



The Golden Lily

Richelle Mead

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Sydney Sage is an Alchemist, one of a group of humans who dabble in magic and serve to bridge the worlds of humans and vampires. Alchemists protect vampire secrets - and human lives.

Sydney would love to go to college, but instead, she's been sent into hiding at a posh boarding school in Palm Springs, California - tasked with protecting Moroi princess Jill Dragomir from assassins who want to throw the Moroi court into civil war. Formerly in disgrace, Sydney is now praised for her loyalty and obedience, and held up as the model of an exemplary Alchemist.

But the closer she grows to Jill, Eddie, and especially Adrian, the more she finds herself questioning her age-old Alchemist beliefs, her idea of family, and her sense of what it means to truly belong. Her world becomes even more complicated when magical experiments show Sydney may hold the key to prevent becoming Strigoi - the fiercest vampires, the ones who don't die. But it's her fear of being just that - special, magical, powerful - that scares her more than anything. Equally daunting is her new romance with Braydon, a cute, brainy guy who seems to be her match in every way. Yet, as perfect as he seems, Sydney finds herself being drawn to someone else - someone forbidden to her.

When a shocking secret threatens to tear the vampire world apart, Sydney's loyalties are suddenly tested more than ever before. She wonders how she's supposed to strike a balance between the principles and dogmas she's been taught, and what her instincts are now telling her.

Should she trust the Alchemists - or her heart?

The Golden Lily Details

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Download and Read Free Online The Golden Lily Richelle Mead

From Reader Review The Golden Lily for online ebook

Darlene says

What to say, what to say...

Well, I love *The Golden Lily*. Love it, love it, love it. I had been waiting anxiously for this book for a while, and it did not disappoint me. I won't lie, these first two *Bloodlines* books are very predictable, but there's so much charm and quality that you don't even care.

First, this is cast of very likeable characters. There's our protagonist, Sydney, whom I love. Sydney is smart, but naïve, and very much awkward. It's kind of unexpected, considering how cool and composed she seems, but under all that is a teenage girl with insecurities like any other. She's cute and very relatable with her own strengths and weaknesses to go around. You get to see her grow more throughout this book.

Adrian... *sighs dreamily and stares into space*. Adrian has always been my favorite character of the VA series, and all you Dimitri fangirls are going to realize just how awesome he is sooner or later, maybe during this book, maybe later. He is just this sexy piece of complex art. There are so many emotions behind that wit. Love him <3

Jill didn't annoy me as much as in *Bloodlines*. She's maturing. And I'm not even sure if it was really Jill that annoyed me or her love life. Eddie's awesome as ever. Angeline made a great, fun addition to the group. She is hilarious!

Individually, they might not be super interesting, but together this group is totally adorable. What's awesome is that they really are like a family, even with all those romantic entanglements xD

Yeah, this book has its fair share of romance. SYDRIAN fans won't be disappointed, just hungry for more. This is definitely one of my favorite couples. Richelle Mead, you are genius for putting them together. Opposites in every way possible, they complement each other *perfectly*. They make each other better people and know the little things about each other.

"But when I'm around you, I want to be better because... well, because it feels right. Because I want to. You make me want to become something greater than myself. I want to excel. You inspire me in every act, every word, every glance. I look at you, and you're like... like light made into flesh."

"You are the most beautiful creature I have ever seen walking this earth."

*"The slush. That thing's like 99 percent sugar. You just drank one, Sage.'
'Maybe you drank liquid sugar. Mine was sugar free.' I hoped I sounded convincing."*

"You're in an awfully good mood," he observed. "Was there a sale at Khakis-R-Us?"

Aiden-Brady-Hayden-Brandon was okay, though not all that memorable. Now that he's out of the way I wonder who will fill his space in the other end of the love triangle. Trey (who I actually really like) has a lot in common with Sydney, and there's always that Ian guy from *The Last Sacrifice*. This is assuming there will be a love triangle of course. But this is Richelle Mead, guys. And a Richelle Mead book without a crazy love triangle? I doubt it.

Jill's love life is... frustrating. After the whole Lee disaster, she found solace in Micah, and Eddie longingly watches all of this. Like I've said before, Eddie is the most deserving character in the entire VA *Bloodlines* series. In all the seven books he has been in, he has done nothing but help everyone else. I don't like the idea

of him and Jill, but if she makes him happy, whatever.

Jill does the mature thing in breaking up with Micah, but right after she's like "oh now that I've broken up with him, maybe I can go out with him!" and I'm just yanking my hair out. I love the idea of Eddie and Angeline! I had always seen Mia as a perfect match for him, seeing how they went through the same thing, but Angeline is great too. Their relationship is great. I'd like to see a strong, independent, single Jill anyways.

There isn't much that much action in this book, but that's only to be expected. We're with an Alchemist and an Ivashkov. But they're learning, there are four more books to go, and Sydney will learn to use a gun! This book leaned mostly on romance and character development. And that vampire hunter thing. I loved it all, except for the magic thing. Witches are the last thing I expected in this series, and I can't say I want to see more of that.

Nevertheless, I can't wait for the next book. *The Indigo Spell* is what it's called. What the crap is that supposed to mean? Sounds witchy :/

~~One thing concerning Angeline bothered me, though. The book mentioned her having a 'southern drawl' and the Keepers being from the Appalachians, but wasn't Angeline from Russia???~~ Confusion o_O
Just kidding. I was wrong :3 Thanks to all the people who corrected me

UPDATE 6/11/12

I read the first two chapters last night. Tomorrow's the day :D

UPDATE 2/14/12

Whoa, whoa, whoa who's this Brayden dude? What the heck happened to Trey <_>

8/27/11

Insanely excited for this book!!!! The cover isn't very pretty though... except for Jill. The model looks like Dakota Blue Richards, whom I imagined for Jill.

Predictions~

- love triangle between Sydney, Adrian and Trey (wouldn't it be awesome if it was Ian?) and possibly Angeline. Oh wait, that'd be a love square.
- Jill ends up with Eddie or realizes she has feelings for him after she sees him with Angeline. I like EddiexAngeline much better.
- Dimitri will mess all this stuff up, but in the end bring Adrian and Sydney closer than ever before
- one of Sydney's sorority girl friends (Kristen and Julia) gets killed
- Laurel becomes more important
- Tasha kidnaps Jill

Things I think would be cool if they happened~

- Tasha coming back at all. Miss that evil lady.
- EddiexAngeline. Yeah...
- Jill, having mixed feelings for Micah and Eddie, unintentionally hurts both of them and ends up with neither boy. Call me a sadist, but it would be boring if everyone got together with everyone and they all carried each other off into the sunset.
- Ian instead of Trey :)
- Avery Lazar breaks out of that mental institution place and does all this crazy stuff!

Chelsea Jay says

I can't wait to read this.

I just read Bloodlines & I'm already looking forward to The Golden Lily.

My Assumptions:

Sydney gets over her fear of vampires (atleast the living ones, not the Strigoi).

Adrian moves on from Rose & deepens his relationship with Sydney.

Jill gets in a relationship with Mikah (Mason #2) & everyone flips out.

Eddie dates Angeline to get over his love for Jill but fails miserably & someone gets killed (probably Mikah).

Dimitri is talking to Rose over the phone, Adrian overhears & then proceeds to flip the fuck out thus messing things up with Sydney.

Adrian & Dimitri get in several heated arguments (wishing)

Sydney & Adrian kiss.

Jill realizes Eddie loves her f that she loves him too.

Cliff hanger ending like in Bloodlines when Dimitri walked into Adrian's house.

LOL, this is going to be interesting.

is mee... kissa says

3.5

holy jeebus that was some ending! one word people: goosebumps.

my favourite bits were the ones with Adrian in it =D - typical Kissa response. He's just so damn irresistible.

the thing with the two books in this series is that I'm not particularly crazy about it in the beginning or the middle - not that i don't like it, it's just that it's not a "whoa!" kinda thing. But the lead up to the ending (and most importantly: the actual ending) grab me and whip me out of my "non-whoa!" state, only to throw me into an "*Oh my God what the hell just happened?!*" kinda position. I wish that would happen more throughout, but it doesn't. Still, i like this one better than the first book.

i just re-skimmed the VA series and *Bloodlines*. =(i really miss Adrian.

yeah! **chapter 1 and 2!!!!!!**

<http://richellemead.com/excerpt/excer...>

wow, this site is awesome if you want a few teasers. i warn you though! they are very heavy on the teasers. they're all the ones that know just where to hit me: Adrian and Sydney

okay, i still haven't actually read this book, but I just wandered onto The Indigo Spell, and now i feel like i really, really, *really* have to read it! watch, I'm gonna buy it two days from now and finish it within a day or

two depending on how much time i have to read it. Argh! there's something about Adrian! oh, Adrian, I'm scared to read this just because of everyone's crazy reactions to the end of The Golden Lily (as seen through the Bloodlines 3 link) and i know it's about *you*! So don't hide from me Mister!

GIVE. ME. THE. BOOK!

I still want lots of Adrian in this. In fact, I *demand* it! Ohh... I love the guy. I don't want him to hurt anymore. Something must be done.

Please have some romance, *please* have some romance. You know, most preferably with Adrian. Mead will probably shove Trey into the mix, but I don't mind. Just give me something! Yes! I just read the blurb and noticed the "*forbidden romances*" part. whew! I suppose that could mean heaps of people, but I want it to be either about Sydney with Adrian/Trey or Jill with Eddie/Micah oh! or Eddie and Angeline! Oh whatever! I just want some controversy!

oh, Jill is a cutie. Hm... Jill was so central in the first book, I wonder how much more central she's gonna be in this one since she's on the cover this time. Or what I assume is her anyways. Oh! Unless it means her character is going to develop, cause Adrian was on the front of Bloodlines, but he wasn't in it *that* much. Not like Jill was.

oooooooooh! i especially like the '*Sydney finds herself being drawn to someone else—someone forbidden to her*' part. ;) so long as this 'someone' is Adrian.

...and a Q&A from entertainment weekly:

Did you know that the last line of Bloodlines would create such a stir?

I kind of hoped it would, but some of the reactions surprised me! I had a few people say they threw the book across the room in happiness when they read that line, which is funny since a lot of people also threw Shadow Kiss across their rooms in frustration when they read the last line of that book. I guess my books are just destined to take a beating... but hopefully it's a compliment. Something tells me The Golden Lily may see a few walls.

What can you tell us about Dimitri's role in the second book?

Well, since Sydney, Adrian, Jill, and Eddie are our stars in this series, Dimitri's in more of a support role here compared to the other series. That being said, fans can rest assured that he's still doing plenty of what he does best: being hot, kicking ass, and dropping words of wisdom with a Russian accent.

How will the bond between Sydney, Eddie, Adrian, and Jill continue to evolve?

This group really is like a little family. Each of them grows and faces new challenges in the series, which then affects their relationships with each other. They have their dysfunctional moments but are ultimately close and supportive of each other. Angeline from the Keepers joins their circle in this book, which adds an even more unpredictable (and fun) element to it all.

Was it hard to get used to writing from Sydney's point of view in the first Bloodlines?

Very difficult. In any series, whether it's a spin-off or not, you have to really know your narrator well in order to pull off a good voice. A lot of that can only be learned "on the job," after you've written a fair

amount. I'm working on the third book in the series now, and I think I've got the hang of Sydney — though I'll never be quite as smart as she is.

Will there be more romance in Golden Lily?

There's romance everywhere in this book.

“The World of Richelle Mead” app just came out – what do you like most about this new way of connecting with your fans?

I love seeing where people are reading the books around the world. I get e-mail from readers from all different places, but seeing it right there on a map takes it to a whole other level. It's amazing and very humbling. I feel so lucky that my books have all that support!

Isabella says

[image error]

Jillian -always aspiring- says

(Actual Rating: 3.5 stars)

The honest truth: coming into reading *The Golden Lily*, I remembered next to nothing of what had transpired in the first book, *Bloodlines*. I had some vague recollections of things Adrian had said (because, come on, who can forget what Adrian says?), the climax, and the scene where Adrian remarked about Sydney's eyes being like "molten gold." At first, I thought, "Oh, it's just you; the first book couldn't have been that unmemorable" -- but, after reading *The Golden Lily*, I'm not so certain.

On the one hand, I understand: in terms of plot arcs, *Bloodlines* is proving to be a tamer beast than *Vampire Academy*. Though both series have their instances of romantic drama and tension, the *Bloodlines* series really does have a more flippant air, what with the setting (California) and focus on "lighter" affairs (high school, dating, modeling, etc.). Though I could excuse such things in *Bloodlines* as a "start-up book" to the series, I honestly expected more plot tension, danger, and immediacy in *The Golden Lily*. To my dismay, I didn't feel that I received any of those things.

I once read somewhere that, if a writer doesn't enjoy what he/she is writing, then the reader will fail to enjoy it as well -- and I think that's part of the problem with *The Golden Lily*. There are sparks of life and enjoyment in certain scenes (such as interactions between Sydney and Adrian), yet then that verve dissipates into a dullness over the course of much of the book. If I were a betting woman, I would place my money on the belief that Mead really didn't enjoy writing most of this novel. It's a wonder she didn't somehow have all the characters thrown out of their Californian setting and shipped off back to Court, to the heart of the intrigues and danger involved with Moroi politics and Strigoi attacks, because -- honestly -- the new setting and "focus" really don't seem to be serving the story (or characters) as well as they should.

As much as I loved the growth of companionship between Sydney and Adrian within this installment, I will be the first to admit that **relationship-building and romantic tension alone do not a good book make**. They help, of course (especially if you latch onto good characters and their relationships as I do), but there needs to be a strong plot supporting them. Not all of the Sydney-Adrian scenes in this book were directly related back to the plot or its roots; rather, many of the scenes occurred for the simple function of building a

bond between the two. That's not reprehensible, no, but it's disappointing, especially given that a few of the *Vampire Academy* novels really managed to strike a balance with characterization, relationship-building, and plot. With all that being said, I still enjoyed the Sydney-Adrian moments scattered across the book, but I wish that their presence hadn't been at the expense of suspense, mystery, and danger within the plot.

Sadly, another weakness of *The Golden Lily* is that Sydney proves to be a detached narrator, even more so than I noticed in *Bloodlines*. As much as I like her as a character (really, she's been a favorite of mine since she first appeared in *Blood Promise*), her narrative in this installment lacked vibrance, and -- perhaps most detrimental of all -- she really didn't seem to have much of an interest in the people around her. Even despite some considerable character growth for Sydney between *Bloodlines* and this installment, the only interactions where she really seems to come to life are with Adrian, and even those could be explained away by the fact that the two are the most obvious "couple-to-be" in the series. Everyone else seems throwaway and inconsequential -- a stark contrast to how side-characters were treated in the earlier installments of *Vampire Academy*. We never get a sense that these characters are continuing to move, breathe, and interact when they're "off-stage" (i.e. not within Sydney's sight and thought process). Rather, it sometimes feels that the characters are mechanism-driven puppets that cease functioning if they aren't related to Sydney or the plot at hand -- and that's a shame since Jill, Eddie, Angeline, and Trey really should be more than just tools or props within the story.

Another minor issue is that I'm a bit disappointed that this series is branching off into common paranormal intrigues with vampire hunters and witches added into the mix. Even though innovation can be injected into such groups by way of an author's execution, the way Mead tackles them feels tired. If only the vampire hunters and the witches seemed as intriguing to me as the Moroi and the dhampirs did when I first started reading *Vampire Academy* years ago.

As disjointed as my thoughts on this novel seem, I guess they can be all chalked down to this: I'm disillusioned by the *Bloodlines* series thus far. I *want* to love these books even as I devour them, but they're rather like not having a full meal: after the fact, I feel hungry for something I didn't receive. No doubt *The Golden Lily* left me with some moments where I smiled or laughed, but overall my experience was ultimately unsatisfying. Hopefully, the third book, *The Indigo Spell*, will bring back some more of the storytelling I remember and miss from the *Vampire Academy* days.

~Tina~ says

4.5 stars

I can finally wear color again! My VA mourning-days are over;)

It's true, the first time I read *Bloodline*, it left a bit of a stake in my heart. It's not that I didn't enjoy it, but I was mourning the fact that Rose and Dimitri's story is truly over, but after re-reading it again to prepare myself for *Golden Lily*, I'm pleased to say that I properly fell in love with this series like I was meant to from the beginning.

You know, I'm not sure what I should say in this review. A big part of me want to scream and gush about everything that happened, but since this doesn't come out till June, I'm gonna try to keep this spoil-free as much as I can.

I really loved this installment. **The Golden Lily** has a lot of great moments. And I mean *great*, but it felt more like a filler than anything else. Not that's necessarily a bad thing. This gave us a chance to get to know more about the newer characters since the other obvious characters have already been established. I felt like I

finally connected with Sydney and the Alchemist world.

Since turning over Keith, Sydney is back in good graces with her organization. There is a lot of honor in her accomplishments that are recognized, but there are also true horrors if one goes against Alchemist code. Like the RE-education. I'm equally fascinated and scared to death to see what that is all about and only hope that Sydney doesn't ever have to.

She's walking a very fine line between duty and friendships. Friendships she shouldn't be wanting much less needing. But I loved the conflict. It looks good on her. As we know, Sydney lacks certain social skills and don't even get me started on the whole dating process. This girl is so clueless, but that's what I loved about her the most. She doesn't expect to be accepted or liked or even desired, but a part of her still *wants* those things. Wants more than just being a job. She's won my respect and admiration. She's a true friend, selfless, brave and kind.

I'm not sure what else I can say about the rest of the gang. I still don't quite have a hold on Jill's character yet, but I'm hoping that will come in future books. I still love Eddie and I think it's pretty amusing how his predicament worked out. Dimitri fans will be pleased to know he's in this book a lot more than expected. Which is awesome. I've gotten attached to Sonya and Trey, I'm still not sure about Angeline though. We meet a new character, Brayden. He's....*swell*.

And last but not least, Adrian. He's still the best! I swear I lived for his moments. He's still such a punk, sarcastic and funny and completely melt worthy. But we got to see a more vulnerable side to him that made me want to hug him so so hard.

I'm not sure what to say about the plot line, since, well it mostly wrapped around Sydney. We do find out a few new Vampire related developments which is really cool and we even see a bit of magic in this one which is an element I've always enjoyed and hope will be even more explored. There is some action, but not much. The ending is what had me *aching* for more...and that's all I'm gonna say about that cause I don't trust myself right now;)

Bottom line, I loved this book. It felt easier going into this one than the first and Mead made it so easy to fall in love with these characters. As always her writing is remarkable. I may have had a shaky start to this series, but I'm a screaming fan girl now!

LOVE! NEED MORE!

(Special thanks to Alexa for sharing your Arc! Big Hugs!!)

Rachel says

I honestly hugged this book when I finished reading it! It was that amazing and heartwarming. The awesomeness that began at the end of Bloodlines starts immediately on the first page of The Golden Lily.

Richelle Mead is again the master of memorable scenes and addicting writing in The Golden Lily. I absolutely love how Mead planned a perfect installment to the series. She obviously has a plan for the Bloodline series where Sydney, Adrian, Jill, Eddie and Angeline will grow throughout and stand strong through grievous challenges.

I could not imagine a better cast of main characters. They are all alike in how they have strained relationship with their biological family (after all Eddie has no idea on his dad's identity) and are all struggling to achieve their wish of true love. But different in what causes me to love to be their friend them the most.

Sydney: I love to be Sydney's friend because she is an empathetic observer who is not afraid to stand up for what is right. Like me, she is always constantly thinking and hoping she is doing what is right.

Adrian: I would rejoice in being Adrian's girlfriend not just because he is handsome but for his sense of hilarious humor and how fiercely loyal he is to those he cares about.

Jill: Jill because of her maturity, her drive to protect herself despite being the guarded and how she is super funny. I think I laughed the most during Jill's lines.

Eddie: Eddie is so selfless and I adore all he does to protect his friends. He is an amazing, nice guy and an extraordinary fighter.

Angeline: Angeline starts the book clueless of normal life but quickly adapts and grows into an intelligent character that learns from her earlier mistakes. In one scene, Angeline asked the sagest question ever.

Together, Sydney, Adrian, Jill, Eddie and Angeline combine into the perfect family!

I also was completely amazed by the story. I was surprised how much Mead incorporated the struggle Sydney and Adrian have with their respective fathers. I really liked the scene with a certain father.

I completely never imagined how alike Sydney and Adrian would become. They both have fathers they strive to impress but fail and have mothers they wish to see again and love. Each scene between them demonstrated to me how they were destined to be a couple. Actually, I believe they are one of my favorite couples ever. Their love is not instant, not clear and not perfect; it is outstanding. They are true star-crossed lovers but also friends who care deeply about the others feelings and safety. I am still reminiscing the conversations between Sydney and Adrian in my mind and rushing home to grab my copy of The Golden Lily to read those scenes again.

Now for the vampire hunter sub-plot and major challenge that the marvelous Bloodline main characters overcome brilliantly. I liked how the problem caused a rift between the characters. I felt that the tricky decision many characters made provided more excitement to the story because of questionable actions.

The vampire hunters caused Sydney and to question the ideals that her family placed in her mind from a very early age. The story causes Sydney to question: Does it matter what being your friend is or what they do? What choice is most righteous: abide to responsibility or defy discrimination?

These questions can also apply to my life because I am also constantly struggling to choose the best decision for my friends, my family and myself. I want to be completely independent, but sometimes I have to acknowledge that someone else might be right. There is no obvious answer in life in how to be responsible as in there is no absolute answer who the true heroes are and the real villains. Mead's book causing me to speculate about my life decisions again illustrates how powerful The Golden Lily really is.

I will always remember the ending of The Golden Lily as outstanding! The ending tore my heart into tiny ribbons of lilies.

This is a book I will never become tired of praising. It has my favorite characters, an exciting story and humorous, extraordinary lines. The perfect book to read over and over and over again! I will definitely remember The Golden Lily fondly in the years to come.

Go Palm Spring, slushies and surprising families!

On June 12, I urge you to rush to your local Barnes and Noble and grabbed a copy of The Golden Lily!

Originally posted at Unforgettable Books !

mrsj says

I'm done.

No more.

Not interested. Thank you very much.

I am once again, the minority here among all my other goodreads friends.

So why don't I like this book?

These are my answers:

1) The whole book is **BORING!!!**

The only action that I read about is when they got jumped and that's it.

2) Sydney - **IRRITATING** as hell. There is only one Rose Hathaway. She is no heroine. No fighter. And she is annoying. The "intellectual" talk with the so called "date"?

3) Jill - seriously?

Just get killed already. People are trying to protect her but no...she wants to be featured on magazines.

Thinking about love and oh.. she's just useless in this book.

4) Angeline - a joke. Another rose wannabe? With the clothes, the rashness?

NO!

5) Eddie -

whatever you are there for. I don't know.

6) Adrian - what in the world has happened to you?

I am heart broken. My Adrian is no more. Goodbye. Pair off with whoever you want. If I miss you, I will read the VA series but not these.

7) The whatever love triangles that will be happening there from book 3 onwards. The denial. The wrongs of being together and etc etc.

W-H-A-T-E-V-E-R!

SO, I am done.

4 more books to go? **NO WAY!**

I will always love Richelle Mead's work but not this spin off.

No.

Laz says

After a long break from reading books like a maniac I'm back on track at devouring books like snickers. I first gave this 3 stars but then I thought to myself "I am being to harsh" and so I changed my rating to that of 4 stars, and maybe I'm being generous but I liked this a lot, so that's what I made my mind up to.

Back on the amazing world of vampires, Richelle Mead created and which I'm grateful for. I'm no beginner to this world. I read VA two years ago and started Bloodlines a few months ago and after liking the first book in the series considerably a lot, I decided to continue the series, and I stand by my decision.

Sydney is such a smart character and so different from Rose, the only trait I've noticed these two share, is that of being protective of their friends, and that's one hell of a trait to share. Sydney is the definition of brilliance, she's the Einstein-kind-of smart.

While there's not much plot to this book other than some new leads on those mysterious vampire hunters, things get heated up once in a while. We have abductions and revelations and basically we're still at the point where Sydney is being convinced into letting herself embrace the idea of not being such a fanatic, like most of her kind.

As to why I gave this book three stars because other than the cliffhanger at the end of the book, where we finally witness some changes in (view spoiler), nothing else happens but still overall the book was incredibly good and a nice follow-up to Bloodlines.

Here, let me tell you how much I adore Adrian. I didn't always use to like him. He got on my nerves actually because he was not himself around Rose, he just kept wanting to change without really wanting to. With Sydney, he's a different Adrian, and they're not even together. This Adrian, the one he is next to Sydney, I love and support fully.

PS: why is Sydney so damn stubborn?

PSS: you'll have to read the last scene to find out what she's being stubborn about.

Rimsa Ivashkov says

WOW!!!! This book was beyond all my expectations - and they were pretty high! I have been obsessed with this book for a very long time and to finally get to read it was so satisfying because it was totally worth the wait and i LOVED every word of it :)

In The Golden Lily, we get to learn more about the alchemists and the vampire hunters. Although, one of the major twists in this book was predictable for me, i still loved the plot and enjoyed it just as much. This book introduces a lot of new things and hints at secrets the alchemists are hiding, like Marcus Finch. I found all of this new info really intriguing because it kind of gives us ideas about whats to come in the rest of the series. Even though there isnt that much action and it focuses more on romance, i thought the pacing was perfect and there was never a dull moment.

I really liked Sydney in Bloodlines, but in TGL she grew so much more and i found her cluelessness very funny and adorable. She has changed a lot since we first saw her in Blood promise and i think she is turning out to be a wicked and kick ass heroine. She has become one of my favourite protagonists. Eddie was as cute and fiercely protective as ever and Jill was pretty cool in this too - she matured a lot. Angeline is a character that i was initially a bit unsure about, but she totally grew on me and i ended up really liking her. I'm not quite sure if i'm Team Jill or Team Angeline for Eddie yet!

Trey was in this book a lot more and i LOVED his scenes with Sydney - particularly, some of the things he

said to Sydney about dating made me laugh out loud :D I think Trey is a really interesting character and I am really curious to see where his loyalties lie in future books. Brayden was a good addition, even though he wasn't my favourite. His scenes with Sydney were quite funny in a totally awkward way and his lack of chemistry with her just reinforced how perfect Adrian is for her.

ADRIAN *sigh* he is such a sweetheart and I fell in LOVE with him even more than before (if that's possible) He was so funny and cute and charming and dreamy and just everything that I so love about him. His scenes were to die for and not a single thing came out of his mouth that didn't make me swoon. His relationship with Sydney is just so cute and endearing - they really bring out the best in each other and their chemistry is SIZZLING!!!! They are a perfect balance for each other and SYDRIAN is definitely my OTP! There are so many swoon-worthy moments with the two of them like the dance, self-defense, pool-side outing and so many more. The last scene was sowords can't describe just how much I absolutely adored that scene. BUT, it made the wait for Bloodlines 3 so much worse :(

Overall, this book was exceptional and 5 stars don't do it justice, cuz it deserves so much more!!! Of course, Richelle Mead is an AWESOME author and all her books are amazing, but for me, this one is something special and has hooked me in a way that no other book has.

My fav book of 2012 and totally RECOMMENDED

And some teasers ;)

"He finished cleaning my cheek and set the washcloth down. He cupped my face in his hands." "The only thing true about what you just said was the storybook damsel part - and that's only because you're pretty enough to be one"

'Nice blouse, Sage,' he told me, deadpan. 'It really brings out the khaki in your pants.'

'Don't worry about it,' Adrian told me. 'If he didn't notice how awesome you were in that dress, he probably won't notice anything now.' He hesitated. 'Not that there's anything to even notice. You're as cute as usual.'

'I feel like I've just crashed someone's date,' Adrian remarked once we were getting on the highway. No one had tailed us out of downtown, making me feel much safer. 'Like I'm intruding on you two. If you want to drop me off somewhere, I'll understand'

'Thanks. And I'll give Brayden a talking to so he doesn't try anything on Thursday'

My mind was full of Latin and Shakespeare. 'Try what?'

Trey shook his head. 'Honestly, Melbourne, I don't know how you've survived this long in the world without me.'

'Oh,' I said, blushing, 'That.'

"He nodded. "The other thing that bothered me...well, he said all that in front of you."

That was a shock too. I brushed it off, feeling a little flustered that he would think so much of my opinion. Why should he care? "Don't worry about me. I've been with much more abusive people than him."

"No, no...I mean..." Adrian looked at me and then quickly averted his eyes. "After what he said about me, I can't stand the thought that you might think less of me."

I was so surprised that I couldn't muster a response right away. When I did, I just blurted out the first thing that came to my mind. "Of course I don't." He still wouldn't look at me, apparently not believing my words. "Adrian." I laid my hand over his and felt a warm spark of connection. He jerked his head towards me in

astonishment. “Nothing he said could change what I think of you. I’ve had my mind made up about you for a long time...and it’s all good.”

I was astonished to see Adrian watching me, a look of contentment on his face. His eyes seemed to study my every feature. Seeing me notice him, he immediately looked away. His usual smirky expression replaced by a dreamy one.

“The mechanic will wait,” he said.

“Yeah, but I’m supposed to meet Brayden soon, I’ll be-” That’s when I got a good look at Adrian. “What have you done? Look at you! You shouldn’t be out here.”

“It’s not that bad.”

He was lying, and we both knew it.

“Come on, we have to get you out of here before you get worse. What were you thinking?”

His expression was astonishingly nonchalant for someone who looked like he would pass out. “It was worth it. You looked...happy.”

”

Flameholly161 says

SERIOUSLY???????????? I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE NOW???????????????????? WTF HAPPENED TO THE MARCH RELEASE? OR EVEN THE MAY RELEASE????????????????

all I'm gonna say is that if Adrian and Sydney don't kiss AT LEAST once in this book I will be forced to go out and kill someone

.....
.....

OK so now that I finished the book

I WILL GO AND CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP TONIGHT BECAUSE I NOW LOVE ADRIAN AND FEEL SO FREAKING BAD FOR HIM AND I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR JILL AND HAVE COMPLETELY CONFLICTING FEELING FOR SYDNEY

I mean honestly I don't know if I should admire her or hate her with a passion right now

Natasha Polis says

It took me longer to finish this one. Still enjoyable but also again very predictable. So far it's mirroring the Vampire Academy series so I know it's just going to get better as the books go along! Adrian is still so lovable, but Eddie is still one of my favorite characters!

Jennifer says

The Adrian & Sydney Fan Fav Scene!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNFudW...>

Adrian & Sydney Blackout Scene!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature...>

Adrian YA Crush Tournament Winner!

That was soooo good! Adrian is soooo wonderful! I just want to lie naked at his feet covered in alcohol and cigarettes and beg him to have his way with me!

Adrian, my poor, sweet, sexy Adrian, he goes through a lot in this book. Working with Dimitri continues to bring up how inferior he feels. I thought Dimitri was rather rude to him a few times but then again I am very protective of my Adrian. Also a visit with his dad reminds us how much Adrian has been put down all his life. They will sure be sorry when Adrian cures all the Stroigoi, saves Moroi kind, and becomes a big hero and they build statues of him. Adrian is very smart, caring, loyal and talented and just needs someone to believe in him. And Sydney does. She continues to support him and I felt them grow so much closer but we still have a very long journey ahead.

I am not a big fan of Sydney but she did grow on me a tiny bit in this one. Trey sets her up with Brayden, her twin basically. Sydney tries to have fun with him since he is on her level intellectually but she finds herself worrying about someone else... I felt Sydney finally letting down her guard with the vampires and she really worried and cared about my Adrian, so big bonus points! As much as I am growing to like her, I was still disappointed with some of her actions. (Like not immediately jumping Adrian?! lol) She does have a lot of lifelong prejudices to overcome. The alchemists are scary, bad people, and we see in this book what happens when someone is too friendly with the vampires. Sydney will need a lot of strength to break away from them like I hope she will eventually.

It didn't help that Jill was discussing her own troubled love life with her. Jill was a bit annoying to me in Bloodlines and while she is still naive, I found that she was maturing. She wants to date and thinks that maybe she can have something casual with Micah. She quickly realizes how difficult keeping secrets can be and that being with a human could never be a permanent thing. Jill begins to take her position as sister to the queen seriously and a human/moroi relationship is simply not allowed. I do feel really bad for Jill and the position she is in.

Eddie is still her loyal protector. I love Eddie and also felt a lot of growth with his character. I was very happy with all the character developments. In Bloodlines I really didn't enjoy anyone but Adrian and of course he is still the absolute best part, star of the show, wouldn't be anything without him, but I enjoyed everyone during this book. Eddie is so kind even when trying to keep the new frisky Angeline off his back. She likes to rub up on him during training and well who wouldn't. Angeline was so funny. She was completely out there and did whatever she wanted, causing a lot of trouble for Sydney.

I just want to go on and on, especially about Adrian, but I must stop myself. I've probably said too much already! I'm very happy it was the next level of action, romance, character development and Adrian awesomeness that I was hoping for. Adrian continues to swoon and amaze me. I shall head back to my Adrian altar and continue worshipping until the next book. Feel free to join me. Can't wait to see what happens

next.

Day 24. Situation is growing worse. My captors continue to find new and horrific ways to torture me. When not working, Agent Scarlet spends her days examining fabric swatches for bridesmaid dresses and going on about how in love she is. This usually causes Agent Boring Borscht to regale us with stories of Russian weddings that are even more boring than his usual ones. My attempts at escape have been thwarted thus far. Also, I am out of cigarettes. Any assistance or tobacco products you can send will be greatly appreciated.
-Prisoner 24601

"Really, Sage? A date?"

I sighed. "Yes, Adrian. A date."

"A real date. Not, like, doing homework together," he added. "I mean like where you go out to a movie or something. And a movie that's not part of a school assignment. Or about something boring."

"A real date."

I'd mentioned this odd wardrobe choice to Adrian a couple of weeks ago:

"Isn't Dimitri hot?"

Adrian's response hadn't been entirely unexpected:

"Well, yeah, according to most women, at least."

"I'm not really qualified to install a security system," said Dimitri.

"Really? There's something that you can't do?" Adrian's voice was so soft that I could barely hear him, and he was sitting right next to me.

"You'd give up drinking to go see your dad?"

"Well, not permanently," he said. "That'd be ridiculous. But maybe I could switch to something slightly cheaper for a while. Like...slushes. Do you know how much I love those? Cherry, especially."

"I don't know," said Adrian thoughtfully. "I find prostitutes vastly important."

Adrian ordered a martini, earning disapproving looks from his father and me.

"It's barely noon," said Nathan.

"I know," said Adrian. "I'm surprised I held out that long too."

"Never thought I'd see the day when you'd throw your arms around a vam - someone like me."

"Doesn't matter. I've decided I don't like him."

"Because he's too smart?" I said. I remember Jill and Eddie's early comments. "And unmemorable?"

"Nah. I just think you can do better."

"He shouldn't have said that," repeated Adrian, eerily serious. He leaned his face toward mine. "I don't care if he's not the emotional type or the complimentary type or what. No one can look at you in this dress, in all that fire and gold, and start talking about anachronisms. If I were him, I would have said, 'You are the most beautiful creature I have ever seen walking this earth.'"

"You're in an awfully good mood," he observed. "Was there a sale at Khakis-R-Us?"

"Why would you do that? Why would you act like you didn't know how to drive?"

"Isn't it obvious, Sage? No, of course it isn't. I did it so I'd have a reason to be around you-one I knew you couldn't refuse."

Pearl Angeli says

Another successful buddyread with my sis Bea. You'll see her beautiful review when you click her name. :)

One word to fully describe the awesomeness of this book: **ADRIAN**.

Holy craaap! This boy is one of the best, swoon-worthy fictional guys and **it's so unfair we could not see him in the flesh!**

After reading this book, I was left utterly speechless and blown away. It was way too good! Most sequels in a series tend to give me some doubts with their potentials because oftentimes an author changes his or her tune and the end product sometimes disappoints me. But in this sweet, sweet sequel, I put all my faith and 100% belief that it will turn out good and I was right. It was one of the most amazing installments in a series. Because Richelle Mead apparently does not disappoint.

I loved how *The Golden Lily* lived up to the interesting plot and romance that made the first book *Bloodlines* an enjoyable read. In this book, **Sydney Sage** and **Adrian Ivashkov**'s character was greatly developed as they continued to hide under the radar of the enemies of St. Vladimir Academy. There were lots of things that happened here and new characters were introduced, too.

I wasn't disappointed with the way things had panned out in this book. The **plotline** was so good and the pacing was fast. No dull moments as well. It was also nice to see the (non-insta-love) romantic development between Sydney and Adrian. Their romance, in a way, was slow-burning and tension-fueled and I totally loved it!

What also basically got me hooked was how likable the characters were. **Sydney** is a female lead that I will love to befriend in real life because she is so smart, determined, and mature. I loved how she has this positive attitude that everything can be done-- no matter how difficult that thing is. She especially encourages and inspires Adrian to be the best that he can be, and that is something. **Adrian** is also one great male lead. Since

Vampire Academy, this guy already took my breath away because of his humor and romantic gestures. He didn't change in this series. In fact, his character became even better!

I also loved the humor and the witty exchange of dialogues here. When you pair Sydney and Adrian together, everything collides so perfectly!!!

Apart from that, Richelle Mead also made this book even more interesting because of the side characters like **Eddie, Jill, Angeline, Sonya, Trey, Dimitri**, etc. The value of friendship and family love was so touching!

These are my favorite lines from Adrian that basically knocked me off my feet:

"I tried to be a better person for her (Rose)– but it was to impress her, to get her to want me. But when I'm around you, I want to be better because... well, because it feels right. Because I want to. You make me want to become something greater than myself. I want to excel. You inspire me in every act, every word, every glance. I look at you, and you're like... like light made into flesh. You have no clue how beautiful you are or how brightly you shine."

*gasps

All in all, I had a great time with The Golden Lily. After reading it, all I wanted to do was read the next book which is The Indigo Spell. :) It was just everything I wanted in a sequel!

Rating:

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

"Rose once told me about this poem she'd read. There was this line, 'If your eyes weren't open, you wouldn't know the difference between dreaming and waking.' You know what I'm afraid of? That someday, even with my eyes open, I still won't know."

We always knew Adrian battled with the darkness that comes along with wielding spirit magic but something about this book really drove it home to me. In the original VA series, Adrian hid so much of his pain with a heavy dose of alcohol and humor. He still continues to do this but his defenses have started slipping around Sydney. I appreciated that he wasn't quite as wussy in this book. We got to see a tiny hint of protectiveness. Big nod of approval over the growl!

I was going to come back and write an actual review but realized that there was no need. I love Richelle Mead. Her characters always get inside of my soul. Her world building and stories stay with me long after I'm finished. The idea of trying to summarize any book of hers with intelligent thoughts is always daunting and I'm pretty sure I fail every time I try. So instead, I'm not going to try this time. I'm just going to have a moment of fangirl gushing over my favorite author, since I rarely allow myself to let my inner preteen jump for joy.

Adrian (age 21) He had me at "little dhampir," but his wit is what continues to keep me coming back. I'll admit that it's interesting to see his tortured soul, as long as he doesn't lose the humor just because his dad's a douchebag. Adrian's self-pity sort of hampered his usual vibe and I missed some of the old personality, but I understood why the story is going down the path that it is.

He was more good-looking than he had any right to be. He wore his dark brown hair stylishly messy and had eyes that sometimes seemed too green to be real. He smelled like he'd been smoking recently, which I didn't like.

Eddie (age 18) I've always had a soft spot for Eddie and have wanted to know more about him ever since the beginning of the original Vampire Academy series. His determination to do right by the people he protects has always made me compare him to a junior version of Dimitri and it made me smile with a sense of pride when he was told that exact same thing in this book. Eddie - keep up with your bad-ass-ness. You'll get the girl someday, even if she has no clue how you feel.

Eddie was lean and muscled, but most people underestimated just how strong he was. Adrian sometimes called him mini-Dimitri.

[image error]

Dimitri (age 24) Okay, so you're not a prominent character in this book but thanks for being there in some form, even if it's just to assist and protect. Good job holding it down for the less experienced peeps. You'll always be my number one.

Even if I'd been wide awake, I knew Dimitri would've taken my suitcase anyway. That's how he was, a lost remnant of chivalry in the modern world, ever-ready to help others. That was one of the many striking things about Dimitri.

I'd seen him fight before, but it never got old. He was captivating. He never stopped moving. Every action was graceful and lethal. He was a dancer of death.

Sydney (age 18) She's come a long way from the days of *Blood Promise*, when I didn't even like her. I know that she's not Rose but **that's okay**. Mead's biggest strength as a writer is not recycling stories and characters in too big of a way (sometimes you can't help a few similarities). So many authors don't know how to come up with new concepts!!! It's very cool to see a main character who uses her intelligence to solve problems - especially when a good portion of the people around her seem to be fighters. In order for this series to be different from VA (especially when most of the characters have crossed over), it was completely necessary to have a lead role who was drastically different from the last one.

It's never a Mead book without tons of random silliness sprinkled throughout. I would have shared the fistfight in the gym that was started with the anti-drug group (because it's always fun to see cheesy mascot people punched out) but it was far too long. So we'll go with Adrian and Sydney at their first self-defense class :

"If you're here," he began. "You probably want to learn to use those right away." He pointed at the nunchucks.

I caught sight of Adrian's face in the mirror. His expression said, Yes, that is exactly what I want to learn.

"Well, too bad," said Wolfe. "You aren't ever going to use them. Not in this class, anyway. Oh, they've got their uses, believe me. Saved my ass more than once when I was out bow-hunting in Alaska. But if you pay attention to what I'm going to tell you, you won't ever need to pick those up, seeing as we don't have a rabid moose problem here in Palm Springs."

The new mom raised her hand. "You used nunchucks on a moose?"

Jessica says

[So I kind of guessed that Trey was a vampire hunter. We kept hearing about these hunters over and over... And after the first book, I kind of wondered if maybe all of those deaths were just Lee and not hunters... After Trey started getting those bruises I wondered if th

ReesesPieces says

RICHELLE MEAD, I AM ABOUT TO TURN INTO A RAGING STRIGOI. THAT WAS SERIOUSLY THE WORST ENDING EVER. LIKE WHAT THE--I CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND HOW IDIOTIC SYDNEY IS. ADRIAN IS CLEARLY MEANT TO BE WITH HER.*HEAVY, MURDEROUS BREATHING*

THIS IS WHAT I FEEL LIKE DOING TO SYDNEY:

Okay enough with the caps.

The only thing is, I found it annoying how Adrian kept reiterating that he was a better person because of her. Like that hasn't ever come up in YA lit before..but still. He was pretty swoon-worthy. And I don't usually fan girl for this type of thing.

In conclusion, I hate you Richelle Mead.

Just kidding. I don't know how I would survive without your books, but still. I might turn into a monster if you don't allow Adrian and Sydney to be together.

[image error]

~Poppy~ says

*"Ever had that happen? Once you can't have something, you want it that much more."
"Yes," he said bitterly. "It happens all the time."*

"I don't care if he's not the emotional type or the complimentary type or what. No one can look at you in this dress, in all that fire and gold, and start talking about anachronisms. If I were him, I would have said, 'You are the most beautiful creature I have ever seen walking this earth.'"

*"Sage?" Adrian lightly touched my arm, and I jumped at the feel of his fingertips against my skin. "You okay?"
"I don't know," I said softly. "I just thought of something crazy."
"Welcome to my world."*

Ohhhh my god!!!! I love it!!! I love Adrian so much <3 <3 And right now I hate Sydney! First Rose and now Sydney! Why they keep hurting Adrian? Just give him to me :P

1)A lot of things happen in this book but all I can think about is that kiss! Oh my god! It rocked my world and Sydney's even though she doesn't want to admit! And then he admits his feelings about Sydney(shock) but she was like "ohh I am human ..you are vampire... we can not be together...BULLSHIT"
My poor Adrian. Once again he is hurting.

*"And I don't choose you. That's what you're missing in all of this."
Adrian stilled. His smile dropped. "I don't believe you."
I scoffed. "Let me guess. Because I kissed you back?" That kiss had made me feel more alive than I had in weeks, and I had a feeling he knew that.
He shook his head. "No. Because there's no one else out there who understands you like I do."*

2) In the entire book Adrian found excuses to be around Sydney (He acted like he didn't know how to drive) and she didn't get it until the end of the book. It was so obvious.

"Sage," he said. "What are you wearing?"

I sighed and stared down at the dress. "I know. It's red. Don't start. I'm tired of hearing about it."

"Funny," he said. "I don't think I could ever get tired of looking at it."

"You need me? You yell. You want to leave? We go. I'll get you out of here, no matter what."

See? He says all those things and she is completely oblivious.

3) Hayden? No! Brandon? No... Brayden! That's right. Almost everyone forgets his name except for Sydney and Trey. So, that guy is Sydney's love interest!

The only thing Sydney and Brayden have in common is that they are both smart! Their dates were boring and a little bit funny (shake hands). Their kisses were not memorable. She didn't feel anything when they were kissing. In the end, Brayden broke up with Sydney. We were all glad about it.

"You're in an awfully good mood," he observed. "Was there a sale at Khakis-R-Us?"

"Nope. Brayden broke up with me."

I also liked Adrian's jealousy. Of course!

"Really, Sage? A date?"

I sighed. "Yes, Adrian. A date."

"A real date. Not, like, doing homework together," he added.

"I mean like where you go out to a movie or something. And a movie that's not part of a school assignment. Or about something boring."

"A real date."

4) Vampire hunters exist after all. And guess what? Trey is one of them. I did not see that coming. Although I still like Trey. He is so funny and cute. He is not the bad guy here. He is a lot like Sydney. He grew up believing what they told him.

5) Sonya, Adrian and Dimitri are doing some experiments to determine the changes a person who has been restored to Strigoi. Especially, Adrian is very "happy" about it.

*“Day 24. Situation is growing worse. My captors continue to find new and horrific ways to torture me. When not working, Agent Scarlet spends her days examining fabric swatches for bridesmaid dresses and going on about how in love she is. This usually causes Agent Boring Borscht to regale us with stories of Russian weddings that are even more boring than his usual ones. My attempts at escape have been thwarted thus far. Also, I am out of cigarettes. Any assistance or tobacco products you can send will be greatly appreciated.
-Prisoner 24601”*

Adrian is also really really happy about the fact that he spends a lot of time with Dimitri!

“What do you think Dimitri? Is this a good idea, Dimitri? Please give us your blessing so that we can fall down and worship you, Dimitri.”

Anyway, once again Sonya is in trouble. Vampire hunter or the "Warriors" believe that Sonya is still Strigoi and they wanted to kill her. They kidnapped her but Sydney, Eddie, Dimitri and Adrian rescued her.

6) Adrian's father. What an asshole! He wanted to know how his mother was and he treat Adrian like shit. He also blamed him that it was his fault that his mother was in prison! Asshole!

I will admit though that Adrian did some things on purpose.

*“Adrian ordered a martini, earning disapproving looks from his father and me.
'It's barely noon,' said Nathan.
'I know,' said Adrian. 'I'm surprised I held out that long too.’”*

But something good came up out of that disastrous meeting!

*“The other thing that bothered me... well, he said all that in front of you.”
“Don't worry about me. I've been with much more abrasive people than him.”
“No, no... I mean...” Adrian looked at me and then quickly averted his eyes. “After what he said about me, I can't stand the thought that you might think less of me.”
"Adrian." I laid my hand over his and felt a warm spark of connection. He jerked his head toward me in astonishment. “Nothing he said could change what I think of you. I've had my mind made up about you for a long time... and it's all good.”*

7) Even though Jill and Micah were cute together, I am glad that they break up! They are better as friends.

8) I loved Angeline! At first she had some adjusting problems. In other words, she was always in trouble. I loved it! But in the end she became more responsible and Eddie saw that change and she ask her out. I love

Angeline but I want Eddie with Jill. Eddie is in love with Jill and Jill likes him. What a mess.

9)I also loved the self-defense classes Sydney and Adrian were taking. Wolf was awesome.

“You were totally unprepared for her.”

“That's for damned sure.”

Alexa says

My review can also be found on my blog Collections.

'You are the most beautiful creature I have ever seen walking this earth.'

Oh my god...this book! Wow. After enjoying *Bloodlines* immensely, it was pretty much inevitable that I would love *The Golden Lily*. This book exceeded all my expectations, and I'm more obsessed with this series now than I already was before. I just can't get enough of it!

In *Bloodlines*, the focus was on learning about the Alchemists and Sydney bonding with her new group of "siblings." We do learn a bit about the Alchemists, magic, and even the so-called vampire hunters in *The Golden Lily*, but I felt the story mostly revolved around getting to know Sydney more and her evolving relationships with the characters around her. There was slightly more action than in the previous book. It might not be as much as some want; however, I think there's lots of action to come later. And I can't help but to trust where Richelle Mead is going with this story because so far I'm very happy with how she's developing these characters and their relationships. Likeable characters and great relationships are always what I want in the books I read and this series has that, which is why I want to focus on my two favorite characters: Sydney and Adrian!

I adore Sydney and Adrian so much. Those two are some of the most awesome characters I've read about. They are both kind, funny (although, I don't think Sydney realizes how hilarious some of the things she says can be), smart (yes, Adrian is; just give him a chance!), and protective of others. And when they're together, they challenge and bring out the best in each other. Their relationship is perfect! I get a big smile on my face and my heart flutters whenever they interact or are even in the same room. I about died from happiness a couple of times while reading this book because of them. They are definitely the main reason why I love this series.

Sydney is still uptight at times, but she's opening up quickly and we're starting to see another side of her. While she hasn't gotten over her Alchemists beliefs just yet, she continues to make decisions based on what she believes is right. And some of her actions won't be viewed favorably by the Alchemists at all. It worries me, but I'm impressed with her bravery and glad she has a conscience, unlike other Alchemists. As for Adrian, he keeps surprising me. I feel so guilty now for not caring about him in *Vampire Academy*. We get to see more of his vulnerable side in this book, and it really hurt to see him down and upset because of the situation with his father and with what spirit does to his mind. I could also include the whole thing with Rose, but I won't. I really don't think it's about that anymore. He deserves a huge hug and so does Sydney!

I'm just loving and having lots of fun with the *Bloodlines* series. And if you thought the ending of the first

book was crazy, wait until you read the ending of *The Golden Lily*. I had to reread it a couple of times because it was that good. It made me wish I had the next book in my hands right now! (I'm already stalking following Richelle Mead's tweets, hoping for ANY mention of the third book.) Thankfully I have other books to distract me in the meantime, but seriously. I need book three.

With amazing characters and relationships and a very intriguing story, *Bloodlines* is well on it's way to becoming one of my all time favorite series. I cannot wait to read more!

First reading: April 16-17, 2012

Second reading: February 16-26, 2013

♥Rachel♥ says

4.5 Stars

When Vampire Academy ended and I found out we were getting a spinoff series, I was a little skeptical. I mean how to you top Rose and Dimitri? But after I found out it was centered on Sydney Sage, the awkward Alchemist, and Adrian the sexy, flippant but loveable Moroi, I was totally on board. I loved *Bloodlines* and after reading this, I think the series just keeps getting better.

In this installment, we pick up right where we left off in *Bloodlines*. The group is minus the traitorous Keith, with Sydney making points for handling the situation so well. Dimitri and Sonya have arrived to study spirit with Adrian. Both the vampire community and the Alchemists want to find out why, once a Strigoi is changed back into their original state, they will never be able to be turned back to Strigoi again. Sydney, Jill, and Eddie continue to attend Amberwood Prep as siblings but they have a new addition to assist in the protection of Jill: Angeline, the dhampir from the Keepers, a separatist group of Moroi, dhampir, and humans who don't care for the rules of the Moroi court. Angeline is a fun addition to their group, and I like how she mixes things up for Jill and Eddie!

Richelle Mead really shines in character development, and this is my favorite part of this story. Sydney had come a long way since we first met her in VA. Her prejudices are slowly breaking down. She is finally seeing the Moroi, and dhampirs as people, not as evil, unnatural creatures. My favorite part of her growth, though, is that in relation to Adrian. To see them grow close, and lean on each other was a real pleasure. There are many moments of swoon and hilarity. Adrian is his usual wise-cracking self, and then Sydney can just be so clueless with social situations, you can't help but laugh. The best part with them is seeing how much they genuinely care for one another. I've always had a soft-spot for Adrian. In VA, he helped Rose so much without questions or strings attached (well, maybe a little bit of string!). But I always thought he went above and beyond for her, as well as Jill. He's even more of a sweetheart in this book. There were times I would be sighing, *oh Adrian!* I don't want to give anything away, but fans of "Sydrian" will not be disappointed. Alexa used this quote in her review, but I have to put it in mine too because I LOVE IT!!!:

"You are the most beautiful creature I have ever seen walking this earth. And you don't even know it."

And I *have* to give you this one too:

"Sage," he said. "What are you wearing?"

I sighed and stared down at the dress. "I know. It's red. Don't start. I'm tired of hearing about it."

"Funny," he said. "I don't think I could ever get tired of looking at it."

Yep, there was definite swooning!!

There is not as much action in this series as there was in VA. I think this is because both Sydney and Adrian are not fighters. I have a feeling we will see more action in the coming books, though, and I don't think these two will be on the sidelines. Sydney's reluctant education into the world of magic continues, and I think Adrian will feel the need to be more proactive with defense, in the future. These are just speculations on my part, we shall see. As for the ending, all I can say is WOW!! I can't wait until the next book!

Thank you *so much*, Alexa, for lending me your precious copy!! I had a blast with all the notations!
