



The Hunted

Kristy Berridge

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The Hunted is a supernatural fiction exploring the vampire genre with added elements containing magic and fur-backed creatures of blood gorging habits.

The novel explores a strong, female heroin; sassy and genuine, encumbered by a severe problem with authority. Supporting characters are complimentary, humorous and with individual agendas that expand the story's base into an exciting, horror-filled spectrum all softened with a hint of romance.

The Hunted Details

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Author : Kristy Berridge

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From Reader Review The Hunted for online ebook

pianogirl05 says

I really enjoyed the plot of this story and what the author did with the characters most of the time. I loved William and I hope we see more of him and Elena as a couple. Too me, Elena was a too wishy washy with her feelings toward William. I know she is only sixteen, but she could trust William's feelings for her a little more. I don't think I care too much for her adoptive parents. Something is not right about them. I guess I'll find out in the future books of this series. My reason for only 4 stars is that I felt the author was a little too descriptive. Describing all of the furniture, drapery, and rugs in a room really takes away from the story when it doesn't really have any effect on the storyline. At one point, she visits William's temporary residence that belongs to someone else and we are given an extremely detailed tour. I'm not sure why, but it just took up a lot of space and I got bored. Also, Elena tended to ramble and while I found some of it funny most of the time I found myself skimming at parts because it was just endless. I got more into the book about half way when there was more dialogue and less of what was happening in Elena's brain. Perhaps I'm impatient and just want to get to the good stuff. I also like a lot of character interaction. Despite the overly descriptiveness of the book, the story has a great plot and I love the creativeness. This book will be finding a place on my Goodread's favorite shelf and I will be looking forward to reading more from this author.

Michelle says

This book grew on me as I read it. When I first picked it up, it took me a while to get into it. This book is long. I think it is around 580 pages or so. And At points it really feels like it. But once I really got into the story, I ended up connecting with the characters and enjoying myself. Then I liked how long the book was, because I wanted to know what was going to happen. I didn't want it to end. The ending made me want to stick around and read the second book too! Ok let's break it down some more.

Elena is pretty cool. She seems virtually indestructible. But it did take awhile to like her. I'm not really sure why. I think at the beginning I just saw her as a bit of a trouble maker. And don't get me wrong- she is a HUGE trouble maker, but as the book went on I just got to understanding her a little bit better. And then once the mystery surrounding her unusual circumstances came up, I was fully on team Elena. For some reason, I always pictured Elena from the Vampire Diaries when I was thinking about her. I also really, really liked William! I can't wait to see how that whole thing will pan out.

This brings me to some of the things that I didn't love about The Hunted. First, the book is a really complex concept, which I really did like- but that takes a lot of foundation laying so you can actually understand how the world works and who the main players are. I get that, but it kind of felt like this book was a bit too much foundation laying at points. I also thought that there were a lot of really dense big paragraphs and they dragged on a bit for me. I would have liked to seen them broken up a bit more with dialogue and other breaks. I think that would have made the book flow a bit better. But I will say that at about the half way point, the story really picks up and I didn't notice any more slow parts/or find myself thinking there was too much on the page.

I also didn't like all the references to "tempting fate" with William and Elena. Let me explain, it's not the situation that I didn't like. I think that is going to be one of my favorite parts of the next book; I can't WAIT to see a certain new character and find out what he is going to bring to the table. But, I didn't like that Elena heard all of these comments and never once asked what they meant. I would think that she would be curious or at least as William when they were alone, but it never came up at all!

Overall, this book dragged for me a bit in some places and it had a lot of set up. But once I got into the story and I knew everything that was going on, I enjoyed the book. The second half was much better than the first half of the book in my opinion. If you started this book and put it down for whatever reason, pick it back up and read the whole thing. I think you will like it! It just keeps getting better as the story goes on, and book 2 looks like it is going to be even better than this one!

K.J. Simmill says

I will be completely honest, I've said it before and I'll say it again, I am not a big fan of books written in the first person, mainly because although this narrative is meant to make me feel more connected to a story, I find it rarely does. However this book was one of the exceptions, so much so that I will be purchasing the second instalment in this series.

This book was recommended to me by a Twitter friend based on a few of the books I have already reviewed and enjoyed, and I will certainly be taking to heart his future recommendations.

The book follows the story of Elena, a teenager with a very complex future ahead of her due to the events surrounding her birth. Elena is a born vampire, thus she is unable to attend regular high school so studies in the Institute of Magical Intervention who hunt down the Vampires. When she reaches 18 she will turn, yet there are secrets hidden within her blood that mean she is not the only person on the hunt, she in turn is hunted.

The characters each have their own distinctive and believable personalities, from Elena, the somewhat mouthy, independent teenager, to her magic wielding brother, Lucas, who despite his occasional ability to disappoint her, is generally loyal to a fault. Each character has their own unique traits and individualities, not to mention flaws and humour. There are characters you root for, characters you despise, and those who intrigue you. The collection works well, and the growth they experience through the story is evident.

The book itself is a young adult, paranormal romance, to me it has the familiar feel of a more adult style L.J. Smith, if you have ever read Vampire Diaries, or Night World, think of how well the characters interact and the flow of the story, as well as the romance between characters she often includes. The concept of the story is well portrayed and once you get about a third of the way through there is no putting it down.

I would highly recommend this book to fans of the genre, even those who are not so keen on the whole vampire scene, because although it plays a part in the story, it is not all consuming, I didn't feel as though I was reading a vampire based story, it was a fantastic balance of paranormal, magic, and everyday life. The author really found a perfect balance to the story.

Runningrabbit says

99c on Amazon so a new author & series discovery which has left me grinning from ear to ear. I absolutely loved this one and I'm going 4.5 stars.

The character is a great laugh and sarcasm hits some good high notes. Completely amusing. This is a YA novel, so keep that in mind. Having said that, no out of order immaturity to hit you upside the head. This book starts out in Cairns, QLD, Australia, so that's a refreshing change and I note the next book moves on to

Europe.

Plenty of arse-kicking action, great and varied characters and droll humour. There's nothing else I want in a book so far. It would be nice if she loses that virginity somewhere in the series, just to add a bit of extra bite in here at some stage. Well, aside from plenty of gratuitous violence. :)

I've moved on to the next book already. Smile.

Seiara says

I enjoyed reading this story. As I grew up in Cairns I could picture the areas that are written about in the book. I would read this late into the night upsetting my fiance as he would try to talk to me at one of these moments and as I was too caught up in the story to put the book down I would ignore him. I am eagerly awaiting the next book in the series.

Nina (Death, Books, and Tea) says

Review: It's (relatively) not often that you see vampire girls. It's often the boys, and then the girl gets turned if she's lucky. It's quite nice seeing the girl born a vampire for once. Elena knows that she will become a vampire some day, but she doesn't know everything else about herself. Which is quite a lot, and quite major to how she'll turn out. She's living with a family of Protectors-kind of like slayers, but magical versions. Then she meets William Granville, a vampire, and a lot of things happen. She gets pulled into a Vanator hunt (a Vanator is essentially a werewolf that drinks blood. And the a's should have hats on them. Whatever they're called in punctuation terms.), she learns the truth about her parentage, she learns she's even further than normal than she thought she was, and she finds herself falling in love with a 400+ year old vampire. Yay!

So, it starts really quickly with Will out hunting Vanators. We soon get to the main bit-Elena's life. To be honest, the first bit wasn't amazing. The first third (about that much, well, until she meets Will) is nice to read, but lacking on the paranormal side, and edging towards teen girl-y problems-sneaking out for parties and such. Not really what I was expecting, and really not my thing. I suppose it was useful for character building, especially around Elena's family.

Then we met Will and it all picked up. Hunts are fairly frequent in this, and there's quite a bit of blood and guts at various points in the story.

Elena, once we'd got over the first part, is really really cool. Her parentage is just one of the many things that gives her an edge-her general attitude and her development are two others. I love the way she speaks-always speaking her mind and consistently sassy and strong. She definitely develops-how could she not after learning all of THAT about herself? Will, I quite liked. Even if it was creepy how he always turned up. There's some very realistic seeming dialogue, especially in the family scenes. I can guess that everything that happened between Elena and her "mother" would have happened anyway, even if they weren't a vampire and a magical protector. And the bits with Lucas, the brother. Aww. Lucas is a very sweet, if sometimes annoyingly, protective brother that makes having siblings not seem so bad.

The best thing about this book is the description in the action scenes. Well, the description throughout. But in the action scenes especially. Paranormal Australia is easily imagined, and I felt like I was right there in all of it.

Overall: Strength 4 tea to a great start to a paranormal series that I definitely want to carry on with.

Ceri says

This is a story about Elena, a 16 year old born vampire who is training to hunt werewolves with the IMI. A supernatural training force, that uses magic, vampires and protectors to kill these viscious beasts. The story starts with a bang, when Elena is hunting two Vanators(werewolves) by herself. She has left the safety of her parents and brother because nobody was listening to her. This is the method of operation throughout the book for Elena. She jumps in with no caution and gets caught at everything. This book is different from others because Eleans has parents that are constantly trying to keep her safe (and grounded) from other books with the absentee parents. The small town that Elena lives in has become the focus of werevolves and the vampires that hunt them.

With the uneasy truce with the IMI, Elena and her brother Lucas have their first exposure to vampires. William has come to their town hunting the alpha werewolf of the london pact, here he comes across Elena, who defies anything he has met in the past. She is beautiful and has perfect smelling blood. At times i found Elena a little hard to take, she is a smart mouth all the time unless it was when she should be asking the questions. As her relationship with William progresses he says some cryptic stuff that she should have questioned and poof! nothing. At other times there was pages and pages of information coming at you and the story got lost in the background information. At times i was a little bored. Overall this is a good book and wiith characters like Lucas and William, it keeps you turning the page. For Elena she comes into her own and finally grows up a little and becomes the heroine rather than the braty, smart mouthed teenager. For me the next book is a must, although not a cliffhanger ending, alot of questions were raised to keep the reading coming back for more.

Tianna Scott says

I completely devoured this book. With excellent set up and original characters, this book completely blew past my greatest expectations. The dialog between the characters was extremely well done and while the book contained the usual teen drama you also got this amazing back story intertwined with stark twists and turns that you would never expect. Her characters were very relateable and I even found myself sympathizing with the big baddie at the end. The original take on the vampire/werewolf war was amazing well thought out and her vicious brutality of the werewolves (known as Vanators) was something I had never read before which is with out a doubt my favorite part of the book!.

Her story structure was well written so the story moved along well but there were times when it dragged slightly. I loved Elena, the main character who was a natural born vampire with a witty, sarcastic personality. You see her grow and by the end of the book you really get the sense that shes matured before your eyes. I do not, however, like the main love interest, William. I couldnt really connect with him or the other vampires (we only see 3 throughout the book). But the book is so full of amazing characters that I didnt dwell on the vampires much.

I give this book 4 out of 5 blue monarchs (the rating system for our bookpage). With amazing dialog, character development, and a storyline to keep you on the edge of your see, you wont be disappointed when picking up this book. Kristy Berridge officially has a fan for life!!

Kylie Walker says

Throughout the pages of *The Hunted*, Kristy Berridge delivers a modern, distinctly Aussie Vamp tale with a bevy of calculated twists. You want gore, you've got it. You want suspense and a dash of amour, it's there. Kristy's clever wit and dry sense of humour shines through with her protagonist Elena, and her ability to pen relatable, tightly woven descriptive is a definite strength many young authors in her genre fail to possess. All in all, I truly enjoyed this book, and I'm hanging out for the next instalment.

Patrick Whitehurst says

Vampires are not uncommon in the realm of fiction. They're not uncommon in the realm of reality either, in a way. Lots of people douse themselves in the lifestyle. Fang implants are a thing. Vampire fiction, therefore, is a genre all its own.

In vampire fiction, dark beings sparkle, they become rock gods, they attend special academies, and so on. Some are monsters, creepy things to be feared and hunted, while others just want to find their one true love and live happily forever after. There's private eye vamps, doctor vamps, southern vamps, queen vamps and everything in between. You'd think it would get old, but it doesn't. Even the old Marvel Comics series, *Tomb of Dracula*, is fun to read.

And some vampire stories suck you in better than others, while others just plain suck.

In Kristy Berridge's pleasurable novel "*The Hunted*," vampires aren't the only creatures around. There's the Vanators (werewolves) and a fair share of magic. Not only that, but the novel's Australian setting and first-person narrative, while not unheard of in vampire fiction, creates a sense of rich creativity that other vampire books lack. Add a flair of sarcasm and you've got a damn peppy story.

Here's a personal aside; I could tell the author had a fun time writing Elena's story, as that sense of energy and excitement is obvious to the reader. This is never a bad thing.

And like any thrilling tale of vampiric prowess, Berridge's novel is the first in a series of stories. If a strong mix of violence and humor sound too good to be true, then you haven't sampled this mix. Fun, easy, and creative, *The Hunted* would be a good addition to any blood sucking freak's gory red library.

Courtney (Storybook Slayers) says

More reviews at Rondo of a Possible World: YA Book Reviews

To start off this review I am going to have to say that the cover is gorgeous! There's just some attracting force that I adore about it, the glance given by the girl, the blurriness of the male, the intensity and the mystery. Next thing that I'm going to say, and I've said it for the past few vampire books that I've read, is that the vampire genre has been bustling over the past few years and there just all over the shelves. The height of the paranormal monsters just sickened me and I always turned my nose to the newest popular trend that spiked within YA literature. It just became so cliched all the time. But I'm glad that I had the chance to participate in this blog tour because *The Hunted* was anything but cliched within the vampire genre. It was exciting, I kept craving, and the emotions swelled. The pace was set nicely, the characters were executed wonderfully, and the writing was captivating.

One thing that I always happen to enjoy is wonderfully written dialogue. Realistic, witty banter between characters that make me giggle or just throw my head back and cackle to myself while reading. Another thing that I happen to enjoy is nonwatered down fighting scenes. The one thing that interrupts the flow of

emotions in battle is watered down, flaccid fighting that could only be taken towards the pansies. No, Ms. Berridge does not fail to vividly bring the battles to life, even better the characters to life, and the connections that could be made with the characters were strong throughout as they grew within the novel. The strength and hardships that are thrown to Elena throughout the novel and watching her grow into a strong, wonderfully built character definitely made the reading more than a journey through pages but a tale that stuck like a bee to honey.

I definitely recommend to those who wish to challenge their upturned nose to the vampire genre because *The Hunted* definitely made me happy to find another reason to like vampires again. And to all paranormal readers out there, pick the book up because it's worth the read.

Mimi Valentine says

When it comes down to another vampire book, you'd think we've seen it all — but not until you've read **The Hunted!**

In this world, the vampires are in a tense alliance with the Protectors (warriors who can wield magic) to fight against the vanators — also known as rabid, viscous, and bloodthirsty werewolves. Just like an awesome vampire story should be, it's different and bloody and intense and gruesome, but it also has moments of snark that relieve some of the tension.

As a stubborn, mouthy, and bad-ass born vampire, Elena is the kind of girl you admire in all situations! Even though she may be reckless sometimes, she still stays smart, focused, and completely realistic in a way that makes it easy to sympathize with her, even when she's kicking butt and leaving you in awe.

But Elena isn't the only character you'll. There's her "adoptive" brother Lucas, who's so hilarious and brotherly that you just have to adore him. Each of the Protectors have their own personalities too, and so do the vampires. Especially William: tall, dark, and mysterious vamp extraordinaire. He may not suck your blood but he'll definitely take your heart! ♥

One of my favourite things about this book — besides its non-stop action and hilarious one-liners — has to be the way Elena interacts with *her family*. Even though they're not technically related, her banter with her Protector parents and brother is so fun and natural. They fight, argue, and pick on each other like real family, but in the end you can tell that they'd do anything to protect each other.

This book is a little bit lengthy and has a few editing errors, but it's nothing that takes away from the awesomeness of this book. All in all, **The Hunted** is an original, action-packed, and engaging Aussie-based vampire story that you shouldn't miss! :)

BUY or BORROW?: Love vampires? Love awesome heroines? Then this is the book for you! ;)

(Original review at Mimi Valentine's YA Review Blog)

Kim Rawls says

This is the best book!! I didn't want to put it down!! The story had my full attention!! I wish there was more...

Nicole says

4.5/5

Find more of my reviews on my blog, [The Reader's Antidote](#)

The hunted was a pleasant surprise, filled with vampires, werewolves, magic-wielding humans and a romance that I couldn't get enough of. The hunted is definitely worth a read.

From the first chapter I knew I would enjoy this book. It takes place in Cairns, Australia (pronounced like cans), and I had just visited there last summer. It is absolutely breath-taking. The food could have been better but that's not the point; while this book took place in Australia, I could still relate. I also enjoyed the random Australian phrases compared to American ones that were like them. That's what made this book really unique for me.

I loved the main character, Elena. She is snarky beyond belief and does not like authority. She also doesn't fall head-over-heels in love with William, our sexy vampire love interest. He's a four-hundred-year-old vampire, and it bothered me a little that he fell in love so quickly with Elena. Is it because of her special blood (btw there were some Twilight references, but they weren't close enough to bother me)? There's definitely something supernatural at work there, I think. Her blood means a lot to some people, though no one has any idea of what she'll be capable of when she's at the age where she is supposed to turn into a full vampire (she's mostly human now). Still, I enjoyed the beginnings of their romance, though she is obviously not as invested as he is.

I know, as a general rule I stay away from vampire novels, but this one really piqued my interest and I'm so glad I decided to be part of this tour. Because it's not just about vampires and werewolves. There's a whole operation that takes care of these supernatural things and I love when that happens in books. It shows that there are bigger things than just the characters' minor relationship problems. My only other complaint with this one is that there were a couple really slow parts in the IMI that could have been shortened. I found myself skipping some paragraphs in that section.

All in all, this was a very enjoyable read. I will definitely be continuing the series and I cannot wait to see what happens next.

Holjo says

All vampires are either born or made. A born vampire is completely human until the age of 18 when their dormant vampire DNA becomes prevalent and an irreversible change occurs. Elena is a 16 year old born-vampire-to-be, but not quite completely human as she should be at her age. She has the ability to heal herself from any injury, a heightened sense of smell, and a recently developing attraction to blood.

Elena doesn't know why she is different – in fact, she doesn't exactly know that she IS different. She has never met a real vampire before and only knows what her secretive parents have shared with her, which is not much. Her adoptive parents and brother are not vampires, but they are supernatural in their own right. Her family are Protectors, a group of magical humans who hunt and destroy immortal beings who prey on other humans.

Although the Protectors and the vampire communities are natural enemies, they are currently operating under a truce while they attempt to destroy the most dangerous of supernatural creatures – the vanators. Vanators are shapeshifting werewolves who feed off of both human and vampire blood. Elena and her family have been training their entire lives to fight the vanators, but she has never had to face them until now.

Suddenly, after living a relatively normal teenage life, Elena is thrown in the middle of a vanator hunting expedition near her home town. The presence of the vanators also attracts vampire hunters, so Elena finally sees her wish fulfilled to meet one of her own kind. Although she never really knew what to expect, she was definitely caught off guard by her sudden and intense attraction to the 400+ year old William. His arrival results in Elena finally learning her real history from her parents, as well as some of the history of her race from William. The more she learns about herself, the more she realizes that she doesn't really fit in anywhere. Acceptance is something she craves.

I did reach a point of total immersion in this story, but it wasn't until after Elena finds out the truth about her origins (about 1/3 of the way into the book.) Before that, I was still on the fence between whether I would "like" the story or "love" the story. The one thing that had me vacillating early in the book was the teenage drama that Elena was experiencing at the time (sneaking out to go to parties, getting caught by her parents, getting grounded, boy-crazy best friend). I tend to disengage somewhat when it comes to teenage story lines like this, only because I strongly prefer a more adult tone to a book.

Because this teen drama was occurring at the same time that the story was being set-up and the characters introduced, the section between Elena's first fight at the beginning of the book (which was a great fight btw), and her discovery of her personal history, was a little slow for me. This is the only complaint I had, and obviously it isn't a big complaint or I wouldn't be giving the book such a high rating. The final 2/3 of the book was intense, suspenseful, and exciting, with a wonderful cliffhanger.

There was so much growth in Elena between those early frivolous chapters and the end of the book, that I came to appreciate the illustration of how much she had changed and matured over a relatively short period of time. For as young as she is, I didn't feel like I had read a teenage book by the end. Her youth is an incredible contrast to the vast adult responsibilities she takes on, and this eventually showed me how strong she really is.

I thought the dialog between the characters was really well done – witty, smart, fun, and totally believable (especially between Elena and her brother Lucas.) The action sequences and fighting scenes were great. I really appreciated that Berridge kept the action gritty and didn't soften up the gruesome and physically painful details of the story.

The characters were very entertaining, and I definitely felt a strong connection with Elena, Lucas, and William in particular. I can't wait to read more about them! I have to admit, I even sympathized with the deadliest villain in the book, which was totally unexpected.

Speaking of unexpected, don't let yourself fall into the trap of thinking that the vamps in this book resemble vamps in other popular series. The second you start to think that something seems familiar, Berridge throws a twist into the story that will completely throw you for a loop. Just when I thought I had something figured out, I would be thrown completely in another direction and find myself chuckling at how wrong my assumptions had been.

I highly recommend this book to Paranormal readers. I think the best fit for this book would be adult and mature teen audiences. Although the violence in the book lends itself more to an adult reader, the romance and language in the book are closer to PG-13.

