



## HeartsBlood

*Carolyn McCray*

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**HeartsBlood** Carolyn McCray

A woman of science.

A man of magic.

Hunted for their HeartsBlood.

Dr. SalistaCalon knew that she worked in a bad part of San Francisco, but nothing could prepare her for the horror that awaited her at the hospital.

After her best friend is slaughtered, Salista's only clue is a mysterious man dressed in leather. A man who claims to know not only the secret behind her best friend's death, but the key to controlling a force that could rend both their worlds... Blood Magic.

Drawn into a world beyond her comprehension and control, Salista must choose between science and magic. Her mind and her heart.

HeartsBlood... A love taken to its dangerous conclusion

## HeartsBlood Details

Date : Published by CreateSpace (first published November 21st 2010)

ISBN : 978145366538

Author : Carolyn McCray

Format : Paperback 472 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Thriller, Paranormal Romance

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## From Reader Review HeartsBlood for online ebook

### Samantha says

I absolutely loved this book...bad part is it gave me a teaser of a sequel at the end and it isn't in print yet...absolutely hate having to wait to see what happens next!!!

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### Jill says

Tyr is a great hero. Loved the fast pace and the plot kept me interested. Not much romance till the end but still recommend it.

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### Marsha Wilcox says

I love this book! It should become a series. There's already a 2nd book coming. I can envision telling this tale forever. Or at least until 3100. Philosophy (exquisitely buried) that I am still pondering. Great characterization, suspense. Why have I never heard of this writer before?

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### Wenj says

DNF.

Review provided by Black Lagoon Reviews:

After reading several very positive reviews about Carolyn McCray's HeartsBlood, I was eagerly anticipating reading it. However, once I finally started to do so I couldn't hide the vast amount of disappointment that I felt as after the first 100 pages I could no longer shy away from the fact that I just really wasn't enjoying either the story or the characters and was thus forced to abandon the novel totally, making this a DNF (Did Not Finish) read.

So where did this novel go wrong for me? Well, from the very beginning I couldn't develop any connection to the characters. The initial chapters were a hodge-podge of chaos more focused on the medical setting than on the characters themselves. Not only that, but there was a very definite stiffness to the writing that set me off as well. It was more geared towards a medical text than a paranormal romance. When the action involving the actual premise of the novel finally did come to pass, I was hopeful that things would turn around. Again, I was disappointed by the chaotic writing and the inner dialogue, more of a diagnosis really, which managed to drag the scene on and on. In the end, I felt that the potential that this story held was destroyed by the inability to turn off the medical jargon and overly analytical inner workings of the main character.

Usually, even when I dislike something it's usually salvaged by my curiosity about the characters more than

anything else. In fact, many novels I've been put off by have been saved by the writer's ability to make me care about them. I was hoping that that would be the case here and because of the characters I would come to be drawn into the story. Again, it just didn't happen. I even read far past what I could stomach simply with that hope pushing me on. As it was, I couldn't connect to the main character, the mysterious stranger, or the fiancée. In fact, I found myself down right disliking several of the characters because of how obnoxious and abrasive they were and therefore found no solice there.

I then left all hope for the story with the potential that the premise held, after all the synopsis sounded interesting which was the whole reason that I chose to review this novel in the first place. The idea was unique and intriguing and I liked the scientific take on things with the lingering promise of magic. In this regard, McCray definitely did bring the scientific atmosphere of the hospital to life. The medical basis of the plot was nicely developed, although, it seemed to take over the novel overshadowing everything else. From the medicinal aspect of the ER to the more clinical analysis of Sal's fiancée, it just all served to overpower the characters making them into walking, talking text books. When the magical aspect finally appeared, it just sort of fell flat under the more domineering science. The end result was a plot that was unfathomable with little practicality in the face of such an unbelieving heroine. When she does finally allow herself to ponder the possibility it comes off as being false under her stanch analytical mind making the actions seem at odds with the character.

In the end, I just couldn't bring myself to get into this novel. From the chaotic action scenes to the overly medical tone of the characters, I just couldn't connect to any of them despite the more then generous 100 pages that I tried. While this may appeal to some, evident by the rather glowing reviews out there, it just didn't hit the mark for me.

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### **Donna (BLHmistress) says**

I have been sitting here trying to find to words to express just how much I loved this book and I am not sure what I will say will do it justice. This book was amazing. I was immediately drawn in from the beginning. At first I thought the science of it would turn me off but the author explained it all to where I wasn't confused and I was wanting to know what in the world did the Beast want.

I stayed up til after 5 this morning to finish this because I just couldn't stop it was just that darned good and can I say I never was so excited for a first kiss ever in a book.

I loved not only the well written storyline but the characters as well. Even the side characters drew me in, though Richard, who in all rights should be the perfect dream man but definitely not for me, maybe I just love the dark broody type too much.

And lastly there was so many times I was left speechless, my jaw dropped and I thought I so didn't see that one coming especially the end. It definitely wasn't your typical ending and that I am torn about. Part of me was angry and wanted to scream NO! you can't leave it like that and part of me was like wow another twist I wasn't expecting.

Would I recommend? A big resounding YES do not walk run and get this book, Warning this book will cause a sleepless night. Meanwhile I am impatiently waiting for the next book in this series, Deadblood.

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**Kayla says**

I think I may actually be giving this three star review more than it deserves. When I started reading this book I couldn't get into it and didn't understand why. In fact, I had to push my way through Hearts Blood all the way to the end. I really just couldn't connect to the characters or the story. It got a little better as I went on and there were some interesting things that I wanted to know more about so I made little goals for myself to help me get through it. But it took forever to end and again I never really got interested. As for positives, it was pretty well written with the exception of a few jerky moments. And it was nice to get a medical perspective, but it was overwhelming at times.

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**Indie Books says**

Loving it so far!

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**S.J. Drum says**

I really liked this book. The plot, the characters and the writing were all wonderful. I loved the complexity of the characters, especially Sal. There were definitely spots that could have used the kind of help an editor provides. A tiny bit of plot tweaking, spell-checking and line-editing would kick this book up to a 5 star. I wonder if the author submitted to publishing houses before self-publishing.

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**GCB-LovesGoodBooks says**

I liked it well enough. I thought it refreshing that there was very little sex and still held my interest. But I thought it was too long and drawn out and the lead female character kind of bugged me. She did not seem emotionally mature in regards to male female relationships and pinned after the hero in a way that reminded me of 'He is not that much into you' in THAT way. So I thought that was strange - that aspect made me uncomfortable. But there were other things I liked about the book, especially the beginning and I had hoped that would carry me through. But I ended up just wanting it to end already. I liked Tyr and got the second book in the series because it was cheap on Amazon and I was curious to see where she would take the story. I am mostly curious about Tyr and would be perfectly happy if she found another lead female character for him to be with.

So yea, I liked it well enough.

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**Norm Davis says**

HeartsBlood, Carolyn McCray

While I've rated 4 stars it might just be 5 actually. It certainly kept me turning pages.

As advertised it is a paranormal romance, urban fantasy, thriller. And it really is all those things in spades. Carolyn McCray starts a little too fast, if that is possible. I say too fast because she was using fantasy terms that had not yet been very clearly explained from the beginning, so it takes a little to understand that Praxis, for example, is essentially "magic" of a sort. By the time you have that figured out, you're turning pages about as fast as possible. Another way she pumps you up to burning through pages is her use of very short chapters. Most chapters are not more than 3 pages

My notes say the first 70 pages are boring and confusing. By finishing the novel you've long forgotten that.

Sal, our heroine is an emergency room M.D.. Tyr is the hero who blasts through time to land, injured, near Sal's sour edge of San Francisco hospital. The attraction from Sal is immediate but the first encounter is so brief, she barely can believe it even happened. Tyr doesn't notice, he's chasing a beast that is very seriously dangerous, whatever time or place that it is in. He was born to destroy such beasts.

Hero and heroine have a very complex relationship that travels through twists and turns at every page. You do get to understanding Praxis, and the other kinds of "magic" that is essential to Tyr in his effort to destroy "the beast".

I'm not going to go into much more except to say if you want to ride a thoroughbred of a novel through unimaginable obstacle after obstacle, I'd recommend this one. With one caveat. You should really pick up "Praxis, the Blood Magic Saga Collection" as it has, in my mind, essential information in short "tween" stories that fill in more that you might think for as short as they are.

A warning to folks who might want to hand this to your young teen. Don't do that. They could probably handle 95% of it but at one point it is very very erotic. I'm sure that bit would make any good Harlequin romance novel blush.

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### **J. says**

Really enjoyed this book. Made me think about the future of this world. All the what if.... I love fast, action packed stories and this delivers.

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### **Becky says**

I don't usually read these sort of books, so I wasn't sure how it would be. I found it facinating and interesting. I really didn't get the magic and all as I don't read about it. So there was times while I was reading it that I was confused and had to go back and re-read parts. It was sad at the end. I would like to read the second book as I am still interested in the characters and now I have a foundation of the story and magic. I would recommend this book to those who really are into the urban fantasy and magic.

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## **Monika says**

### **Review posted on World of Diversity Fiction Reviews**

HeartsBlood is part of Praxis: Blood Magic Saga. There are three stories in this set with HeartsBlood being the big read. Blood Oath is a great short prequel to HeartsBlood, it gave me Tyr's back story something that was lacking when I originally read HeartsBlood and Blood Ties is that short story that will ease you into the second book in this series. This review is for all three.

I first read HeartsBlood in January of 2012 and I loved it. I couldn't wait for the next book to come out so I could find out what happens to Salista & Tyr. You see Heartsblood ends rather abruptly and it leaves you hanging, for me that was the only negative thing about the book but I knew a sequel was in the works so I didn't sweat it, it just took a long time to come out. When it was ready the author contacted me asking if I'd be interested in reading and giving an honest review of Praxis then doing the same with DeadBlood, the sequel, I jumped at the chance. So after reading the new additions and re-reading HeartsBlood this is my review of Praxis: Blood Magic Saga.

Praxis is a paranormal, time travelling, mystery, suspense and magic filled adventure. It's a different take on a paranormal and something I hadn't read before. It was a page turner for sure and there is a romance. The chemistry between Sal and Tyr was off the charts but I did get a bit impatient waiting for them to finally acknowledge their attraction for each other. Sal is a doctor who has a very boring fiancé and Tyr is a hunter from another time and place. He comes to Sal's time to hunt, capture and return a beast that is there looking for something but in his quest to find that something he kills anyone that gets in his way. Tyr knows he needs to get him back to their time before he does too much damage to Sal's world.

I loved Sal, she is different than most women in these types of stories, she's not that simpering damsel in distress but a strong, fierce woman that can take care of herself and she becomes a very important part of Tyr's hunt. After meeting Tyr she realizes that her engagement to Richard isn't working for her and eventually she changes that situation. For me the romance in this story is just a small part of it, the mystery of why the beast is there and watching Sal and Tyr come together to help each other stop him is why I loved this book so much.

It's well written and the pace was perfect. There was just the right amount of twists and turns to keep me glued to my Kindle and now I'm anxious to read DeadBlood, I need to find out how the rest of the story unfolds. If you love paranormal stories with a bit of romance I think you'll enjoy this.

I recommend this Series and the author.

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## **Kim Osborn says**

Excellent read

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## **Theresa says**

Um... I just finished reading this book less than 2 minutes ago, and I can honestly say that it has been a very long time since a book has affected me as deeply as *Heartsblood* did. Not very often does a book come along that makes you feel so intensely that the tears actually stream down your face. This one did. In fact, I'm still tearing as I write this. **THIS BOOK IS PHENOMENAL.**

The entire book had me gasping, laughing, and crying. Literally. Carolyn McCray's writing is absolutely awesome. She writes in such a way that the feelings that *Heartsblood* invokes are so intense and so, so real. You just can't help but be sucked into the world that McCray has created.

Both main characters are easy to relate to, even though Tyr seems to be from a completely different world. The descriptions and emotions written into the story make it easy to feel (not just "know") what is going on, and the connection between Tyr and Sal is evident, even though they struggle to communicate through their cultural differences.

I honestly feel as though I can't come up with the right words to do this book justice. Everything I'm writing is true, but doesn't seem good enough to portray what I'm feeling about this book right now. **GO. BUY. IT. NOW.**

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