshift a shotgun that shoots mini-wooden spikes and grenades held together by duct tape. Yee-haw.

The arsenal seamlessly ships to New York, available for Tucker to walk around openly with, along with his leash-less dog. He stumbles upon the vanishing vampire fortress in Central Park, is invited to stay for dinner and a sleep-over, and he gladly accepts. Wouldn't you say "yes" to an offer to stay overnight with some vampires? This is all because Tucker would "rather die than live without Lizzie." The vampires release him after his slumber party so he can scour the city of "twelve zillion people" in search of his girl. After he intuitively finds her via the telephone book, he leads her to an un-hitched robbing of a blood bank so she can eat. Yum, yum.

I think you get the gist of it all. Lots of crazy, lots of unexpected, and potentially lots of fun. There's adventure, there's sexual romance, there's blood, there's even a bit of incest. What more could you want? The bottom line is, I was debating on reading this and when I saw the authors' Twitter handle "cowboyvamp", I decided this was my book to read. I think I've given you enough to consider, so now the choice is now yours.

Thanks to the publisher for throwing a review copy my want to sink my teeth into. And with that, I'll stop the bad puns.

Shannon says

This book was hysterically funny. Very unusual is a good word for it, just look at the cast of characters:

A reporter who ends up becoming a vampire.

A cowboy and his dog and horse.

An overweight vampire that remembers Jesus personally.

Your usual cast of mean, creepy vampires.

While it is a teen romance book, it's better than most in that it's not aimed at your typical teen. Don't confuse this with Twilight, folks. I don't recommend it for younger teens because there is some sexual content and violence beyond what the typical PG-13 movie has to offer. Great modern take on Vampires, though.

LJ says

THE COWBOY AND THE VAMPIRE - Okay

Hays, clark and Kathleen McFall

Wyoming cowboy Tucker falls in love with the least likely person: Lizzie Vaughan, a reporter from New York who disrupts his life by writing an article about him, pegging him as the last living cowboy. While researching a new story on vampires, Lizzie becomes frightened, and returns to Wyoming and the waiting arms of Tucker. But the vampires, convinced that she is their queen, track her down, kidnap her, and bring her back to New York. Tucker, with his faithful dog, Rex, in tow, heads to New York ready to face whatever vampire terrors await him for the sake of his true love, Lizzie. But he arrives too late. Julius, the head vampire, has already turned Lizzie into one of his creatures. But love prevails, and Lizzie and Tucker must find a way to stay together--and stay out of the sun.

A cowboy and a vampire queen; different, interesting, okay.

Julie says

I received a free e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I have to say that from the very start I was hooked. I could picture Tucker and hear his voice as I read which

usually takes a while.

Hays has taken two completely different themes, Cowboys and Vampires, and married them together in a very detailed and convincing way.

When Lizzie travels to Lonepine, Wyoming to do research and interview cowboys, she doesn't plan on falling for one. Tucker is very laid-back and although he finds her attractive, he isn't really looking for a relationship, he doesn't think it would work as she is from New York and he's just a cowboy. Aside from the different backgrounds and the distance, what would he do about his horse, Snort and his dog, Rex.

When Lizzie turns up in the middle of the night after they have been dating for a few months, claiming that vampires are real and that they are after her, he doesn't really believe her but when several show up in Lonepine, kill Snort, take Lizzie and leave Tucker for dead, he soon changes his mind.

He sets off for New York with Rex to find Lizzie and get her back. Unfortunately he arrives too late to save her from being turned. Despite the fact that she is now a vampire he doesn't leave her and tries to help her control her urges. With Julius, the Vampire who turned her, determined to find her and drink from her at a specific time in her cycle, in a bid to change history and make her his queen, despite being her real father, it's a race against time to get her to the safety of another vampire named Lazarus.

Lizzie has to learn to control her urges, learn who she is and how she can change the history of humans and vampires.

This is a very unique twist on the origins of vampires and humans, the story of Jesus and Lazarus has a bit of a different spin too. I think Hays has written an interesting and unique story with a great story-line and a fantastic cast of characters.

I found the characters to be entertaining and funny, even the animals had personality. The interplay between Tucker, Snort and Rex is very believable and also very touching. I found myself tearing up at the demise of Snort.

I would recommend this book to anyone who loves reading and likes a story that doesn't follow the usual shtick regarding certain genre's.

Natalie says

I have to say I was not at all sure what I was getting myself into when I read this book, the title of the book kinda made me stop and go hmmm, I wonder what this will be like, but like the old saying goes "don't judge a book by its cover". I was shocked into silence while reading this book, I could not believe a book with this title had me mesmerized to the point that I could not put it down. Now I know what your thinking, your all thinking "Oh Nattie, how could a book about a Vampire and a Cowboy possibly be any good, what is he her snack" LOL. All I can say is please trust me, I haven't steered you wrong yet (at least I hope I haven't) :)

This is probably the most original story for a Vampire book that I have ever read. The characters were well played out and all worked together to make a wonderful story. Tucker (the cowboy), well I just love Tucker, he doesn't hold back and calls it like he see's it, with his cowboy twang, horse (Snort), dog (Rex), ranch, his father and friend Lenny. Now Lenny, his character is a little out of the ordinary, he's paranoid of everything and the only member of the LonePine militia and makes the most eccentric weapons anyone's seen, I really

liked Lenny, he made me laugh and I would love to see more of his character. Lizzie, poor Lizzie, she and Tucker really did fit well together, her character whined a little more than I liked for a main character, but I had to stop and remember if I had been turned into a vampire against my will and had to fight for my life every step of the way I'd whine a bit often as well. Lizzie's character was (even with the whining) a strong hot tempered at times, willing to go through anything if it meant she was with Tucker.

All the rest of the character's you cant help but adore, well except Julius (he's the bad guy) but even for him you have to feel a little bit of pity for him. Elita, I didn't like her at all in the beginning of the story, but she has this tendency of growing on you, and by the end of the book you almost like her lol. I would really like to see more of her character as well. Lazarus (yes the real Lazarus) Satan himself, I liked as well. All of them really fit together and made this a great story. I really hope there is a second book. I highly recommend this book, it was the most surprising read I have had the pleasure of picking up. This book has made me laugh, gasp with disbelief, made me smile, and couldn't stop thinking about it when I couldn't read it. It has suspense, some horror, some mystery, with some romance in the mix. I really hope ya'll (that's my cowgirl twang) lol pick up a copy of this book it is well worth the read, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

To read full review and interview visit my blog <http://booksfromthepurplejellybeancha...>

Deborah says

Gothic vampire western romance with humour.....

Since the forth and final book in this series is due out in June I've decided to re-read the previous three and I'm so glad I did I'd forgotten just how funny these books are.

The problem with this book is categorising it, it's a romance, yes, a vampire book, yes, it has humour but it's not a comedy. I wasn't sure quite what to expect, from the title my original thought was "comedy" and yes like I said it has humour, it's a dry humour and while it's not a comedy as such I was laughing and shaking the whole way through but like I said it's not a comedy. I was a bit intrigued I must admit, I was surprised to discover it was first published in 1999 and is now in it's third printing, I'd never heard of it before.

Anyway back to the book, it's a romance and it starts out like a normal book, down to earth cowboy Tucker from the small town of LonePine, population of just 438 falls for New York reporter Lizzie, these two couldn't really be more opposite but it works and at the start of the book I forgot for a few pages that I wasn't reading just a normal romance but then the word vampire came up and the book took a different turn.

This book is weird there's no other way to describe it, it's weird but it works and one of the main reasons it does is the characters, they're real, believable people. They relate to each other like real people do which is rarer than you'd think, especially in the books I read. I loved Tucker and his dad, and Lenny, Lenny is brilliant. The book is built on believable characters and so even though the story is pure fantasy I was there routing for Tucker and Lizzie and the rest because I actually cared about them and what happened to them, and there's no way I could review this book without mentioning Rex, the best dog in the world.

Why 4 stars and not 5, well there's a couple of main reasons, firstly the POV kept switching and although it didn't take long to work out who it was it still wasn't always clear immediately and the ending wasn't a surprise, I don't think it was supposed to be but it would have been nice, apart from that it was all good.

I've still no idea how to categorise this book, I'm coming down on the side of 'gothic vampire western romance with humour' catchy.....maybe not.

Will I read the next book, yes as soon as I've finished this.

ARC provided by NetGalley

A few bits to give you a feel for the book.

On the way to town, I met a bunch of folks on the highway who I knew well enough to swerve across the center asphalt line like I was going to hit them and then they'd throw their arms up as if to cover their faces from the coming accident. It was big fun on Highway 14 at seven in the morning, which says a lot about the entertainment prospects of living in LonePine.

All God's creatures have a purpose and I suspect that holds true for alpacas, but I can't tell what that might be. Best I can figure, their purpose in life is to act haughty and spit on whatever they can't shit on, which is pretty much everything.

(When arriving in LonePine)

Elita slid down in her seat and shook her head. "I haven't seen this much desolation since the black plague."

"You'll need to get into it tomorrow during the day when I'm sleeping."

"Honey, it ain't sleeping. Let's call a cow a cow. You'll be dead....."

"Don't look at me like that. You expect me to be happy about watching her stay young and beautiful while I just get more and more ruggedly handsome with the years? Having to keep her stashed by day and never being able to have the boys over for a beer at night for fear she would eat them?"

Niina says

"The Cowboy and The Vampire" Weekend 2nd-4th of Dec 2011! With Review, Guest Blog, Co-author Interview and Giveaway! Find it here!

Living in a small town of LonePine Wyoming, Tucker has spent his life on the ranch in the company of his dog Rex and his horse Snort. Then he meets Lizzie, a reporter, in town doing a piece called "The Last Cowboy", the New York City girl finally wins/wears him over and the two begin a long distance romance.

Lizzie's putting finishing touches on her newest article on vampires when she's invited to a vampire gathering in an upscale NY art gallery. Expecting piercings, lots of black and fake dental wear she's shocked to witness a bloody massacre by sophisticated self-proclaimed vampire Julius. Lizzie escapes to LonePine to be with Tucker while she tries to figure out what the hell happened in New York.

But when vampires arrive to LonePine and forcefully remove Lizzie from Tucker's care the cowboy has to head to New York with Rex to save his girl from the vampires who want Lizzie to become their Queen of Uncreation: the destruction of Adamites, the destruction of humankind.

"About that time Rex quit his barking and stood wagging his little stump of a tail and whining. The headlights shut off and the door opened up and Lizzie stepped out. "Hey, cowboy," she said. You could've knocked me over with a feather.

"What the hell are you doing here?" I stammered and she walked up as natural as can be.

"Is this a bad time? I could come back later," she said smiling.

I just drew her into my arms and kissed her for all I was worth and felt her pull herself tight against me.

Standing there we were able to say hello without words for better of ten minutes. Then we moved inside and continued saying hello, still without words, for better than two hours."

I'll begin by saying I love mysteries, I love cowboys, I love vampires and I love this book!

You know how you expect a lot from a book, cause it seems to have everything you love, and then it turns out to be mediocre? Well this book isn't one of those!

This is in fact in the top five books I've read this year, and I somehow knew I was going to love it when I first saw it online. Now let's move on to why it's so good!

The characters are great, Tucker is your quintessential Cowboy, he speaks, acts and thinks like a cowboy (the mental dialog is one of the best parts to me about the book), he has attachments to his animals and down-to-earth sensibility about what needs to get done, be it fix a fence to keep them darn alpacas of his land or going after his girlfriend, abducted by the evil undead vampires.

Lizzie has the through fire reporter attitude without the over the top exaggeration, she strong, stubborn and pigheaded (in fact it takes quite a lot of convincing her that vampires are real and that she's not surrounded by delusional nutjobs, where Tucker has the benefit of witnessing them "in action") but in the humane way that she has vulnerabilities like any human would. She's great match to Julian who is deliciously supercilious, prophet syndrome suffering royal bloodline vampire pain in the ass.

This book has a multiple point-of-views, having Lazarus, Julian, Elita or Sully tell the story forwards makes the story world seem so much more real, which means you get ten times more invested in their lives.

Out of the supporting characters my favorites were Elita, a seductive evil vampire who refuses to recognize that's she's not as 100% evil as she keeps saying she is. And Lenny, the LonePine's lone militia, a paranoid and conspiracy theory wielding man who helps Tucker out in creating some vampire takedown weapons. And let's not forget Rex, the dog is a great comic relief that never leaves Tucker's side.

"The first couple dozen time those damn alpacas trespassed, Rex rounded them up and send them skittering home like the champion cow dog he is. Eventually, those goats took to spitting on him and so damaged his pride that he now refuses to even get out of the truck when they're around. Cow dogs are touchy about that sort of thing. This morning, he was sitting in the driver's side looking nonchalantly the other way like he was dreaming of a better place, the kind of place where dogs don't get spit on by goats."

The writing is witty, easy flowing and engages the reader, you can get lost in this story without those irritating lingual potholes and speed bumps that can make stories tumble. The Cowboy and The Vampire is written really well, great in fact! This isn't your garden variety romantic story. You can tell this book is written by people who know their poetry and their fiction.

The Cowboy and The Vampire isn't just written well, it's also very funny, some of the best bits provided by the relationship between Tucker and his dog Rex, but also Tucker's Dad creates lighter moments, where Julius and Lazarus drive the momentum of what's at stake for everyone involved.

The Cowboy and The Vampire is a sizzlingly dark tale of thousand years old power struggle, and in the middle of it Lizzie, a human with 2000 years of royal vampire blood just waiting to be harnessed and a cowboy with one single goal, keep his girl safe and love her no matter what.

Dark and enigmatic journey from Wyoming to NY to New Mexico where vampires snap at your heels and what stand between you and your enemy is your cowboy and his sheer will to survive. Oh, and his cow dog too...

Andrea Guy says

There are a lot of vampire novels out there. More than anyone should read, but this one is one of the best. It has a unique, slightly religious twist to the vampire myth, plus it has a totally awesome cowboy.

I love the vastly different way the two leads are written and the story is told from both Lizzie and Tucker's point of views. The parts of the story written from Tucker's point of view are absolutely hysterical.

I really love the way their relationship grew, and even though everything happened pretty quickly, you saw a great loyalty between the characters.

Clark and Kathleen created some awesome vampires too. (Lizzie included) The bad guys and the not so bad vamps really rocked. They were pure evil in the way vampires should be. Julius was truly the baddest bad guy ever!

The story really flowed nicely and though it had romantic aspects there was a lot more to it than Tucker and Lizzie getting together. This book was about good and evil and its place in the world. I loved how the writers separated humans (Adamites) and Vampires.

This is definitely a must read for fans of vampire fic. Its one of the best in the genre that I have read this year.

Jay Williams says

Much better than I expected. The writing is superb, the plot is truly imaginative, and the love story transcends everything I have read so far. I confess, I have always had a thing for vampire stories. However, this book is so much more than a vampire story. The origins of these vampires lie with the origins of Christianity, and the entire story is suffused with religious overtones. I wish I could think of a better title, because this title is accurate, but gives no clue to the incredible story contained within. This vampire story illuminates all that is good in human nature, The characters may be a little weird, but they are clearly real people, and their story is told brilliantly.
