



Laney

Joann I. Martin Sowles

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In a small college town in Northern California, Laney Alexander leads a regular, uneventful life-that is, until the charming and alluring Oliver Knight enters her world. Who is this gorgeous and mysterious stranger? Or, rather, what is he? As Laney's sophomore year of college begins, so does an unbelievable adventure-including a love she didn't know she longed for. She soon learns that Oliver is not ordinary, nor is the rest of his family, including a sister who openly hates her and a brother who will stop at nothing for revenge. As she fights for her life, and Oliver's love, Laney discovers that the fictional world of vampires isn't so fictional after all. Nobody is safe, especially Laney, Oliver's most important priority, and he will stop at nothing to protect her. With her mortality at risk, and a commitment revealed that she, without a doubt, knows she wants, Laney's life takes a thrilling and terrifying turn...

Laney Details

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Author : Joann I. Martin Sowles

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Genre : Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review Laney for online ebook

Misha Mathew says

Please note that the rating for this book is 3 and a half stars

I haven't had many good experiences with vampire novels. Maybe it was because I chose the wrong books. So when I started Laney, I didn't know what to expect. As it turned out, Laney was the good experience in this genre, I needed.

I like that Laney is shown as a college student. It makes her more relatable (for me). I have not read many YA novels with main protagonists in college. At first, I was a bit doubtful about the novel because it reminded me too much of Twilight. I was afraid it was going the same way as Twilight. But as the story progressed, it was quite different from what I was expecting. The constant reference to how "gorgeous" Oliver was bugged me quite a bit. I am really tired of the "beautiful, mysterious" guys. However I liked how Laney is depicted. She actually had a backbone and genuinely seems to care about her friend. I think the romance between Laney and Oliver is really sweet. At first, I felt Laney was behaving too foolishly. But then I thought - "Don't all young girls act silly sometimes?" I think, most of us have been through the phase where we liked a guy and everytime we saw that guy, it made us act all childish and awkward!

Eventually as the romance between Laney and Oliver develops, that's when the actual action begins. If you like action-packed plots, I assure you there's enough of that in the novel to pique your interest. Moreover there's humour and a mystery element too.

The book does end with a few questions unresolved, but hopefully they will be resolved in the next book in the series. Laney is an edge-of-the-seat novel with enough, unlimited action and a sweet romance to keep you hooked.

Quotes:

"I had an eerie feeling. Fear began to rush through me and my heart started to race. There were too many places in the shadows of the fence for someone to hide. I felt the hair on the back of my neck stand up. I started to back away towards the stairs, keeping my eyes on the shadows. My head was throbbing a tiny bit. I spun around and started to run for the stairs and smacked into someone. I screamed."

"I saw what looked like fangs. This can't be happening. My breath hitched. I was too scared to move or scream, afraid he'd slam me against the car again and this time I'd fade out completely."

Overall:

A fast-paced and intriguing paranormal romance

Recommended?

Yes! To the fans of this genre.

Michael Araujo says

So, everyone knows how I feel about vampires, right? Right? Well, in case you're one of the few who don't, let me remind you. When I was younger, I was terrified of vampires. I remember having a coloring book

with a playful vampire in it and would freak out and had to rip the page up. My sister would scare me at night dressing as a vampire and I still remember the one movie I saw when I was about five. But then came along four books and a spin-off and they turned these scary and terrifying creatures into somewhat of a joke for me.

The only thing I had against vampires became something so vile, might I say, that I ended up with no weapon against them. My natural friend became a pansy enemy. Instead of melting them, it made them sparkle. Like glitter. Glitter-full vampires. It makes me sad. I mean, don't get me wrong, there are certain shows I like watching and are my guilty pleasure. And I will go to the theaters to watch some killer vampire movies. But I sort of had this anti-vampire novel thing going on. The trend had to end!

So it was with very cautious steps that I began to read Laney. At first I kind of held it afar, I'm not really into the teenage romance with a vampire, the love of her life type of novel. I'm more of a deep story. But I gave it a chance. I'm glad I actually did.

Laney is about a girl named Delaney or Laney for short, who dorms in college with her best friend Kiera. Unlike certain female characters, this one is actually pretty fun. She's very perky and outgoing, loves to have fun, and I think it's safe to say a Cali girl. Right away I clicked not only with her but with everyone and everything in the environment. It's very similar to where I live so it wasn't hard getting into the characters shoes. Even if it is a girl. I just created my own shoes. Preferably, Nike's. High tops.

Joann I. Martin Sowles, or Joann Sowles for short doesn't waste any time getting to the point. We immediately meet this interesting, non-brooding, normal guy who goes by the name of Oliver Knight. He drives a black car, with tinted windows, wears sunglasses outside, and carries a stainless steel water bottle with him because he is "eco-friendly." Instantly, Laney feels attracted to Oliver and one might think, "oh no," but it's quickly regaining itself when Laney explains how she has no reason to fall for this dude and can't explain it. So like you, the reader, she is perplexed.

As the story progress' we find out about the vampires and about their powers. How they drink actual human blood by owning a truck that goes around where people can donate their blood. They use the blood and take some to keep themselves sustained. How newer vampires have a phobia of the sun and think they will melt but, they just have very sensitive eyes and have to wear the sunglasses. How the reason they don't like garlic is because they have better senses, so the smell is too strong. But what got me interested is that Joann Sowles doesn't make them to be a different creature all together. She makes them as if they were an upgraded version of humans. They are humans just with different attributes. So you feel close to them and not afraid.

As with every vampire novel, there are good ones and bad ones. There are also in-between ones. Ones that we don't really know their true alliance or there's something more to them. The conflict basically revolves around one thing, revenge. The bad vampire wants revenge for what happened. And he will do anything to get it.

Joann Sowles certainly left her mark with this unique novel. She could have left it off with just the vampires but she continued by adding other mythical creatures, like werewolves who transform at the full moon, unicorns and even dragons, whose talons are used by Slayers. Oh yea, I said it, there are vampire Slayers.

All in all, Joann Sowles is an above-average writer. I only say this because I'm afraid of overusing the word awesome. Her writing style is simple yet rich, and her stories and characters are full. There were times where I didn't like certain characters because they were too over-protecting, hint hint main vampire. But that was left behind as I finished the book and was left by a cliff-hanger that made me want to read more. I certainly

can not wait for the sequel. Kudos to Joann Sowles, and let's hope that she continues to master her writing.

Katrina says

Laney Alexandra lives a normal life, in a small cottage town; she lives with her best friend Kiera and has moved out of home away from her Aunts to live her own life. Her first day back at college - she meets Oliver Knight, dreamy, charming, mysterious and incredibly good looking and Laney finds herself mesmerized by him, - his good looks and green eyes draw her in.

Laney is in her sophomore year, and this is where her adventures begin. In time, her and Oliver spend time together and fall for each other. Oliver is witty, charming and makes Laney's heart skip a beat, she is drawn into Oliver's world. He is not who she thought he was

His sister - Goth princess doesn't like her, his family has secrets she is not so sure about, and his family all seem to be different. Oliver's brother hates him and is out to make his life hell and life is not at all what it seems.

Oliver's charms and whoos Laney, she falls head over heels for him vice versa there love is magnetic, magical and romantic... Lovey dovey if you may call it . Oliver would do anything for Laney; even die for her in order to protect her – but from whom and what and why?

In time discoveries are made and Laney is thrown into a world she didn't know existed, vampires are real not a fairy tale, werewolves roam the earth and evil exists in minions. Will Laney give up her mortality to be with the one she loves, or will evil get there first and destroy it all? Oliver will stop at nothing to protect Laney from the evil that lurks. Can't he protect her from himself, and the commitment he is willing to give? Will she be the one to give up her mortality to be with the one she loves? Turns of events change and things become a turmoil will Laney survive long enough to be with the one she loves for ever ?

I really enjoyed this book at first I thought it reminded me of Twilight, certain things seemed familiar but in time IT WAS NOTHING like it, references were made I found amusing eg they watched Twilight on there movie night - but Laney has its own storyline and you won't be disappointed. I was giggling at certain parts, and grinning and this alone was enjoyable when a book can make you feel like this while reading - its done its job !!!

Oliver's character is full of emotion and is very protective of Laney. He does not come across as wanting to eat her, ((aka Twilight)) or any normal vampire book or movie he does not want to devour her just the love he shows her is incredibly romantic and sweet and honestly this melted my heart alone. * SWOON * They are adults in college so this part is realistic in its own way. The love is cute, lustful and very dreamy. Laney knows what she wants and will get it - but at the same time relies upon Oliver to be her protector. The vampire in him does not scare her it excites her, this along is a challenge for Poor Oliver.

The characters introduced into the book I really enjoyed - Felix I envisaged ** swoon ** and other characters blended in well with the storyline and were well described- They created the world in which Joanne has made in the Brookhaven Vampires. The chapters flowed smoothly, fluently running from one to the next, the storyline evident and not predictable. The chemistry between Laney and Oliver was explosive, and very realistic. Joanne created her own vampire world, her own myths behind the vampire world. This I found enlightening and different I enjoyed it. Action packed, with romance, thrills and lustful moments, great characters, and plot. The only downfall I could find in this read was grammar errors, but this by no means deterred me from liking the book. I am looking forward to book 2 in The Brookhaven Vampires series.

:)I look forward to more of Joannes books ;)

Brought in e format but will definitely buy the book to shelf it and read again !!

Andi says

I'm frankly surprised this book was rated so highly by other reviewers. The main character, Laney, is a vacuous 18 year old college student who becomes so enamored with a gorgeous new classmate that she can think of nothing but him. Give me a break. She acts like her dog has died whenever he is NOT around. The story was so ridiculous it frustrated me. I would hope that someone smart enough to graduate from high school a year early would have a bit more sense. (Although the inane reason that was provided for her early graduation was that she did not want to be separated from her best friend. Aww.)

Laney goes to college but she never does any reading or homework for any of her classes. All she can think of is Oliver. She falls in love with what...his handsomeness? I never saw any reason why she should be in love with him (or him with her, for that matter), other than their mutual attraction. When she finds out he is a vampire on a mission to protect humans from the bad vampires, she decides to stick with him. In the end, she makes the battle all the more difficult because of her helplessness and the constant need for rescue.

This book offers nothing new or interesting. The plot is tired and has been done better by many others. (I disliked Twilight--which they referenced in the book--but I thought this book was worse.) The only thing it had going for it was the smoothly flowing writing style. Sadly, that is not enough to make me want to read the sequel.

NOTE: \$2.99 on Kindle

Dawne says

With all the rage of one of the newest genres, Vampires and Paranormal, Martin Sowles, The Brookehaven Vampires did an exceptional job of writing this novel and it's a terrific addition to any library. College student Delaney "Laney" Alexander meets her newest classmate, the stunning Oliver Knight, during English class. The tender and young romance blooms while the duo race against time to save themselves from the evil of another vampire seeking revenge. Get caught up in the adventure as Laney and Oliver discover love while fending off wickedness.

Martin Sowles takes the time to explain vampire life, paranormal answers and this book is a great young adult novel. While I'm partial to YA books, I find the book of interest for adults as well.

The story is smooth, kept my interest from page one and is a must have. I highly recommend The Brookehaven Vampires- Laney. The ending of the book is a cliffhanger that left me wanting more immediately.

Yelania Nightwalker says

Laney is the first book in the Brookehaven Vampire Series. I loved!

The characters in this book are enjoyable, a mixture of paranormal creatures, an evil character, but seriously EVIL. I hate him.

In the beginning, the love affair is tender, but at the same time, that kind of chemistry between the couple, which keeps you sighing and praying more. I really liked the relationship between them was developed gradually and not overnight. Oliver is in love with Laney and is not afraid to show it, that's incredible.

I want to see more of Laney's friends in the next book, because I have many doubts about them. I also need to check if what I think of Laney and his father is true.

Mrs. Sowles wrote a beautiful story filled with unforgettable characters and charismatic. A story filled with action, love and new things about vampires, creating a different world and completely charming. This is undoubtedly the best YA vampire book that I've read this year. Strongly recommended.

Runningrabbit says

This was incredibly immature, particularly for characters that are supposedly in college, and if a have to read 'crooked lopsided smile' one more time I'm going to scream.

Emily says

This review courtesy of Squeaky Clean Reads. To see my review, click [Here \(SqueakyCleanReads\)!](#) :)

Overall Review: I opened this book, and I think it attached itself to my hand! I could not put it down! I kept thinking I had hit a stopping spot, only to find myself drawn in for more. A fun and action packed adventure full of mystery and romance. The characters became people to me and I felt a keen sense of interest in what was happening to them. The descriptions were such that they helped me to see what the characters looked like—and who they were—without stopping or slowing down the pace. I was completely involved in the story and can't stop thinking about it even now. Joann I. Martin Sowles adds a fun breath of fresh air for fans of vampire paranormal fantasy books. The only drawback: Cliffhanger!! Now I am aching to read the rest of the series! Overall Rating is 4 out of 5 stars!

Content Review:

VIOLENCE: few mild and one strong instance

PROFANITY: few mild instances

SEXUAL CONTENT: a few mild and a few strong instances

MATURE THEMES: moderate mature theme

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 18+

The flip side to this super fun story: there was quite a bit of language sprinkled throughout. It was never overwhelming or extreme (no 'rated R' words, and maybe only one every couple of pages), but it was present—especially when the main character was irritated or angry (or super excited). There was a very intense scene in a bar where a character becomes very drunk and his actions and words become rude and

obscene. The two main characters become very close and there is a lot of kissing. A character admits to sleeping with her boyfriend. Two main characters discuss taking their relationship further (often). As this is a book with vampires, there is quite a bit of violence. Mostly it's running from the 'bad' vampires who are trying to destroy them. There is one scene where the main character has her eyes closed so as not to see a disturbing deed, but describes the sounds (she throws up after). The chase scenes are edge-of-your-seat intense! Rated for over 18 due to the mature subject content.

This review was written by Emily

A Squeaky Clean Reads Book reviewer

This book was sent to Squeaky Clean Reads by author Joann Sowles

Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says

3.5 YA Vampire stars....

This was a cute YA read about Laney who is head over heels for Oliver who she meets the first day of college.

Oliver is a hottie

Oliver winds up having every single class with Laney and shows up everywhere she is which is not weird at all....

so Laney should be

but instead she is

then later when she finds out he is a vampire and instead of

she's all

Oliver is a protector and has to protect Laney from his evil twin brother, Oscar who is seeking revenge.

anyways, it was decent, but not great...

Marie says

I really enjoyed this book. I didn't know what to expect but it definitely turned out to be more.

Laney is a really likeable character. She's very open-minded and beautiful but not arrogant or stuck-up. She finally meets the boy of her dreams and they bond. And I think she keeps it together very well considering everything going on in this book.

She's easily a laid back and normal girl and I find I could relate to her. Oliver is lovely not any of those keep away people. He blends in and is friendly to everyone it's easy to forget who he is since he's someone you could take anywhere and not have to worry about being stand-offish. I wish Kiera- Laney's best friend was in it more. It felt like her and Carter were there one minuet and like a background people throughout the next. I hope they play a more significant role.

I liked the way the author dragged out the whole secret thing and you get to know the individuals separately and a chance of normalcy before everything kicks off. She doesn't rush into the book but let's it gradually fall into place. I also admired how she gave them time to fall in love rather than they know each other for a day and the next their completely in love and cant be without each other. It made it more real.

Didi says

***** 2-2.5 stars *****

This was a little disappointing. The good thing was I went in with no expectations. I love PNR, especially vampires but this felt a little weak for me. It felt more YA than NA, and a re-make of Twilight.

I actually loved Twilight when it came out, but add several years and many imitations later, it no longer interests me.

The first half of the book was slow moving and almost completely focused on the two mains, Laney and Oliver. She's a sophomore and he's the big, bad vampire that enrolls at her college. Except he wasn't either of those things. I guess that was another thing that bothered me: vamps were upgraded humans--faster, stronger and more intelligent.

But real vampires aren't fluffy with angsty feelings. This may have worked after the success of Twilight but its not intriguing or sexy. A vampire shouldn't be like me but drinks blood and is faster. He/she is a predator and humans are the prey. Stories that use the traditional paradigm but instil the vampires with a degree of long-repressed emotion are by far the best IMO.

Anyways, I liked some parts and could melt with Oliver's declarations, but I'm still lost as to the main plot of the series. There are many questions left unanswered and although it isn't cliffy, you're forced to continue on, something I probably won't be doing considering a love triangle forms and werewolves enter the scene--sound familiar? Ya, I thought so too.

NisyKitty VA says

I've read The Brookehaven Vampire: Laney, I have to say it's a great read. I couldn't put the book down for a second. This book had me giggling like a teenager. I so want to go back to my teenage years, the excitement of meeting the boy of your dreams, the fluttering in your stomach, it was beautifully put together. This book was as if it were written by a teenager. Joann, hit the nail right in the head with this one. I was going up and down with Laney throughout the whole book. Oliver and Laney make the perfect couple. I now want my very own emerald eyed dream boat! If you guys had the honor of getting a copy of this book, you were truly gifted. When October 30th comes out, I will definitely be getting another copy. I cannot wait to see the final product as well as the next book. We need more books like these out! Everyone on my Vampires Anonymous page is looking forward to its release date! Just 4 days away!!! v--v

Kim says

2010:

This book has quickly jumped into my favorites column. The author has created some amazing characters that I just can't get enough of. The story flows smoothly and I couldn't put it down. I actually stayed up until nearly 4 am to finish it! I can't wait for the next installment of the Brookehaven Vampires!

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

2012: Re-Read

Captivating. The second time around was even better. With the release of the third book, Tainted Blood, I decided to do a complete series re-read to refresh my mind of the details and I'm so glad I did. I had forgotten how much I loved this book. Oliver is my dream guy (up there with Johnny Depp) and you can actually feel the tension between he and Laney throughout the story. There is a perfect balance of vampire action, everyday college life and teenage angst. I just can't get enough of this series and will probably do another re-read when the fourth book is release. ;)

THANK YOU JOANN! <3 YOU.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

2014: Re-Read

Even after 4 years and several re-reads I still love this book. The story captures you from the beginning and never lets you go. Laney is your average teenage girl; Oliver is a gorgeous vampire... what more can you ask for? Oh, perhaps a little paranormal action and lots of sarcastic humor. This is one of my all time favorite series. Each book gets better and better!

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

2015: I'm still in love with this story. Every time I read it is like the first time!

Erin V says

It was very slow.

Ashley (Books Obsession) says

Laney Alexander, a typical sophomore college student, is finally free from her overprotective aunt and is ready to experience life with her best friend Kiera. On her first day back to college, she encounters the handsome, charming, and mysterious Oliver Knight that's in all of her classes, not to mention shares the same apartment building as her. As they begin spending every minute of the day together, they immediately fall for one another. But Laney soon learns that life with Oliver is anything but normal. As they must fight for their lives and love, against Oliver's evil brother, Laney really does experience the thrills of life like she wanted.

This book has a mixture of just about everything: paranormal creatures, nail-biting suspense, sexy romance, sarcastic humor, and kick-butt action scenes. I've read so many vampire books lately that all seem alike, so I started this one expecting the same thing over again. During the first half, I wasn't too thrilled because it felt like I was simply re-reading Twilight. Oliver's personality was pretty much identical to Edward's and a few of the scenes were similar to Twilight, too. His unnatural beauty was mentioned on like every page near the beginning, but thankfully he didn't sparkle! However, once their undying love for each other was fully developed and some problems started to arise, the novel became its own. I really liked the author's unique spin off of vampires and their lifestyles, it was different than any other vampire book I've read - I especially liked the 'bonding' idea she created. I surprisingly didn't have a single question either! Usually with paranormal books I have many unanswered questions, but I was delighted to easily understand exactly how the vampire life worked.

Oh man, the steamy chemistry between Oliver and Laney was ridiculous, in a good way; they were made for each other! Even if you're not a vampire lover, but enjoy romance books, then I insist that you read this book. The hardcore kissing scenes and cute flirting between the couple were so romantic and sweet. Since the two of them are mature and in college, I could easily believe their love rather than in some young adult books where they are 'in love' by the third chapter. The author did a fantastic job at creating and developing this love at a nice pace.

I could definitely see this book/series becoming a movie in due time. The adventure and action scenes were brilliant and I couldn't put the novel down. Characterization was spot-on and I really stepped into Laney's mind and seemed to become her and experience the novel through her eyes. One thing that was a big issue for me though was all of the many grammatical errors. I'm not sure why, since I was reading the actual book and not an ARC, but it seemed like I found an error on every other page! However, that's about the only complaint I can think of about this wonderful book. I urge everyone to read it - well that is, older teenagers because of the romance. I can't wait to read the next installment in the series! Joann Sowles is an author to watch.
