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Tales of a 10th Grade Vampire Hunter

Bill Blume

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For Gidion Keep, hunting vampires is easy.

It's high school that might kill him.

Hunting vampires is a Keep family tradition. Dad quit the business over a decade ago when Mom was killed, so Grandpa has been teaching Gidion -in secret- to take up the hunt. As Gidion closes in on the local coven, he discovers their plans to kill one of his teachers and a girl from another school. One of his best friends might be the key to finding the vampires' lair... if he can be trusted.

To complicate matters - the vampires know they're being hunted and they're determined to kill Gidion and everyone he's protecting, no matter what it takes.

Tales of a 10th Grade Vampire Hunter delivers a fast-paced thriller with a young hero whose deadliest weapon isn't a wooden stake but his wits and a lot of luck.

Tales of a 10th Grade Vampire Hunter Details

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Author : Bill Blume

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From Reader Review Tales of a 10th Grade Vampire Hunter for online ebook

Nini K! says

ARC kindly provided via Netgally, in exchange for an honest review!

Margarita Gakis says

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What a great read! This book was fast, fun and funny! Gidion is a great narrator. He's young but street smart and he's definitely easy to root for.

The interactions between Gidion and his grandpa are fantastic. I don't normally laugh out loud while reading but I did quite a few times while reading this book. Gidion is a well rounded character- friends, family and he struggles with the mundane and supernatural elements of his life.

The 'mystery' is good too! Why is the Richmond Coven targeting certain people? And why did it have to be one of Gidion's teachers, forcing his vampire hunting life to cross over to his school life. How are his friends involved?

I'm hoping there will be more in the series! This was a great read!

Mandy says

This review first appeared on Addicted to Media

Gidion Keep is a teenage vampire hunter upholding a long Keep family tradition of hunting. When Gidion's mother died at the hands of a vampire, Gidion's father quit the business and it fell to Gidion's grandfather to train Gidion in secret and pass on the legacy.

When Gidion saves a woman from a vicious vampire attack, he is stunned when she recognises him. It turns out the secrecy of his craft is the least of his worries for as Gidion closes in on the local vampire coven, he

uncovers a deadly plot to kill off a student and a teacher. Worse yet, the vampires know they are being hunted but it may just be that Gidion's biggest threat lies within his own group of friends at high school.

Gidion's Hunt is the first novel by Bill Blume and the first in the *Gidion Keep, Vampire Hunter* series. Originally titled *Tales of a 10th Grade Vampire Hunter*, *Gidion's Hunt* is not just another vampire novel. Blume has written as realistic a novel as possible, focusing not on the vampires themselves but on the type of person that would put themselves in danger in order to hunt and destroy monsters.

The novel is gritty, fast-paced and entertaining. Gidion is a likeable hero and just the right shade of bad boy. Blume pulls no punches and the vampires are pretty nasty at times, reducing their victims to mindless slaves or worse, draining them of blood and killing them.

I really enjoyed the high school dynamics and was reminded of Joss Whedon and the high-school-as-Hell metaphor that we saw in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Just like in high school, loyalties are fickle, only valid for as long as they provide social capital, and Gidion is left wondering who he can trust right until the very last page.

Gidion's unconventional relationship with intended vampire victim Tamara is another highlight of the plot. Rather than endless pages of angst and insecurity, they really just get on with it despite their age difference.

Without giving the plot away, the best aspect of the story is the reveal of the Big Bad and the motives driving their actions. In an ultimate display of scorn, insecurity and revenge, the actions and decisions of the Big Bad were realistic and chilling.

Ultimately, *Gidion's Hunt* would be a four star book but for one thing: the rampant misogyny of the male characters. You'd expect that a book featuring a male vampire hunter as a protagonist might only be read by boys but you'd be wrong – the primary readers of young adult fiction are females, of all ages, and we don't like being referred to as whores and bitches.

I'm glad that Blume has released *Gidion's Blood*, the second book in the series, and I'm definitely going to read it but I do hope he tones down the misogyny before he alienates a good part of his readership.

With that in mind, I give *Gidion's Hunt* a qualified three out of five stars. I would definitely recommend it to fans of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* or *Teen Wolf* and I will be reading the next books in the series.

TheSkepticalReader says

May contain few, small spoilers.

I didn't know much about this book then what the synopsis gives but I think I found quite a few things to enjoy about this book. First off, I love the fact that this book just starts off with action and continues on an amazing pace that never dulls or stalls the conflict. Although I would've liked to know some of the characters more, I think the major characters get a fair chance to show off their true colors.

The main character, Gidion, is a lot more mature than I would've thought a 10th grader would be and he definitely takes his hunting seriously. I liked this character for the majority of the book. The only moment I wanted to slap him over the head were when he takes cover for Pete, which wouldn't be a problem if Pete

would at least have acknowledge Gid's kindness. I side with Gid's dad when it came to Pete's redemption and I really wish Gid would've just left him alone. But considering Gidion *doesn't* give up, I do admire him for his loyalty.

There a few cliched moments that I thought were too predictable, like character descriptions. Especially when Gid meets Stephanie and then Tamara, I definitely felt like rolling my eyes at how their clothing is meant to reveal their role in Gid's mission. Initially, I thought the author would reverse the clichés but it didn't happen and it was too predictable for me. (view spoiler) I also found it unconvincing that Gid's dad was not aware of Gid's situation considering he was a cop. I understand about training story but Gid's story to his dad was not very believable to me (view spoiler)

The ending, however, was not predictable and I rather enjoyed how well things were wrapped up. I thought the way Pete's story wraps up is, although somewhat sad, ended the way it should considering Pete really did not have any sense of control.

The only true flinching moments while reading this book were the heavily graphic violence scenes. This is mostly just me, who is quite squeamish about these things, considers all the ripping apart Gid does with his box cutter a bit too graphic. Although the tone of this book is serious from the beginning and we fully understand that vampires in Gid's world *kill*, not sparkle, I couldn't help but feel like I should just skip over a graphic paragraph or two. But like I said, this is mainly just a personal issue for me.

All in all, I really enjoyed this book considering I had no idea what to truly expect. I would highly recommend it to readers who love hardcore, paranormal action with sprinkles of drama, romance, and mystery.

I was provided a copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Amanda says

Gidion's Hunt is amazing. The characters are well developed and relatable. Grandpa was probably my favorite because he kind of had a Bobby vibe to him. All in all this was a great supernatural book.

Taylor says

[Click here to watch my YouTube review.](#)

I really loved this book, in terms of the story, anyway. Finally, finally, finally! An author who gets it! Vampires are evil. They eat humans for sustenance, and they burn in the sun. They sleep in coffins and do not sparkle or fall in love with pale helpless girls. Vampires are finally the bad guys, and that, in my opinion, just made this book super duper awesome.

But every book has its faults. It is sometimes hard to find them, but they are there. For one thing, the urgency and the terror portrayed by the main character's actions never translated from the pages to the reader. If the main character felt helpless, then the reader should empathize with the character, but that just didn't happen here.

Similarly, the author talked about many places in the story as if he expected the reader to know where those places were and what they looked like. While that's all fine and dandy, if you live in that place and know all

the locations that the author is talking about, the rest of us are left in the dark. Or to use Google Earth. I still gave this book five stars because it really was an awesome book. I loved it, and I plan to read it again and again. Its not one of those novels that you just read and then put back on the shelf to collect dust. This is a book that you read over and over.

Kelly Sierra says

Gidion Keep isn't your average sophomore in high school; not after his grandfather let him on the family secret. The Keeps know something everyone else doesn't know; Vampires are real and the Keeps hunt them down. Gidion now hunts vampires and when the job is done he notifies his grandfather, who owns a funeral home with its own incinerator. The only problem Gidion faces is his father finding out. His father is an ex-cop we works for the dispatching unit now, and once hunted vampires but after a death close to home he stopped and focused on Gidion. Gidion constantly has to come up with plausible stories for his father, and this might not seem like a lot of trouble, but for a son of an ex-cop it's pretty tough. Besides this, Gidion is your average teen looking for some action whether it's fighting vampires or you know... girls. That is, until Gidion saves someone he knows from a vampire, alerting that person to what he does. Not only does this happen once but twice, and soon Gidion realizes the vampires are contracting hits against these two people. Now Gidion must figure out who is involved, where to locate the vampire leader, stop being tongue tied in front of the hot senior girl he saved, and figure out what's going on with his best friend all before it's too late.

I really liked Gidion as a character. First, he's a guy... yay! for a guy MC. Second, the humor was spot on. Most of the interactions between characters were funny and moved the story along quickly. This was a quick read because it kept me engaged one moved along so quickly I couldn't stop if I wanted to. I also really liked the relationship between Gidion, his father, and his grandfather. All three guys are there for each other in many different manners, and each one has their own secret that they are keeping from each other.

4 out of 5 stars. Thanks NetGalley.

Jessica says

Cannot wait to read the next on

Cannot wait to read the next one! Gideon is a keeper. I love the mix of humor and horror. Excellent read

Delaney says

*** THIS REVIEW AND MORE ON MY WEBSITE***

The Review: This was a fast read for me. So if you take this one on, don't expect a long and drawn out storyline. That being said, it was one of the reasons that I actually liked the book. There is not a lot of angsty teenage monologue or emotional drawn out chapters like in some YA vampire books. Gideon is a fun main

character because he's so nonchalant about all of the terrifying stuff he takes part in. Killing a vampire and trying to make it home before his dad freaks out? No problem, as long as he can get the body to his grandpa's crematorium in time. Accidentally getting caught by his school teacher after he saves her from becoming a Dracula snack in the city? Not too bad either, maybe it means he can get extra credit in class. He's hilarious in that sense. I was unsure about reading a book with a male lead (most YA books I read have female protagonists) but it was refreshing to see things from a guy's perspective and avoid the emotional drama. He wasn't insensitive, though. Gideon proves that he is willing to fight for others in true hero fashion. As far as the plot goes, there were some things that were a bit unrealistic (I know, I know, it is a vampire book.) that stuck out for me. For instance, Gideon seems to do a lot of 'body hauling' for a tenth grade kid. I know that boys are strong, but hauling around multiple adult dead vampire bodies by yourself seems like it would be more difficult than it plays out in the book. Everything seems to fall in place for Gideon in that respect. There are a few close calls, but I feel like the author made it too easy for Gideon to get away with essentially stabbing people in public all of the time. The second complaint is his dad's oblivious attitude to Gideon's behavior. His dad used to be a hunter himself, how could he not know what his son is up to? I'm hoping we get more explanation to that one in book two. I think the last thing I would've liked to see done a bit differently were the villains. I won't write any spoilers now, but I will say that the motivation behind some of the crimes in this book were ridiculous. I'll elaborate more on that when I get around to actually writing the spoiler review. In a way though, the way things played out remind me of 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' before she got all weird in college. I liked that. There's simple motivation and action in this book. I can't wait to read the second one to see where the author plans to take everything. All in all, it was lighthearted and had a sincere main character. (I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review).

The Conclusion: Read this if you're into: Fast paced action, witty main characters, and good ol' fashioned vampire slaying.

Don't read this if you can't stand: Lack of emotional dialogue, kids with unrealistic amounts of freedom to do what they want, or weak villains.

The Rating: A solid 3.5 out of 5 stars because it was a good, quick story. I would've given 4 stars, but I can't get past the villains' motivation and cheesiness. I still recommend giving this one a shot and I look forward to book two.

Patrick Donovan says

I'm not much for titles that could be considered young adult. With that said, I ended up reading the entire book in one sitting. Here's why: First off, Gideon is pretty spot on for a sixteen year old kid. He's practically fearless in the fact he's slaughtering vampires, but freaks out at the very presence of a girl. It's pretty amusing watching him go from Blade Jr. to a total wreck because a girl is taking a shower in his house. Grandpa was pretty damned awesome as well, and was probably my favorite character out of the entire book. In a lot of ways he reminded me of the grandfather from the Lost Boys.

There were only two things that kept me from giving the book five stars. The first, I feel like Gideon could have been challenged a bit more than he was. The stakes were high, yes, but you sort of knew from the start he was going to be able to handle it. Granted I don't consider this a major detriment as this is the first in what will probably be a series, and as such there has to be some world building going on, establishing characters,

that sort of thing. The second...there really wasn't enough Grandpa. Seriously. He was awesome.

Kristine says

Gideon's Hunt by Bill Blume is a free NetGalley ebook that I read on a morning in early August. I think the cover of this book (and its major JtHM vibe) drew me in the most, as well as it possibly being a good YA alternative to the Sookie Stackhouse or Odd Thomas series.

Nope. Gideon Keep books are a hybrid between Blade, Encyclopedia Brown, and several John Hughes movies. There's much more normality-maintaining and awkward teenybopper moments than supernatural horror.

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Gideon's Hunt is a breezy YA urban fantasy featuring a likable every-guy whose family goes back generations as vampire hunters. The story keeps the action going as Gideon attempts to solve some mysteries and clues as the location of a vampire coven he wants to exterminate. While the dialogue is fun and Gideon has some great comic book reference moments (calling 911 and using the name "Tim Drake" anyone?), the lack of something to set the book apart from the countless similar vampire-hunter urban fantasies began to wear after a bit. At around the middle (and despite the action) I felt like I had read something similar too many times and had a hard time finding the interest to continue. There wasn't an original bone anywhere in this book.

Story: 10th grader Gideon is all set to go out and kill vampires. Secretly trained by his vampire-hunter grandfather (against the wishes of his father), he saves his first 'victim' and dusts his first vampire. But the victim ends up being his world history teacher - and she recognizes him! As he uses the first vampire to begin to track down the Richmond coven, things get messy as friends, teachers, and more become embroiled in the vampire world as either targets or blood 'donors'. Gideon is about to find out that even with his formidable grandfather's help, taking down a coven may not be as easy as he had suspected.

This is the first in a series and several mysteries (the death of Gideon's mother, for example) are left to be explored. Because the writing is assured and easy to follow, it makes for a fast read. The dialogue is snappy but very appropriate and everyone feels like the genuine article - down home Richmond inhabitants.

Gideon has a love for comics and there are many references throughout - Easter eggs for those who grew up with DC and Marvel. I would have preferred to see references from the newer batch of superheroes that a 10 grader would be reading currently rather than referencing ones that the author likely grew up with - perhaps an Image title? Damian Wayne instead of Tim Drake? But heck, it was cute to see all the references in there.

In all, I liked the character of Gideon a lot. I just wish he had been set in a different milieu than vampire hunter. I've read too many 'anti-sparkly vampire' books now to dislike them as much as the sparkly vampire counterparts. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

Natalie Frampton says

I received this book from Netgalley for my honest opinion.

I wasn't entirely sure if I would like this one, I think this is the first YA Vampire Hunter book I've read where a male is the lead character. I really enjoyed it. Was a fresh take on an idea where there is already lot of choice.

Most books I've read have a female lead protagonist so this was a real breath of fresh air to what I am used to.

Gideon's Hunt jumps straight into the action with him on the trail of a vampire and the action and suspense is kept throughout. Don't think it will dwindle out, because it won't.

There are a few mysteries to keep you hooked as well. The Vampire Coven is targeting certain people and Gideon needs to find out why so he can do something about it. We are also told and given hints about the death of Gideon's mother which will hopefully be explored in future books.

The vampires in this book are what I would call 'real' vampires. They are strong, dangerous and unpredictable, certainly vampires that need hunting down and rid of.

This book features some real strong male characters, we have Gideon himself, his father and grandfather. His grandfather is a great character and also Gideon's hunting teacher. They have a great relationship which is funny but also relatable....not the vampire training bit obviously.

My only criticism of the book is that Gideon is sometimes a little too good at killing vampires. He is just a teenage boy who has been trained by his grandfather but he can easily defeat a vampire. We are told they don't have super strength but I still think that some vampires could overpower a teenage boy.

Overall this is a great book with adventure, mystery, a little romance and some vampire action. What more could you want?

Original review posted here <https://natcentral.wordpress.com/2015...>

Tara says

Great tone and lots of action for reluctant readers.

I read an ARC from NetGalley.

Shannon says

check out <http://cabookle.tumblr.com> for more YA book reviews!

I received this book in advance through NetGalley for reviewing purposes; the following is my HONEST opinion of the book as I was in no way obligated to give a positive review. Thank you NetGalley and Diversion Books for letting me read this book in advance!

Gidion's Hunt is about a high school sophomore student who spends his night's hunting vampires. During a kill one night, he happens to run into his history teacher whom the vampires had put a hit out on. While investigating why someone would want to kill her, *Gidion* uncovers an entire coven of vampires operating in his hometown of Richmond... a coven that just happens to have pulled in one of his best friends as their newest feeder. With some detailed action, witty responses, and a few awkward moments that made me laugh, *Gidion's Hunt* is an enjoyable read. While I think Bill Blume has plenty of room to improve, I'm definitely going to keep my eye out for the next book in his series.

Gidion really doesn't change much from the beginning to the end of the story. I mean, the major differences are that he has a girlfriend and now is a force to be reckoned with as a hunter. However, he is pretty much a character who comes in without any big flaws, which kind of bothered me while I read. I truly did enjoy reading from *Gidion's* perspective – it's witty, without trying too hard. But there doesn't seem to be much trouble for him. Whenever the going seemed to get tough, *Gidion* got his way out of the situation: he lied to his dad with relative ease; his grandpa didn't yell at him at all, really, for going into dangerous situations without telling anyone; and when the police get involved, he never seems to actually get in trouble. Even his "unlucky" day at the beginning seemed like a pretty lucky day to me: he bagged a vampire, didn't get in too much trouble with his dad, and uncovered a plot that made him even cooler in the long run. What's so bad about that? The one time we see *Gidion* somewhat in trouble was when he was fighting the boss at the end, but even there it seems that he won the fight only after a few pages and a very clichéd moment where someone off to the side distracts the boss so he can get the upper hand. The only somewhat flaw in his character was his lack of experience with ladies and with his friendships, but both of those cases still work out for him. His love interest kissed him the first time they met! His friends forgave him almost immediately when he acted like an ass! For such a well-written character that really was enjoyable to read, he really was too perfect from beginning to end. I hope we do see some weakness in *Gidion* in the next book – he can't always be perfect.

Since I mentioned his love interest a bunch of times, I think it's only right to go into detail about her. We learn about Tamara early on in the book – she's another girl he saves from vampire attack. She's a little different than the last one he saved, however; he actually takes her home, which he isn't supposed to do, and somehow doesn't get caught doing it. While it was obvious from the start that she was his love interest, again it just worked out a little too easy. Sure, he saves her life...twice, but does that really mean she knows enough about him to be happily dating him and moving her life around to see him again? (You'll know what I mean at the end of the book!) It just seemed a little too unrealistic and annoyed me quite a bit how Tamara is changing her life for him after knowing him for about a week. Besides, there wasn't really much romance to talk about. He saved her, they kissed, maybe there was one date, and then the story ends. I still gave the romance a B because I loved the beginning awkwardness for them, but, again, this is somewhere Bill can improve on.

I gotta say, I really did love the plot. While there wasn't too much originality on it, I loved the fresh spin I got by reading from the vampire hunter's perspective. I'm honestly used to reading from the vampire's perspective. The plot is somewhat obvious as we go around – Bill doesn't leave much of the major plot line up for guessing. However, there are still plenty of mysteries to be solved: what happened to his mother? Why did his dad give up on hunting? Where did Stephanie really go? There was just enough going on to keep you entertained and following along with *Gidion* as he tried to figure out what was going on, but it was a pretty straightforward plot.

In the end, this book was still an enjoyable read with great writing, but I just wish there was a little more. Gidion needs to be less perfect, but continue being such a witty/funny narrator. Bill could also include a little more romance, though I bet it was his intention to write an action book, not romance. And I really want to uncover the truth behind all the open mysteries still left after reading this first book; I just hope that it's a little less straightforward by having some unexpected plot twists or multiple plot lines occurring at once.
