



Holding Back the Day

Jamie Wasserman , Anna Ma?ka (Photographer)

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Claire Vincent is a misunderstood and confused girl who has no friends her own age. The kids at school think she's weird, and she'd rather be left alone than have to deal with their rude stares and hurtful comments. Her only friend is her bold and adventurous grandmother Millie, who's traveled the world and done everything from going on safaris to flying planes. Claire wants to be just like her, but that's much harder for her than anyone realizes. She's not courageous enough to even try – and so she remains a loner, burying her nose in books and escaping into the imaginative magical worlds she reads about.

But when a new kid, Matt, moves next door, she finds herself slowly drawn into the world of the living, despite her misgivings. Matt would do anything to please her, and she finds herself depending on him for everything – friends, social life, and recognition. But it's a dependence she eventually grows to despise because it just makes her own weakness that much more apparent. She yearns for more – real magic in her life, to sweep her away from the land of the boring.

When Claire's father decides to throw her grandmother a surprise seventy-fifth birthday party despite her grandmother's vehement aversion to celebrating birthdays, Claire finds out that a magical life might not be as desirable as she naïvely believed. An unexpected guest at her grandmother's party – Jack, a handsome boy new to town – seems to know Gran very well. Claire soon discovers her grandmother has been keeping a very big secret – and that secret might just be the perennially mysterious Jack.

Holding Back the Day Details

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From Reader Review Holding Back the Day for online ebook

Hmr28 says

I'd like to read this book, it sounds great;however, it is not available for the Nook and I don't buy from Amazon since I don't agree with their business practices. Too bad.

Linda says

Claire and Millie are so much alike and yet so different at the same time. The author has developed all the characters in this book so wonderfully. The character development is done through cliff-hanging flash backs, which makes to book very hard to put down.

The insecurities of the characters makes them all very human, even the vampire Jack. Jack was very mystifying to me; he would sweep me away and then expose a very hard edge that was pure vampire, very scary. Millie made her choice with some regrets, she was a wonderful character to love and break your heart at the same time.

Matt is a great guy and he loves Claire but has problems of his own, he has lived with abuse his whole life. He is very insecure and all he wants is to be loved for the person he is.

Claire is not really sure what she wants; she has a desire to be normal, but seeks magic. I loved the whole Peter Pan and Wendy element of the story. I also was torn between the two worlds, the normal or the magic. Which would you choose? Claire is young; it will be interesting to see which choice she makes. Will she follow in her grandmother Millie's foot steps?

I would love to see this story continue, but it is a fully realized story and can stand on its own.

Holding Back the Day is a compelling and emotional journey that will sweep you off your feet. I highly recommend this book.

Shirley says

I liked blood and sunlight so i thought I would like this one too but I really didn't. I hated Claire. Ughh she just got on my nerves. And jack too he wasn't even appealing as a vampire. The only one I liked in this book was Matt. He was kind, brave, loyal and cute. Claire didn't deserve him. I give it three stars because it wasn't horrible and I finished the whole book but I wouldn't read it again.

Tima Nisbet says

Loving it so far. Think I found a new favourite author!

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I really enjoyed Jamie's first book Blood and Sunlight but I have to say, this new one, is even better.

It isn't just the writing, although that is great, it is the story line and humor in this book as well.

I really enjoyed Millie and Jack's love story. And while there really wasn't ever any mystery over what Jack was, their love story was what held the mystery and getting to know them both, in love, was fabulous and sort of heartbreaking too.

Jack story was wonderful to read. I really liked Lazlo and their father son relationship, it too was a little heartbreaking to read but in a good way. It was also a little dark at times too.

I love that this book didn't necessarily end with all the answers laid out for you. That you could sort of imagine what the ending (the true ending of the story) was going to be.

Once again I think Jamie came up with a wonderful new approach to look at vampires that hasn't necessarily been told before. Something fresh and fun and a little dark and mysterious too.

I look forward to reading more from him in the future!

Brenda says

"Holding Back The Day" by Jamie Wasserman is one of those books that had my emotions all over the place. It's the story of different generations but one man (vampire) is something that both generations have in common. Claire Vincent never really fit in with the kids her own age, she would rather read a book and just be left alone. When Matt moves in next door things change for her, he draws her out, making her a part of his group, and it's very obvious Matt really cares for her. The one person that Claire always felt close to is her brave adventurous grandmother Millie. Millie is someone always willing to take risks, but there is one thing she won't do, and that's celebrate her birthday. When Claire's dad decides to throw a surprise party for her seventy-fifth birthday, a young man named Jack shows up. Turns out Jack is someone from Millie's past. Who is Jack, and what does he want with Millie, and how does Claire fit into the mix?

I really loved the plot twists in this story. I found myself totally drawn into the story by the first chapter, and while the plot grabbed my attention, for me it was the interesting characters that had me anxious to finish this read! The author effortlessly allows us to transition between past and present to get a real glimpse of not only who Jack is but why he is drawn to Millie. I thought Jack's background, and especially the time that he spent with Lazlo was riveting. While I knew what Jack was my feelings wavered between feeling sorry for him, because of his loneliness, but also at times he seemed to be a scary individual. I LOVE vampire fiction and this author has the uncanny ability to put a unique spin on his stories that always leaves me anxious for more. A must read for anyone looking for a fantastic paranormal story.

A complimentary e-copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review, and I can honestly say this is easily the best vampire fiction that I have read in 2012.

Cheryl says

I always want to read about an outcast. It's more fun that way.

Charles says

Initial Thoughts:

I got this book free as a promotion from Penumbra Publishing but I would have paid for it as I read and enjoyed Jamie's previous book "Blood and Sunlight". Also I am going to try my best to make this a shorter and spoiler-free review, as I realize I had been doing my reviews wrong to some extent.

As you all know I'm a huge vampire fan (and author) so naturally I'm inclined to read and enjoy any vampire story. This one did not let me down. I will admit though that I did not read the description closely and I thought at first this was a sequel to "Blood and Sunlight" when in fact it stands apart. This was a surprise but a pleasant one and since the book was free I'm certainly not complaining.

Main Points:

The book is divided into 3 distinct sections and deals mainly with 4 characters Millie, Claire, Jack and Lazlo (the last two are vampires). Millie is a head-strong, independent, intelligent and adventurous woman who we see both when she first meets Jack in the 50's and again in 2010 when he shows up to see her at her 75th birthday. We also have Claire who is Millie's granddaughter and also has many similar traits but likes her adventure in the forms of books and short, controlled encounters but I'm getting a little ahead of myself.

Part 1 is full of short chapters that jump back and forth between the 50's and 2010. I found that the chapters were rather short and the constant jumping back and forth made the story a little hard to follow. We are introduced to Jack and see him as a dashing, romantic but still dangerous figure that always attracts the attention of women wherever he goes. Millie had a relationship with Jack and even though it ended he continued to keep an eye on her for the rest of her life.

Part 2 is where I really got into the book. We learn more about Jack and Lazlo (his creator) and get to visit some fascinating places like London (1888) New York (1891) and California in 1898. I love the way Wasserman describes the vampires, their need for blood, the speed, the terror they can cause and of course I love that they can make choices and still try to do some good in the world. Jack is just a orphan when we meet him and Lazlo is a powerful, mysterious and creepy vampire (at least on the surface). Jack is shown as a complex character who lets his vampire nature dominate him for many years and only lets his human side out when he meets the right woman. I loved his attention to detail when it came to describing the places and time in the past (including of the 50's) and the references to "Peter Pan" and "Dracula" are greatly appreciated (though I'm a little ashamed to admit I never read the former). I also thought his ability to make a mundane area instantly scary and foreboding is quite a treat. I compliment Jamie on dialogue as it flows very naturally and is quite snappy.

Part 3 we concentrate more on the present as Jack sets his sights on Claire when he realizes he will never have Millie he sees that he needs to be with a human to ground him and help him remember what it was like to be human. Meanwhile Claire has her own issues as she deals with the death of a loved one, her best friend

(Matt) is missing and there has been grizzly murder that may or not have been caused by Jack in an effort to make Claire run away with him.

Final Thoughts:

I like a book with a big showdown in near the end and this book doesn't really have it. I also thought (without giving anything away) that the choice he makes about Millie is the wrong one. It was a surprise but it seems contrary to what he was building up to and I was a little annoyed. There is also a scene with Claire and Jack where she just passes out and wakes up somewhere different and it is never explained. There is some mention that Jack can fly but we never actually see him do it and we're not sure if he told the truth. I suppose this is meant as a mystery but again I just thought it distracted me from the main story. I did enjoy the final chapter very much and I am certainly looking forward to a sequel (I loved Jack, he is my mind of vampire) and to the sequel to "Blood and Sunlight". I give this a strong 8 out of 10 and would recommend it to any horror/vampire/romance fan. He's a Penumbra author after all and like someone said on the mailing list, we're rock stars.
