



Bleeding Hearts

Ash Krafton

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Sophie Galen is an advice columnist who is saving the world - one damned person at a time. Shy and sensitive Sophie has all but given up on love until she meets Marek, a mysterious stranger who seduces her with his striking good looks and his take-charge attitude. Yet the darkness she senses within him may be more than she is prepared to handle when Marek draws her into a world of vampires, werewolves, and treachery. Forced to leave behind the comfortable routines and certainties of her past, Sophie makes unbearable sacrifices and uncovers hidden truths about herself and the world around her.

(This edition is out of print.)

Bleeding Hearts Details

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Author : Ash Krafton

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From Reader Review Bleeding Hearts for online ebook

Rachel V. says

I chose to review this book on my birthday because I love vampires. However, I got more than I thought I was because this story combines two of my favorite topics vampires and Egyptian mythology. I absolutely loved the story and can't wait to read the next book in the series to find out what happens next. I give the book 5 stars.

Sophie is capable of doing something I am not good at. She gives good advice and she tries to save everyone. She also has had a few people in her life that no matter what she did she couldn't save them and it haunts her. Marek and Sophie meet in a museum in the Egyptian exhibit. At first she is attracted to his looks but she also feels she needs to save him from the darkness she senses inside him. The characters were wonderfully written and interesting to follow. Towards the end of the story I was also emotionally involved in the story as well.

The storyline was very interesting giving yet another twist on vampires and their origins. It had good pacing and could not be considered just another vampire book. I liked the little mentions and connections with the Egyptian gods and goddesses. There were several unexpected turns in the story that kept me on my toes. I ended up reading this whole story in one day because I couldn't put it down and wanted to see what happened in the end. I did not realize it was the first book in a series when I started reading but I am glad the story will continue. I just can't wait for the next one. I really would like to know more about what happened to Marek at the end and what they are going to do about it.

I recommend this for anyone who loves vampires or just likes paranormal romances. This book wasn't as steamy as most Paranormal romances but you don't miss it with this story as it makes up for it in every other way. Thanks Ash for the great read!

Alessandra says

WoW-just wow-

first and foremost this vampire book this something special, none of the likes of which that has ever been done before. Everyone who reads books knows that ever since *Twilight* came out there was a big explosion of vampire books. Eventually, my friends and I became sick of them. *Bleeding Hearts* was, literally, a splash of cold water in the face. It was refreshing. This is why I read books, to enjoy and cherish them as long as I can remember them.

When I signed up for the giveaway for this book, I thought that I would at the least like it. But that didn't even come close to what I felt by the end of the book. I absolutely love it. It was well written, the characters were interesting and very well developed. Oh, and the storyline was amazing. I also liked how that there wasn't just vampires in general. The demivampires are something unique.that they are vampire, but they live. They have that fire within them that the evolved demivampires do not.

I have received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads

Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

Ash Krafton starts this story off with the classic boy meets girl plot line. Then, as usual, the vampires show up and the shit hits the proverbial fan. And then finally, throw in a few unique vamp variations and *Bleeding Hearts* morphs into a riveting read. I particularly enjoyed the links to Egyptian mythology and the way that Sophie's hidden purpose is gradually unveiled. Unfortunately, Krafton also worked in one of my biggest fiction pet peeves: insta-love. It wasn't overpowering nor did it steal the show but that still doesn't detract from the fact it was there and as a result, mild annoyance ensued on my part.

The opening chapters of this book really drew me in. I enjoyed the way that Ash introduces the reader to her main character, Sophie. We get to tag along with miss Galen through her daily activities which gives us a real sense of her personality. Way more effective than a boring information dump in my opinion! I also liked Sophie and Marek's first meeting. It came off as so innocent and first-date-like that it was cute. However, things are obviously not how they seem and the new love struck feeling is fleeting at best. Once the supernatural curtain is lifted from Galen's eyes, life takes on a whole new meaning.

At first, I enjoyed the chemistry between Marek and Sophie. They go on a couple of dates and life is grand. That is until Galen learns the "hard way" about the existence of vampires. At first, she's obviously shocked and a little horrified but she comes to grips with the news surprisingly quickly. Not only that, but the fact that she's dating a vampire doesn't seem to even phase her. What's even odder is how this news seems to jump start the beginnings of that pesky insta-love phenomena that I dislike so much. Granted, there's a lot going on in Sophie's life after the big reveal and she's dealing with a hidden purpose to boot but the whole thing was just too much, too soon, too fast for my liking. I'm assuming that Krafton simply wanted to get the relationship details out of the way quickly so that she could focus on the meat of the story. Not a bad idea but it could have been handled better in my opinion.

I liked the Demivampire concept and the idea that there are different phases to vampirism, each with their own pros and cons. The Egyptian mythology elements also added an extra level of depth to Ash's undead that made for an interesting tale. The story is packed with fantastic dark and light imagery that really plays up the ancient war of good vs evil. A priest is even tossed into the mix! I can't help but admire Krafton's courage on that one. Jared is actually a very lovable character and I was saddened by his cruel fate. Who would have thought!? Sophie's hidden purpose also came as a welcome surprise. It was a neat way of forming a permanent link between her and the paranormal world. Whether Marek is in the picture or not, she's stuck in this world for the long haul due to her heritage. Poor girl!

A dark urban fantasy story with witty dialogues and compelling mythology, *Bleeding Hearts* is an satisfying read that's easy to like. Plenty of loose ends are left dangling which makes the sequel sound all the more promising!

Michael says

This is a confusing book to review. The best way I know how to say it, is that it had a lot of 4 star moments, but it had a lot more 2 star moments.

The biggest problem with the book in my opinion was the pacing. We start with a premonition in the opening chapter, and we don't get any more information for almost a fourth of the book. Then we get a sudden reveal, and back to nothing happening for another fourth of the book. What in the world is supposed to make me get through this suspense? The only reason I kept reading was because I got the book as a review copy and felt obligated to finish.

In retrospect, I imagine it was supposed to be the love story that kept me distracted. Perhaps if that had been done well, then I would have joined Sophie in following its unexpected development and then it would have added even more to the plot later on. Instead, I found the relationship very forced and unnatural, and couldn't figure out why we were spending any time at all with it. They supposedly enjoyed talking for hours, but the only examples we have of that are research related or depressing, and the attraction was only described as how hunky he was or something. I just wanted to get on with the story.

I will take my own advice and briefly highlight my remaining thoughts on this book:

- the emotional descriptions in the book were all technically proficient, but lacking a core spark or authenticity to make it real to me
- the author knows how to write poetically, and I would occasionally admire a flowery phrase, but more often I found the embellishments distracting and hard to read past
- the storyline and contexts were very disjointed. I often got confused jumping from scene to scene, and back again, and motivations and descriptions would change, sometimes in the same scene, that left me wondering what was really happening
- the lack of information on the paranormal universe was very frustrating, and our naivety was used against us in contrived plot twists that could have been avoided with a few simple questions
- the word "evolution" was used to describe a process that was not evolution, which I found annoying
- The main character was presented as an intelligent, cautious person, and yet she made at least two incredibly foolish decisions that seemed out of place and ruined the character for me

All that said, by the time I got to the end of the book, I actually did care about the characters. The critical scenes at the end of the book actually were hair-raising and I flipped from page to page. And during a few moments I actually thought I might shed a tear or two. But these moments were unexpected because I was so numb at the point to what was going on. I remember thinking at the halfway point, wow, this book could have been so much better if they had just deleted the first 20 chapters. It was like that. The book definitely had potential, the author obviously is gifted, but too many things kept getting in the way to make it anything but an average book, hence 3 stars.

For those interested in more details that I seem to have regurgitated in a fit of passion, you can unhide this review spoiler section, which does contain at least one spoiler. (view spoiler)

★Moonrise Books says

When Sophie Galen meets Merek Thurzo at the museum she is immediately drawn to this handsome man with eyes like gemstones and long, dark hair, carrying a notepad and a fountain pen. Sophie is curious about Merek, pondering what he is researching, and wondering what he does for a living. But she doesn't ask a lot of questions, sensing Merek's apprehension. But their chemistry is evident. And soon, this chance meeting with a man who shares her love of ancient cultures and antiquities will evolve into a dating relationship. But what Sophie discovers about Merek, and herself, will change both of their lives forever.

Welcome to a world of vampires and werewolves, who live amongst the human populations, and whose ancient origins are both interconnected and contemptuous. I had a tough time with Sophie early on, as she seemed to trust Merek too easily, despite the red flags. But soon I realized this was part of Sophie's character, and her story, and something she recognized and acknowledged in herself. Sophie's been on her own for a long time. She knows Merek could be dangerous, but she doesn't believe harm will come to her. And the chemistry between them is undeniable. And so, she is swept off her feet and into a world of vampires, demo-vampires, werewolves, and more.

There is a war brewing, and the demi-vampires are looking for the one soul who can save them from eternal damnation--the last one was killed during the Salem Witch Trials. But is this world too much for Sophie? She has been lost for so long, and with Merek she finally feels a sense of belonging. But what are his true intentions? She is about to find out.

This was a great story with awesome characters! I really loved Merek--loyal, fearsome, and powerful in his world. As for Sophie, she grew on me as the story unfolded, and by the end I was totally rooting for her! I could feel the chemistry between them, which is why I was disappointed with the behind-closed-doors love scenes. Sharing all aspects of their relationship would have added to the story, and without it I definitely felt like something was missing. But I enjoyed this fascinating story, and look forward to seeing what happens in the next book!

Laurie: Almost Faemous says

I received a copy of Bleeding Hearts from the Read to Review on Goodreads so thanks to the authors and mods for making this possible.

Ok so this was a first for me, this book was a DNF. I tried I really really did but it took me a week to get half way through and I still could not get into the story. The main character Sophie is an advice columnist for a magazine when on a personal trip to a museum she meets Marek and discovers the world of vampires and demivamps and what her place in it is supposed to be. A romance develops between her and Marek and one day she is needed to save his soul and stop him from becoming a soulless vampire...that was as far as I got.

I absolutely loathed the character Sophie, she was uptight, annoying and if this were a real person I wouldn't be able to spend five minutes alone in a room with her without either slapping her or wanting to get her laid, so she'd stop being so holier than thou. Marek was pretty much every vampire you've ever read about tall, hot, rich and metaphysically uber powerful and of course broody. An all grown up Edward Cullen without

the sparkles. The supporting characters were just as uninteresting and all they seemed to do was tell Sophie how wonderful she was and how their lives would be a disaster without her to steer them in the right direction...that got old quickly.

There was supposed to be a romance between Sophie and Marek but honestly I didn't find much in the way of chemistry between them, mostly dialogue of Sophie trying to find out what his issues were so she "could help cuz that's what she does". There was no physical relationship between them described at all and before you jump all over me thinking I am looking for porn that's not the case. A romance of any kind, paranormal or not is selling you a fantasy of an idealized relationship between two people and that includes the physical. The part where Sophie feels there connection is so much more than physical just made me roll my eyes.

The vamps in this book are pretty much like everyday citizens, they have children run businesses until they lose their souls and become bloodthirsty killers. After losing their soul there is no going back from that they are damned after that. That tied into the whole religious theme I found throughout the first part of the book. Sophie's first love and current best friend is a Catholic priest and there was quite a bit about her faith and I was reading it wondering is this a Christian Romance with vampires. Which is fine, but I am probably not the best audience .

While reading Bleeding Hearts I looked over some of the reviews and the book seems well received so I truly do wish the author every success with it. I appreciate how much works goes into penning a novel but this definitely was not for me.

Jennifer Treviño says

A mesmerizing world that swiftly compels the senses, April 4, 2017

Being my first introduction to Ash Krafton's work I am pleased to add this author to my ever growing favorites list! What started out a bit slow quickly changed course as the plot thickened & characters developed. Before I knew it I couldn't put it down as many of my favorite things continuously popped up along the way.

Bleeding Hearts has a vast array of paranormals that beckoned me in. Not too far in I was already questioning reality & rational thoughts all together as the unseen things of their world rushed through full force before crashing down causing a tidal wave of emotions. I was not quite prepared for the twists brought about as tears, anger, & so much more sprang forth. Regardless, I would do it all again. Seriously an awesome journey that never lacked action or feeling while leaving much to contemplate including a few judgement calls that left me begging for more!

I will be on the lookout for more of the Demimonde series!

<http://jenisbookshelf.blogspot.com/20...>

Sophia says

Audio Edition Review

For me this was a revisit to a book that captivated me and emotionally drained me as it gently made its way

to a stunning climax and ending. The story was a reunion of sorts since I have missed the series after the concluding book. I wondered if my impressions would change since it wasn't new and fresh for me. Well, they did and they didn't. Of course, knowing the end from the beginning does affect how this re-read affected me and yet, I also found it easy to slip into the here and now so I could enjoy this story once again almost like the first time.

Bubbly advice-columnist Sophie and her handsome, brooding Marick meet and start to see each other. Sophie astutely realizes that there is a lot more to Marick than he lets on and he hints that there is more to her which she dismisses. Sophie slowly learns of the Demimonde world and it is a dark and dangerous one full of all the monsters that go bump in the night for the oblivious humans. And now those beings know of Sophie's existence and her gift that can be the salvation of so many of the Demimonde. For all that is new, disconcerting, and scary for Sophie, she is happy in love, but it is only a matter of time before a dark twisted enemy shatters all that and then things are left heartwrenchingly desperate.

This is the first in a trilogy of an ill fated love affair between a gifted human woman and a vampire who struggles with the darkness inside him. The author created a fascinating Demimonde (Half-vampires, Vampires and Werewolves) world that includes a blend of Egyptian Mythology and paranormal. The book takes its time setting up, creating a mood, introducing the characters, and building the tension and plot. There is passion in the romance, but it stays more on the feelings side than the physical. I didn't mind though I confess that I had a bit of a crush (okay full on swoon) for Marek. The world is dark and gritty and the supernatural beings are dangerous and can become evil monsters. There is big set up with some shocking twists nearer the end.

As to the audio, let's just say, I was only planning to turn it on for a little while and taking my time as I went about doing other things and that didn't happen. I finished this story in record time. The narrator, Kelly Pruner, was a first for me. I liked her storytelling, inflection, and pace. I did have one niggle. I'm not sure if it is because I read this already so I had strong notions about the voices of the characters, but Marik's voice was distracting for me when she did his accent. Sophie's was great.

All in all, I found that this story stood up well to a re-read and I am just as in love with the world, the characters, and the romance. I recommend this refreshing Urban Fantasy book/trilogy to those who like their vampires on the gritty dangerous side and don't mind a slow burn romance that has some dark days ahead.

My thanks to the author for the opportunity to listen to the book in exchange for an honest review.

Laura *Little Read Riding Hood* says

This book is broken up into 3 sections, so I think talking about each section on its own makes the most sense for me. I really liked the first part. It takes you through the life of Sophie Galen, and really helps you get to know her. Krafton does a great job making her relate-able. The way that Sophie meets Marek is adorable as well. In a museum? I love it. There is definitely instant attraction.

I wish there was more to the week Marek kept coming to Sophie's apartment every night. There was much that was implied as far as what was told about the history of Vamps and Demi Vamps, but we don't get to be privy to those conversations. I felt like I was missing out some.

And then of course there is her best friend, the Priest ex-boyfriend Jared. I love him. He kind of drops out of the second part of the book and makes a grand re-appearance in the third part, but I am getting ahead of myself. I don't know about you, but I would love a friend like him. Someone who knows me that well, but there is no pressure for *anything* to happen, and who won't judge anything I do or say. That would be lovely.

So, section one gets a solid 4 stars from me.

Section two, on the other hand, opens up just a week or two later, but Sophie is already a part of the DV's lives. Lounging in the office, joking with Marek's brother like they have known each other for years ... it all seemed rushed. Maybe if more time had passed it would have grated on my nerves less. It just was too fast. It was too close to "insta-love" for comfort.

This is also when you get a better idea of vamp politics and who runs what. As well as find out more about the Sophia. I thought that was a good try to put a new spin on the vampire mythology, but it just didn't work for me. I don't want to ruin the story for you, just suffice it to say it made them all seem a bit too whiny.

Section two winds down with some bad stuff, a nice evening, and then Sophie doing the dumb heroine thing and not listening to what Marek tells her to do. Section two drops the story to 3 stars.

Section three ... well there isn't a whole lot I can say without spoiling the book. I found parts to be very predictable, not that that is a bad thing. I was just reading along and thought to myself, "I bet _____ happens" and I was right. There were some things I didn't understand, such as someone being excluded from the group. There were definitely some loose ends that I am hoping will be tied up in a second installment. Section three gets 3 1/2 stars.

Overall, I give this 3 1/2 stars. It was a good read and there were parts where I had a hard time putting it down, but I thought some parts of the story were a bit weak, and could have possibly been helped by further explanation. I still recommend you read this if you want a new spin on vampires, and I will be looking forward to a book 2.

Samantha (Book Lover's Cozy Cafe) says

this book was A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!!!!!!

The moment I picked up this book and read a few pages I was hooked, I had stayed up all night reading this and had spent a part of today finishing it up. It was totally a boy meets girl, boy falls for girl, girl falls for boy, girl finds power, boy goes fights enemy, and girl loses boy story. Marek, was interested in Sophie the moment he met her, Sophie became interested in the first moment she had thought she met him. They dated for a bit, then one night they witnessed someone being attacked and kill, the killer being a vampire. Marek was a demivampire not fully a vampire. Vampire's in this story are created in a different way than I have ever read. They have to lose their soul to become a vampire, until then they are only demivampire. I loved the use of Egyptian history in this. And the details of the scenery and the character detail was awesome, I felt I was right there watching everything play out in front of me. I also love the uniqueness is some of the names. Basically the only other thing I can say about this book though is, When is the next one Coming out.

P.S. I loved this book soooooo much it has been placed on my favorites list and I will recommend this book

to everyone I know. :)

A definite must read.

Thank you Ash Krafton for this wonderful new series. YAY EXCITED FOR BLOOD RUSH & WOLF'S BANE:D

Sarah says

Sophie is an advice columnist for a city paper, and she lives a life behind the scenes, both figuratively and literally, existing in a habitual haze of solitude, visiting museums and spending her evenings in her apartment with her cat. A former nurse, she has switched careers after her nursing job became focused on profit rather than care. She is also extremely intuitive, and this has aided her in making her life choices and enabled her to avoid almost all emotional risks.

One of the things I loved about this book was how the beginning unfolded (much like the movie The Wizard of Oz), switching from black-and-white to sudden color to symbolize the heroine's drab, dull existence changing to an exciting, vibrant life. Although the first 50 pages or so were intriguing enough to keep me reading, the slow pace had me worried. This black and white beginning of the book felt slightly vague - I didn't have a sense of Sophie's appearance, or her history, or her life in general. It felt like a thinly sketched "aimless woman living a lonely life in a big city who lives with a cat" scenario. And she is an orphan and her best friend is a priest - talk about isolated! But things begin to change when two colorful things happen to her - a person who wrote to her kills himself (but is still sending her letters), and she meets Marek, a mysterious and handsome man who brings vibrancy, passion and excitement into her life. Pretty soon, on one very memorable date, she learns what some of Marek's secrets are, and from here on out Sophie is awake, alive and living an unexpected life.

Krafton has created her own vampire lore, with another species called the DemiVampire (DV) who are in constant battles (political and otherwise) with the full vampires, who are evolved DV (and "evolved" means killing humans while sucking them dry and absorbing their life essence). The DV are living among us, oozing power through their emotions, and Sophie is sensitive and receptive to this power.

Sophie is not clairvoyant, but is an empath, sensing the emotional energy of the DV in particular, and sending healing energy out to those in need. As such she is revered as a kind of soothing Oracle of wisdom, but also as a human pet, because she is still manipulated by the DV using their power of compulsion. They profess to need her and respect her, yet they treat her in a patronizing manner. I guess if we want to look for deeper meaning it's an indication of their parasitic nature - they feed off blood and they feed off energy, too. Sophie is just a food source with two flavors instead of one.

Much of the story is dependent on Sophie's ability to use her compassion to bring peace to others, including the DV (demi-vampires). First she reaches out to Marek, then his brother Rodrian, and there's lots of descriptions of the vamp's power surging with their emotions, and Sophie feeling that power, filtering their emotions and sending it back to them. While I really liked the concept of energy vampirism, and Sophie's role as a modern descendant of Isis, it is a tough thing to bring to the written page. Consequently, much of what Sophie says sounds trite, and I kept thinking as I was reading that if she is teaching beings who are hundreds of years old how to handle grief and loss, then those beings are not very bright.

For those readers who love paranormal romance but don't enjoy graphic sex scenes, this is the book for you. The few references to physical romance are very chaste with absolutely no descriptive action whatsoever. While the romance of Sophie and Marek is the focus of this story, it is set against a backdrop of a political web of power-mongering between DV and vampires fighting for territory and manipulating humans.

The really exciting action comes towards the end, when Sophie is kidnapped and Marek is taken.

I really enjoyed the fast pace, the truly scary Master Vampire character, and the steadily increasing tension of Marek being forcibly evolved. I could not stop reading! I feel like Sophie really redeemed herself in this part of the book, and I ended up caring about her, enough so that I am really looking forward to BLOOD RUSH (Demimonde #2).

Tricia Schneider says

I've been looking forward to reading this story since I first heard about it. The waiting was well worth it! BLEEDING HEARTS hooked me from the very first page. I loved Sophie's wit, sarcasm and bravery. She handled things a bit better than I would have in the same situation! Marek's overwhelming darkness drew me to him. He was sexy, dark and oh, so dangerous! The mythology behind the vampires in this urban fantasy was something I haven't read before and I loved the Egyptian angle. Sophie pulled me into her world and I was reluctant to part with it in the end (luckily there is a sequel!). The anguish these characters go through really pulled at my heart, making this a very emotional story, not only for Sophie and Marek but also the other characters I fell in love with, like Jared and Rodrian. This novel is filled with light and dark, good and evil, and a love that is tested beyond all limits. Ash Krafton's writing is amazing and I simply cannot wait to read the next book in this series.

Alice Taylor says

Bleeding Hearts is the first book in the Demimonde series of books. It is about Sophie, who is a former nurse turned advice columnists. She is very troubled. There was a man writing who was depressed and she was unable to help him. She knew this when she saw his obituary in the newspaper, but the problem is that he wrote her another letter just last week. Now how can someone come back from the dead to write her, and how did he know her home address instead of sending it to the magazine where she works? When talking to her editor Barbara about it, Barbara suggested maybe it had been written before his death, but the post mark on the letter is after. And it is his handwriting and signature, Sophie is sure about it. The whole thing has left her feeling very uneasy. When Sophie is heading to the bus stop a homeless man approaches her for a quarter, and instead she gives him a bus token and tells him where there is a very good shelter. After the man moves off another man gives Sophie a hard time about being too naïve and told her she was wasting her time trying to help. This makes all the weird feelings even worse. What is going on? This is the very beginning of the book and it just pulls the reader in right away. I will not spoil anything so you must get it to read for yourself.

This book is awesome. The character development is excellent and the story flows along at a nice pace. If you like stories about paranormal, vampire like subspecies and thrilling action. I can't wait to get the next book in the series. This is a great book for anyone who likes paranormal fantasy novels.

I'm giving this book 5 hearts

Reviewer for Romance Authors That Rock

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Book exchanged for a review~Per Goodreads rules~

Sophie Galen is an advice columnist for The Mag. She personally believes that there is good in everyone and tries to help her fellow man whenever she can. She cares for everyone she meets except for Donna The Stapler Nazi. Sophie's editor Barbara knows that she can count on Sophie to go the extra mile when it comes to work. Sophie is best friends with a priest named Jared who shares a past history with her. She loves to browse around the local museum especially the Egyptian Section. Sophie meets Marek, a handsome stranger, that also shares his likeness for Egyptian Culture especially about Isis. Marek is intrigued by Sophie and yet finds himself wanting to protect her at all costs whether Sophie knows it or not. When Marek tells Sophie that he's a demivampire or DV Sophie isn't freaked out by this information which surprises Marek. Marek introduces Sophie to his world and family. Rodrian is Marek's brother and business partner. He's also father to Shiloh whom he adores greatly. Marek's business and political contacts are worried about a new tax bill that could damage the DV and humans alike if it's passed. The Mag is working on an article that will show the pros and cons of tax bill. Marek is worried that the Master will strike out against the whole population. Marek has been working on personal research about The Sophia Oracle and believes that Sophie is the one. How does Jared help Sophie? Is Marek keeping secrets? Is Sophie really the Oracle? Will the tax bill be passed? What are the Master's plans? Will Sophie accept Marek's world? Your answers await you in Bleeding Hearts.

I love the unique twist about vampires and other paranormal creatures. I found that I loved a lot of Sophie's characteristic. She is so giving and full of compassion that you want to be just like. The world needs more Sophie's in it. Marek isn't your typical bad boy persona yet he has all the qualities of an Alpha male. I would be interested in seeing this story continue into another book. I thought the author did an excellent job with the creation of this story. I look forward to reading more of their works.

Melinda says

Most paranormal romances are hot and steamy as well as X-rated. In my opinion there's absolutely everything right with that. If you want to try something different from walking on the wild side, why not try something sensual and alluring where your mind happily fills in the details that are on the page in the other type of books. While this is quite a change, it allows more emphasis on feelings plus the paranormal. This really gives you a different type of read. Not so much panting and sweating and more love and vampires. It is definitely a trade-off but in this it pays off in spades.

Ash Krafton must be a wizard because after eight million books being published about vampires, she's come up with something so original, so creative, so unique that I was actually stunned by it. Those who would read this purely as a vampire book, you will not only be pleased, you'll be thrilled, unless you like your vampires traditional. In that case, go buy Dracula by Bram Stoker. The original is always best. Being a wizard Ms. Krafton does a magnificent job combining love and romance with her new conception of

vampires which makes this one helluva book on many levels. Way to go Ash!

THE PLOT: Sophie, our protagonist, is an advice columnist for The MAG in the city. On her day off, she meets a man - he is handsome, expensively dressed, with shining green eyes and an encyclopedic knowledge of history. They spend the whole afternoon at the museum until evening, when they part reluctantly. She thinks as she is driving home - he is the perfect man for me: attentive, courteous, intelligent, solicitous, loves history, is handsome and those green eyes just glow. There is only one problem, she can feel a dark side to her knight in shining armour. He gives off an aura of great power, but that's not what she's feeling. It's something else entirely. What could it be? You're thinking vampire but you'd be wrong, or werewolf either. Their relationship grows and grows. Many things HAPPEN: confessions in church, confessions to Sofie, a murdered Senator, living with non-humans, Sofie to Sofia, out to my shack, kidnapped, Donna gets her due - eaten, priest broken, prophetess bitten, healing, vampire challenge, good bye. There is so much more that happens then this, you'll find out when you read the book.

THE PACING: The pacing of the book is intense. It starts out romantic and alluring like a bubble bath for two in the dark with candles burning. Then the paranormal kicks in to gear - now we're at full speed flying Mach II. We won't slow down again - ever. The next thing you know, after your complete and total immersion into Ash Krafton's world, is that the book is over. You put the Kindle down and sigh. Hmm! What will I read now that could match that? When nothing comes to mind after looking through your Kindle for about 15 minutes, you put it down and go do something else, disappointed that the next book is not out.

THE UPSHOT: All you ladies who love the typical paranormal romance need to read this one. The romance is sooo sensual and so good, the vampires so imaginative and creative that it may be the best book you'll read all year. Hey you guys out there! I'm talking to you! You don't need a How-to book to understand women, you need this book. Go ahead! Be a man! Buy the book! You'll learn more from this book about how to treat a woman and what she wants. More then you would in a million seminars on the same topic. It's cheaper, faster and better. Trust. me I'm a woman.
