



## Uncle Vampire

*Cynthia D. Grant*

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Carolyn fantasizes that her uncle is a vampire, but the truth is even worse: he is sexually abusing her. And, in a final, shocking plot twist, Carolyn reveals the depth of her pain--and takes the first steps toward healing. Winner of the 1994 Hungry Mind Review Children's Book of Distinction Award.

## Uncle Vampire Details

Date : Published April 11th 1995 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published 1993)

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Author : Cynthia D. Grant

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## From Reader Review Uncle Vampire for online ebook

### **Kelly Parker says**

Great YA book!

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### **Amber says**

Carolyn and Honey are twin sisters who live with a dysfunctional family and whose Uncle is secretly a vampire, but is he due to the things he does to them in the dark and can they tell anyone about it? Read on and find out for yourself.

This was a pretty good but sad book. Definitely check it out. You can find this book at your local library and wherever books are sold.

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### **Gabrielle Ragusi says**

I read this book when I was in elementary school and I never really understood what it was about; I remember that I liked it at the time, with the innocence of the child that I was (I picked it up on a school trip to the town's library).

Now I can't help but ask myself: who could have placed this book (amazing, one of my favourite, as it is) in the children's section? I don't think my parents would have let me read it knowing what it was about.

Anyway, overlooking this, back to the book. After forgetting about it over the years, there still was this title, "Uncle vampire", nagging in the dark recesses of my brain, until I looked up for it on Google and bought it. Reading it again broke my heart, but still, in the eyes of the adult I am today, I can't not like this book. It's surreal and real at the same time, it's dark and the stark reality.

While reading it for the second time (more like the first, really), I remembered nothing about the twins, who they really are, and maybe that's why it was another shock.

The book itself is far from perfect, the writing is somehow aimed to children's reading, but the story makes up for it in my opinion. It's not one of those books you read, finish, discard on your bookshelf and entirely forget about it.

As I couldn't forget its title for fifteen years, I know I won't forget this story for the rest of my life.

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### **Morgana says**

Piango e mi fa male li stomaco. Come può tanto dolore essere rinchiuso in così poche pagine?  
Una lettura che fa riflettere e rimane nel cuore.

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### **Aubry Newth says**

This book goes through the symptoms of a girl who was raped by her uncle and finds in her older years that she is not a twin and her uncle was not a vampire he was just a sick guy and she has to find the strength to find her way and let other help and let them in.

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### **PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says**

Grade: B

Carrie's UNCLE VAMPIRE comes at night and sucks her blood and that of her twin sister Honey. Older sister Maggie escaped to college cross country, brother Richie zones out with drugs, Mama takes to her bed, Papa worries about his failing business giving Uncle Toddie free reign. Carrie can't tell what he's doing, because he says it'll kill her beloved grandmother.

From the get go, we know UNCLE VAMPIRE is metaphoric for sexual abuse, although some younger readers might not realize. The allegory worked quite well. Carrie's fear and powerlessness felt authentic as she tried to get Honey to acknowledge UNCLE VAMPIRE's nightly visits. I felt like I was hiding in the bedroom with Carrie and Honey. I've been in that bedroom and UNCLE VAMPIRE took me right back to being that helpless child/teen. Uncle Toddie was as creepy as he was manipulative and I could see how his phoniness could fool of inattentive parents, although I don't know how a parent could accuse a child who has disclosed sexual abuse to be exaggerating. Yes, it happens, but not believing a child has devastating long term ramifications.

At times I was confused as to whether Carrie was experiencing, dreaming or maybe even hallucinations, but she seemed like a reliable narrator who used symbolism to make sense of the senseless acts perpetrated upon her. Cynthia Grant's writing fell down dramatically in the dialogue department. Both the adults and teens spoke as if they were written on a C grade high school essay. It was so bad I stopped to reread just his silly the sentences sounded.

THEMES: sexual abuse, family, twins, siblings, mental illness

UNCLE VAMPIRE, at a mere 100 pages, is a very quick, dark read that accurately captures the experience of incest.

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### **Parker Goodreau says**

Oh Lord Almighty, what am I going to say about this book?

It shocked me, which I was really unprepared for because I thought it was kind of, you know, all there in the summary (No, it's not really a vampire book: don't set yourself up for disappointment. Summaries are your friends). But parts of the story really took me by surprise in the best, internal-gasping, what-the-heck-was-that way. Apart from that, it really isn't a very complicated plot.

However, it gets very emotionally complicated. Maybe more so if, like me, you found yourself relating to Carolyn. We have a lot in common, in the way we think about our families especially. I always appreciate

when the complication of a messed up family dynamic come through. I thought it was very well done, and really I'm very glad I read this book for that reason.

That being said, sometimes I wasn't very impressed by the writing. It got a little static at times. I guess it could be a matter of style, but I was quite honestly shocked to discover that Carolyn is in ninth grade. She didn't sound that old to me. This changed a little as it went on, but... there's still something a little unpolished about it. Maybe I'm asking too much. Some of the dream sequences were amazing.

All in all, I was a little disappointed by the writing, but unexpectedly engrossed by the story. It's an easy physical read and a not-so-easy but satisfying emotional one. No star rating for this one.

P.S. - The edition with the eyes on the cover (the one my library gave me) is so enormously creepy that I could not leave it face-up anywhere I could see it. Get a different edition if you can. If anything's going to give me nightmares, it just might be that cover.

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### **Leanna says**

Holy spoiler alert in the plot synopsis! Anyways, I just remembered reading this as a younger teen, and I was unprepared for the big twists. Honey's identity was really surprising. I think I may have read this more than once, trying to see exactly how the narrator had "tricked" me. I'm not going to rate it, because I don't think it's appropriate to "like" this kind of story... but it was very affecting and I think it was well-written.

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### **Kim B. says**

I guess it's a pretty standard Problem Novel in some aspects and hasn't aged well in a few others but even though I was 99% sure what the truth was about the title character (as I'm sure any modern reader would be), there was a SECOND twist that surprisingly not only didn't suck but was one I genuinely also didn't see coming and holds up under scrutiny. You almost have to read this one twice.

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### **Monique says**

So wanted something quick as I contemplate my next reading (will it be something from my personal library as I always seem to neglect books that I compulsively buy/borrow from everywhere or some library treasure in my never ending pile of to-be read books) and while I research and ponder I decided to try this Young Adult novel that boasts a major plot twist and a secret you have to read to the end to find out and it was just as short and straightforward as I hoped..good message but kinda juvenile for me--uh duh it was YA but yup I just had to read it, and now its done..This book follows twins (would it be too much of a spoiler to put the word twins in quotations?) Carolyn and Honey and their family as they entertain and house the unemployed weird night owl father's younger brother Uncle Toddy who has been staying at their house for what seems like a long time...The reclusive, charming and handsome Uncle Toddy seems to have everyone under his spell as he mooches off the family and tries to put on a front of a loving supportive uncle that has Carolyn thinking she's all alone in knowing that he is actually a vampire, sucking all the blood and life out of them all..the father's business is failing, the mother is some kind of sick where she takes pills and is hospitalized from time to time withdrawn in books and herself and the brother is rebelling in school and spending all his

time away from the house, and the oldest sister has moved on with college and her life leaving Carolyn and Honey struggling to maintain in school and beyond with their Uncle draining their life force as Carolyn puts it...You get a sense of the twist early on and I think it could have been written better to really surprise the reader with the revelation but overall I see it was written for kids though at times it was confusing with the dream sequences and rambling monologues, not recommended as the best but for the issues it raised I can roll with it..Okay read not great, maybe if I was thirteen again, but I had Sweet Valley High, V.C. Andrews, Louis Sachar, the Babysitters Club to keep my head filled with sweet girl things thankfully never the horror alluded to here, I do feel if you read between the lines you will get what this book is about but no more spoilers.....

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### **Ange says**

As a child, I probably would have rated this at 4. After re-reading it now as an adult, I would rate it at 2 (only ok). And so to be fair, I took the average between the two and gave it 3 stars.

This book, as you can tell by the previous paragraph, is a re-read for me. It's a fairly easy read, one that I finished in a day, both then and now. I remember really liking it as a child, since the plot twists at the end completely took me by surprise. However, as an adult, it struck me as a bit too simple and not at all the page-turner I remember it being. But then there are enough hints throughout the book for an adult to pick up on at least one of the plot twists, so the ending wouldn't have been as surprising for them.

And I know there are those who are disappointed by the spoiler in the book's synopsis, but it's a practical move as a warning to parents about the mature concepts in the book. I initially read this when I was around 8-years-old, fully expecting vampires, and being shocked at what I found in the end. That was definitely too young of an age to be exposed to such content, in my humble opinion.

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### **Erin says**

90's YA fiction at its best - Uncle Vampire tells a story that is both honest and helpful for other teens going through the same issues. Read about this in "Paperback Crush," and I'm so glad I went back and gave it a read. Such an important topic.

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### **\*?✿✿ Maki ✿✿?\* says**

Spoilers - this isn't a "vampire" book.

I grabbed this book from my library during the height of my teenage vampire obsession. So, when I was fourteen or so.

Oh, I knew there weren't actually any vampires in it when I grabbed it. The symbolism of the story felt incredibly heavy-handed to me, even back then. The story itself was okay, but I'm definitely glad that I was mentally prepared to handle a story like that when I read it. I could easily imagine kids picking the book up, thinking that they were getting a vampire story, and being scarred by the actual subject matter of the book.

I do have to admit, though, that my main reason for reading this book was not because I was drawn in by the gripping synopsis.

Like I said, I was really into vampire books then, and my dad's on-again-off-again girlfriend at the time was one of those Christians who think everything is going to corrupt children and damn their souls. Harry Potter? Evil. Lord of the Rings? Evil. Vampires? DEFINITELY evil.

...so...I uh, I grabbed this book to read to use as ammunition against her.

She came into my room one day while I was reading it, ranting and raving about all the vampire books I had lying around. She took a look at the title, scoffed at how far I'd fallen into the evil genre, and started lecturing me about how I thought I wanted to be a vampire because of all the vampire books I was reading.

Spoilers - I did not, nor have I ever wanted, to be a vampire. All that blood...blech.

"Uncle Vampire?" she said. "These books are going to -"

And then I cut her off. I looked her dead in the eyes. And I told her what the book was *really* about.

She had no response to that, and never said a word about my reading habits again.

So, long story short - your heart was in the right place, book, and I'm sorry for using you as ammunition. You probably deserved better.

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### **Gabrielle Estel says**

A book I paused to ponder for awhile once I had finished it.

At the age I am now, the truth was obvious to me. Yet, dispensing disbelief as the age group it was primarily written for it would contain a huge shock. I think it is a good way to explore 'forbidden' topics with young adults (age 10-24).

I would recommend it to anyone over 12.

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### **MAP says**

I'm really surprised the summary at the top of Goodreads lays it all about the sexual abuse...I'm sure the metaphoric descriptions throughout the book would be obvious to an adult, but for me, a sheltered 11 year old reading it in 1995, it was a HUGE plot twist (but not the only plot twist) when it was finally revealed with "He fucks us." (I do think it may have been the first time I'd ever seen the word "fuck" in print as well.)

Obviously it stuck in my memory, for me to remember so well after nearly 20 years.

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