



Better Off Red

Rebekah Weatherspoon

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Every sorority has its secrets...

And college freshman Ginger Carmichael couldn't care less. She has more important things on her mind, like maintaining her perfect GPA. No matter how much she can't stand the idea of the cliques and the matching colors, there's something about the girls of Alpha Beta Omega—their beauty, confidence, and unapologetic sexuality—that draws Ginger in. But once initiation begins, Ginger finds that her pledge is more than a bond of sisterhood, it's a lifelong pact to serve six bloodthirsty demons with a lot more than nutritional needs.

Despite her fears, Ginger falls hard for the immortal queen of this nest, and as the semester draws to a close, she sees that protecting her family from the secret of her forbidden love is much harder than studying for finals.

Better Off Red Details

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From Reader Review Better Off Red for online ebook

Justina Johnson says

Fantabulous, here comes another over-the-top exultation for Rebekah Weatherspoon. This is the third book of hers I've read. The two previous works were completely different, but they all share thoroughly amazing and mind-boggling imaginative storylines...seamless pacing, momentum, and continuity...beautifully heartening endings. What puts this one a stratosphere above the other two is a completely credible but out-of-this world context where vampires are key players. Most of the action occurs at Maryland University and the Alpha Beta Omega sorority. Oh, but there are some "you ain't seen nothing yet" scenes and characters. Simply, drop-jaw, freaky marvelous!

Ginger Elizabeth Carmichael is a freshman majoring in exercise science with her heart set on working in professional sports. She is initially one of the most amusing primary characters I have ever read. How she responded, how she interacted, and how she expounded had me laughing till the tears flowed unabated. This generally serves her well especially after her roommate cons Ginger into accompanying her during rush week. They both pledge the same sorority, much to Ginger's amazement that she pledged at all. Then pretty much all hell breaks loose. Actually, things started to get bizarre during pledge week. Ginger is simply incredible as a student, as a friend, as a lover, and as a woman with a rather unusual bloodline.

Camila Sanchez is second in command within the vampire power structure in the part of the world that includes Maryland University. She is addressed as Queen and simply radiates power and sensuality. There are a whole score of intricate rules, processes, and human to vampire connections that I found singularly thrilling. Not being up to snuff on vampire situations, I'm not sure if this is common or unique. However, it worked for me and was immensely intriguing.

This story includes a considerable number of varied hot and sensual scenes that wonderfully spiced things up. However, what transpires in the last third of this book just totally astounded and pleased me. I had come to really adore Ginger and Mila as a super hot pair, but what they are faced with, how they attempt to cope, and what finally shakes out was something I never would have imagined. Ms. Weatherspoon not only pulls it off, but also wraps it up with a huge bow on the very last page. This is simply a must read.

NOTE: This book was provided by Bold Strokes Books for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Anelis says

I was expecting this one to be a lot of things, but mindblowingly boring was not one of them.

Poor writing, lazy romance, paper thin characters, repetitive and boring sex scenes, no plot, plain bad world building.

I was prepared to love every cliché, disregard every mistake, move past every rapey and problematic aspect, if only it had some good porn to get off to.

How can you go wrong with vampire sorority girl on girl smut? Well, apparently like so.

I really thought it was impossible to mess up any erotica with vampires and bisexual/lesbian couples. Silly me.

Stephanie says

To start off with I thought this book was nothing but sexy times between wlw (women loving women) with vampires, which is totally my jam and I was here for it. And there are a lot of sexy times (all f/f) in the book. But now it feels like that is just to suck you in, and then before I knew it I had fallen in love with the characters, gotten to know them, was crying my eyes out and worried about them, and it was making me think. Yes, i'd call this erotica, which is all good with me, but then it ends up being so much more than that!

There is a romance (pretty big part of the plot) and while it is often sweet (and very sexy) conflicts and misunderstandings did come about, and there were talked through and figured out.

There is stuff going on between the girls that I initially rolled my eyes at, but it all comes together in the end in such a powerful way! This definitely ends on a note of girls supporting girls, please trust it knows what it's doing!

The vampires in here can also co-exist with humans. Yes it does get dark sometimes but over-all is a fun sexy time, with vampires that can co-exist with human, characters making mistakes and learning from them, and a sorority full of girls who are different from each other and definitely make a great bunch!

I often was able to put myself in the MC's shoes, as in i'd be like "yup, i'd do that". She isn't perfect, but she is willing to think and learn over the course of the book. I loved her character arc!

Also she starts off questioning her sexuality. Is she bi, is she a lesbian? She figures it out (lesbian) and it felt very real and I remember questioning my sexuality the same way when I was a teen for awhile. I'm bi so the end result was a little different, but I didn't get any biphobia from the book and I loved seeing her figure herself out.

If this sounds at all good to you, I highly recommend checking it out! Obviously I know it isn't everyone's cup of tea but if it sounds up your alley, I recommend it :)

CW: Self-harm, Fire, Car accident, Death, Sexual Assault, Rape (mentioned that it happened, no graphics), Sex (f/f)

Arielle says

I rolled my eyes a LOT in the first 20 pages or so of Better Off Red, just because hey, look, another vampire book. But I have to say, I was really surprised to enjoy the book a whole hell of a lot (no pun intended, of course). In fact, once I was done with it (and its sister, Blacker Than Blue) I went back and read them both all over again.

Better Off Red may have been one of the campiest, sexiest books I've tackled in a while, actually. Without spoiling, the book focuses on a sorority with a secret - it functions to feed the vampiric 'sister-queens' (that phrase was a cause of most of my eye-rolls, I won't lie). The sorority itself functions somewhat normally (bake sales, philanthropic events, etc) but the sisters also serve to feed the sister-queens.

Here's the fun part: feedings turn orgasmic. The very act of puncturing the neck makes the girls...well, come. There are a ton of very fun scenes with this basis and, I must say, some funny ones where they gather to watch movies (Mean Girls) and orgies ensue.

The protagonist of this particular story is Ginger, and her love interest / Queen of the North American vampires, Camila. Ginger is gay and a virgin (well, not for long) and Camila is sex and power personified. Their relationship is sexy and fraught with angst and lovely - and one of the main reasons I loved this book.

More than that, though, the world that Weatherspoon created is actually really well-rounded. There's a vampiric hierarchy and the rules for transfer of power within it make sense. Even the orgies are organized, to an extent - with each sister-queen in charge of two 'feeder' sisters that they care after. The bond created when a sister-queen feeds from one of the sisters is profound and loving, but the darkness within each of the vampires is always bubbling a bit under the surface. There are rules, and when broken, there are punishments.

Without spoiling anything else, I'll say that the book was much better than I thought it would be at first glance, and in fact, it was quite good.

Lunatic says

Love it! Though the lust are too strong for my taste, but it dropped a tad bit later on in the story and concentrated more on emotional conflicts. I really like the conclusion about dominance, submissive relationship at the end, in which they "should take turn". (bravo to the main protagonist for reaching that conclusion).

There is no big plot in this story, its main central focus on two major characters and how they explored their feelings to each other. No force, no awkwardness, it just come and go with the flow. Most of all, it deserved its erotica title.

The main characters are very likable too. She might be a pillow princess most of the time, but her personality definitely strong, confident, smart, and know how to restrain herself from saying stupid thing before she regret it, basically, she is in touch with her feelings and know how to control it. she also had a sense of humor in which the author did a great job to stretch that out.

It took me only two days to finish this book, and wow, I gotta say, the author did a great job of making me looking for more to the main characters' future.

Arien says

4.5 stars. I didn't expect that books about vampires would be some of the most enjoyable of my recent reads. Terrible Praise was excellent but really morbid and violent. Better Off Red takes a different road. There is some darkness for sure but this tale takes the other directions where vamps and humans coexist. The system itself was really novel to me so I enjoyed this read a lot.

I passed over this book many times in the past due to its silly name. So I must say my thanks to lov2 and her review that revealed this book having far more substance than I expected. It is truly a good read, both the

plot and erotica are well executed.

Recommend to all, especially paranormal fans.

Michele says

Ok I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop. I've had a few "meh" reads lately but now two back to back books have left me literally happy book drunk. Better Off Red was just a great, great read. I can't fathom how some people gave this one star. And for someone to say the writing was "lazy" is just incomprehensible to me. The writing was sexy, exciting and so humorous. Plus this was the author's debut!!! Color me very impressed. Ok maybe the book could have been a bit shorter, but how can I complain when there were so many sexy times(like every chapter people!). So yea forget I said that...the book should have been much longer.

M says

Great start, but the end needed tightening up as too many major changes occurred too quickly.

Wish I could have liked this more.

Jess says

This book started off as a delightfully fluffy, light, campy read and developed into an intense supernatural story with great characters and in-depth mythology. As the story progressed, the two tones matched perfectly to create one of the best lesbian paranormal romances I've ever read!

With a sorority setting, a lesbian romance has to get its camp on a little bit. I knew I loved Ginger right away as our main character because her biggest worry about sharing space with her bubbly roommate Amy was when she was going to get her regular masturbation time scheduled. We're slowly introduced to the gorgeous girls of the Alpha Beta Omega sorority in a way that makes us second-guess who they really are--is this a trip of a real once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? Are these girls vampires or something a little different? And what *really* goes on in the sorority mansion?

By the time we meet Camila, the powerful vampire sister-queen who Ginger falls in love with, we're already wonderfully involved in the sorority's lives. Each character, be it supporting or minor or even just mentioned, feels real enough for us to remember them when we turn the page. Without giving too much away, I'll definitely say that Camila and Ginger's love story is one I won't forget anytime soon. I became absolutely obsessed with their romance.

(And let's just say Weatherspoon never fades to black. *Wow*, was this some scorching erotica).

Writing campy lesbian fiction that is actually *for* lesbian women is challenging, but I felt totally safe in Rebekah Weatherspoon's capable hands. We might get discussions of pubic hair patterns and arrays of colorful dildos, but it always feels like we're in on the joke--these ladies know their new lives as vampire

"feeders" are ridiculous just as much as we do. Nobody takes themselves too seriously or falls into an overly-romantic *Twilight* trap. The vampire social structure and hierarchy is actually well-planned and helps to create a story we get lost in. There's blood and fighting and secrecy, but there are also bake sales and chem finals and annoying older brothers.

The only thing that prevented me from giving this five stars was the ending. It felt way too contrived from previous popular vampire stories and it threw off the delicate balance I liked so much about the characters. It was also a little rushed in the last 50 pages.

I read this one in paperback but bought the next two books in e-book format. I can't wait to continue with the ladies of ABO!

T says

This was a fun book to read. There wasn't a big plot of any sort, but it is more like a sitcom or soap, where the interest is in the characters and their day to day lives and interactions. (although, rather rated xxx)

The writing style flows easily and requires little work on the reader's part. And the story won't require to look much up or think too hard. It's a great book for when you just want to kick back and enjoy something lighthearted and not too deep.

Towards the beginning, there were a few scenes that had me rolling my eyes and thinking that I had just wasted 9.99 on some really tacky porn. Like the vampire sorority orgy with all the girls of the house. ...could have totally done without that. But thankfully, as I kept reading, I got to witness the great character development that the author did. Before long, each of the girls had personalities and became interesting and interacted with each other very realistically.

Overall, I highly recommend this book. It exceeds the expectations one would assign to anything about vampire sorority girls, and is surprisingly very interesting. I'll be reading it again, and I'll be checking into more from this author.

Vic says

This was a (mostly) light, fanciful, often silly, rather cute read.

Written well enough to fall into the 4.5 to 5 star category for me, I found myself enjoying this book very much. The characters were interesting and likable (except the ones that we were not meant to like, obviously), the dialog in keeping with the characters, ages, and situations. The premise was fun, the execution of it pretty near perfect (for me) even though it was somewhat predictably predictable.

Though the book began with a tad too much silliness and sexy shenanigans (and silly sexy shenanigans), the further I got with the book the more the story evolved, the emotions became more prominent, and the depth grew. The latter parts of the book jarred a bit with the beginning, as it threw in some fairly heavy complications and emotional situations that aren't normally found in what basically starts out as an erotic novel. It took a while to adjust to the change of pace, but in the end I found it only added to the overall enjoyment of the book.

Of course, I couldn't possibly comment on an 'erotic novel' without mentioning the romance and the sexy parts. The romance - though hastily embarked upon - was sweet, sexy, and believable. It was very, very cute in fact, but not in a bad way. The intimate scenes certainly achieved what they were probably written to achieve - titillating in parts, sensual in others, emotional in some, gratuitous here and there, but overall very well written. The growing affection and romance between the two main characters played out perfectly.

And have I mentioned how much I really liked Ginger and Camila?

I was completely surprised at how much I enjoyed this book. I thought it was going to be a quick, silly, somewhat entertaining jaunt into fantasy territory, but I definitely got more than that out of it.

Onyx says

disappointing f/f. review to come.

So, *Better Off Red* follows college freshman Ginger as she rushes a sorority full of beautiful women, discovers they are a vampire cult, and falls in love with their leader.

Insta-love PWP just about sums it up. Other reviews state that the story picks up towards the end, but if I didn't catch it at 65%, then no.

I'm giving it one star for the setting and characters. College is a great time, especially surrounded by these hot sorority sisters who fuck all day long. Even though they don't do much else, the sex *is* hot. Another star because I will admit to re-reading that first lesbian orgy scene. ;)

Unfortunately, Ginger is a pillow princess and the sex gets repetitive, which is why I stopped.

Not worth the \$5 I paid for this.

Beverly Diehl says

Vampire are Not My Thing. Lesbians - whatever floats your boat, but they don't "do it" for me. Sorority sisters? Like, NO, d'uh!

So I expected this book to be a sludge, hoping to find some slight thing I could praise, because I know the author personally and I wanted to find something, anything, nice to say about her debut novel.

Instead, it was cover to cover pleasure. I wouldn't have read this book if I didn't know the author, but I can honestly say that I loved this book despite my normal indifference to its main elements.

Ginger, the lead character, isn't really "into" the whole sorority thing, either (girl after my own heart), but agrees to accompany her roommate Amy through 'rushing,' with an eye to protecting her. She find herself joining a very different kind of sorority, and being paired with Camila. I don't want to give it away, but I will say that Camila is a fairly young vampire, despite being very powerful. She makes mistakes, which lead to

some interesting plot twists, but also allow the relationship between her and Ginger to be more of love between equals, than between one superpowerful being and one naive young person, which I very much liked.

There were a number of secondary characters and B-plots which I know will turn into interesting stories as the series continues. And the sex scenes were sizzling hot; I did not expect that they would be so, uhm, INTERESTING, to a person who doesn't swing that way. They are. *fans self, gets cold drink* If you enjoy erotic fiction of any sort, read this book. You will not be disappointed.

Dee says

Rebekah is a new to me author and I was pleasantly surprised by her writing style.

I wasn't sure I was going to like the entire vampire, sister sorority thing, but the author pulled it off wonderfully.

I enjoy the characters, the plot was interesting. The sex scenes were smoking hot, and beautifully written. Sensual.

I would definitely recommend this story to others, and look forward to reading more books by this author.

Netty says

Ya just gotta love this bloody book, it's excellent.....
