



# Crave

*Laura J. Burns , Melinda Metz*

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Shay could never do the things her friends could--never try out for sports, never go to parties, never fall in love. Because of the mysterious and incurable blood disorder she was born with, she can barely make it through three days of school a week.

But now, her doctor-turned-stepfather has a brand-new treatment that he thinks will change everything. And it does. As soon as the new blood starts pumping into Shay's veins, she has visions of a different life...Gabriel's life. She sees an orphanage, loss, fangs, blood, and lust that she can't explain.

Is Gabriel real? And if he is, could he really be what she thinks he is?

## Crave Details

Date : Published September 21st 2010 by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (first published March 1st 2003)

ISBN : 9781442408166

Author : Laura J. Burns , Melinda Metz

Format : Paperback 278 pages

Genre : Paranormal, Vampires, Young Adult, Fantasy, Romance



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## From Reader Review Crave for online ebook

~Tina~ says

I really wanted to love this book. I mean, just look at that gorgeous cover!?!? But sadly, I didn't like our main protag Shay. She's just such a negative and bitter person all around. When she was sick she thinks everyone is just nice to her cause of her illness and when she's well she almost uses it as an excuse to be a bitch. Not to mention I couldn't believe what she did to her friend. I know I know I'm suppose to sympathize with the fact that she's been held down her entire life cause her illness, blah blah blah, but she's not a very likable character, in fact, there isn't one thing positive I can say about her.

The concept was pretty cool though. It's a different take on a vamp story, I'll say that much, but other then that, I just didn't find this as entertaining as I'd hoped it would be.

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Ashley S. says

Before we begin, I must say that this book made me deeply dislike cliff-hangers. For starters, I read this while the sequel was in manuscript format and wouldn't be released until the following year. Secondly, I never thought that I would be as engaged as this book got me. At best, I thought it would be light and quick. To some degree I was surprised that it wasn't and not in a pleasant way either.

Knowing that Melinda Metz co-authored this, I'm a little disappointed that the female lead was difficult to like and relate to.

Let's Begin:

Shay-- whiny, immature, fragile (even though she thinks she's anything but), strong-willed, bratty, mild tempered, somewhat important.

As I write this, I'm forced to conjure a mental image of Shay and come to the conclusion that there is no lasting or pleasant one. Try as the authors might, one can't help but like Shay for only her illness. Does that make sense? I (opinion not fact) felt that it was the only likable factor to our heroine and try as they might, Shay faded in comparison to our hero which is never okay in my eyes or anyone else's for that matter (I hope)! To give her credit (if there is any for that matter) Shay is a young woman who never wanted to let her illness define her and who takes pleasure in the simple things in life, like running...I felt sorry for her at first but then I kept wondering why was she pitying herself....after all she kept wanting everyone to treat her like a normal person. There in lies the beginning of all the problems I had with this heroine. Although that is a brilliant story line for a heroine that would later take on a more riveting focal point (the sequel) than what was initially perceived; what made it fall through the cracks however was perhaps the lackluster and cliched approach that the duo authors took when they created this "young-adult" heroine whose personality was (to be kind) at a microscopic level until the entry of the hero. Which leads me to....

--Gabriel: easy on the eyes, tortured soul, human feed bag, victim to blood transfusions, heart of gold, family man, means well, funny, sentimental, good guy...

Gabriel is perhaps the only redeeming prospect to this book and I thought that he was perhaps the only reason why I made it through. What I loved about the plot was the fact that the tables were turned and the vampire was now the feeding bag. Call me cynical but I found the whole prospect to be amusing and later I

was compelled to feel sorry for him as he never had the intention of turning. It was an interesting read and I wanted badly for the book to be written from his "humble" perspective. Insightful and sensitive, Gabriel's goodbye to the world as he knew it was enough to bring tears to my eyes in an otherwise really dreadful vampire romance that I would say skip!

He was the one that enabled me to read the entire novel in one sitting and I must say if you could endure Twilight then perhaps for the hero, you should give this a go! It's frustrating to write this because although I am an avid reader, I am also a writer and it upsets me immensely when there are no stronger and more relatable heroines. Especially since I read this when I myself was considered a "young-adult." What consistently continues to bother me is the fact that heroines in "young-adult" novels aren't being offered up in vast and complex varieties which places young, influential women at a loss.

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### **Rachel (The Rest Is Still Unwritten) says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I picked it up, planning to read a few chapters and before I knew it, it'd devoured the entire thing. I finished it in less than one day. I thought the storyline was fun and interesting. Some parts were slow, but the others, the fast paced exciting moments kept me well entertained and interested. I liked the idea that Gabriel took her hostage after she rescued him, and yet he treated her well, and then fell for her over that timeframe--maybe I'm a strange one, but there's something so romantic about that to me.

I really liked Shay. I thought she was sweet and brave and I loved the inner strength she held. Considering everything she'd been through in her life and all the sickness she'd faced, it's a miracle that all that hasn't destroyed her. I can understand why she acted out like she did after getting the transfusions—I can't possibly understand what it would be like to be constantly sick like that and never treated normal; never living a normal life. Still, I liked the person she was and I thought it was nice of her to stick around and help Gabriel when he wasn't able to take care of himself.

Hmmm, what can I say about Gabriel? Well, he was sexy and awesome and kind and fierce and well, a very true vampire. I admit that I couldn't help but see similarities between the vampires in this book and with the ones in Twilight. I really hate to compare books, but they were similar there was no denying that, and yet I still liked Gabriel...no....I loved Gabriel. He is the type of male character I enjoy and I thought the way he reacted to being held prisoner was realistic and normal. Really, who wouldn't want revenge? I thought it was very sweet that he ended up falling for Shay and that she meant more to him than his revenge against Martin.

I actually liked the end of this book. It was a great little twist to have Shay end up being Sam's daughter and I do wonder what this means for her now. Will she have to continue feeding off Gabriel's blood forever, or will she become a vampire herself? It would certainly be a solution to her sickness.

The fact that Gabriel's family reacted the way they did to her was horrible, although not all too surprising considering how they feel about humans. The very ending left me hungry for more. What a way to end it--lord, I hate cliff-hangers sometimes and I can't wait for the next book.

Bring it on!

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### **Stories & Sweeties {Becky} says**

This was a fresh and very original spin on the YA vampire genre that has saturated the market. It was very fast-paced, and in the beginning had a touch of that "what it means to be alive" storyline to it that I tend to enjoy in any book.

Seventeen-year-old Shay has pretty much accepted that fact that her life is near an end. Having lived her whole life with a rare, seemingly untreatable blood disorder, she has given in to being "the Sick Girl". She is used to being treated like fragile glass by her friends and teachers and extremely protected by her mother. Then her stepfather/doctor starts giving her a new treatment that not only gives her more energy and strength than she has ever had, but also gives her strange visions during the transfusions where she seems to be experiencing the life of vampire. She chalks the visions up to a side-effect, but begins to crave the transfusions more and more often, as the strength each one gives her is short-lived. While she has the strength, though, she finally get to live like a normal teenager, and it's quite interesting to see the things she chooses to do with that opportunity. Though some of the decisions are bad, the choices she makes give her character flaws and realism.

The real action of the book begins when she finds out exactly where this mysteriously addictive blood is coming from! She finds the vampire, Gabriel, that she has been envisioning during her transfusions chained up in her stepfather's office! She helps him escape and the adventure begins and doesn't stop until the end of the book.

I loved how the vampires were given very human traits, they were almost imagined as regular humans with different eating habits. They are scientist, and consider their group to be family. They are shown to have some compassion, never actually killing the humans they feed off of, and only take very young orphans who will remember no other life to raise into "the family" and even then they to choose whether to become vampires or not when they are old enough. They made them out to be very human and not monsters, which worked perfectly for the plotline, or else why would you care that one of them were chained up and being forced to give his blood?

The plot twists and turns throughout and the romance is heart-pounding!

The ending is the only negative I saw in this book. Although I know this story has more to come and would not have a resolution in this book, the ending was still a very abrupt and somewhat painful cliffhanger. I quite literally thought I might have been missing a few pages, I was so sure that it couldn't have ended so mid-action. But regardless, it will be a long wait for the next installment, and I will definitely be excited to read it!

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### **Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says**

Oh this book is AMAZING!! I don't know where to start! Yes book is about vampire but this story is special is different! I cried so many times and i stay up till now to read it! Now i'm speechless, and i want second book NOW!!! Can't wait till September!!!! :)  
And Glass thank you so much!! :) I owe you for this! :)

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### **Bonnie says**

FYI, there are spoilers in this review. Wait, scratch that. There are spoilers in this rant. I don't think this even

constitutes as a review.

Holy crap! Where do I even begin? This book was the biggest load of crap I've read in a good long time and I don't feel I'm being overly critical. I've read my fair share of YA; I went through a phase where that is all I read. But what shocks me the most about this one was the outrageously positive reviews it got.

Crave is about Shay, a 17 year old (she's 17 right? Shit. I don't even remember.) Anyways, she has a blood disorder that of course no doctor can figure out. Shay's step-father, Martin, gives her blood transfusions at home and at this point they are the only thing that is keeping her alive, but they only succeed in making her feel 'fine'. That is until the day Martin gives her a transfusion and it makes her feel better than she has ever in her life. So she decides to live.

*"If you get there, you'll be famous," Lai-wan said reverently. "Everyone will know."*  
*"That's worth it," Shay said. Worth any danger. Worth drowning. Worth trying.*

And that pretty much sums up the stupidity of Shay. Once she begins to feel better, stronger, after being sick for so long she decides to "live" as she likes to call it; otherwise known as being a complete and total idiot.

She decides to take up running when she's never run in her life. She decides to make her first kiss be with her best friend's boyfriend. She decides that it'd be an awesome idea to swim out to the middle of a river to go carve her name on a big rock. In other words, she takes her good health for granted and acts like a total brat to anyone and everyone and ended up causing me to pretty much hate everything about her. Oh but it gets better! There's the instalove.

There was of course nothing funny about this instalove, but I felt I deserved some comic relief.

So Shay finds out that the blood that she was receiving was coming from the vampire that was being held hostage in her step-father's doctor's office! So what does she do? Well she busts him out of course and runs away into the night with him. So they spend about two days together where she spends approximately half that time as his hostage... she slowly begins falling in love with him. Mm-hmm. Slowly. Over the course of two days.

This book was so ridiculous. It was predictable, it was total cliché with the instalove, the characters were IDIOTS and I hated every single one of them (which is rare...usually you find SOMEONE to like, even a little), and then there was the dramatic cliffhanger that at first made me think that I must not have the entire book because the authors couldn't possibly have ended the book at that point. That wasn't an ending. That was an end to a chapter, maybe even the end to a sub-section of a chapter. Stupid.

I have the 2nd book ready for me to start reading. But you know what? I'm not going to do it. I won't do that to myself. Book number one caused enough pain I don't expect miracles from book number two. Shay was one of the most imperfect, ridiculous, unlikable, and ludicrous book characters ever. I won't be reading any book that she is in in the future.

Interested in more of my reviews? Visit my blog!

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## Scarlet says

Wow! This book was just amazing!  
It has one of the vilest cliffhangers ever!  
And Gabriel? Mmmmm-mmmm-mmmm... I want more of him!  
Can't wait for Sacrifice!

Thank you @Glass very very much!

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## Crystal says

I really don't even know where to begin with this review. I don't feel connected to the characters at all. Shay the main heroine in the beginning was your typical "sick" teenager trying to rebel against her sick body and her overprotective parents. While I could sympathize with her at first I felt myself getting more and more annoyed with her actions and words as the story progressed. She was rude and mean to the people who loved her the most, plus that whole kissing her bf boyfriend was just cr@p in my book. I thought okay maybe there will be a triangle here with Kaz (the bf's boyfriend) and Gabriel (the vamp), but no she just kissed him to see what it would feel like. Gabriel, the designated vamp, wasn't much better. I didn't feel compassion for him at all. Olivia was the only character who I actually liked. I am not sure why but she was fun to read about even though she was a very minor character. The characters weren't the only problem I had with this book. The plot itself never pulled me in and I honestly didn't buy any of it. The big reveal in the end wasn't that much of a shocker either. I didn't know that this was a series, so if you are planning on reading this just be warned that this one does end in a cliff hanger with a lot left unexplained.

I am going to leave it at that and leave a big thank you to my favorite reading budding for lending this to me  
=)

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## Missie says

<http://www.theunreadreader.com/2010/0...>

Vilest cliffhanger ever!

I'm so disappointed! If I had known this book would end in such an unfinished way I would have definitely held off on reading it. Nothing blows more than a book that can not stand on its own, even if the book is part of a series, and this book is a perfect example.

Yes, I did enjoy the story. In fact, it really intrigued me. Shay, the Sick Girl, struggles through her journey to evaluate what she thinks is important and what she wants to get out of life since her time is limited. Her rare blood disorder prevents her from living life to the fullest. What others normally take for granted, like running and swimming, Shay longs to do, but her body is too weak, and she must refrain from over extending herself.

In order to stay alive, Shay's body requires blood transfusions, and her step-father, Martin, is the doctor that monitors her health. Under Martin's careful supervision, Shay begins to receive a new type of blood, which makes her feel stronger and better than she has ever felt before. Suddenly, she is able to run and swim and

hang out with her friends, just like any normal teen would.

But the new blood also bring about visions of a past life; a life that Shay knows is not hers, a life that is full of thrills and mystery and love, and soon Shay finds herself craving more blood transfusions so she can retreat into this past life and experience it through her visions. Because in her visions she becomes Gabriel, a beautiful vampire that has captivated all her senses.

Soon, Shay discovers that Gabriel is real. After she helps him escape, she resolves to watch over him while he recovers from his weakened condition. It is then that Shay learns the truth about her own past and about who her father really was, leading her to also find out what she really is.

Although it was intended, some parts of the story were very choppy, especially when Shay had her visions in which she was Gabriel. I really liked getting snippets of Gabriel's earlier life, but the telling of his past never quite transitioned well. Every time Shay had some of Gabriel's blood, she had a vision, and while describing what she was experiencing she would go back and forth too much with the whole 'she/he' thing. It was a bit confusing and deviated from the story.

I really liked the brand of vampire created for this story. From Gabriel's perspective, it seemed like they were more traditional than other vampires I've been reading about recently. Valuable and cautious of humans, yet very caring within their own family unit. And while I think Shay might have suffered a bit from Stockholm Syndrome, it was sweet to see Shay and Gabriel finally give in to their feelings for one another.

I just couldn't believe the ending! So much was left unanswered and the story finished so abruptly. I checked out the authors' website in hopes of finding out more about the Crave series and when the next book is expected to be released, but I wasn't able to find out anything. Now I'm a very sad panda. :(

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## **Michelle. D. says**

OMG! I am so high on this book! Like seriously! It was so amazing! Probably because the whole theme of it was like, so this generation. And the cover is soooooo awesome(not only because the guy on it reminds me of Jesse McCartney)! It's all blackblackblack and then RED! And the guy is kinda hot but the face hair is kinda a turn-off. And the tattoo makes him hot again! And the fact that he is on the cover of a book is awesome! And I am making no sense, which proves how high and stupid I am right now. The book was so descriptive and nice and beautiful and m-a-g-i-c-a-l... And usually I get kinda annoyed by books that are written by two people for some reason but this book was soo AMAZING! And I beg on my knees to the people who wrote this to continue and make it into a series since the ending was such a cliff-hanger! It was such a cliff-hanger in which it pissed me off but then I was like. sigh... I hope these people make another book that follows up because if they don't, I will smack them silly. OK... Moving on to the actually book! Woosh.....

So here's the story: A girl named Shay is really ill of some unknown disease and she is pretty much dieing and her mother and step-father(who is her doctor) are doing whatever they can to make her better. Her best friend is Olivia but Shay thinks that Olivia is just friends with her just because she is sick. One day, her step-father comes up with a new treatment that can make her better. And it does, but only for a while and then she is back to normal. The treatment is having someone elses blood put inside of her veins. One of the side effects is that she has visions about a guy named Gabriel(this only happens when the blood is getting put inside, and only then). So yeah. The blurb really got me curious so I read it and I was so happy with the

results since it was so amazing!!!! Most of the books I choose to read are amazing...Anyways...The plot was so good and shocking! I had no idea where the story was headed and was sitting on the edge of my seat while I was reading it! Literally! Moving on! Woosh.....

Shay. I felt bad for her in the beginning being "The Sick Girl" and all. How everyone treats her like she is the weirdest/specialist/precious thing in the whole entire world. Her character develops throughout the book in a way that you think wouldn't really happen in real life (even though the book is fiction). But people, I'm jealous of her since she has...(If you wanna know why, read the book)! She is such a well thought out character and her reactions to her visions are really priceless. Her involvement in the book was really, how do I say it, weird in a good way. Her character changes, personality wise and mentally wise. Did that last bit even make sense? I can't really imagine anyone else playing her in the book. Except maybe me of course because, ya know, what she has that I want...Moving on! Woosh.....

Gabriel. Mmm-mmm-mmm. **I want me a slice of that.** And the fact that I am in the early teens and he is in late-teens is kinda wrong on so many levels; but if you're a girl, and you read this book, it's hard not to like Gabriel. He is such a deep character that was "raised" which such different opinions from other people (if that made sense)... I'm not saying that he had such a nice life though... I'm not really gonna say anything about his involvement in this book because, it might ruin the book for a couple of people out there so. Gabriel is funny, understanding, has a little of an anger problem and doesn't easily trust people. But, he is just so, what's the word? Scrumdiddlyfulicious. Hottastic. Outofthisworldawesome! Mmmm, he is so tasty... I can see him now. Moving on! Woosh...

As for Shay's step-dad. Martin. Let me tell you all about him. He got married to Shay's mom a while back. He is a famous doctor that has been on Oprah and is very successful. He is Shay's doctor and he is trying to find the cure for her illness everyday, of every minute, of every waking second. Instead of being a big-shot doctor like he was before, he is helping Shay, but when he finds the cure, he plans to become a big-shot doctor again. He is serious most of the time but loves to tell puns that no one but himself laughs at. He loves Shay and her family very much. Doesn't he seem like such a nice guy? Well, hahah, the funny thing is, right when he was introduced in the book, I HATED HIS GUTS!!!!!!!!!! I still do, and always will. :D Moving on! Woosh...

This part will be for all the things that happened that I want to talk about but don't want to tell anybody about because it might ruin the book for them. Remember in the beginning, and the look on her face! And then we she saw him, and she was like huh and it was like duhduhduh dahn, duhduhduh dahnhhh. And then all the blah blah and then the faewwwband then they were off. And then in that room, and it was like awww/omg/dammit/yay/shoot/hmh/grumblegrumble. But then SURPRISE! And then "lets ditch" and all that. And then when it was like sparks and then a disappointment... and then saddd.... and then woah, slow down there. and then all gasp, gaSP, GASP! and then oh, yeah. And then you felt kinda uncomfortable but it was so nice. You are all happy and merry and happy and all that. And then you were all like, OH SHIT! Oh my effing god! And then you were like NOOOOO! And you feel like falling to the ground and crying your guts out! And then you just sigh and breathe and then smile yet frown and you wonder about things and then you do whatever you need to do after. Moving on! Woosh.....

So that's my weird yet [awesome?] review on the book Crave. And I know the ratings for this book aren't all that great, I LOVED it. So for all you people who didn't like it, guess what? I LOVED IT, so nah nah nahboboo! ♥ Maybe people didn't like it because there are better books out there, or they didn't like the theme of it, or other reasons, all that matters is what you think. And I think I is in love. With cheese. Anyways, this book was awesome! And I recommend it to everyone! Including your mom. My mom. Everyone's mom! But if they can't read English, I am sorry that they have to miss out on the

awesomfantabulousness of this so called book, Crave. Woosh. :(  
I still think they should read it though. :DDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDD  
WOOOOOOOSH HHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

P.S. For all you people out there who read Crave but didn't like Gabriel, SHAME ON YOU! But, if your a guy, I understand if you may be jealous of his smexiness... But if you are a guy who is into guys, and you don't like him, now, I have nothing to say to you...

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## **Heather says**

More like 4.5 stars. I was going to round up and give it five stars, but I have to admit that in the beginning of this book, I was only mildly attracted to the story and Shay as a lead character. Actually, she annoyed me quite a bit at first.

There were a few snippets in part one that peeked my interest, enough for me to keep reading. I'm really glad I did stick with this book. By the second half, I fell in love with Shay and Gabriel (okay, I admit I loved Gabriel from the start. He's of course the typical fictional boy character I'm always falling all over myself for... :P

Anyway, part two was a fast pace pager turner. I found myself flying through each word, but now I wish I hadn't. It ended with a cliffhanger, and if Laure J. Burns continues on the path she started, after I was ensnared, then I can see this being a favorite series of mine. All the the key elements for me are there...

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## **Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says**

### **1.5 stars!**

This is another fine example of why you should never judge a book by its covers. The cover is beautiful and that's what got me into trouble... again!

Of all the terrible and frustrating characters on this planet, Shay McGuire is by far the worst. Sick Girl, as she likes to call herself, is incredibly selfish, self-centered, out of control and plain stupid. I'm not sure if the authors intended for her to be that way, but somehow I doubt it.

Ok, here's the story: Shay was born with a rare, or rather unique blood disorder. Her stepfather, Martin, is an expert in leukemia who abandoned his work so he could focus all his attention on finding the cure for Shay (or so he says). One day, Martin gave Shay a transfusion that actually made her feel better. After a lifetime of feeling weak and exhausted, Shay suddenly had the strength to do whatever she wanted. So what did she choose? Drinking, acting out and risking her life every chance she gets.

Just so we're clear here: was I supposed to sympathize with the girl who used her illness to behave like a complete brat? Was I supposed to feel sorry for this girl who kissed her best friend's boyfriend the first chance she got, a girl who takes everyone for granted and treats people who care about her like trash? Because if I was, it SO did not work out that way. I'm one of those people who can't like a book unless they can connect to the main character and that didn't happen here.

And Gabriel is just so old! I'd never before been bothered by the age difference in paranormal YA, maybe because they all at least tried to behave like teenagers and it wasn't so obvious. But Gabriel keeps pointing out that he's more than 400 years old and he even acts like it. I kept thinking: b-b-but she is 16 and immature!!! What can you possibly see in her?!

Unfortunately, I have no choice but to read the sequel so you can expect another one of these ~~rants~~ reviews in the near future.

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### **Amy says**

I enjoyed reading this, but I felt like it took forever to get to the main point. It seemed like the major conflict didn't come in as soon as it could have and pull the readers in. I was bored throughout the first part of the book and simply reading because I felt the book had the potential to be great, although it started slowly. I plan on reading the second book in hopes it isn't as slow and gets to the point a bit quicker than this book.

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### **Arlene says**

I always find it difficult to give a less than favorable rating when I've received a book as a give-away, arc tour, or gift; and, I put a lot of thought into what I have to say about it before I post it for viewing because first and foremost I don't want to sound ungrateful and secondly, I can only imagine how much work and heart authors put into their writing. So that being said, I'd like to first thank the author for taking the time to send me this book.

Now on to my review about **Crave**. I'm chalking up my feelings towards this books down to timing. I think it just wasn't the right time for me to come across this story and enjoy it for what it was worth. I had a hard time connecting or feeling compassion for the main character Shay and I don't know if she was intentionally written that way, but I'm leaning towards no. There were transitions between her transfusions and dreams that were much too abrupt and I'd find myself going back a few paragraphs to try and find what I might have missed in the flow of events.

It was tough to read about this "sick girl" and all of her ailments but I found it even harder to witness how she seemed to take her family and friends for granted with careless thoughts, actions and words. It's purely my interpretations, but that's how I felt. I struggled to understand her reasoning behind some of her decisions and I'd find myself just shaking my head in frustration towards her attitude and actions.

Lastly, there seemed to be some plot holes in the story and I'll leave it to the fact that I don't have a medical degree, but I still seem to find it odd that someone that suffers from a "mysterious blood disorder" could be subjected to multiple transfusions in a week without really knowing what was wrong with her. There was more, but that's it for now.

So, at the end of the day, I couldn't finish this story and I decided to save it for a later time when my sensitivity detectors are a little less heightened and raw. This is probably one of my least meaningful reviews toward a book I've encountered because I truly feel that my attitude toward the book is purely bad timing on

my part. I will be sending this to one of my VBF's to hopefully enjoy it more than I did because I don't want this book to go to waste and I'll try and make it a point of revisiting it at a later date.

Thank you to Goodreads and more importantly Laura Burns for sending me this book. I truly appreciated your thoughtfulness in taking the time to share your story and I'm sorry it didn't work for me at this time.

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### **Glass says**

I will not write anything about this book but this - I couldn't find decent vampire book for a while, but *Crave* is definitely one of the books in my "amazing" category. And ending... I'll go crazy till september and sequel!

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