



Love Bites

Lynsay Sands

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True Love: Good From The First Bite...

Etienne Argeneau's three hundred years of bachelorhood were at an end. Either that, or he'd be forever alone. He could only "turn" one human in his lifetime, and most of his kind reserved that power for creating a life mate. If he turned the wrong woman...But what choice did he have? He had to save Rachel Garrett. He didn't know her very well but the beautiful coroner had saved his life. To save hers he would make her immortal.

...To The Last

Rachel Garrett awoke surprised. All she'd wanted was to get off the night shift at the morgue; now here she was, staggering to her feet naked and in a strange place. But everything would be all right. She'd just make like a bat out of-- Then she saw the man of her dreams emerging from his...coffin? And the look in his bright silver eyes said they'd be spending a lot of time together. She just hoped he tasted as good as he looked.

Love Bites Details

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K. says

Love Bites, by Lynsay Sands - Light PNR, Contemporary Vampire Series

I've only read one other book by Lynsay Sands ("Sweet Revenge"), which was one of her older historical romances. Although I liked "Sweet Revenge" well enough, it didn't compel me to want to snatch up her backlist at the time. Sands writing style is simple and easy reading, and since I prefer a deeper, more complex and emotional writing style in my historicals, I believe that's why I didn't pursue her after "Sweet Revenge." "Love Bites" follows the same style of writing, and in my opinion, this light and fluffy PNR series is probably a better fit.

The Argeneau family is like any other normal "family next door," if you don't consider the fact the members are hundreds of years old, have looks that are stunning (not to mention youthful enough to be confused as to who their mother is), can read each other's minds, wipe everyone else's memories clean like erasing a chalkboard, then pop a "blood bag" for a quick meal as we'd suck down a juice box! Rachel works as a medical technician in the City morgue on the night shift. She's fairly bored with her routine and frustrated about not being able to have a social life since she sleeps while the rest of the city goes about their daily lives, and shuts down right about the time she awakens. Etienne Argeneau is the best looking, sexiest man she's ever laid eyes on. Only one problem -- he's lying on her morgue gurney with a big gunshot hole blown through his chest! Not the situation you want when finally locating the man of your dreams. While Rachel laments the irony of her timing and begins going about her job, she starts to think she's imaging things when Etienne's mortal wound seems severely lessened every time she turns her back. Things get REALLY weird when she discovers her "stiff" is anything but! Convincing herself that a "thread" of pulse MUST have gone undetected by both her and the EMTs who brought him in, Rachel does fast mental work trying to somehow apply logic to a situation that seems impossible, if not completely creepy.

In the meantime, Etienne is efficiently going about the work of eliminating the "experience" from Rachel's head and making a quick break out of the morgue. Etienne's trip to the morgue hasn't been his first "accident," and he unfortunately has found himself a target of a wacko stalker -- a fellow envious video game creator who doesn't have the talent Etienne has to create the current video game craze, "Blood Lust." "Pudge" (a/k/a geeky Norman) has discovered a few of Etienne's unique "gifts," and convinced he's a vampire (which he is of course), decides he needs to be eliminated from the face of the earth and "Blood Lust" is the "how-to" manual to get the job done. Although Etienne narrowly escapes his first morgue trip, he soon finds himself back on Rachel's table for yet another go-around. Tragically this time, Pudge pursues him to the morgue and in an attempt to divest Etienne of his head (per "Blood Lust" game player's manual for killing a vampire), implants an axe into Rachel's chest when she interferes in his plan. Quick thinking on the part of Etienne saves Rachel's life by "turning" her into one of his own kind before her life slips away. The hitch is . . . Etienne can turn only one person in a lifetime, and it is typically reserved for a "lifemate." The reader quickly understands the ramifications of his split second decision for both Rachel and Etienne and their romantic relationship journey begins.

Ms. Sands writing style throughout both her characters and her storyline interfered with my complete enjoyment of the book. She had a very creative cast of characters and story to work with, but her execution is hampered considerably by her writing. Etienne has a laid back, easy going personality, and he had lots of likeable and honorable qualities, but Ms. Sands writing gave him a milktoast feeling - very much the "tell" problem. The same for Rachel -- she was empathetic and sweet, but needed a transfusion of "spark" writing

her personality, rather than another bag of blood! Sands has a unique ability to drag out each and every scene 50 extra pages when she should have moved the story along. My thoughts as I was reading went like this:

Rachel's in the morgue doing her thing [tick-tock, tick-tock - lots of filler/story going nowhere:]; Etienne arrives, still in the same scene - the morgue [tick-tock, tick-tock - lots of filler/story going nowhere:]; Etienne awakens and we get a moment of "What will happen/things have potential for excitement now!" [tick-tock, tick-tock - lots of filler/story going nowhere:].

This type of feeling happened over and over and I got bored with how many pages the characters spent in the same rooms. Sands effectively would build the story, re-peak my interest, have a cool and exciting sounding punchline all lined up, only to end up with a drawn out scene. It was literally a *wham and drag* feeling every 50-80 pages. You can imagine how frustrating that becomes when she keeps giving the reader an adrenaline injection only then to feel like you are in suspended animation with the story each time it reaches that crescendo. This author should probably work a bit on developing descriptives of her surroundings so that the reader doesn't feel like everything is a bit cardboard. You know the type of writer that can exhaust your brain with too much surrounding detail? Well Ms. Sands writing is the opposite of that. Her story definitely has interest and focus, but no punch to effectively engage the reader and bring the story truly to life.

Ms. Sands should also watch her use of regional expressions of the characters. I got the feeling the setting was definitely in the United States, but she kept having Rachel refer to her time "at University." That's not an expression of how Americans relate their time "in college" or "in school." The only time an American uses the term "university" is either by citing their school itself in whole (i.e. "I attended the University of Southern California"), or referring to the building itself ("I was at THE University). I find this a distinct difference in how Americans and Europeans use this term and it stuck out like a sore thumb for me as misplaced.

I see why Lynsay Sands is a successful writer. It's pretty clear she has a very imaginative ability to create characters that can be fun and a reader can love. If she could beef up how she delivers that story with the words on the page, I could see myself waiting excitedly for everything she wrote. I do plan to read the other book in this series I have on my TBR pile, and others have noted it's a better example of the series high points - I'll definitely give it another chance.

If you want a light read that carries an interesting premise and likeable characters, go ahead and pick this one up. Just don't expect it to be a re-read.

K.

[Contains graphic sexual and violence expressions without crude language applied; Mainstream R rated paranormal romance with a few more sexual scenes than the average; Recommended for ages 15 and above with parental review for individual standards.:]

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

I started this series with book one and really enjoyed the characters and the Argeneau family. I then skipped around the series because some of these books filled reading challenges that I was in. Even though I skipped around this series I did want to read each book.

I already knew the outcome of Rachel and Etienne's relationship but wanted to read it anyhow. I found it funny, serious, and slightly romantic. It was an enjoyable read and I can't wait to finish this long, long, loooong series. :D

Mitticus says

It was a funny, fluffy read until near the middle when became boring for me.

Rachel is a forensic pathologist when Etienne Argeneau (believed dead) and personal stalker intervene in her life. The dialogues when she wakes up are funny, and the first Argeneau family reunion.

But I didn't care Etienne's personality after that (misleading Rachel to keep her), and the 'push' of Thomas.

(Pudge reminds me at the end of BTVS's Andrew)

mlady_rebecca says

Light quick easy read, which was just what I wanted in the midst of reading 3 different thinky books ("Ardeur", "The Fountainhead", and "The Paradox of Choice" (nf)).

This is one of those "vampires as people with fangs" book. In other words, vampire light. It's also one of those books that are heavy on the romance and determined to have a perfect HEA. The heroine is the hero's one and only chance at a lifemate. I know, a bit on the cheesy side, but it fit my mood that day.

Besides, it was in a pile of paranormal romances I bought several years back when I was going for anything and everything in the genre.

Overall, if you're in the mood for more romance than vampire politics, this might be your series. I believe the other books in the series focus on brothers in the same family.

Jilly says

“Everything's all fun and games until someone gets an ax in the chest.”

Yeah, I hate when that happens.

So, Rachel is a coroner who is kind of a perv. She's all creeping on this corpse, thinking how sexy he is. I seriously think that her boss should be apprised of this situation.

But, don't worry, her dream-corpse is actually a vampire, so it's not at all necrophilia for her to be having sex dreams about him.

Also, she throws herself in front of an ax-wielding maniac to stop him from cutting off her corpse-lover's head. Aaand gets an ax in the chest. Well, I gotta say.... she kind of deserved it. Also, maybe it's best if the chick who is excited to see a dead man's peen is out of the picture. How good could her life be if this was her bag?

She swears it isn't hers!

But, good news everyone! He turns her into a vampire so that she can spend all of eternity thinking creepy thoughts about corpses. Yay!

Necrophilia aside, this book was fun and cute. There were plenty of chuckle-worthy moments and I really like the vampire family. It's a solidly "good enough" series so far. Not gonna blow your socks off, but will moderately entertain you.

DarienMoya says

IT BITES AND IT SUCKS!!!

Love Bites is the second book in the Argeneau's series. I must admit I read these out of order because I was unable to find books 2,3, and 4 but now I have them and I was not disappointed. A light vampire read filled with family and love.

Etienne is one of the youngest of the bunch being a little over three hundred years old, so he gets no respect from his brothers. His job is to create video games and his most popular is Blood Lust, a game about rogue vampires and their slayer. Who better to create a game about vamps than a vamp. His jig is about to be up, seems some crazy has figured out he is a vampire and is jealous of his success and he has set out to destroy him. Where as Etienne finds the situation exciting, he is about to realize that its become dangerous when him and a bullet become up close and personal.

Rachel Garret cant belive this beautiful specimen of a man is dead. Her first time lusting after a body after many years of being a coroner. It could be the high fever shes suffering from, but she doubts it. The man is beautiful, all lean and muscular talk about a waste. No doubt when this man was alive he was a lady killer, a destroyer of innocents. During the examination Rachel cant fight the feeling that his wound was way bigger, and he wasn't breathing when they brought him in, definitely the fever is making her hallucinate. There is no way a dead man could be looking at her, and is he speaking no way. it's the fever defianately the fever.

Again Etienne underestimates the skill of his arch nemesis, has a nice ring to it doesn't it. This time he gets blown up and turned to a crispy critter and once again the sexy coroner from before has to examine him. To Rachel he looks like the gunshot victim before, but she knows that was all a dream, right? Then some axe weilding man enters her work are claiming the crispy critter is a vampire and he has to hack is head off, Rachel gets in the way of the axe and things just get down right dreamy from their on.

This book was funny, Rachel was a breath of fresh air with her dry humor and the way she believes that

everything that's happened to her has to be a dream or she's in a coma from the axe wound. Etienne is sweet and so not your average vamp, he's all gekky in a sexy I wanna bite your neck way. His archenemy known as "Pudgy" is a total loon. Notice the Canadian bird reference, this book takes place in Toronto another plus. I was laughing at the sheer stupidity of some of the characters, and I just loved it. This book pokes fun at all that is suck neck and I just love the Argeneaus. A 3.5 and the steaminess is about a two, which I find wasn't really important because the characters are also fun. Check this series out if you don't want complicated or gore. Vampiric fun and games.

♥Rachel♥ says

Better than the first one and super sexy!

chucklethescot says

Rachel is a hospital coroner who gets a shock when a dead body comes back to life. Etienne, a vampire, was killed by a vampire hunter and reanimates after some recovery time. Pudge the vampire hunter bursts into the morgue and fatally injures Rachel so Etienne feels obliged to turn her to save her. Trouble is, Rachel refuses to believe she is a vampire and Pudge won't give up on killing them both.

What did I like about the book? I loved Pudge! He was so pathetic and weird and a total nutjob and I liked the scenes after the kidnap where he is prancing around in his fake teeth and flapping cape! His interview with the police was very funny as well. He was the best thing in the book though I also liked the plot itself.

BUT...

Etienne wasn't the smartest of vampires with his half-assed attempts to explain to Rachel what she was. He wasn't smart enough to realise that maybe he ought to see Pudge as a threat since he'd killed him several times already! He was a bit annoying. Rachel was the whineist bitch on the planet. Every chapter we got her refusal to accept the facts so it had to be explained to her AGAIN. Then you got her snotty attitude and lack of gratitude for being saved AGAIN. And on and on it went. It was too much plot repetition for my liking and the whole middle of the book was pretty much a bore.

Compared to the first of these books I read *The Accidental Vampire*, this one was not very good at all. Perhaps more Pudge and less of Rachel's whining could have made this a really good book.

willaful says

This book contains a scene so gross, I'm surprised every other review doesn't begin "OMG, this book is so gross!" I don't think any other reviewer has even mentioned it. Is it seriously just me that is icked out when a very hungry vampire woman goes down on a guy and starts thinking about actually eating him like a sausage? And later he gets caught lying there naked by a relative, with a flacid, bite-marked penis. HURL!

Anyway, aside from that fun time, it was pleasant but on the dull side. Highlights were Etienne showing Rachel how wonderful the nighttime is. But coroner Rachel is implausibly ditzy; Etienne is sweet in a boyish way, which is kind of a cute change of pace for a story about a 300+ year old vampire, but he sometimes goes beyond "beta" to "limp rag." The action scenes felt clumsy. Perhaps it's time for me to give up this series.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

This book was also okay. I liked the couple okay. I think Etienne should have been a little more smooth with the women being as he was over 300 years old but whatever. So what if his game is a little weak. I could get over that. I would have liked it a whole lot better if the bad guy wasn't a big stupid turd. I mean his name was Pudge for fuck sake! Pudge!!! I mean he wasn't badass he was just a huge annoying shithook. Come on Etienne, this stupid geeky weak ass human has tried to kill you over 4 times and you are still trying to let him live? And how the hell did you let his stupid ass get the drop on you at least 5 times? He shoots you in the heart, blows up your car, breaks into your house and he almost beheaded you Etienne. Aren't you a badass vampire? Where are your awesome vampire powers? Really? Then he kidnaps your lifemate and stakes her in the heart and you are still going to let him live? I wanted to kill him. I wanted to reach though my kindle and snap his stupid neck but the big bad vamp family are letting him live. Pffff! I would have gave this book 4 stars had the bad guy died but since they went all peace and love and let his stupid ass live after all the shit he pulled I took a star away. Bloodthirsty? IKR!

Inara says

Dr. Rachel Garrett a coroner working at the hospital's morgue doesn't feel very well. She has fever but nonetheless she wants to see through her nightshift and do her work. When a corpse of a shot man is brought in she starts the examination but suddenly the corpse comes to life again. Etienne Argeneau, a vampire, was shot by a self-proclaimed vampire hunter and needed some time to repair the damage to this body and seemed to be dead. When he tries to eliminate the memories of him ever being in the morgue in Rachel's mind he is very surprised that he can't get into her thoughts. But because of Rachel's fever she's convinced the talking corpse was only a fever dream. But Pudge the vampire hunter doesn't give up that easily and when Etienne ends up again on Rachel's examination table and Pudge turns up to finish him off once and for all Rachel gets lethally injured by accident. Etienne sees only one solution – to turn her...

I liked the first book "A Quick Bite" of the Argeneau family about Lissianna and Greg but honestly this one didn't meet my expectations. It was neither very funny nor suspenseful only boring. I couldn't connect with the main characters and their so-called romance. Etienne seems to be a little dumb sometimes and Rachel, well she whines constantly about being turned and that she is expected to lie about what had happened. And what I found completely unbelievable was that two strong vampires (even hurt) weren't able to overpower the nutcase Pudge. Really how pathetic can supposed super-strong vampires be? Sometimes I wished them to be more "vampiric", they don't bite (at least only in emergency situations) and are not really enigmatic and seductive like I imagine a vampire to be. Etienne seemed more like a puppy dog to me. The only vampire with some potential seems to be Lucian – hopefully his story won't be such a bore. I will read the next books because there are two more brothers and other family members and I'd like to read how they find their lifemates but I'm happy I didn't start reading this series with this book – I wouldn't have bothered to read more about the Argeneau family..

Whitney says

Our protagonist in this story is named Rachel. She is a coroner that works the graveyard shift. When an attractive dead guy gets rolled in, she can't believe she is attracted to said dead man. But that's alright because her "dead" guy is actually a vampire.

Etienne can't believe his luck. He's ended up in the morgue twice this week. Pudgy is really becoming a problem - especially since he just axed the pretty redhead coroner. She saved his life, so now he must save her the only way he can.

Lynsay Sands has quite the imagination. When you combine that with her humor, you get a lighthearted paranormal romance. She has created such a unique type of vampire, and I like them. You see, they originated from Atlantis. Their scientist/physicians created a "nano" that goes into the bloodstream to help repair damage and/or trauma. It turned out to be ultra powerful and uses their blood to keep them strong and youthful. *I mean, how awesome is that?*

The big negative is how perfect everything works out. As a vampire, you can only change one human. Most of them wait to change their lifemate so they won't spend eternity alone. And it just so happens that Rachel is Etienne's lifemate. *How ironic?!* The villain wasn't much of a villain either. I know this is a lighthearted paranormal romance, but where's the action!? I don't appreciate the extra-cheesy ~~conflicts~~ situations. It isn't believable.

With all that being said, I give this a solid 3 stars. It was an enjoyable short read, but I didn't love it.

LibraryLass says

Finally persevered with this. I had picked it up a few times, read the first couple of chapters then put it down again. I usually would have given up on it by then, but I had interloaned it from another library and so didn't want to "waste" it.

Anyway, after all of my hesitation, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was indeed a light read, not as funny as the first in this series, but a great read all the same. I love the Argeneau family. My only real negative for this book, was the fairly easy acceptance that came with being a vampire... and I think this is true for the last book as well. I mean there could be a lot of play made about it, but there is not a lot in these first 2 anyway.

Having said that, this is a wonderful lighthearted book which cleanses the reading palette for more grittier books. I enjoy both types and this was a good one. Recommended to all who like a light dose of PNR - not to be taken seriously!

Umaiya ?A Far Off Memory? says

This too was an okay read but I think it bears mentioning again that this is one weird-ass series. xD

Hears the thing, I'm never gonna reread this. And even though I finished this just this morning and yeah I do remember it, plot, characters, everything, it still feels like I don't. As if I read this over a week ago and am only just getting around to writing the review, you get?

Ah but yes at the end I was looking for Bastien to be next rather than Luc but yeah. I hope I make it to his book, they're starting to drag and I've only read three books. . .

Jennifer says

The 2nd book in the series and another "this was hard to put down" book. Your basic love story. Rachel Garrett is a coroner who works nights at the morgue. Etienne Argeneau is a Vampire who keeps getting "killed" by his stalker - called Pudge. On his second trip to the morgue Pudge bursts through the doors with a gun and an ax and tries to cut off Etienne's head to finish the job - but Rachel jumps in front of Etienne and takes a direct hit with the ax. Etienne can't let Rachel die when she saved his life - so as Pudge flee's the room Etienne saves Rachel by giving her eternal life.

The rest of the story involves Rachel acclimating to life as a Vamp and them dealing with the Pudge issue. An enjoyable take on the vampire lifestyle and a fun read.

As I prepare to dive into the third story I have to wonder if every book is going to have a mortal spending hundreds of pages having to get used to the wonders of Vampire living. (Fireflies are brighter - and oh look - I am really strong now...) As charming as it was in the first two books I think it might get old by book 8 or 9. Guess I will find out!
