



# The Last American Vampire

*Seth Grahame-Smith*

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## **The Last American Vampire** Seth Grahame-Smith

*New York Times* bestselling author Seth Grahame-Smith returns with the follow-up to *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*--a sweeping, alternate history of 20th Century America as seen through the eyes of vampire Henry Sturges.

## **THE LAST AMERICAN VAMPIRE**

In Reconstruction-era America, vampire Henry Sturges is searching for renewed purpose in the wake of his friend Abraham Lincoln's shocking death. It will be an expansive journey that will first send him to England for an unexpected encounter with Jack the Ripper, then to New York City for the birth of a new American century, the dawn of the electric era of Tesla and Edison, and the blazing disaster of the 1937 Hindenburg crash. Along the way, Henry goes on the road in a Kerouac-influenced trip as Seth Grahame-Smith ingeniously weaves vampire history through Russia's October Revolution, the First and Second World Wars, and the JFK assassination. Expansive in scope and serious in execution, **THE LAST AMERICAN VAMPIRE** is sure to appeal to the passionate readers who made *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* a runaway success.

## **The Last American Vampire Details**

Date : Published January 13th 2015 by Grand Central Publishing

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Author : Seth Grahame-Smith

Format : Hardcover 399 pages

Genre : Horror, Historical, Historical Fiction, Paranormal, Vampires, Fiction, Fantasy

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# From Reader Review The Last American Vampire for online ebook

## Crowinator says

To be fair, Seth Grahame-Smith can write. I wish he'd use his talents on something else, something less gimmicky, but those who enjoyed *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter* (the book, not the movie) will probably enjoy this too. It's memorably gross, in a novel way (at one point, vampire Henry smokes a cigar and exhales through the ripped out throat of a victim so that it comes out of the victim's nostrils; at another, he reminisces about popping off vertebra of a victim like champagne corks; some Klansman are flayed and nailed to crosses; Nikola Tesla uses a death ray on Rasputin -- which still doesn't kill him). The mash-up of true history and vampire "history" can be fun, but it can also be textbook-level dry, too. I think the idea sounds more fun than the execution. That's weird, right? Maybe it's because I dislike historical fiction and, as a result, many alternate histories, and vampire violence wasn't enough for me, since it's presented so seriously. Would this be better if it was wholly B-movie silly? I have no idea, but it would benefit from not being 400 pages, for sure. The conceit wears thin, after a while, despite the surprisingly nice writing.

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## Latasha says

omg I freakin loved this book! Henry, please marry me!! the story was great and the characters were out of this world. my favorite part is when he meets Tesla and Twain. omg they were great!!yes, yes. you should read this book!

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## ❀Aimee❀ Just one more page... says

In this spin-off of the author's "Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter", we get to see the life of Henry Sturges up to the current day. Henry was the vampire that taught Abe to fight the bad vampires.

Think of this as a vampire version of Forest Gump.

We see Henry before vampirism, and then throughout history as he interacts with the historic figures and events. And of course these events often had evil vampires involved either directly or pulling the strings.

You'll hear the story of the mysterious Roanoke Colony, meet Nikola Tesla,

Mark Twain,

Jack the Ripper

and Rasputin.

We see Henry throughout the major battles and wars, meet presidents, deal with the KKK, experience prohibition, and what really happened with the Hindenburg.

I would periodically set the book down and look up the true history. The author does well keeping within known history and adding his twist to it. I enjoyed learning more details about the actual history.

I did feel that the author inserted the vampire villian as an afterthought. Like he needed something to tie the story together. Somehow it seemed like a side issue for me.

There is epic gore. I can usually put up with the gore when it's told in over the top humorous fashion... think Simon Pegg and "Hot Fuzz"

And there were several moments like that in the book. However, there were some that turned my stomach. A few times in the book, Henry draws out the pain and fear in his victims tortuously because they are truly evil...and that's just not my cuppa tea.

Some may feel it is slow at times, but the pace was fine to me. I really enjoyed most of this book.

*Thank you Netgalley for a free digital copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Tressa says**

I wasn't sure I would enjoy The Last American Vampire as much as Seth Grahame-Smith's Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, but I did. This is a fun, gory book that perfectly weaves famous American historical figures and events into vampire lore. It's fun anticipating and trying to guess which character or event the lead character Henry, a 500-year-old vampire, casually plunks down into the plot, and to determine, why, yes, Rasputin was almost impossible to kill and now we know why: he was a vampire! We get to meet Mark Twain, Howard Hughes, Virginia Dare, Rasputin, Tesla, a handful of presidents, and many others and learn how they conspired with the dwindling population of vampires to keep America on the right track...or to ruin her. I really appreciate the pro-American theme Grahame-Smith infuses into his plot.

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### **Hillary Pincus says**

I didn't watch "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" but I saw the movie (yes, yes I know. Shame, shame.) The main character in The Last American Vampire is Lincoln's vampire partner in crime, Henry Burgess. The story follows Henry just after Lincoln's assassination, through White Chapel, to Russia and hunting down Rasputin, tasked with eliminating Adolf Hitler, the crash of the Hindenberg, WWI, WWII, and the assassination of John F. Kennedy (in no particular order). During these adventures there are many cameos by famous historical figures.

It took me a bit longer to finish this than it should have, but the story was amusing and held my interest and I would recommend this read to anyone who loves vampires and history, and vampires in history :)

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## Char says

I listened to this on audio. It was a fun historical fiction story punctuated by gory vampire fights and famous characters of the times like Mark Twain, Sir Conan Doyle and Nikola Tesla.

Fast paced and fun. Recommended!

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## Sarah says

I am a fan of Seth Grahame-Smith. I enjoyed Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter so much that I went on to read his first book, Pride and Prejudice and Zombies. My favorite of his books is Unholy Night, his story of the three wise men. What I enjoy most is that on one level he stays very true to history, or text, and then weaves in a purely fictional story with vampires or zombies. The readers of his books willingly suspend disbelief making these books a fun read. These books make me feel like I am part of a fanciful inside joke.

I was happy to get one of the first copies my library received of his latest book, The Last American Vampire. The book begins with the death of Abraham Lincoln and moves forward through time with the vampire Henry Sturges. For the most part I enjoyed the book. It was fun and an interesting fictional twist on history. What I did not like was that the book covered far too much too quickly. Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter focused on the lifetime of the former president and the Civil War, this book attempts to go from 1865 to 2001. While it was fun to meet some real-life characters of history, so much was lost in the speedy travel. I think the author would have been better served focusing on the two World Wars. I kept wondering if this was the book Grahame-Smith wanted to write or if this was the book his publisher wanted him to write. The door was left open for another book, but I hope the author thinks carefully before starting a third of this series. I left another author and her great vampire tales because she could not let the story end.

If you are a fan, read The Last American Vampire. If you have not read any of Grahame-Smith's books, read one, or all of, the first three. I look forward to his next book and hope that he moves onto new characters and history or literary classic.

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## TL says

First read: January 24-27th 2015

Re-read via audiobook: December 28th 2015-sometime in January 2016

Narrator: Five stars

Story: Four Stars

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Original review: (changes/edits) have asterisk by them

Welcome to the story of Henry Sturges :)

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This was a really good but sometimes tedious book. Don't get me wrong, I loved seeing into Henry's life, getting insights into his head and seeing all the things he has done past and present. The list of historical figures that came through was impressive and for a couple I had a few giggles. A couple of times my mouth even dropped open.

The two parts of the story I really hoped the author would do happened and I eagerly devoured them, going over them in my head before continuing on.

Plus there was this:

My ancestor got a mini-mention haha... that was just awesome :).

The villain of the story was well done and not what I expected. She was cruel, calculated, smart, and crazy... a worthy opponent. The uncovering of her identity by a certain someone was amusing, well to me anyway.. seeing Henry speechless. Plus, a certain other element came into play that had me almost jumping up and down :).

\*(view spoiler)

So what are my issues? Well, I was speeding through this up until after World War 2 era. After that, the book was interesting but started to fail to grab me at the same time. I started to not get book fatigue exactly but wondering why Henry was still doing what he was doing. \*Certain things (view spoiler) weren't boring but it felt like Henry kept repeating himself in a way.

\*(view spoiler)

The tie-in with a part of the first book was good and the evening spent talking with Kennedy was quietly unsettling when certain aspects were reflected on...

Other than those and a certainly exciting and surprising/one part sad but satisfying ending, I didn't enjoy the latter part as much. It felt like some parts could have been edited or left out perhaps.

When the villain makes another appearance, I was intrigued slightly but that was overwhelmed mostly by "Back again? Kill her please!" \*It felt too drawn out to me... it probably wasn't done just for the drama (the final fight was exciting in its own way) but that was the only time I was seriously annoyed with the story. (view spoiler)

Also, while some of the footnotes add to the story, others were merely distracting.

Mr. Grahame-Smith does a great job weaving these stories of Henry's existence together with historical events and making them so seem plausible/real.. Making you think "What if" in some cases (fun to play).

I would recommend this, it's a great book overall and I would love to hear more about Henry one day if there's a new tale to be told :).

Happy reading!

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Check out Carole's awesome review of this book as well :).

❀Aimee❀ Just one more page...'s review

Albert's review

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## Rebecca McNutt says

I've never been much of a vampire fan (many vampire-themed books I've read are very gory and formulaic without much to make them unique), but *The Last American Vampire*, a sequel to another book I've yet to read, has an edge that really makes it stand out - historical fiction set in the 20th century, a seemingly more simplistic time that evokes nostalgia even though I was never there. Henry Sturges is the Forrest Gump of vampires, appearing in numerous significant events and bringing readers along for the ride with not just horror, but also wit, vivid scenery and believable characters. After a while it began to get a bit repetitive, dragging Henry from place to place in a very predictable pattern, but each of his little escapades is slightly different and takes him to brand new horizons, making this book a thrilling and exciting read. I got it on sale in the giant bargain box of cheap overstock titles at the grocery store here in town so I'll be going back to look for the first in the series after the Canada Day holiday! :)

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## Christine says

In 1587 the Colony of Roanoke was established and just as quickly disappeared, seemingly without a trace. To this day no explanations of what happened to those 115 colonists has been uncovered. In the fall of 1888 "Jack the Ripper" terrorized the WhiteChapel district of London with his string of murders. Just as suddenly the murders stopped and no one knows who Saucy Jack might have been or why the murders so suddenly ended. In 1897 Bram Stoker introduced the world to Count Dracula, a vampire. Many have speculated on the inspiration behind his, now classic, story but no one really knows for sure.

Well, let me tell you, since reading Mr. Grahame-Smith's book I now have all the answers to these mysteries and more. After helping Abraham Lincoln in "Vampire Hunter" Henry Sturges returns offering readers his own story, including his own "making". Since his making he has been a vampire with a conscience, righting wrongs when he can, feeding only on the dregs of society and believing that humans and vampires can co-exist. Henry is definitely pro-human. But now Henry has a nemesis. Another vampire who believes their species should rule and humans need to be brought to their knees. In his quest to find this vampire he takes the reader traipsing through the pages of history ... Henry's version.

Henry has had centuries to accumulate the wealth required to sustain his mysterious and (of course) never-ending lifestyle. Having been "outed" to American presidents Henry also moves in circles of power. As we follow along on his journey we meet many of the who's who in Europe, Russia and North America including

Rasputin, Tesla, Arthur Conan-Doyle and FDR as well having an up close and personal (Henry style) view of most major historical events from Roanoke, through both World Wars and right up to the assassination of JFK.

All of that seems as though it would be a lot to cover in one book, but it all works in this one. I do not read much in the genre of alternative history because the few I did read have seemed forced in their attempt to make history fit the story. Not so in the case of Mr. Grahame-Smith's entry. The introduction of his vampires into historical events is seamless. It is so smoothly done that, although I KNOW it's a work of fiction, I find myself once again as I did in Vampire Hunter, tapping my forefinger onto my chin and thinking, "Hmmm – it's possible!" The inclusion of footnotes and surprisingly convincing photos only adds to that perception.

The book closes with Henry's retirement. I hope not!

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### Char says

The Last American Vampire (audio) I listened to this on audio.

It was a fun historical fiction story punctuated by gory vampire fights and famous characters of the times like Mark Twain, Sir Conan Doyle and Nikola Tesla. Fast paced and fun.

Recommended!

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### Elisha Condie says

It kind of pains me to give one of Seth Grahame-Smith's books one star. Because I really liked his other books. And I've thought about it for a few days and I think what was missing from this book was it's human center - in the other books we had Abraham Lincoln, the Bennett sisters, or the Holy Family.

This book is all about Henry Sturges, that guy who taught ol' Abe about vampire hunting. This book follows his whole history and it can be summed up as: Bad guy you think is dead ISN'T! And much killing ensues.

It got to be anti-climactic almost after every single bad guy kept resurfacing. And then murders someone in a gruesome way. This book was WAAAAY too gross for me. I was just skipping whole pages. And just over and over and over. Its weird to get bored by excessive gore, but that's just what happened.

I didn't like this one but would still recommend his other books.

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### Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

**The Last American Vampire** is the sequel to **Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter**, a book that I haven't read (yet). In this book, we follow Henry Sturges through the centuries. He has seen it all he has seen America throughout the centuries becoming the land it is today. He has traveled to his homeland England for the first time since he became a vampire. He has met many quite famous men like; Bram Stoker, James



Irving, Arthur Conan Doyle, Mark Twain, Nikola Tesla, Teddy Roosevelt, Rasputin, Eliot Ness, FDR, Howard Hughes and Jack Kennedy. He even met Jack the Ripper!

But deep in the shadow is an enemy lurking, someone called A. Grandeur III, but no matter what Henry does or where he goes he just doesn't seem to be able to find this A. Grandeur III. This mysterious enemy seems to want to bring chaos into the world.

Yes, there were moments when I thought the book was too long when I read it, it was just so much happening during so many years that I just felt that this could have easily been two books. But in the end, when I was finished and looked back; everything was important, every encounter led in the end to the confrontation between Henry Sturges and A. Grandeur III. But still it was very much happening and I was left a bit exhausted in the end like one does when a book has had a so strong grip of you that you hardly know what to do when you have finished the book. But what a great read. This review is actually one of the hardest I have had to write because so much happened, but I don't want to give much away and I don't want to write an awful darn long review with me just writing how much I loved this book. I'm sure you all aren't that interested in that...

In the end, I just have to say, I really felt drained after reading this book (pun intended)...

*I received this copy from the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review!*

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## **Badseedgirl says**

This was even better than the first book in the series. Henry Sturges is fleshed out much more in this book. In making him the main character, Mr. Grahame-Smith open up over 400 years of history to flounce around in. And My does Henry flounce. Apparently vampires, and Henry Sturges in particular, had a finger in almost all major events in history.

I didn't think I would, but I'm actually looking forward to the next book in the series.

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## **Erin says**

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

Every reader I know has a guilty pleasure and I am no exception. Some like steamy romances, others favor straight-up erotica, but I myself gravitate to steampunk and paranormal fiction which is how I discovered Seth Grahame-Smith back in 2010. I'd just reread *Pride and Prejudice* and feeling game for a laugh, I decided to follow it up with *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

Honestly I found the book amusing, but I wasn't overly impressed with the title, so I very nearly passed when a local bookseller recommended *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*. Please excuse the pun, but I like books I can sink my teeth into and while my first experience with Grahame-Smith had been entertaining, I'd found *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* fluffy and I didn't consider a second go round particularly promising. Fortunately for all, I ignored my initial impulse and threw the recommendation on top of my other purchases.

For the record, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter is a much better book than it is a movie. It is playful and dark, but it is also remarkably clever. Grahame-Smith wove several elements of Lincoln's life into the fabric of his fiction and placed some very imaginative twists on Civil War battles like Bull Run and Antietam. The author's inclusion of headliners such as Edgar Allan Poe, William H. Seward, Stephen A. Douglas, George B. McClellan, and John Wilkes Booth further emphasized his appreciation for the history on which the story was based and brought a unique dynamic to a genre typically void of authentic detail. In short, I loved it.

Naturally, this appreciation prompted significant enthusiasm for The Last American Vampire (Bout time I got round to the book in question eh?). A sequel for lack of a better term, Grahame-Smith's latest release reunites readers with Henry Sturges and chronicles the vampiric history of America from Roanoke to the assassination of JFK while tying Abe's enigmatic mentor to the Whitechapel Murders and the October Revolution. Notable cameos represent a who's who of history with appearances by Abraham Lincoln, Adam Fitzroy Plantagenet, Frederick Abberline, Sir Henry Irving, Bram Stoker, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, John White, Virginia Dare, Nikola Tesla, Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, Felix Yusupov, Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich, Grigori Rasputin, Alexei Nikolaevich, John D. Rockefeller, Chief Powhatan, John Smith, Niels Bohr, J. Edgar Hoover, Eliot Ness, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Adolf Hitler, Howard Hughes, Lee Harvey Oswald, John F. Kennedy and Jack Ruby.

So what are my thoughts? Did The Last American Vampire live up to its predecessor or did it fall short like Grahame-Smith's adaptation of Austen's classic? Honestly, I think it somewhere in between. The historic scope of the novel appealed to my interests and I get a kick out of Grahame-Smith's sense of humor, but feel the execution lacked necessary cohesion and question the significance of much of the material in relation to Henry's pursuit of Grander. It's a fun piece, but much like Norrington's The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, the final product fails to meet its full potential.

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## **Gram says**

Read this book and solve the mystery of the disappearance of the Roanoke settlers; discover the identity of Jack The Ripper; how Rasputin really died; Howard Hughes deadly secret; the truth behind the assassination of JFK - and much more! Then, throw in more gore than Leatherface could let out with a zillion chainsaws! Terrific fun!

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## **Abby says**

3.5/5

Forrest Gump with vampires! Our main character Henry goes through years of American history meeting many important figures. Years of killing people under the rule of various presidents, including Rasputin and Hitler. One thing that really frustrated me about this book was that it kept flipping between first and third person viewpoints, both representing the same person. Maybe it was written different, but it was extremely annoying on audiobook.

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## **Albert says**

The Last American Vampire by Seth Grahame-Smith is one of those rare sequels that outdoes the original in both scope and vision. The first book is of course Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter which is not as ridiculous as it sounds and far better than the movie that was made from it.

This second novel begins soon after the first has ended, with the assassination of President Lincoln. His friend, and vampire, Henry Sturges filled with grief and not seeing how this young nation could continue forward without their great leader does the unthinkable. He turns Lincoln into a vampire as well. But Lincoln, unable to accept this new existence throws himself out the window into the sunlight and burns.

Sturges, alone must go forward and is called back to the land of his birth by the Union of Vampires to deal with a conspiracy that threatens both vampires and humans alike. Along the way he recalls his own turning at the hands of a vampire that had settled with the first English settlement in the Americas at the place known as Roanoke. He also becomes involved with Bram Stoker and Arthur Conan Doyle as they hunt the killer known as Jack the Ripper. As time passes Henry becomes involved in conspiracies with Tesla, Edison, Rasputin, Mark Twain, President Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt, the crash of the Hindenburg and a failed attempt to murder Adolf Hitler. Sturges with the help of an old friend becomes something of a secret agent in service to the United States and his life is one long history lesson with humans and vampires alike battling for the soul of this young nation.

What might have seemed to hamper this novel, the aspect of over a hundred years of history told through the eyes of a vampire, is in fact what makes it so entertaining and bold. Historic figures and happenings told through the eyes of one who would have lived it. With some being vampires and some human, but detailed in such a manner that the reader is left with a thought of, what if?

Don't be misled though. These are not PG vampires, not your teen fantasy run of the mill blood suckers. These are monsters bent on the destruction of humanity with a deep seated vendetta to destroy the country that come from the original colonies.

Grahame-Smith takes his character and story through the history and events of the last hundred or so years with depth and flow. The story never stagnates and Henry is forever trying to save the country he loves.

A terrific novel!

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## **Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says**

**1/13/15: Now Available!**

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

4 Stars!

This book first came to my attention because of the cover which I absolutely love. I really enjoyed reading

this book. I found some sections of the book were amazingly good while other sections seemed a bit tedious for me. Overall, I liked it and found it to be a worthwhile read. This is the first book by Seth Grahame-Smith that I have had a chance to read and while this is listed as a follow up book to Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, I thought it read just fine as a stand alone novel.

I can't remember reading any other book that would be classified as an alternative history before reading this book so I went in not knowing what I should expect. I was not surprised that the book included a long list of important historical figures and events from the past several hundred years. I really enjoyed how so many people from the past found their way into this story. The author choose very well know people and events to include in this story and it was fun to imagine the possibilities.

I was a bit surprised by the style used to write this book. This book read very similarly to books that I remember from history class packed with photos, footnotes, and excerpts. I could not believe the number of footnotes that were a part of this novel. Sometimes, I felt like the footnotes didn't add anything to the story but just gave a tedious unrelated detail. I didn't mind that the book was written with footnotes but I do wish that only ones that really added to the story were included. The photos included in the book were really fun and I thought that they really brought a lot to the book. There were a lot of excerpts from Henry's journal so the voice the story was told in shifted often.

This book told the story of Henry Struges. Henry Struges was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln and I believe he had a major role in *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*. Henry Struges is also a vampire and has been one for quite some time. This book focuses on his life and his encounters with many historical people and events. This book focuses mostly on the period of after the civil war until present day with some focus being given to the very beginning of our nation, actually when the English first started to settle in the New World.

One of the main problems that I had with the book was that it read very much like a compilation of short stories. We would learn about one event in Henry's life and then move on to the next with only a very small thread holding everything together. I would have liked to see everything tie together more strongly.

It was very nice to read a vampire book that had absolutely no focus on romance. I would recommend this book to others that like a good vampire tale especially fans of Seth Graham-Smith. This is the first book by Seth Graham-Smith that I have read and I do plan to read more by this author.

*I received a copy of this book from Grand Central Publishing via Net Galley for the purpose of providing an honest review.*

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## **Marc-Antoine says**

I haven't had this much fun reading a book since, well, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. Which is fitting since this is the sequel.

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