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# In The Blood



## Synopsis

What Would You Give Up for Immortal Life and Love? By day, Elise draws and paints, spilling out the horrific visions of her tortured mind. By night, she walks the streets, selling her body to the highest bidder. And then they come into her life: a trio of impossibly beautiful vampires: Terence, Maria, and Edward. When they encounter Elise, they set an explosive triangle in motion. Terence wants to drain her blood. Maria just wants Elise . . . as lover and partner through eternity. And Edward, the most recently-converted, wants to prevent her from making the same mistake he made as a young abstract expressionist artist in 1950s Greenwich Village: sacrificing his artistic vision for immortal life. He is the only one of them still human enough to realize what an unholy trade this is. *In the Blood* is a novel that will grip you in a vise of suspense that won't let go, forcing you to stay up long past midnight, turning page after page, until the very last moment, when a surprising turn of events changes everything and demonstrates, truly, what love and sacrifice are all about.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A pulsing, vividly pictorial novel exploring the lives of vampires . . . a great read throughout." -- Lea Schizas, Award-winning author of *The Rock of Realm*

Of Rick R. Reed, *Unzipped* magazine said, "You could call him the Stephen King of gay horror."

Reed has chronicled the sexual and horrific lives of the misbegotten in novels like *Obsessed*, *Penance*, *A Face Without a Heart* (named best novel of 2000 by [QueerHorror.com](#)) and *IM*.

Upcoming novels *Deadly Vision: Book One of the Cassandra Chronicles* and *Orientation*. Reed's

short fiction has appeared in nearly twenty anthologies; some of which can be found in his collection, *Twisted: Tales of Obsession and Terror*.

Not your run-of-the-mill story of a lonely vamp. living in solitude who meets a human and falls in love. This is a vampire story that gives the reader a new and refreshing look at this genre. Here we have three vamps...all sexy or course and each with their own story of how they came to be. Excellent backstory of Edward and loved the sexy Terrence with the body of David; and the glue that holds 'their little family unit' together Maria. Well developed characters took the reader into the heart and soul of each vampire in a way that enriched the story. Of course, we must have a human factor incorporated in the mix in order to have our conflicts, heartache and personal angst. Enjoyed the writing of Rick Reed and have order another book of his. IM

Everything went fine

So Halloween is right around the corner, and if you are looking for a horror story to rise to the occasion, check out "In The Blood" by Rick R. Reed. It's a story of vampire love, a love that you definitely don't want to be the object of. It was love at first bite for me, from the first chapter to the last, I was under the spell of Reed's terrible trio of living dead characters and the poor souls they set their sights on. The suspense was heart pounding, nail biting, and seemed never ending. The storyline kept me turning the pages till late into the night and I found myself becoming involved with the characters and wanting to warn them of the impending horrific danger to come. Elise's life has gone in a very different direction then she ever thought. A good girl from a good family has landed in a seedy apartment in the worst part of Chicago. To keep a roof over her head and food on her plate, she turns tricks all night long while turning her emotions off to her deeper feelings about her profession and her clients. But by day, Elise is a brilliant artist, drawing dark emotional pictures that come from deep inside her. Nobody knows how brilliant her work is though, as her self esteem is at it's lowest and doesn't feel ready to show her work to anyone. In fact she goes to extremes to hide it from others. Her life is about to change though, when she breaks her cardinal rule and brings a client back to her apartment, he sees her work and tells his friends about it. This client, Terence was no art dealer though. He is a vampire. His friends, also vampires. And..they happen to be art aficionados who's daily meals includes the flesh and blood of human beings. Elise knew deep down there was something a bit strange about this trick, but his mesmerizing charisma has her completely under his spell and agrees to meet his friends. Temporarily spared due to their interest in her art,

Elise become enamored by Maria, the beautiful but deadly vampire(I see Sonia Braga here). Maria's feelings(yes, Vampires have feelings too!) are the strongest she has felt for a human in 200 years! But as Elise becomes aware of the grotesque lives(deaths?) these creatures lead, the suspense builds as to what will become of her. Will she give in to Maria and change over to become one of them and live eternally with her love, or will the blood loving Terence, suck her life's fluid till she's dead? Reed is one of the best new horror writers around. I don't know how he keeps coming up with this stuff but keep em coming please. His descriptions of the places put you right there in the story. His tales of the Vampire lust and the victim's fate at their hand will make you cringe with the goriness of it all. He puts Elise in situations that will have your heart in your throat. The book is very well written and the story of the third vampire, Edward, parallels that of Elise's with every other chapter going back 60 years to his fateful meeting with Terrance. I also liked that these vampires were like no others, the story is a fresh take and surprises you at every turn. For more scare the bejuzzus out of you fare from Reed, try *IM*, a serial murder mystery involving gay men hooking up on line. It's a real treat and highly recommended for goth and horror buffs. Even the cover art is scary. I had to keep it turned over on my nightstand, it kept looking at me! Not for wimps though. Some pretty graphic material of the vampire feasts and sexually as well(including quite erotic gay and lesbian themes). Hauntingly captivating....MWAHAHAHA.....Laurie

In *The Blood* is a new twist on an old story. Writers have long been fascinated with vampires, but Rick R. Reed takes the story to a new level. Elise, an artist by day and an prostitute by night, meet up with a small family of vampires in modern Chicago. Terance, Edward, and Maria each want her for a different reason -- Terance as prey, Edward as a tool for salvation, and Maria as an eternal love. The story follows Elise through her involvement with these vampires until she finally forced to decide what she wants for the rest of her life and how much she would be willing to sacrifice for eternal youth. Through Elise's musings and decisions, we also see Edward's choices paralleled and how they affected his future. Reed's vampires go beyond the stereotypical vampire-lover we see in so many novels. These vampires are very much hunters, but there is a lingering humanity about Maria and Edward that makes the reader sympathetic to them. Even in Terance's seeming absence of compassion or empathy, we see a vulnerability in him that is scarily attractive. These vampires share the same frailties and vulnerabilities that we usually only see in their mortal prey. In giving them a level of humanity, Reed makes the reader care about these vampires and see them with a depth and clarity that is missing in other novels of this genre. Reed's writing is poetic yet graphically clear. He doesn't try to win the reader's sympathy by showing the vampire kills as romantic

encounters of seduction. Terance, Edward, and Maria are predators. We never forget that fact. However, we see in these predators remnants of their lost humanity and it makes us feel for them. The weaving of Elise's story and Edward's story is a wonderful exploration of the question "What would you give to be immortal?" Too often, this question is overlooked in vampire stories, yet it is the essential question to Reed's work. It explores not only the human condition but the artist's condition as well. The paralleling between the stories gives added depth to both characters and makes the reader see how one choice can change one's life forever. Reed's novel is a fresh take on an old story. His style is straight-forward and concise. His descriptions are gritty and realistic -- there is no sugar-coating of the truth in this novel. There are some depictions of sexual situations, both heterosexual and homosexual, but they are done tastefully and are in no way gratuitous or just a ploy to sell more books. *In the Blood* is a vampire story with a twist. It catches the reader from the first chapter and doesn't let go. It is a fast read that not only thrills us but also makes us think not only about the choices the characters make but also about the choices we would make in the same situation.

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