



## Day Soldiers

*Brandon Hale*

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## **Day Soldiers** Brandon Hale

For ten years now, humanity has been at war with the creatures of darkness. The war has changed the world. The day now belongs to humanity and the night belongs to things once thought to exist only in myths and legends... but there is hope.

This new enemy has united humanity and an army has stepped forward to protect the light from the darkness. An army of heroes.

The Day Soldiers.

Eighteen year old Lily Baxter always knew the Day Soldiers would be a major part of her life. She had been preparing for it since she was eight. She was ready to go to war.

The one thing she wasn't prepared for was the day the war came to her.

## **Day Soldiers Details**

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Author : Brandon Hale

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## From Reader Review Day Soldiers for online ebook

### Christine Fonseca says

What a fabulous read! I thoroughly enjoyed the characters, the writing and a fresh take on a familiar plot. OUTSTANDING!

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### David says

Fun book. I found myself not wanting to put it down.

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### Chris Philbrook says

I really wanted to like this book. The premise sounded very interesting, but as the story developed, I couldn't get over some of the leaps in logic required for the plot to advance.

I don't want to spoil the book, or sound too negative about it, so Brandon if you read this, please understand I'm trying to be constructive.

The heroes Lily and Leo are teenagers who have their town destroyed by vampires, partially due to actions of their own. Immediately, with no training, they are suddenly able to destroy thousands of the undead, apparently with no injury. Hard to swallow, even after much later finding out a possible reason why that could've been.

They are inducted into the Day Soldiers, the army that fights against the Legion, aka the army of vamps and werewolves. They go into basic training.

For snipers or 'dotters' as the book calls them, they get 4 weeks of training. Scouts, or 'sneakers' get 8 weeks of training. In the worst environment imaginable, soldiers get far far more training than that. Snipers and scouts are some of the military elite, and require insanely large skill sets to operate properly, and to think that they somehow absorbed enough knowledge in that short amount of time is unthinkable.

Lily is bipolar. I'm fairly sure of it. Her inability to follow instructions followed by her mood swings, and all the while everyone in power tells her that her 'instincts and wisdom' are why she was hired... It's infuriating.

And let it be said that any new recruit that blatantly disregards the safety of her unit, and ignores direct commands would be disciplined, or even court martialed. Her bad choices and disresepct is ignored. As a military writer, it was like... sigh.

The villains are cooler than the heroes. That's a tough one to get over. When you first meet Dennis, he's funny, and scary, and badass, and the heroes are never his equal. And when more villains show up, they're sexy, and mean, and cruel, and kickass too. I found myself rooting for them more than Lily, which says something.

On premise, this book has TONS of potential... As a YA book. It read like young adult to me, was idealistic like YA to me, had almost no profanity or gore, and frankly, had it been advertised as YA, most of my complaints would be heavily mitigated, and I could leave a better review, but as a book targeted for adults, with the word soldiers in the title, I can't possibly think this was a serious attempt at writing a book about military people fighting back against anything.

Wish I could be nicer about this, but man was I frustrated as I read it.

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### **Sharon Michael says**

Not quite a 'keep to re-read' for me so it didn't make the 5 stars, but close.

I like urban fantasy/apocalyptic theme but am not all that fond of most of the vampires and werewolves in most cases. This handled the werewolves very well and the vampires were well written, with an interesting twist also.

Good characterization, fast pace, entertaining read.

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### **Valerie (Howler\_Puff) says**

Don't let the cover fool you..this is a really good book and a start to a great series!

Werewolves were "outed" 10 years ago and the start of a war begun. Werewolf and vampires vs. humans. For 10 years the Day Soldiers have been in place to "Protect The Night" and 18 year old Lily wants to be one of them. Lily is such a badass! You know from the first chapter that this girl means business! She also suffers the most loss in the book. I really liked her! I know if there is ever a vampire/werewolf war I want to be like her..but I'm sure I would be one of the first people to get turned or end up being wolf food..that is a whole other story....The characters are great, they each have a story and the all click. I loved the relationship they shared. It's believable, which I like.

The story is just good. There is plenty of twist and turns and "OMG" moments and it does leave you wanting more.

Give this book a chance. It's a great take on a story we have heard over and over again.

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### **Ked says**

The story grabs you from page one and doesn't let go till the cover is closed. I could see this story being adapted to film it read so vividly in my mind. I love the old time monster feel with the modern twists. Great book!

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## **Chloe (Girl In The Woods Reviews) says**

When I finished reading DAY SOLDIERS I loved it. Yeah, I didn't know how it would end but I actually felt giddy and rapidly excited when I continued reading this book. I especially loved the main protagonist, Lily and Leo plus Scott. They were fierce, knowledgeable and different characters that made this book as it is now. A kick-butt novel, DAY SOLDIERS was deeply interesting and fascinating from vampires, werewolves and humans alike, I enjoyed this book :)

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## **Lexie says**

I loved Day Soldiers! It was a fantastic story. Some vampire stories can be a little overplayed, but this one starts with action immediately. Lily and Leo lure 3 vampires into a trap because the vampires are targeting their town. They inadvertently kill a high ranking werewolf, which sets a chain of events in motion that will alter their lives forever. Trust me; what happens next is something I've never seen in a Vampire book. It's well worth the read!!!!

Lily is an 18 year old girl with a serious fighting skills and a smart mouth on her, just how I like my heroines. She is perfect in this book. After the tragedy and life-altering even that she and Leo went through they are both recruited to be part of the Day Soldiers, an organized group of soldiers committed to taking down the vampires and werewolves that have taken over the world. Leo, with his excellent marksmanship abilities is assigned to the sniper group, while Lily is assigned to the "Sneakers". They are a covert group that infiltrate high-level enemy groups and carry out assassinations. Her group consists of 3 other people: Ellie the scout, Scott the Intel guru (who happens to have a very awesome secret that you'll have to read to find out what it is....) and Grung the weapons/fighting expert, that leaves 18 year old Lily as their leader. Does she have the confidence in herself to lead them to victory, or will she fall prey to her own insecurities and fears? They spend 8 weeks in a city block where they train, But when the training is over can they really hold their own?

This was far superior to many of the vampire books I've read out there. Lily has the same characteristics of Kate Daniels, Allie Beckstrom, and Merit from the Chicagoland vampires; she can hold her own in a fight and she has a great sarcastic wit about her. Hale threw in some great original ideas in this book. For example, the trainer of the sneakers is Sister Abbie, who was a nun in Ireland. She challenges Lily, but Lily doesn't realize that she's challenging Abbie's long held beliefs as well. Abbie is a a "channeler" meaning no vampire can touch her. She doesn't need the traditional "power objects" like crosses to harm vampires. Her belief and her soul is so pure that she is a walking death for any vampire. Are there any other "channelers" in the Day Soldiers? The other unique feature in this book is "posers" werewolves that can blend in seamlessly without exhibiting any of the traditional werewolf features. These unique aspects change the tone of the book and take what could have been a typical vampire book into one that rises above the pack.

Brandon Hale has done an excellent job of creating a wonderful world that readers won't want to leave. The characters are so realistic, and Lily is so sassy that I couldn't help but be hooked from the first 3 pages. I truly think if Hale continues to develop these characters and keep Lily's smartass comments coming that this could stand with Chicagoland Vampires and some of the other best-selling vampires series out there. It's a unique concept that is captivating.

I can hardly wait until the next book comes out!! Hurry Brandon!

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## **Yzabel Ginsberg says**

*(Book reviewed for ARR #19 in the We ♥ YA Books! group.)*

When I asked if I could read & review "Day Soldiers", I did so because the pitched elicited some interest in me. The prospect of a war between humans and the creatures of darkness looked like something that would provide me with mild fun and a pleasant quick read. To be honest, I didn't expect a lot from this novel—just that: being a fun and easy read.

And then I got hooked.

The prologue itself, in the form of a declaration of war, immediately grabbed me. The first chapters then pulled me into the action, as Lily and Leo, 18-year-old, decide to take on the vampires who've been threatening their small town, because the adults aren't acting fast enough. As they come back victorious, little do they know that their single action is going to trigger a chain-reaction culminating into events they wouldn't have suspected. And the both of them are going to pay a heavy price. We then get to see the two friends through their joining and training within the Day Soldiers, a corps specifically aimed at fighting vampires and werewolves. After what happened to them, is there any other path they could follow? Not really.

I thoroughly liked Lily and Leo. Lily's got a strong personality, and a definite ability to fall back on her feet. Even though she gets discouraged at times, she doesn't let this stop her, and she doesn't give in to throwing pity-parties for herself, not for more than a couple of minutes, which is always pleasant to see, in my opinion, in a character. She also has special skills, but I was glad to see that the author didn't make them *\*that\** special in the end. (view spoiler) As for Leo, at first, I feared for his role in the story, wondering if he'd just be some uninteresting sidekick—because the kid *\*is\** skilled, for sure, and he can pack a handful just as well as Lily can. (view spoiler)

The other characters were also enjoyable. Abbie does come off as unpleasant at first, but it's clear that she is a good person, too, and that she doesn't hesitate to act. The B-Team (no, really, this *\*is\** a play on words on the A-Team, isn't it? I can't shake that feeling off!) is made of awesome, and I liked their take on events, how they always did their best to do what felt right to them. Their boldness and inventiveness roped me in (the way they tackle the rescue operation in Sneaker City was just so great!), and I could easily feel their sense of camaraderie, the strong bonds they managed to form among them, the instinct they had to stick to each other now matter the circumstances.

And what about the story itself? I quickly was drawn into its pace: not too slow, packed with action, but not too fast either. Events fold into each other in a logical way; we get to see that every action has its consequences, and that the characters have to deal with those, make their decisions, and then live up to those decisions in the end. I don't know if there will be a sequel to this novel: the ending could very well stand for itself the way it is, or open up towards a second book. What's sure is that if there is one, I will definitely pick it.

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### **Anna McIntyre says**

While vampires, werewolves and apocalypse tales are typically not my thing – *Day Soldiers* drew me in immediately. Well written and original, it's more than a horror and adventure story. Its characters are well developed and the dialogue entertaining and often humorous, in spite of the dark and heavy topic. As I read the story, I often wondered if the protagonist was on the right side – and if she might come to question that herself. I loved the characters, and I cared what happened to them, which made this a tense read, considering the obstacles they faced. The book didn't just entertain; it made me think.

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### **Kel (Faerie-bookworm) says**

That was amazing. I could so picture it as a movie and would definitely go see it. I loved the adventure and action and suspense. I'm so glad Hale was willing to share this book for reviews and that I didn't miss out. Action packed right from the start with great characters, I had to force myself to put it down just to go to bed and then it took me awhile to fall asleep because I was still thinking about it. As soon as I got up I had to finish it, I had to know what was going to happen. I knew to an extent what the ending was going to be, I was somewhat wrong but not disappointed. If you love UF then you will love this book.

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### **E.B. Boggs says**

I really liked this book. Hale has a talent for keeping the reader involved in the story. An action packed page-turner. Hordes of undead, that's all I'm saying . . .

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### **Brooke (The Cover Contessa) says**

I would like to thank We ♥ YA Books and Brandon Hale for the opportunity to read and review this fabulous book!

From Goodreads:

For ten years now, humanity has been at war with the creatures of darkness. The war has changed the world. The day now belongs to humanity and the night belongs to things once thought to exist only in myths and legends... but there is hope.

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The one thing she wasn't prepared for was the day the war came to her.

So, do you want to read a book with a kick ass heroine? Do you want to read a book full of action? Do you want to read a book that will have you sitting on the edge of your seat wondering what will happen next? Then this is the book for you.

I wasn't actually sure I would like this book. I read the description and I was torn as to whether or not I wanted to take a chance with it. I am SO glad I did

This book is an interesting mix between a paranormal and a dystopian. I have never read something like this before.

Lily is a 18 year old girl who lives with her family, in fear of the monsters that plague her world: vampires and werewolves. But she is determined to eradicate these monsters and make the world safe. When her town is destroyed by these monsters, she vows to help in any way she can. She does this by becoming a day soldier. And let me tell you something about Lily, she is a no holds barred, don't take nothing from anyone kind of girl. She fights like there is no tomorrow and is willing to go down to save her friends from certain destruction. She has a smart mouth and a quick wit. There is no teenage angst with this girl. And her best friend Leo, is just the same. You see that he cares greatly for Lily and is willing to risk his life so that she will be safe.

And her teammates are just as determined, and cocky, if you will. Ellie is the girl who can sneak around and get into places no one else could fit. Grung is the excellent marksman, with great fighting skills. And Scott is the information specialist who certainly seems to have much more information than any day soldier should have. Together, they work to fight evil. They know what they can do, they know how good they are at doing it, and they will stop at nothing to reach their goal. If this means destruction, then so be it. If this means risking their lives, then so be it. And the banter between the team drips of sarcasm. I was surprised to be smiling, giggling, even laughing during while reading! My favorite thing about the team is that they do things they believe to be right, even if it goes against orders.

Abbie is the team instructor. She is the ultimate "sneaker". And to top it all off, she's a nun! What an original character! And Wallace is the commanding officer, who just happens to have a very special secret about him! He likes Lily from day one and knows there is something special about her. He knows she is Day Soldier material.

Hale paints a picture of a world taken over by monsters. A world where we are at war with the very things we dream of that scare us to death. It's a world that has been desolated and destroyed in areas where civilization once blossomed. It's a world where humanity is being destroyed. And the monsters help paint the picture of how humans have destroyed what they were so generously given without a second thought. It's original for sure!

The monsters are not just blood sucking, killing machines, they are ruthless and clever. They believe they should be the ones who run the world. We watch werewolves and vampires, usually mortal enemies, work side by side to destroy anything that gets in the way of them taking over the world.

My only issue with this book, the reason I did not give it 5 stars, is because the characters never loose. With the exception of losing one person, none of the characters is injured beyond repair or dies. I can't imagine this to be true, no matter how good the team is at their job. But this really didn't distract me from the story. As a matter of fact, it made me want to read on because I knew in the long run, the characters were going to win.

This story has twists and turns. I was grabbed from the very beginning during the prologue which was the declaration of war from the vampires and werewolves. The story has a great pace: not too slow and just fast enough to keep you interested and wanting to know the next move this team will make. And Hale shows us the character's flaws and how this affects their judgement and the consequences of their actions.

I highly recommend this story to anyone who wants something packed with action. 4 out of 5 stars from me!

This review is posted at the following sites:  
<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B007...>  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/day-s...>  
<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view...>  
<http://thecovercontessa.blogspot.com/>

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### **Yalle Ondarza says**

I absolutely loved this story. The book had me hooked from the very first page. I liked how he explained the historical events let to the present ones without being boring. The characters were very easy to identify with and were full of life. Loved the action sequences.

Even if you do not like werewolves and vampires, you can still enjoy this book purely because of the storyline and all the twists and turns.

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### **Stephen says**

I know the author, so I admit it was with some trepidation that I first opened 'Day Soldiers', because I fully intended to review it honestly. Fortunately, I was hooked from the beginning and became a fan of the story and characters. The people, places and dialogue are very natural and realistic, which helps ground the distinctly supernatural events of the novel. After all, in a near future where vampires and werewolves are waging war against the human race, you need that believability, and this book delivers. I'm not going to go into the details of the story, so there are no spoilers ahead, but I will say that in this day and age, when the old monsters have become the new romantic icons, it is refreshing to once again read about a world where vampires and werewolves are genuinely threatening. These are not brooding, morose Byronic figures, but clever and enthusiastic killers who see themselves as the top of the food chain and have no inner debates about destroying us if we stand in their way. There are enough plot twists and revelations to keep things interesting, but not so many as to become confusing and convoluted. This is a quick, satisfying read, as the author intended, suitable for most ages (a few adult words, not many) and, as this is the first in a trilogy, the story wraps up the loose threads while still leaving a lot to be resolved in future volumes. I for one have read this book several times and, after writing this, I think I'll go through it again!

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