



Bloodlines

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After three hundred years of unlife, vampire Zara Lain has seemingly done it all, and she's now making a living as a successful thief-turned-assassin. Her newest assignment seems simple enough--kill the aging leader of the O'Connor Coven and his only heir, and she'll have another ten million in the bank. But in the dangerous world of the supernatural, few things are ever "simple." When a massive assault decimates the continent's population of powerful witches and warlocks, and its orchestrator has vampires being hunted down and captured, Zara realizes the tables have turned and now she'll be playing the hero. Forced to join with a smart-mouthed fellow vampire, a demonologist who's also a fan of hers, a recently widowed--and frequently brooding--warlock, and her best friend's mom, Zara's grudgingly willing to do what she can to save the day. If only people would stop ruining all her outfits...

Bloodlines Details

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Author : Skyla Dawn Cameron

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From Reader Review Bloodlines for online ebook

Mara says

<3

I must be a little burned out on UF, because a book has to be really good to hook me nowadays.

Bloodlines had a very annoying heroine and a few flaws in characterization and world-building. Both these last two didn't impress me much. I can't really say I found characters deep and well-formed. They seemed more of a sketch. You never really get an idea of them as a full formed people.

Zara was a 15 yo in the body of a 300 yo vampire. I didn't get the vibe "evil", I didn't get the vibe "amoral", I just got the idea she's a stupid teen. Annoying, shallow and not very bright. Not even her tragic past made her something different.

You have at least three bad guys, but none of them is beyond flat. Two are Giudas, one is looking for Armageddon. You want to either sense Evil or a grey character that makes you doubt your perception. I'm not even sure why two of them are still working together at the end. (view spoiler)

I'm not sure I get the plot fully either. (view spoiler)

Overall this wasn't a great read for me, more like a meh.

Dren says

REVIEW ORIGINALLY POSTED ON DREN'S B-SPOT

I'll admit, when I first started reading Bloodlines by Skyla Dawn Cameron I hated Zara. Like SERIOUSLY hated her. I'd never really met a main character that irked me. Enter Zara Lain, a 300-year old vamp. So self-centered, so self-focused. Just pure ewww! *insert hysterical giggle here* WOW - for me that's super-great-fantabulous writing! For someone to evoke that emotion from me is HUGE!

Cameron certainly takes readers on a roller coaster of emotions in Bloodlines. Because after reaching the midpoint of the book - I loved Zara. I loved her snark. Her self-centeredness. Her weaknesses. Yes she has them! But Cameron takes Zara and the reader on a path of discovery without losing the core elements that make Zara Zara.

But I would be remiss if I didn't mention reluctant Warlock, Nate O'Conner. For those who've read Bloodlines and love Nate -- can I get a WOOT-WOOT!? Again, Cameron creates a character that is the pure antithesis of Zara and the sparks FLY!

So for a recap - I hated Zara! I loved Zara! I loved Nate and Zara and I can't frickin' wait for Book 2 - Hunter. It has a release date of August 30th!

Kathy (Kindle-aholic) says

I should have listened to Melissa (from My World...in words & pages) and gotten into this series earlier. She said I would like it and she was right. Snarky, kickass heroine, loads of action, some romance, and a very interesting world, I got sucked in and enjoyed the whole ride.

The blurb for the series:

"A diverse cast of characters come together in classic urban fantasy about monsters, the people who hunt them, and the occasional apocalypse. Snarky humor, magic with bite, nonstop action, a dose of romance, and at its core: broken people finding family in one another.

Also, there's a saber-tooth cat named Sir Rodney Ballsgalore. Because reasons."

Yes, Cameron is very good at the snarky asides.

First off, the action junkie is appeased. Loads of action, explosions, fights, quick pace. Oh yeah.

I liked the world building. It is a huge world and there is lots that can be done with it. There is a huge shakeup that happens very close to the start. This will have lots of consequences down the line. I also liked the mythology.

Zara's vampire is a hunter and is fairly pragmatic about what that entails. I felt Cameron balanced Zara's snark and selfishness with the realities of an immortal "un"life as well as the events from her past to make her a well-rounded character you can sympathize with (but never pity) and root for til the end. I liked the other characters as well, but this is Zara's show all the way.

Lots of betrayals, Zara learns more about her world, and there is some steam too, but it fit with the character and the story. This tale is definitely not done and I want to know what happens next. It is a UF series with different protags (although Zara gets her turn in the spotlight again), so that is a little different. I'm looking forward to the next one.

[received review copy]

Krista D. says

BLOODLINES is a snarky and bloody trip into the life of Zara the crazy, emotionally damaged, and way too snarky for her own good (my name for her). God, I loved her. Think Buffy as a vampire. Have teeth, will kick ass.

If blood, swearing, and snark offends you, pass on this book. There's plenty of all three. Yet, I never felt that any was out of place. It was always honest. And perhaps that's what set this book apart from most urban fantasies featuring a female main character: it was honest to a fault. There was no going easy on the readers; everything was to character for Zara. Everything. It's rare for a book to be that honest.

It's so honest that I finished the book at 1am and swore curses of eternal rashes on the author. Rare does a

book bring out such a reaction in me.

Read it and rediscover both vampires and urban fantasy.

Kate Danley says

Witty, fun, and just an all around great ride. I was a little concerned from the cover this might devolve into romance land, but nope. Just a kickhiney urban fantasy (with some kissing). Complex characters and an original story. I haven't been this excited about a new UF series in awhile.

?♥❀LovLivLife Reviews❀♥? (Chasity) says

Zara Lain will entertain you as quickly as she will kill you. In Zara's recent line of work you probably don't want to meet her but if you do at least you'll get a good laugh.

"I don't think we've been introduced," I said. "My name's Zara. I'm strong, I'm fast, and I totally kick ass. It's great to be me...but that means right now it sucks to be you."

Zara is a vampire who has lived a long time and her newest thing is assassination. Looks and killer fast reflexes make Zara a force to reckon with. Zara's latest assignment holds a six figure pay out but when the case takes unexpected turn after unexpected turn she is about to enter a whole new ball park. Cushy and sweet life sitting pretty on ten mil? Sure if life were that easy.

Less than humble beginning of vampiric life, Zara has been burned in the pass and even now. It's something she and her intended target Warlock Nate O'Conner have in common. As events unveil the two become an unlikely team fighting forward. What's discovered along the way makes for an entertaining read and one I thoroughly enjoyed.

The highlight of Bloodlines is the writing and more so the writing of Zara's character. Humor at the most inappropriate time is funny as heck. Here's another teaser:

"I prefer 'Mortality Challenged' if you don't mind,"

Skyla Dawn Cameron doesn't shy away from the gory scenes. She writes it like it is. All in all, I would certainly recommend this title to all pnr and uf fans!

Kara-karina says

What a riot this book was! I felt like rediscovering what the genre of urban fantasy is about all over again. Loved it!

Zara Lane was a snarkalicious, wonderful, cheeky and at the same time ruthless heroine. She is an assassin

for hire with only a few friends, so when an order taken from one of them sends her into a trap and all hell breaks loose, Zara is seriously pissed off.

Enter a gorgeous, rogue warlock, his friend Peter, - a bookish demonologist, and a fellow vamp with no morals. Add an inter dimensional, inter species conspiracy intent on ruling the world of supernatural, a whole lot of shooting and fighting, some sexy times and a great love story, and I was bloody hooked.

A winsome heroine, non-stop action, and a heart-breaking ending with constant stream of snark equals to a great read in my book. Very much recommended!

Roxanne says

Wow...this book was SO much better than what I was expecting.

Zara is not your usual heroine who likes to save people and do good deeds. Oh no...if she doesn't get something out of it, mainly large amounts of cash then it's a no deal. She's selfish, self absorbed and bitchy. When I started this book the first chapter had me thinking eh...not really sure this is the book for me. But I stuck with it and read on and soon found out that Zara uses her snarky attitude to cover a past of pain and betrayal, she never lets anyone get to close.

In this book Zara is hired to kill two warlocks, a father who is the head of a certain coven and his only remaining son and sole heir. But when she sees the son Nate O'Connor things are not what they seem. They cause an uneasy alliance to track down the people that are killing coven members everywhere and kidnapping vampires.

Nate has also just lost his wife and is in grieving and Zara tries her hardest to get into his pants whenever she can. Which made for some hilarious moments. The ending was really not what I expected, it was extremely shocking at one point and thought...ohno the author has ruined the book, but all is well in the end! In the authors notes she states that there are two books in between with other narrators and the fourth will go back to Zara, really excited and can't wait.

chucklethescot says

Zara is a kickass vampire who is making a living as a thief and assassin. Her best friend hires her to kill a warlock and his son during a party at their house but when it goes pear shaped, Zara realises she is in the middle of something bigger where magical people are being killed and vampires kidnapped.

I really enjoyed this book. Zara is arrogant, vain, kickass, snarky, witty and you can't help loving her attitude. She expects men to lust after her and it is a big shock when one in particular doesn't. To Zara, humans are a lesser life form and she has a lot of funny thoughts about them. From the moment she has to deal with the would be rapist in the first chapter, I loved Zara. She is never without a snarky comment or amusing observation. I also liked the way the author had her as a vampire who is not invincible. Zara makes mistakes, she gets hurt, she makes bad decisions sometimes, which makes the character more real. The side characters were interesting too. Peter the geeky Zara fan was sweet, Jamie was a slimy arrogant git(a bit like Ian from the Jeaniene Frost Night Huntress series)and Nate who struggles to deal with Zara's attentions and his own

magic was the brooding one.

The book is a great mixture of humour, action and emotions which I thought the author got just right. The story flows along at a nice pace without a ton of world building and info dumps. This story is about the characters and they are nicely developed through their interactions with each other and the situations they find themselves in. The action scenes are exciting, well written and easy to follow and there are plenty of them to enjoy. We have fights with demons and vampires and warlocks to enjoy. I also liked that Zara's back story was gradually introduced in snippets as we progressed through the story instead of just one big info dump. Each revelation about her helped you to understand why she is like this and like her more.

Zara develops a lot as a character, becoming more human as she hangs out with them to solve the case. I like the fact that she starts as a bitch and then develops human emotions as the story unfolds. There is a romance in the book but it is slow building, enjoyable and does not slow the story down. I'm not a huge fan of romance in my urban fantasy but I did enjoy this one because it's not that damn instalove crap. The story was put together in a way that keeps you guessing what is going to happen next and I have to admit that I didn't see the twist coming in the attack on the witch house. That took me by surprise and I was kicking myself for not seeing it coming! And the ending was a shocker as well! I do like to be surprised by a book!

My only disappointment was to find that Zara doesn't narrate the next two books in the series which is a bummer! I imagine I will read them anyway as she does feature in them-if I can find paperback versions of the books which appears to be pretty difficult. If you like tough female characters and enjoy urban fantasy, give this book a try.

Melliane says

Mon avis en français

My English review

I was very curious to get into this new series after reading so many great reviews on the Melissa's blog. I was therefore happy to try this first novel to have my own opinion.

Zara is a quite atypical vampire who became a very successful professional killer. It was a real pleasure to learn to know her. She is a complex person and it was therefore difficult to understand her at first. She seems narcissistic, careless and selfish, but it's finally far from what she really is. Indeed, our heroine is more than that and her story is so interesting. But we have to wait for a moment before knowing everything about her.

Our dear Zara will have to accomplish a new mission that may be more complicated than we would have thought at first. We will also meet two mysterious characters, Jamie and Nate. Each has his own nature and they are very different the one for the other. But what a pleasure to assist to their arguments! I have to say they made me smile more than once. Mainly with the scenes between a charming Jamie, a sulky Nate and a playful Zara. We have an explosive trio that keeps us in suspense throughout the book. I have to say I was very surprised by the evolution of the protagonists, and I didn't expect that at all. We always learn a lot of new elements we didn't doubt about at the beginning.

The story is really interesting and we assist to some big turnarounds. I really enjoyed this first volume that presents us a world mixing magic, vampires and demons. What more can we ask for? It's a perfect set we

can discover.

It was quite complicated to understand what was going on in the story. Everything happens fast and Zara asks herself a lot of questions, but we only get our answers little by little. We didn't understand at first what the Zara's friend wanted by killing her husband while having kept the secret of this relationship.

I think that the only questions we have at the end of the book are about the demons and I confess I'm now very intrigued to know what will happen now. However I think it will be difficult to change the main character in the second novels. Indeed, I really enjoyed reading the book with the point of view of our heroine. But I'm very curious to see how it will be now.

Melissa Hayden says

Zara, a high class thief turned hit woman, goes to visit her friend and rogue witch Mishka for her next contract, or assignment. The warlock leader of a rivaling coven to Mishka's parents' coven. Even though the pay is less, a lot less, than she wants she is talked into the job for the spoils Sean O'Connor has in his home AND for the bounty on his son as well. In the process of the job Zara learns some interesting information and goes back to Mishka for answers. Only to find there is more trouble lurking in the shadows, and there are those after the powerful witch covens and vampires too. Death and 'napping is at an all high for both groups. Zara gets pulled into the mix while protecting herself, then to protect others as well.

I really enjoyed the writing style here in this book. The way the picture is drawn with the character and the surroundings used with each other to see. The comparisons used and metaphors to help get the feel across to us. The story kept moving forward, even when I thought the worst has happened the world opens up to a new level of bad for the characters. Always moving forward with the action and happenings, to then bring you to the end that works out... for almost everyone.

Quickly in the first chapter I got pulled into the world and meet Zara, which had me liking her off the bat. The way the story is worded has me on Zara's side with her vamping ways, and agreeing with her on her pick in victims. Zara has a snarky humor and loves her clothes. What girl doesn't, right? But, as Zara can at times come across self-centered, I still got the feel there was more to her as to why she acted this way. And boy did I learn more about her. Even in the end Zara had me worried and scared. But I enjoyed where Skyla took the story.

Zara felt as she really grew for me as I got to know her better through the book. The author, Skyla, is not afraid to pull the punches on her characters, and by doing so has created a fast paced action read with a touch of fun snark that you wont want to stop turning the pages of, just to see what trouble Zara will fall into next.

Then there are the secondary characters, which I really enjoyed. They blended well with Zara, even when they clashed in personality. There was one character I loved who ended up being not so nice, but I still enjoyed his character! Another character ~ Nathan ~ brought more out of Zara and connected with her nicely, even though they are two different people. Mm, mm, mm. Nate! He is the next hottie Warlock around. He is more than what meets the eyes, so keep an eye on him. ;)

I liked the take on Vampirism in this book. It is more a demon parasite and has a system about it. Very nice take on it! For I could follow and believe the vampire development in this world.

At the end of the book there's a short story, Thrall. Which is from Nathan's point of view while Zara and he are... separated... (once you read the book you will understand.) This is a wonderful addition to the story! It gives you a little more insight to the world of magic and vampires as the story is told from Nate's eyes and feelings. And once the story is all done and you read this one, you start to think on what might happen in the future...

I will definitely be looking for more of this series and world. The next two books will have an appearance by Zara but will be from a different characters view on their stories. But don't fret as Zara will be back in book 4 and I'm waiting for her, and her friend... I can't wait for these characters again and to see what they have in store for us.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

A LASR 'BEST BOOK'!

Originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

Zara Lain is one vampire that kicks butt and takes names. With a snarky sense of humor, a love of clothes and boys, she doesn't let anything get her down and she doesn't take anything too seriously. Until someone decides to start killing witches and taking vampires alive for who knows what reason. Suddenly, she finds, that things aren't as they seem and that people have layers. And, if she lets someone past her own layers she might just find something worth keeping.

Contracted as an assassin to kill two people and as she succeeds with one she comes into contact with another, only to make a startling discovery. Zara ends up teaming up with a hot warlock, Nate, to solve the mystery of what's going on with all the covens and disappearing vampires. From there, all hell breaks loose and the book cartwheels from there until the end urging you to keep up.

Initially, Zara's apparent disregard for human life and lack of feeling about...well, anything really, is somewhat alarming. As we get to know Zara, though, we realize that this is just one of her many layers that she uses to keep anyone from getting too close.

Zara's humor and attitude throughout the entire book is hilarious and this character just jumps right off the page. Her thoughts and speech patterns are so real that she seems like a friend talking to you. Nate is hot and sexy, in a silent, broody kind of way with more of his character being revealed gradually. The ending of this book was left wide open for a sequel and you will, without a doubt, look forward to seeing these characters in future books.

The history and origin that the author gives the vampires is completely unique to this story and very interesting. It'll be interesting to see if it's developed or revealed any further in upcoming books.

If you like paranormal romances, and especially if you enjoy larger than life heroines, you need to check out this book. With demons, witches, warlocks, vampires (the only missing is a shifter!) and lots of laugh out loud moments this is a very fun read.

And, even better, there is also an added bonus at the end if you purchase directly from the publisher – a short story, that ties in with the book, from Nate's perspective.

Jenny says

Actual Rating: 3.5/5

MY THOUGHTS

Bloodlines starts off with a sprint and never loses its momentum, introducing us to characters and setting up events quickly so we have little choice once we read the opening pages but to see it through to the end to satisfy our need for answers. Though the conflict begins instantaneously, the story doesn't feel hurried or rushed, instead the problems Zara and company face grow in complexity as they reveal layers of supernatural action and romantic drama that ensure Ms. Cameron's world remains unpredictable and highly engaging.

Protagonist Zara has a rather impressively high opinion of herself, singing her own praises with regard to her beauty and skill as a vampire to any willing or unwilling audience— a habit that makes her a bit difficult to connect to initially. She tends to overutilize sarcasm to the extent that almost no genuine words or thoughts leave her mouth for majority of the book, causing us to want to shake her in the hopes such an action will jar loose some of her armor plating to allow the woman behind the attitude to show through. Eventually we learn why she wields her snark like a finely honed blade, constantly on the offensive because her defensive shields aren't nearly as strong as they first appear. With the slow reveal of some vulnerability, she becomes a character of substance rather than false bravado, and our emotional attachment to her grows exponentially.

Overall, Bloodlines is a quick, action-intensive read that puts Ms. Cameron on my list of authors to watch.

Wendy Darling says

Holy shit, that was awesome. Must read more Zara Lain asap!

Natasha says

A dark and gorgeous heroine that will have you enthralled in minutes.

When I received this novel, the first thing I thought was that this would be a quick, light read for before bed. What I didn't expect was that this would be so engrossing, that I'd wish for a few hundred more pages.

Zara Lain is a tough, blood thirsty, vampire assassin, who will forever be trapped in a seventeen year old body, no matter how old she truly is. But, don't let looks fool you. She a deadly, killing machine and won't hesitate to take out those who get in her way.

Yes, she can be a arrogant and self centered, but we get to see deeper into her past throughout the novel and I can tell you, when you get to know her better, it makes a difference.

The secondary characters are excellent. No matter if they had good intentions or not, each were very well written. Nathan is one that's hard to forget though, huh? The "recently widowed-and frequently brooding-warlock" was a great addition to the story. The chemistry between Zara and Nathan is engrossing. I loved it.

When you read this novel you'll think the same thing as I did, which was, "*What next?*"

The banter and wit in this story really made it enjoyable and added just the right amount of lightness to this dark read. I recommend that you check out this novel, asap.
