



Once Burned

Jeaniene Frost

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“An author who delivers only the best.”

—*Romantic Times*

“Put Jeaniene Frost on your must-read list!”

—Lara Adrian, *New York Times* bestselling author

Spinning off from her wildly successful, *New York Times* bestselling Night Huntress novels featuring vampire soulmates Cat and Bones, Jeaniene Frost kicks off the thrilling new Night Prince series with *Once Burned*. Vlad Tepesh, the ruthless master vampire and inspiration for Bram Stoker’s dark legend (but don’t dare call him Dracula) encounters a mortal woman with unimaginable power... including the ability to enflame his cold heart. Paranormal romance and urban fantasy fans who hunger for the novels of Kim Harrison, Christine Feehan, and Charlaine Harris are going to love The Night Prince and this dark and steamy tale of supernatural attraction.

Once Burned Details

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From Reader Review Once Burned for online ebook

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Once Burned is a radical improvement over the last few Night Huntress books, but unfortunately, that isn't saying much. Cat and Bones have been losing steam, but their world still has so much to give, which in some ways makes this a very smart move. I was a bit skeptical at first (aren't I always?) about Frost using such a huge historical figure as a protagonist, but she handled that part well: she stayed very close to what the world knows about the real Vlad III Tepes.

However, she didn't stay true to herself. When I tried to combine what we found out about him in the original series (he appeared in at least two Night Huntress books) with what I know of the real Vlad, this wasn't what I came up with at all. Obviously she had to offer more than she did when he was just a secondary character, but she still needed to stay close to her previous portrayal of him. A lot of things were missing, most of all the sardonic sense of humor I've learned to expect. Frost chose to put emphasis on his other traits like arrogance and ruthlessness – all understandable, of course, he is Vlad the Impaler after all – but he seemed too cold somehow, and I didn't get the attraction between him and Leila at all.

It didn't help that Leila seemed seriously underdeveloped. Too much of her character was left unexplored. She carried guilt over causing her mother's death, and yet the whole thing was barely mentioned. Years of animosity between her and her sister were resolved in one very short conversation. Everything was too abrupt. When I first found out that she was a circus performer, I was excited and I wanted to learn more, but that too was barely mentioned. I see no point in giving your protagonist such an interesting occupation if you don't intend to make the most of it.

Most of this book takes place in different parts of Romania. Being who I am (linguist, grammar nerd and lover of all things old and European), I was disappointed by the amount of research Jeaniene Frost invested in this book. Sure, she did her homework on Vlad Tepes himself, but Romanian language, culture and customs were all painfully neglected. Even Vlad's humans, some of whom didn't even speak English, all had English names.

Like my friend Missie (you can read her review [here](#)), I think it best not to overthink this book. Thinking about it too much only makes you see the barely hidden flaws. But Jeaniene Frost's books are never boring, and they're always hot. Sometimes – especially in the middle of the summer – that's all you can ask.

Even after reading Vlad and Leila's adventure, Mircea II Basarab remains my favorite Wallachian prince and my favorite fictional crush. You can meet him in all his glory in *Touch the Dark* by Karen Chance.

Also posted at [The Nocturnal Library](#)

Ilona Andrews says

Disclaimer: Jeaniene and I are BFF.

There are many Draculas but there is only one Vlad. Hehehehe.

Loved it. It reminded me of *Halfway to the Grave* in the best possible way: it has the same blend of action and intimacy. There is a lot of violence, but the focus is on Vlad and Leila. This book is like watching the leading couple lost in a kiss while things are blowing up all around them.

Mandi Schreiner says

I'm a big fan of Jeaniene Frost's books. Her *Night Huntress* series rocks my world – hello – it's *Bones*, and he is just one of the best alpha heroes out there. But I will say, the past few *Bones* and *Cat* books haven't been my favorites in the series. So when I sat down with *Once Burned*, the first in her new *Night Prince* spin-off series featuring Vlad (currently two books are planned) I was very excited for this one. I adore Vlad, who makes many appearances in her world. And I really enjoyed this book.

Before we get to Vlad, let's talk about the heroine, Leila. As a teenager, she touched a downed power line, electrocuting herself. When she woke up, she had a scar that ran from her temple down to her right hand. But that was just the beginning. Now, if she touches someone with her right hand, she sends many volts of electricity through them. She also can see someone's worst sin through a single touch and if she touches an object that someone else has touched, she can get a psychic impression of that person, sometimes in the past, and sometimes visions of the future. These odd abilities prevent Leila from living a normal life (in which she used to excel as a gymnast), which is how she finds herself traveling with a circus, performing in a sideshow using her acrobat abilities. Her good friend, and vampire Marty (who is all of four feet tall) can handle her electricity to an extent, allowing her to perform and touch him without fear.

Her odd abilities get noticed by the wrong type of person, and she ends up being kidnapped by not so nice vampires. They give her items to touch, demanding to know when in the future the owner of these items will leave his closely guarded fortress. When she touches them, and sees the owner, she doesn't realize the powerful being she is connecting with. Vlad is a very old vampire, who has the ability to control fire, which makes him very feared. When Leila "looks in on him" he is able to communicate telepathically with her. Once she convinces him through speaking with him through her mind, that she is kidnapped and the baddie vamps are after him, Vlad soon comes crashing through the hotel room, causing much fire and taking Leila back with him to Romania. He knows the baddie vamps were just puppets for someone much more evil who will eventually try to nab Leila again. He keeps her with him to keep her safe, and uses her abilities to try to figure out who his enemy is.

Vlad, also once known as Tepesh the Impaler comes from a long line of Princes who have been slaughtered. He has kept his people safe for 500 years and for that, he has kind of earned his arrogant side, and yet is comes off as very sexy in this book. He is able to read Leila's mind, so he constantly knows what she is thinking which is frustrating for Leila, but amusing for the readers. Vlad is a very cool dude. He has a temper and once someone starts to annoy him, everyone around him can usually smell smoke if he hasn't already lit someone on fire. But around Leila, he plays it cool. He is enamored with her, and with all of his arrogance he knows she will eventually be in his bed.

Since Leila electrocutes everyone she touches, she has lived a lonely life. While she can touch a vampire, and he or she won't immediately keel over, she can't touch a regular vampire for too long, eventually harming that person. But Vlad is different. Since he can control fire, she can pump as many electrical volts as she wants into him, barely causing him to shudder. This opens a door for Leila, knowing that this sexy, yet dangerous man could be her lover. Vlad is so sexy in this book and I really enjoyed how their relationship unfolds.

I led my armies from the front, Vlad had said. The proof was all over his body, from the scars that adorned his skin in random white patterns to the muscles that flexed and bunched with his slightest movement. If he'd looked like one of those effeminate magazine models, I wouldn't have felt such a powerful swell of lust, but there was nothing boyish or plastic about Vlad. He was devastatingly masculine, and all of that untamed sensuality was now mine to savor. The knowledge caused another rush of heat between my legs.

"If I didn't want you so much," he said in a deadly purr, "I'd let you keep fucking me with your gaze, but you make me impatient."

My one disappointment is that we don't get Vlad's point of view, this book is only told in Leila's POV. I don't mind that with her Night Huntress series but I really wanted to hear Vlad's voice and thoughts.

While Bones and Cat make a very brief appearance, we meet some new people in this book. Maximus is Vlad's second in command and I really like him. He has a small attraction to Leila at the beginning of the book which plays out nicely. Vlad also has a group of humans living at his castle that have a small part. Marty, who is a father figure to Leila also has a role in this book.

As two books are planned (maybe more) for this series, this one doesn't end with a completely settled HEA, which I'm glad for. These two, while they definitely have an attraction for each other, need to get to know one another a little better before love comes into play.

The villain is pretty evil and I also like that people die in this book. It is a dangerous world, and Jeaniene Frost allows that violence to come through. It is paired well with the sexy romance and humorous lines.

Very much looking forward to the next book.

Rating: B

Amy Jacobs says

OH. MY. GOD!!!! It is finally here! The book we have all been waiting for in the great world that author Jeaniene Frost has created. We finally get Vlad in all of his sexy glory. I admit that when this book arrived for me to review, I almost fell over from excitement. I screamed in joy, overheated at the sexy cover, and even told my family to get the heck out of the way while I ran for my favorite reading chair. The family went without dinner. They were not allowed to bother me. All regular chores ceased as Vlad arrived in my mailbox.

We start off in the story reading about Leila and her life. She is disfigured due to a freak accident long ago by touching a downed power line and has joined the carnival as an entertainer. She is aware of vampires in the world because her partner for her act is a midget vamp. Don't let Marty's small stature make you think he is a puny vamp though. He is like a Father figure to Leila and he has a heart bigger than most regular sized people.

When Leila is kidnapped by other vampires, she is forced to use some of her other 'gifts' that came about after the energy absorbed from the power line. She can touch things with her right hand and send out electrical shocks. She can also see glimpse's of the past, present and future with a small touch. She pulls these glimpse's from leftover essence that a person leaves behind on things. The vampires that have kidnapped her are working for a stronger vamp who is searching for Vlad. He wants revenge on Vlad and will use any means necessary to get him. When Leila is forced to use her gifts, she is surprised to learn that

Vlad can hear her spying on his present. She figures he is the less of the two evils and asks for his help. Vlad comes to the rescue and sweeps Leila away to his castle in Romania so they can work together in finding the bad guy.

As they try to work together, Leila finds herself attracted to the mysterious and ruthless Vlad. He has the sex appeal and strength she craves. Leila has never been in a relationship before due to her 'shocking gifts' and is venturing down a new path with Vlad. Her gifts have no real effect on Vlad and she can't believe how wonderful it feels to touch someone without hurting him. Vlad is his typical confident and arrogant self knowing how he is having an effect on her since he can read her mind. What ensues is heated glances, confident flirting and a bunch of sexy time!

Oh yes, by this time in the book you are wondering the same thing. Trust me in saying that the author does not disappoint in describing in glorious detail the image of Vlad's body. Before you even ask, yes there is even another hot and steamy shower scene that involves a very excited Vlad. *swoon*

As things get even more dangerous for Vlad and Leila, Vlad brings her family to his castle as well for protection. We get to meet her father and Leila's sister, Gretchen. To see Leila so close to a man is shocking to say the least for them. Especially when they notice Vlad is able to hold her hand with no show of pain.

The author does not disappoint with her flair of hilarity whenever Vlad is around. He is even hilarious when Bones and Cat decide to make a brief appearance in the book. Again, Bones loves to tease Vlad and he grabs the chance to tease at him when he teaches Leila how to block Vlad from reading her mind.

If I had one complaint about this book, it would only be the ending. I can't even really call it a complaint though. The way it ends, you are left hanging with the knowledge that their story is far from over. Since this is going to be at least a two book series, we have to wait until the next book to have some things resolved. This was very frustrating only because we have waited so long as it is for Vlad to have his own book. Now the reader has to wait again!

Overall the story sucked me in, chewed me up then spit me out. It left me wanting to read the story all over again. I wanted Vlad before, but now I need more Vlad. To say it is going to be a long and torturing wait is an understatement. If you haven't read about Vlad before, you are missing out on one of the sexiest alpha vamp's in the paranormal genre!

Lora says

My mouth is literally watering whilst thinking about Vlad - he is one sexy a\$\$ed mofo. Can't wait for this^^

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

At least that's what Jeaniene Frost wants us to believe.

"If I felt nothing more for you than lust, Maximus would be on that pole for a week, and you, my lovely interloper, would not be here with me now."

Hardly the words you'd find on a Hallmark card, but they caused a glow of happiness nonetheless.

3.5 stars. Okay, so I might be exaggerating just a little. Vlad Tepesh (a.k.a. *the Dracula*) was still up to his pole-impaling ways, although he didn't come off nearly as menacing as the legend portrays. Sure, he gets pissy and makes an example of people, but he also has a protective side when it comes to what he deems "his" people. Strange? Yeah...kinda.

It's Vlad though. We already know him from *Night Huntress*. He's temperamental; he's arrogant; he's the only vampire you even want to read about anymore. So what if he's not quite as threatening as how we (or maybe just I) envisioned THE Vlad...I'd still be afraid of him though. Authentic or not, he's still a scary badass.

Even though this book didn't give me the same feel-good reaction that I had the first time I ever picked up a NH book, I still found *Once Burned* to meet and exceed my expectations. After finding myself starting to lose steam with the NH series (I still haven't read book 6 after being extremely disappointed with book 5), at least this book felt like we were heading into some new territory.

The first half of the book was a lot of fun. Talk about starting off with a bang. The carnie vibe and new "cool" powers introduced in this book made me glad that I wasn't reading a rehash of *Cat and Bones* (who went from exciting to snoozeville). One of my favorite things about UF/PNR is getting to suspend belief. So what if an electric shock isn't going to turn someone superhuman? In paranormal books *anything is possible*. Woo hoo!

The second half of the book made me nervous. Frost has a way of creating great characters and drawing you into a world extremely fast. Then the story starts to flounder somewhere. It wasn't that the second half of the book was boring (okay, maybe a couple of chapters were...eh, that's minor though) but I was already starting to feel like I was ready to be done with the story once Vlad and Leila hooked up. I'm not sure how I'm going to handle an entire series. The first time I read a Frost book, I appreciated this author's mashup of UF and PNR....until after 3 books of NH, I realized that the format doesn't work for sustaining interest. I prefer either a single book/single couple PNR or a slow build UF romance with ongoing story. There is something about putting a couple together and having them continue their story over several books that smacks of domesticity, even if conflicts pull them apart and they have to find their way back together. You never get that initial spark back. The fantasy dies.

Maybe I'll get lucky and this won't happen. But I'm seriously doubting it.

Extra random thoughts...

- ~ Leila's sister reminded me of a rehash of *Cat's mom*. I was ready to kick her out the second she showed up.
- ~ Loins was used 10 times in this book. Who uses that term outside of historicals? Why don't I remember seeing this in NH? Was it there too?
- ~ **Don't misunderstand this review. I'm definitely looking forward to book 2.**

I think I'm probably the only person on the planet who hasn't read Jeaniene Frost's *Night Huntress* series, even though Cat and Bones get rave reviews. But I found *Once Burned*, the first book in her *Night Prince* series available via audio from my library, so I decided to give it a shot.

First, the story - I really enjoyed it! Fun, sexy, intriguing, the world, the people, the plot....everything combined made this a very entertaining read. Vlad is one crazy alpha vampire and in my opinion, he stole the show.

The audio was terrific. Tavia Gilbert WOW'd me with her ability to switch between male and female characters as well as a variety of accents. A pretty impressive narration.

I'm looking forward to reading and listening to more by this team.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

5 Electrifying Stars

Spoilers

First read 3/2/2014 Reread 12/2/2015

"I'll ask a second time," his deep, slightly accented voice said. "Who are you, and how the hell are you inside my head?"-Vlad

"What made you choose the name Vlad?" I asked, unable to resist adding, "It's not the most original vampire name you could have picked, after all." Instead of being offended, that little smirk was back. "I'm the only authentic Vlad. Everyone else is merely an envious imitation."-Leila and Vlad

Once Burned, the first book in the Night Prince series, was WOW..... Dayum Vlad is so yummy! I have loved Vlad since the first time I read about him in the night huntress series. I can't tell you how happy I was when I found out that my favorite fire starter was getting his own series. I will say there was a ton of embarrassing dancing.

I might be scarred, but I'm still tasty-looking, aren't I? Too bad you're not getting any of this no matter what that vision showed. His lips twitched, but he held out my chair without comment. It wasn't until after I sat down that he responded to my mental gauntlet. "If your goal is to dissuade me from seducing you, taunting me with promises of failure won't work." He settled himself into his chair with an easy, arrogant elegance. "I enjoy challenges, but I don't think it will be long until you're in my bed."-Leila and Vlad

"No, I do my torturing in the dungeon like any other respectable castle owner," he said, amusement

clear in his voice. "And the fourth floor isn't merely mine. My most trusted staff members have their rooms there, too."-Vlad

What this book is about

When Leila was young she touched a downed power line, it didn't kill her but it left her with some life changing side effects. She electrocutes anyone she touches and if she touches anyone or thing with her right hand she can see their past sins and sometimes the future. She is kidnapped by four crazy vampires that plan to use her powers to find another vampire(Vlad) that they want dead and then they plan on killing her. Not wanting to die and having no one to turn to she contacts through a mental link, the vampire they want her to find. But she tells him that some vampires are looking to kill him and have kidnapped her, and she ask for his help. But will this vampire really help her or is she trading one prison for another?

"This is our true tie," he whispered, his breath falling hotly onto my lips. "You're meant for me, and I will have you."-Vlad

"I never set a standard that I won't keep myself, and if you ever want out, you need only say the word. But mean it, Leila, because once I leave, I'm gone forever." Vlad's eyes bled back to deep copper as he spoke, and though they were no longer glowing in that inhuman way, somehow, they were more compelling. "Right back at you," I said, matching his unyielding stare. "Is that all?" His lips twisted. "No. I can give you honesty, monogamy, and more passion than you can stand, but not love. That emotion died in me long ago, as I suspect you already know." "Good," I replied in a steady voice. "I was worried that you'd turn into one of those obsessed, emo movie vampires, and that would be embarrassing for both of us."-Vlad and Leila

Vlad was a damaged,dangerous, complex, and sexy character. There are so many sides to Vlad one book would never be able to do him justice. Vlad is dark, has lived through things that would have broke most people, but he is a fighter. He is loyal to his people and protects whats his with the utmost ruthlessness. This book only made me fall more in love with Vlad. Leila is perfect for Vlad. She is brave, strong, but after living everyone elses worse sins and pain she has a darkness in her too. She stands up to Vlad, which no one else would dare, and she doesn't play games she just tells it like it is. I loved Leila almost as much as I did Vlad.

"What, after you finish shish-kebobbing Maximus for no good reason?" I snapped. He actually had the nerve to look at me as if I were the one overreacting. "No good reason? I ordered him to protect you. Instead, his actions resulted in you nearly burning to death. Did you think I'd let him off with a tongue-lashing?" "I didn't think you'd go pole-happy on him," -Leila and Vlad

Vlad and Leila are smokin' hot together. OMG I loved that Vlad was Leila's first and that he treated her like it was a gift and not a burden. I hate when H act like a virgin H is a burden. Not Vlad he told her how special it was. Then the shower sex *fans self* yummy. Jeaniene Frost is a talented writer who has made me fall madly in love with so many of her characters. This book was an amazing read, the plot, the MC, everything. I loved it and can't wait to read the next one.

"Such a reckless, foolish risk," he muttered, but when he brushed my hair, his touch was gentle despite his hardened tone. I smiled, holding up my hand. "Reckless, maybe. Foolish, no. You were right. This is a formidable weapon." He clasped it, absorbing the current it contained without a flicker

in his expression. "Yes, but you are still only human." I laughed, the sound of it drowned out by the crunch of rocks as the mountain continued to shudder as though in the throes of birth pangs. "So was Van Helsing, yet in every movie, he beat the vampire in the end. Never underestimate the power of humanity."-Vlad and Leila

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Having met Vlad before in the Night Huntress Series, I was really excited that he would be getting his very own book.

Once Burned the 1st book in the Night Prince Series begins when Vlad rescues Leila, whose gifts may be a way that vampires could take him down.

He takes her to his castle in Romania, where he promises to protect her and also to give her the real story of Vlad aka Dracula.....

The story is told by Leila's POV – transformed instead of being killed when she touched a power line, she's left with a gift of her right hand sending bolts of electricity to anyone she touches.

And guess what???

Not only does she meet someone who is not "zapped" by her lighting right hand...but he's damn gorgeous and hot.....

Sparks fly when they are near each other – Leila is totally besotted....

.....she's so totally into Vlad....

Vlad is totally obsessed with Leila....for the first time in thousands of years, he has found someone that touched something in him that he thought he had lost....but still, he holds back.....

He's faced with so many demons from his past and enemies who want nothing else but to destroy him. He can't let himself be distracted by someone like Leila.

I really liked this story and finding out Vlad's history and learning more about the person he is.

Leila was an interesting character. A lot of issues in her life and liked seeing her facing them and coming through a stronger person. I actually liked her a lot!!!

Loved the interaction between Vlad & Leila and the secondary characters...most of all...Cat & Bones...swoonnnnnnnnnnn!!!

The story ended pretty suddenly and I suppose one could say that the epilogue leaves us with a somewhat

cliffhanger...but knowing that we are going to get more of Vlad and Leila....that was enough for me.

Can't wait for book #2.

My favourite quote:

Shawna says

5 stars – Vampire/Paranormal/Urban Fantasy Romance

Thoughts Before Reading:

I am practically panting and salivating for Vlad's book!

Thoughts After Reading:

I am practically panting and salivating for Vlad's *next* book!

Like I said in my status update...Bones might be the reigning king of chapter 32, but Vlad is the *Night Prince* of chapter 23! Yowza! Inferno hotness!

But in all seriousness...Bones is one of my all-time favorite Romancelandia husbands, and even though Vlad made a powerful showing, Bones still rules ~~my loins~~ supreme.

Although I wouldn't be opposed to a Bones/Shawna/Vlad ménage...just sayin' I'm totally game for that, Ms. Frost, should you ever need a new character to shake and kink things up a bit in the *Night Huntress World!*

Vlad is enigmatic, blazing hot, darkly possessive, and compellingly cruel, and I enjoyed his relationship with spunky Leila. Other than my disappointment with the ending, I loved being **Once Burned** and can't wait to be Twice Tempted.

My favorite quotes:

"Two Leilas seemed to be battling it out inside me. The first was outraged that he still considered it a fait accompli that I'd give in to him, and the second...that slutty bitch was wondering what Vlad looked like naked."

"If I didn't want you so much," he said in a deadly purr, "I'd let you keep fucking me with your gaze, but you make me impatient."

Gena Showalter says

I love Jeaniene Frost. I've read every book she's published, and they are all on my keeper shelf. From the beginning her version of Vlad has captivated me. I'm so glad he got his own series. He is one of my favorite heroes. Bad to the bone, delicious, sarcastic, keeps himself set apart (for good reason!) but wow, when he falls for a girl, he FALLS for a girl. It's magic to read.

Anzu The Great Destroyer says

~~Is it just me or the cover model is Paul Marron? If yes, then lots of contracts on the dude's head this year!~~

P.S. That's not how I see Vlad, not even close.

P.P.S. I really don't like the cover. At all!

Vlad is one of my favorite characters in the Night Huntress world. Since I love him so much I doubt that I need to add more reasons to why I was having such high expectations for Once Burned. Plus, it's Jeaniene Frost we're talking about here. Well, you can say that my expectations were tremendous. Keep that in mind throughout my review, it will matter in the end.

Vlad? Are you reading this? Good. Here's a song I want to dedicate to you:

Physical by Nine Inch Nails

clears throat

So yeah, two stars. That's bad. That's really bad. I know, don't give me that look. It's not that I'm an ass, but it did not meet my "tremendous expectations". Not even one bit. And to tell you the truth my expectations aren't THAT tremendous. I wanted four simple things:

1. A good story.
2. Vlad being his old arrogant awesome self.
3. An admirable heroine.
4. A terrifying villain.

1. A good story

I did not want the best story on the planet. I'm not that exigent. I simply wanted a decent story that could entertain and awake some positive feelings inside me. Hell, I could go with negative feelings as well. Even so, make it good! Once Burned was sprinkled with cheese from top to bottom. Everything was unoriginal and, my biggest problem so far, tasteless. It lacked personality. It lacked feelings. I have no idea what happened with Frost but if her name wasn't written on the cover, I wouldn't say this is one of her books. It's so unlike her.

Oh, and the humor. Oh, my poor heart, the humor.

Minus one star from my rating.

2. Vlad being his old arrogant awesome self

Vlad's character was already well built since the previous books in which he made an appearance. I have a certain image in my mind for him. And no, I don't mean physical image. I've been complaining about the cover for a long time. I know. However, I'm not referring to that. I wouldn't take points away for a cover; that's being unfair. I'm talking about his attitude. Once Burned's Vlad is very different from Anzu's Vlad.

His presence in the book was not strong enough. When you think of Vlad, you think of a golden statue. What Frost brought was a mere bronze one. I wanted him to be stronger, to be more active, more present in the story. I wanted him to play hard to get. Yes, I'm aware of how strange that sounds. But he was TOO eager to get in her pants. I would have liked him to be all like "Bitch please. I'm too hot you your puny human ass." And then discover how awesome she is and fall in love with her. Or something.

But that's just me.

Minus one star from my rating.

3. An admirable heroine.

Leila is not the kind of heroine I would like to see next to Vlad. He outshines her too much, and I fail to see why he even fell for her. Their "love" is unlikely to happen. The Vlad I know wouldn't even spare her a second look.

I get that Frost had Megan Fox in mind when creating Leila's image so one could say that Vlad was simply physically attracted to her. Yes, it could be an answer, although I doubt that this is the reason he hooked up with her. No wait, it's more than "hooking up." He wants to make her HIS. See the difference?

Vlad wanting to make Leila HIS. Leila. No, I'm not buying it.

Audience: Did you not like Leila??

Anzu: No, I did not like her. At all. There is nothing to admire about her.

Audience: What about her accident? She was so strong willed to survive all that!

Anzu: She survived because she was lucky. She's not strong for managing not to kill herself for so many years. She's just human. That's all. Plus her decision-making process is a mess. Her way of thinking is flawed, and she's just plain annoying. Just have a look at this. Please, just read it.

"Do you have something you want me to relay before I go?"

"Yes." Vlad's voice was pleasant. "Tell him the next time I see him, I'll rip off his head and make a new toilet out of it."

"He hates you a lot," I summarized to Szilagyi.

He hates you a lot. That's her summary. Hates you a lot. What?? What the hell is wrong with this woman?

Ok, let me tell you how a woman worthy of Vlad should have replied.

"I don't know who you are. I don't know what you want. If you are looking for ransom, I

can tell you I don't have money. But what I do have are a very particular set of skills; skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you. If you let my friend go now, that'll be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you, and I will kill you."

And that's how it's done!

You know who would be a good enough woman for Vlad? Kate Daniels. Ok, Kate is in fact taken but some other chick as cool as Kate. Compare THAT to Leila.

Thought so.

Minus one star from my rating.

4. A terrifying villain.

No.

Minus one star from my rating.

The score so far

5 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 = 1 star

One fucking star! That's shameful.

Because I can't possibly make myself give a book containing Vlad one star, I'll add an extra one because of his awesomeness that never ceases to amaze me.

That's a result of two stars. Am I not being fair? Am I being a hard-to-please bitch?

No, I'm not.

Oh, and by the way, I thought this series was a PNR. And I was going on and on with the book and not for one second did I think that I'm making a mistake. That it reads like something else.

Well, guess what? It's actually an Urban Fantasy. Really? How does Once Burned even belong to the Urban Fantasy genre? No Jeaniene Frost, I will not be fooled! Once Burned reads like a typical cheesy romance without the hero's POV. That's what it is for me.

And P.S. thanks for ruining Vlad's book. Much appreciated.

Cereja Cult says

Vlad, Vlad, Vlad, VLAD!!!!!!!

Kat Kennedy says

I gave this four stars.

Rocks backwards and forwards

What is happening to me?! What am I turning into?

I just really liked how plot-heavy it was. And it's not Cat or Bones whose relationship I'm happy to put away for now. I liked Vlad as a character but I thought it was Leila who really made this novel.

It's not the usual backwards and forwards.

Her: "I really like him but I don't know if he likes me."

Him: "Wow. I really like you."

Her: "He's just saying that because he wants someone. I wish it were true."

Sexual tension

Interruption

Lots of sex

Plot resolution

Happily ever after

It can get a bit tiring, but this wasn't and I really want to see where Frost takes it from here.

But...but... I have to wait SO LONG!!!

Schay says

BEFORE

OMFGWTFBBQBOOYAH!!!!

...

...

I don't like beards.

But I like Vlad.

So I just imagine Vlad without a beard, until Frost mentions his stupid beard, and then I get annoyed all over again.

I <3 Jeaniene Frost.

POST-READ

IT'S NOT A BEARD! (Yes, I know I'm super late lol)

I love him. That is all.

P.S. Leila's slap was definitely one of the highlights of the book. *You go, gurl!*
