



Vamp Camp

Wynn Wagner

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Did Mårten Larsson want to be a vamp? Not so much. He wanted it as much as he asked to have a sissy circle over the å in his name. He just woke up dead one day with a piece of paper that said, “Dude, you’re a vampire. Drink some blood. Don’t suntan.”

Luckily, another vampire finds Mårten and agrees to teach him how to live (well, not live, exactly) as a vampire. And so Mårten goes to Vamp Camp, where he has to survive without getting staked or baked, learn how to work with fangs and blood lust while spending time with his boyfriend, and employ his wicked wit as he masters the art and science of vampirism.

Vamp Camp Details

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From Reader Review Vamp Camp for online ebook

Stephen says

This is a witty, tale of an irreverent young Texan who's turned into a vampire after becoming a POW during the great war. Never taking his tale too seriously, the narrator tells of his ill-fated career as a soldier, his internment in a POW camp and his subsequent conversion into a vampire. He hooks up with German vampire soon after the war ends and learns what every young vampire should know (including how to please, use and NOT abuse the stable of gorgeous young men who are willing to become blood donors and sex partners with him)

The narrator frequently breaks the "fourth wall" and comments directly to the reader in a way that is charming and this is only one way in which this book is unlike most of the other gay vamp tales out there. The scenes are delightedly carnal and the sex is as inventive as the rest of the tale. By all means check out this book.

Not sure where the title Vamp Camp comes from but Mårten Larsson is one "camp vamp" (at least at times)

momokaachan says

I can see why some people didn't like this book. It is the journal of a vampire - approximately the first year of his unlife, if you will - and it is really a journal. Each chapter reads like an entry, and Mårten's opinions on everything from how to fly to terrific sex are entertaining. All the side comments, unnecessary editing, and various other personal stuff would probably get left out by a good publishing house. We would miss so much of the personality of the read if that had been done!

So don't read this expecting to be blown away or awestruck. Expect to chuckle, roll your eyes (at times Mårten can be exasperating), and entertained. Enjoy.

Kassa says

Sick of the same old tired, uber powerful vamps but can't quite let go of those sexy suckers? Definitely give Vamp Camp a try then. This hilarious, witty, sly, entertaining, sexy, and flat out laugh out loud funny romp hits so many high points that the flatter notes are somewhat forgiven. Not without its missteps, the story sets a pretty high bar for itself that is incredibly difficult to maintain. It mostly succeeds with only a few frustrating moments and ultimately the book is simply total fun to read. There are some annoying contrivances you have to forgive and the romance angle is sacrificed for hot sex, which is unfortunate. Yet, I eagerly await book two in the series to see what this engaging cast is up to next.

Right away you're introduced to the first person narrator, Mårten. Mårten talks to you, the reader, as he explains that he's going to tell you a story as he remembers it. He starts with his background and childhood with a mom that gave him a three dollar bill to show him how queer he is. Oh and she always reminds him to eat his cereal. From this absent but caring in its own way home to joining the military, Mårten is not your average person let alone sailor. When he's taken prisoner and eventually turned into a vampire, his manual is a bunch of crudely drawn figures and a circle with an x threw it. First attempting to learn on his own, Mårten's life changes when he meets fellow vampire, Menz who agrees to show him how to be a successful

vampire. Sex, revenge, romance, true love, floating lessons, epic vampire fights, and lots of twinkles in tiny shorts all converge to give Mårten a new life.

The writing is immediately irreverent, sarcastic, and engaging. Mårten starts off talking to the reader and although this falls away when he gets into story telling, there is always an aspect of this that is present. Comic timing in books is incredibly difficult to pull off and attempting to give 250 pages of that is a near impossible mission. The initial jokes and sarcastic tone can start to wear thin pretty quickly without a deft hand and so I have a lot of respect for the author for attempting it and mostly succeeding. It's not entirely successful and there are a few contrivances that did annoy me. There are some editing mistakes and repetitive phrasing and prose that stand out, but for the most part aside from these few stutters, the writing is pretty engaging. These annoyances are also likely to vary from reader to reader.

The first is that the narrator likes to make the following comment or some variation "if you ask me. Which you did since you bought the book." The first time is humorous but repeated comments just jar me out of the story. I'm reminded that I'm reading not just the narration of the speaker, but also an author that is manipulating the story. I prefer to be totally engaged in the story and not be reminded I'm reading what someone wrote. Similar annoyances come in notes and aside about the writing process within the text of the story. For example there is a comment about adding information for editors and the note about why the narrator uses the term "homosexual" versus gay. None of this information is really necessary and feels as though the author is justifying any qualms before you can raise them.

The sarcastic tone of Mårten carries well and never gets tired due to a deft handle of action, sex, and vampire politics. Mårten reminds me of an irreverent teenager that wants all the cool toys and only discovers the responsibility through trial and error. His characterization is decent but all of the characters in the rather large, entertaining cast are somewhat superficial without a lot of depth. None are boring from Menz and his teenager looks but sophisticated style to the bevy of twinkles in tiny shorts running around as blood donors and named after Shakespeare's characters. Mårten's lover Oberon is a mystery and little is ever revealed about him. This is one of the weakest aspects of the book since Oberon and Mårten fall in love due to compatible sex – and lots of it. Mårten even mentions that they rarely talk, they mostly have sex so their instant love has little basis. Yet their sex scenes are pretty hot, keeping in line with the lighter tone and purpose of the story.

For all the stutters and missteps, the narrator's voice held the book for me. The plot is sometimes over the top with very powerful vampires but the wonder and awe are clear as is Mårten's point of view. Here's an example of the dialogue carrying the quick back and forth that hallmarks the strengths of the story:

"Why is there a circle over the 'å' in my name?" I asked mother.

"You're Swedish," mother said.

"Guys at school think it's sissy."

"Good, it'll make you grow up tough."

My own mother. I always thought about suing her over that name. Shouldn't there be some kind of maternal malpractice?

"I'm taking you to court," I told her once.

"Eat your cereal," she said.

"I'm gay, you know."

"I'm not blind," she said.

"It makes me sensitive."

"That's nice, dear. Eat your cereal."

Whether it's a disconnected mother or a gracious smiling butler with impeccable fashion sense, the cast of characters shine in this light, entertaining, and hilarious romp. There may not be a lot of depth to each but really it doesn't matter. The story and men are engaging, interesting, and offer something fresh in the over saturated world of super powerful vampires. I'm eagerly awaiting book two and really hope it is about Menz

and Paco. I'm incredibly curious what kind of voice either would have and the age difference, thousand year old vampire and 19 y/o twink. No matter who the narrator of the next story is, it promises to be fun so pick up Vamp Camp now and enjoy a light, easy, funny time.

Parker Olsson says

This is probably the best and funniest and most tender vampire book ever. It is the right mix of action and love and insecurity and sex. Lots of hot sex.

What I like best is that the story is told by one of the characters. There is a bit of German because it takes place in Bavaria. I saw one person mention that the German isn't perfect, which is true. The narrator tries to do lots of things but often falls short. It is his quirks and snips that I find the most endearing.

This book had me rolling around on the floor laughing.

Angie says

Vamp Camp was very different than I was expecting. For one, there is no camp involved. Just a mansion where a master vampire resides. Second, it's historical! That was actually a bonus since I always wanted to read an LGBT Historical Romance. Although this is really more of a Paranormal Romance in a historical setting, but whatever. Mårten was in the US Navy during WWI and wound up as a prisoner-of-war. One of the guards turned him into a vampire and left him in the woods. Luckily, Metz finds Mårten and teaches him the ways of the vampires.

I kind of liked *Vamp Camp*, but for the most part I was bored. There is no plot whatsoever, but it's not like there was no plot because the focus was on the romance. The story is told by Mårten as a book. Like he acknowledges that he is writing his story and we are reading it. I do love second person POV, but for some reason the book awareness angle rarely works for me. But that wasn't really the problem. It was that it read more like a vampire instruction manual than as Mårten's thoughts on the subject. Every conversation with Metz was a lesson, so I wasn't quite as invested in the story as I could have been if they were doing something else.

The romance was sweet though. Mårten and his "donor" Oberon are super sappy and super in love and super all lover each other. I also thought it was cute how they gave each other language lessons, since Mårten speaks English and Oberon speaks German. However, they understand each other perfectly most of the time despite the language barrier. They also have lots of sexy times.

Vamp Camp was just okay for me. The lack of anything happening and the type of humor used didn't resonate with me. I'm not a fan of the repetitive line as a recurring joke thing. I find it annoying, and sadly it was used a lot. Something exciting does happen toward the end, but by then it was too late. While I did enjoy the romance, I don't think it's enough for me to continue the series.

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Cole Riann says

Hmm, I kept reading other reviews saying that there was so much sex, but I was kinda disappointed honestly. Ya'll had gotten my hopes up!

I thoroughly enjoyed this one and I'm looking forward to reading the sequels :)

T.M. Smith says

Mårten (pronounced Morton) is a good ole boy from Texas. He has a stable home life and parents that love him and they know he's gay. In fact, when he was a teenager, his mother gave him a three dollar bill to show him how queer he was. Although his parents are caring and understanding, they aren't always emotionally available. When he graduates college he joins the Navy and ends up in a POW camp after he is captured by the Germans. Mårten has never been one to shy away from a fight, and his defiant behavior lands him in solitary confinement, of sorts. It's while he's confined that one of the guards rapes, assaults and bites him. Mårten wakes up in a cave with a note pinned to his shirt, "You're a vampire, drink some blood and stay out of the sun."

Mårten is trying to decipher why it is the sun hurts him, he can fly and jump really high and likes to drink animals dry when he meets another vampire. Menz is a centuries old vampire that lives on an estate that he runs much like a gay Peyton Place. Filled with lots of young, beautiful, sexy men (both gay and straight) that are willing blood donors. In exchange for their donation, these men live a life of luxury under the protection of Menz.

Menz takes Mårten under his wing and trains him to be a proper vampire. Menz himself is gay so he recognizes the trait in his new young trainee. On Mårten first night at the estate, Menz sets him up with a tall, handsome donor with long black hair and gorgeous blue eyes. Oberon and Mårten are instantly and insanely attracted to each other, and though they actively participate in all manners of threesomes, foursomes and orgies, they only have eyes for each other. The two start making plans to be together forever. But when one of the donors winds up slaughtered on the front lawn, their plans are put on hold. Mårten and his new found family are forced to face his demons together, and not everyone will make it out alive, much less get a 'Happy Ever After'.

Okay so, the narration was so terrible that it was good. This kid that tells Mårten's story goes so overboard with the Texas twang, that it's at times laughable. But I couldn't take out my ear plugs! The storyline was so engrossing, and Mårten's dry, witty sense of humor coupled with Menz's proper british appearance made for some very intriguing reading. The sex scenes between Mårten and Oberon are some of the tamest, yet hottest scenes I've ever read. The story at times was a bit disjointed and the fact that it was obviously an adult book, but the main character would teeter between the words but and ass drove me a little crazy, but for whatever reason I just loved this story!

This was just a fast, fun read with a young spitfire of a main character that was forced to grow up way too soon. Seriously, his favorite curse is 'Holy!'. That's it, just Holy! I can't wait to see what happens next for Mårten, Oberon and Menz. Not sure if I'll grab the second book, or wait for it to come out on audible. Stay tuned.

Nancy Carbajal says

Loved it! A friend loaned this story to me knowing I like Vampire stories best. I got so involved in the story line and sometimes I would forget it was set during the first World War. I liked all the characters and would not mind reading more about each of them as they all have interesting aspects in their personalities. A Texan turned Vampire in the country of Germany is certainly different and it spoke to me. I liked Marten very much and loved Oberon's name, lovely couple and their relationship is somewhat different, but I liked that very much. Bravo!! One thing and I'm sorry, but I did not like the title.

Eric Westfall says

I consider myself an astute reader. Okay, since reviewers are supposed to be honest, I consider myself a very astute reader...well, except for my general inability to figure out "whodunnit" in a mystery before the detective tells all.

Yet after reading and enjoying all four books of the *Vamp Camp* trilogy...yes, you're reading that right...I am still uncertain where "Vamp Camp" came from. For me, the title inevitably carries the mental image of an at-night "summer camp" for vampires, complete with counselors and fun activities. I came across the title by accident and looked at the first book just because of the title. The blurb cured me of the summer camp imagery, but got me intrigued. So much so, I bought all four books. (Moi? An *impulsive* buyer of a whole series when the first one hasn't been sampled, much less read? *C'est impossible!*)

I'm glad I did.

I read all four, one after the other, over a couple of days.

The narrator is a snarky American vampire telling his dead story (well, it couldn't be his "life" story, now could it?) from growing up to becoming a vampire during World War I, and onward.

The author has created an unusual world-wide vampire society that's entirely believable. Marten (I can't duplicate the little "o" over the "a" in his name) is fun to listen to as he tells his tale, sometimes directly talking to those of us who have bought his books and are in the process of reading, and occasionally threatening: "If I told you what Obscurati really meant, I'd have to kill you, so don't ask and I won't tell." (Not a quote, just a sort-of imitation.)

There's an interesting take on how vampires are made. There's love and laughter and snark by the gallon. Plenty of gore in a sense...hey, it's a *vampire* series!...but not so much so that those of us with more delicate stomachs get queasy. Twists and turns of plot...and some really unexpected stuff in the last book. All of it well-written and fun to read.

Anyone remember the potato chip commercials where you can't eat just one?

Same here, in terms of the books.

Although for me, the reality was that I was only a chapter or so into the first book when I knew I'd made the right, logical, eminently rational, reasonable, entirely lacking in any hint of impulsivity, decision to buy all four.

You should, too.

Qi says

[Marten is in the navy, he has sex, he is in a prison camp, has sex, gets turned into a vampire against his will, doesn't know he's a vampire, figures out he's a vampire, gets taught how to be a vampire, has a ton of sex, and falls in love. All of this without any character development. Everything is too disjoint for plot development, even the eventual death of his rapist. The most plot we

Tam says

3.5 Oh why are there no half stars?

This has a much cuter goth boy on the cover of the paper version. Mårten is an American naval officer who is captured by the Germans in WWI. He is raped and turned into a vampire by one of the guards who dumps him in the with only the most basic of information. He manages to get by and meets Menz, another vampire who takes him to his estate where he learns about being a vampire from Menz and manages to fall in love with Oberon, one of the multitude of twink donors he keeps. The guard who turned him against his will manages to elude execution and is out to get Mårten and Menz as well. This is book one and is told as if Mårten knows he's telling you the story, he's got a wry voice, and there is lots of random hot smexin' amongst the donors and vamps and you get to know about the vamp council and how their culture works. I enjoyed it as it doesn't take itself too seriously and is just fun and sexy. However I had a very difficult time purchasing a pdf version, perhaps in part due to the site and I found a fair number of spelling errors through the book, but not enough to really detract from the overall story. I'll definitely be checking out the next one.

Sven Andréas says

This is a riotous comedy with lots of horny vampires.

Mickie Ashling says

Vamp Camp is an entertaining and irreverent novel about a young man who was turned against his will and finds himself a vampire abandoned by his maker. Our young hero has no idea how to survive until he meets a true master vampire and is taken under his wing. The blurb alone was hilarious and the humor continues throughout the book as Morten learns the basics of being a good blood sucker. The secondary characters are colorful and it was so easy to suspend belief and imagine myself amongst the young men learning the ancient secrets of the vampire world. I look forward to the next book in this series and I'm delighted to add Wynn Wagner to my list of favorite authors.

Amber says

This book kind of threw me a little bit with the title. I had expected something a little bit more modern and filled with a bunch of vampires. Instead it was set during the WWII and involve more a mentor/protege type thing with a harem of beautiful boys for the two vampires. I never had the camp feeling from this book.

As for the story itself not a lot of substance but fun to read as long as you don't look too closely at the plot. The narrator has a lot of fun and the most important thing is that the story doesn't take itself to seriously. For me the make the plot holes forgivable as I just sit back and watch Marten learn about being a vampire while having copious amounts of sex.

Deanna says

2.5 stars

Really, really wanted to like this one. It started off great, but then just got boring. There were some strange inconsistencies (example: Marten is captured by the Germans during WW1 and held in underground solitary confinement for punching a jailer. During that time another soldier comes in and has sex with him. Marten thought about objecting but decided he liked it. So much so that he deliberately got in trouble in order to get placed back in that cell. The soldier appears later in the story & Marten is adamant that he wants revenge on his rapist. WTF???)
