



## The Reformed Vampire Support Group

*Catherine Jinks*

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You can't get a decent haircut, you live on guinea pig blood and, even worse, most of the world's population wants to kill you. For no good reason, Nina Harrison became a vampire in 1973 and she now spends all of her time with a bunch of vampires in a vampire therapy group.

## **The Reformed Vampire Support Group Details**

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Author : Catherine Jinks

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## From Reader Review The Reformed Vampire Support Group for online ebook

### Aaron says

Catherine Jinks has always had a knack for creating quirky and bizarre characters, and she has done right that with her first attempt at vampire literature. In fact, she has completely rewritten the way people view vampires. Her hero is a Nina, who appears to be just 15, but has been a vampire in Australia for decades. Unfortunately, that means everyone around her, whether her senior citizen mother or the other vamps insist on treating her as a child.

Nina is also not on her own. She has a support group, and not in the more loose definition. It is actually a group of vampires that have come together with the hope of avoiding the darker side of their existence. They don't want to feed of others and infect them. The support group helps them talk through their urges. In fact, one of the members even breeds guinea pigs they can use as a food source.

All of the vampires suffer from weakness, a look of illness, and a general unpleasant feeling. They are fortunate enough to have the support of Nina's mother and a local priest who work to try and assist them in both survival and their fight to avoid their inner nature to feed. Overall, they are successful in these goals.

All of that changes when the darkest member of the group is found dead ... or at least the remnant ashes are found by his roommate. None of them are sorry to see him go since most of them owe their vampiric existence to him, but it does highlight the concern that a vampire hunters may have set his or her eyes on the support group.

Their only clue is a silver bullet. It proves to be just what they need to set them on a course for adventure that will help connect them not only to the bumbling vampire hunter, but also an underground fight club syndicate run by an unscrupulous father/son team that uses local werewolves as the basis for their betting scheme.

Nina and her group find themselves bringing a teen werewolf of questionable civility in to the group in the hopes of protecting all of their secrets and keep them safe. Unfortunately, things don't go quite as planned.

One of the funny things is that Nina is always complaining that her cohorts treat her like a child, but she is just getting the opportunity to explore romance now, when she is technically in her 50's. She ends up being torn between a new friend who may not be as stable as she needs and an old friend with a crush on her.

I have always found Jinks to have a very sophisticate humor. Her tales are always full of complex plot twists that keep the reader wanting to find out where things will end up. The humor is witty, particularly in light of how most people view vampires as having superhuman strengths and skills. Even Nina has fed this stereotype as she is an author of a very popular series of novels with a vampire heroine. It is very enjoyable to see a different take on the vampire mythos. Neither romance nor horror are the basis for this tale. It is a humorous mystery.

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### **Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says**

I have been looking forward to reading this book for a while, especially so since I saw the cover for the companion novel, *The Abandoned Werewolf Support Group*. I expected Catherine Jinks to be really funny, and hoped that this would be a good readalike for S. G. Browne's *Breathers* (which deals with zombies). Very much to my disappointment, it was not.

The main problem is that Jinks goes too far in her attempt to deromanticize vampires. She wants to make them everything that's unlikable, pretty much. They're lazy, slow, stupid, boring and not attractive. Well, she succeeded in not making them *Twilightish*, but she also succeeded in making them not at all interesting. I didn't give a damn about any of the characters, except maybe Dave, because they were all of the things previously mentioned.

Plus, I did not much appreciate the constant references to guinea pig nomming. I mean, once, fine, but every time someone needs a little pick me up? And, here's some advice, Jinks: saying that you'll spare the audience a description of the gory happenings is the same as describing it. This is a perfect example of how something was supposed to be both funny and off-putting, but only managed the latter.

*The Reformed Vampire Support Group* fell completely flat. It was a struggle to read from the first pages to the last. I am not giving up on Jinks yet, but only because I already have copies of two more of her books to read. I hope, for my sake, that the others are better.

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### **Allison says**

This is a comedy of reformed vampires who become tangled in a mystery involving a slain vampire friend, two greedy gamblers, a werewolf, and an oddball vampire-obsessed murderer. Will they have enough guinea pigs to get them through the ordeal? Will vampire Nina's human Mom be able to handle the stress of a coven of vampires in her home? Will Nina see that Dave is more than a former band member now vampire? Will there be new members in the support group? This book is funny as anything! A few slow spots here and there, but well worth the read!

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### **Susan says**

What if a vampire was one of us? In a stark contrast to Stephenie Meyer's glam, sparkling crew of magazine-ready vamps, Jinks assembles a motley crew of regular-folk bloodsuckers. No superpowers here, no instant undead makeovers, this gang is stunted at wherever, whoever they were when they were transformed, warts and all. The situation would make for a refreshing (and funny) change of pace save for the one unfortunate catch: turns out a reading about a ragtag band of fairly run-of-the-mill sadsacks is exactly as (un)interesting as one might expect. Turns out that maybe there's such a thing as too much verisimilitude.

Nina and her reformed vampire cohorts spend most of their time bellyaching, attending their support group, and shielding themselves from the wide-range of threats to their well-being. This normally means their struggles with sunlight and improper nutrition, but when one of their own gets suddenly staked they have to do a little more than grudgingly humor each other--they have to actually pull together before they all end up poofed into a pile of ash or hauled in by the police. Unfortunately, the hijinks keep getting interrupted by

irritating blackouts. Whenever Nina and her group fall into their daily vampire comas the narrative pulls up to an abrupt halt as well--each time followed by a hasty recap of what they missed. In other words, half the time there finally *is* action, we don't get the benefit of the action firsthand in real time and the quantity of information that gets hurriedly packed in these recaps makes it feel like Jinks had more story than time to tell it. That may partially explain why we barely get to know the characters beyond a neurotic tic and their chief physical complaint and why a romantic interest late in the book feels like a little bit of a stretch. Jinx (via Nina) slyly references Stephenie Meyer at a couple points in the book, but ultimately these little jabs only serve to remind us that the other vampire fare out there has a little more to offer in terms of both humor, drama and (for all the tweens and teens who eat it up) crushiness than we find here among Jinx's reformed vampires.

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### **The Library Lady says**

I don't get the infatuation with vampires and zombies. I don't find the undead sexy.  
And apparently neither does Catherine Jinks.

Her vampires are not Byronic dreams of manhood, or Miley Cyrus types minus the suntan.

They can never go out--even on a cloudy day because they automatically blackout at sunrise. They have health problems galore, have to get their blood supply in a very icky way involving guinea pigs (PETA would hate them)and spend most of their time awake watching bad TV--or in heroine Nina's case, writing Twilightesque books about vampires the way teens WANT them to be. That is, until one of their number is killed and Nina and the others set out to find the killer.

This should be funny, or at least a cracking good adventure. Sadly it's neither.

If you are a fan of Twilight, continue in your delusions. If you are NOT a fan of Twilight, head for *Sucks to Be Me* The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire which sends up vampires and still manages to be funny, or for *Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side* which has humor and depth to a degree Stephenie Meyer can only dream of.

And neither of THOSE books hurts any poor guinea pigs....

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### **Kandice says**

This book was fun. It wasn't a smashing good time, but absolutely fun. Jinks has a new take on Vampires. Not only are they not indestructibly beautiful, sexy and dangerous, they are positively pitifully weak and the absolute opposite of dangerous.

Jinks' vamps are infected with the vamp virus. This results in their literally puking up their guts and becoming unable to digest anything but blood. They bleed from their bodily orifices if exposed to too bright an artificial light, and many other weakly "issues". These vamps are reformed so don't ingest human blood. Instead they take "supplements" so that the blood of guinea pigs is enough to sustain them. As a result they often feel nauseated, are pretty weak, and all in all a fairly unsatisfied bunch. They meet on Tuesday nights

to "support each other" much in the way drunks meet at AA. Sorry, reformed drunks, or alcoholics.

The story is told from the POV of Nina. Nina was 15 when she was given the virus in 1971 and has been living under her mother's protection ever since. Included in the group is a ex-nun, an old biddy, a seedy old guy, a vamp who relishes his disease and so dresses and acts the part, and Dave. Dave is another "teen" who also happens to have been a rocker. There's a bit of a "love" angle there, but it very much takes the back seat to the plot.

The vamps are protected and helped by Father Ramon. He is not a vamp and so, like Nina's mother, can watch over them during the day when they become, literally, dead. These vamps don't just rest, sleep or hide from daylight. They are completely out of commission from dawn until dusk.

The story really begins with the slaying of one of the group and the other members searching for the slayer. Along the way they discover weres and other "bad guys", some of whom become good guys. Like I said, fun stuff!

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### **Natali says**

Okay, for months I have refused to read any sort of vampire book after the Cirque Du Freak series, the blue bloods series, and several other Twilight knock offs (not saying Cirque is a Twilight knock off because it most definitely is NOT). People have said good things about the Vampire Diaries and my best friend is begging me to read the Vampire Academy and another is telling me about the House of Night and I CAN'T TAKE VAMPIRES ANYMORE. So when I picked The Reformed Vampire Support Group, I thought I'd give it a try since it didn't sound anything like Twilight. Not even close. And I was right! It was absolutely hilarious! A light read for teenagers who, like me, are sick of the vampire romance books everyone seems to love nowadays. Can't wait for the next book!

Nina has been a vampire for 51 years. And she hates it. Whether its being stuck in a 15 year old body, being sick most of the time, or the odd and equally annoying Reformed Vampire Support Group she meets with every Tuesday night, Nina knows that being a vampire is certainly not what everyone thinks it to be. Even if she writes otherwise in her book series, the Bloodstone Chronicles. Because she and the others are sick all the time and have no actual contact with the outside world, it is most surprising when one of the members of the support group is found staked, shot, and burnt to ashes. And when Nina and the others from the support group find an underground werewolf killing match, the hunters running the business will stop at nothing to keep their secret hidden.

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### **Vinaya says**

Once upon a time, there lived a young, handsome vampire. This vampire, let's call him Eddie, was a beautiful specimen of manhood, glowing with health and vitality. He was blessed with several superpowers, not the least of which was an ability to attract ordinary-looking, pale-faced teenage vampire wanna-bes. And that was only the least of Eddie's talents. He could also... \*gasp\*... read minds! He sparkled like a diamond in the sun, he never needed any sleep and he was insanely physically powerful. In short, he was everything that the vampires of the Reformed Vampire Support Group are not.

Yes, welcome to the *real* world of the vampires. They're not god-like beings with superpowers. They're sad, pathetic immortals clinging to the remnants of their humanity. They have self-imposed rules that prevent them from drinking human blood, lest they infect other people with the vamp infection. They burn to ash in the sunlight, they can be staked, beheaded, and burnt to death, and the worst part is, they're too weak to fight off anyone who wants to attack them in any of the ways listed above. They spend their days raising guinea pigs (to provide their blood supply), being sick as a dog, and watching very many, many soap operas.

I've never met a bunch of vamps more pathetic than the ones from the Reformed Vampires Support Group. So it's strange that I found them kind of... endearing. It's like reading a book about a bunch of cranky, whiny old people, but at least they're cute, whiny, old people. I don't know if this book is listed as a YA book, but if it is, it's grossly misrepresented. Although the story is told from the POV of a fifteen year old vampire who died thirty-six years ago, neither the tone of the book, nor the style of writing is something that would appeal to the average YA reader.

The Reformed Vampires Support Group is a duh! support group for vampires who have decided (or been coerced into deciding) not to drink blood. Fifteen year old Nina, the youngest member of the group, hates being a vampire. So much so that she absolutely fails to see that Dave, a former musician and fellow vampire has been nursing a crush on her since forever. But when one of the group's vampires is staked in his coffin, the group is forced to get off its collective ass and find the 'slayer' in a desperate attempt to preserve their own existence. What follows is several crazy hijinks involving a werewolf, an orange truck, silver bullets and homicidal werewolf-kidnappers.

I don't think RVSG is the best vampire book out there. But I'm not willing to write it off completely, either. It does manage to be funny in parts, and I really like the characters, especially Dave and Nina. All the characters manage to be what the author intended them to be. Sanford is a pretentious, prosy bore. Nina is the still-rebellious teenager frustrated with her situation and itching to get out, without being TSTL. Dave is shy and somewhat sombre, but he is also brave when the situation calls for it. Nina's mother is adorably prickly. Father Ramon is the quietly helpful facilitator who's all priestly without being too preachy.

If you're expecting a flamboyant ride through the world of the vamps, this is not the book for you. None of the characters are flashy, or particularly heroic, or even all that memorable. The romance angle is no angle at all, since it only gets a token acknowledgement in the end. So why does this book still get three stars, you ask. Well, I thought it was cute. That's all. Not spectacular, or fantastic, or horrible, or annoying, or any of those adjectives I generally like to toss around. It's just, plain, cute. Adorable, in fact.

I would be scared of recommending this book to anyone for the simple reason that I can see that it's not a universal-appeal book. It takes some work to get through the book and the pacing is pretty slow. So if you have patience, and no old-people phobias, read this novel. If you want a thrilling, titillating ride, well, you ain't gonna find it here!

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### **Mary Weber says**

I'm not swearing Catherine Jinks wrote The Reformed Vampire Support Group as a parody of the Twilight universe. I'm just calling it as I see it.

If you hate Twilight, chances are you'll love this book. And if you're Twi-obsessed, well, then, I'll give you a 60% possibility of enjoyment. Consider it Twilight on a bad LSD trip.

What's different? Hmm. Well . . . imagine your mom as a vampire. The mom you know and love and shudder at when she walks around at seven in the morning in curlers and a hair-net, smoking like a moldy hay-stack and ever-complaining about her over-sized goiter. Except rather than a bottle of gin in hand, she's drinking blood.

Weird, right? That's what I'm talking about. No Edwardian sparkles, no super-human strength, no poetic tangents professing the passionate need to resist the smell of the wine barrel, and definitely no Greek god-like physiques going on.

The vampires in this universe never age, but their physical bodies do (or more specifically--their physical ailments do). Toenails fall off and stay off, and one's breath is always bad. Add to that the issue of their being terrified of driving, choking, being killed, or interacting with human society on any level and you begin to get the general idea. They hide out in their homes watching TV re-runs and drinking the blood of guinea pigs (which they breed, mind you), attending their once-a-week "I promise to be ashamed of what I am" support group. Thus it is that when one of the members of The Reformed Vampire Support Group gets staked and winds up as a "pile of cat litter" in the bottom of his coffin . . . well, uh . . . maybe you should read it.

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### **Leo says**

This was a nice book, I enjoyed it a lot. The reformed vampires were a lot of fun and this wasn't the typical vampire story where they are so cool, can fly and sparkle (ok, that's lame). There are actually quite inconvenienced by the disadvantages of being a vampire. They were very relatable and I liked all the characters. Even the villains turned out to be very funny. The protagonist, Nina, learned a few thing about herself and being a vampire that made the character grow throughout the book and I really like it. There were a lot of funny moments: just seeing the vampires trying to deal with the mess around was. They aren't a particularly professional bunch.

Also, Nina's mom is just awesome. And it set in Sydney (I kind of have a fixation with liking everything Australian).

Give it a chance even if you're not a fan of vampire stories (I'm not, FYI.)

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### **Steph Bowe says**

Nina has been fifteen since 1973, when she was infected by a rogue vampire, but instead of the glamorous, superhuman life that television and Nina's novels suggest, her life as a vampire has been boring and sickly so far.

Then Casimir, the vampire responsible for infecting half of the reformed vampire support group he's a member of, is found dead in his coffin – staked and reduced to dust – and the boring life Nina loathes is suddenly threatened. With a vampire-slayer at large, the support group holes up at Nina's house, in spite of her ageing mother's protests, and the resulting quest to find and stop the killer (or at least convince him that

they aren't a menace to society), reveals the courage behind their reluctant, pallid exteriors.

The Reformed Vampire Support Group put an original spin on a familiar concept. I deeply enjoyed this novel; the fact that it's set in Sydney and distinctly Australian was refreshing, and the quirky humour and dry wit sprinkled throughout the novel sparkled. Nina, Dave and the rest of the support group, as well as the villains, were characters with personality and quirks, each with their own motivations.

The Reformed Vampire Support Group was deeply involving, and impossible to put down. The plot was extraordinary, but deftly handled by the author. It was simplistically but beautifully written. Next to other recent vampire novels I've read, The Reformed Vampire Support Group stands out for its originality. A novel well worth reading, and reading again – my new favourite.

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### **TL says**

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Another "Try something different" from Overdrive app... latter half or so finished via paperback.

I originally downloaded this to cheer up my friend Jessie while I stayed with her (long and personal story) but we never got to it. Instead, I listened to this for my whole two hour drive back from her place to keep me awake. It made the whole drive go by quicker and I found myself sucked in fairly quickly.

We all have the 'normal' image of vampires stuck in our heads... glamorous, evil, sometimes romanticized, drinking human blood etc.

Get that out of your head, otherwise you may not have a chance of enjoying(or maybe you will anyway, I could be wrong). These vampires are not your typical lot. It's all in the description so I won't bore you with it. It took a short while to get used to it but Nina's narration won me over and I looked forward to listening to this (some days I had to skip because I was too tired) on the way to and from work.

Caroline Lee is the narrator. she does a fantastic job of bringing everyone to life and making each voice distinct. I still heard her voice when I switched to the physical book as well.

LOVED everyone in here (with exception of one, we don't get to know him well), and was rooting for em all the way through. Sanford did get annoying at times, but you understand where he is coming from.

One character surprised me. Wasn't what I expected and what happened after was a pleasant surprise, and amusing in its own way.

This was just a fun book and just what I needed after a dud and a depressing one.

(view spoiler)

Wouldn't mind reading more of these characters, would recommend... off to purchase the sequel \*runs off to amazon\*

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### **Zain Abdullah says**

This book was practically oozing with potential. I mean, it had a decent concept and it was done by Catherine Jinks, who happens to be one of my favorite authors because of her Evil Genius trilogy. But this book isn't Evil Genius.

Unfortunately.

The book never actually went anywhere, like I was expecting it to. The entire time I was practically bored out of my mind, and I had to force myself to finish it because I was hoping that it might eventually get good. At the time, I didn't know how wrong I would be.

The characters weren't exactly interesting and they felt like cardboard-cutout, clichéd characters with forced personalities that didn't feel natural at all. Most of them are introduced in the first few pages of the book, and so it got just a bit confusing at first. Granted, I did like the main character, Nina, as the book is told in her perspective from first-person view. She was an all around cool character, and her narration was really the only redeeming quality that this book has to offer.

The plot, like I said before, goes absolutely nowhere. Heck, the intro of the book is one of those "book within a book" scenarios, where Nina gives us an excerpt of a book she's written. If we were given THAT book, the one Nina wrote, I would have liked it. That was fun. But instead, we're given THIS book, The Reformed Vampire Support Group. It's as if Catherine Jinks is taunting us. She knew it was bad. She must've known. After all, how do you write something as amazing and intelligent as Evil Genius, and then downgrade to writing something as sloppy as this book?

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### **Lindley Walter-smith says**

It might seem odd that my major issue with a YA vampire book is ableism, but... it really is.

This book uses the tired old "Vampirism=AIDS" metaphor. Not that you have to be very perceptive to figure this out, because the author comes right out and tells you "Vampirism is like having AIDS." (This is typical, by the way - Jinks doesn't trust her readers to figure out \*anything\*, so she spells out the perfectly obvious over and over.) So, what are these vampires like? Not just (hilariously, apparently) sick and deeply pathetic and helpless, but forced to live lives of complete isolation, because they are so absolutely desperate to attack - metaphorical rape, I assume - and infect normal people that they literally can't be left alone in a room with them. Yeah, okay. Even if she didn't really mean to portray people with AIDS as desperate rapists, I would expect an author to be more careful and more aware of the implications of what she writes.

It's only made better by the casual pejorative use of "retarded" and by the frequent use of "handicapped".

Right, that out of the way... I was puzzled by this book. It's packaged and blurbbed as YA humorous horror, but the horror and the nastiness of it outweighs any actual humour. I'm not sure about the YA status, either. Despite her youthful body, we're repeatedly told the heroine is 51, and really, she thinks and acts like it.

It is also incredibly confusing that things like kidnapping, enslavement and murder seem to be brushed away as not really making people bad, while what seems like a much more minor crime is horrendously punished. I don't know what she was going for there. The writing is lazy: it's first person perspective, but that format was obviously too limiting for the author, because she keeps inserting chapters about action the protagonist

isn't present for, with a disingenuous "I'm going to cheat a bit here." Not as annoying, though, as the device of the protagonist being a writer of detective novels and constantly (a couple of times a chapter) having bits comparing her to her heroine to her disadvantage. We get it already...

It's a shame, really, as there were elements in this book I really liked. The supernatural bloodsports, for example. As straight horror/fantasy, with the ableist issues resolved and more careful writing, this could have been a really interesting book.

I checked up on this book to make sure it wasn't self-published, as I tend to go a bit easier on self-edited work, but the author seems to have a solid publishing background behind her and be well respected. Perhaps she takes more care with works for an adult audience.

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### **Sesana says**

This book, like so many others, begins with the author proclaiming, "Everything you know about vampires is wrong!" and ends up leaving readers with the impression that nearly everything they knew about readers is, in fact, right.

Jinks's vampires do sleep during the day, drink blood, create other vampires when they feed on humans, and can be killed by being staked. In most ways, traditional vampires. They've also chosen to (or been coerced into) following a non-human diet, complete with the support group of the title. Guinea pigs, here, with supplements to add nutritional value. The only real difference is that, instead of having fabulous supernatural powers, Jinks's vampires are weak and spend most of their lives physically ill. Of course, it does make being a vampire sound less than appealing, but it doesn't really make for a compelling and interesting cast of characters, seeing as that they spend most of their time in the bathroom.

The book is mostly concerned with setting up this totally unappealing lifestyle, but there is something bigger going on. First, one of their group (the most unsympathetic, of course) is staked by a wannabe slayer. Then, in the course of their investigations, they come across a werewolf fighting operation, where they rescue the captive werewolf. Both would have been more interesting if Nina were a bit less self-absorbed, which she describes as being a symptom of vampirism.

It's an interesting take on vampires, but I think that Jinks went a little too far in de-glamming them, ending up with characters I'd rather put to bed than read about.

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### **Jackie "the Librarian" says**

I really enjoyed this one. These vampires are NOT: sexy, powerful, mesmerizing, scary, or in any way sparkly. These vampires are sickly misfits who whine a lot, trying to get by without biting anyone, living off of guinea pigs (they breed fast) and attending their support group meetings every Tuesday.

Nina was bit as a teenager, and still lives at home with her mom. She writes vampire novels to earn her keep, but she doesn't like *being* a vampire, or vampires in general. They're all such losers! Well, okay, Sandford is a doctor, and he figured out an enzyme supplement so they don't have to bite people to live, but he's really pompous. Gladys was a streetwalker back at the turn of the century, and a *huge* complainer, and Horace is

*probably* running some kind of embezzlement scheme, and dresses like a Lestat-wannabe. Dave seems okay, he helped install Nina's computer. But Casimir is the worst - he's the one that brought vampirism to Australia in the first place! And bit Nina, on her way home from a party, before Sandford could catch him. Jerk!

So when Casimir doesn't show up for the group meeting, and is found reduced to a pile of ashes, Nina is surprised to find herself inspired by her fictional heroine to be brave, and volunteer to help track down the slayer. And since Dave can drive, he agrees to come, too, and take turns driving the van with Father Ramon, the priest who leads the group meetings.

Their only clue is a silver bullet, found in the ashes, along with a stake. Clearly, their adversary believes in overkill. And doesn't realize silver bullets are for werewolves, not vampires. Whatever.

I liked having these underdog vampires as unlikely heroes, and Nina's snarky narration. A refreshing change of pace in teen vampire stories. Recommended for everyone sick of hearing about *Twilight*.

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### **Kana says**

I feel bad. I've actually had a hardcover copy of this book, literally for several years. I bought it on a whim, from my schools bookstore. The cover and idea seemed pretty amusing and I always enjoy a good light vampire book. But I never got around to reading it. (Busy college student/fulltime employee will do that to you.)

But I wanted to read it, and finally caved and got the audiobook version. I can go through books if I'm not pinned to my chair, and can work on other things, dishes, laundry, driving, etc. So I feel bad, I bought the book twice so I really hope it's worth it, ha.

The audiobook version is really amusing. I love it when they put so much effort into the production, complete with theme music, sound effects, and multiple accents. It makes the story pop to life. Especially if it's a light-hearted book.

I will admit that the book did drag in the middle. It wasn't that I didn't care for the characters and the silly situations they kept getting into, but rather that very little other than discussing and traveling, happened. A couple of exciting false alarms and 'ohmylordwerewolf!' happened, but quickly simmered back into discussions about 'what the heck do we do?' Very calm discussions btw, they were a very rational bunch. Except when they kept messing up and making the situation worse.

And the whole time I kept thinking to myself 'when the heck is Nina gonna realize that Dave is batshit crazy for her?' But with the continuously developing mess, they still find a way of fixing it by talking about it. And then without realizing it, I was at the end of the book.

I still like the book. I love it when we see a different side to the sexy/mysterious/all powerful vampires that seem to be flooding our books. This type of satire is growing on me. I only warn that if you want an action packed, non-stop explody type of book, then this isn't for you. But if you need a nice laugh and new look on the lives of vampires, then you're in for a treat.

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### **CeJayCe says**

I wanted to like this book. I really did. But I just...couldn't.

Let me start off by saying that Jinks's take on vampires is very original and a nice change of pace from the recent glamorous outlook the YA genre has given them.

But when you have a bunch of "supernatural" characters with no real special abilities or talents, (not to mention a whiny, depressed main character who doesn't seem to like anyone, and a bunch of annoying, angry side characters) it makes for pretty boring reading. Honestly, I couldn't even bring myself to care about the murder by the time it showed up. And it showed up fairly quickly.

Also, the writing was kind of...choppy. Jinks spent a lot of time describing places and objects that have no real relevance to the story in great detail. And other times there were sentences and things that I felt were just worded childishly. She also doesn't do a very good job of distinguishing characters from one another. Half the time when she mentioned a name I had no clue which person she was talking about. This is probably because she introduces too many characters at once.

So as fun as this book sounded, I had to put it down.

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### **Emma Lauren says**

The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Catherine Jinks, was... frankly... really disappointing. I was expecting a new twist on the classic tale of vampires, and all I got was a poorly written "memoir" of the events of an over fifty-year-old woman in a fifteen-year-old body. The characters in this novel were so strange. Not because of who they actually were, but because they were focussed on, or never talked about, and then brought up later like you should know their entire backstory. This book had random twists and turns, if you can even call them that, and nothing really seemed to make sense. And half of the book didn't actually happen through the narrator's eyes, so it was secondhand, but it was choppy secondhand. I'm so disappointed. I really enjoy Catherine Jinks as a writer with her Genius Series, with its several hints of seriousness in a comedy-ish setting, but this... this was not funny the way that I hoped the title would have meant. And for some reason, there was a completely undeveloped, and yet easily visible romance throughout the novel. It was so cheesy, that I almost vomited, just like almost every character in this book was. I feel like the best way to describe this book is to quote the man character as she talks to Rueben, "He snorted. 'No,' he agreed. 'Even though- well, it's pretty funny, isn't it? A vampire support group.' 'I only wish it was,' I said." I spent this entire novel wanting it to be great, when in actuality, it was pretty terrible.

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### **Arya says**

Oh finally someone decided to name the main character of a book **Nina!** I have been waiting for this FOREVER!!

Nina is a vampire (this just gets better and better . . . ) and she is part of the *Reformed Vampire Support Group*, where the poor, infected vampires get together to bemoan their fate. Nina is very annoyed with all of the vampires in her support group. They never:

- Go anywhere
- Do anything
- Change
- Treat her like an adult

In Nina's world there is nothing glamorous about being a vampire. Sure Angel and Edward make it appear a big joy ride, but really being a vampire stinks. You are sick all the time, you have to "fang" guinea pigs to keep from passing on your curse, you never age – who would want to be fifteen FOREVER? – and you cannot go ANYWHERE. You must stay home. Between dawn and sunset you are clinically dead – it is *not* a fun existence. Not to mention the fact that you have to keep your eyes peeled for slayers. As Sanford constantly reminds all of the Reformed Vampires – no one likes vampires.

When a slayer finds one of the Reformed Vampires the others must band together and come up with a plan for hunting him down. This plan will lead to the strangest road trip ever and Nina will uncover a scheme bigger than anything she could have ever imagined.

This is different than any vampire fiction I have ever read. Sure there are werewolves, slayers and all that other jazz . . . but it is strange. A sweet book . . . though probably most of the credit for the four stars goes to the fact that the main character was named Nina – YES!!

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