



Sucks to Be Me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire (maybe)

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Mina Hamilton's parents want her dead. (Or undead to be precise.) They're vampires, and like it or not, Mina must decide whether to become a vampire herself. But Mina's more interested in hanging out with best friend Serena and trying to catch the eye of the too-hot-for-high-school Nathan Able than in the vampire training classes she's being forced to take. How's a girl supposed to find the perfect prom date and pass third-year French when her mom and dad are breathing down her neck--literally?

Sucks to Be Me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire (maybe) Details

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From Reader Review Sucks to Be Me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire (maybe) for online ebook

Jackie says

This debut novel by Pauley is a cute and quick read about 16 year old Mina(yup, just like in Dracula) who must decide in 4 weeks whether she wants to become a vampire or not. She's the illegal child of two vampires (Dad got turned right before she was born, Mom joined him shortly after), so it's not like she's not used to the concept. Except now the Vampire Council has found them and is forcing her family to go by the rules, which include pre-turn classes for Mina, complete with career days, and the possibility of breaking their family up. The pop culture references are very current, which means this book is unlikely to have long term appeal, but it's a fun read for someone trying to get the bad taste of Breaking Dawn out of their mouth. Very teenage, there is romance, AND a happy ending. I think Meyer's fans will dig it.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Julie M. Prince for TeensReadToo.com

Mina Hamilton has a major life (or death) decision to make, and only a few weeks in which to decide. Should she, or should she not, become a vampire? It seems like a no-brainer. I mean, Buffy would know in, like, a split second. But, having vampire parents sort of complicates matters.

This highly humorous novel puts a new spin on the teen vampire tale. Mina is a typical high school student whose extra-curricular activities are no more exciting than hanging at the mall or pizza place, until her undead parents break the news that she has to start attending vampire information classes twice a week. Apparently, they never told the Regional Vampire Council that they had a child, and the situation has caused major drama. Now, Mina must make a decision about her future (and exactly how long that future will last) pronto!

This light read is worth five stars just because it literally made me snort lemonade through my nose. Pauley dares to go there again and again, with topical references and jabs at modern-day vampire lore. Her main character is a self-described closet girly-girl who has kick-butt tendencies and an attitude that readers will love.

Totally entertaining, with a top-of-the-line teen voice!

Aaron says

Mina is 16 years old and a junior in high school. To make matters even more interesting, her family's unique make-up is really coming to a head. Don't tell anyone, but her parents and her Uncle Mortie are all vampires. It is a long story, but they have been keeping that a secret in order to avoid getting the attention of the Vampire Council because they want to make sure they can lead as normal a life for Mina as possible.

The council has rules that are very important to keep vamp society safe. That means that non-vampires are not allowed to know they really exist, and as such she would not be able to live with her parents ... or even

remember that they exist.

Now that the council knows about her existence, it is time for her to make an important decision that will affect the rest of her life ... or is it undeath. Anyway, she is going through some basic training, and when it is done, she will have to decide whether she wants to become a vampire or not.

As all of this is going on, Mina is moving on with her life at school with her friends, and things are really hopping. She and her best friend Serena seem to have been accepted into the alpha crowd, which is led by the superhot Nathan, whom she has had a crush on since the second grade. She also has caught the attention of George, one of the guys she is going to vampire classes with and who is also in her school. He is a great, nice guy, but you know what most girls think about nice. Finally, there is Aubrey, who is also in her vamp class, and he is dreamy ... like out of Hollywood hot.

The story is fun, and it is told in first person by Mina, who is funny and sassy. With that said, I found myself finding her to be a little too perky and trying too hard to be funny. It doesn't ruin the story at all. It is actually really light and breezy in tone, which is not something that you would normally accept from a vampire tale. Fun and fluffy is the best way to describe this one, though it is not up to the standard of The Princess Diaries or the Georgia Nicolson books.

Petra says

Nejspíš vás tímhle verdiktem překvapím, ale aťkoliv nejsem cílová věková skupina, myslím si, že jde o povedenou knihu, kterou by si měla přečíst každá dospívající holka, protože je prostě vtipná. Takovým tím lehce ujetým až trapným způsobem.

Kniha si na nic nehraje a i když tam jsou sem tam nelogičnosti jako hrom, kdo to řeší?

Například mě u jedné kapitoly naprosto dostalo:

MÝTUS: Upíra zabije každého vraženého do srdce.

SKUTEČNOST: No jasně. To zabije každého.

:D :D :D :D :D :D

Ještě mi řekněte, že to není vtipné? :D :lově se u toho parádně odreaguje a o to přesně jde. Nad některými věcmi, které Mina řeší, budete jenom kroutit hlavou a říkat si, že tohle vážně není možné. No a co? Je to přinejmenším trochu směšné jenom o dvou věcech - být či nebyť upírem... a sakra kterého kluka si vybrat?

Od knihy přečtěte, nebude bořit knižní hranice. Ale mě vážně bavila. Skvělé odreagování.

Peachy Sweets says

Not much to actually say about this particular novel. Light, easy read. A bit of a time waster if you're over the age of 16.

The concept was interesting enough. I didn't hate 'the game' entirely, I hated 'the players'. The protagonist wasn't horrible to listen to, however, all other featured characters were completely one dimensional. I don't

mean to be critical, but I just felt the idea itself had a bit more potential, so it was disappointing. Basically, for some odd reason, I didn't actually expect it to be so simplistic.

That being said, the voice of Mina Hamilton was soulful and creative, she certainly always has a lot to say. I would highly recommend this to younger readers (I plan to get a copy for a cousin of mine). Younger readers will definitely appreciate Kimberly Pauley's easy flow.

To older readers that still want to give it a go. Grab a copy at your local library (similarly to what I did).

~*~ Peachy Sweets xox

(Rarely do I ever give a novel five beautiful golden stars.)

Brandy says

¿Qué puedo decir de este libro que no hayan dicho ya por la blogosfera?. Aparte de ser la estrella del concurso del blog, porque es uno de los títulos más solicitados, hay que reconocer el mérito a la editorial por haber mimado el producto de tal manera, que ya sólo hojearlo produce una sensación divertida que se acentúa conforme lees las notas supuestamente escritas a mano por la protagonista.

El libro es una gozada desde el principio y persigue con éxito la intención de hacer pasar un gran rato a todo aquel que abre sus páginas. La trama no es muy original, eso sí. Es como ver cualquier peli de adolescentes, donde aparece la típica pija, la prota, la amiga del alma de la prota y como no, los chicos.. Unos cuantos para elegir. Típica trama de amores quinceañeros, donde aparece el amor por primera vez y todo eso. Sin embargo, Kimberly, la autora, ha jugado con personajes muy dispares, vampiros y humanos, que hacen incluso más amena la lectura y con el detalle de no caer en el chiste fácil o la estupidez (algo que me revienta).

Leo comentarios de gente que no está muy convencida sobre si leerse este libro, y me consta que mi opinión es una más de tantas, pero les aconsejaría que se lo leyeran, pero eso sí, siempre pensando en que es un libro juvenil y por lo tanto tiene sus limitaciones. Si vais en busca de literatura que os llene o con profundidad, olvidaros.. Con este libro lo mejor es coger algo de comer, un refresco, buscar tu rincón de lectura y disfrutar sin complejos en compañía de Mina. Por mi parte, este libro sin llegar a la calificación de 5, se queda en un 4 y en puesto de honor tanto de recomendaciones como de mi estantería.

Judi says

Mina Hamilton is your everyday teenager, thinking about the usual things that teenage girls do (i.e. boys & school), and the not so usual (i.e. her vampire parents.) She gets slammed with a life-changing decision and not a lot of time to make it!
I found this book to be funny while dealing with the paranormal and the main character is spunky and a little snarky which made for a fun, light read. The vampires aren't too dark and the teens are full of life and quirkiness. A serious decision is made and we go through it with this extremely likable character.
I received this book from Library Thing Early Reviewers and it was a fun read. It's a Young Adult Paranormal Romance about vampires. This is Kimberly Pauley's first book and I hope to see some more books from this author because she's got a great sense of humor and a

catchy style of writing.

The Library Lady says

Any book that disses Stephenie "Feh" Meyer on the very first page is gonna get extra brownie points from me, even if the rest turns out to be totally lame...

..but it wasn't.

This book is not going to get millions of millions of teenage girls sighing over it. It is not going to be made into a multi million dollar movie. I don't know if there will be a sequel, but if there is, it will not have a midnight opening with balloons and hoopla.

Thank God.

With few exceptions, of late the vampire books have all taken themselves very seriously. Please tell me (if you've been masochistic enough to read them all) of one laugh out loud scene in Ms Meyer's fanfiction? Or any of the others.?

No glamorous, melancholy types here. Instead, there's Mina's seamy Uncle Mortie, the ultimate traveling salesman. There's her parents, who aside from the facts that they don't sleep and don't eat are typical parentish parents. There's "Grandma Wolfington" who teaches a course for teen vampire wannabes.

Mina goes through what just about every teenager does--finding out who she is deciding her life's path. The only difference between her and any other teen in a chicklit novel is that she has to decide whether or not to become a vampire.

This is funny (don't miss when Uncle Mortie takes Mina and another vampire wanna be to visit a vampire novel writer)and a welcome relief from a genre that is rapidly being sucked dry of any allure it ever had.

And it just might inspire some readers to hunt down the book that started it all, Dracula, which figures into the plot.

Karin says

Being a high school student is stressful all by itself. Crushes, friendships, homework, the list goes on and on, but for Mina Hamilton life just got a little more complicated. You see, Mina's parents are vampires. Her dad was accidently turned by her Uncle Mortie and since her mother was pregnant with her at the time, she waited to become a vampire until after Mina was born. The problem?? Mina's parents never told The Council about having a baby and humans are NEVER supposed to find out about vampires and since Mina is human, she isn't supposed to know. Once The Council finds out, Mina is told she must make the biggest decision of her life. To become a vampire or not.

Pros

She'd be able to continue seeing her mom and dad.

Cons

She'd lose her best friend Serena

She wouldn't sleep anymore (and she LOVES a good nap)
She'd never be able to have children
She'd always look sixteen
She'd have to move around every 10 years or so

Mina is forced to take vampire classes for a month prior to making her decision. There she meets other kids her age contemplating the same decision and some information about vampires she never learned from her parents. In the beginning, she doesn't see much good to becoming a vampire.

Follow Mina's thought process through her witty narrative and frequent lists she includes in the story. Lists like, "Why It Sucks To Be Me," and "Why It Really Sucks To Be Me."

Mina is a strong female character that you can't help but like. She stands up to the resident "mean girl" at school, she is nice to most everyone, and she is struggling in the romance department like most teenage girls. What more could you ask for in a young adult book?

The author, Kimberly Pauley, is the creator of YA Books Central.

Chelsea says

Eh.

Mina was whiny, incompetent, and a bit of a moron - half the plot of the book could have been resolved with two simple conversations and the basic ability to read social cues.

(That is: if Mina and her "do everything together, finish each other's sentences, are totally and completely in sync" best friend had at any point discussed what they were thinking re: the guys in their lives; if Mina had sat down and asked her parents "would you like to see me become a vampire?", especially after talking about how awesome and fun they were, and how well she got along with them, and how much she loved and respected them; if Mina had been capable of doing more than looking at the "totally omg smoking hot" Aubrey, and had listened to him instead, at which point she would have noticed that he showed absolutely no interest in her, and simply wanted to quiz her parents and uncle on what it's like to be a vampire.)

Teenage girls looking for more books on vampires after reading Twilight will probably enjoy this, but it's a disservice to them - there are so many intelligent, witty books out there they could be reading instead of this piece of drivel.

(Fine, fine - the book had a couple good points: Mina had a very mature reaction to the conflict with her best friend that I referred to above, and the idea of people having to go through bureaucracy and classes before they're allowed to turn was funny but not well handled.)

Tatiana says

Maybe I am just spoiled by all great YA fiction I've recently read, but this book was pretty much a waste of time.

Not going into details of the plot, this story just didn't have any real conflict or drama (not even a "boy" drama!). Everything in it was so goody-goody and simple, I just couldn't enjoy it. That would have been alright if this book was at least funny, but the author failed even at that.

There was an interesting take on vampire mythology, but that couldn't save this book from being a boring uninspired read.

Lastly, what irritated me the most, was the writing style. The author tried very hard to "relate" to teenagers by infusing tons of pop-culture references and modern "slang," but it didn't really work (Kimberly Pauley needs to read some Meg Cabot to see how it's done right). In fact it made the book sound silly and way too light.

Chris says

This is a title hot on the heels of the recent vampire/supernatural craze pulsing through bookstores across the country. This is a young adult novel with a different sort of "coming of age" conflict. Mina has to decide whether or not she wants to become a vampire like the rest of her family.

Overall, it's a moderately interesting hook and the presentation is done well. The book is written in a close first person and told almost as a journal entry. There are moments where "notebook pages" or other "handwritten" notes are added with quips and thoughts from Mina. This adds a different level of depth to the storytelling and provides interesting distractions.

And yet, these devices serve only as momentary distractions from what is otherwise a fairly bland book. It felt to me that the author was trying much too hard to present her characters as teenagers, and as a result, they feel a bit distanced and unreal compared to the teenagers I do know and interact with. The conversations felt fairly natural for the most part but the behaviors felt a little "off" to me.

To digress a bit, I'll pick out two points that struck me as especially odd.

1. The use of cell phones is very common among teenagers, true. The author shows a couple of times that Mina does have a cell phone. And yet, when a new friend from her vamp lessons gives Mina her number, Mina loses it. With teens I've seen, passing of numbers involves immediately pulling out the cell and punching it into memory...gone are the days of scribbling down numbers on scraps of paper unless it's the only alternative.

2. Bigger than the number storage, was the lack of cell phone texting. Mina has a cell phone. And yet, all of her "messaging" is done at the computer in her bedroom. My 16 year old sister has friends on Yahoo messenger...but I've even seen her texting via her phone while at the computer rather than chatting on messenger. Texting is a HUGE part of teen life these days. The author instead gives Mina a computer IM account in her bedroom, which struck me as odd.

Back to the book itself, I had a hard time really finding any emotional, psychological or mental attachment to the characters. Mina's dilemma was an interesting one, but the tension wasn't strong enough to pull me into the struggle. Mina kept *telling* me just how troubled and torn she was over the decision, but it was difficult for me to believe her based on her actions and her behaviors. For the first half+ of the book, *I* was bored and annoyed by her paralysis to act realistically.

Only towards the very end of the book was I "*shocked*" into feeling any real anguish with her dilemma. There was finally a struggle introduced that provided a truly difficult variable with more than simply superficial connotations.

A lot of the plot (especially the plot "outside" of the purely vampirical) felt fairly predictable and like something out of a stock fluff teen/high-school novel or sitcom.

Girl A likes Boy AGirl A gets assigned to work with Boy A on school project**Girl A goes out with Boy A**Girl A tries to setup Boy B with Girl B (best friend of Girl A)**Boy A falls for Girl B**Boy B falls for Girl A Girl A is confused, torn, angry, betrayed, etc....**Some sort of reconciliation happens**Everybody goes to prom**

The plot has gone around again and again enough that as soon as each character was introduced and some brief context was given, I was already aware of the ending.

I would have much rather seen more tension around the tough choice Mina had to make. I would have loved to have seen some surprising twists or turns with the peripheral characters...there was a lot of interesting potential with the other characters in her vamp class, but their treatment was glossy at best and non-existent at worst.

Overall, the book was a bit of fluff but it was a painfully slow read due to the lack of any real plot driving tension to keep me hooked. I'm going to pass it to my 16- and 15-year old siblings to see if they see it any differently, but with the amount of teen lit I've read lately and the amount of interactions I've had lately, it feels to me that this book doesn't quite nail the teen mindset and it also fails to engage the reader with a substantial plot.

1.5 stars

*

Ealindraoi says

Sucks to be Me - the All-True confessions of Mina Hamilton Teen Vampire (maybe)

There are a LOT of Teen Vampire novels on the market now and I think I've read about 3/4 of them. This one is a worthy addition to the genre. Mina's voice is so clearly just a normal teen girl with loving parents (who happen to be vampires) and a best friend (who she can't confide in regarding the whole vampire thing) and a crush on a boy or two (one of whom is totally into the vampire thing, and one of whom isn't).

Summary:

Mina is a 17-year-old girl who has known since she was 10 that her parents were vampires, but it hasn't really affected her average suburban life. True, they don't exactly love sunbathing, and they don't sleep, and they forget to eat, but Mina has adjusted to all that. But the Vampire Council didn't know that Mina existed, and now that they know, she has to attend Vampire Sessions and her weird Uncle Mortimer is her sponsor. Worst of all, she has just 4 weeks to decide if she wants to become a vampire or not. She slowly learns all the things about the vampire life that her parents never told her, in order to give her a normal upbringing. On top of all that, there's a trio of cute to gorgeous boys that seem to suddenly be interested in her. This book is Mina's journal, and Mina never met a situation that couldn't use a good pro and con list along with little chapter header stickers of vampires myths and the truth as Mina sees it.

The most difficult thing about book about alternative worlds is getting the "rules of the world" in there without having a big boring chapter about how the world works. This is a clever way of doing that, we learn what the vampire rules are right along with Mina. The chapter headers of myths and truths with little drawings of bats and other pictures that illustrate the myths are really cute. All the characters are fully drawn, but Mina's voice is what really made me love this book. She's so typically a teen, who thinks a lot of this

vampire stuff is TOO GROSS FOR WORDS. I laughed out loud at several places because of Mina's observations.

Light and funny - a GREAT beach read for teens and anyone who likes vampires in any guise!

Michael says

Seventeen-year-old Mina Hamilton has a seemingly normal life with one small exception--her parents are vampires. Mina's known for years, but when the vampire ruling council discovers this, Mina is enrolled in a crash course about everything it means to be a vampire and given a deadline to make one of the biggest decisions of her life--whether or not to join the ranks of the undead.

With the current crazy of teenager vampire books flooding the market, "Sucks To Be Me" stands out from the crowd for several reasons. One of them is the central narrator and our hero, Mina Hamilton. Told from Mina's point of view, the story allows us to see into Mina's thought process which is, at times hilarious, at times self-pitying and always authentic.

Another stand-out point is the novel's creation of its own vampire mythology. While it's not groundbreaking, the novel does feature several points in which Mina debunks or backs up vampire lore. The fact that Mina's English class is reading "Dracula" as the book unfolds only helps things. First-time author Kimberly Pauley has created a fresh, interesting new potential vampire lore in her book and while this story is complete in and of itself, more entries in this universe and involving Mina would be welcome.

Thirdly, the book is populated by an engaging group of characters. The biggest of these is Mina, but there are a wide array of supporting characters to get to know and love over the course of the story. And these characters behavior make for some genuinely laugh out loud funny moments such as Mina's mom explaining vampire sex to her potential date over the family dinner table.

In a perfect world, a novel as fun, refreshing and as fun as "Sucks To Be Me" would do equal or better numbers as the Twilight saga. With teenage vampire romance novels being the current rage in the bookstore, "Sucks To Be Me" stands out from the field with its good sense of humor, engaging characters and well-crafted romantic tension.

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

Having read it in English I discover that this novel has also been translated into French. A long time ago, my friend Sullivan McPig offered me the first two novels and I confess that I was intrigued. But then, I finally tried and I confess that I was curious to see how it was going to be. It was a while since I had not read a YA and all the more about vampires.

Mina always knew that her parents and uncle were vampires and this secret weighs on her as she has no right to talk about it. Yet, it seems that her life is about to change. Indeed, the council of the vampires, after

discovering her existence, asks her to take courses to decide if she would like to be transformed or not. Mina is going to meet with aspirants, between Aubrey a strange but beautiful boy; George or Lorelai, new friends; Raven, the bitch ... in short a whole new little group. Between these important decisions, we also find of course the sentimental meanders of our young heroine.

It was an entertaining and pleasant read even if it will not leave me an unforgettable memory. It's cute, perhaps more intended for the younger ones. I sometimes did not feel that our heroine was 18 years old, but much less, but it may be a personal feeling. In any case, it is a cute reading and I will read the sequel with curiosity.
