



A NOVEL

ROBERT
TOMOGUCHI

The Scribbled Victims

Robert Tomoguchi

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"In this supernaturally imbued novel, a centuries-old vampire develops a rapport with a terminally ill girl who has the ability to see the evil in people... A traditional vampire tale with an emphatic emotional core." - Kirkus Reviews

Is immortality ever a gift of love?

Expecting to spend eternity with the vampire who made her, Yelena Solodnikova finds herself alone and brokenhearted when he disappears. To make things more difficult, Yelena has gone against the nature of her vampiric race by developing a conscience and feels guilty for the mortals she kills each night.

A chance encounter with twelve-year-old Orly Bialek changes everything for Yelena, as Orly has a supernatural gift. Orly is able to scribble portraits of people, revealing the evil deeds they've committed. With Orly's ability to identify predators of all sorts—murderers, rapists, drug dealers—roaming Los Angeles, she is able to provide Yelena a way to feed guiltlessly.

The pair bonds quickly, and this begins to heal Yelena's broken heart while allowing Orly, who has lived in a string of foster homes, to feel loved for the first time. It's the perfect symbiotic relationship, except Orly is rapidly dying of leukemia.

If Yelena allows Orly to die, she will lose the daughter she has come to love as well as the guilt-free meals she's grown accustomed to. But if Yelena saves Orly's life by turning her into a vampire she will doom Orly to an eternity devoid of true romantic love—something vital to vampires—as Orly will always appear untouchable, forever trapped in the body of a child.

Will Yelena and Orly find the balance between life and death, love and loss?

The Scribbled Victims is the first installment of The Black Wax Vampire Trilogy. Be on the lookout for the sequel, Scribbling the Eternal.

The Scribbled Victims Details

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Author : Robert Tomoguchi

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From Reader Review The Scribbled Victims for online ebook

Ramon says

I absolutely loved this book and his depiction of the damned.

I'm now eagerly awaiting the second book hoping to discover more of the world that Robert Tomoguchi led me through!

This book had all the elements of a great novel. It wasn't cliché and well thought out. As a fan of the dark and strange the characters made me care for them but still appreciated that they were monsters.

Maile says

I don't often read vampire novels. I cannot remember the last vampire story I read where the characters did not sparkle. So when I was given this book as a gift, I was wary.

However, I often read stories driven by relationships and strong characterization, and that was very much the case with *The Scribbled Victims*. At its core, this is a story about love and the connections we make in life.

For lovers of the vampire genre, there is decadence and sex, while those who crave a character driven piece will be drawn in by Yelena, Orly, and Berthold.

This book is a reminder to me that sometimes it's worth it to branch out and step away from your comfort zone.

Taylor Watkins says

Author Robert Tomoguchi sent me a .mobi file of *The Scribbled Victims* in exchange for an honest review, and because it's the first of its kind that I've reviewed on Bitty Book Nook, I'm excited to say that I enjoyed it! The novel was a twisted tale of empathy, comedy, and self-discovery, and I was extremely pleased with it, particularly because I think it's hard to nail vampire novels.

See my full review complete with a list of pros and cons at my book review blog, Bitty Book Nook:
<http://bittybooknook.blogspot.com/201...>

The Scribbled Victims is a classic vampire novel with a modern spin on it, and I found it to be incredibly well-told! Vampire fans will not want to miss out on this read! Mr. Tomoguchi, thank you for giving me the opportunity to review your work! I look forward to seeing more from you in the future!

N.M. McGregor says

A page turner

I loved scribbled victims. When I bought this book, I was expecting a traditional vampire novel. I love the idea that a seer can be used by a vampire to provide primarily evil people as dinner. Two strong female lead characters made this book engaging right from the first chapter. I hope he turns this novel into a series.

Alberta McMorris says

Set in the glitzy world of L.A. art openings, V.I.P rooms and to-die-for houses in the Hollywood hills, *The Scribbled Victims* rips open the skin to reveal the tortured heart of a monster. Yelena Solodnikova; beautiful, stylish, and deadly, is loved by a man she knows she will eventually kill, and is eternally haunted by the memory of the man who made her what she is- a vampire. But Yelena is no longer free to spend eternity feeding off humans with her best friend, Hisato and his bevy of beautiful huntresses/lovers. Yelena has become a victim of a crippling guilt. Once Yelena began to see the humanity in those who she must kill to survive, she turned her killer instincts upon herself; refusing to feed, letting herself become weak, and vulnerable. It is through an unexpected act of restraint and kindness that she winds up meeting 12-year-old Orly Bialek; a cancer patient with the ability to see the good or evil in anyone she draws. Orly's drawings are black scribbles bearing no resemblance to the subjects but revealing to Orly the worst thing that these people have done. Yelena realizes that through Orly and her scribbles, she can feed without guilt; killing only those who victimize others (a selective menu of rapists, murderers and pedophiles) but there is another side to this arrangement. There is the guilt over what she is making the young girl take part in; selecting victims to be killed. Yelena's newfound bond with Orly is bewildering to Hisato, who believes that it goes against their very nature as vampires to care about humans. Yelena finds herself compelled to bring the young Orly home from the hospital to spend her remaining days with "family" and has to make a difficult choice when it appears that Orly's cancer will soon take her.

The Scribbled Victims reads like a good Elmore Leonard novel with equal parts *True Grit* & *Leon The Professional* thrown into the mix.

Kathryn Packingham says

This was a completely new take on Vampires and I loved it! The only thing was it wasn't long enough! The relationship between Yelena and Orly is very special. Yelena is a vampire plagued by guilt for what she must do in order to survive. She is also in mourning for her maker and made Marcel who died after a century together. Enter Orly, a 12 year old seer who can see other's evil inside. This poses a great benefit to Yelena and her guilt problem. And Yelena poses as the mother figure Orly never had. It is truly a great and different story that I really enjoyed.

The Characters were complete and well rounded. I enjoyed the LA nightlife and gallery scene that Yelena used to fill her dad life before Orly came into it. The world building was great as well. You really felt as if you were pulled into the story. Dark humor laced the entire novel thanks in large part to Yelena's best friend Hisato. A beautiful romantic theme was traced through because of Berthold and his love not only for Yelena but also his love for Orly.

I would recommend to anyone who enjoyed *Vampire Diaries* and the angst that came with it, *Dexter* and the vigilante justice. Or the Moody and existentialism felt in *Interview with a Vampire*. I can not wait to see where Tomoguchi takes these characters next!

Soleil says

The story was quite interesting, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Looking forward to the next installment.

One thing, the POV switch from third to first (with a brief second thrown in there, as well) was slightly jarring.

Patty says

Best tortured Vampire since Louis in "Interview with the Vampire"

If this is not made into a movie soon. I will be shocked.

The name of the book somehow makes it sound like a child's book. It is anything but childish. It is just the way vampires should be. Brutal and beautiful and Sexy. But, strangely also full of love .

S.L. Baron says

I feel like this book is exactly what the vampire genre needs to get back to--horror, dark humor, love, and beautiful creatures of the night. I thought this book was refreshing in a world of vampire/werewolf love triangles and starry-eyed teenage vampires. The love explored is that of a mother and daughter instead of the usual romantic relationship.

In the beginning, we meet Yelena, a vampire struggling with overwhelming guilt because of what she must do to survive and mourning her lost love, her maker Marcel. She fills her life with trips to her psychiatrist, gallery openings, and nightclubs and parties with her best friend, Hisato, but rarely feeds because her conscience plagues her.

Into Yelena's life comes Orly, a young orphan girl who can see the evil in people through her scribbled drawings. The vampire sees the potential this brings her: She can feed without feeling the guilt that stops her. Orly also sees the potential in Yelena to be her mother. Their biggest issue, however, is that Orly is dying of leukemia. They must see what they bring to each others' lives and decide if each can live with what it means.

All the characters are written well and interesting to me. Yelena intrigued me from the start; one could feel her despair and need for love, though she felt as if she didn't deserve it. Orly's youth, outlook on her scribbles, her discoveries, and what it means to be a vampire made her personality strong. Hisato hooked me with his dark humor, which I feel a lot of authors neglect--even in the darkest moments, jokes are made and people laugh. Finally, Berthold was beautiful in his undying love and devotion to Yelena and then Orly.

I look forward to the next book and seeing where Orly's immortal journey brings her.

Tiffany Arnold says

The Scribbled Victims is not your normal vampire story, its so much deeper than that. Besides the main

character (Orly) is a orphan with cancer who scribbles peoples secrets. The secrets she can see is the secret lives people live as pedophiles, murders, abusers, and hateful people. Orly is not going to make it, no one wants to tell her that, but because of her gift she knows the truth. With no family to keep her company or be by her side she finds herself in the cafeteria late at night scribbling people she encounters. Thats when Yelena comes in, she scribbles Yelena and is frightened. Orly believes that Yelena wants to kill her, but Yelena is a vampire with a conscience.

Read more on my website Thursday May 31st on tiffanymarnold.com

Courtney McDaniel says

Get ready for an Ann Rice-esq novel. A vampire, Yelena, torture by a humane trait finds a child, Orly, that could help end her guilt from feeding on humans. The only problem. The child is dying of cancer and Yelena must make a choice to turn her and make her into ir monster or let her die.

I really enjoyed this. With the amount of blood and the dirty side of humanity there is always this child like innocences.

Helen Power says

Yelena Solodnikova isn't the only vampire in Los Angeles, but she feels alone. Not only has she lost her mate, Marcel, whom she lived with for over a century, but she is the only vampire with a conscience. Every time she kills a human, she feels overwhelming guilt, which is something other vampires cannot understand. When Yelena meets Orly, a twelve-year-old who draws “scribbles” of people that allow her to see all their secrets, Yelena has found a way to identify people worthy of being her victims. Rapists. Wife-beaters. Murderers. Yelena now has a way to feed without guilt, and she grows to love Orly as her own daughter. But Orly is dying from leukemia, and Yelena is at risk of losing everything... again.

Atmospheric and moody, this book is for fans of the deep existential and morality themes that are associated with immortality in books like *Interview with the Vampire*. The vampires in *The Scribbled Victims* don't sparkle. Far from it. This is a dark book with dark themes, reminiscent of Jeff Lindsay's *Dexter* series. However, the book never gets too twisted, and it skirts along the line without ever crossing it. There's quite a bit of black humour (isn't that the best kind?) which lightens the tone when it gets too heavy.

One thing I love to see in books and movies—any book or movie regardless of the genre—is the exploration of non-romantic female-female relationships. I'm always on the hunt for a good genre-story (horror, mystery, fantasy, sci fi—anything that isn't primarily “literary”) that explores a sister-sister relationship or a mother-daughter relationship. This book delivers on this front – by focusing on the evolution of the relationship between Yelena and Orly—a surrogate mother and daughter pair. However, I did find that Yelena grew to love Orly a little too quickly. I would have liked to have seen them interact a little more before she actually started to view her as her own daughter. Perhaps nightly visits for a week? However, motherly love is unconditional, and Yelena was lacking in any kind of love, so I understand why she grew attached to Orly so quickly. Orly herself was desperate for a mother figure, so I don't question why she viewed Yelena as her mother almost instantaneously.

Spoilers ahead! (view spoiler)

This book is a perfect read for a hot summer night. Tomoguchi develops a dark atmosphere and tension that builds throughout the story. I think *The Scribbled Victims* would be perfect as a standalone, but I'm eager to see what happens in the future installments in this series.

I received a copy of this book from the author and chose to provide an honest review. This does not impact the contents of the review.

Patricia L Karner says

A tale of two halves

I really liked the first half of this book. The storyline of the scribbled visions Orly creates and the resulting relationship with a vampire was fun and intriguing. Once Yelena turns Orly into a vampire the story lost its appeal.

Kristy King says

Amazing novel. Suspenseful and entertaining. I definitely recommend this novel!

Kate says

It has taken me entirely too long to write a review for this book, and the only apology I can offer to the author is that I wanted to be able to sit down and write a REAL review for this book, not a quick little "LOVED IT, VAMPIRES 4 LIFE!"

I loved this book. Loved it. The story, the style, everything. If you're a fan of "real" vampires (assuming that we're talking about the kind that drain little children without batting an eye), you'll probably really enjoy it too.

The author has provided an excellent description of the plot, so I'm not going to repeat that. Instead I offer my review, with a warning that there may be minor spoilers after this point.

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In the right hands, maybe those of an indie filmmaker unencumbered by Hollywood's love for sparkly vampires, this book could be a movie. Preferably with the author's involvement, because it would be a shame to not capture the unique writing style Robert Tomoguchi has...this book tilts you slightly off-kilter from the very first page...who is our narrator? How could they possibly see what they see and know what they know? On the surface, we have the lovely Yelena who is seeing a psychiatrist (yes, a real human one) to help her cope with the crippling guilt that guts her when she does exactly what vampires do...drink the blood of the living so that she, too, may continue to live. Should we shame Yelena for practicing self-preservation? I don't

think so. And so we're lulled into sympathy for her...just in time for things to twist decidedly into the dark zone.

"Yelena came up for air with blood streaming down her chin and blood tears slipping from her eyes. But her tears didn't fall because their relationship was now over. They didn't even fall because Andre was now dead. They fell because she had finally killed him like she always knew she would." Yes, that would be her boyfriend, a perfect 10 who ~~is~~ was crazy about her. *"She wanted again to feel herself cry for killing Andre, for she knew him to have a good heart, a heart that loved her very much, but she couldn't help what she was no matter how long or how hard she fought it."*

Oh Orly...you're such a brat, but it would be strange if you weren't, wouldn't it? I can't wait to see where her path leads us, and the author has given us so many hints, I'm not even sure which I want to see first. I also would love to see if we get a deeper peek into the history and nature of her "scribbles," especially now that they're bionic-vision scribbles.

More Berthold, please! As strange as it sounds (since he was an attorney-slash-body-hider), I feel like he was the most honest, kind and pure character in the book.

The writing style may not be your cup of tea initially, but stay with it, it ends up being perfect for this book. I would describe it as slightly detached, wry at times but honest, and the exact right amount of sparse. It's very matter-of-fact about the violence described within, which almost makes you feel like one of the vampires as they (well, specifically Hisato) dismember the evening's entertainment/meal while trying not to get a favorite shirt stained. I'm not sure I would have enjoyed the book as much if it HADN'T had that unemotional distance from some of what occurs.

Yelena, you've broken my heart. I can't wait for the next part of this gorgeous, shocking, oh-so-bloody tale, and there are oh-so-many things for the author to explore!
