

# Night of the Living Dandelion

*Kate Collins*

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Flower shop owner Abby Knight does not believe rumors that Vlad Serban, friend and employee of Abby's fiancé Marco, is a vampire. But how to explain that Vlad is from Romania, has prominent canines, likes bizarre plants such as bloodwort and Dracula orchid, and dresses entirely in black?

When a local woman is found dead, her body drained of blood, the stakes become life and death. With Vlad the #1 suspect, Abby and Marco race to find the real killer, before Vlad's life *really* starts to suck.

## Night of the Living Dandelion Details

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Author : Kate Collins

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# **From Reader Review Night of the Living Dandelion for online ebook**

## **Marlyn says**

Abby Knight is forced to wear crutches to get around, or use a wheelchair when she's indoors. Unfortunately, Abby is known for her clumsiness and manages to wreak havoc either way. Her employees at Bloomers try not to leave her alone in the shop, but sometimes it can't be avoided.

Abby is alone in the shop when a dark, mysterious-looking stranger appears and asks her to procure some unusual plants (such as bloodwort, wolfsbane and strangleweed) for him, claiming he collects them. Then her fiancé Marco Salvare appears and introduces the man as an old army buddy and his new bartender, Vladimir Serban.

Not only is Vlad tall, with dark hair, he has unusually long canine teeth, dresses primarily in black and has recently left his job as a phlebotomist.

Many of the New Chapel's residents believe he's a vampire, and when a body is found, drained of blood, in the dumpster behind Marco's bar, Vlad is the popular suspect.

Marco is convinced of Vlad's innocence. Abby has her doubts, but trusts Marco's judgement. As they try to prove Vlad's innocence, they somehow manage to find evidence to the contrary. With the readiness of the townspeople (especially the wonderfully comic capers of Abby's cousin Jillian) to believe in Vlad's guilt and otherworldly nature, Collins has skilfully made a significant statement about the bandwagon effect.

Miss Marple was right about human nature!

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## **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

Kate Collins has done it again, written a up-to-date current events murder mystery and blends it with the humor and comfort we've attained with the other novels in the series, in her newest release, "Night of The Living Dandelion."

The worse thing happening in our Abby's life is a bummed ankle, the best she and Marco are getting engaged! Marco's worse happening is he has been re-called into the Army Ranger's for an unknown length of time or mission.

As life would have it, the last few days to spend together gets caught up in a missing person's case, a Bartender who might be a vampire, and then a murder with a suspects list a foot long.

Abby and Marco find having too many suspects is as difficult and having only one.

Time is growing short...Can they find the killer?

Do read this excellent novel and also indulge in the laughter you will find. What will happen???

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### **Christine Jensen says**

Is there a Vampire on the prowl? Could it be Vlad, a friend of Marco's from his Army Ranger days? He sure seems mysterious..ordering mysterious plants; wearing black robes; catching the eyes of the young women in the town.

A woman has been killed...her blood drained from her neck via wounds that look suspiciously like the bite of a vampire. The police and half the town think the culprit is Vlad, but Marco knows differently. Abby and Marco are on a mission to prove that Vlad's innocence (with Abby hobbling around on crutches, no less) while trying to spend as much time together as possibly before Marco has to report for duty with the Rangers.

This installment of the Flower Shop Mysteries was as great as the rest! I look forward to the next one due out this fall!

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### **Rosemary says**

This was my introduction to the series and I really enjoyed it. The characters were likable, Abby's cousin was deliciously funny. I'd like to see Vlad come back. Seemed a little to dreamy to throwaway on one story. Overall an easy read and I'd like to revisit New Chapel and its citizens.

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

Abby Knight has badly sprained her ankle and must use either crutches or a wheelchair to get around and do her job. Marco Salvare has been recalled to active duty. As a newly engaged couple they want to spend as much time together as possible before he is deployed. But there is a huge obstacle in their way. He needs to train his army buddy, Vlad Serban, to take over the bar in his absence and Vlad is drawing way too much attention. He is a very pale man, always wears black, has prominent canine teeth, his former job was as a phlebotomist (One who draws blood for analysis or transfusion.) and he is from Transylvania, Romania. Everyone in town thinks he's a vampire.

Then the body of Lori Willis, a local nursing director, is found in the dumpster behind Marco's bar and the cause of death seems to be exsanguination (drained of all her blood). Still women swoon in his presence, crowding the bar. There are a group calling themselves "The Garlic Party" protesting in front of the Down the Hatch Bar & Grill, plus a group of teenagers gathered wearing "I LOVE VLAD" T-shirts. Not to mention, Abby's cousin Jillian going off the deep end because Vlad had kissed her hand.

Before this circus gets any more out of hand Marco and Abby need to help clear Vlad's name and find the real killer or as it says on the back cover of the book Vlad's life is going to start to "really suck".

I really enjoyed this story, but it is not my favorite book in the series, I really loved the last one Dirty Rotten

Tendrils. It just amazes me how many vampired themed books have turned up lately with the success of the Twilight books and movies. Vampires have never really been my thing but thankfully Kate has gone over to the horror genre from cozy mystery. This book is a fun cozy read and if you don't laugh out loud at some of Jillian's antics, I will eat my copy of this book. She is hilarious!!!! Plus the book ends perfectly, leaving us wanting more. We only have to wait until November for To Catch A Leaf. This reviewer can't wait to get her copy!!!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the Obsidian/NAL, A Division of the Penguin Group. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Ed says**

Interesting, well-plotted cozy mystery with a intrepid heroine despite being on crutches with a bad ankle sprain. I like the romance developing between her and her boyfriend.

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### **Lennine says**

Kate Collins is always fun to read.

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### **Shelly says**

I love this Flower Shop Mystery series by Kate Collins. The books just keep getting better and better. I picked up the first book in this series at a Book Fair in Indianapolis while staying at my sisters for something to read. It was fate! The cover caught my eye as something fun to read. Talk about being in the right place at the right time. Since then I look forward to every new book in this series and try to purchase each book on the day of release. The most recent book I purchased at the Indianapolis Airport because it was released the day I was due to fly out to a conference. I almost hugged the sales clerk when he said: "Why yes, we have two copies of her new book in stock." This series is such a fun read.

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### **Linda says**

I love the Flower Shop mystery series but this one not as much as the others. Could be the fault of it taking me 3 weeks to read it due to a 3 week vacation and no time for reading.

Abby is on crutches or in a wheelchair due to a sprained ankle for the whole length of this book, which seemed strange to me just for a sprain. She and Marco are just about to announce their engagement to the family when he gets notice that he has to report back to the Rangers. For duty? He isn't sure. Just about that time his old Rangers buddy Vlad turns up and Marco hires him to work in the bar. Vlad, from Romania, although remarkably handsome, has long eye teeth and soon rumors are going around that he's a vampire.

Even Abby has a time believing he's not when he orders exotic flowers and many flats of dandelions from her. Then a woman goes missing and is later found dead- all the blood gone from her body through two tiny holes in her neck. The police are closing in on Vlad but Marco sets out to prove him innocent. Of course Abby gets in the way and nearly killed.

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### **Drebbles says**

With fiancée Marco Salvare recalled to active duty and due to leave any day, Abby Knight is determined to spend as much time as possible with him and won't let a minor thing like a sprained ankle get in her way. Marco wants to make sure things are taken care of while he's gone so he hires good friend Vlad Serban as bartender. There is one slight problem - Vlad looks like a vampire and many people think he is indeed one. When a local woman is found murdered and drained of blood many people, including the police, think Vlad is the culprit. It is up to Abby and Marco to clear Vlad's name - but will they be able to do it before Marco has to leave?

"Night of the Living Dandelion" is the delightfully funny eleventh book in Kate Collins' Flower Shop cozy mystery series. Collins tackles the vampire craze with tongue firmly in cheek with a touch of a lesson about letting people be who they are and not who you want them to be. The humor can be a bit over-the-top at times, but you can't help laugh at what is going on - especially with Abby's cousin Jillian. Collins has a lot of fun with the vampire thing and Vlad's character including the plants he orders. the murder itself is gruesome to think about but Collins never goes into great detail about the death. The mystery is well plotted with plenty of suspects, although I did figure out early on who the killer was. I did wish a few times that Abby would ask more questions or that Marco would stop withholding information from Abby - it got a bit ridiculous at times (did the reason Vlad wanted the dandelions really have to be a secret?).

Outside of the mystery, some of the things I like best about this series are the characters and the setting. I love Abby's coworkers at her flower shop - Lottie and Grace who care deeply for Abby and are always ready to help her (and Grace always has just the right quote for the occasion.) Abby's family may be eccentric but are also loving and add much humor to the book - especially Abby's mother's latest art project. It was nice to see Marco develop a better relationship with his brother Rafe in the book. Finally, I love the description of the various flower arrangements Abby makes - how I wish the book came with illustrations!

"Night of the Living Dandelion" is a very funny cozy mystery.

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### **Lauren Plug says**

Not a favorite of mine

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### **Sarah says**

Night of the Living Dandelion is one of those wonderful books that keep you reading late into the night. The spunky young heroine is a flower shop owner who moonlights as a sleuth, and as an occasional partner to her bar owner/PI fiance Marco. It is a fast read, with a rapidly moving plot full of likable characters who behave

in charmingly odd and extreme ways.

Although the circumstances and people's reaction to them are a bit wacky and unbelievable (some local townspeople form a vigilante group called the Garlic Party in response to the rumors that Vlad is a vampire, Abby's niece and other schoolgirls form a cordon around the bar to protect Vlad), the pace of the plot allows the reader to glide right over the improbabilities and just enjoy the ride. And the ride is funny. Abby is a klutz who is a menace, mainly to herself, while temporarily on crutches, her nutty cousin is convinced she is becoming a vampire, and her mother is an exuberant and spectacularly untalented artist.

The murder mystery is a good one, well-constructed and a nice complement to the zaniness of the characters. I really did not see how this was going to end, which I love.

There is nothing better than discovering a "new" author, and then realizing that she has a long list of books. I will definitely be looking for books 1-10 in this series. Although I started at #11, I had no problem keeping up with the characters and their relationships, and this was easily a stand-alone book.

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### **Chang Garcia says**

Great story and characters.

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### **Melinda says**

Another Abby Knight novel. Although the plot was somewhat far fetched with an entire town believing someone was a vampire, it was Dina and enjoyable. I always enjoy the Abby/Marco dynamic.

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### **Luffy says**

Kate Collins takes a hike and Mrs Hyde ghostwrote this book for her. It's simply maddening how erratic can the author be. I should be used to this on and off form. There are more stupid books but they don't insult one's intelligence as a book that is half serious half joking, but committedly stupid. It seems that the very author herself can't keep hold of her characters. I mean that she can't write them the same way. In this book, they are doppelgangers, not originals.

I hope her next book is better. There was one single good thing about Night of the Living Dandelion, that was the identity of the murderer. I really wanted to love this book. I did derive pleasure from reading it thoroughly. I said to myself, this is the reason why I read. It's just like the Enid Blyton books I have read in my childhood. It's all about getting comfortable and cozy and be able to escape. I thought, I'm no longer reading the Dickens book that's driving me mad, I'm not reading Les Miserables, I'm not steeling myself for reading the contemporary and untried 700 page novel that's perched on my kindle. I now need to man up and read the said books, eroding them away from my e-reader word by word. Who needs friends when you've got books? Right? Right.

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