



Silver in the Blood

Jessica Day George

Download now

Read Online ➔

Silver in the Blood

Jessica Day George

Silver in the Blood Jessica Day George

Society girls from New York City circa 1890, Dacia and Lou never desired to know more about their lineage, instead preferring to gossip about the mysterious Romanian family that they barely knew. But upon turning seventeen, the girls must return to their homeland to meet their relatives, find proper husbands, and—most terrifyingly—learn the deep family secrets of The Claw, The Wing, and The Smoke. The Florescu, after all, are shape-shifters, and it is time for Dacia and Lou to fulfill the prophecy that demands their acceptance of this fate... or fight against this cruel inheritance with all their might.

Silver in the Blood Details

Date : Published July 7th 2015 by Bloomsbury USA Childrens

ISBN : 9781619634312

Author : Jessica Day George

Format : Hardcover 358 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction, Paranormal, Romance, Shapeshifters, Werewolves



[Download Silver in the Blood ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Silver in the Blood ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Silver in the Blood Jessica Day George

From Reader Review Silver in the Blood for online ebook

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Final review, first posted on www.FantasyLiterature.com:

In 1897, seventeen year old, Louisa (Lou) and Dacia, cousins, close friends, and high society debutantes, are excitedly traveling from New York City to Bucharest, Romania for an extended stay with their Florescu family relatives, on their mothers' sides. Dacia is traveling with her mother's sister, Aunt Kate, while Lou is traveling along a separate route to Romania with both of her parents.

Bucharest about 1900.

But their eagerly anticipated trip starts to go wrong. Dacia made the mistake of flirting too much with a young man in London, and now Aunt Kate is restricting her every move. Wolves haunt their train ride to Bucharest and block it temporarily by leaving something unmentionable on the track; a man whom Dacia has never before seen appears and kisses Aunt Kate in a "scandalous" manner. A stranger accosts Lou on the boat to France and accuses her of being "the Wing." And once they reach Bucharest, things aren't any better: the girls' freedom is still limited, family secrets ominously swirl about them, and the girls' Romanian grandmother turns out to be cold and cruel, ruling the Florescu family with an iron fist.

So maybe it isn't entirely good news when Dacia meets the attentive, incredibly handsome Prince Mihai, who turns out to be a descendant of Vlad the Impaler, the original Dracula. Or, perhaps, when the entire extended Florescu family leaves Bucharest to take the girls to Bran, Romania ? where Dracula's historic castle is located.

Castle Bran, Romania (Dracula's Castle)

As the girls' heritage turns out to be tied to mysterious powers that run in the Florescu family, as well as the hereditary links between their family and the Dracula clan, these two proper young ladies realize that there's more to life than dresses and idle socializing. They'll need to dig deep within themselves for the courage to cope with the shocks and challenges that will face them.

Each chapter of Jessica Day George's *Silver in the Blood* begins with a letter or diary entry by Lou or Dacia (or, later, by a couple of other characters), and the chapters alternate between the two girls' viewpoints. It's interesting to see how their concerns shift over time, from fashion and flirting with eligible young men and society visits, to life and death concerns and fighting for what they believe in. Some readers may get impatient with the girls' (particularly Dacia's) initial superficiality, but I thought it was realistic and played out well.

A key point occurs midpoint in the story, where the big family secret is revealed to the stunned girls. Although I had been anticipating this development for some time and, in general, could guess what was going to occur, there was at least one unexpected surprise that was a very welcome addition to the plot. It has a surprising effect on the girls' personalities as well. In many ways, the girls trade the leadership role in their relationship at that point, as one finds the self-confidence she's always lacked and the other struggles with her new capabilities and the damage it does to her self-image. While her reaction seems a little overwrought,

it's worth remembering that these girls are from a much more sheltered time.

Silver in the Blood has its shortcomings. The plot drags at times, which is likely to be particularly noticeable to adult readers. The villains in particular are rather one-dimensional; some additional and more layered character development would have been welcome with all of the secondary characters. Additionally, the parents played unsatisfactory roles in the story, abandoning them or turning against them without adequate explanation, and essentially being sidelined for most of the action (although I'm a parent, so I probably felt that much more strongly than younger readers will). The girls' Aunt Kate, torn between her heritage and love for a man, on the one hand, and her love for Dacia and Lou and her sense of what is good and true, on the other, was a much more developed personality than any of their parents.

Jessica Day George deserves props for coming up with an unusual plot and setting, and for avoiding what must have been a temptation to make vampires part of this Transylvanian paranormal fantasy ? even with the Dracula clan as part of the plot!

Silver in the Blood is a light read, definitely in the YA category, although more sensitive readers may be disturbed by some death and violence, including the threat of rape. There is a romantic element to the story, but it is handled very lightly. This novel won't appeal to all readers, but it kept my attention and I finished it off in one sitting. I would recommend it without qualms to an older teenage girl who enjoys paranormal fantasy.

3.5 stars.

Lola says

Not even halfway through the year and I have already found **my most significant disappointment of 2015**. I may have felt great elation at beginning this read, but that feeling was short-lived, because *Silver in the Blood* snapped it right from the start.

I thought about it and, while I found this book dozens of flaws, one specific thought nestled inside my mind for the whole time I was making my way through the chapters: "You don't like this story." **I don't remember the last time I said that in a review.** In my negative reviews, I'm principally finding weaknesses to the characters, the writing, the atmosphere... or mentioning the lack of any element I would judge to be missing.

But, no, so much was there: a beautiful sister-like chemistry between the two main characters – Dacia and Lou, a tingle of romance, a lovely writing, an historical setting that is believable and cultural (Romania in the 19th century!), scheming, **princes** (how I love those) and villains.

However, it's really what the author did with those elements that did nothing to catch my attention. A Lady fighting to gain power and a prince trying to overthrow a king? Teenagers caught in the midst of it all and, wait for it, discovering that they hold great power necessary in the whole plotting? Most of the scenes, although graphic, were severely tedious. To the story, they perhaps, probably, surely, were pertinent but giving that I sought entertainment in this story, I was left displeased.

I found insignificant to the whole storyline the myriad of diary entries written and letters often sent by the

two heroines to each other, their parents or “allies”.

After further thought, I came to the conclusion that there is indeed something in the writing that bothered me truly: the repetition of names. It is as if the author feared that we would forget who the characters are speaking of or their names entirely. I found it annoying. Not something I dwelled upon, hence my remembering it only at this very moment, but it was there, still.

I am not going to lie, I would love for you to read this, if only because it is set in Romania and it would make me happy to see people reading a little about the country I lived in for eight years of my life. But let's be honest: you deserve amazing reads, and this one might just not be IT.

With a gorgeous Romanian setting, stunning Parisian gowns, and dark brooding young men, readers will be swept up by this epic adventure of two girls in a battle for their lives.

A book set in the country I was born in? And by the lovely Jessica Day George?

grabby hands* grabby hands* grabby hands* grabby hands* grabby hands

Rashika (is tired) says

****This review has also been posted on **The Social Potato***

Silver in the Blood was sadly not all I wanted it to be. It's not a bad book by any means, it's very creative and fun but it is also **a little slow and needed a little work in the character department.**

It takes almost a third of the book for us to finally see all the fun action and I don't think there was enough of all the good stuff happening to make up for the initial slowness. To be fair, I didn't mind the slow bits too much. I was never bored and I did like reading those details since they helped built up the suspense, but I feel like there was too much time spent building that suspense and not enough time spent actually making the wait worth it.

I would like to start off by saying that this book isn't as dark as it sounds. **It's actually quite light hearted** (and not in a bad way), it's cute and fun to read and I enjoyed reading from the POVs of both the main characters.

Dacia and Lou are spoilt young ladies traveling to Romania to meet their mothers' side of the family. When I say spoilt, I don't mean it in a bad way. They are from wealthy, influential families but they aren't horrible, mean girls. **I always found both characters to be likeable** (even when Dacia made some questionable decisions.)

Dacia is the more outspoken of the two and while she did make some questionable decisions she was also not a bad person. She wasn't stupid and really, what's wrong with someone who enjoys receiving attention (not in an obnoxious way.) She can stand up for herself and won't let people get away with shit.

Lou is in some ways the exact opposite of Dacia. **Where Dacia is outspoken and sometimes impulsive,**

Lou is shy and likes to think things through. In that way, Dacia and Lou complement each other. I definitely found Lou to be more likeable (since I could relate to her better) but what I also liked was that both the girls were likeable. You didn't have to hate one to like the other.

Both girls develop over the course of the book and I loved watching them both turn into the mature, confident women they were by the end of the novel.

One of the drawbacks of this book is the secondary characters. The love interests have no real depth to them (which was a pity.) Lou and Dacia's family were talked about in such vague terms that I never found myself feeling anything towards them. Their villainous grandmother was cartoonishly evil to the point where her motives made no sense. I also didn't like how we never saw enough of Lou's mother. She is made out to be a bad guy but we never really see her do anything bad (besides siding with the Grandma). I never understood the sudden change in Lou's mom. I felt the same way about Aunt Kate. Although in her case, I never saw her being good so when she is talked about in such nice terms, I was like huh? What do you mean? Isn't she a douche? There was also the question of Lou's father who I would have liked to see more of. Basically I felt like the adults and the love interests needed to be round instead of flat.

This book isn't very romance heavy but the problem is that **I never really saw the romantic relationships develop.** There is the tension, yes but I wanted to see that flourish instead of the automatic transition into 'we are in love.' How long have you known each other for again??? BUT ALSO I just wanted to see the couples, I wanted to see the banter, I wanted to see them work together as a team but none of that really happened on a large enough scale for me to enjoy the dynamic.

The world building in the novel was nice. I liked the Claw, Wing and Smoke aspects (although I might have enjoyed seeing some more of that.) I also liked the Romanian setting. It definitely added a certain darkness to the atmosphere (although keep in mind what I said earlier about this not being a dark novel.)

The first book in this series may not have won me over completely but I still enjoyed it and will definitely be watching out for the sequel. I'd recommend this to anyone looking for a fun fantasy novel to read.

Frannie Pan says

Settled in 1897, Silver in the blood tells the story of Dacia and Lou, two cousins that after a scandal in London are sent back to Romania to meet their extended family and find proper suitors. Their mothers moved to New York in their youth and they hadn't had any contacts with the rest of their peculiar lineage since then; but the time has come and Dacia and Lou have to fulfill a prophecy and enter a world of shape shifters, different rules and many mysteries.

Saying that I'm astonished doesn't give you the right picture of how I'm feeling right about now. I won't hide that I didn't have any expectations from this book, when I requested it I thought it was just going to be another fantasy novel to entertain myself with this summer. How mistaken I was..

Silver in the blood was incredible and out-standing.

First of all, the writing style. It was impeccable. It was elegant and old-fashioned, polished yet fluent and whimsical. It gave off a pleasant Pride and prejudice feel, with its good-mannered and witty but sarcastic

comments that aren't rude but are no less sharp and poignant. I was under the impression of reading a book that came straight from the 19th century, it being focused on balls and gown and etiquette.

The story was told from both Dacia and Lou's PoVs, alternated in a mixture of letters, pages of diaries and third-person narration. It was familiar yet original and unheard of and not confusing as one might think. Those cousins are close like sisters, however couldn't be any more different: Dacia was more frivolous, confident and had a sharp tongue while Lou was more delicate and timid, kind and gentle and less ill-tempered; and the cast of characters was in general various and brilliant. Prepare yourself for some eyelashes batting, lots of blushing (seriously, is it even humanely possible to blush that much?!) and long glances that will make you grinning like complete idiots!

Let's not forget about the setting. I can't speak from experience, for I have never set foot in Romania or any similar country, but I think nobody will be able to deny that you felt somewhere else while reading, somewhere exotic and eccentric and colorful, somewhere dark and gruesome, somewhere in Eastern Europe.

And last but not least, the paranormal aspect.

Dacia and Lou come from old and powerful Romanian families of... shapeshifters! The Claw, the Wing and the Smoke have always been incredibly influential and, now more than ever, they'll do whatever they can to fulfill the prophecy and conquer their long-lost glory.

If you like books set in past époques that have an old-fashioned but mysterious touch to them and a sprinkle of paranormality and creepiness and vain talks of high society customs, *Silver in the blood* will be the most suitable pick!

And obviously, I need the 2nd book asap. I have a feeling there's a lot in store for us!

thanks to NetGalley for approving me with an eARC copy of this book

Jenn says

Have you ever loved something so much that every time you tried to formulate an acceptable description of it, all that came out was incoherent babbling, punctuated by half-sobs and words like "amazing," "beautiful," "perfectly realized and imagined," "argle blargle blergh"? My love of supernatural stories and anything mentioning that infamous Romanian/Transylvanian figure of history and fiction blend perfectly with my love of the Georgette Heyer and Marion Chesney worlds of Regency romances, and the steampunk brilliance of Gail Carriger in this breathtakingly well-written and delightful story. I could not put it down and have struggled with putting my thoughts down once I finished. May I just say, "Murmle, blurmle, love, love, love, gah?" Read. This. Book. So. Much. Love!

Jessica says

This is the book that I went to Romania to research. I love this book. I'm so excited for this book to finally be out there, in the world. Also, I love the cover of this book. Isn't it gorgeous? Love this book! Just had to say that!

February 2015: Just finished reading the galleys. This book is awesome.

Gabs {My Full Bookshelf Reviews} says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

If I met Jessica Day George in person, there is a 99% chance that I would freak out; the odds are also high that I would start either crying or incoherently trying to talk about how much I love her books. Perhaps both. She's one of my favorite authors, so saying that I didn't like *Silver in the Blood* really pains me. I was so sure this was going to be my favorite book from her, because it sounds so BEAUTIFUL.

Let me make it clear why I didn't like this book. I have a chart. Because science.

Now, looking at this pie chart, we can see that the slices of pretty dresses and romance, are extremely disproportionate to the butt kicking slice.

This is a problem.

Yes, my problem was that Dacia and Lou are just terrible at being capable protagonists. Actually, Lou's okay at it, but Dacia downright sucks. And even though Lou is alright at it, this didn't completely make sense because she's supposed to be shy and reserved, so why is the Lou that we meet so powerful and in control and not afraid to put people in their place? I dunno, I dunno. Let's tackle these problems one at a time, shall we?

First; the dresses. There are so. Many. Dresses. The book takes its time talking about what Lou and Dacia are wearing and *I just don't care*. I don't care what color sash Dacia decided to wear with her gown. I'm all for adding a little detail now and then, but come on. This was not fun.

Second; the romance. Can it even be called that? Because I read the book and I still cannot figure out how Lou and Dacia fell in love with these guys. There was so little of it, but all the sudden in the end it mentions that they are apparently couples. It came out of nowhere; I saw hints, but nothing else, and it seems like any romance in this book was just added because it's YA and 'that's what all the teen girls want nowadays, amiright?' (NO IT'S NOT JUST STAHP PUBLISHERS PLEASE)

Third; the character of Prince Mihai. Now, there was potential here, I'll admit. This could have been a wonderful villainous character. But no. First clue that I wasn't going to like Mihai's character was when Dacia describes him as smelling "like money and masculinity." Oh yeah, I'm pretty sure that Old Spice sells that scent. Actually, no. I have no idea what that means. Second, some of the things he says sound like a soap opera. Like if it was a movie, you could hear the organ going "duh duh DUH" in the background. They are just so over-the-top menacing. But the final straw was that (view spoiler)

Dacia and Lou were not characters I enjoyed reading about, either. Dacia is just a spoiled brat who whines a lot, and I just couldn't take it after a while. It's because of her that there are so many passages about dresses in this darn book. Then there's Lou. She's supposed to be shy and easily embarrassed, but aside from other

characters thinking this about her, there's really no evidence. I get it; she's supposed to have overcome her shyness—but it doesn't seem like there's much to overcome if there's really no signs in the book of her being shy.

Considering that Jessica Day George has written one of my favorite books (Tuesdays in the Castle) I don't think I will give up on reading her books; I'm just going to consider this a fluke amongst an otherwise wonderful pile of books that I have read by her. Still, I will warn other fans that there is a chance that, like me, you won't like this as much as the rest of her books.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

DOES ANYONE KNOW IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A SECOND BOOK? I CANT FIND ANY INFO ON IT!

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

When I first started this book I really liked it, then it was dragging & I needed to know, & then I found out..... **I LOVED IT!**

As you know by reading about the book, it is the 1890's and Dacia and Lou who are cousins living in New York, are shipped off to meet their relatives in Romania. (I want to go there so bad) They are Romanian through their mom's bloodlines.

Both girls have diaries and write in them throughout the book, or are writing letters to different people throughout the book. I liked this little added quirk. Both girls are also traveling separate from each other. Dacia with her Aunt Kate and Lou with both her mother and father. The girls have little run ins with men along the way or upon arrival. Dacia gets there before Lou and gets to meet up with a cousin they knew from childhood, Radu and he's cool. But Dacia also meets a Prince, who isn't a Prince..... Lou meets a shady dude that seems to be following her.

Anyhoo, they finally get together and Dacia tells Lou about their evil grandmother Ioana who makes them call her Lady Ioana. She's NOT grandmotherly!

It turns out the girls' family are considered a very powerful family in Romania (The Florescu Family) and said family are also connected to the Dracula bloodline. They even go for a visit over at Bran Castle.

While the girls are there they find out what they think is a horrible secret about their family. I think it's cool myself, but only in the magical way, not in the way they have been using their magic for... they become something else and it is so cool! I can't wait for the next book to see how this is going to play out!

I think the author did an awesome job with these characters and what she made of them. No one is ever what they seem :-)

Jessica ☺⇒ Silverbow ⇒ ☺ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

4.5 stars

SILVER IN THE BLOOD could have been a lot of things. It could have been yet another spin on wolves in service (*enslaved*) to vampires. It could have been nothing more than two silly girls running amok in Eastern Europe. It could have been a bland Victorian tale about society misses having their sensibilities shocked by some generic Family Secret.

I was half expecting it to be one of those things or something else equally mediocre.

Which is why SILVER IN THE BLOOD is a perfect example of why sometimes you just have to read a book for yourself, other opinions be damned.

Lou and Dacia are best friends and cousins and as different as two girls can be, both in appearance and temperament. They are daughters of two of the most prominent New York families on their fathers' sides and practically blue blood on their Romanian mothers'.

You'd be hard-pressed to find more well bred ladies on American soil.

Dacia is especially aware of this and enjoys it immensely. BUT. She sometimes finds the routine—the *same* people, places, parties, etc. day in and day out—a bit stifling.

Which is why she rejoices when her mother suggests a European tour, ending with a long family visit in Bucharest, or “Little Paris” as it was known at the time.

Her excitement, however, is dampened after a questionable escapade in London leads her aunt (and traveling companion) to take the most direct path to Romania, skipping over the *actual* Paris completely.

Such hardships.

snickers

Lou is having a difficult time of her own, traveling separately with her parents and hellion younger twin brothers. It begins when a young man approaches her on a ship and inquires, strangely, whether she is, “*the wing, the claw, or the smoke?*”

Baffled and more than a little bit flustered, for Lou is a rather fragile creature, and impudent young men asking inscrutable questions is a perfect recipe for her discomfiture. She is further scandalized by That Awful Man’s continued harassment of her person by his repeated attempts at bizarre conversation, and seeing him throughout the remainder of her travels, she becomes quite convinced that he is *following* her.

I found Lou and her sometimes morose observations to be particularly hilarious:

That Awful Man was standing in the passageway, peering into their compartment! She thought she might really have an attack of some sort now, and could only gasp for air. Lord Johnny appeared beside him, and Lou wondered for a fevered moment if she was simply hallucinating all the beaux she didn't have.

Dacia was also highly entertaining, if in a more direct manner:

She wanted to hide, or open the window and somehow fly away. Instead she pasted on a smile and did her best to keep it there.

“Not so big, LouLou, you’re looking ghoulish,” Dacia whispered,

Beyond the girls (and their various family members) being a delight to read, I also found the plot wonderfully compelling. It's true that Day George did take an inordinate amount of time to finally reveal the Big Family Secret, but she paved the way to the discovery well enough that I didn't feel taunted, and she still managed to slip in a Surprise despite our expectations.

Bravo.

I was also impressed by her restraint in not taking the obvious supernatural route. (view spoiler)

Bravo, again.

SILVER IN THE BLOOD by Jessica Day George is the delightful first installment of her new YA fantasy series. Between the secret societies, dark Family Secrets, and our two heroines who are both brave and strong enough to stand with impeccable posture in the face of adversity, what's not to love? Completely devoid of a cliffhanger, I suggest that anyone who enjoys Victorian society and paranormal twists pick this gem up immediately. Definitely a top read for the year and highly recommended.

Obsidian says

Please note that I gave this book 3.5 stars but rounded it up to 4 stars on Goodreads.

So I liked this book a lot. I noticed some issues here and there, but not enough for my interest in the next book in the series to wane. I think that the world building could have been a bit improved and the flow between Dacia and Lou's chapters to be a lot smoother. I would also like a prologue book or something just so you can get more of the history between the two families in this book. I hate being told things via another character (info dump) it is one of my least favorite things while reading.

So the book starts in medias res, or it tries to I think. We start out with Dacia who is being forced to go to her maternal family's home in Budapest. We know that Dacia did or was thought to have done something outrageous with some young man, and for some reason this has spurred on her Aunt Kate to get her moving quickly. On a train something mysterious seems to be happening and her Aunt Kate becomes more and more troubled. All Dacia wishes is that her cousin and best friend Lou was there. Then the book shifts to Lou who is with her father, mother, and twin brothers also traveling to Budapest. Lou is troubled by a man who seems to be following her.

The book moves slow. Seriously. We don't really get to know what's going on for a good 1st half of the book. And even then, things are not really explained very well by family members except for things like prophecies and you will do what is told to you. We have the girls eventually come together in Budapest and find out all about their family history and why it is linked to the Dracula family as well.

I loved Dacia and Lou equally in this book. Both girls are different from each other like night and day. Eventually though both girls react differently to their family secret and that also causes them to change again personality wise (and I got that). In the end though, I wish that maybe the author had broken up the chapters a lot more so we could have stayed with the characters longer. I say that because in between each chapter we would have a diary entry, telegram, letter, etc. that one of the girls wrote. I liked including it because we do get to see their mindsets and in Dacia's case how betrayed by her mother and father she feels.

We don't really get an in depth look at other characters in this book, and I get why, but I think the author could still develop them (Aunt Kate, Grandmother Ilona). I want to see more of these other characters, and I want to actually see how Lou's mother handles things after the events in this book. I also want to see more reasoning behind what the family did besides prophecy, because if that's the case, Dacia and Lou's mothers are kind of freaking awful.

The world building could be improved a lot. I think the issue was that we have a lot of characters talking, I wish that we had Lou and Dacia finding out more themselves through investigation or something. Just being told something didn't set well with me while reading. I wanted to understand more than what the author was showing us.

The ending left things pretty decided regarding Dacia and Lou's romantic lives (I did not care about either boy/man at all, even a little bit) and what they are going to be doing in the future.

The Captain says

Ahoy there me mateys! This author came to me attention with her book the princess of the midnight ball which is a twelve dancing princesses retelling. No, I haven't read it yet. I was looking for something light to read as me last several books have been rather heavy. The dancing princesses book wasn't available but this one was. It had also been on me list as it had a cool cover.

So I scooped it up and had a gander. The book ended up being a silly okayish read that did give me some enjoyment.

The story involves two girls from New York that are sent on a trip to meet their mothers' family back in Romania. These cousins get more than they bargained for. Secrets are being kept and the family is being evasive. What is the family hiding and what does that have to do with them?

So some cool things in this book:

- It takes place in the 1890s. I love historical fantasy fiction.
- The format is letters, diary entries, and perspectives from the girls themselves.
- It has shape-shifters. Which I figured from the cover.
- The two cousins have an awesome relationship. I love how supportive they are of each other.
- The girls both have very different personalities but due to circumstances in the book their roles are reversed at one point and that was excellent fun.
- The majority of the book takes place in Romania. I don't know many books that are. (One other. That's all I could come up with.)
- Lou has an awesome power. I loved how it was used.
- It was a quick read.

The not as fun:

- The plot is kinda plodding in a lot of places. It took forever for the girls to find out about the family. I would have liked that reveal to be way earlier in the book. And of course when yer reader guessed fairly early on what was going on, it makes the two girl's lack of intelligence in that regard tedious and annoying.
- The girls' powers could have been used WAY more in terms of plot.
- While the book is set in Romania, I would have liked the country to feel more integral to the plot. Yes there are myths and history facts that are used in good ways in the story but not enough.
- The villain was extremely two dimensional and irked me in his rational. Which basically came down to "because he wanted it."
- The love interests were too numerous and too boringly shallow.
- I wanted more action and adventure and girls kicking butt. I wanted the girls to show more initiative.

While this book didn't thrill me, it was a good way to spend some of the evening. Me crew still highly recommends her dragon books and I still want to read the fairytale so I will certainly give this author another shot.

Check out me other reviews at <https://thecaptainsquartersblog.wordpress.com>

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Silver in the Blood by Jessica Day George
Book One of the Silver in the Blood series
Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens
Publication Date: July 7, 2015
Rating: 4 stars
Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

A New York Times bestselling author brings dark secrets to life in a lush new YA perfect for fans of Libba Bray or Cassandra Clare.

Society girls from New York City circa 1890, Dacia and Lou never desired to know more about their

lineage, instead preferring to gossip about the mysterious Romanian family that they barely knew. But upon turning seventeen, the girls must return to their homeland to meet their relatives, find proper husbands, and—most terrifyingly—learn the deep family secrets of The Claw, The Wing, and The Smoke. The Florescus, after all, are shape-shifters, and it is time for Dacia and Lou to fulfill the prophecy that demands their acceptance of this fate . . . or fight against this cruel inheritance with all their might.

With a gorgeous Romanian setting, stunning Parisian gowns, and dark brooding young men, readers will be swept up by this epic adventure of two girls in a battle for their lives.

What I Liked:

This book was quite different from what I was expecting! To be honest, I wasn't really sure what I was expecting, but I got something completely different, and I really liked it! This book has a younger YA feel to it - NOT Middle Grade, but definitely on the lower end of YA. The protagonists are seventeen, but the tone of the book is light and humorous, giving the book a younger feel. Not to say that the protagonists act immaturely! But I want to dispel the idea that this book is Middle Grade! It is indeed YA!

Dacia and Lou are set to visit their family in Romania. The cousins were born in America, their mothers not returning to Romania until now. Lou's father and two brothers accompany Lou and her mother, while Dacia and Aunt Kate (the third sister) travel as well. There is something sinister about the Florescu family - and Dacia and Lou are trapped in Romania by their own family. They find out that their family members are shape-shifters. The Florescus are an old family that protects another old family - the Draculas. Prince Mihai (a Dracula) has an odd interest in Dacia, and Lou and Dacia must figure out how they can escape their family, and save themselves.

This book is written in third person, dual perspective! Lou and Dacia are cousins, two very close cousins. I liked both of them. Lou is quiet and obedient, well-mannered, the peacekeeper. Dacia is a bit wild and reckless, and she thinks she is being sent to Romania with Aunt Kate as a punishment for an Incident in London with Lord Johnny (a young man a few years older than her). I liked Lou more than Dacia, but I liked them both (which is surprising for me - usually I dislike one heavily and like the other a lot). This relationship between the cousins reminds me of the relationship between the sisters in *Sea of Shadows* by Kelley Armstrong!

I liked the structure of this book. We get the story, but there are also letters before every chapter. The letters are written by a number of characters, but mostly Dacia and Lou. They were interesting, and definitely lent themselves well to the plot.

The story is very intriguing! Lou and Dacia slowly find out that the Florescu family are a family of shape-shifters. Lou's mother, Dacia's mother, the aunts, cousins, grandmother, are all shifters. Dacia is the Claw (wolf), and Lou is the Smoke (she can turn into a mist-like form). There is a ton of family history and drama associated with the girls' transformations - it's not as easy as, you're a wolf, welcome to the family!

Lou and Dacia are prisoners in their family's home, and they want nothing more to leave, especially after they shift and learn the truth. With the help of a group trying to stop Prince Mihai from taking over the throne of Romania, Lou and Dacia put their abilities to good use.

There is romance in this book! We hear about the Incident, with Dacia and Lord Johnny, from the beginning of the book. Lord Johnny appears later in the book, as one of the members of the Archangels, a group trying to stop Prince Mihai. He is accompanied by Theo Arkady, another young member of the Archangels. Lou

and Theo have a bad start, in which Theo indirectly insults Lou when he meets her. But throughout the story (especially towards the end of the book), Lou's feelings toward him greatly change, especially when she realizes that he isn't disgusted with her abilities, and wants to help her. I really, really liked Theo. Theo and Lou are a great pair - Theo is very intelligent and attentive and kind, as is Lou.

I liked Dacia and Lord Johnny too! They're a fantastic pair as well. Lord Johnny is the tiniest bit sardonic, and Dacia is very wild and feisty. They always have hilarious interactions. I wanted more from Lou and Theo, but I liked seeing Lord Johnny and Dacia together.

I like the historical fiction setting of this book! Late nineteenth century Romania, with Parisian influences (in the gowns), and heavy Romanian history influences. I found the author's take on Dracula and Vlad the Impaler and whatnot very fascinating!

The ending of this book isn't perfectly wrapped up, so I'm excited to read more! I like how much Dacia and Lou grow and develop, really grounding themselves and finding their stride in terms of their abilities and their newly found forms. I'm curious to see how the author takes the story to another level, in the next book!

What I Did Not Like:

I thought there could have been more romance! Especially between Lou and Theo. I mean, the relationships are clearly developed, albeit slowly and surely. I suppose because this is historical fiction, the author didn't want the romance to be steamy and heavy. But still, more physical interactions between Lou and Theo would have made their relationship even more three-dimensional! Same with Lord Johnny and Dacia's relationship.

This book reads a bit younger in YA, so that could have also been why the romance was a bit tame. It's historical fiction, but also, the tone is light (despite the whole evil/darkness/light themes going on). Not to say that the protagonists aren't mature! They are! But the tone is on the lower end of YA (but not Middle Grade). I'm not always the biggest fan of lower YA, but I thought this novel was good.

I'm not too sure what the title is referring to! The "silver" reference is made several times throughout the book, but it's never stated explicitly (or even implied), what it means. I'd like to know!

Also, Lou undergoes a very rapid change, after her first time shifting. This change in personality was extremely fast, and I found it a bit out of place. Especially since Dacia didn't really undergo an immense personality change? It was just kind of sudden and weird. There wasn't too much I found negative though.

Would I Recommend It:

I found this book to be very interesting! I liked it, and I would recommend it. It's not one that you MUST read (like An Ember in the Ashes or The Wrath and the Dawn), but it's a good novel, especially if you see it in the library or already have a copy. Note my comments on it reading like a lower YA novel.

Rating:

3.5 stars -> rounded up to 4 stars. I enjoyed the read! It was a bit slow at first, but it picked up nicely and I was rooting for the protagonists throughout the book. I'm excited about the sequel, and will definitely be reading it next year (hopefully I get the chance)!

nat. (semi-hiatus) says

the wing, the claw, or the smoke?

this is one those books where it takes you a while to get into, but you keep going because you're curious and the writing ain't half bad. then 50% into the book it starts to get charming and interesting.

also I knew what the big twist was (sort of) so I don't know why drag the mystery. I mean it was perfectly clear. that frustrated me.

Allison says

I didn't actually finish this book. I got to page 257, and when the prince threatened to RAPE both girls, decided that I'd had enough. It's a long stretch before anything happens, with lots of ominous foreshadowing and stilted dialogue. There were elements that I thought may be good, I was entertained by the characters, and honestly wouldn't have minded finishing the book, if it hadn't been for the completely unnecessary rape threat.

"If she refuses, I will simply force myself on her, and ruin her more effectively than simply being abducted in her underthings has already done. And if she still refuses I will tie her to this chair and force her to watch while I have my way with you."

WHY, JESSICA DAY GEORGE?! Why would you think that including rape in a tween book is totally normal? Especially when it's just a plot device? There's nothing here that we can learn, no support or insight offered, it was just thrown in there for drama's sake, so that the damsels-in-distress would be in even more distress. The book is full of focus on the male gaze on our naked heroines, enough that it was already sounding misogynistic. And that was before a man threatened to rape a girl, and then **rape her cousin as she watched**. We have enough books like this from the 1800s, Jessica Day George. We don't need this poorly-written, insipid version. Such a disappointment from an otherwise enjoyable and talented author.

I just...really hate how popular it's become to include rape and threats of rape as a way to build drama and take away girls' power in books. It already happens to much in real life. Why do we need unnecessary and not-thoughtful portrayals of it in our literature?

Nastassja says

DNF at about 75%

Immature, underdeveloped, boring, predictable - it is all the words that came to my mind while reading this book. Usually, I would start to list all the bad things this book has and analyze why I didn't enjoy it. But in this case, there's no need to analyze. *Silver in the Blood* wasn't particularly bad - it just **middle grade book**. That's it, if you are under 16, you will like this book. It has this childish aftertaste and as a grown person I did not find anything interesting for me in it. Some YA books are for more mature audience, some books are not. I just wish that book's annotation would mention it before I started to read this story.

