



Children of the Vampire

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It is Amsterdam, 1871, twenty-five years before the start of Stoker's novel, and twenty-five years following Arkady Tsepesh's flight from his family's ancestral castle with his wife and young son, Stefan, after learning that he and his family are bound by an ancient covenant to serve their ancestor, Prince Vlad Tsepesh, who is also known as Dracula. For Vlad is a vampire, and the fated firstborn sons in every generation must bring him the victims he needs to survive. Arkady had tried to break the covenant and failed. He is now a vampire, separated from his beloved wife and son, with one all-consuming desire - to destroy Vlad before he draws Stefan into eternal service through the blood ritual. But Arkady has come too late to Amsterdam. Vlad kidnaps Stefan, and spirits him away to the castle in Transylvania to undergo the blood ritual. Arkady enlists the help of Stefan's stepbrother, Abraham Van Helsing, in his thrilling battle against Vlad, as he seeks to free his family and put an end to the age-old blood covenant - even if it means he must destroy his own son.

Children of the Vampire Details

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From Reader Review Children of the Vampire for online ebook

Barbara ★ says

Arkady has been turned vampire and "lives" to end the existence of his uncle Vlad and his sister, Zsuzsanna. His son, Stefan and his wife, Mary have successfully escaped Vlad and Arkady is desperate to find and protect them. Thinking Arkady dead, Mary has married Jan Van Helsing and adopted a child (Bram). It takes 26 years for Arkady to finally find them and then all hell breaks loose. Stefan is enthralled and kidnapped by Zsuzsanna and his brother Bram is ensnared by Arkady to help rescue him. Thus begins the adventures of Bram and the legacy of Van Helsing.

This is much darker than Covenant with the Vampire. More vile as children have become the targets of these deranged vampires. Again, a well-written - if at times grotesque - story that gives you a feel for the life and times of 1872.

Arielle Crowell says

This book was the sequel to Covenant with the vampire, and like the first, it was very engaging. It picks up where the last book leaves off with the main character still trying to protect his family from Dracula. What is interesting about this book is that it introduces Abraham Van Helsing, which makes for very interesting reading when we discover his connection to Dracula. You begin to sympathize with him very much for the things that he must face alone in order to save his family, just as the main character in Covenant with the Vampire did. Towards the end, however, it becomes a little farfetched... even by supernatural standards. The idea, however, was pretty fantastic and it explains those little nuisances in Bram Stoker's Dracula that are never explained... for example, the blue flames that Jonathan Harker sees while on the way to Castle Dracula. In Bram Stoker's version, you are just led to believe that strange things are happening but you have no idea what it means. Jeanne Kalogridis' Children of the Vampire attempts to explain this. Good book.

Lilian Bascuñan says

First of all, I should say that since I read Bram's Stocker Dracula's, I became addicted to that book in particular and to the vampire genre in general (minus the Twilight saga obviously). So when one day I was in the book store looking for something to read, I found this book on a shelf and read the back to see what was about. I didn't know the author, so my curiosity got the better of me when I read at it was a trilogy that filled all the holes in the Dracula book plot, like ¿where those vampiress came from? ¿How did dracula became a vampire? ¿Why did Van hellsing knew so much about vampires? ¿Why Vlad wanted to go to England of all the countries and places in the world?

I decided to make another round at the store to see if I found something else that picked my curiosity, but when I found myself for the third time in front of that book I thought "this is a signal" so I purchased the book, took it home and read it in record time. In fact, I read it so fast, that two days later I was back at the book store, for the second book, to read it as soon as I can to know what the hell happened after.

But then I found they didn't have the third one at the books store!! So I have to wait for the amazon

shippment and it seemed to take forever!! In the mean time my sister started to read the books and became as addicted as I was, and couldn't wait for me to finish the second one, so she could read it too.

When the third finally came home, I pretty much devoured it in like two hours, or something like that, and it really was worth the wait.

Seriously people, this saga, and this author is a must read for everyone, it would not let you down.

Jennifer says

Great book series

Christina says

The family curse destroys everything and everyone in this story that compares with the original "Dracula" method of story telling.....the diaries of the family. This book fulfills the fears and horror of the first book and leaves us eager to read the third book of the trilogy.

PurplyCookie says

Both a prequel to Bram Stoker's "**Dracula**" and a sequel to Kalogridis's own "**Covenant with the Vampire**", this second novel in a projected trilogy suffers by comparison to both. "**Children of the Vampire**" is a weaker book than the first in the series; parts of it drag on and on, especially in the middle. It felt mostly like setup for the final book in the trilogy; like the author was moving all the characters and plot lines to where they needed to be for the last book.

Arkady Tsepesh, the protagonist of Covenant, flees the castle of his great-granduncle, Vlad, Count Dracula, but he can't elude the influence of the vampire bite that has bound him to his sire, as it has the firstborn male of each generation of Tsepeshs for the past four centuries.

Meanwhile, Arkady's wife, Mary, who has given her husband up for dead, moves to Amsterdam and marries Doctor Jan Van Helsing. Neither Stefan, her son by Arkady, nor Abraham, whom the Van Helsings have adopted, have reason to suspect they are not blood brothers until the family curse draws Stefan to Vlad's castle in Transylvania.

Arkady has matured; you are given an insight to his brain and his emotions like never before concerning his wife, Mary and his son as well as his ties to Vlad and his sister. He is tortured, heroic and beautiful in this book, a character of pity and beauty at the same time. Smooth and caring and almost human at times, Arkady is the highlight of the novel.

The historical basis is somewhat improved, noting that Vlad served as a page in the court of Emperor Sigismund and was a hostage in the Turkish sultan's seraglio, and the plot and characters are well conceived. The appropriately few erotic scenes are deliciously rendered, although the throbbing undercurrent of sensuality inherent in the subject is not as palpable as in the tales of Anne Rice.

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Book Details:

Title Children of the Vampire (Diaries of the Family Dracul #2)

Author Jeanne Kalogridis

Reviewed By Purplycookie

Ana says

Debo admitir que tuvo un mejor comienzo que el primero, y que las acciones se desarrollaron de manera mucho más rápida también. Como ya se conoce a los personajes y el problema al que se enfrentan la primera mitad del libro la disfruté mucho, pues tenía mucho contenido.

Sin embargo, me ha sucedido igual que con el libro anterior: han hecho que los hechos avancen de manera demasiado rápida cerca del final, creando un clímax explosivo, para después darnos un desenlace muy lento que ha hecho que se me baje un poco la emoción causada por los giros de la trama. (Además de que cerca del último cuarto del libro, nos han presentado a un personaje de lo más fascinante, pero temo que no lo volveré a ver en el tercero)

Los personajes me han gustado más que en el anterior, Arkady evoluciona muy bien a pesar de no haber visto mucho de él en este libro, y sinceramente el nuevo protagonista me ha molestado durante casi toda la mitad del libro, pero cerca del final no me ha parecido tan malo.

Siento que hubieron mucho personajes, muy interesantes y misteriosos, que no se exploraron tanto y se dejaron en segundo plano, y de los que yo quería conocer mucho más.

Como en el anterior, el trabajo de investigación y documentación es excelente, crea una atmósfera aterradora y realista a la vez, además de darle un sustento a la historia muy sólido y logró conectarme con la época y el espacio (En esta ocasión un poco de Holanda y Transilvania).

El cierre de este libro no me ha gustado, ha sido lento y sin mucha emoción, y pienso que más que la estrategia (como fue el caso del primer libro), fue la suerte y la casualidad las que se encargaban de salvar a los personajes en esta ocasión. Sin embargo el trasfondo de la historia y el villano me han hecho querer leer el tercero para completar esta obra y saber que sucederá con el aparentemente invencible príncipe Vlad...

Benjamin Thomas says

The second book of the “The Diaries of the Family Dracul” trilogy continues the tale of Vlad Dracul and his descendants that began in book one, Covenant with the Vampire. The first couple of chapters take place in the immediate aftermath of that first book (1845) but then the plot takes a 26 year jump forward in time to 1871 where the rest of the novel takes place. Most of the same characters return although Vlad’s role this time around is much reduced from book one. I was happy to see the major addition of Van Helsing, and in a much more fleshed out way than he usually appears in Dracula tales. Indeed, this novel is largely about

Abraham Van Helsing, and his education and beginning experience as a vampire hunter. There is also a cameo appearance by Elizabeth Bathory, an alleged serial killer and Countess from the Báthory family of nobility in the Kingdom of Hungary.

This entire trilogy is a prequel to the classic story of Dracula by Bram Stoker. It's fascinating in scope and ideas and certainly well-written. But I felt this second novel was a bit too drawn out with a couple of characters belaboring their predicaments for too long. That's partly the nature of the writing style, what I tend to refer to as classical flowery and even Victorian in nature. I enjoyed the Van Helsing plot line the most but the rest seemed to be mostly marking time until book three. I do appreciate the author's research into all things Dracula and her choice to depict Vlad and other vampires with hard-core evil vampiric power. Nothing cartoony or sparkly about these undead creatures!

I am hopeful book 3 turns out to be a little more like book 1, filled with unpredictable plot lines, intriguing characters and an emotional climax.

Kathryn says

Every bit as captivating as the first book! The twists left me gasping in surprise. I can't wait for the reread!

Sarahí Cota says

Oh señor bendito... ¡Cómo sufrí con esta segunda entrega de Los Diarios de la Familia Drácula! Fue totalmente toda una torrente de emociones, desde las más fáciles de digerir hasta las más complicadas de entender.

Empieza desde la lucha interna de Kasha por romper la maldición y tratar de no sucumbir al éxtasis de dejarse llevar por la pasión que sus instintos le despiertan. ¿Y entonces qué pasa después? ¡BAM! No te dejes embelesar por la belleza de esos seres inmortales porque puedes caer bajo sus embrujos, tal como sus víctimas.

Sin duda es un libro que me ha encantado, lleno de... de vampirismo (a falta de palabras que puedan expresar bien mis sentimientos), lleno de cosas extraordinarias, mucho amor, mucha desesperación y casi lleno de sangre en cada página. Tanto así me envolvió la historia que es el libro que más rápido he leído. En conclusión, lo amé totalmente. No puedo esperar para empezar el tercer, pero ese será hasta mañana.

¡Totalmente recomendable!

Sara Gómez says

segunda parte de la historia de la familia Dracul.

En este tomo se narran los varios intentos de acabar con Vlad El Empalador y nos muestra la parte más cruel de este. Se deshace de la parte sensual, erótica y con atisbos de sentimientos para presentarnos a Vlad El Empalador, cruel, retorcido y con aires de grandeza.

El libro está bastante bien hasta que la escritora se lía un poco historias de auras, magia, poderes especiales, que no sé muy bien qué tiene que en esta historia.

Otro punto es...no entiendo por qué dicen que esto es la precuela de Drácula de Bram Stoker, no veo ninguna coincidencia con ese libro, ni tan siquiera el árbol genealógico coincide.

Esperaré un tiempo a leer el 3, porque he quedado un poco saturada y creo que la historia se le está llenando de las manos a la escritora.

Leeanna says

Diaries of the Family Dracul #2: Children of the Vampire, by Jeanne Kalogridis

A sequel to "Covenant with the Vampire," "Children of the Vampire" continues the Dracula prequel with diaries by Arkady, Zsuzsanna, and two new characters: Stefan and Bram Van Helsing.

Because Vlad broke the covenant he made with the Devil in the first book, he still owes the soul of the eldest son to purchase his continued immortality. Now that Arkady is a vampire, Vlad must find Stefan, Arkady's son who was spirited away from the monster's castle as a baby. Vlad and Arkady alternatively kidnap and save Stefan, as each tries to oppose the other.

"Children of the Vampire" is a weaker book than the first in the series; parts of it drag on and on, especially in the middle. It felt mostly like setup for the final book in the trilogy; like the author was moving all the characters and plot lines to where they needed to be for the last book. There are some metaphysical elements which start out interesting, but I got a little tired of pages and pages of them.

One thing I do like about this book, though, is that again Kalogridis isn't afraid to broach any subject, or write any plot twist. I was never exactly sure what was going to happen, and the unpredictability was nice.

If read alone, "Children with the Vampire" suffers, but as a middle book for the Diaries of the Family Dracul series, it's alright. I'm definitely looking forward to the last book to see how everything finishes up.

3/5.

Zachariah N. Allison says

The 2nd book in "The Diaries of the Family Dracul" series, "Children of the Vampire" picks up the pace of where we were previously left and continues with the same hauntingly beautiful narrative as before. Along with new characters, there are also new elements that cross into the fantasy genre, which in a world of vampires, really isn't a stretch. The characters are still vivid and alive, not just stock caricatures. You care for them and what happens to them.

Gone are the romanticized versions of Count Vlad Dracula, who has, in recent years, been portrayed in a sympathetic light, in a bizarre attempt to humanize him. Jeanne Kalogridis portrays him as he truly is: blood-thirsty, malevolent, and utterly self-serving in his goals for sustaining immortality.

A strong middle act in what is one of the best trilogies available.

Jesús Cardeña Morales says

Me ha gustado muchísimo más este libro que el primero, sobre todo porque ya se empieza a vislumbrar la relación que hay entre los personajes de esta historia con los que vendrán después en "Drácula" de Bram Stoker.

Me ha llamado la atención sobre todo Van Helsing. No me imaginaba la aparición que este personaje iba a tener en la historia, pero me ha gustado mucho, y sobre todo como ha cogido el testigo del anterior protagonista.

Lo único que no me termina de llenar son los finales de las novelas. Toda la novela preparándose para enfrentarse a Drácula y todo termina con el viaje al castillo (igual que en la novela de Stoker), me parece poco original.

También me ha dado pena que el personaje de Mary salga tan poco en esta novela, y en el estado en el que sale. Era el personaje que más me gustaba en la primera y me ha dado rabia no poder saborearlo más.

Vayamos con el tercero, pues.

S. Rutherford says

It's Dracula and somewhat accurate to the history, but it throws in Elizabeth Bathory at the end of the series (which is awesome!). It's a very good read but I will warn you, it's even a bit angst and twisted. It's the evil Dracula that we're taught about in school (or rather, I was). It even has Van Helsing, or one of his children--it's a good twist of a story.
