



Corcitura

Melika Dannese Lux

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Corcitura. Some call it hybrid, others half-blood, mongrel, beast. They are all names for the same thing: vampire—the created progeny of the half-wolf, half-vampire, barb-tongued Grecian Vrykolakas, and the suave but equally vicious Russian Upyr. Corcitura: this is what happens when a man is attacked by two vampires of differing species. He becomes an entirely new breed—ruthless, deadly, unstoppable...almost.

London, 1888: Eric Bradburry and Stefan Ratliff, best friends since childhood, have finally succeeded in convincing their parents to send them on a Grand Tour of the Continent. It will be the adventure of a lifetime for the two eighteen-year-old Englishmen, but almost from the moment they set foot on French soil, Eric senses a change in Stefan, a change that is intensified when they cross paths with the enigmatic Vladec Salei and his traveling companions: Leonora Bianchetti, a woman who fascinates Eric for reasons he does not understand, and the bewitching Augustin and Sorina Boroï—siblings, opera impresarios, and wielders of an alarming power that nearly drives Eric mad.

Unable to resist the pull of their new friends, Eric and Stefan walk into a trap that has been waiting to be sprung for more than five hundred years—and Stefan is the catalyst. Terrified by the transformation his friend is undergoing, Eric knows he must get Stefan away from Vladec Salei and Constantinos, the rabid, blood-crazed Vrykolakas, before Stefan is changed beyond recognition. But after witnessing a horrific scene in a shadowed courtyard in Eastern Europe, Eric's worst fears are confirmed.

Six years removed from the terror he experienced at the hands of Salei and Constantinos, Eric finally believes he has escaped his past. But once marked, forever marked, as he painfully begins to understand. He has kept company with vampires, and now they have returned to claim him for their own.

Corcitura Details

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From Reader Review Corcitura for online ebook

Maryann says

Eric Bradburry is traveling with his best friend Stefan, when suddenly, he is faced with some strange changes in Stefan. Eric is shocked by these changes and doesn't understand what is going on. Stefan is determined to regain his family heritage he believes were stolen from him when his adoptive parents took him. Stefan doesn't care who he hurts in the process including the people he loves most, his best friend Eric and his adoptive parents. Stefan now has new friends in Vladec Salei, Luc, and Leonora Biachetti which arouses worry and fear into Eric. Eric learns that there are truly horrific creatures in the world, such as werewolves and vampires. Stefan commits some terrible and tragic acts, which Eric narrowly escapes from.

Six years later, Eric is still bewildered and unable to forget all that has happened. Eric's mother and his Aunt Robbie want to see Eric overcome his past and help him make a new life in America. Once there, he meets Madelaine Dennison, and Eric falls head over heels in love with her. Hell bent to let nothing of the past cloud his future with Madelaine, he tries to hide all his memories from her but can Eric ever forget the past? Will Stefan always haunt Eric, since he is "marked"? What does the future hold for Eric and Madelaine? Read Corcitura to find out!

I couldn't wait to keep reading more, it really kept my attention! A bit long, but well worth the read. A brilliant story about the supernatural set in late 1800's. I loved the scenery and descriptions of the time period! Eric Bradburry is a likeable main character. I thought Stefan acted like he had no choice but to fulfill his true families destiny of being cursed, even though it came across as self absorbed. The author did a great job with the characters, background, history and plot. I would love to read more of this author's work in the future.

I received this book from the author for an honest review.

Michelle Mogil says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

There was a lot about this book that I really enjoyed: the old-world voice, the complex characters, the twisty-turny plot, and the blend of different myths. It was an intriguing story, one rife with betrayal and revenge, love and hate, and a lot of desperation. It's mostly well written — a few typos here and there — and the action kept me moving.

However, there were far too many moments where I sat back, confused about who was speaking and what was going on. There were some "jump cuts", where something suddenly happened without a clear reason or transition, and it startled me out of the story.

It seemed as if the author, herself, became tangled up in her own twisted plot. I found myself backtracking too much and losing the thread. I feel as if the book needs a little prose tightening here and a few more clues there, and this would be a tremendous work.

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Eric Bradburry is faced with the sudden changes in his best friend Stefan Ratliff~Belododia while on their world tour. Eric is shocked by the changes and can't understand why this is happening. Stefan is determined to regain his heritage he believes stolen by his adoptive parents. Stefan doesn't care who he hurts in the process including his best friend Eric. Stefan's new friends Vladec Salei, Luc, and Leonora Biachetti spark worry and fear into Eric. Eric learns that there are truly things that go bump in the night such as werewolves and vampires. Eric also learns that Stefan is determined to become a vampire no matter the cost. Fast forward six years later, Eric is still reeling and unable to forget all that's occurred. Eric's mother and his Aunt Robbie are determined to see Eric overcome his past making a new life for himself in America. Upon meeting Madelaine Dennison, Eric falls head over heels in love with her. Eric is determined to let nothing of the past cloud his future with Madelaine. Can Eric forget the past? Will Stefan still haunt Eric? What does the future hold for Eric and Madelaine? Does Stefan still have power over Eric? Your answers await you in *Corcitura*.

Surprisingly clever book about the supernatural set in late 1800's. Eric Bradburry is a likeable fellow who happens to fall out of sorts with his best friend. I thought Stefan was foolish and self absorbed person only caring for himself. I thought the author did a good job with characters, background, and story. I will read more of this author's work in the future.

Michael Scoins says

I first have to admit that I didn't finish this book. I made it through the first quarter before giving up so please weight my opinion accordingly.

I did not enjoy *Corticura* however I can see why it appeals to many readers and so shall attempt to be as constructive as possible.

The author's style is very readable and engaging. Fans of Victorian prose will find much to love, although Ms Lux has a slight tendency to let a good word get in the way of a good description. Similarly, the settings are described in wonderful detail. As the characters travel across Europe we join them on a sightseeing tour as Ms Lux provides a plethora of details and knowledge about the sights and feel of each country in the late 19th century. Hence, once again, fans of the era will find much to love.

However, this strength is also what weakened *Corticura* for me as a novel. There was a disproportionate amount of writing given over to the setting and details that should have been used on developing the characters and their relationships. Practically every relationship, whether friendly, romantic or hostile, seemed to spring out of nothing with little clue as to why or how it had developed as such. Stefan is a prime example. We are constantly told by Eric that Stefan has changed drastically from what he was like prior to their trip but we are given little indication as to how he was beforehand. As such, I found it difficult to care about their relationship or become invested in how it deteriorated. In addition, this underwriting made it difficult to understand, believe or even care about the protagonists' motivations.

Something similar can be said for the plot. It was essentially a series of set pieces, well written, but lacking a consistent logic as to why or how they were happening. It is possible that Ms Lux wanted to preserve a sense of mystery, however, after a hundred and fifty pages I had still a better idea about the plot from the blurb

than from the writing. Once again, this made the story difficult to engage with.

Essentially, if you're a fan of Victorian prose and are interested in learning numerous interesting facts about 19th Century Europe and vampire mythology then you might very well enjoy Corticura. If you're looking for a story and characters you may be disappointed.

David - proud Gleeman in Branwen's adventuring party says

12/21/17 EDIT - The author has announced that this book will be on sale for \$2.99 on Kindle through the new year! If you're interested in experiencing this amazing novel, now is a great time to get it at a very affordable price! :D

"Book, you have the right to a speedy trial" review

THE DEFENSE

- Equal parts funny and scary, this novel will make you laugh out loud as many times as it also makes you shriek in terror.

- Segments in between the horror flesh out the characters and makes the reader care about them even more. Giving us some time to get to know everyone involved makes the horror even more effective when it does happen. This is why sometimes even Stephen King doesn't have the first gruesome murder happen until at least page 3!

- With grotesque vampires who would fit right in with Hammer Horror films and rich yet nightmarish imagery as bold as anything seen in *Suspiria*, "Corcitura" truly feels like a classic horror movie in novel form.

- While the novel embodies some of the best elements of classic horror movies, it also avoids one of the biggest horror movie pitfalls...the one-dimensional characters often found at Crystal Lake, Elm Street, and pretty much any movie produced by Platinum Dunes! Every character in "Corcitura" has many layers, to the point where heroes, villains and supporting players alike are all compelling.

- Splitting the novel up into three different first-person narratives gives each section its own unique flavor.

THE PROSECUTION

- While this book has much more to offer than just horror, there's no denying that the actual horror does get very brutal and gory at times. People who don't like their black and white printed pages splattered with red may have difficulty with the more violent moments.

- The passage of time in between segments is sometimes uneven, occasionally making the flow of events feel a bit choppy.

- As much as you may want a book this good to go on forever, eventually it ends!

THE VERDICT

- One of the most brilliant, complex, and captivating novels I have ever read! Filled with fascinating characters, witty dialogue, and heart-pounding terrors, I enjoyed the entire book from the first page to the last!

Much wordier review

Its name is Corcitura. A word that makes even the most vicious monsters tremble with fear. It is the result of an unholy pairing of two different types of vampires, an undead nightmare that even traditional methods of killing vampires won't work on. For centuries it has only been a theory, as no one had ever been mad enough to try to introduce such a dangerous thing into the world. But in the summer of 1888 while touring Europe, Eric Bradburry and Stefan Ratliff find themselves entwined in a web being spun by a ruthless predator, one who wants to use them to bring his mad dream of a perfect killer to life. But as Eric tries to save his friend (as well as himself) from the terrifying creatures that seem to be hunting them, secrets long buried in Stefan's past begin to be unearthed. Soon Eric wonders who is more dangerous, the monsters that are stalking them, or the friend he thought he knew. Eric must brave countless dangers and face endless horrors to prevent the Corcitura from being born, or else Death may just live forever!

One thing that struck me right away about this novel was how it struck such a perfect balance between humor and horror. The first chapter introduces us to Eric Bradburry, and I was immediately won over by his acerbic wit. Since over 400 pages of the book are narrated by Eric, it was important that his voice be a compelling one, so I knew I was in for a fun ride when I quickly found myself hanging on his every word. The second chapter follows Eric's misadventures throughout Paris while touring with his lifelong friend Stefan and being tormented by their annoying (yet entertaining) guide Luc, which leads to many laugh-out-loud moments. I began to like Eric so much that I couldn't help but dread what he would have to go through once the horror began. As it turned out, things turned dangerous so quickly for Eric that my fear for his well-being was very well-founded!

The horror begins in Chapter 3, when Eric attends an opera and meets a fascinating cast of characters. I couldn't wait to learn more about them all, as I could tell every one of them had a spellbinding story to tell. This includes the elegant yet intimidating Vladec Salei, beautiful and mysterious Leonora, a charming high-society lady nicknamed Guildy, and Augustin & Sorina Boroi, a pair of siblings so hedonistic, even Game of Thrones' very own toxic twins Cersei and Jaime Lannister would advise them to tone it down a bit!

(This still would have been a better ending than the actual series finale of "How I Met Your Mother"!)

The opera is just the first of many times throughout the book where I was amazed by Melika Lux's ability to write horror. Some horror writers prefer the slow burn to build suspense, while others prefer to use bold and shocking imagery to elicit an immediate scare, but Melika is one of the few authors I've read who can manage to combine both approaches at once and execute it perfectly! Her rich descriptions, theatrical presentations, and startling twists are so effective at inducing terror, there are many frightening moments in this book that will stay with me forever!

At this point, I won't say anything more specific about the plot itself, as it's much better to experience all the thrills and shocks within these pages firsthand. But while the blurb on the cover references two vampires, I can assure you this is so much more than just a straight-up vampire novel. Melika has woven so many elements together to create one of the most complex novels I have ever read. There are blossoming

romances, painful betrayals, ghostly encounters, gothic castles, bloodthirsty covens, family dramas, waxwork nightmares, living artwork, and many more beautiful and terrifying things. I went into this novel worried that a vampire tale might not be enough for 700 pages, I ended it amazed that Melika managed to fit so much story into only 700 pages!

Whereas most novels told in first-person only have one narrator, “Corcitura” is actually split into three different narratives. The first narrative is Eric’s, whom I’ve already spoken about. The second narrative is told by Madelaine, and as much as I enjoyed Eric’s voice, once the spotlight switches to Madelaine, she manages to shine as well. While Madelaine’s sense of humor can easily match wits with Eric’s, she does have her own way of seeing the world. Madelaine has a more poetic style of describing the events around her, and she is even more selfless than Eric was at times, making her an admirable protagonist as well as a formidable adversary. The third narrative belongs to Zigmund, and while the first two were often humorous, Zigmund’s is deadly serious. In addition, Zigmund has a more personal role in the story, so while Eric and Madelaine were often reacting to the events around them, Zigmund is much more proactive. I really enjoyed how Melika used three distinct voices to tell the story, as it made for a unique reading experience!

This is one of those rare books where even the secondary characters are as deep and interesting as many books’ main characters. Eric’s Aunt Roberta (affectionately known as Robbie) is especially charismatic and entertaining. If the GoodReads Choice Awards allowed us to vote on best supporting character this year, Aunt Robbie would easily have gotten my vote. No matter that I’m reading this several years after publication, so she wouldn’t even have been eligible this year, I still would have written in a vote for her! I’m a rebel like that...

(Sure I broke the rules, but it’s not like I took it too far... at least I didn’t hit the sign!)

While I thoroughly enjoyed this novel, there’s no denying that it’s not for everyone. Unlike some of the more watered-down vampires in recent years, these ones have very sharp teeth, and they are often soaked in red! There are some really gory moments in this novel, which may be too much for people with more delicate tastes. That’s not to say all the horror is bloody, some of the most disturbing moments are psychologically terrifying rather than violent. One particularly creepy sequence builds to such a shocking crescendo that it may very well have marked me for life, it was possibly the scariest thing I’ve ever read! And when I say that, keep in mind that I’ve read several Stephen King books, including “It”. Well, of course I read “It”, I’m an accountant, we’re all supposed to know about being... penny wise! *(I’m so very sorry for that last joke... that was more horrible than any of the brutal murders in the book!)*

(Does blocking me so you never have to see one of my terrible puns again count as a reaction?!?)

My only complaint about the book (and it’s a small one) is that during Eric’s narrative, sometimes the passage of time in between segments is a bit uneven. As Eric traverses through Europe, one chapter will pick up right where the last one left off, while the next one will take place three weeks later. It’s a minor quibble, but I did find myself occasionally confused by the sudden time jumps. Fortunately, this doesn’t happen during Madelaine’s and Zigmund’s narratives, as their sections of the book are more cohesive. Still, if the worst thing I can say about a 700-page novel is that sometimes it jumps ahead a little *too* quickly, it’s no wonder why this was a five-star read for me!

Anyone looking for a truly frightening horror novel, especially one filled with complex characters, haunting imagery, and plenty of genuinely funny moments in between the scary parts, I highly recommend

"Corcitura"! This is a deliciously rich vampire story for you to sink your teeth into!

Annette Rothery says

I received a free copy of this book for review through the Goodreads Read it and Reap group.

I like the traditional format of this vampire story and although it is a lengthy book, over 700 pages, it is easy to read. Not a fast paced book by modern standards it is deceptively compulsive reading. There is always some issue that you need to resolve which makes the reader turning page after page.

Although more Hammer films than Buffy in setting the vampires (of various types) are intelligent, seductive or monstrous and are therefore threatening in many different ways. It is certainly not about waiting until dusk to go armed with your wooden stakes. The backdrop of cities such as Paris, Venice and Bruges make excellent backdrops for the story.

I like the original innocence of the main character, Eric Bradburry, and how his character develops as he encounters his rather more sophisticated adversaries. His challenges as he tries to save his long-time friend, Stefan, and then protect his family makes us care about him and therefore the tension increases with every new threat that he encounters.

If you like vampire stories or are a fan of the old Dracula films I can certainly recommend Corcitura - it offers far more than you might anticipate.

Denise says

****I received this book in exchange for an honest review. Lovers of Paranormal, LoP****

I absolutely love 'Corcitura'. This novel really surprised me. I'm not one for Historical books, but I liked reading this book. The story line is very good. Easy to follow. It is full of excitement and suspense. The characters are all great and are described wonderfully. Well written. A definite must read. Recommended.

Brittany says

I was given this book to read for free in exchange for an honest review.

Corcitura is written by Melika Dannese Lux is a mythological, thriller, suspense, historical fiction novel. It entertains the reader with a lot of new and in depth vampire mythological ideas, as well as a surrounding environment that you can imagine being in yourself.

I feel like this book had a lot of great ideas. I loved the vampire mythology and having the book told from the perspective of the "victim." It was also interesting to have nothing told blatantly about a vampire type until about a quarter of the way through the book. With that being said I had a lot of problems really connecting with the story. There are wonderful landscapes and buildings described, but it felt like the

characters were lacking and that the events had a lot of holes.

The biggest problem I had with this book was that there didn't seem to be any back-fill between some of the characters. There would be a scene with something going on and then skip forward and be into another scene like walking into a room halfway through a conversation and never getting filled in on what was missed. Reading this book was like watching a movie about a book but there were certain parts that had to be cut and so they were just left missing.

Don't be discouraged, it was still quite an interesting story. Lux did a lot of extensive historical research and mythological research in regards to different creatures of the night, with her main focus on vampires. I enjoyed reading from the different perspective, but by the end of the book, I still felt like the relations between characters were lacking somewhat, and could have gone more in depth.

I still think it is worth a read, but I would love to see an edit of it with more character relationships expounded upon and brought more to life. I wanted to feel more of the connection with Leonora; I wanted to feel more of the betrayal that Eric felt from other characters. I wanted to feel the anger and the rage and the in depth emotions that were talked about, but not brought to life enough for me. Description of environment was superb; character ideas were great, but just give them more life and more depth and this would be a phenomenal book. Given the way things stand right now I did enjoy the book, but it felt like some parts were missing, so I leave it at a 3 out of 5 stars and love this start to the story.

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Marissa says

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review (LoP)

Being an avid reader of vampire novels, I appreciate a good original take on these creatures. Corcitura provided such a spin. The story begins with two friends taking a European tour prior to starting school. During this adventure, the two friends run into some nefarious creatures, leaving to the creation of a world where hybrid supernatural creatures exist in an atmosphere combining elements of historical fiction, romance, mystery, horror, and folklore. I was introduced to different types of vampires from folklore that I had never come across before. This gave me the impression that the author did her research, which I can appreciate being a scientist by trade.

The story is told from multiple points of view of different characters. I felt like these sections should have provided better insight into the characters themselves. For example, in the sections told from Eric's point of view, the author used witty remarks in the writing. I felt like I was lacking this sort of insight into the other characters. The author was able to provide the most extreme character development through Stefan as told through other character's points of view. It would have been very interesting to hear the story from Stefan's point of view, especially as his character developed throughout the story.

Overall, I enjoyed this book. I felt that the writing started out strong and then fell off as the story progressed, but it wasn't enough for me to put the book down. If there is a sequel, I would definitely be interested in reading it.

Sarah-Jayne Briggs says

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a review).

(This review may contain spoilers).

I did actually quite like this book more than I thought I would. I'm sick of vampire romances with young adult heroines who fall in love at first sight, so this was a refreshing change from all of those.

I felt that the time frame of this book worked particularly well. I liked Eric as a character and in some ways, I did like his original relationship with Stefan. Things didn't quite go the way I was hoping with that relationship, though, and I wound up not entirely sure how much of Stefan had been that bad before. I found some things very contradictory.

I did like the relationships between the characters once they formed, but I felt that there was a lot of falling in love at the drop of a hat. The characters were well-defined and intriguing. I also liked the idea of the different kinds of vampire there were.

The setting of the book was believable and I felt the language used mostly worked. I did find my head spinning a bit, though, with all of the twists and turns the storyline was taking. Most of the characters weren't what they seemed and the ones I thought were good guys changed really quickly.

The descriptions in this book worked particularly well to enable me to picture the events happening inside my mind. This was a dark novel that had intriguing characters and although I didn't think there was much development allowed for relationships, they still worked well eventually.

I would probably be interested in reading more books by this author at some point in the future. It's at least free of perfect, Mary Sue characters.

Samantha Clysdale says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review *Lovers of Paranormal*.

I felt the book flowed quite nicely. I enjoyed that is the story taking place in 3 different times. I felt the book left a lot of question unanswered which leads me to believe there would be a second book. I would recommend this book to med-evil style vampire lovers. This book is a good read but its far from anything I read by Anne Rice.

Leigh says

This book was interesting. The writing was fantastic and very detailed, especially while describing the settings. I really enjoyed the vampire mythology and the new take on the different kinds of vamps. There were some great action fight scenes, and very creepy evil stuff going on. The plot was dark, twisted and full of death, loss and betrayal. I did feel a bit of a disconnect from the relationships in the story. There wasn't

always enough of a back story, or it felt like it was skipped over. I would have really liked to have seen more of the connections between the characters. I received this book for free for my honest review.

John says

Ok, so, I'm a card carrying fan of Melika Dannese Lux. Her first book, City of Lights: The Trials and Triumphs of Ilyse Charpentier set in the same time period of Corcitura, was fantastic, so if you get the chance, read that as well.

Corcitura is a completely different book. It's about vampires and wolves (some of my favorite subjects!). I like Melika's writing style as it makes you believe in the characters. You go through their heartaches and triumphs with them and she creates a roller coaster ride in this one with a thrilling ending. I also like the fact that she has strong female characters. This is definitely worth a 5 star read!

Sharon says

I received this book in exchange for a review. The book is set in the late 1800s. Eric and Stefan are leaving on their grand tour of Europe. After arriving in Europe, Stefan begins to change. Eric doesn't understand what is happening to him. Everything begins to go wrong after Stefan hires a guide. Stefan has been chosen to be Vladec's Corcitura. Will Eric be able to get out of this alive?

The book was very well written. There were very few grammatical errors in it. Overall, I really enjoyed the book!

Oezay says

Dark and mysterious, these are the first words that come into my mind after reading this book, The author portrays a hidden world throughout Europe and America with horrors hidden at every turn.

The story was very interesting as were the roles the characters played, particularly liked Eric, who seems as though he is everyone's conscience.

Progression of the story is very smooth and the writing style is what I would call old world style which I think really complemented this book.

Overall a very good read, Fantasy readers will like it.
