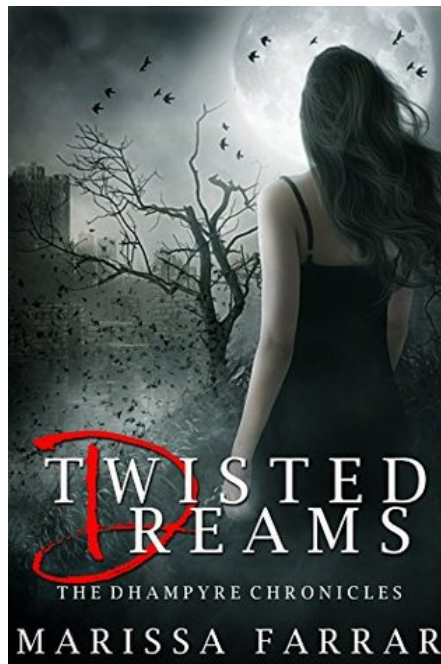




Twisted Dreams

Marissa Farrar

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Born of a vampire father to a human mother, Elizabeth Bandores' life was never going to be normal, so she can't image why she thinks starting college will be any different.

Having grown up in the affluent Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles and desperate to escape, she decides on the small college town of Sage Springs. With dreams of being a writer, she joins the college newspaper and is introduced to blond, confident Flynn Matthews, Sage Springs' rising swim star.

But a carnival has set up in the small town, and the boy running the Waltzer catches her eye. Dark-haired, leather-jacketed Riley is rude, with an air of danger. Elizabeth can't help but notice him. And when an accident thrusts them together, she discovers he's noticed her, too.

Sage Springs isn't the quiet little town Elizabeth had hoped for. The forests bordering the town harbour a dark secret—one some of the residents have been trying to protect, and the leaders of the carnival have set in their sights...

Twisted Dreams Details

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Author : Marissa Farrar

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Genre : Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy, Witches, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review Twisted Dreams for online ebook

Katherine Paschal says

Elizabeth is excited to leave Los Angeles behind and go to a small town to start college. Life has not been very easy for Elizabeth, mainly due to the fact she is a dhamphir- half human half vampire. She loves both her parents, but her strange lifestyle has not made her any friends, so she is looking for a new start. Her college career is off to a shaky start when her car is electrocuted, a cute mysterious boy lurks around and her denied vampire instincts go into overdrive. Elizabeth may be over her head in supernatural when all she wanted was a little slice of normal.

I was expecting a more grown up urban fantasy when I started reading this, less the awkward teen girl who desperately wants friends and more the bad-ass big city half vampire girl who can take on the world. So needless to say I was slightly disappointed when I started reading this book and found something like a coming of age, be yourself kind of vibe. Elizabeth lacks the confidence that I enjoy in my supernatural main characters. And no, I am not talking about an ego, or an “I can get any man attitude”, but more of the belief that she can succeed or at least go out swinging and I felt like I missed that here. Some of the side characters possessed that trait, but the main character fell flat.

Let’s also talk about the fact Elizabeth sleeps with someone she barely knows and forms a strong “emotional attachment” to him and becomes the needy clingy girl. Elizabeth is then shocked when he tells her that he needs to leave the next day with his job and she demands he quit it and stay with her, even going so far as to propose that he can live under her bed in her dorm. He never stated his undying love and neither did she before their tryst, yet she goes crazy emotional, believing he betrayed her when she knew all along what he is. It made me really not like her and doubt her maturity level even more than I already did. And speaking of the love interest, he was described as having feminine features, which I guess worked for him since all the girls wanted him, yet I pictured a delicate girl with stubble. Not very appealing, especially when she had a chance at an attractive swimmer. (Have you seen a swimmers body? Nothing feminine there.)

Overall I was not impressed with the plot and the characters of the book. I won’t be reading anymore in this series. I am sure others will really enjoy or relate to this book, but I can’t. As a side note, I am intrigued about Elizabeth’s parent’s story so I might read about them sometime because the writing was not bad, just the storyline lost me.

I received this story from the author in exchange for my honest review.

For more reviews, visit my blog: <http://smadasbooksmack.blogspot.com/>

Susan Angela Wallace says

Omg absolutely fantastic read.

Twisted Dreams By Marissa farrar is a Paranormal Read.

Elizabeth is a Dhampyre. A half vampire.

OMG an absolutely fantastic read with brilliant characters. I loved Elizabeth who liked to be called Beth. She was my favourite character. Can't wait to read next one. Highly recommended. Definitely worth more than 5*.

Clare O'Beara says

An LA girl drives to a small town for her college course, putting some distance between herself and her

vampire father and human mother. On the way a carnival is setting up and they break an overhead power line, which hits the road in front of her car and jumps around, sparking. Cue a few difficulties. Now, given that the young lady survives but her car's electrics were fried, I want to know how her laptop keeps working. I fully expected it to be fried too.

I like the sympathetic investigation into how it would feel to be a dhampyre, especially as she never tells anyone that she fights off vampiric thoughts. However, I can't like the self-harming, because nobody did this stupid thing in the past until the idea got circulated and some young people copy ideas - of course they only cause worse stress and scars. We are clear, though, that more normal girls think this is a bad idea.

That carnival reoccurs and there is a violent death, though minimal language or mature scenes. I'd say this is aimed at mature YA readers and New Adults.

I downloaded an e-copy from Instafreebie. This is an unbiased review.

Andrea Heltsley says

I'm not a huge carny fan but I do love vampires. I liked this book and the main character. Riley and Finn were both great love interests. There could have been more character development though. I felt like everyone was one dimensional and would have loved to relate better. While a great book, some more development could have happened. Three glittery stars!

Shelley says

ARC generously provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

3.5 Stars

Elisabeth Bandores' life has never been normal, nor would it ever be. Elisabeth is half vampire, born to a human mother and a vampire father. Elisabeth desires a place where no one knows or suspects her secrets, somewhere where she can just blend in and be noticed by no one. So she moves across the country to the small town of Sage Springs to start college.

Elisabeth dreams of being a writer and has secured a position on the campus paper. Her first assignment, interview the campus swimming star Flynn Matthews. It seems at first this could be everything she has been wanting and she may actually get what she wants.

But a carnival has set up in the small town, and the boy running the Waltzer catches her eye. There is just something about this boy that calls to Elisabeth. But now her "visions" are coming on full force and she is seeing things she can't explain and raise a lot of questions about her new school mates, the carnival crowd, and the town itself. Sage Springs is not what it appears and Elisabeth is about to find out what its secret is and find she is in danger, the only question is, From Who?

Okay I will admit that I am a sucker for a vampire story, don't know what it is but they just attract me. However this story isn't so much a vampire story. It is more a girl finding out who she is and what she is capable of, learning who to trust and who to question.

There are a few twists in the story, which I won't give away so nothing gets spoiled, and we are left till the very end wondering who is the good guy and who is the bad guy. I will say that when Ms. Farrar tries to suggest a main character is not who he seems she had me at the beginning but I quickly figured out the twist. My only complaint with the story was that the end just seemed to wrap up very quickly and boom HEA. It was all just a little to neat and tidy for me.

Aseel (In My Secret -Book- World) says

****An eARC was provided in exchange of an honest review****

When I first opened this book and started reading it, I was immediately hooked. Everything that makes a good book great was there. Mystery, action, a fast pace and a hot hero.

This book is about Beth, a dhampyre, half human-half vampire, who is for the first time moving out of the protective shadow of her parents to live on her own. Sage Springs seems like the perfect place to her, it's small and quiet and what's the worst that could happen to a college student there? But when she arrives, Beth immediately notices that something is going on in this little town, and that it might not be as quiet and safe as she thought.

I loved this book when I read the first chapters. I was devouring it and couldn't put it down. The mystery was great, it kept me on my toes and made me guess, only to turn around and throw something I hadn't seen coming, at me. This book is short, and the pace was very fast. There was a lot of stuff happening in these 200 something pages, and while in the beginning it was great and I loved it, when I hit around 50% mark, it was becoming clear to me that too much was happening and very little was explained.

The first thing that got to me was Beth's relationship with Riley. I loved the guy, which is to be expected since he was a jerk and an alpha male and I can't help but fall for guys like him in books, but while all of that was great and resulted in some steamy and hot encounters, I didn't feel his relationship with Beth. It didn't feel real enough for me. Like I mentioned before, this book is short and fast paced, and for them to fall in love soon after we hit the 50% mark felt forced and unreal and too cheesy.

There were other important things that should've been developed more too. Take the witches and vampires and dhampyres for example. I would've loved some background information on all of them, how they came to be, what they do, their communities, or anything about them at all. Instead, we're expected to know all there is to know about these races.

Nonetheless, this book was an easy and fast read that I have to say is one I enjoyed. While it's not one that I loved and will re-read one day, it still is one book that I had fun reading.

Khulood says

When the blurb stated that Beth is a dhampyre, a person born to a vampire father and human mother, I was sold! I mean, what could be more exciting? I ended up liking the book, but didn't fall in love with it.

Elizabeth and Riley's connection was weird.. It was and insta-crush (not love, thank goodness!) but it was too awkward. I understand that this is a short book, but their relationship seemed to go a little too fast.

The rest of the characters were fine, if not a little weird.. Come to think of it, not one character in this book didn't act weird!

The book has a good potential, but it didn't end up how I thought it would. It had some things that didn't work for me.. For example, what college students spend the first week of classes partying every night? Also, the dialogue did feel a little juvenile sometimes.

I'm rating this book as a 3.5-4 stars.. I see its potential, but hoped it was a little better.

**This arc was kindly provided by Warwick House Press via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!*

Moon Shine Art Spot ~ Lisa says

Book description:

Born of a vampire father to a human mother, Elizabeth Bandores' life was never going to be normal, so she can't image why she thinks starting college will be any different.

Having grown up in the affluent Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles and desperate to escape, she decides on the small college town of Sage Springs. With dreams of being a writer, she joins the college newspaper and is introduced to blond, confident Flynn Matthews, Sage Springs' rising swim star.

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Sage Springs isn't the quiet little town Elizabeth had hoped for. The forests bordering the town harbour a dark secret—one some of the residents have been trying to protect, and the leaders of the carnival have set in their sights...

Review:

Twisted Dreams is the first Marissa Farrar I have read and it was a good break from some of the faster paced books I have read lately. I enjoyed the basic idea of young girl, vampire father & human mother, hoping to attend college in a smaller area to have as normal of a life as possible. She (Elizabeth) seems to not get a good start off at normal from the beginning through by showing some of her more than human side.

I wish the story had me action or something more than basic info. (Who, where, description) at the beginning because it was a little hard to get interested in. I ultimately liked the story with it's mysterious characters and Riley added so,e spark at least to the otherwise "normal" characters.

There were a few mysterious twists and I really appreciated no drawn out cliff hangers. I was provided this book for the purpose of providing an honest review / opinion of.

Stacy says

TWISTED DREAMS was a different kind of read for me. It was fast paced and had a nice flow to it but I didn't fully fall into the story.

I think I might have enjoyed it more than I did if I had read the previous series that this is a spin off of.

* This book was provided free of charge from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Carrie says

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

This was a really quick, fun, interesting read that left me eager for more. There's vampires, witches, carnies, and love at first sight. If you're looking for a good coming of age story (of a half-vampire), check this book out.

Beth is ready begin her college journey, but the world seems to conspire against her. On the drive out to her dorm (alone), she almost gets killed by a downed power line. Luckily, she's a half-vampire, more than capable of outrunning and powering through anything that gets in her way. Unfortunately, this attract the attention of the guys setting up a local carnival. The rest of her journey to college is also filled with mysterious hotties, helpful strangers, and annoying roommates -- all the types of things you would expect for a first year student. There's (of course) lots of additional paranormal elements. Why is her roommate disappearing at night? Why is the hottest student paying so much attention to her? Why doesn't she get the typical flashes of premonition when she touches the students here?

This being the first book of a new series, we are still left with a bunch of questions, but I really liked the overall story. There's a sort-of love triangle, but it wasn't as painful as I usually find them to be. Beth has an innocent quality to her that allowed me to let some rushed romantic encounters and silly arguments slide. I'm hoping she learns and grows from what turns into a life-or-death first week at school. When I finished the book, I realized there was a whole other series based on Beth's parents that I'll definitely be checking out. I'm sure that adds another dimension to this follow-up series. As a stand-alone, or part of a larger series, this was still a really solid read.

Laura Carson says

*I received a copy of this Warwick House Press, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review *

3.5 stars

Elizabeth Bandores struggles like most girls her age. Only, she doesn't struggle with just the average growing pains. She's a Dhampyre, part vampire, part human. Oh, and she also has the ability of her touch bringing her glimpses into a person's life. Past, present, or future. Growing up could be tough, especially having to explain her father's "sun allergy" and avoiding physical contact when possible, but she has loving parents

who supported her. Wanting to go away to school and try her hand at being "normal" takes some convincing but she does it. She is officially a student in a sleepy town called Sage Springs. When a freak accident and a carnival welcome her into her new town, she's wondering if it's just her luck or an omen of what's to come. Add a mysterious and attractive carnie named Riley, who seems to always be around when things go wrong, and Elizabeth is about to go on the journey of her life.

Even though this isn't the genre I really read much of anymore, I still really enjoyed this story. It felt slightly more YA than New Adult, even though the characters were NA age. Not to say the characters were excessively immature, just the opposite, they read like their age but in a positive way. It just had that feel. Besides her gift and parentage, Elizabeth is a normal girl trying to find her place in the world, it made her easy to bond with and follow her story. The levels and secrets of the story were a little predictable if you looked hard enough but intriguing. There seemed to be a supporting character for everyone. Ones to love and loath, ones you cheered when they met their demise, a few you forgot about, and others you hope pop up in future writing. Riley followed the bad boy with a chained up soft spot story to a T, ultimately just doing what he knew and coming through as the book went on. The coven and magic was detailed and brought more action to the writing. Overall, a fun rainy night read.

CasPerfitz~SLiTsReaD says

#ComingOfAge #Paranormal #Romance #MysterySupense #MatureYoungAdult #Fantasy

I really want to love this one.... When I read that the main character, Elizabeth a.k.a. Beth, is a dhampyre, born of a human mother to a vampire father, I'm sold! And I did end up liking it, just not loving it.

The story started with Beth opting to attend college away from the big city and her parents, to a small town with a small college on Sage Springs. First thing she noticed when she got there was a carnival setting up. It is there that she met leather clad, dark haired, Riley, who runs the waltzer on said carnival. And for some reason, Beth was instantly drawn to him. And, when an accident brought them together, she learned that Riley has also noticed her too.

Then there's Flynn, the school hottie and star swimmer, who has also shown interest with Beth and insistently warns her against Riley.

Beth also found out that Sage Spring isn't the quite little town that she was hoping for when she noticed something strange was going on... In other words, there's a whole lot of mystery surrounding Sage Spring and Beth is caught in the middle of it all.

This book is off to a good start! It is fast paced and is full of mystery. But lets just say, it has its high moments and some low ones.

To mention some of the high moments : the mystery really had me all intrigued, the twists that totally took me by surprise and the suspense was just as intense. These parts completely had my attention. The world building wasn't too bad either.

Now to the low ones... I couldn't grasp Riley and Beth's connection. Ugh. Maybe cause it's a short read and there wasn't much build up on the relationship, and I'm left with not much impression with Riley's character. Not that I was taken with Beth's character either and this is written on her sole POV. She come out

smart one minute and not so smart the next, or maybe I'll interpret it as her being so innocent? I also didn't like or get Flynn, specially when he calls Riley a "carni people". Come to think of it, all of the characters involved in this story acts weird.

With a town that is supposedly concerned in keeping and protecting their secret, it seems that job was left to a handful of students! Where are the rest of the towns people?

If only maybe it concentrated more on character growth and the plot line and not rush the romance angle? Nonetheless, I enjoyed the ending on the part where the story somehow came together.

Another good thing, there are no cliffhangers. Which only leaves me to wonder what the sequel is gonna be about. ;)

Copy provided by publisher through Netgalley.

SnoopyDoo's Book Reviews says

My thoughts:

I read the synopsis on Netgalley and thought it sounded pretty interesting and promising and was excited when I got approved for this book.

You can find my full review here:

<http://snoopydoosbookreviews.com/twis...>

Jeannie Zelos says

Twisted Dreams, The Dhampyre Chronicles Book One, Marissa Farrar

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: NA, Sci-fi and Fantasy.

I like the chance to get in on a new series at the start, and this sounded fun. Its classed as NA but to me felt more like an upper end YA. That's no reflection on the story, it was good but it was very simplified, with many of the questions raised that would be answered in a NA book left open – such as the two car accidents Beth has just a few days apart never raising a police or parental issues. In fact actual authority figures don't seem to exist in this book, except as a vague inference, and given what's going on they'd be around like flies on meat, and I need some excuse, some reasons why they've kept away. Ok I'm not NA, long past, but have enjoyed some cracking reads in this genre as well as the YA genre. A good novel spans ages. The one sex scene in here is I guess the reason why its NA and not YA, ah well....

It may seem from the above comments I didn't like this book, and that's wrong – I did, I liked it a lot. I found it easy to read with a fun storyline. I've not read the earlier series about her parents (though somewhere on my enormous TBR list is book one. I think I really need about three lifetimes to ever conquer that list!) but this is still easy to follow, and those who like me are coming in cold needn't worry, everything we need to know is there.

Its a kind of simple girl comes of age, wants independence from loving but smothering parents (yeah – real world stuff for lots of teens!) so crosses country to school (Uni here in UK would be equivalent). Poor Beth

though, stuff happens even before she gets to school, with an incident involving the travelling fair just as she hits town. She makes it though, and meets some of her new school friends, Dana the newspaper editor, Brooke her roommate, Flynn the school prizewinning swimmer, and Riley from the fair. Things happen to her that lead her into increasing danger, but the risks to the town of her just packing up and leaving are too great. Plus of course – after telling her parents she'll be fine what teen wants to show them she's not? Teens come with a sense of indestructability you know....I remember that too well.

Its a well written book, neat storyline that wraps up but with leaving the next episode opening there. I like the way the Beth/Flynn/Riley triangle is opening, and the possibilities it raises. I'm not sure if I'll go for it or not, I think maybe there's a little too much suspension of belief for me, but who knows...when its out and if I'm looking for something readable, a paranormal but not too deep it could just fit the bill :-)

Stars: Four, a solid start to a new series and a fun read despite my reservations.

Arc supplied by Netgalley and publishers

Sean Talbot says

at first I found the book hard to get into. The grouping and timing seemed to not be connected.

after getting more into it I really began to start liking the characters as well as the story.

I am truly a fantasy lover and I enjoy the vampire angle of them.

the main character is a half vampire which I haven't seen often in stories. Beth was a very interesting person who had the ability not just of her father but she was also a precog.

Riley is the ultimate bad boy who you thought of as not being able to be redeemed.

Flynn while he is a good guy I never liked him. he seemed to overprotective and more of a father figure.

Lauren was a very good character while she was a minor role she could easily do spin off books or become a major player.

great book by marissa farrar
