



Half-Blood

Jennifer L. Armentrout

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The Hematoi descend from the unions of gods and mortals, and the children of two Hematoi pure bloods have godlike powers. Children of Hematoi and mortals--well, not so much. Half-bloods only have two options: become trained Sentinels who hunt and kill daimons or become servants in the homes of the pures.

Seventeen-year-old Alexandria would rather risk her life fighting than waste it scrubbing toilets, but she may end up slumming it anyway. There are several rules that students at the Covenant must follow. Alex has problems with them all, but especially rule #1: Relationships between pures and halves are forbidden. Unfortunately, she's crushing hard on the totally hot pure-blood Aiden. But falling for Aiden isn't her biggest problem--staying alive long enough to graduate the Covenant and become a Sentinel is.

If she fails in her duty, she faces a future worse than death or slavery: being turned into a daimon, and being hunted by Aiden. And that would kind of suck.

Half-Blood Details

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From Reader Review Half-Blood for online ebook

Yonaily says

Jennifer L. Armentrout, writing *Half-Blood*:

MISS VAIN says

"There's nothing like a bunch of catty teenagers who could either kick your ass halfway across the country or set you on fire with a mere thought.

**That alone changed who people picked fights with or became friends with.
And at the end of the day, it was always good to have a Firestarter in your back pocket."**

Okay soooo As a HUGE Vampire Academy fan please allow me to adress the whole "It's just like V.A. Issue"..... Well it did have several moments especially in the beginning as well as the concept that held an uncanny resemblance to Vampire Academy, there's no denying that, however keep reading because **Half-Blood** transforms into something unique and desirable that will capture the hearts of their own fans. In Half-Blood the premise revolves around mythical creatures which I'm finding very intriguing at this moment.

Meet Alexandria, or more preferably known as **Alex**, she's smart, witty, fascinating, sarcastic, irresponsible, and basically thinks she's "bad-ass" like every other seventeen year old and she charmed me from page one. She's considered a **Half-Blood**; with her father a mundane human and her mother a **Hematoi** a very powerful race of Pure-Bloods, a product of the Greeks shacking up after the demigods died. She finds herself back at the Covenant living on Deity Island after her mom succumbed to an attack by force from a group of Daimons.

"She was everything to me!" I jumped to my feet. "She did nothing but think of me. What happened to her was horrific---'tragic' is for people who die in car wrecks!"

Daimons are basically the Strigoi of this series, but they drink blood from Pures and Half to obtain the Aether carried in their bloodstream. If you can't get past the Vampire Academy similarities stop now, but if you can you're in for an awesome new series because it takes us readers on an entirely different ride than Vampire Academy. It's equally emotionally charged but look put because the plot is uniquely heartbreaking, breathtaking, and exciting!!!!:-)

"Just picture me as the enemy Alexandria."

Oh that won't be too hard, Dean Andros."

I raised my hands and motioned him forward. I was a total badass."

Alex becomes determined to become a Sentinel guard to protect others from the tragic incident with the Daimons that has changed her life forever. In many ways she's wise beyond her seventeen years and at times she's just a struggling teenager with fantasies of love and immeasurable dreams.

Her best friend **Caleb** was an extremely desirable best friend to have and he was hilarious!!! I found him extremely likable and a very reliable friend to Alex. What I love most is that they both supportive friends and that just it; they're platonic friends with no desire of a relationship, a productive example once again that males and females can be just friends. I look forward to more of Caleb throughout this series.

Caleb stood up as I walked into the living room. "You look hot." I scrunched up my face. "You think this is hot?" He laughed as he turned toward the door. "No"

Then there's the sexy **Aiden** St. Delfi, a Full Blood also referred to as **Hematoi**; he's fiercely responsible and dedicated to training Alex to becoming a powerful Sentinel. He also unbeknownst to himself has been in possession of the key to Alex's heart for the past three years. Quickly he becomes her confidant, mentor, and masculine shoulder to cry on. He proves himself crushworthy ~~Swoon~~ along the way and you cannot help but encourage the budding relationship between Alex and Aiden because he's loyal, trustworthy, strong, and cares about Alex's well being above his own. When Aiden St. isn't training his forbidden crush Alex he is carrying out the parental figure with his alcoholic abusing fun loving, promiscuous brother Deacon and each and every scene he's in was a mixture of fun and rebellion.

But wait because the list of lustworthy males is still in abundance because I can't seem to get dangerously gifted **Seth** The **Apollyon** out of my thoughts, especially since he is also described as being inhumanely gorgeous by Alex.

"I knew you were here. Not you so to speak. But I knew someone---someone different. I felt it outside, before I entered the lobby. It was like a magnetic pull. I zeroed in on you immediately. That has never happened before."

he unfolded his arms to reach for me. I pulled back. There were a multitude of reasons why I didn't want him to touch me. Alarmed that he was actually going to,

I blurted out the first thing that came to my mind.

"I saw your tattoos."

Seth froze. Hell he no longer looked like he wanted to touch me, or be in the same zip code as me.

The Apollyon is a unique and rare anomaly amongst the half bloods. As an Apollyon he has mastered every element at a Full Blood's disposal such as *Air, Water, Fire, as well as Earth Spells and Compulsions* all at once and his blood is merely classified as a half blood. Often he's feared and revered amongst his kind as almost a deity as he is all powerful and has no limitations on what powers are at his disposal. He holds plenty of mystery as well as inherited gifts that enables him to be more powerful than even the purest of Hematoi. There's something about a mystically charismatic character with a bit of a feisty naughty boy quality that captures my attention and mesmerizes me to *no end*.

For those readers like myself that need plenty of males to gush about in not only do we get funny lovable Caleb, but we get Fiercely responsible Aiden, irresponsible Deacon and mysterious Seth.

I can already see that this premiere series by **Jennifer L. Armentrout** will be on my favorites list. This book was amazing and with all of it's plot twists and turns, I can't even imagine what is in store for us readers in **Pure Blood** next year.

Alex begins this journey as a rebellious adolescent, that unfortunately has to grow up when she is faced with the task of killing someone she loves in a technique of self preservation.

What was I supposed to do? Kill her, Run from her. Save her somehow?

She endures all this angst while enjoying a taste of love, experiencing immeasurable pain, fortunately she has the comforting embrace of a loyal and devoted friend.

Alex receives an electrifying revelation that will change her life forever as a predestined future set forth by the gods before her. I'm ~~Obsessed~~ excited to find out how this revelation into her bloodline is carried out with this series and a certain someone.

I can't say enough wonderfully awesome things about this book! I **loved, loved, loved it!!!**

For all of you readers that enjoy an exciting page turner this is the book for you.

"This cannot be happening."

He looked up his eyes glowed in the darkness. The bewildered look faded replaced by anger.

"We're going to die."

Like what you see here, check out more of my reviews at <http://missvainsparanormalfantasy.com/>

Emily May says

Surely this book is illegal. I mean, someone once tried to sue J.K. Rowling because their book included a kind of wizard sport tournament similar to the one found in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, they claimed she had stolen the idea from them... and this small matter takes up such a minuscule percentage of the novel! Not to mention the fact that no one I knew had ever heard of the guy's novel before...

Now, pretty much everyone I speak to has heard of - if not read - the Vampire Academy series. The first two thirds of Half-Blood is exactly the same as the first in the VA series, I'm not even exaggerating. There are some scenes where if you changed "Alex" to "Rose" and "Aiden" to "Dimitri" then you would have a difficult time guessing which book is which. In each novel, the protagonist has been away from their centre of training (St Vladimir's and The Covenant) for a long period of time. When they return, they are admitted for a trial period in which they must attend training by professional (and super sexy) hunters. In the training rooms, they fight the older and forbidden pros and get their arses handed to them repeatedly... then slowly they get better, stronger, and things start to get just a little too hot and sweaty between them and their trainers.

Oh, and another in-your-face similarity? There are pures and half-bloods, the former look down on the latter, pures would never stoop so low as to start a relationship with a half-blood, etc, etc. Alex, like Rose, is a half-blood. The only big difference is that Aiden, unlike Dimitri, is a pure. So the relationship in this novel is even more forbidden than the one in Vampire Academy. But I was just astounded by how many characters mirrored the ones in VA, this wasn't an accident, it simply couldn't be.

Two stars on goodreads means "it was ok" and, trust me, this very nearly got one star because plagiarism is never ok. But there was a big improvement in the last third that gave me the feeling that the second book in this series - Pure - would leave the VA books alone and show some originality. Things started to branch off from the obviously stolen idea and take their own shape; like the introduction of Apollyon (a half-blood who is granted super powers in order to keep pures in check, but only one can exist at any given time) and some other interesting discoveries that I can't talk about without giving away huge spoilers.

Even though Half-Blood is a well-written, dark and sexy novel, I couldn't help but be turned off when I discovered that the author had taken someone else's idea. Perhaps I'd have felt differently if I hadn't just read Vampire Academy in 2011? I don't know, but I'm not particularly interested in reading Pure right now.

Avital says

First I would like to say I've never given a book 1 star, because I think that just the dedication of an author earns him at list 2 stars. The second thing is that I think that's the longest review I've ever wrote. It says something.

This book doesn't deserve rating at all. Because it was a perfect copy of Vampire Academy series. And not in a good way.

I'm utterly disappointed and upset with Jennifer L. Armentrout. How can she do that? How did the publishers let her publish a book that is a copy of another?

First of all, the main idea. Daimons? Half-bloods? Pures? It equals Strigoi, Damphirs and Moroi. Once a Pure drinks the Aether (blood) from another, it becomes a monster, a Daimon. It's just like vampires.

The plot begins with Alex who is returning to the Covenant (The Academy) after a long time. She needs to catch up with her training, to be a Guardian - Oops, a Sentinel one day and kill Strigoi - ah, Daimons. And of course no one agrees to give her private training, except for the hot Sentinel (Guardian) Aiden.

Just like with Dimitri in VA.

From then the plot focuses on the relationship of Alex and Aiden and her training.

Some of the scenes with Alex and Aiden were just like with Rose and Dimitri that I really became furious. Aiden treating Alex with her injury just like Dimitri did Rose, Aiden preaching Alex about her behavior like Dimitri did.

And the characters!

Alex=Rose.

Aiden=Dimitri.

Lea=Mia.

Caleb=Mason.

Deacon=Adrian.

And I'm sure there's more.

And the ending?? Alex being kidnapped just like in book 2 in VA series.

I tried to give this book a chance when I started reading it and noticed all the similarities because I thought- NO WAY IS SHE COPYING EVERY WORD AND EVERY SCENE!

But she did. And it's just a shame.

Rachel E. Carter says

Fast-paced and infused with JLA humor that has since become the norm when I read her books. Felt like the school aspect of the plot was a bit unrealistic (haven't read Vampire Academy so not sure if it was an issue in that one too) but I could be a bit biased in boarding school-related settings. Liked the main character, Alex, and Aiden, her teacher-crush. Seth was by far the favorite but he didn't have too many parts in this one. I loved how she shares the same role as Seth and he doesn't get along with Aiden, that should make things very promising for the sequel. As always, I feel like JLA's strength lies in dialogue & romance, her weakness in this book was definitely the action and a bit the overall plot. Will be continuing this series as it is a light, fluffy fantasy read & easy to pick up after a hectic day.

Hulya Kara Yuksel says

So freaking good!!! ??? I'm going to read next book like right now... ???

Kate Kaynak says

This book is amazing! Fans of VAMPIRE ACADEMY will love it. The main character, Alex, has a wonderfully edgy, sarcastic voice, and she's simultaneously strong and vulnerable. I pulled this query out of the slush pile and read the manuscript in a day--I couldn't put it down! Put this on your "to-read" list; you won't be disappointed!

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

I might have rated this book higher had I read this before Richelle Mead's *Vampire Academy* series. As it stands, the characters and the plot all feels like a very watered down version of VA. I couldn't help comparing one character to the next, and they all felt lacking. The premise is slightly different, but the boarding school setting, the reviled and necessary half-bloods, the evil daimons/strigoi, all felt rehashed, and not in a good way.

Alex is Rose, without the spunk, with more slut-shaming (does she really need to repeatedly call her nemesis Lea a skank? Is it necessary to mention that Lea is probably promiscuous?). Her actions are more impulsive than rational. While Rose is literally, kick-ass, Alex is relatively weak, and her wins versus the daimons seemed more coincidental than from purely skill. Like Rose, Alex has been on the run for awhile, but it feels like she lacks the common sense to survive on her own.

While Rose is spunky and impulsive, she has the good sense to keep it under control when it matters most, whereas Alex just feels the need to be contrary just for the sake of pissing people off, even when she is endangering her whole future. When your options are entering in a lifelong sentence of mindless servitude or being a more or less respected Sentinel, any person with common sense would try to behave and not get into further trouble. Not Alex. She is smart-mouthed and just a jerk in general, even admitting it herself.

There is the love interest, Aiden, a watered-down version of Dimitri. Caleb, the lesser version of Christian. The almighty Seth is the only one of whom I can't find a clear-cut double in *Vampire Academy*, but he's not altogether likeable yet.

It seems as if all of Alex's companions and closer friends are male. I'm really smelling a Mary Sue here, but I'll continue on with the series to see if that's the case.

I do like the incorporation of mythology. Whereas in some other series I've read like *Mythos Academy*, the living gods and goddesses do not get involved in the characters of their creation, whereas here they actually do take a part in monitoring their descendants. I enjoy the bits of lore, and I hope that will be fleshed out in the books to come.

aria [dear darling reader] says

[image error]

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Half-Blood is book one in the Covenant series by Jennifer Armentrout. The world Jennifer has created in this series is both disturbing and amazing. This book has both intense action and sweet love. I was hooked on page one.

Alexandria or Alex for short is a Half-Blood. Her mother is a pure and her father whom she never met was a mortal. Pures are like the royalty. Half-Bloods not so much. Halfs are either trained as Sentinels who hunt and kill daimons or they are forced into servitude for the Pures. It is expressly forbidden for there EVER to be any physical relationship or emotional relationship between a Pure and a Half. Each Pure has a power of one of the elements. But their blood is also rich with aether which the daimons crave. A Half's blood is very diluted of the aether so the daimons usually aren't interested. Then, there is the Apollyon who is a Half but has special powers over all of the elements. There is only one Apollyon and that is Seth.

First of all, I do want to say that the social standing of the Halfs in this book really bothered me. And they pretty much just accepted it. That was what they were and they will never have more. Still, though, I couldn't help but to fall in love with Alex. She is so strong. Impulsive but strong. She has lost her mother and is doing all she can to try to catch up to the other Halfs who are training at the Covenant. The person that is training her is none other than the Pure, Aiden St. Delphi. She has fallen for him big time, even though she knows it can never be. I just love Aiden. Silent, strong, adorable Aiden.

There is something special about Alex, though. Before she found her way back to the Covenant, she was caught by a daimon and when he bit her he was amazed.

"What are you?"

Months later when the Apollyon, Seth, showed up on campus, he repeated these words to Alex: *"What are you?"*

"In a matter of hours, everything had changed. Our world - my world - was no longer the same. It was too much."

During those summer months Alex will experience loss, the beginnings of love, pain and strength. She is continuously deceived by those she should be able to trust. Aiden is there for her but he is still bound by his social status. Alex's best friend, Caleb is her strongest ally throughout everything.

"Do you know what your name means? Your real name - Alexandria? He smiled slowly. It means 'Defender of Man' in Greek."

I knew this series would be amazing and I was not disappointed. I can anticipate there is so much more coming for Alex, Aiden, Seth, and the other residents of the Covenant. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Candace says

Paranormal/fantasy books are not my favorite genre, but every once in a while I like to read one to change things up a bit. This one had been sitting on my TBR list for quite some time and when I saw the Audible edition on sale, I decided that it was as good a time as ever to finally give it a listen. While I'd be lying if I said that it was the kind of book that makes me fall in love with the characters and rush out to grab a copy of the next book in the series, I can't deny that I enjoyed it.

The story centers on a seventeen year-old girl who was born into a "secret society" of sorts. She is what is called a half-blood, born of a pure-blood "Hematoi" mother and a human father. She was schooled at the Covenant, where pure-bloods and half-bloods train to be Sentinels - fighters that hunt daimons, the evil pure-bloods that feed off of other pure-bloods.

However, before Alexandria could complete her training her mother leaves the Covenant, taking her with her. The two are on the run, hunted by the Covenant's sentinels. When they fall prey to the daimons, Alexandria's mother is killed and Alexandria is returned to the Covenant.

Upon her return, Alexandria is given a mixed reception. Her uncle and stepfather seem to be out for her blood, wanting to relegate her to the role of a servant. She is unexpectedly championed by Aiden St. Delphi, the sentinel that is the best of the best and as good-looking as he is talented as a fighter.

Aiden argues that Alexandria has a lot of potential as a fighter. He was impressed with the way she held her own against the daimons, even managing to kill successfully. This is a feat that is practically unheard of, especially for a half-blood that has not completed training.

He proposes that he be allowed to personally teach Alexandria. If he can get her caught up on the training that she has missed, then she will be allowed to return to train with the others. There isn't much time and the odds are against them, but he's confident that it can be done.

When Alexandria's uncle reluctantly agrees to Aiden's plan, the clock starts counting down. Alexandria undergoes rigorous training, growing closer to Aiden with every day. She cannot deny her attraction to him, but knows that nothing can ever come of it because unions between half-bloods and pure-bloods are strictly forbidden.

Making matters more complicated is Alexandria's youthful, often immature, disposition. She is wild and reckless. Often, she fails to recognize the implications of her actions, acting out in dangerous ways. It is almost like she wants to be kicked out of the program, even as she denies this wholeheartedly.

Things come to a head when Alexandria is faced with an impossible situation. Her loyalties are tested and she finds herself in more danger than she'd ever imagined. However, new facts come to light, revealing that she is far more important than anyone had ever known before.

All things considered, this was a great book. I enjoyed it, but it was a little innocent for my tastes. It was written with a younger, teen audience in mind, so it hit it's mark for the genre. However, I require a little more steam.

While the brewing love story between Aiden and Alexandria was tantalizing, it was more like a tease. The primary focus of the story was on the paranormal/action aspects. I needed less fight scenes and more romance. That being said, if you're looking for a paranormal/fantasy book with a lot of action, then this is a fantastic choice.

At some point, I might continue the series, but I'm not worried about it right now. For me, personally, it just wasn't compelling enough. I don't have that anxious, impatient need to get my hands on the next one, like I do when I read a favorite. Nothing wrong with it, just not my cup of tea.

Katerina says

I'm in love with Aiden St. Delphi.

Of course that's not a big surprise, since he's the **reincarnation** of one of my first and eternal book crushes, **Dimitri Belikov**, but still it's a reason to smile (well, not for my mother, she weeps every time I fall for another fictional character instead of producing grand-children).

"You will kill the ones you love. It is in your blood, in your fate. So the gods have spoken it and so the gods have come to foresee it."

There is a secret society, one us mortals are not aware of. Once upon a time, the horny greek gods mated with humans, and thus the Hematoi (or Pure-Bloods) **Morei** were born. Due to their divine heritage, they are extremely fast and strong (and beautiful), and they can wield elemental magic. Their lesser halves are the Half-Bloods **Dhampirs**. They can't control the elements, but they're equally strong. Not particularly respected though. A Half-Blood will either become a servant, or will get the proper training to guard the Pure-Bloods, and the best of them, they can become Sentinels. Daimon hunters. Which brings us to the third kind of supernatural, gods-descended beings. Daimons **Strigoi** are the Pures that switched to the dark side, and feed on Pures. Our main heroine is Alexandria Andros (why her last name is a greek island is beyond me), who fled the Covenant with her mother, only to be dragged back after her mother's death. In order to graduate, she must train with my aforementioned love Aiden, a badass Pure, and try to survive the Pures' politics, daimon attacks, shocking revelations about her powers and her ever-growing yearning for Aiden. Because relationships between Pures and Halfs are strictly forbidden.

"Okay. I'm ready to move onto something else, like practicing with knives or defense against the dark arts. Cool things."

"Did you just quote Harry Potter?"

As you can tell, there are many similarities with **Vampire Academy**. That's not a bad thing in my agenda, it's just that due to this resemblance the whole story lost the element of surprise for me. I knew exactly what was going to happen, when and where and how. But setting this aside, Half-Blood **was delicious**. When it comes to **action, rich mythology, feisty characters and scorching tension**, you know Jennifer L. Armentrout can not disappoint. **Fast-paced, snarky, funny and equally heart-breaking**, Alex's story hooked you from the start, from that very first show-down with daimons to the melancholic and beautiful last chapter. There was just one problem.
Alex.

I am the President of the **Alex-Andros-Sucks** club. The position of the Vice President is still up for grabs. I had such a hard time liking her, since her **lack of self-control** and discipline, her total disregard for the rules, **her selfish, reckless and impulsive attitude** that kept endangering not only her, but also the people close to her, were too much for me. I know that most YA heroines are like this but, believe me when I say it, she is worse. So much worse.

On the bright side, Rose Hathaway really grew up throughout Vampire Academy, so I'm not losing hope yet. Even though Alex is the reason I almost gave Half-Blood 3 stars, it is Aiden that **deserves all the stars in**

the sky. He's so caring, fierce and sweet that he makes your heart melt. The chemistry between Alex and Aiden is simply **sizzling**, their scenes are both **tender and toe-curling**, and swooning is inevitable.

***"Then he leaned forward and rested his cheek against mine. Hot tingles spread through me as his lips moved against my ear. "You should tell me to stop."
I didn't say a word."***

But alas, I can sense a love triangle coming, and somebody will end up crying. Probably me. The good thing is, there is a reason behind it. It won't be thrown for drama purposes only, but it serves the plot, so I'm going to pretend it won't bother me a lot.

"Need covers itself with love, but need... need is never love. Always beware of the one who needs you. There is always a want behind a need, you see."

Despite its flaws, Half-Blood is an **addictive ride** I absolutely recommend to every **paranormal/forbidden romance/greek mythology** lover!

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Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

In Daimon, the short story prequel, Alex's mother was killed by a group of ~~Strigoi~~ **Strigoi** daemons, but Alex was lucky enough to escape. At the beginning of Half-Blood, she is found by ~~Dimitri~~ **Dimitri** Aiden and other ~~Guardians~~ **Guardians** Sentinels and returned to the Covenant, where she hopes to continue her education. However, the dean is none too happy with her. She has lost three years of training and he thinks she shouldn't be allowed to rejoin her classmates. Instead, he wants to give her the elixir which will turn her into a mindless slave for the ~~Merei~~ **Merei** Pures. Of course, Aiden steps up and offers to train her in his free time and because of his words, Alex is given a chance to prove that she can become just as good as the others by the end of the summer.

Relationships between Pures and Half-Bloods are strictly forbidden. Alex is a half-blood, try guessing what Aiden is! If they end up together and someone finds out, nothing will happen to Aiden because he's a Pure, but Alex will be forced into slavery and will probably have to be a servant in her stepfather's (who also happens to be a very powerful politician) house.

I think this book was some sort of an experiment: how much can an author take from another author and avoid being sued for plagiarism?! Jennifer Armentrout crossed the line considerably if you ask me. It's true that we are used to YA paranormal literature being formulaic, but that's not what this is about. Armentrout wasn't just following the usual formula - more than half of this book is flat-out stolen. Far too many characters and situations were just copied from the Vampire Academy series to Half-Blood for it to be an accident. I can't help but wonder what this woman was thinking. She had to know how obvious it'll be.

Under normal circumstances, Half-Blood would have been a solid 4-star book for me. The characters are interesting enough, the world is well built, the plot is compelling and the writing itself isn't half bad. But I can't bring myself to reward Armentrout's actions. If I do, **if we all do**, where will it end?

There are some differences between Half-Blood and Vampire Academy, especially in the second half. But by the time I reached those parts, I was already going back and forth from depressed to angry and I just couldn't find it within myself to care.

Vampire Academy fans should read this out of sheer curiosity. I recommend borrowing it from the library or something because buying it means encouraging other ~~thieves~~ authors to do the same. I really don't want to see The Panthers of Hope Falls on some shelf next year.

Ashwood (?? ??). says

Finally finished! I'm absolutely in love with this series! Took me a bit to read it but loved every second of it. Really loved the pace and execution of this story. JLA's MC are always awesome and interesting, plus the guys are to die for (I'm referring to Aiden btw ;). Seth is great....but Aiden is my favorite for some reason..

Caleb is an awesome best friend and he's adorable!

This story reminded me of Cassandra Clare's work, which I found really cool!

Awesome and highly recommended read. Really can't wait to read the rest of this series.

Jacqueline's Reads says

FIVE FUN FACTS about JENNIFER L. ARMENTROUT + Book Signing Photos - > [HERE](#)

6 FUCK ME HARD (OR JUST RUB UPON ME) AIDEN STARS

It's not secret I am a Jennifer L. Armentrout (J.Lynn) fan. Yes, I have a girl crush list (just like a book boyfriend list) and she is an author that is on there. So, with my mini me (that's my reading buddy, I call her mini me, b/c she's ten years younger than me and reminds me of me ten years ago) told me to read Half-Blood, I said, well what the heck.

Oh my god, where have I been and I can't believe I didn't pick up the Covenant series sooner! I love the Lux series, but book 1, Half-Blood, oh no comparison.

I fucking gobble this shit up and real good! (I know that didn't make sense, but it was the only way I could convey my feelings)

Alex (Alexandria) is a Half-Blood and Aiden is a Pure (full-blood). Alex ran away from the Covenant (a school) for three years and finally came back, b/c her mother died. Aiden is in charge of training Alex to get her up to speed, so when school starts Alex isn't so far behind.

Okay, that summary is just a TIP of what you will be reading. First off, the whole half-blood, pure, daimon, Sentinel is all confusing to me, but eventually you get the hang of it and all that stuff is just story, what really did it was the writing style. Oh how I love Armentrout's writing, how can you write a YA book with that much wonderful sexual tension? I do not know but she does it.

I love Alex, she's strong, feisty and never really irrational. I want to be her and you do feel for her. It's sometimes hard for me to sympathize with young Heroines or Heroines in YA paranormal reads, but I completely was in tune with Alex. So yes, I could imagine myself as a seventeen year old Half-Blood. Oh

Aiden, how much I love him. Sigh, swoon, major book boyfriend. Half-Blood reminded me a lot like Divergent, the whole older Hero training the young Heroine thing just does it for me. It's cute, it's adorable and you will be glued reading the pages.

There's tension from the students, there's tension from external forces and there's tension from the school, but it's NEVER annoying. It's just the right amount to get you going. The majority of the story is Alex and Aiden, THANK YOU! Yes, there's back story and side characters, but I love reads where it's mainly about the Hero and Heroine.

BUT do not be fooled, this is no boring read and there's plenty of twists and turns! I was like Oh my god until the last second and you will too.

If you aren't a huge fan of YA paranormal reads, I just think you aren't picking up the right books. I get you, the whole super natural stuff, is like huh? BUT believe me, if it's written well, you will definitely keep these types of books on your shelf. Try Half-Blood, you will be a fan!

AMAZON

Laura says

***You will kill the ones you love.
Fate had been right about that.***

Blurb: The Hematoi descend from the unions of gods and mortals, and the children of two Hematoi pure bloods have godlike powers. Children of Hematoi and mortals--well, not so much. Half-bloods only have two options: become trained Sentinels who hunt and kill daimons or become servants in the homes of the pures. Seventeen-year-old Alexandria would rather risk her life fighting than waste it scrubbing toilets, but she may end up slumming it anyway. There are several rules that students at the Covenant must follow. Alex has problems with them all, but especially rule #1: Relationships between pures and halves are forbidden. Unfortunately, she's crushing hard on the totally hot pure-blood Aiden. But falling for Aiden isn't her biggest problem--staying alive long enough to graduate the Covenant and become a Sentinel is. If she fails in her duty, she faces a future worse than death or slavery: being turned into a daimon, and being hunted by Aiden. And that would kind of suck.

It's been a while, my friends and since The Return I've been meaning to reread The Covenant series and that time has finally come.

It's not a secret I love Jennifer's writing and coming back to one of the first books I ever read by her, well, it's awesome. She's grown so much as a writer and it's such a great thing to see.

Anyhow, I really loved this series and these books just get better and better, that I can guarantee.

Let's start with our lovely and fierce heroine, Alexandria *Alex* Andros.
She's just awesome, alright?

I love how selfless she is, she's the kind of person who I'd love to be friends with. Or be. Or be with. I can't quite decide. She's *that* good.

At the beginning of the book we see how she's thrown back to the Covenant and how she had to work her ass off in order to keep up with what she missed while being away her training. I loved how Aiden beat her ass, truly. I loved how bruised she was and never complained because 1). It showed how serious she was and 2). It showed how things are for halves.

I think that, for a character who is very impulsive, she's not that reckless and stupid.

Don't get me wrong, she has some stupid reactions to some things but they're not that many which is great. I also liked how friendly she is and funny. I feel like she would be such a healthy teenager given a totally different scenario, you know, someone to look up to.

She grows up so much in one single book and she gets more serious but that doesn't mean she stops being this cool girl. I just like seeing things through Alex's eyes.

Now, Aiden.

Aiden St. Delphi, there's a man I'm sure I'd spend the rest of my life with.

He's just such a sincere guy. He's honest, strong, fucking adorable, sexy and smart and arg!!! He gets me so frustrated because I want a man like him. Damn him.

I like how we see him getting fond of Alex day by day and how their relationship grows till the point you can feel it between the pages.

Aiden is such a tormented soul who had to grow up way too fast to take care of his brother after his parents were killed by daimons and he's such a badass sentinel I just want to hug the crap out of him and then fuck him senseless, what can I say.

Girls, he's a *good boy*, he truly is but oh, he can behave badly when he wants to. Can I get one of him for Christmas this year?

Anyways, they make a really great couple and you just have no doubt they belong together, you feel me? You feel like they could be this lovely couple doing cute couple things and having hot, hard sex and then make sweet love during the day... and then go hunting and killing things at night.

Relationship goals

Let me tell you how much I love Caleb, please.

I love that man with all my heart. He's a really great friend and ~~he deserved more~~.

Overall I liked the friendship factor in the book, I liked pretty much all the characters, *even the characters I hated because they all have a purpose in the end, yeah?*

And, ugh, Seth.

Darling, you know I love you but you're such a pompous asshole in this book I can't tell you how much I wanted to maim you. I know you'll come a long way and all that shit but still and maybe I'm getting a bit ahead of what's gonna happen with him but yeah, asshole.

Oh, and one thing I didn't like about the book was that I couldn't feel Alex's loss when it came to her mother. I mean, I didn't feel *that* when thing went south just because I didn't know the woman and even though Alex loved her very much and it was clear she cared deeply for her daughter, I did not see it. I don't think there were any flashbacks or moments that could lead me to care for Rachelle. I wish I had, though but since it didn't happen, I don't particularly care about her being dead whatsoever.

Now, I know there are some similarities between this book and Vampire Academy, I know.

The Academy/Covenant structure, the way half and damphir are created, the whole races structure, daimon/strogoi and some other things. And if you read this series before you read *Vampire Academy* then you'd think it's the other way around, yeah?

Guys, yes, there are similarities but don't let them keep you from enjoying these books. I read *The Covenant* after I read *Vampire Academy* and I'm so glad I didn't give up on this. I think all the comparisons go away after book two. I mean, great characters, awesome characters development, badassery going on, amazing greek factor and swoon-worthy moments. I'm sold, I don't know about you.

I realised how spoiler-free are my reviews these days. Is it weird? I find it weird, LOL.

may ❀ says

Every once in a while a reader might be fortunate enough to stumble upon a piece of published literature that makes them feel **SO BLOOD ADEQUATE** as an aspiring author.

For me, this book has done it.

If this stuff can be published and loved then I think I'm gonna be a best-selling author in multiple universes.

Name your most hated clichéd tropes, kids and I will guarantee you will find them in this book. :)

1. The writing is so immature. IT'S LIKE A TEN YEAR OLD WAS GIVEN A FREE PASS AT WRITING FAN FICTION AND THIS IS THE BEST THEY CAME UP WITH.

2. If someone could direct me to the plot that would be great, still trying to figure out what the purpose of the book is. . .

3. //AIDAN IS HOT. HE'S REALLY SUPER HOT. He's probably as hot as the sun. No, maybe hotter. Did you catch that one, guys? He's hot. GORGEOUSLY HOT//

"The grin increased to a full smile. And... oh, man. He had dimples. The air in my lungs died."

"Aiden was... hotness incarnate. I alternated between staring at those ripped arms and being envious of how he moved with such fluid grace, but it was more than just his ability to make me drool on myself."

Please, stop.

4. OH MY GOD, WHO WOULD LIKE ME??? I'M SO UGLY WITH MY PLATINUM HAIR AND MY PERFECTLY TONED AND SCULPTED BODY AND CHISELED FEATURES LIKE EW, I'M SO UGLY.

"I'd been so stunningly beautiful he couldn't help but notice me. That last one was the most absurd. I'd been gawky and a total dweeb then"

Someone end me.

5. Oh and there's *Girl Hate*™ bc no book is successful without a little bit of *Girl Hate*™.

"Lea sauntered in, and I swear, she managed to get the uniform as tight as humanly possible. I looked down at my own and noted that my legs looked nowhere near as good as hers did. Bitch."

6. Everything is so . . .dramatic !!! yet not interesting enough for me to CARE why it's so dramatic.

7. I have no idea what the ending is. My brain went into Protection Mode and saved me the trauma of having to remember the final chapter.

Overall, this book was a wonder!!! :) :) :)

1 star!!

~~~~~

**Buddy read** with my girl, Bluey ~ thanks for BRing this with mehhhh <3 <3

## Ezmirelda says

SPOILER ALERT \*\*THERE ARE SPOILERS FOR BOTH VAMPIRE ACADEMY (the whole series) AND HALF BLOOD BELOW\*\*\*

Similarities Between Half-Blood and Vampire Academy

**EVERY. SINGLE. THING.**

\*CAUTION\* if you're looking for originality this is not the book for you.

It's like the author just took Vampire Academy and changed all the names. The only character missing from this story is ~~Lissa~~. Read below for details

**\*EDIT\*** Apparently Lissa is in this book as well. You know the connection that Rose and Lisa have that allows them to experience each other's feelings and hear thoughts? It's the same as the connection between Alex and Seth in Half-Blood. So Seth is actually playing the part of Lissa. :/

**Here's our "cast":**

Alex AKA Rose Hathaway

Aidan AKA Dimitri

Deacon/Seth AKA Adrian

\* Deacon (HB) and Adrian (VA) both have drinking problems\*

Caleb AKA Mason

Lea AKA Mia ....gosh their names even rhyme -\_\_-

In the Vampire Academy Mia's mother dies due to Strigoi attacks, in Half Blood Lea's parent dies due to Daimon attacks. They are also both the mean-girl antagonist of the story who turn out not to hate each other towards the end. Seriously? Could this be even more obvious that this is a rip-off without stealing such a minuscule detail from the story?

**Terms:**

HALF-BLOOD - Basically the same thing as DHAMPIRS

PURE-BLOOD - Basically the same thing as MOROI (notice that they both "coincidentally" have the same ability to control the elements and not the Half-bloods/dhampirs)

DAIMONS - Basically the SAME thing as STRIGOI

**Other similarities:**

In Vampire Academy Rose escapes from the Academy/ school for vampires with Lisa

In Half-Blood Alex escapes the academy with her mother

In Vampire Academy Rose goes to visit Dimitri at his house and they almost go all the way (In that scene Dimitri talks in Russian)

In Half-Blood Alex goes to Aidan's cabin and they almost go all the way (In that scene Aiden talks in Greek)

In Vampire Academy Rose is distraught when Dimitri gets turned into a Strigoi

In Half-Blood Alex is distraught when her mother turns into a Diamon

The structures of the school and the society. THE EXACT SAME THING.

In VA there are Dhampir and Moroi vampires - Dhampir = half-blooded, Moroi- pure blooded

Dhampirs in VA are meant to protect and cater to the needs of Moroi

In Half-Blood, Halfs are expected to cater to the needs of PURES. Halfs are considered below the pures.

Same for VA.

In Half-Blood HALFS train in combat to Protect people from Diamons

In Vampire Academy DHAMPIRS train in Combat to protect people from Strigoi.

The similarities are endless. **Bottom line**--this story was a complete rip-off of VA. Coincidence? I think not. The story follows the plot way too closely. It's impossible not to miss.

Good news? I loved the author's voice/style and Alex's characters. Why? Because they're the only thing about this story that's even remotely ORIGINAL. I have a strong dislike for books that are rip-offs of other books (rip-off isn't even the correct word for this book--more like half-stolen) but I enjoyed the story nonetheless--mostly because I missed VA and this story was basically a re-write of it. Towards the end the author surprises us by using some of her own ideas. I hope she continues with that in the next book.

UPDATE: 11/13/11

EX. OF SIMILAR DIALOGUE:

"You will lose what you value most, so treasure it while you can."

? Richelle Mead, Shadow Kiss

-\_\_- Doesn't the witch lady from Half-Blood say the EXACT SAME THING? I didn't even notice this till today but seriously I'm speechless? There's also A LOT more copies of dialogue during the Alex/Rose and Dimitri/Aiden moments.

**2.5 stars**

I try to never compare books to each other. I actually find it kind of annoying. But this book isn't just similar, it's been copied to the point where I got *confused* over whether I was reading Half-Blood or Vampire Academy. Whole plots/characters/scenes/ and dialogue have been copied. And **no** I will not convince myself to give this author credit for stealing from VA just because she wrote a novel.

**Let me explain this in a different situation:** A person steals a college essay off the internet and changes the names, locations, and switches the words around, but at it's core it's somebody else's words--somebody else's hard work. That person gets into their top college, in big part to "their" gut-wrenching essay. That person

does not give credit to the original essay writer and is taking all the congratulations for getting into this college that's super tough to get into. Would YOU think that was okay to do??? That is why I cannot reward plagiarism, even though I enjoyed reading Half-Blood. It's not fair, it's unprofessional, and it's an insult to the person she stole from. I mean, she's making profit from someone else's work, without their consent. NOT cool at all, whatsoever. You want to be proud of something that you created, not guilt-ridden.

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So I went on to read the second book, hoping the rumors were true that the it was completely vampire-academy-less. So **not** true! But I admit that she did try harder to use original ideas than she did in the first book. Here's my review of PURE:

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

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### Stacia (the 2010 club) says

**More VA similarities come out** here and here. And that's not even my entire list of similarities. I just got tired of marking them all (because there were so many) when it started getting down to them both having rose necklaces as a significant thing and other random little details sprinkled throughout just about everywhere.

**\*edit\* July 2012\***. Sigh. Eff it. I really didn't want to have a star rating on this book because of my mixed feelings (good and bad) but since I'm not risking having yet another review sent to the void, I will award a star rating.

**\*edit\* March 2012.** I have since removed my star rating because I don't know the fair way to rate this book anymore. If you've read *either* Half-Blood or Vampire Academy (it doesn't matter which one) this review will basically be spoiler free because you'll know what's going on from reading either book when I do my comparison. If you haven't read VA, then I'd suggest skipping this review altogether and picking up a copy of Vampire Academy. Do yourself a favor and read the original before deciding whether or not to read this. It's the only fair thing to do. Mead deserves credit for creating this world.

**\*edit\* January 2012.** After having three different discussions about this book in the past few days, I'm tempted to erase my entire review. I wrote it with hope that there must have been a reason for the similarities. Now, I'm pretty sure that the author isn't claiming this as fan fic, when that's what it reads as. I tried to see the positives. I really did.

### ~ Original Review from 2011 ~

This has got to be fan fic?

I can't imagine that someone would blatantly rip-off the entire premise of Vampire Academy without it being some form of fan fiction. I would say at least 85% of the story was ripped from VA books 1 and 4, and the other 15% was given a Percy Jackson-like twist.

I read the book because I was craving a Mead fix, and missing Dimitri something fierce. And this book delivered on that at least! Actually, I forgot after a while that we were dealing with offspring of the gods because when you have races like pures (moroi), half-bloods (dhampir), and daimons (strigoi), as well as jobs like sentinel (guardian), servant (blood whore), and lazy upper class (royals), all taking place on a

remote island school (remote vampire academy), it's easy to forget that we're NOT reading VA. Did I mention that there is a Rose, a Dimitri (right down to being the guardian/sentinel trainer), an Eddie, a Mia and a semi-ish Adrian character? Okay, well there you go. It's VA. Did I also mention that there was a crazy ~~strigoi~~ daimon hunting our lead female? Yep. Crazy, I know.

\*edit\* to also add that there were similarities between Alex/Aiden's scene and the lust charm scene in VA 1, as well as Rose/Alex wanting to train with real weapons instead of fake. I'm going to stop now before I start thinking of every single scene that was similar.

BUT...I actually liked the story. I was engaged the entire time and never bored once. However, I'm not sure if this was because I already knew what was going on, so I didn't have to learn anything about the world, making it easier to get into right away. Heck, I may have even liked it a little bit better than VA book 1 (blasphemy, I know, especially considering how much of a Mead fangirl I am) because a lot of the world building was pushed back in favor of more action. If I was rating this book based on story alone, I'd easily go 4 stars because I enjoyed it that much. However, since there was nothing NEW about the story (oh wait, (view spoiler)), I can't in good conscience go that high. So I'm thinking 1 star for originality. Not even one thing about the mythology was new. I'd read it all before in other books, and some of it felt like I was rehashing Percy Jackson (especially the part with the oracle).

So uh...yeah. I really liked the book! I can't wait to read the next one! Let's hope it branches off into something completely different so I can go higher on the rating because I really did like the author's storytelling, fresh characters errr...writing style. Yeah, that!

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**chandler ainsley ✿ says**

**^this is to all the h8ers who don't appreciate some good YA paranormal angst**

bc this shit was... good??? i've been pretty let down by a lot of YA lately ~~shatter me~~ so it was kind of refreshing to read something that was nice and entertaining.

now let's be clear: **this book isn't going to win any awards for like, achievements in literature** but it was FUN. we have "pure" blooded hematoi (descendent from Greek gods) and we've got, you guessed it, half bloods. both breeds fight daimons which are pure blooded hematoi that have been "turned."

**yes. this is a lot like vampire academy.**

**but actually, the lore is better!**

because pure bloods and half bloods only sort of coexist. there's some inherent racism in the system. which definitely comes into play in this book; it's also a subtle thing in VA but was never fully addressed in the way that i wanted to be. i have a feeling that in future books this magical racism is gonna come into play more. **me likey real world issues in fantasy in paranormal.**

that's it for plot. now the good stuff: **man meats**

there's a scinty hinty of some super special **love geometry** and i'll be real clear with you: I DON'T GIVE A FUCK WHAT YOU SAY. i like love triangles. but i also think if you hate love triangles that you will still

enjoy this.

also probably good to mention that our main hoe, alex, is super fun and kick ass with vulnerability. we stan a self aware queen.

if you're looking for some freaking FUN paranormal and you've been slumpy, give this a go.

**PS thank you jess for the inadvertent recommendation, you're the realest.**

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**i'm ashamed to admit that i've started reading this...**

**also saddened to say that this is a less exciting, age gap free, vampire academy rip off with worse lore. but... i also have poor taste. so i'm going to continue reading it.**

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