



## Pretty When She Dies

*Rhiannon Frater*

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## **Pretty When She Dies** Rhiannon Frater

Amaliya wakes under the forest floor, disoriented, famished and confused. She digs out of the shallow grave and realizes she is hungry...

... in a new, horrific, unimaginable way...

Sating her great hunger, she discovers that she is now a vampire, the bloodthirsty creature of legend. She has no choice but to flee from her old life and travels across Texas. Her new hunger spurs her to leave a wake of death and blood behind her as she struggles with her new nature.

All the while, her creator is watching. He is ancient, he is powerful, and what's worse is that he's a necromancer. He has the power to force the dead to do his bidding. Amaliya realizes she is but a pawn in a twisted game, and her only hope for survival is to seek out one of her own kind.

But if Amaliya finds another vampire, will it mean her salvation... or her death?

## **Pretty When She Dies Details**

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Author : Rhiannon Frater

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## From Reader Review Pretty When She Dies for online ebook

### Glass says

Do you remember that time when vampires were bloodthirsty monsters who didn't have soul, mirror reflection and could be seriously harmed with religious items of all kinds? Vampires with no morals? Immortals with Mount Everest sized egos? Yeah, the good old times before sparkly 900 years old vampire with "forever teen" syndrome. Do you know that Buffy/Edward T-shirt from J!NX?

That is the best way to describe Pretty When She Dies. Book is full Buffy references, but also other popular vampire stories. I thought it was nice touch - it made it feel "real".

Amaliya is no wallflower or damsel in distress. She is all but that. Blond goodie two shoes gone bad, goth, tattooed chick. Add to that unwilling baby vampire and you have trouble. First third book is a little bit slow - there's just Amaliya and her struggle with new vampiric nature. She does what she's best at - runs away. That's her only choice if she wants to survive. I liked that author didn't make her nowadays usual holier than thou type.

Other characters are pretty much well written. Cain reminded me of Lestat by his actions and the way that he thinks. But, you are going to love Grandma the most. Story will keep you on the edge until the end. All of you who like it down and dirty, will enjoy in sexy scenes. Only thing that I minded was stereotypical way of describing certain ethnic groups. Also, dialogues sometimes seemed forced, as if author tried too much to be witty and fun.

Second book in the trilogy, Pretty When She Kills, is coming out on September 7th. We are participating in the blog tour, so be sure to come by on September 10th. I'll just say that second book is even better.

Until next time...

\*\*\*NOTE! Copy of the book is kindly provided by Rhiannon Frater. (Thank you!!!) I'm not paid for writing review - I do this for free as lover of written word. All opinions in this review are personal.

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### Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Okay so this wasn't exactly that happy go lucky romance that I normally read during this time of the year, nor was this one anywhere near the summer list of must read books I had created in my head, but I think that is exactly why this one was so darn good. It wasn't expected. I hadn't planned on picking it up and honestly, at the time, the only reason that I did was because I was in sort of a slump. I needed something different and not romance related (gasp, I know, I can't believe I just typed that). I needed something darker and something that would completely pull me away and put me in another place and mind set.

This did that and then some. And to ease that nagging voice in my head that demands romance, this even had just enough of the hot stuff to keep her happy and satiated.

I don't know what my problem is sometimes, I see the glowing reviews and praise and still, I hesitate to pick

up a book and try it. I don't know, maybe I fear it won't live up to the hype. Not really sure but either way, we all do it. We buy a book based on a recommendation and then it sits there in our TBR piles and grows dusty and forgotten.

Can I just say, I am so glad I pulled this one out and dusted it off?

This was deliciously dark and called out to me in ways a book hasn't for a while now. It pulled me right out of my book slump and made me forget all about it as I was quickly thrown into the world the author had created.

This isn't a lighthearted easy read. In fact, at times it will make you grimace and maybe even blush but we can't help but be fascinated with it all and be drawn into the story as what happened to Liya slowly unravels and unfolds and her new life begins.

This was so well done. I have read a lot of vamp books in my life and this one truly does stand out, not because anything about it is new necessarily new or unique but because the writing and the story are just that good.

I will definitely be coming back for more.

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## Giselle says

**FREE on Kindle until May 6th!** <http://www.amazon.com/Pretty-When-She...>

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What would you do if you woke up buried in the ground? Well Amaliya first took a shower (duh!), then what comes next involves blood. Lots and lots of blood.

Left on her own to find out what she is, and how to survive it, Amaliya has a pretty rough beginning into her new vampiric life. However, she soon proves to be a pretty bad-ass heroine by, well... improvising. She's a fighter through and through. Instead of whining about her horrible situation, she goes out there and figures it out. Embracing it, even. Which I found especially awesome. It's not without a kill or two... or three, but eventually, she finds another of her kind. This is where Cian comes along.

Cian is centuries old, and the master of Austin. He doesn't know what he's getting into when he decides to take Amaliya under his wing. Let me just tell you, it gets hot. Very hot! That is, until Samantha - Cian's human fiancé - and his servant Roberto comes along. Things get very cold, fast. Neither wants Amaliya around, so as you can guess, you can also expect plenty of back-stabbing and betrayals. As usual, good or bad, all the characters are incredibly well written and perfectly flawed. Even the side characters play a major role in the story. I can't fail to mention Sergio and Grandma which, with their humor and charm, became instant favorites.

*"It's the irony of being a vampire. Being immortal and being terrified of death."*

Gritty and dark, the vampire lore in *Pretty When She Dies* sticks to the original blood drinking, day sleeping vampires; they're dangerous and violent. I loved the overall world building, in particular, the addition of necromancy (which means we also have some zombies!) that shakes it up a little giving us an extra twisted plot and epic fight scenes. This necromancer - they call him The Summoner - can not only call on, and

control, an army of undead, he's also a wickedly malicious and extremely old vampire. This makes him highly powerful as a villain. Believe me, he won't fail to intimidate you. How about this: To lessen his boredom, he creates vampires to set free, stalk, then kill. That's not barbaric at all... This book is definitely not without its fair share of action.

I continue to be blown away by Rhiannon's crack-infused pages; keeping me glued to her words. Combining classic vampire lore, horror, and romance - she has given us another astonishingly compelling read.

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For more of my reviews, visit my blog at Xpresso Reads

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## **Michelle, the Bookshelf Stalker Queen of the Undead says**

Made the Badass Hidden Gem II list..

<http://badassbookreviews.com/badass-h...>

### **The Good**

#### The story

You have Amaliya and Amaliya was turned into a vampire by her professor. The professor decides that he wants to really screw with Amal (in more ways than one) and just lets her loose onto the human population. The professor, Amal's Maker (he's actually called "The Summoner"), gives Amal no instruction, no limitations, and literally stalks her to see what type of damage Amal causes while learning the vampire ropes.

Amal has had a hard life and is a real fighter. So, when she is basically made one of the undead, she is going to do whatever possible to survive being a vampire. She sets out to learn more about her new status but along the way, certain aspects of her lifestyle, specifically the fact she needs to feed kind of causes problems. Like how does one stop feeding off of a human once you start?

How does Amal learn everything? It is all trial and error. With trial and error, comes lots of bloodshed. Oops, I think Amal just sucked another human dry. It's not like she wants to, she is clearly remorseful and that makes her want to find a better way to do what she does. So, she goes on a search for vampire, that is where Cian comes into the story.

With Cian's help, Amal learns the ropes. However, The Summoner is not too happy with Cian's interference. The Summoner is extremely powerful, before he was a vampire, he dabbled in necromancy. Combine the two, and you have one seriously powerful and messed up vampire.

So now that Cian and Amal are joined at the hip (and eventually at the lips, tongue and various other parts), the Summoner is mad and well, he's not going to take it anymore.

#### The characters

Besides Cian and Amal, you have a great assortment of side characters  
Samantha- Cian's fiancée. Now all you people who hate cheating. Never fear, this is not what you think. Seriously.

Roberto- Cian's butler; or as Amal calls him "Cian's bitch". He doesn't want to share Cian with anyone and lets his feeling be known.

Grandmamma- best grandma character ever! Loved her.

## **The Bad**

### Some errors

I think this book has been edited quite a few times since she originally released it but there are still a few clumsy passages or flat out errors. For example, in one paragraph, the author meant to write "Jeff" but instead wrote "Cian". I knew she didn't mean "Cian" since he wasn't in the scene for that part of the book and this was dialogue.

The clumsiness and errors did not take away from the overall story. I think that in itself is a testament to how good the actual story is.

### Beginning dragged

Poor Amaliya. Seriously, she had some horrible luck in the beginning of the book. The first 25 to 30 percent of the book is Amal trying to survive her new vampire status. She is Hungry, and she needs to Feed. It is depressing to the reader to go through Amal's struggles for so long. I kept thinking "enough already".

Later in the book, you discover how significant those struggles are. The fact that Amal lives through those first few days' means something. I just can't tell you.

### The cover

I hate the cover. Not because it is gross or scary but because it doesn't really reflect the story as a whole. This book isn't a horror book. Sure, there are horrific elements and the author does not spare us any graphic detail but it is also an urban fantasy, has lots of witty humor and even a very charming romance.

## **Overall**

How much did I like this one? If I could have (work got in the way), I would have not stopped reading it. When I was done, I wanted another book- asap!

*Disclaimer- The book is only 1.99 right now so if I'm wrong and the book sucks, you aren't wasting a ton of money.*

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## **Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says**

Check out the review and interview on Happy Indulgence, along with your chance to win the entire trilogy on paperback & eBook!

**Actual Rating:** 3.5

Pretty When She Dies is a throwback to vampires when they were actually scary. You know, the ones that actually drink blood, rip apart their enemies, aren't afraid of gore and don't try to relive high school again.

I found the book to be absolutely terrifying.

It starts off with a bang as Amaliya wakes up buried underground and is absolutely terrified as she's blinded by darkness with dirt filling her lungs and claustrophobia. As she digs herself out of the shallow grave, she is frantic and plagued with extreme hunger. After cleaning herself up and realising that she's no longer human, she stumbles upon a college orgy and slaughters all the humans there with her bloodlust.

The book follows on with a sick and twisted game of her creator, called The Summoner who stalks and terrorises her. After acting on her newly found vampire instincts, she's cast out by her family, forced to go down on a disgusting driver and finally meets her vampire mentor and lover called Cian. Cian takes Amaliya under his wing and they both plot to stop The Summoner's twisted games.

If you haven't noticed already, Pretty When She Dies doesn't shy away from explicit scenes of gore, sex, and horror. I think the shock value of it really got to me at times. There's rape, murder, cheating, gore, demons knitted with human body parts with working sexual appendages, and lots of gorey, raunchy scenes.

While the first half of the book covered her journey into the undead and learning how to cope, the second half sort of simmered as we met Cian and a bunch of secondary characters including his fiancée which I found super annoying. She's a jealous, bouncy, meddling woman who seeks out a vampire hunter to deal with her newfound threat. The whole time I just wondered how this was going to pan out and whether she was just asking for trouble.

The coolest thing about Pretty When She Dies is that it features vampire necromancers who can raise the dead. I've never stumbled upon anything like this and it is delivered in a chilling way.

If you enjoyed the Blade movies, you'll probably like this book. Pretty When She Dies is great for a dark, gritty and scary vampire read that will put some disturbing images in your head. Most books nowadays romanticise vampires and unfortunately, it seems like I actually prefer them.

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## **Jennifer (Bad Bird Reads) says**

<http://readingandwritingurbanfantasy....>

At A Glance  
Bookgasm!!!

### **The Good**

You know when you are eating a calorie free hot fudge brownie sundae while getting your feet massaged by a bare-chested Chris Hemsworth and you realize you are NOT dreaming? Yeah, that's what this book is like for me.

Oh, the love I have for this book. It makes me feel tingly all over. I actually have the other two books of the series, but I am holding off a bit on starting them because I want to stretch out the happy happy joys joys I feel for this series. Sure, I've only read Pretty When She Dies, but did you guys ever get that feeling where you just KNOW that you are going to love the rest of a series? I have that feeling now. I actually had to force myself to put this book down just so I could prolong the experience. Every time I devour a book I love too fast, I get so sad that it ended so quickly. I wasn't going to do that with Pretty When She Dies. I had to spread the fun throughout the day, savoring the tummy butterflies I got every time I picked it up again.

Amaliya was AH. MAZ. ZING. She is one of my new favorite characters. She is not your typical heroines. She's dark in every sense of the word. She has dyed black hair, tattoos, piercings (\*cough\* nipple piercings \*cough\*), she likes hardcore metal music, and she likes the bad boys (she's looking for her Led Zeppelin prince charming). But when she is brutally turned into a vampire, left in a grave to dig herself out, and abandoned by her creator to figure out what being a vampire means, we see her vulnerable side. I think she did pretty good at taking care of herself. She turns out to be a badass vampire, even if she is feeling her way through it blind when it comes to her new undead state. Eventually, she comes to embrace her new lifestyle. But before all that, she comes up with a plan to find another vampire that can help her learn what it means to be a vampire. And she finds Cian.

Cian has a dark past but has come to live a life close to being a human. He is the Master of Austin and likes his quiet life as the only vampire in the city. Amaliya messes up his "perfect" existence with her presence, especially since he is so attracted to her. Because Cian has a fiancé, a human fiancé. But Cian feels responsible to help Amaliya learn the vampiric ways. He knows her creator is evil and she needs all the training she can get to help keep herself alive from the creator's sick games. Cian is hot, and only gets sexier as the book goes on. I loved that he just couldn't resist Amaliya because she brought out an interesting side of his character. He's a good guy, but he needed to embrace his vampire side so bad. Once the human stick up his but was removed, Cian became a force to be reckoned with.

The side characters were pretty awesome as well. Despise most of Amaliya's family being major asshats, her grandma is there for her no matter what. Her grandma was pretty badass herself, and had me cracking up. Samantha, Cian's fiancé, went through an interesting character arc. She was sweet, then crazy jealous, then mean, then fierce, then nice again. It was fun watching her go through the motions. Roberto. Oh, Roberto. Yeah, I will leave him as a surprise for you all.

Pretty When She Dies is a gritty, dark, and hilarious vampire book that will leave you giddy. The dialogue was done right and had those hints of humor that I love. The characters were all complex and interesting. The story was fascinating and refreshing. I liked the addition of zombies and how The Summoner (Amaliya's creator) could control them. It was creepy as hell. The action was intense and could get pretty gruesome which worked for this book. I am going to keep my eye on Frater's books for now on because she is a great writer.

#### The Bad

The beginning is a bit slow, but it picks up pretty fast after that.

#### The Snuggly

I LOVED Amaliya and Cian. Their lust for each other was so hot. They tried so hard to stay away from each other. Amaliya didn't want to screw up Cian's life more than she already had, and Cian was trying to stick with his bubbly, blond fiancé who made him feel human. But once Amaliya entered his world, he couldn't help but relish being a vampire once again. I loved how they seemed so opposite at first, but it becomes obvious how similar they really are. It's like they grew into the perfect couple.

Oh yeah, be ready for some Bow Chicka Bow Wow. We get awesome sexual tension and great sex scenes.

#### Final Thoughts

No doubt about it, I will be continuing this series. I hope it will make my favorite series list. Frater knows how to spin a gritty but humorous tale with characters you come to care about. Be on the look out for my reviews of the rest of the series in August because I have a feeling I can't wait too long before I devour the rest of the books. Very highly recommended.

#### Quotes

"It's weird," she whispered. "You know, being so powerful and yet being so vulnerable."

"It's the irony of being a vampire. Being immortal and being terrified of death."

"I knew you were special when I took you. You were so pretty when you died. Exquisite in death. More lovely than you had been in life.""

"At first he thought her unremarkable, but she was one of those people who slowly emerged from the shadows the more you learned about them. The dimmest of all the lights had grown to blind him and he had to take her."

"You have a boyfriend and didn't tell me."

"I didn't think you'd be okay with me having sex," she answered.

"Oh, God! I don't want to hear it, Grandmama!" He covered his ears with his hands and stood staring at her in disbelief.

"I told you. You're such a wussy," she said with a sad shake of her head.

\*Free book from author for honest review\*

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## **Carolyn F. says**

### **Audiobook**

I've read this author's dystopian book which I loved. This was pretty good. Because of the way the heroine looks there are a lot of misconceptions especially when she becomes a vampire. She's thrown into the life and has to find her way, later with some help and a beginning love life. Good audiobook.

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## **Literary Ames {Against GR Censorship} says**

I haven't read many newly-risen-vampire books but in direct competition of those I have read (The Turning and Undead and Unwed are all I can think of at the moment) Pretty When She Dies wins hands down. It was gritty and very realistic in that if vampires did exist I wouldn't be surprised if when they first rose they had similar obstacles to overcome, namely the bloodlust and the inadvertent killing spree to sate it.

There are good vampires, which seem rare in this book, bad ones and perhaps some that fall in between. The reasons the Summoner was evil were made obvious; his boredom and loneliness after so many centuries of walking the Earth had warped his mind - in some books you never know what turned the "enemy" to the dark side.

The characters were believable and their development over the course of the book was well done. Amaliya was tough, she's a survivor of both physical (what the Summoner does to her) and emotional (her cruel screwed up family) pain who has learned that running away when things get hard is the best thing to do but finds that with the Summoner on her tail there is nowhere for her to run that he won't find her so she's forced, mostly by Cian, to make a stand and fight. The romance between Amaliya and Cian progressed from "maybe I should kill her" to "he's not my type he's too short and clean" to forbidden love/lust and finally relief that they could be together. I liked Cian's transformation. His appearance changed from clean shaven

good guy in hiding to a rougher, more confident and alert politician ready to take on the vampires.

Obviously my favourite character was Grandmamma – wow, I was right there with her grandson Sergio in his shock, disbelief and finally laughter after the revelation about her love life. I was glad when their fear of what Amaliya had become gradually turned into acceptance, unlike the reactions of her cruel family. I have to admit that I fully expected Grandmamma to let her religion get in the way of her accepting Amaliya's new state and was waiting for her to call her the spawn of Satan and attack her granddaughter. I wish she was my grandmother, she's a fierce but loving woman – no man or woman would want to cross her.

I don't really want to make this comparison but Pretty When She Dies does remind me of certain aspects of Laurell K Hamilton's Anita Blake series. The Master (vampire) of the City system, the messed up zombies made from multiple body parts, the necromancy are all similar but I think this book is tighter and perhaps darker in its very isolating you-against-the-world nature. Overall this is an intriguing and worthwhile read for urban fantasy lovers.

I have read that there may be a sequel, Pretty When She Kills which I will definitely be interested in if and when it is released.

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### **Rhiannon Frater says**

I wrote this book, so I love it. :)

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### **Lina says**

ARGAHHHHHH!

NOTHING IRRITATES ME MORE THAN WHEN A BOOK STARTS OFF REALLY INTERESTINGLY AND THEN GOES TO SHIT!

Pretty When She Dies started off as an engaging, fun, bloody, true vampire story. The main character of Amaliya gets turned into a vampire by her sexy professor Mr. Sumner [yeah, they have great names in this book]. She wakes up buried in the ground and is forced to dig out of her own grave. That part was awesome, especially since I just finished watching the season of Buffy in which that happens. In the first one hundred pages, you might think this book is awesome. Violence, sex, blood, all the good stuff. There are grammatical mistakes, but it is a self-published book so that comes with the territory. The story itself drags you in and you want to know what is going to happen.

That is until the romance plot tumor begins to show itself.

As soon as Amaliya meets this older vampire named Cian, who is the Master of Austin there is an attraction. Cian gives Amaliya some of his blood and they start a sexual relationship. Problem is, Cian's engaged to a human girl named Samantha. The whole affair pisses me off because there is no non-physical reason for Cian to be attracted to Amaliya, but he starts falling for her. He starts going on about how his relationship with Samantha was an illusion and that she made him a better human, but Amaliya makes him a better vampire. Bullshit like that. He says that he has to be a better vampire in order to protect his area.

Including himself and Amaliya, only two mother-huggin' vampires live in the damn area. It's bullshit in order

to make the relationship seem angsty, Not to mention, they try to make Sam the bad guy, when she is the one who goes out risks her life in order to save Cian's life. After they all risk their lives to save him, Cian has sex with Amaliya while everyone's waiting in the car. Sam then tells him the engagement is off and Cian says "I understand." Ugh....I just hated it. Not to mention they declare their love for each other after three damn days. -massive eye roll-

Plus, Amaliya gets a random ass power that she masters in two seconds, so I was eye rolling every single time she used it. It was just a book that started off strong, but crashed and burned.

I spend 1.99 on this book and I regret even that.

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### **Shanon says**

There were so many things I liked about this book.

First and foremost, vampires are not romanticized. Don't get me wrong, they have powers that can be used for seduction in order to feed, true – but that is not what the book is about. This isn't a book about a vampire falling for a human and trying to make it work. In fact, it's a realization that it's not possible for that to work. Vampires are monsters and only in accepting and embracing that fact are they made strong.

Another great thing about this book is Grandmama. She is an awesome character. I want to be just like her when I grow up with a very similar relationship to my grandchildren. She is feisty, courageous, loving and accepting of those she loves.

I enjoyed watching the progression of the main characters, Amaliya and Cian. The character development was done with great skill. They are both likable, strong characters.

This book has it all. Horror, romance, action, betrayal and the underdog overcoming obstacles. I'll be finding more of Frater's books as soon as possible.

I believe this was written as a stand alone novel but there is room for a series as well. I'm curious to see if we will get more stories about Amaliya and Cian.

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### **Wendy Darling says**

3.5 stars

Self-published, so it meanders and is not polished...but it's fun all the same. Nice action scenes and believable vamp + vamp relationship, with fairly explicit sex and gore.

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### **Steph says**

I started this book with the idea I'd just taking a peek to see how it starts off, had every intention of waiting

to read it fully after I completed the other three I'm already reading. However, the story grabbed me from page one and never let go! I was bummed when it was over. I was happy to see Ms. Frater mention a 2nd book, "*Pretty When She Kills*" coming out in the future, so there will be more Amaliya and Cian to come. :)

Things I loved about this book:

- \* What vamp book lover out there could resist such a beautiful cover??
- \* A return to gore and not an over romanticized vamp story
- \* Amaliya acted as you'd expect and kicked ass in the process

Great Quote:

*"It's weird," she whispered. "You know, being so powerful and yet being so vulnerable." "It's the irony of being a vampire. Being immortal and being terrified of death."*

I think that's something that has always made vampires more "real" in stories is that even though they are immortal, they still have vulnerabilities.

I checked out Rhiannon Frater's website and she's currently offering this book for FREE ONLINE \*for an undetermined amount of time\*, so check it out, then be sure to buy a copy for your collection!

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## **Kat says**

Hands up who's heard me say I don't enjoy vampire novels? And I honestly think it was this whole 'nice vampire' trend that went down a few years ago - I like my paranormal creatures to be scary, hardcore and gory, not all puppies and flowers and skipping through fields. Therefore I'm always a bit wary of vampire books, but I knew that Rhiannon Frater I was in pretty safe hands....and I definitely wasn't wrong.

Pretty When She Dies is a 'proper' vampire novel - there's death, destruction, ghouls, hot vampire lurve, bad language and flawed characters - and I loved it all. The inclusions of well-known and lesser-known vampire lore also makes for fascinating reading - do religious icons really work, does a vampire need to be invited inside your home, does that garlic choker just make you smell like an Italian feast?

From the moment Amaliya wakes up buried in the forest (greatest fear ever, anyone?) I knew she would be a character that I would love, and although her family life was pretty much a train wreck, she has a great balance of toughness and vulnerability, along with an unconditional love for those people who deserve it.

I thought her grandmother was particularly awesome, and even the slightly irritating Samantha had her redeeming features. Cian is one hot vampire, and definitely not in the sparkly sense - his story also added an extra facet to an already fascinating storyline.

I love that Rhiannon Frater set this book in Texas - her knowledge of the state really shone through, and gave the book a gritty, real feeling.

I dare anyone to read *Pretty When She Dies* and not love the characters whilst being fascinated by the examination of vampire lore and carried frantically from page to page with perfect pacing and realistic dialogue. I can't wait to move onto *Pretty When She Kills* - mark this day down peeps, I'm hungering for a VAMPIRE book!

Read more of my reviews at [The Aussie Zombie](#)

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### **Wendy-Lynn says**

I loved, loved, loved this book. It kept you on the edge of your seat. I'm now a fan of the author, Rhiannon Frater, and can't wait for the sequel "Pretty When She Kills."

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