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All I ever wanted was the freedom to live life as I pleased, despite my aristocratic parents' hopes I'd secure a prestigious husband. But my fate was far more terrible than an arranged marriage when my family became prisoners to one of the most fearsome and powerful vampires of all time, Count Vlad Dracula.

Imprisoned in the decrepit castle in the Carpathian Mountains, my new life as a Bride of Dracula was filled with bloody feasts, cruel beatings, and sexual depravity. There was no hope of escape

It was only when he took me to the picturesque city of Buda on the Danube River and I met a handsome, mysterious vampire in the darkened city streets, did I dare hope to find love and freedom.

The Tale Of The Vampire Bride Details

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From Reader Review The Tale Of The Vampire Bride for online ebook

Willow Brooks says

This book had me on the edge of my bed, seat, and sanity. This is by far the best version of Dracula I've ever read or watched on television. This is a thriller that's sure to keep you turning the page from one dark scene to the next.

Umm.... the sisters and vampire mother in this story were some weirdo freaks. Seriously strange little blood sucking freaketts.

Cphe says

Plenty of reviews already for this novel that I would describe as "gothic horror." The bride in question is Lady Glynis Wright who finds herself manipulated / forced into a marriage with Vlad Dracula. It isn't a match "made in heaven."

I enjoyed some parts of the novel more so than others. The first half of the novel lagged a bit but the second half did gain momentum. Found the secondary characters to be the more interesting, namely Astir, Ignatius and the mortal Andrew. They had the more depth which was a bit surprising.

Glynis irritated me at times, it's true she did mature and come into her own by the end of the novel but her "pouting" and "stomping" did irritate.

Other reviewers have already mentioned the violence in the novel especially towards the female characters, so readers do need to be aware.

Future Slayer Girl says

You know when you get a present from someone that you really don't know all that well. You haven't told them what you wanted, yet you take it with some trepidation, but at the same time you have this internal excitement that you just might get something super good?

That is what reading The Tale of the Vampire Bride was about. I have to admit that about a quarter way through the book I hated it. I wanted to stop and tell everyone about the bitter taste it left in my mouth. However, I am a sucker for abusive, sociopathic, and brutish vampires apparently, because against my better judgment I keep on reading.

Was I glad I did?

HELL YES! This book unraveled in this complicated weaving of the traditional Dracula tale, with the

perspective of his unwilling Bride Glynis Wright. I have to admit that I loved her from that start and I was so angry over her treatment in the beginning half of the book. Then the plot started to evolve. Then things started to click in my brain. Then I just couldn't stop, but I had to. I had to walk away and take a deep breath because I was getting far too involved in the characters.

I was starting to somewhat fall for the abuser!

I felt dirty, I felt wrong, but in all fairness, it makes sense. Vlad is the ultimate bad boy. He suddenly sees, and by then it is too late, his brutality is his ultimate downfall.

There are some grammar errors throughout the book, which I know that ultimately the stuck up reader will judge the whole book on. Trust me, I have seen a very and truly amazing story be taken down brutally by the stuck up reader just because of grammar issues. I am not said stuck up reader and I saw the book for what it was, one hell of a damned good vampire book! The heroine was strong, the villain was an anti hero that I want more of, and the love interests' fate was left to the unknown. It was a book filled with twists and turns, and the narrative totally sucked me into Glynis's world.

I recommend this book to ANYONE that wants a good juicy vampire book to sink into. It is not for the faint of heart and it will piss off most women, but in the end I'm pretty sure you will be left like I am, wanting more and it's on its way. According to the author's blog she's on Chapter 19!

Michelle says

Review to come...

Kody Boye says

I've been taking some time after reading this novel in order to culminate my thoughts on it. It's not because I'm lazy in writing reviews (because trust me, I try to write a review for each and every small press/independent book I read if only because I want to support them,) but it's because I wanted some time to think about the story in whole. There's a lot to think about, considering its first print run was somewhere near the five-hundred page mark, so without further ado, here's my review.

The Tale of the Vampire Bride isn't what many people would make it out to be. Violent, brutal, heartbreaking and above all else, tragic, it begins with a young Englishwoman's family traveling to meet a count that has requested to meet our heroine of the story, Lady Glynis Wright. Far ahead of her time and more than against the idea that she should marry what she believes will be an 'old, fat count,' our main character is instantly introduced to us in a way that only begins to solidify her personality from the start. As with past experience with Rhiannon Frater's work (As the World Dies, Pretty When She Dies, The Living Dead Boy and the Zombie Hunters,) the reader quickly learns about their character through minute, seemingly-unrecognizable things that some readers won't immediately pick upon. The way Glynis pouts, stamps her feet and shows a strong relationship with her father immediately introduces us to a young woman who is, by all means, a feminist, and proud of the fact that she should be able to be an independent woman even in the face of her set-upon adversity. This, I will say, is one of the great trademarks of the novel, as it

shapes the character so early on in the story that you can't help but want to get to know her more.

However, like all of Rhiannon's stories, things seem to take a darker turn. When a boulder blocks their path, forcing them to go an alternate route that their guides say will lead them to a place that is 'evil and foreboding,' Glynis' father insists that they continue on the other path. To the grief of the guides, they continue on, but soon they are pursued by a pack of wolves directly to an old, seemingly-run-down castle.

Here, she meets the count that has so inspired unsurety within her life: Vlad Dracula.

There is little I can say at this current time to describe this book without fully giving it away. *The Tale of the Vampire Bride* is, by all means, gargantuan—not only in forms of size, but story. It begins with a meeting with the count and quickly turns into a terrifying visage of horror as Glynis sees everything stripped away from her, then quickly translates into a tale of survival, perseverance and fear, that of which is bestowed upon our main character not only due to her captor, but her fledgling powers and just what it means to have your entire life upended.

Now, to say that it took me a while to read this book would be an understatement. I began reading it nightly and then quickly began to read it more fervently while on a plane ride. I tore through this book like a madman, because one of Rhiannon's great qualities about her writing is that once you start reading something, you can't stop. Thus makes the book a compelling read, which eventually leads to the finale—which, I should say, is perfect beyond any means.

Without spoiling too much for you, I'll simply say this: *The Tale of the Vampire Bride* is a novel that returns to the old formula. You won't find vampires sparkling, shimmering or glowing in any sort of way within this novel, nor will you see trivial pursuits of the heart like some books use to overly romanticize them. No—these vampires are monsters, despicable creatures who are either forced to become what they are or fall into it by necessity, who feed on the blood of innocents in order to remain alive and sometimes end up taking life in the process. They are not, however, heartless, at least not in the case of Glynis, the female protagonist which quickly shows what it means to be a powerful young woman. In the face of all odds, she emerges in order to become a strong, independent creature. By the end of the novel, I was so overwhelmed by just what had transpired that it instantly left me wanting more.

As of the date of posting this, a sequel is in the works, one of which I know will instantly launch *The Tale of the Vampire Bride* and its eventual saga to new and even more exciting heights.

Epic, gargantuan, a return to the old folklore and traditions of the vampire, *The Tale of the Vampire Bride* is a novel that any vampire fan would love to read, one that should be read, preferably, with the lights down and in a very muted room. You won't be disappointed when you crack this tome open and begin to read.

Felicia A says

Having had the absolute honor and pleasure to be the editor for this outstanding book, I may be a little bit biased. That said, though I am not a vampire buff, I found this to be a wholly terrific story.

It will be tough to review this with no spoilers, but I am going to give it the old college try!

It is a period piece, set in the 1800s, and the main character, Lady Glynis, spoiled, outspoken and headstrong,

is one hell of a character. She is beautiful and intelligent, and wants what she wants. Well, she gets what she wants, but not in the way that she ever imagined she would. She is a strong lead character, in depth and very well fleshed out, as is her newly acquired "husband", the other main character.

Through tragic and calculated circumstances, Lady Glynis becomes the person she always thought she wanted to be. Coming to that realization, considering the circumstances, is a painful journey for her as she comes into her own.

Normally, I do not like period pieces....they bore me. Not so with this book. Rhiannon has written a lively story, with good history - both geographical and as referencing the history of Count Dracula, for whom she has written a new and exciting life.

Dracula is a cold, calculating and vicious man, who also gets what he wants. In Glynis, he has met his match.

The story that follows their meeting is well written, engaging, and you will forget that you are reading about characters set in the 1800s.

Again, I am not a vampire book reader, but this story drew me in and kept me interested, even the second and third times I read it while editing it.

I believe that anyone who is a vampire genre fan, particularly the old school type of vampires with all the attendant old vampire "rules" and "laws" will find this book spot on and hard to put down.

Another awesome book by Rhiannon. Gigantical congratulations, by the way, on your new endeavors.

Kay says

The first 1/2 of this book was a bit slow and I was nervous that it was going to just be a 'meh' book for me. But with everything that happened at the end, explains why the author took her time to tell this story of Lady Glynis who was changed into one of Dracula's brides against her will. I could rate this anywhere between 3-5 stars. 3 for the slowness of the beginning and 5 for the last 1/3 of the book which was great! It was full of action, love and resolution. I will be picking up the next book soon!

Lisa {Silverlight} {Paranormal/Urban Fantasy Reviews} says

Gothic Horror at it's best, Amazing!

Miss Frater works magic with her writing, and storytelling ability.

Seriously, she can make you hate the worse character with bile rising within' your mouth, wanting to tear into the book and strangle the monster within the pages, to actually feeling a tender spot for this unmerciful character.

Lady Glynis Wright a young lady who has reached the age of marriage is a strong, outspoken, feisty, character.

It's the 1800's, and her parents decide it is time for her to finally marry.

So they set out to visit a suitor, whom will bring Lady Glynis and her family prestige within society, wealth, and luxury.

Count Vlad Dracula invites her family to be guest in his home. A home filled with eeriness and darkness.

After visiting for some time the family decides there is too much strangeness, within the Castle walls, and with the Count himself. They decide to leave, and for Glynis not to marry the Count. Of course, that is when things turn for the worse and secrets of whom the Count truly is are unveiled. I don't want to spoil the rest of this part of the story because it is graphic, horror filled, and not for the faint of heart. But, it is a very powerfully written piece, and emotionally charged.

Vlad Dracula a name of history, horror and is not the sparkly vamp of today, to say the least. He is vile, cruel, and vicious. An impaler whom lives up to his namesake. He unleashes his full fury on Lady Glynis and her family, and will take Glynis as his bride forcefully and inscrutably.

Glynis must now live a tormented life of utter loss and contempt. She must follow the rule of Vlad as his bride. She is not alone at being a bride of Vlad's he has four others, one of which is condemned to a life of torture, because she did not obey Vlad, something Glynis has a very difficult time with doing, as she does not enjoy being submissive. The other brides adore Vlad as their master and do everything in their power to satisfy his desires and needs. As they try to teach Glynis the ways of their master, Glynis, being a strong, outspoken, character is defiant and desires nothing more than to be freed from her captor.

Time goes on and Lady Glynis slowly learns to be submissive, but not because she breaks down, no, she is only plotting ways to rid herself of her husband and the prison of his castle, forever.

Count Vlad, always plotting in his ways wants to become an aristocrat in the English society. Of course he has devised a plan, and it will involve his bride Lady Glynis. He takes her with him as his bride and forsakes the other brides, leaving them behind.

This is the part of the story that becomes even more intriguing and I found myself tearing thru the pages, enjoying the life that they will need to build as a farce to society and wondering how Glynis will escape from Vlad's torments.

I won't spoil the rest for you. I will just say that it is an exciting, thrilling, warped story all at the same time. I fell in love with this story and the author's writing style.

This book is written as a journal of Lady Glynis pov, and as well as a few other characters. Not being a fan of horror, or books with historical elements, I must say I am now, thanks to Miss Frater.

I will most definitely read all of her books, and will be reading the second book in the continuing series The Vengeance of the Vampire Bride.

I must also pay credit to a fellow blogger for introducing me to Rhiannon's work, Giselle, of Xpresso Reads raved about Rhiannon's other books, as well as this one. Her recommendations built upon my curiosity and had me jump into this pool of awesomeness.

5/5 Stars! Highly recommend, must read 2012

See full review here, with favorite quotes:

<http://pnrurbanfantasyreviews.blogspot...>

Literary Ames {Against GR Censorship} says

This was a toughie. *The Tale of the Vampire Bride* puts a different spin on Dracula from a view of a new "bride", Glynis, and is made up of mostly her journal entries and letters.

I wanted to seriously give up about 10% in and briefly hated the author for subjecting my mind to such cruelty. Yes, I know this is horror but I figured it would be just blood-and-guts, not the personal kind of horrors happening one after another in such a short space of time that would be everyone's worst nightmare.

The beginning is deceptive -just a loving but argumentative family travelling Europe in order to find their daughters husbands after Glynis offends every suitor with her outspoken ways. And they're unwittingly led to the home of Dracula. He takes Glynis to be his fourth bride but she fights him and his rules at every turn. He attempts to break her using various and sickening methods. He doesn't value life and has no concept of compassion. She refuses to give him the satisfaction of breaking her and suffers the consequences along with her vampire sisters (the other brides).

Glynis is an incredibly strong yet vulnerable character. She's a modern woman, a feminist who believes she should have the same freedoms as any man. She's intelligent, charming and witty. Her strength of will is formidable and her bravery, admirable. I was on her side from the very beginning.

I don't want to give too many details away because I appreciated this book so much more for having no idea what was around the corner as I read it. It's not predictable, you can never tell what will befall Glynis next. The writing is amazing. I found myself right there with Glynis, every step of the way, and despite being set in 1819, I never tired of the language or of the politeness and propriety of the time period as I usually am.

Due to my discomfort I sometimes wished the book was shorter, not because it wasn't of good quality I just wanted Glynis's suffering to end just like she did, whether that meant her escape or her death. However, she did experience some better days (or should that be nights?) in the hell of her captivity. It does get easier to read as you go on.

It must've been fate for me to read this when I did because the same day I picked this up I had read a magazine article on Natascha Kampusch's 3,096 Days, the real-life story of her kidnapping and years of imprisonment by Wolfgang Priklopil and her escape in 2006 when she was 18. I found myself comparing her views of her kidnapper and Glynis's and they were quite similar.

It's surprising to me that people can survive so much without breaking. I admire anyone real or fictional who can bear such trauma and still be intact when they come out the other side.

Warning : To those of you who avoid books with rape, it does contain more than one rape scene but it's not overly described and does have a purpose and although horrific, I wasn't offended by it's use.

Liz says

Wow... !

Something or other compelled me to get this book and give it a go. Perhaps it was the mention of Dracula. I

loved Bram Stoker's Dracula and I hoped Rhiannon Frater's attempt at a book around this character would be great.

It wasn't great, it was awesome. I enjoyed this story set in the 1800s. A gothic horror story that kept me glued and my phone battery at a constant brink of death (Kindle app on phone.)

Glynis is young lady from a respected English family. Her mother is Italian, her father British. Both of the parents characters are brilliantly described, which made the start of the book an utter joy for me to read. Glynis wants to be free of the social norms, she wants to be a woman respected as men are respected. She doesn't want to be a weakling, opinionless female that her future husband has to support at any turn. All of the fuss around Glynis and tried to get her married off is what sets this story off to a rocking start. Guilt and inevitable sorrow of survivor(s) will hit you like a ton of bricks.

"You do not want to be a wanton woman. You just want to be a man."

"Well I want to be a woman who lives her life as a man. With no constraints. Being able to do as I please. I do not understand why they can do as they wish and we cannot. Just because we have breasts..."

"And they have that—" May widened her eyes, leaning forward "- you know.. they have..."

There were some similarities to the original Dracula story, for example the existence of brides... I cannot recall Stoker's book vividly as it has been a decade since I read it so am unable to draw accurate comparisons.

Once Count Dracula entered the story, things got a bit more rough and I can understand how females near and afar would cause an uproar. Yes, the story falls on touchy subject of abuse and rape a few times. Also death and torture. Then again, a lot of books do.

So... be warned now... If this is something you cannot bear to read, this book is not for you.

"A thick fog rolled slowly down the street, dark and menacing as it undulated in great waves over the flagstones. I knew this could only mean one thing. The Master had arrived. I took a deep breath as my heart began to race. Black horses waded through the gloom drawing a carriage up to the front entrance of the hotel."

I was rather taken aback by my own feelings at the end of the book... We follow Glynis through the book learning to hate Dracula and for a reason... At some stage you can sense the subtle change and it makes you wonder... specially when Ignatius comes into the picture. And when Glynis pulls the ace out of her sleeve at the end of the book, I felt sad, as she did in her confusion and realization, as if I was in this strange position instead of her, the book character! And it shocked me... It also made me realize how easily women can fall into the traps of powerful men... Matters of the mind are tricky business... Gah, if you can at all, read the story, perhaps you'll understand what i'm trying to say :)

"Repulsed, I backed away and nearly slipped. The dead and the dying surrounded me as my new family danced to the strange music. It was then I realized the music was not music at all, but the fading heartbeats of the dying, their tortured moans, and the magnified symphony of the sounds of the night."

Overall, I enjoyed this book a lot... I loved the way Rhiannon writes... It's just fantastic! So totally tantalizing. I liked the subtle dignity, even though there are a lot of repulsive events happening. I liked Glynis for she was one strong-headed woman. The book is lengthy enough to help bind the reader to the characters and help you truly live in the story.

Floridapossum says

I had the pleasure of reading this book a few weeks ago. It is truly one of the best vampire novels I have read in a very long time. This book allows us to see another dimension of the legendary vampire and slip into their skin. Reading "The Tale of the Vampire Bride", will take you on a roller coaster ride of emotions and it's no kiddy ride.

Thoroughly enjoyable and in the ilk of Bram Stoker's original "Dracula", I highly recommend this read for any fan of the vampire genre.

Giselle says

I don't give 5-stars often, in fact, half of the ones I gave this year are all for Rhiannon's As the World Dies series, so I was a bit afraid to give this a 5 and have you think it's only because I heart Rhiannon, thus I'm biased, but no, she deserves every single one of these stars. I guess in a way I *am* biased, she's just one of those authors who could make restaurant menus the best thing you've read all year. She takes a story and gives it heart, filling it with characters who bring it to life; The Tale of the Vampire Bride is no exception.

Set in the 1800s, we go back to the traditional vampire folklore in this old school Dracula tale which takes us into the life of Lady Glynis Wright and her dark, violent fate as a vampire bride. I was a bit wary at first because I'm not often a fan of stories set in past eras, but once I started reading I could not put it down. The prose is wonderful, I never felt overwhelmed by the old-fashioned ambiance. In fact, I was so entranced by it that the other book I was reading felt too modern. As I keep saying, Rhiannon has a way of addicting you to her words. There is constantly something happening that has you especially intrigued, therefore, you can't ever bare to quit. From beginning to end, the suspense will keep you on your toes, the horror will leave your eyes wide, but don't worry, Glynis stumbles into the arms of a sexy, mysterious lover, giving us a romance that will make your heart flutter.

Lady Glynis Wright, what can I say? I'm absolutely thrilled by her character. She's stubborn, incredibly determined, and grows immensely throughout the novel. This is another thing I love about Rhiannon's books, her characters are ALIVE. They have depth, personality; they are imperfect and get right inside your heart. Evil and merciless, Vlad is a despicable villain. However, at the same time, he's terribly fascinating. I wanted to know everything about him: his intentions, his past, his customs. Sorry to break it to you, though: this one, he doesn't sparkle.

The setting: I absolutely loved it! The castle, the towns, the carriages - it's all hauntingly beautiful. We're taken back into an era where there are no cars, no electricity, small town living; same as her characters, this is all brought to life. I could see myself walking the streets of Buda, and the Castle halls. It really has incredible charm that's constantly peeking through all the animosity.

Even if you're not familiar with the classic Dracula tale, vampire fans who are craving for an honest to goodness old school vampire story can truly find it all in The Tale of the Vampire Bride. We've got horror, romance, plenty of twists, non stop action, all narrated by a strong, defiant heroine that you will simply adore.

Rhiannon Frater says

I wrote this novel, so of course I love it.

But fair warning to the paranormal romance fans...this book is gothic horror.

Stefanie says

I admit it. I have a vampire thing... along with half a million other people... However, I am starting to notice that most of the leading male vamps are well kinda... soft... Like seriously, what's the point of dating a Vampire who'd rather not drink blood and glitters in the sun? I like my Vamps with a heavy dose of bad assness.

Enter Vlad The Impaler.

Nice.

It was on reputation alone that I kindled this book. I've really been getting burnt with the Vampire Romance thing and didn't really know if I could read another one. However, Rhiannon has yet to disappoint me. True to her previous works, she takes the stereotype kicks it in the ass and sends it home cryin to mama.

The story (don't worry I won't spoil it here)is about Lady Glynis Wright and her life as she goes from bratty british aristocrat to the unwilling bride of the first and most famous vampire Count Dracula. I will say for a fact the book really does have it all: horror, sex, romance, suspense, and honest to goodness characters that grow and evolve as the book goes on. Love or hate them - they make you feel, and in the end you actually feel like you did some growing along with The Countess herself.

This book does have a something for everyone no matter what your taste. It is more than a horror novel, it's more than a vampire book, and it is way more than a romance. It most definately awakened my hunger for more! :-) I can't wait to see what is next from such a promising author.

Lori says

5 stars...try like...One Million Stars. This book has everything I want and more in vampire books. I don't mind new age vampire novels with their lovey feely vampires that sparkle and have sweet dogs. I don't absolutely love them either. I may like the romance of the the story but for the most part I find vampires like that kinda meh. I have never had a problem finding anything Rhiannon does as meh. Ever. If I am going to lose myself in a vampire book I WANT my vampires to be horrifying. I want them bloody. I want them slightly mad with blood lust and power. I want them to sexual predators....wait that came out wrong. I want the to be sexy, and dark, and beautiful but most of all I want them deadly and covered in blood. Vampires shouldn't be you prom date. They should be haunting you and conspiring to slaughter your school at prom. (Hello shout out to Buffy the Vampire Slayer the movie, and TV show). They should be stealing virgins and

scarficing them, unleashing the swamp monster, and wolf man all whilst looking for the amulet to free the forces of hell. Frankenstein should be your friend. (shout out the Monster Squad). You get my point. I grew up in the day and age where vampires were MONSTERS! Thank you Rhiannon Frater for giving me those monsters.

Now to talk about this particular book...LOL that's what you thought I was doing? Well I was. But not specifically.

To me this book has two parts to it. The first part is the betrayal, the changing, and the aftermath. The second part is the discovery of self, love and power. These are my distinctions not Rhiannon's.

The first part of this book is dark. Very dark. The mood matches Vlad's castle, Glynis matches Vlad's castle. It is gothic horror at it's best. Vlad is an evil dickhead. He is gross and disgusting and I hate him as much as Glynis does. The light at the end of the tunnel. Well Glynis's relationship with the sister brides. I love the relationship she has with them. They very much save her from being destroyed by Vlad. They also remind Glynis of what she doesn't want to become. Seeing their devotion to Vlad allows her to keep her soul. It disgusts her so much that she is able to maintain her independence.

The second book is much lighter. Even though Glynis clearly cannot go into the sun light I picture their time in Buda as being sunny. Glynis is much happier out the castle's gloom. She has freedom. The light well I won't tell you. But it is yummy.

The last 30% of this book. Oh wow, was everything thrown up in the air. I loved the way the pieces landed. It was wonderful. I never grew to love Vlad and neither did Glynis (thank goodness) but I did enjoy his monsterhood. It was refreshing. Glynis spent as much time covered in blood in the book as she did in gowns. Swoon. I love that!! Thank you Miss Frater for the monsters!
