



The Hunt

Andrew Fukuda

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Don't Sweat. Don't Laugh. Don't draw attention to yourself. And most of all, whatever you do, do not fall in love with one of them.

Gene is different from everyone else around him. He can't run with lightning speed, sunlight doesn't hurt him and he doesn't have an unquenchable lust for blood. Gene is a human, and he knows the rules. Keep the truth a secret. It's the only way to stay alive in a world of night—a world where humans are considered a delicacy and hunted for their blood.

When he's chosen for a once in a lifetime opportunity to hunt the last remaining humans, Gene's carefully constructed life begins to crumble around him. He's thrust into the path of a girl who makes him feel things he never thought possible—and into a ruthless pack of hunters whose suspicions about his true nature are growing. Now that Gene has finally found something worth fighting for, his need to survive is stronger than ever—but is it worth the cost of his humanity?

The Hunt Details

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From Reader Review The Hunt for online ebook

Aly (Fantasy4eva) says

I'm struggling as to whether I should give this a 2.5 or a 3.

I know. What a horrible rating for a book I'm sure you expected a lot more from.

It started off decent enough. The middle was quite shaky. But the last 50 pages or so just went more and more downhill.

When you get down to it (to be blunt). It's a case of one dimensional characters and not that much of a well-written book. It was entertaining at points. But something would always pop up that would let me down. World building wasn't on point and nor did I feel that it was nearly explained as it should have been. We know the basics. But that's it. I didn't find it believable and I also did not feel like I was being attempted at being convinced. When the characters aren't doing it for you, you at least need to believe in the premise (especially in this genre). I found neither with this book.

Our protagonist is a boy who tends to act modest, but behind that little facade of his, he truly thinks he is the shit. When it's not the most popular girl in school: Ashley June fawning over him, every other girl is. Of course it's hardly his fault that he's so good looking, charming, intelligent and brilliant. I mean, he tries so very hard to hide his brilliance, so very hard in fact that everyone sees him as the loner, good looking guy who holds back when it comes to work.

I mean he tries to hide it so much that it shocks him when he realises that people have somehow noticed his amazing intelligence! *gasps* However could such a thing have happened. *cricket*

You have this Heper (human) who is surrounded by these Vampire peepz. Humans are apparently now extinct. Or close to extinct anyway. When it is announced that there will be one last Hunt where the winner Hunters will be set loose to capture, kill and eat the Hepers. Everyone in the whole Institute can't wait. No seriously, they really can't. As soon as they hear the name Hepers, and god forbid, see the **FACES ON SCREEN**, they start to shake their heads, drool splashing everywhere, mesmerised and very, very hungry.

It's not an easy life living among the predators. Every day he shoves in those fake fangs, applies ointment and hand-sanitisers all over his body(to take away all body odour so that they don't smell him), eat raw meat and follow all their rituals to basically blend in. It's very, very tough when he can't smile, laugh, run or eat the food that he enjoys. He doesn't even remember his own name, bless him. It's pretty much hell to keep up this facade every day for the rest of your life. In fact, I don't know how he manages to for as long as he does, and truthfully, I think it's pulling itself a bit of a stretch there. No way would any human be able to pull off and blend in as long as he does, no way.

Oh, these are no hot vamps, guys. First off all, just ew. They sleep hanging upside-down on ceilings (like freaking bats), drool all the fucking time. And I'm serious. In every page, someone is drooling(and let me tell you, it is bloody annoying). When they're not drooling you have our protagonist doing this weird mating ritual shit where he's knocking elbows with a certain someone (I mean come on, elbows, is this supposed to be sexy) when it's not the elbows, it's freaking armpits. Oh please, I thought I would die from all the cringing and elbow/armpit mating.

But get this. He thinks that the Heper are savages. Pathetic, uneducated etc, etc. But somehow, he is superior. Even though you are also a Heper you fucking idiot! I get that he's been brought up to blend in, to follow their rules. But his father never barred him from the truth. He was always very clear about who they were. So I don't care what his excuse is. His tendency to be utterly arrogant in comments like these pissed me off. Not

to mention, when it comes down to it, he is a bit of a coward, not very interesting, oh, and a douche. I also didn't find him very interesting. Boooooo.

Also, I think Gene has a thing with arms. Maybe he finds them kinky or something.

And then at one point there was this song. I read the lyrics and I think they were supposed to be pretty and beautiful, but they were kind of lame. Of course then I felt guilty for thinking they were lame. But, you know, they just really were. Lame that is.

I did have higher hopes for it. I thought it would be a lot better. Instead I got a very Hunger Games -esque novel, without the awesomeness :(If I try to look at this book character wise, it still fails quite bad. I did not connect with even one, simply because there was not enough depth to them. The only character that intrigued me a bit was Ashley. And we all know what happened with that one. Eh.

Did I mention the cheesy bits. Oh boy does it get cheesy. So the 'hot chick' who is in love with our protag, is in a group called 'The Desirables'. Yes guys, I kid you not. *blinks* Towards the end this cheesiness goes on to this whole other level. So much so that I had a huge urge to look away because I was so embarrassed for this poor book. It was all quite traumatising.

When it wasn't the un-sexy times, it was the knocking of not very sexy elbows and armpits *winces*. Then there was hissing, scratching their elbows when they found something funny (I know, WTF'?) or the drooling that had the tendency to slobber all over our protags head, OR it was the cheesy dialogue. *flails*

Too much freaking weirdness in one book. Fair enough, it's refreshing to see these different habits of these vamps, I just wish they were habits that weren't so silly. Oh,oh! I remember something! The author had a habit of repeating dialogue- which really did not make me love it more.

It's all so negative. *sighs* I know. It was OK the the beginning, though. Just went downhill I'm afraid :/

Vaso says

When I started this book, I knew its theme was vampire-creatures. What I liked the most of it was that the main character was not among them;he was a human being disguised as one of them. I wasn't expecting the plot to be anything like it. I enjoyed it and going for the second one right away.

Donna {Book Passion for Life} says

I'm honestly not sure where to start with this review, because *The Hunt* was one of those books that once I started, I couldn't stop reading, but overall I really didn't enjoy it. While the book is suppose to be on par with *The Hunger Games*, I would have to disagree. The storyline does have similar traits but the only thing I felt the author did the same, was create the same back story without that wow factor *The Hunger Games* leaves you with.

Fukuda has definitely created something very unique with the vampire's, which is something fresh, new and well – very freaky. But for the most part I was really creeped out by them. They have unique and weird habits that really left me a bit disturbed. They scratch their wrists instead of laughing, have drool constantly dripping from their mouths, and have armpit/elbow sex (which I can't even figure out how that works? LOL)

and that's only a few things that made me cringe. But while you're probably thinking these things really aren't that bad, for me they are because there the first of many other problems I have with this book.

The second thing is I felt the story wasn't explained enough. You're thrown into Gene's life and watch how he has to struggle being apart of this world and pretending to be a vampire but there isn't a why. Why would he want to pretend and constantly watch his back? Why would he want to become friends with them? And why would he have feelings for one of them that could, at anytime, rip his throat out? It didn't make sense to me. I really didn't connect with Gene. This is because the story is told from his point of view and I never really connect with male characters as much as females, and while I thought Gene is a good character to look up to, I just don't understand his reasoning for the things he does. If that was me, I would have given up a long, long time ago, but that's not it – there are other questions popping up from the story like, how do the vampires procreate? How do the vampires not notice that Gene is human, if they have intense supernatural senses? I could go on and on because I felt like there were too many flaws in the plot and I really couldn't overlook them. Maybe I'm over thinking the story to much but there were just to many loose ends for me to enjoy this book.

Overall, *The Hunt* didn't wow me, but I can see why so many people liked it so even though it's not for me, give this book a try and see what you think for yourself.

Natalie says

Διαβάζω τις τελευταίες λξεις και αναρωτιμαι τι γραψε ο νθρωπος...!!! Μου πρε κποιες στιγμς να επανλθω πλρως στην πραγματικτητα...

Steph Sinclair says

If there is anything good coming from the newer crops of dystopian fiction these days it's one thing: Evil, ravenous vampires are back. With books like *The Immortal Rules* and now *The Hunt*, YA thriller fans are sure to be pleased by this turn of events. I know I am. Unfortunately, *The Hunt* failed to WOW me on that factor alone.

In a nutshell, *The Hunt* is like an inverted *Immortal Rules* with a *Hunger Games*-esque twist. Instead of our young, male protagonist, Gene, being the only vampire among humans, he is one of the only humans living in the lion's den. In order to pull this off he must shave off all his body hair, clip his nails, polish his fake fangs, and bathe rigorously every single day. In addition to the intense grooming, he must suppress his basic human mannerisms such as laughing, sweating, singing, flinching, clearing his throat, ect. when in contact with "people." All of this is done because Gene lives in a world where he is considered a "heper," barely a step above a farm animal. In order to survive he has to hide who he truly is or risk being eaten. So when he is chosen for the Heper Hunt (think *Hunger Games* arena), you can only imagine his uneasiness. "Awkward" is an understatement.

The Hunt has a lot of potential because regardless of how I feel about it I can't deny that it's creative. It features an entirely different spin on vampires that both intrigued me and weirded me out. It's also very readable and easily holds a reader's attention. I also felt myself enjoying Fukuda's prose as well, especially when Gene thought of his past memories of his family. That's the main reason why I ended up giving the book two stars instead of one. But like I said earlier, that alone won't win anyone points with me.

World Building:

sigh I feel like a broken record saying this, but if we are going to write a dystopian novel, please supply some background info. I don't need to know everything under the sun, but I'd at least like to know how your world ended up in its current cesspit state. Is that too much to ask? How did the vampires come to take over the world (literally)? Where did they come from? They managed to eat almost ALL the humans? Why did Gene even bother to try to blend in with vampire society? Why not run away? Have vampires taken over the entire world or did only the U.S. go to hell? ~~Again~~. Is the rest of the world still partying like it's 1999? Why does Gene know so little about his world? Did the humans - excuse me, hepers - not pass any knowledge of their histories down to their children? So many question, with ~~too~~ few no answers.

Characters:

I think I hated almost all the characters in *The Hunt*, but Gene? He takes the number one spot on this here shit list. My biggest issue of the book resides with him because he was an idiot. A very selfish idiot. At the Heper Institute (where the hunters stayed and "trained" for the Heper Hunt) he begins to go thirsty since vampires don't need water, but there was a lake right in front of him the entire time. He talks about it and never thinks to go drink from it when the vampires are sleeping during the day. *facepalm* The plot twist - if you can even call it that - was so easy to guess, but guess who was incredibly shocked? Ding, ding, ding! Gene. And no, this was not a case in dramatic irony because everything that was revealed to the reader, Gene already knew. Hell, he's the one who narrates the story!

But that's not even the half of that. I could deal with a slow main character, but what I couldn't deal with was his "I'm better than these dirty hepers!" attitude. When Gene first arrives to the Heper institute and finds out the heper can talk, read, write, comprehend things, he is blown away. Shocked! This does not compute. I just wanted to yell at him, "YOU ARE A HEPER! If you can bloody do it, uh duh, so can they, genius." But it gets **worse**. Gene knows the hepers will be hunted, but *they* don't. Does he tell them? Attempt to help his people? NO. He just goes on business as usual, thinking that once the hepers are sent out to their deaths he can sneak away. That made me so angry. These are your people - perhaps the last humans alive - and you are going to sit and let them be eaten without doing anything about it? No, instead, you drink their water, eat their food and work their deaths into your escape plan. (view spoiler) Cast him out of the human race. He is not one of us.

I mean, what did he expect he would do after the Heper Hunt? Go on living in his fake life where he could die at any moment? Who would want that kind of life? That makes not sense. If the world happens to end with vampires devouring humans and I'm left with an idiot like Gene, I'm tripping him as I run from the vamps. And don't get me started on Ashley June. She was just as bad as Gene and can die in a fire for all I care.

Believability:

The Hunt reminds me a lot of another book I've read called Glimmerglass. Not because they are similar in plot or anything, but because the reader must abandon a certain amount of logic and "just go with it." If anyone is familiar with me, they will know that it takes a lot for a book to convince me to "just go with it."

A list of things Fukuda expected me to buy:

-Vampires only eat bloody meat and can't stomach other foods **except for ice cream**. Wait, what?

-Gene never got sick from eating raw bloody meat.

-Gene has learned to suppress basic human instincts like smiling, laughing, coughing, squinting, flinching? How the hell is that possible? So what happens when Gene gets sick? He stays home? And what would be his excuse for not being in school? The vampires don't appear to fall ill in this world.

-Sex by armpits? I'm sorry, that one, while creative, was a little too hard to swallow. Or were they making out?

Before she could regain her footing, I shoved my elbow into the socket of her armpit. The way I had read about in books, seen in movies. I had her. Her body tensed in anticipation as my elbow locked into her armpit. And just like that, her body lost all tension and softened. I swiveled my elbow in long, luxurious circles, and her body moved in rhythm. Salivary wetness slivered between and around her snarling teeth. I concentrated hard after that, keeping up with appearances, making sure that the snarls came out in the right fevered pitch, that my body oscillated with enough passion and frenzy.

I'll say!

-(view spoiler)

-Vampires couldn't tell Gene was a heper just because he shaved all his body hair off. Really? He still had hair on his head. Does that somehow smell different than facial, leg and arm hair? If they could smell the hepers in the dome even when they weren't sweaty, then they should have been able to always smell Gene is school.

The Ending:

It left me dangling of the edge of a cliff with three words.

tries to repress a very human sigh *doesn't work* *LE SIGH*

I'm sure there are a lot of people who will love *The Hunt*. **It's different, interesting, creative and action packed.** And while it didn't really work out for me here, I'm tempted to check out book two to see where the story goes. But as I say in the rest of my two star reviews, the next book can hang out on my "You're on Probation" shelf.

ARC was provided by the publisher via NetGalley. Thank you!

More reviews and other *fantastical* things at my blog [Cuddlebuggery Book Blog](#).

Addie says

If I'm already hating the main character by page 4, there's obviously a problem. I honestly can't believe how many 4 and 5 star reviews this book has gotten. Really, guys? Really?

I'm honestly not sure what to say about this book. Writing negative reviews is always difficult. Effusing about something you loved? Easy like Sunday morning. Slamming a debut author's laborious efforts of creation? It hurts my soul a little.

I'll start off with things I liked about *The Hunt*. Fukuda makes an attempt to be original in his vampiric creations - and they're actually really gross, the way vampires (to my mind) ought to be. The writing is capable. The book is mercifully short.

Unfortunately, I liked very little else about the book. Fukuda "makes an attempt" at originality - that's what I wrote, because while he attempted it, I'm not sure he succeeded. His vampires scratch their wrists in lieu of laughter, and rub their elbows and armpits together instead of making out. I'm not a scientist, but I happen to know that behaviours like laughter and kissing have an actual biological purpose - group bonding, etc. There is NO conceivable reason why your wrists should itch when something's funny, or why your armpit should be an erogenous zone. None. It came across as a poorly-cobbled-together attempt to seem "different" without putting any thought into why. It was all so... ridiculous.

The main character, Gene, can only be described as insufferable. By the end of the first chapter, he's assured us that he's the smartest, most attractive person alive - multiple times. He actually says something to the effect that "it sucks to be sooo hot, because so many women will be all over me, and that'll make it hard to keep my cover as a human." Shoot me. Arrogance is a viable personality trait - but only when the author actually recognizes that a character is arrogant. Gene is amazingly arrogant, but Fukuda seems to think he's just telling it like it is. No. Sorry. Your character's a huge jerk. And, as his horrible choices prove over and over and over until you want to kill yourself, definitely Too Stupid To Live.

The plot, while not quite as poorly constructed as the world, seems like a huge stretch. It's essentially a set-up for Fukuda to stage some Hunger Games style competition, but with vampires. And for most of the book, nothing happens. A major plot twist regarding Ashley June, who is Gary Stu's main love interest, was visible from about a league away. And it... fell flat. I have to actually care about the character if I'm going to care about the plot and I just... didn't.

The writing? Literally painful. Boomerang isn't a verb - if I'd been taking notes, I'd have a million more examples of things like that. The slang was forced. And pulsing with the pulse of blood? Or a falling icicle of black ice? Icicles are ice. Pulses pulse. Shoot me, somebody, please. It was so awful at points that, most of the time, I couldn't even bring myself to care.

I could probably go on, but I've decided not to. A lot of other reviewers have given this four- and five-star ratings - and people have different tastes. You know. However, my personal opinion is that this book is a serious pass. I want a refund on my time.

Rating: 1/5 stars

Thanks due to the publisher and to Netgalley for providing a digital copy of the book.

Mitch says

The Hunt's one of those books with a rather straightforward plot on the surface but a massive conspiracy underneath, tossing out hints as easily as setting up the action, all leading up to a cliffhanger ending that just teases at the bottom of the mystery. I really wanted to rate it higher too but I'm annoyed because I got the contours of the conspiracy down, but I just can't seem to see the full picture, figure it out before the sequel

gives it all away (or at least more pieces of the puzzle). I'll try to keep the two parts separate, a review based just on the plot (which I liked) and then some discussion of the underlying conspiracy with spoiler tags.

Plotwise, this is one of the better dystopians I've read. I say that generously because I'm not a big fan of them, ever since the one, authors have been trying to outdo each other coming up with the most contrived worlds to 'challenge' their characters, social science and common sense be damned. But this one I liked, Gene having to survive in a society where he'd be instantly devoured if he's ever found out to be a human, because Fukuda's writing makes Gene very easy to relate to. The urgency of Gene's situation's done extremely well, there's nervousness, paranoia, fear, anticipation of being discovered, but not too much that it becomes overwhelming or repetitive. And the best part? Gene's father, reminding him what it means to be human, what it means to be one of the vampires, because even though there are so many outs, stabbing himself in full view of everyone for example, Gene's survival instincts are stronger, enough that he never more than briefly considers going through with it.

The world building is excellent too. Another one of my typical complaints with dystopians is that they can easily get away if authors aren't careful, become too bogged down in technobabble or futuristic speech, but this was extremely easy to follow. All the stuff Gene does to stay hidden? I can easily imagine doing myself. Are some of the details a little strange? Sure, but they're memorable and help distinguish this book over the pack *scratches wrist*. Finally a book where the vampires drool over red meat like they're supposed to instead of sparkle in the sun! And the chapters of setup building up to the Hunt really add to the pressing mood. The actual event doesn't start until well near the end of the book, but the setup's never dull, like unraveling a mystery, and just like Gene tells the Director it really does build up the tension, raise the stakes, make the ending all that more engaging. And the last few chapters, wow is it action packed. I kept thinking Gene would get eaten - right up to the cliffhanger.

Now for the stuff I didn't like, more like couldn't really figure out. If you haven't finished the book and don't want to be spoiled, look away now. In addition to the basic plot of survival, there's also a deeper conspiracy in this book. (view spoiler) A major character is not who you think he or she is. (view spoiler) Thinking about it, I didn't like this reveal at first, felt kind of contrived, but depending on the way it works into the bigger mystery, I might be ok with it. Reading the sequel will tell.

Then, the cliffhanger ending. (view spoiler) But beyond what's in the spoiler, I'm sure there's an even bigger picture, some big secret dealing with vampire and/or human history, but I'm just not seeing it. Or maybe it's just that simple.

Anyway, I liked this book alot, there's a simple plot that's quite enjoyable, but the deeper mystery is just driving me nuts. I've reread *The Hunt* twice now looking for more clues, but until I figure out the big picture, I'm not quite sure what to make of this book.

Natalie Monroe says

"He's testing me. Sizing me up."

Funny. That's what I was going to say about *The Hunt*.

I don't think I've ever encountered a book that felt like such a waste of space as this one. It's **mindless, meaningless stuffing.**

And you know what? I was enjoying it in the beginning. The writing was decent; the main character was male, a welcome change in the usual sea of female protagonists; and the concept was relatively creative: a human living among vampires as one of them. I tore through the first 18% like it was Pop Rox, thinking how ingenious the world-building was (vampires scratch their wrists in place of laughing), and how clever the MC Gene is (he purposefully vomited in a pool to distract the vampires from noticing his goosebumps).

But somewhere down the line, my brain kicked in and I realized what The Hunt really is: a **cliche, kiddie pool version of a dystopian.**

The Immortal Rules would kick its ass.

The **world-building is non-existent.** Vampires came to power in The Immortal Rules because of a disease that turned most of humankind into vampiric zombies. The real vampires, to protect their food source, locked humans up in fortified cities in exchange for the real vampires' protection.

In The Hunt, vampires rule the earth and humans are near extinct—just because. There's no plausible explanation for how it got this way. And the vampires here are really stupid too. Just the scent of a herper (that's what they call humans) send them into a drooling, zombie-like feeding frenzy. How on earth did our ancestors not wipe them out using a bait-and-sunlight trap? They may be quicker, but we got brains, man.

Gene is a Gary-Stu. He's not only exceptionally intelligent:

"Ah, yes, that yours was a stupendous and prodigious intelligence not fully tapped."

He's hot, has a sad past (his family became vampires), and has loads of girls chasing after him, even though he never so much as smiles at them.

"He might be a bit on the shy, quiet side," Ashley June continues, "but even that's a plus: it's a quietness that's compelling and attractive. Girls love it."

Jeez, Gene. You sure you didn't cross genes with Bella Swan on the way to the post-apocalyptic vampire future?

The plot is incredibly convenient. Buttons, safety procedures, and verbal blueprints are conveniently provided for the love interest, Ashley June and she, of course, conveniently shares her secrets with Mr. Gary Stu.

There's a map inside the library where Gene is conveniently moved to because the sleeping quarters for the Herper Hunt contestants are full. A sunbeam conveniently falls on a book containing said map that directs Gene to a place I like to call Herper Wonderland, where you can drink spring water and eat well-done steaks for the rest of your human lives.

It's Frozen all over again. How could the Scientist, previous owner of the library, be sure no one would move his notes? How could he be sure that a herper would somehow stumble into this room and find said map? Why does Herper Wonderland exist anyway? Use some blood and a big rock and squish those nest-stealing vampires into oblivion! What are you waiting for? The author get-go?

The lovely romantic interest, Ashley June, is Teresa from The Maze Runner through and through. **Gorgeous and without an ounce of personality.**

The book seems to fear that we'll forget how beautiful Ashley June is, so every ten pages or so, we get this:

"Her slender arms flow gracefully out of her gown, the gleam of silvery light along her arm like the reflection of moonlight along a river. She gathers her hair from the back and with expert sweep of one hand brushes it over her shoulder, exposing the sinuous nape of her neck."

The only thing missing from this scene is the pungent smell of blue cheese.

To top it off, there's a Mysterious Person who warns Gene that Ashley June is Not All She Appears To Be. Oh, the intrigue! Oh, the subtlety! You might as well stab a red bedsheet on that page to remind readers that this is a Very Important Clue.

Sadly, this Very Important Clue does not come to fruition in this installment and will possibly function as a tension point for Gene and Ashley June's relationship in the sequel. This will provide Gene an opportunity to bond with Sissy, the other corner of the predictable love triangle.

Fortunately, I will not be sticking around to witness their inevitable relationship drama. Ciao, Gene.

karen says

so this book is kind of fun, but full of problematic holes and "huh's?"

vampires.

vampires rule the day here. nearly everyone has become a vampire, and the humans who remain must camouflage their human characteristics to be able to survive and blend in. all the concessions are made to vampire-life: school is held at night, lighting is kept low, and meat is served very very rare. and remaining

"hepers" or "humans" are periodically released into an arena for vampires to hunt and eat, in a morale-boosting extravaganza.

for a high school boy whose parents have both died/been turned, life can be complicated. all human impulses must be suppressed, otherwise, the vampires will know he is human, and will be unable to control themselves.. he cannot sneeze, he cannot widen his eyes in surprise, he cannot sweat, he must shave his body every day and never ever smell like a human boy. no coughing, no getting sick, no pimples, no papercuts... i mean, it boggles the mind. this would never be possible, even in a well-constructed fantasy. and this one is not well-constructed. authors, again, build your worlds!! i do not understand these vampires.

so they don't breed? but they age, they eat meat... do they excrete? they have bathrooms in the school, right? i thought i remembered a scene taking place in a school bathroom or locker room...(and i wish i wasn't writing this in the middle of the anaheim convention center and i had the book with me) what makes them different? how did they take over the country - and what will they do when there are no more humans??

i suppose instead of world-building, we are given little social quirks. vampires do not laugh - instead they scratch their forearms. instead of making out, they perform some sort of elbow-into-armpit configuration. and seriously, unless we are talking about this:

do not even expect me to be interested in elbow sex.

who is maintaining the electricity here, and why?? why do vampires drool uncontrollably when they see a picture of a heper, but when there is one in their midst, they do not even realize it?? why can't they go underwater? so many weird vampirisms here, so underexplained.

and for humans - why would you stay?? why wouldn't you just move to the wilderness away from the freaking vampires? why continue to go to school for goodness' sake? what could you possibly be learning in vampire high-school, and what career path could this high school possibly be preparing anyone for? or alternatively - why not just become a vampire? i mean, you continue to live in these communities where a hangnail could redefine you as dinner; once you start suppressing that many human impulses, you are already distancing yourself from "human" so why not just give in at that point? path of least resistance. you can't go through your whole life without ever sneezing - without ever getting a fever. and how the hell do girl hepers deal with menstruation? answer my questions, book!

if i felt that this was some kind of cleverly-done extended metaphor in the "it gets better" tradition, exhibiting just how hard it is to suppress natural feelings and behaviors and how quick to bully people are when they are confronted with something they do not understand, that would be one thing. but this is another thing. this is just another attempt to blend the trends: vampire meets dystopia, *hunger games* style...

"cash in now, honey..."

shit - my laptop is almost out of battery... TO BE CONTINUED MOMENTARILY

okay. so anyway, our hero gets chosen as one of the vampires to hunt the hepers in the next frenzy. naturally. because he is so good at passing.

and there are a few hepers living in a dome, and they are the next victims of this hunt. but they don't know it.

all they know is they live in a dome that retracts in the daylight and they can go out and hunt and do whatever things they need to do. they can read, they are articulate, they know how to use weapons. and so why do they stay in the dome? do they think they are pets? i know they say they cannot get far enough away from the dome in the daylight hours to escape, but that sounds a little suspect to me. also suspect is our boy's reaction to them. he is surprised that they are as socially advanced as they are, but he shows them no loyalty; he still sees them as "other." so who is he, really? not vampire, not heper - he is just... nothing.

and considering it took him five times of mentioning the lake and how thirsty he was "but noooo the vampires cannot see me driiiiink." before he combined those two thoughts and realized "oh, i can drink the WATER from the LAKE!! maybe he would be better off becoming a vampire. dummy.

i don't know - that whole "hepers in a dome" thing was weird, to me. like it was some kind of museum of natural history exhibit. they knew who their captors were, they knew they were in danger - they knew the dome could be retracted at any time and they could be eaten, but they get a note from their enemies and they just go traipsing off into the wilderness, no questions asked?

dumb.

but this book wasn't the worst. there were some good scenes, and the last line alone was enough to keep me interested in where this will go.

this probably needs major editing - i am on an unfamiliar computer in an unfamiliar town and everything is strange..... maybe i will revise when i get home. until then... endure...

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

More questions than answers.

So the concept is that Gene is a human living in a world taken over by these creatures...I'm not sure if they're vampires or some other monsters, but they act somewhat like vampires. They sleep hanging upside down (how the hell do the hidden humans fake that? That's never entirely explained), they eat flesh, not just drink blood, they don't have body hair, they don't show emotions except to scratch the inside of their wrist when they find something amusing, they don't sweat...etc.

Poor Gene is trying to survive as a lone human in a world filled with monsters. In order to do this, he has to shave daily, use deodorant religiously in order NOT to stink (not an easy task, being a teenage boy and not stinking to high heavens) or sweat (again, teenage boy), try not to *blink* with so much emotion (an exaggeration, but not so much).

Really, it's easier to just go on the freaking run. It's like the equivalent of being a black police officer going undercover in a KKK commune. IT'S A BAD IDEA.

The monsters in this world are caricatures. I get the image of Count Dracula in a kitschy black & white film going "I VAAAAAAAANT TO SUUUUUUUUUUCK YOUR BLOOOOOOOD." They start slaving

and drooling at any hint of an impending meal of delicious humans (known as hepers)...they literally start drooling. Not very scary.

Then there's the background. What background? How did the world come to be as it was? How did the vampire/monster hierarchy with the head master come about? How did Gene and his family manage to survive or even get to the vampire city...what about his grandparents? And the heper dome/farm? Give the surviving humans more credit than that.

This book feels like a poorly written farce of the dystopian genre.

Braiden says

4.5 stars.

If you're not scratching your wrists or frothing from the mouth when you finish the book, if not halfway through, then there's something wrong with you. Period. There's no zombies. There's no vampires. Just humans – hepers: vulnerable, near extinct, scared... civil. And the infested population that hunts them, kills them, feeds on them/cannibalises... and studies them. They're strange and unhuman, like nothing you have ever seen or read. They perish in sunlight – who cares? At least there's something natural to kill them with. Get ready for your mind to be slaughtered. You're in for a thrilling ride along with Gene (a heper living among the infested and pretending to be one of them – I wouldn't survive like he has with half my heritage being Mediterranean and of hairiness.

With his writing, Andrew Fukuda will seem like a veteran. The correct words are used at the most appropriate times and you'll be enthralled with his imagination, both in words and vision. What I loved the most was the descriptions used: for the horror/gorey parts (e.g., decapitation, cannibalism) and those to describe the behaviours of the infested (wrist scratching, mouth frothing, drooling etc). Also all the fighting and actions scenes was great to be immersed in. I loved everything about it. It was different, unusual... and fun to picture. But I did notice A LOT of ';' and ':' which was fine by me.

If anything, The Hunt is The Hunger Games for boys: a male protagonist, more gore, more excitement for them. I dislike comparing anything to The Hunger Games but I'm really not comparing – I'm just saying what it is. However, I was anticipating the actual 'Hunt' to come earlier but it didn't begin until the last 40 or so pages. Despite that, the anticipated was built and you're left hanging to discover what would happen next and how Gene would get out of the predicament he is in. Yes, so you can say there is a The Hunger Games feel to it, but it's different. Familiar yet distinctly different.

So pick up The Hunt and be immersed in Gene's world, but just take precautions to not become an infested as occurred to me – my wrist is raw; I see bone. I should've written this review over two weeks ago but what can you do? Like it matter anyway – The Hunt is released today!

Giselle says

Definitely creative, but awfully bizarre to the point of being cheesy, The Hunt is perfect if you're looking for a mindless read with an interesting concept. However, if you sit for a minute and think about it, this whole plot has no justification. Why? Because there's absolutely nothing that makes me root for the humans. Why stay human? Why not simply become a vampire, and live your life amongst everyone else, free of burden.

Sure you crave blood and you can't go out in the sunlight, but how does that remotely compare to being imprisoned in a human body with a constant fear of being eaten alive? Especially when the constraints are extreme and in no way convincing that any human could get away with it for as long as our protagonist did.

- No smiling/laughing
- No sweating
- No coughing
- No clearing your throat
- Making sure you have no body hair at all, ever
- No slouching
- Having to eat raw meat
- No shivering
- No widening of the eyes - or any other reaction - when surprised
- Having to clip your nails daily
- Needing to goop up your skin to not smell human
- And more, lots more.

Wow! How can someone honestly be this robotic for years? Going to school every day with these people without ever showing any of these signs? Moreover, why would you want to? Living as a vampire doesn't seem bad at all. They live satisfactory lives; they're educated, they have friends, parties - a normal life, really, with the only disadvantages being the sun and craving blood (and ok, they drool a lot). I didn't buy it. This is the main reason why I couldn't enjoy this book. Everything the protagonist went through, every fear of being found out, every obstacle thrown at him, I simply didn't care as there is no convincing argument for staying human. This, to me, was a huge plot hole that I just couldn't let go throughout the whole book. It also brought on world building questions: how hard would it be to get turned without being eaten entirely? How could he make that happen? And if he can't, how did the others get turned? Were they born? Can vampires procreate (with elbow sex)? So many questions! These may have helped me understand why he's not one of them. Maybe it's not even possible; nothing is clear.

I get that vampire lore has gotten to a point where you have to get very creative to make it original. But there is a line between imaginative and just plain silly. Quirks in this lore, especially armpit/elbow sex, went too far. These are way too weird to be taken seriously. The dialogue is also awkward at times with cheesy expressions. What I did like, though, was the ominous vibe from start to finish. I constantly felt like something was amiss. The gory scenes are also pretty awesome (aka: highly disgusting). And despite having a lot of similarities with the Hunger Games, in the end the plot easily stands out in its originality.

The Hepers: Us, mere humans. They're all rounded up and put into a dome to get them ready for the Hunt. I found this really interesting and quite a bit frightening. Sadly though, this hunt takes a very long time to begin giving the book a fairly slow pace until the very end. I found myself simply wanting to get it over with. I wish that time would have been spent expanding the world building instead of wandering around figuring out how to stay hidden. A bigger understanding of their world, especially their knowledge of the past, would have been great way to get a better grasp on this book. In particular, why they believe Hepers are uneducated, uncivilized savages who can't speak, and are basically completely unevolved. This is especially hard when one thinking this is, in actuality, a Heper himself.

Honestly, I wanted to love this. I was sure I was going to. I love dystopians and the premise is incredibly enticing, so I'm truly disappointed that it wasn't as good as I expected. I'm the type of reader who needs to be convinced. Realism is always a huge aspect for me and sadly this one had me staggering more than once. This made not only the reasoning for the plot, but the characters themselves, fall flat. I could easily see a lot of readers enjoy the alarming nature of the story; underneath it all it *is* interesting so don't let this discourage you if you were looking forward to it, hopefully you can have a better experience than I did.

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

?Misericordia? ~ The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?????? ✨❤️ says

Imagine living in a world where everyone is vampiric. And you are not. Where everyone except the lucky you is horribly different.

Where you survive by mimicry and luck and skill to pretend to be something you are not and hope never to be.

Where you are alone. And getting close with anyone would be suicidal.

Where you are considered a craved delicacy.

Where children in kindergarten routinely take naps. Think it easy-peasy? Try doing that on a ceiling. Still easy?

Where you can't squint, laugh (remember scratching your hands instead), you can't be perceived smart (obviously vampire diets don't do miracles for braincells), sweat (only swimming for you, nonnervous sweating either).

And that's just a beginning.

Megan says

I am a big fan of all things strange and creepy. After reading some initial reviews about Andrew Fukuda's sophomore offering, I knew I had to get my hands on it. And let's just say that this book really did not disappoint on the strange.

THE HUNT follows Gene, a human boy masquerading as a...vampire-like creature I guess you could say in the future. He is meticulous about keeping up appearances, until one day he is selected to participate in a "Heper Hunt" – a government-organized hunt for humans for specially selected participants at an Institute dedicated to studying hepers. Along with his slightly creepy classmate (I will explain this) Ashley June, he is taken to train and prepare to hunt the last remaining humans for their delicious succulent blood that makes these critters go gaga.

On a scale of 1 to 10 for the awesomeness of the concept, I give it an 8. I take off two points solely for the fact that vampire dystopia seems to be the new en vogue thing for the year – three books within two months with similar plots. I couldn't help but draw comparisons with THE IMMORTAL RULES and this month's DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN. I haven't read DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN yet, but this book's quality of writing was leaps and bounds better than THE IMMORTAL RULES. It's literary without being over the top, as can be an issue sometimes, especially in young adult fiction.

This book is really bizarre. If you're not a bizarre, hang up the phone right now because this book will not be for you. Check out Giselle from Xpresso Reads' review for her take from the viewpoint of the "this book was too bizarre" person. But if you like bizarre, hang with me. Gene is a very interesting narrator. This guy lost his family at a young age and was forced to adapt to survive – no sweating, no laughing, no squinting, etc. The story is told in first person present tense from his point of view, and although he's not the easiest character to connect with, his narration whips the story forward at a very nice pace.

The cast of side characters that are fleshed out and named are very small. In fact, it's pretty much limited to the love interest Ashley June and the young Heperers they're chosen to hunt. Names are apparently not big in

Weird Vampire Critter lore, as is mentioned by Gene at one point in the story. Even the kids are not fully explored, besides leader Sissy and requisite skeptic Epap. The other hunters and denizens of the Institute aren't named or analyzed other than appearances and skills. I wish we had known more, especially once twist one becomes apparent.

But I should probably skip to the chase. There was one big problem I had with this story that automatically took off a point from my final rating. The world building, or as I would like to call it, "What the frell?", was pretty much non-existent when it came to matters of explanations and world set up. Yes, we know what the world is in their present, but how did it come to be? Horse-drawn carriages, vampires, cheetahs... If Fukuda had taken the time to explain the world, how it came to be, how all the humans died and vampires evolved over several thousand years to become the dominant species, it would have worked better. And the explanations about humans being more closely related to fish was strange.

But apparently you can be turned into a vampire? I think I might have misread that part.

Oh, and my other problem? Ashley June. Her obsession with Gene was really, really creepy at times. I mean, at one point we learn that she stood outside his house and stared at the door waiting for him. Um... No, thank you.

I forgot about the elbow sex. ELBOW SEX. You shove your elbow into an armpit and it's the ultimate orgasm. That was just really, really creepy. Juxtaposed with extremely graphic scenes about gooey flesh, sunburns, hepers being hunted and killed... I did mention this book will not be for everyone, right?

Ultimately, this book has one major flaw that spoiled my massive enjoyment. Another twenty pages to actually explain what the hell this world was about would have done this book WONDERS and it would have been five glowing stars dancing the salsa with Karl Urban in space. But instead, it fell a little short of that – more like a Channing Tatum in a seedy male strip club.

VERDICT: Belayed by its rather nonsensical and lacking world building, THE HUNT was well written, unique, and action-packed. But that world building... Eeeeeep.

hayden says

There was only one word on my mind when I closed the back cover of *The Hunt*: *wow!*

The gobsmacking cover drew me in, and Fukuda's carefully chosen words kept me held close. Fukuda really knows how to make a book page-turning. Every word Fukuda writes is important and engrossing; not once is there an infodump, which makes for an action-packed and gripping read. I read this book in three hours because it was just so tense and wonderful.

The concept of *The Hunt* is intriguing: humans have been replaced by a new generation of creatures that crave human blood, yet are surprisingly not vampire-like, and our protagonist is a regular human. Said regular humans are called hepers. Our main character, Gene, has to monitor his every move so he doesn't end up being eaten by the Human 2.0's.

The novel also presents many themes, which include family, friendship, and staying true to yourself. Fukuda manages to include these themes without sounding preachy, and he does it well. Including these things in a novel makes it feel more realistic, and I felt like I was right there next to Gene as he was experiencing everything.

I will admit that I thought *The Hunt* was a *Hunger Games* knockoff at first. And for a few pages, it seemed like it. The concept: going into a big arena to fight off as many as you can and be the winner? Dystopian society? As soon as I made the comparison, I lost all hope for the book. Just another author capitalizing off the success of the dystopian genre. As I began the novel, though, I was captivated, and I lost all suspicions I had once had. I realized soon enough that there was one key difference from *The Hunger Games*: the initiation. In *Hunger Games*, it lasted a very meager number of pages. In *The Hunt*, there is a much longer period of time where the Hunters are initiated. At this point, I was able to stop worrying about its copycat nature and just enjoy it.

The Hunt also features a little bit of romance -- between Gene and a certain unnamed non-Heper girl. I won't give anything away, but one of the things Gene's dad told him before he disappeared was to never fall in love with one of the non-Hepers. Let's just kick back and wait to see how deep Gene falls into trouble...

Speaking of Gene, Fukuda characterizes very well. The backstory he provides for each of the characters makes them feel like family to the reader. It is very special. You don't see that a lot in YA; most characters are just there to follow the plot and provide entertainment in other YA. I can almost hear the conversation:

"Why do you love me, Edward?"

"Because Stephenie Meyer told me to. Oh, and also, spoiler alert: you'll eventually become a vampire."

"Oh YAY! I love you, too!"

This is not the case in *The Hunt*. Each character is fleshed out thoroughly, emotional, non-cardboard-like in nature. I appreciate that.

If you're looking for a kick-arse, addictive and genuinely real novel, try *The Hunt*. Andrew Fukuda is a debut author not to be missed.
