



## A Shade of Blood

*Bella Forrest*

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Having been delighted by the bestselling debut, *A Shade Of Vampire*, readers are begging for more. In *A Shade Of Blood*, Bella Forrest transports you deeper into a unique, enthralling and beautifully sensitive story. Prepare to be lost in its pages...

When Sofia Claremont was kidnapped to a sunless island, uncharted by any map and ruled by the most powerful vampire coven on the planet, she believed she'd forever be a captive of its dark ruler, Derek Novak.

Now, after months of surviving an endless night, the morning sun may soon rise again for Sofia. Something has possessed Derek's heart and he offers her a gift no human slave has ever been given in the history of his cursed island: escape.

High school, prom and a chance to move on with her life now await her.

But will she be able to forget the horrors that steal her sleep away at night? ... or the feelings that haunt her for that tormented prince of darkness?

## A Shade of Blood Details

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Author : Bella Forrest

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## From Reader Review A Shade of Blood for online ebook

### Erin says

Brilliant follow-up in this addicting series!! A Shade of Blood is a gritty, sexy, emotion-ridden return to this captivating world of vampires, and I was hooked from start to finish as I devoured every word!

We rejoin Bella Forrest's story right where the first book left off, with Sofia facing the decision of staying with Derek at The Shade or returning back to her normal teenage life with Ben. My heart broke for Derek as she walked away from him, and I braced myself for what I knew would be an emotional aftermath on both sides.

**It was strange how I both loved and hated every moment that kiss lasted. I loved it because it hinted so much about what she felt for me, yet hated it because it was clearly a kiss goodbye. ~Derek LOC 251**

But nothing could have prepared me for the intense and often gut-wrenching downward spiral that Derek would subject himself to in the wake of his heartbreak. He and Sofia both were suffering as they tried to face a life without the one they had unwittingly fallen for, but a darkness was surfacing in Derek with the absence of his Sofia. The tender, patient vampire who'd won her heart became buried beneath the surface of something much more sinister, and it was so painful to see him become so lost. It was as if she was the only light of his existence, and when she left, the darkness just took over every corner of his world. The results were nothing short of gruesome and troubling as Derek reclaimed his role as the dark ruler, and I was terrified of what would be left for Sofia to return to.

As Derek struggled with his demons, Ben and Sofia faced the return to a normalcy that neither one of them could embrace. The extent of Ben's torture at Claudia's hands was revealed, and it became abundantly clear that he had been broken in a way that could never be repaired. Despite how numb he felt both inside and out, it was the love he had for Sofia that helped him move on. I loved this side of Ben that we get to see, because there was so much more depth to his character this time around and he definitely earned himself a place in my heart even though I'm always going to be a huge Derek fan! Sofia's heart is so torn, and truly the time she and Ben share was just beautiful.

**I had to push away thoughts of how much I missed Derek in order to let Ben in again. It was, after all, how Derek got to me in the first place - when I allowed myself to stop pining for Ben. ~Sofia LOC 744**

As much as we see an entirely different side of Derek, we also see a stronger, more determined side to Sofia surface. Through her torment, she begins to question her emotions and refuses to be a pawn in anyone's game, and I was cheering her on every time her claws came out. I can't wait to see just how pivotal she will be when the house of cards begins to fall!

The intensity between Sofia and Derek was amplified thanks to their emotions being so close to the surface, and every moment they shared together just had my pulse racing. The suspense was non-stop as secrets were revealed, and painful memories created a sense of foreboding that was maddening. My heart ached and my stomach was twisted in knots for virtually the entire story, and by the time the huge jaw-dropping twist came at the end I was desperate for more! It's once again going to be a torturous wait for the next book as I grow increasingly nervous about what lies ahead, but A Shade of Vampire has definitely become one of my favorite series!

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### C.L. Bevill says

I enjoyed the first one, which was a novella and featured a young woman kidnapped by vampires to be a kind of blood slave. However the second one I could not finish. I don't normally leave bad reviews, so I will say some positive stuff about the author. The writing is well done. I liked the chapters on the perspective changes. It went from the girl to the hero and even threw in the bad guy.

But sigh. Spoilers ho. This is the third book (not by this author) I've read this month that has a similar theme. Innocent girl meets bad boy. Bad boy becomes good. I get that. I do, but in this book the bad boy vampire sends the girl away for her own protection. Then he becomes ultra bad boy vampire and begins murdering, raping (yes, I said it), and another attempted rape. The author might argue that the prison cell scene wasn't really rape, but that's what I'm calling it. I'm also saying that innocent girl transforming the evil out of the pseudo protagonist is tricky at best. I do understand that the hero is just misunderstood and all he needs is a good girl. But this is supposed to be a young adult novel and the murdering/raping/attempted rape really icked me out.

Sorry. The heroine should be running for the hills. I won't be reading any more of this author. It's a shame because she has a nice style that I liked.

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### Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

I believe that I liked book two even more than I did book one. Book two, *A Shade of Blood*, starts right off where the first book left off. Ben and Sofia are being escorted to the port to leave the island of The Shade. And, right there, at the very beginning of the book, Bella Forrest got me, hook, line, and sinker, when Sofia and Derek share their first kiss, a passionate good bye kiss, and Derek utters the words, "Sofia, stay." My heart broke. Each chapter of this book is from a different person's POV which I really liked. I felt it really helped me to dig deeper into each character to know what motivates them to say and do the things they do. We really get to know Ben better in this book. I spent a lot of time switching back and forth between team Ben and team Derek. At times, I was even frustrated and a little angry with Derek. Even though he is the all feared Prince of The Shade, when Sofia leaves the island and he kind of goes "dark," it made him seem weak to me. That without Sofia there, he could do such despicable things. And it ends on a huge cliff hanger. I did not see that coming at all! I really did love this book and I can't wait for book three. Thank you Bella Forrest.

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### K.M. Montemayor says

4/5 stars

This series is oddly addicting.

It has some beautiful phrases, and other parts just don't work. But what is lacking in writing finesse, the author more than makes up for in plot and imagination.

And I have to give her major credit for this: *I'm a vampire, Sofia. The only reason I was trying to control my*

*impulse to kill Ashley after having fed on her was because she mattered to you.*

Thank you for finally admitting the true nature of a vampire! Asking a vampire not to suck a human's blood is like asking a snake not to strike.

So, like any good soap opera, I have to see what happens to Derek, Sofia, Ben and Vivienne. On to book 3!

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## **Jacqueline's Reads says**

### **4 stars because of Ben**

A Shade of Blood is the second book in the A Shade of Vampire series. This continues Sofia's and Derek's story. This also continues Sofia's and Ben's story. It wouldn't be a true YA paranormal romance without a love triangle right?

Derek lets Sofia go and we are all wondering what's going to happen next? I completely understand why Sofia wanted to leave, even though she had strong feelings for Derek, but I am not happy about it. I have no love for Ben because of the way he treated her on her birthday, but Ben is different now, he's jaded, guarded and wants to move forward and towards Sofia.

Ben's feelings for Sofia kind of comes to a surprise to me because I had no idea he felt that way, maybe he didn't see it until Derek showed interested in Sofia, but in my mind it's a little too late. Sofia struggles in her world and she wants to live a normal life, but she can't stop thinking about Derek.

I had a hard time with this one because I couldn't connect with Ben and there's a HUGE chunk of the book where Derek and Sofia do not interact. I guess you can say this is a Ben's book and if you are a fan of Ben, you will be pretty happy with it.

Back in the Shade Derek loses his light, Sofia and he slowly turns dark. This I enjoyed reading a lot because I love a dark hero. He goes way into the deep end and you kind of wonder if there is any redemption for him, because at some parts it's pretty dicey, but addictive to read. The best part is the last 40% where everything is heightened and all the crazy stuff happens.

Because of the last part of the book, I can't wait for the next one.

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## **Sandra says**

**Before i start, i have a very important message to Ben...**

**PLEASE**, someone do me a favor and kill that motherfu\*\*\*\*. The lightning will strike me in a minute. I can't even... **\*deep breaths\***. **Maybe after i calm down i'll tell you why i hate him so much.**

*A Shade of Blood* is the 2nd book in the *Shade of Vampire* series. I loved the 1st one, it was amazing! So obviously i was excited when i got a copy of the next book from the author (thanks Bella!). I really enjoyed it, BUT was it better from the previous one?

When Sofia Claremont was kidnapped to a sunless island, uncharted by any map and ruled by the most powerful vampire coven on the planet, she believed she'd forever be a captive of its dark ruler, Derek Novak.

Now, after months of surviving an endless night, the morning sun may soon rise again for Sofia. Something has possessed Derek's heart and he offers her a gift no human slave has ever been given in the history of his cursed island: escape.

**But will she be able to forget the horrors that steal her sleep away at night? ... or the feelings that haunt her for that tormented prince of darkness?**

There are a couple of reasons why i didn't give this book 5 stars.

**Number 1 - Sofia.**

I can't believe (!tiny spoiler warning!) that she actually left Derek after everything he's done for her. If she would have truly cared and loved him she wouldn't have left and for what? Ben?! Really? She was such an unthoughtful protagonist!

### **Number 2 - the 'surprise/twist'.**

There is a twist further into the book about Sofia's farther. It did not surprise me at all. I predicted it and therefor didn't like it.

### **Number 3 - the separation between Derek and Sofia.**

I don't know what it is about authors wanting to separate the main couples. It practically always happens, and i'm disappointed that Miss Forrest decided to take that path. It's not only boring but also annoying because you can't think of anything else but them getting back together.

### **Reasons why i hated Ben:**

He told Sofia to do things and that got on my nerves so much, like when he told her to join the (view spoiler). Thank god she had enough sense to tell him no. And i hated him mainly because he was in the way of Derek and Sofia being together, and he scr\*wed with her mind. Ben was talking sh\*t all the time and made Sofia question if she should come back to the Shade and if Derek could ever truly love her, i was like...

I would also improve Derek's behavior. Like, he turned a bit evil when Sofia went away, but when she (view spoiler) he magically turned good again. \*shaking head\*.

### **Overall**

*A Shade of Blood* was still a very good and interesting read. Derek was still amazing and i love him. It was a very good sequel to the series. There was some action and i was never bored in general.

I'm looking forwards to reading book 3! Can't wait to see what happens next :)

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## ? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

This continues right after the first book left off. Sofia has left the Shade with Ben and they attempt to return to "normal" life, finishing their last year of high school, and trying to move on. I mean, we know it's clearly not going to happen. So the first half seemed like a lot of filler and was kind of boring, since it was obvious what was going to happen. There's a tepid romance between Ben and Sofia, but again, we KNOW where things are going to end up, so why even go there?

Anyway, the second half was much better. There are some interesting things being set up.

One of my issues is that I like all the other characters more than the two leads. Sofia does nothing for me and Derek is just a jerk. Their romance is pretty sappy after they stop all the pining and angsting. I'm just very MEH about them.

I like Ben, Lucas, Vivienne, even Claudia the evil bitchy vampire is more entertaining. I totally saw the first twist coming about the (view spoiler). The last one I did not expect, but I knew Sofia's (view spoiler).

Overall, aside from the dragging first half of this book, the series so far reads like a pretty good soap opera. I'm intrigued enough to continue.

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## Hannah ?Reader in the Rough? says

### **DNF at thirty-something percent.**

*"As our mouths explored each other's, not a single fiber of my being was paying attention to Derek Novak. On that particular day, I was Ben's and I was his alone."*

DAMMIT.

**This series is a lemon.** I had eyebrows raised from the get go. The first book, the test drive, was okay. Yeah, I hate Ben. Yeah, lack of worldbuilding. But I took a sneak peek and read the first couple chapters of this book and thought "It could improve greatly". And it did.

### **And then it didn't.**

Dereks moments are great. He's an invaluable character. But I'm not going to read about a love triangle involving douchy Ben.

How can a vampire be so magnetic and then not be because Mr. Popular kissed her? WHAT?

I don't want Prom. I want the Shade. This needs more Shade.

Two stars for Derek. I'm sure he's great. But I can't do a 13 book angsty love triangle with Ben.

**Bye Ben.**

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**Ky says**

Wow, in this book we can appreciate how the number of pages doesn't build a good story line. This book is the most bland and boring that I have read in my life.

The plot doesn't make me feel anything, I hate all the characters but the worst thing is that I will keep reading it. It's not because of the plot (which doesn't exist, btw) but because I need to read something.

My hate for Derek is bigger now and Sofia keeps me a little interested in the book but I kind of hate her too.

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**Courtney says**

I don't plan to go into great detail about the storyline, because I'm a firm believer that a story can only be truly reviewed by a person's impression of the story. I think it would be a waste of time to go over the plot again...that's what the title page of the book is for.

Ok, I really don't like to say this/do this about books, but honestly? This was one of the worst books I've read in a while.

The first book in the series was good for what it was and opened the plot with a good storyline and interesting twists to a very widely used genre. But this one? Not so much.

I could look past the predictable plot and the over-dramatized teen-angst, but I could not handle the thoughts that were circulating in my head once I got to page 100. I don't like to spoil books, but a certain scene where the main protagonist practically assaults another female in front of the female protagonist and she just goes coco-for-his-copuffs after he stares into her eyes? NO! NO! I have major issues with that.

I will admit I'm probably harping a bit too harsh, but if you think that anyone, realistic or fictional, should ever think that witnessing/going through something of that nature and simply turning the other cheek and making something deplorable into something romantic is appropriate, than I refuse to be a part of it.

I'm not saying I've never read novels or series about living in an abusive relationship or surviving an assault, but when I know that young girls/teenagers are the targeted audience and this type of scene is written in a book with that kind of response, that's just where I have to put my foot down, delete the book off my Kindle app, and rant a little bit on Goodreads.

Again, these are just my thoughts, but I refuse to finish the rest of this book or the series. Nuff said.

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## Sylvia says

PLEASE, BELLA, I WANT SOME MORE! That ending has left my mouth hanging to the floor in shock! Whoa! What an amazing sequel and I am gob smacked. I love this world of vampires and hunters that Bella Forrest has created and found myself devouring this book with a fever. I stopped only occasionally to step back into the real world, but didn't last too long. The story was calling me to finish and that's what I did, and I am left enamoured and needing more! I need the next book, NOW!

The story continues exactly where it left off in book 1, with Sofia Claremont making the choice to leave The Shade, and Derek Novak, allowing her too. This goes against everything he's position stands for. As the Prince of the Shade, it is his duty to keep the secrets of the island and by allowing Sofia and Ben Hudson (her best friend) to leave, will bring nothing but great consequence to the Vampires he is sworn to protect. But, what choice does he really have? Fearful of his oldest brothers need for Sofia and making her his, he is doing what he must and protect the young women he has grown fond of. My heart ached for him and I was fearful of what would happen to Derek when Sofia left. And boy, oh boy, was I right. The dark, which lay deep within Derek for centuries, was beginning to consume him, once again. Slowly, his true nature was beginning to bring about his destruction and he was turning into the vampire leader he despised, yet could not run away from. He was vigilant, cruel and sadistic, yet I understood his desire to lead in this way. Although, I knew that deep down he was deeply wounded by Sofia choosing to leave and he did not know how to cope any other way but to succumb to the depths of darkness. Derek's downward spiral was heartbreakingly beautiful to read, yet disturbingly beautiful at the same time. Those torturous ones get me every time.

While Derek is delving deeper into his own abyss, Sofia and Ben are finally back home and trying to be "normal." Trying to move on from the events and their time on The Shade. And, this feat alone was not an easy one. Their relationship as best friends was strained and there was a divide that seemed to be growing bigger by the moment. Sofia couldn't get Derek out of her thoughts or her heart, and she struggled daily in resisting the urge to think of him. She also grew into this stronger and determined young woman, who refused to be anything else but who she wanted to be and be nobody's push over. I really loved her frailty and torment over Derek, yet her strength and resilience in finally sticking up for herself.

We also learnt that Ben suffered immensely at the hands of the sadistic Claudia, during his time at The Shade, to the point that he was completely numb on the inside, as well as on the outside. I really loved seeing this side of Ben and his developmental as a character. It is so critical and crucial to the story. He too is struggling to stay above water and he found himself needing to do something to breath air back into his relationship with Sofia, who was drifting off and away from him. He's determination to win back Sofia was relentless, yet he knew, deep down, that he may have lost her for good.

A Shade of Blood is not only a story about Vampire's and Hunter's, but it's about the constant struggle within. The need to follow your heart, yet lead with you head. The want of choosing what's right, instead of choosing what's right for right now. It's about understanding that no matter how desperate one is to bring about change in bettering themselves, but learning to cope with the demons within and accept them as part of your make. I absolutely love this series and it's definitely topping my favourites. Thank you Bella Forrest for writing such an dark and seductive story, but also for providing me with an ARC too. I seriously can't wait to the next instalment, especially after that nail biting twist at the end. Another mother load of a cliffhanger. EEEEEEPPPPPPP!!!

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## **Becca says**

It's not nice to end a book like that.

I am feeling a bit lazy so i am going to do a quick review tonight.

song choice, song choice.... "Do You Remember" Not Don't you remember by Adele, Do you remember by Ane Brun. and "If I didn't care" um originally i don't know who sings it, yeah sorry, but i know the Amy Adams and Lee Pace version.

Kay so, better than the last one because it really expanded on the plot which yay! cool, i was interested, i figured some stuff out, i am slightly confused right now and just a little peeved off at that cliffhanger ending. BECAUSE OH MY GOD.

the characters were better i suppose in this one. I don't know there has always been something missing for me in this series, i enjoy what i am reading, really i am, but i feel like we are just missing that one moment. that something? i don't even know. But i liked certain things about Sofia and actually Derek bothered me with his whole, i am a prince listen to me roar kind of thing.

in the end yes i will go on with this series, because i really do think that they are good reads. It just really, its me. this isn't some cheesy break up thing, really honest to god its all me. this is worth your time.

you can check out more indie fantasias at my blog, yeah i am not even going to be subtle about this. You can also check out my thoughts on the first book there as well, much more detailed as well. because this is not my normal type of review, but being lazy today. so here is the linky link:  
<http://thevioletourbookreviews.wordpress.com>

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## **Lana Mason says**

Ok, well, I wasn't going to read another one of these after the first one. I learned my lesson the first time, by gosh! However, upon reading reviews for the second, I saw a lot of "I loved the first book, hated the second", and that did make me curious. As for the rating... I know what I said. I said, "Oh, I'll put at least two stars if it's at least edited decently and doesn't make my eyes bleed with mistakes unless the content is THAT BAD." It's that bad.

As with the first one, I am reading the book while doing the review, and my reactions are the review. Why break a streak, right?

1% -- Here we go again, though it starts with Derek's POV this time, so at least that's different. Also, if your voice came out as a "husky, breathless whisper" that means you didn't talk since breathing is a requirement for talking.

Also, I'm going to interrupt here from snarky review to talk seriously about how damaging it is for men to be

portrayed as always on the verge of losing control when aroused. Seriously, guys can control it, and to say otherwise is saying that men are just beasts who can't control their emotions. They can. Stop it, writers. Just... stop.

2% -- WOW. Not only is it incredibly stupid for them to fall into instant twu luv (just add water!), but then it's compounded by the ridiculousness of them NOT TALKING ABOUT IT. "Hey, stay 'cause I love you and want to bone you." "I want to bone you too, thanks for telling me!"

3% -- Sofia knows what it's like to be encased in Jell-O?

4% -- The changing POV's really do nothing for the book. Absolutely nothing... save for making the chapters super short. Also, Sofia get pushed to the brink of insanity quite a lot by absolutely nothing terrifying.

5% -- Wait, WHAT? The witch on the island was able to diagnose her because she was a psychology major? Does she have her degree? Does she work as a therapist? Did she go to med school? Get her masters?

8% -- Is this... actual plot? \*gasp!\*

9% -- UGH, the plot disguised the TWU LUV for a moment. Ugh ugh ugh. Also, I prefer Derek as he is there. At least he's not hiding he's a dick.

10% -- Now we get Ben's POV too? Also, "Best friend is missing, HELLLLOOOOO HOTTIE!"

11% -- Holy exposition, Batman! ... also, nice graphic rape depiction there.

12% -- This is a YA book?! I've seen LESS horrifying descriptions in the literary adaption of Hostel. (Amazingly, this made the book more interesting to ME but this is wildly inappropriate for a YA book.)

13% -- You can totally afford to have him go after her, Derek. Who cares? She's gone. OH WAIT, TWU LUV I forgot.

15% -- Please, book, spare me the love triangle. That's all I ask. Just spare me the love triangle. I'll put up with the twu luv, and the stupid vampires, and the Mary Sue with sparkling brand new vajayjay action... just spare me the love triangle.

16% -- What the hell, book? Now we have to have Lucas's POV too?!?

17% -- Also, OF COURSE they're evil: they're smoking!

20% -- Ben, if you tell people the truth, they are going to lock you up in the nuthouse.

21% -- Ugh, god. I'm calling it now: Sofia is going to turn out to be a half-vampire or witch or something with the mysteriously missing father and all. Also, yeah, the kids ran away, the son has horrible scars on the, and they both act like they have PTSD... throw 'em back in school right away. They'll be fine.

22% -- Five and a half days to modernize this huge space, complete with flatscreen monitors, sound equipment, and recliners. Is there a Wal-Mart on this island? I mean, Wal-Marts are everywhere, so it's possible. And they replaced the roof with glass. In five and a half days. There has to be a Wal-Mart, or

maybe a Lowe's.

23% -- Did Sophia really just compare herself to characters in 1984? They were in a much better written book!

24% -- Ben knows what the word "pensive" means? Wow. And GROSS!! He mentally thinks how awesomely beautiful Sophia is, and then calls her dad a fool to leave her! Those sentence back to back equal gross incest. And six paragraphs in this chapter and I hate Ben. Yup. She's not an object, ass.

25% -- Well, if he can't feel anything he'll make a lousy quarterback, but a great lineman.

28% -- Sigh. Love triangle.

29% -- Ten thousand people living there... has to be a Wal-Mart on the island.

32% -- Of course, the darkness is inside Derek without Sophia. Of course it is. Did I expect anything else? Nope, not at all.

36% -- The times Derek healed Sophia with his blood it was instant, yet it took time with other people. I'm definitely leaning towards half-vampire.

39% -- Jeez, Ben and Sophia kiss once or twice, and then suddenly he's so handsy with her all the time. Ew.

40% -- Yeah, taking her around to all of the places where YOU have good memories isn't a good first date, Ben.

41% -- Let me get this straight... once a vampire tastes a victim, they are obsessed with that victim forever? That's... not a very good survival trait.

48% -- "Why are you here, vampire lady?" "Oh, you asked a question! No wonder why he's so enamored of you!"

49% -- Instead of manning up and facing the things he did to protect his "kind", Derek ASKED the witch to put him to sleep 'to escape'. What. A. Hero.

50% -- Gagging on the chess metaphors. One guess what Sophia was told she was!

52% -- Raping a prisoner. Awesome hero. Just awesome.

55% -- Yeah, ultimatums don't work, Ben. AND... you friendzoned yourself.

57% -- Sister gets kidnapped, Derek beats the hell out of the messenger. Isn't he just dreamy, girls? Gosh, golly darn I totally want a rapist guilty of aggravated assault as MY boyfriend!

58% -- OH, and now he's going to make SOPHIA pay by torturing the girls she befriended on the super secret vampire treehouse island. Wow, he's such a catch. AND he starts to rape another girl when Sophia walks in. I am so hot for him right now. Whew.

60% -- Oh yeah, forget what you saw, Sophia. Forget the attempted rape and assault, and the blood all over

Ashley, and how he threw you up against the wall (again) and was about to kill you. He didn't mean it, baby. He was just angry. Just tell everyone you walked into a door, kk?

61% -- "You never lost me." \*PUKE\* Not because of the sickly sweetness of it all--which is pretty sickening--but because he's an abusive twat and SHE FORGIVES HIM. NO NO NO NO NO.

62% -- They're bantering back and forth and kissing now? WHAT THE EVERLOVING FUCK, PEOPLE?!

I have to stop here and point out that this is CRAZY. Now, granted, some of the stuff was explicit for a YA novel, but I'm a horror writer and reader. I love horror. I love blood, guts, gore. Love, love, love it. But this... this right here, is turning my stomach, because it's portraying abuse and being with a psycho crazy ass vampire as being OK. It is NOT OK, not in any sense of any words I can think of. What is really disgusting is that it's being portrayed as OK ... FOR YOUNG WOMEN. Girls, let me tell you what: if you found someone you loved who was in the middle of first trying to MURDER and then TORTURE BY RAPE another girl, you would not go all "tee hee hee" and lay a kiss on him. If you did? Congratulations, battered woman syndrome! This is not something to be taken lightly. It's what's wrong with Twilight, The Hunger Games (Oh yes, I have a beef with the Hunger Games and Katniss being forced into a faux relationship with Peeta, but at least she was trying to save her own life there. Still not ok though), and especially 50 Shades of Grey. When I write horror, it's made clear that it's not OK. Of course it isn't! Any abusive situations I've read in horror novels it's made clear there as well that it's not OK.

This... THIS makes it seem, "Oh, as long as they're together, everything's puppies and rainbows and they were Meant to Be Together ForEver!" No. A thousand times no, I tell you. NO.

It makes me throw up in my mouth.

64% -- Sofia finds out that Derek was punishing Ashely because he wanted to punish her. Here's the quote from the book: "Unable to control my rage, I gave in to instinct and did the unthinkable. I gave him the most defiant glare I could manage." \*facepalm\*

65% -- Well, at least she calls bullshit on the "I couldn't control myself" defense.

66% -- K, so I'm imagining Ben meeting Superfly. It's far more amusing.

67% -- ... worldwide organization of highly trained vampire killers. Sigh.

68% -- LOLforever. Sophia's dad leads the organization. That means her mother was the crazy half vampire or whatever. XD

Also, I don't know how she can look at you that way either, Derek.

71% -- "Here! Read about my bloody history of killing tons of people!" "Oh, you're forgiven! Smoochies now!"

73% -- Sigh. Sophia the virgin being besmirched again. Tiresome. Really, really tiresome.

76% -- Wait wait wait... his heart beats? What kind of vampire is this??

78% -- Yeah, of course Sophia is forgiven by vampire slaves for ditching them on the island.

81% -- Honestly, I can't even poke fun at the book anymore. It's just depressing to read.

83% -- Wow, some author did research and realize that people need vitamin D to survive!

84% -- The vampires have a power plant! One mystery solved. It's not said how it's powered though... how the electricity is generated. Maybe a big ass human burning furnace? Maybe gerbils? We don't know.

88% -- "The woman that I love." Sigh. Big sigh. Double big sigh.

89% -- DEREK's obsessed with Sophia, Lucas? Pot, meet kettle!

93% -- Yeah, rapekisses too. Awesome. I just love our hero so very much. He's just a precious gem.

94% -- Oh so what, they had sex and we didn't even get to see it? I don't know if I should relieved or insulted.

95% -- Well, you know, I hope he used a condom with all those other girls she keeps thinking about him having sex with. Just because he's a vampire doesn't mean he can't pick up a disease even if it doesn't affect him.

96% -- We really needed to see him chew up half a sandwich and spit it out again. We REALLY needed to see that, did we, author? Really?

99% -- Hey, guess what? I was right about the mom. Big. Shocker.

That was even more painful than the first book. Run. Run away fast.

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### **Suzanne says**

Back on the beach at Cancun, the same place they were both taken from months ago, Sofia and Ben aren't ready to go home yet. And having missed it for so long, they find themselves trying to soak up as much sun as they can. Having been left with a large quantity of money, they book themselves into the villa they had been staying in previously. After a few days, they feel the time has come to call Ben's parents. When they arrive, they don't tell them where they were and when questioned by the police, they say they just ran away. They say nothing about where Ben got the scars all over his body from his torture at the hands of Claudia, and at Sofia's request, there's no mention of the vampires or The Shade.

Ben has a name and number for the hunters, given to him by a hunter who tried to save him on the island, but ended up being killed herself when they were caught. Knowing that his life will never be the same again, and having the need for vengeance and retribution, he plans to contact them. He tells Sofia that he'll give her some time, but that then, with or without her, he'll be making that call. He needs to take his revenge on the vampires, especially Claudia.

But Sofia can't seem to forget Derek and The Shade, and when Ben wants to become more than friends, something that she herself had wanted for a long time, she finds that she can't give herself wholly to him. Part of her still belongs to Derek.

And without Sofia there, the darkness is overtaking Derek. He's a completely different character than the Derek we met in A Shade of Vampire, and it was interesting seeing this other side to him. But it was also nice to see the effect that Sofia had on him when she returned, to find him in a compromising position with Ashley.

Lucas is not in this book too much, though we do get his POV a couple of times. He's on the run from Derek who will kill him for what he did to Sofia. But if he wasn't obsessed with her before, having tasted her blood, he can't stop thinking about her, and won't rest until she is his.

Things are getting tough in the Shade. Derek is struggling to keep everyone under control and try to keep Sofia happy at the same time. The vampires are not happy that Sofia, a human slave, is being put before them. But Sofia is not happy with the way things are currently done. She wants the humans who live in the Shade to be treated better and not treated like slaves or food which is exactly how the vampires see them. Sofia has learned a lot about how things are run in the Shade and has read it's history, and it doesn't sit well with her. There are going to be tough times ahead, and revelations throughout this books make for what should be a really interesting third book in this series.

I'm also looking forward to learning more about the prophecy made by Cora, the witch, over four hundred years ago, and what it means to Derek and Sofia, and to the Shade. Derek seems to be going to have quite the fight on his hands if he's going to manage to hold onto Sofia.

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### **Veronica Morfi says**

This book was awesome. It was perfect in so many ways.

A Shade of Blood picks right at the end of A Shade of Vampire. When I read the first book I was sure I knew how it ended, what decision Sofia made but then came this book and I realised I was wrong. Sofia decides to leave the Shade with Ben (why girl, why???). They go back to their old lives and try to be normal, even date (which I thought was a waste of time...) in the mean time Derek's life at the Shade goes through some major changes. Without Sofia there he turns into something darker, more dangerous even a little scary at times.

We finally get to learn more about the background of the characters and the Shade. I didn't realise it until I read this book, but in the first one we didn't get to learn anything. I didn't know about Sofia's parents and Ben's family, or even what happened for the Shade to be created. Especially with the Shade, we get to learn a lot of vital info about it. About the human living in it and how everything works. We even got to visit a lot of places, since once Sofia gets back (and of course she gets back) she visited the whole island.

We also learned more about Ben and what he went through during his time at the Shade with Claudia (by the way that vampire is craaaaazy). I did like him more and I do understand why he is doing the things he is but still I didn't want him and Sofia together. I still believe that he is going to turn sides by the end of the series.

This book had a lot of swoon worthy moments, lots of passion and so so many mind blowing revelations. I love how everything is grey. The Hunters are supposed to be the good guys (and they are doing good) but they are also just like the vampires they try to kill in so many ways. On the other hand the vampires, and especially Derek, are doing some horrible things, but still you can't help loving them. I loved that Sofia realised that too and she is fighting hard to make a change in the Shade. I know she will finally manage that.

So, all in all, I loved it. Can't wait for the next one, especially after the Epilogue. I mean, come on... Bella Forrest you just blew my mind.

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### **Amber says**

Another AMAZING story by Bella Forrest!!! I am completely blown away by this series. Still reeling in from my book high on this one. Just as its getting REALLY good, we are cut off til the next book left wanting so much more. A Shade of Blood was so much better than the first book in this series. Getting into the story and reading some of the history behind the characters made me leary at first as I hate when an author brings history in after a series has already been started, but let me tell you Bella Forrest made it work.

Now with Sofia and Ben back home and away from the captures they are both having problems of readjusting to their lives. Both for different completely reasons. As they are trying to rediscover what was taken from them, they are both only headed to one conclusion, nothing will ever be what it was. Suffering from nightmares they find comfort with each other until they realize they are both heading in different directions and are no longer on the same page as the other.

Derek has given in to the darkness, especially now that Sofia is no longer there to help him see the hope she believes in. Derek has lost just about all control, his kingdom is falling apart and all because of one person.

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### **Chrystal says**

Ughhhhhh this series is like a guilty pleasure, but without (enough of) the pleasure part. I am truly embarrassed for reading this. It's a less realistic/believable version of the Twilight series with the worst character development ever. I'm so annoyed because this whole "fated to love each other" bullshit even when the guy is literally the worst person ever is the reason why young girls don't know when they're in abusive relationships. It talks about rape in a cavalier manner. It has the bare bones of something that should be fun, but then veers into these weird directions that just make me feel guilty for continuing. But it's kind of addictive. This series is like a drug - I want to know more but every time I finish reading I feel shittier and shittier and wish I could stop but it feels so good for the moment and then I look at my life and my choices and I hate myself. So. Two stars for the addictive nature, and not for quality.

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### **Ari Reavis says**

What the hell was that ending? OMG, This book threw some major twists my way. On to book 3.

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### **Christina (Ensconced in Lit) says**

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

A Shade of Blood by Bella Forrest takes place right after the events in A Shade of Vampire. We are

immediately reintroduced to the main characters Sofia, Derek, the vampire she loves, and Ben, the best friend that has been tortured by other vampires. Derek has agreed to let them leave the Shade, but this leads to his own self destruction. Sofia and Ben are forever altered by their experiences, although Sofia still maintains an odd loyalty to Derek and the Shade, while Ben is unsurprisingly determined to bring the Shade down. What happens next will forever change all of their lives.

I had an extremely difficult time rating this book. In a lot of ways, the writing and plotting of this second installment is stronger than the first. Forrest is definitely getting more honed in her writing skills. The pacing is there and I read from cover to cover very quickly. It's a nicer length than the first book, and gives us a lot more back story on the history of Derek, the Shade, and its inhabitants. Not to mention, there are some really wonderful twists that I was not expecting, although, I have to admit, I don't really understand them. Perhaps the final installment will be more revealing.

Now we come to my dilemma. There will be some mild spoilers. While I really liked the characters in the first novel, I now have issues with all of them. Derek has become completely despicable -- can we really blame everything he's done on the fact that he's a vampire? And I can only explain Sofia's state as Stockholm's syndrome, where she has this bizarre loyalty to her kidnapper. I actually understand and empathize with Ben's mindset more than anyone else's, but he is so incredibly angry to the point of violence, that it's hard to like him. Not to mention, he's always been a douche bag to Sofia and only after she likes someone else does he realize he better stop messing around and possibly make his move. Lastly, we come to Vivienne, Derek's sister, who seems like this malicious and spoiled Princess in the first book, but suddenly apparently becomes this tragic and sympathetic character? It just felt like such a 180 that I wasn't able to make this transition.

Overall, a fast paced and well written follow up to A Shade of Vampire, but I had a lot of trouble with the character development.

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### **Jamie (The Kansan Reader) says**

My edition: Kindle

Pages: 340

Series: A Shade of Vampire #2

Rating: 3 stars

Review: I read the first book about June or July of last year. I have been waiting for a while to read this book. Well when I saw this was on kindle unlimited I was excited. When I went to get it, Amazon told me I already bought it. So I look through my kindle didn't find it on my downloads so I had to open cloud and I found it.

To say I was a little annoyed that I had this and didn't know about it, would be a major understatement. I've been waiting to read this and I had the damn thing the whole time and didn't know it. **Brain, you fail majorly.** Plus I found out that this series has 25, yeah that's right 25 books. I'm only on number two. I have a long ways to go.

So update from the first book. Sofia and her best friend Ben (whom she is in love with) are kidnapped by vampires and taken to a sunless island called The Shade. Well she thought she was going to be a captive for the rest of her life to the powerful prince Derek. At the end of the last book Derek helps her and Ben escape to go back home.

Now this book:

The book starts off where the first one ends. Derek helps Sofia and Ben escape out of the Shade. Sofia and Ben are back home. They won't tell anyone where they had been. Ben wants revenge on The Shade. Unlike Sofia, his captor was evil and cruel.

At first, I found myself just wanting to read Ben and Sofia's P.O.V. instead of everyone else. Derek's, I started to skim through. He was boring. I wanted to know what was going on with Sofia and Ben. Sofia was no longer in love with Ben but we do find out that Ben is in love with Sofia. He always has been. Only now he is getting the consequences of treating her like crap. She let Derek in and now he just wants her back.

Sofia has been having nightmares but something has always been in each one. A woman's voice "*The darkness is coming.*" Sofia doesn't know what to make of this. Ben wants her to join him with joining the hunters and taking revenge.

Derek let himself turn almost cruel. He didn't want anything to remind him of his humanity. He almost killed a girl until Sofia shows back up in the Shade.

*Even lionesses fear the king of the pride.*

Now towards the end of the book I was finally interested in what was going on in other P.O.V.s. Mostly Ben's and Lucas's because well both of their P.O.V.s contain the plot twists. Yep, two plot twists. If it wasn't for the plot twists this book wouldn't have gotten a high rating.

There was one major factor that was also dragging the rating down. The one thing I despise in YA books and that is:

### **A LOVE TRIANGLE!!!**

Why mess up potential in a book and ruin it with a love triangle. I was to the point of DNFing but I decided that I was going to get through this no matter what. I'm glad I did because of those plot twists. Now another I don't like that this book did was a cliff hanger. Not only a cliff hanger but a cliff hanger right after the second plot twist. What in the blue balls man???

So I am going to read the third book mostly for Ben and Lucas. What can I say, I like the asshole guys more than Derek.

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