



On the Edge of Humanity

S.B. Alexander

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Sixteen-year-old Jo Mason is lost in a world where traipsing from one foster home to another is normal. She hates her life, she hates school and on most days, she hates living. If it weren't for her twin brother Sam, she may already be dead.

Her normal world shifts one hundred and eighty degrees when she discovers her own blood tastes like candy and her eyes change colors like a mood ring. On top of that, her eyesight seems to be failing when she spies an otherworldly man sporting bloodstained canines trying to strangle a cop. The developments are shrouded when Sam goes missing between Anger Management class and History class.

She's called to the principal's office to meet Lieutenant Webb London, a Navy SEAL who is part of a secret team of natural-born vampires. His mission is to protect the twins from an evil cartel, but he's too late. With Jo now under his protection, his team searches for Sam.

However, finding and rescuing Sam from the evil cartel may be the easy part. Jo learns she carries a dormant vampire gene that, if activated, could save him. As her normal world fades even more, pushing her closer to the edge of humanity, Jo must decide if her human life is more important than her twin brother.

With time as her enemy, she struggles to make a life-changing decision for both her and Sam.

On the Edge of Humanity Details

Date : Published December 28th 2012

ISBN :

Author : S.B. Alexander

Format : Kindle Edition 325 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Young Adult, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review On the Edge of Humanity for online ebook

Kim Martin says

This young adult paranormal read was a great first novel for S.B. Alexander. It was well written, action packed and I found Jo and Sam very likable and relating to them. S.B. did a great job with the vampire-military aspect of the story and I will look forward to her second book coming out soon.

Jasmyne Vela says

I liked the overall plot of the book. I how do not care for Jo. To me she is a very whiney and fickle girl. I know she is only 16 but really?! I was finding it hard to want to finish this story with the way that she is.

Julie Jaret says

I've read tons of vampire books over the years, ever since the Anne Rice days. I thought I'd seen every possible configuration of vampire abilities and appearance, but I was wrong. Ms. Alexander added just enough of a unique twist to typical vampire convention to make her story world fresh, without heaping all kinds of unnecessary crazy on top. I don't usually read YA and it was a pleasant surprise to find myself truly engaged and invested in the characters. I will definitely read the next book in this series.

Cassidie says

I received an ARC copy via Book Blogging in exchange of an honest review.

Jo Mason is a sixteen year old orphan who is constantly pilgriming from foster parents to foster parents until she ends up the worst one of all. They are cruel and in the end she gets put in to hospital where she witnesses something that changes her life. From that moment on she has to flee, to run and while doing so, she discovers secrets of herself, her real family and of the existence of vampires.

Actually the first few pages were great. I thought it was going to be nice to read it. The plot was intriguing, the style was not bad, but on the very last page of the first chapter things started to become awry. Still I though "Okay, no problem, nothing is perfect." ~~I'm such an optimistic.~~ ~~*rolls eyes*~~ Unfortunately, I was wrong.

The story started to take a bend in the direction of illogical, inconsequential and even a teeny tiniely ludicrous. Let me explain this latter. It was probably meant to be simply dramatic, but it was overdone and came out being a bit ridiculous. Here are a few sentences that didn't really work out for me for the above mentioned reason so that you know what I mean:

MINOR SPOILERS AHEAD! IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO KNOW SOME SENTENCES OF THE BOOK
JUMP TO THE END OF THE SPOILER!

"Wait." I scurried over to the table, grabbed the cop's card and shoved it into my pocket. I didn't know if I would need it, but if anything, I could contact him later to make sure he was okay." ~~All this while they were escaping from the hospital. If I were her I wouldn't call the cop, who is obliged to take me to back to an orphanage, once I hate to be at foster homes.~~

"As I admired the sexy curves of the car, my gaze landed on the license plate that read Case-96. I looked up and the blue sign above stated the car belonged to Dr. Leroy Case. I wanted to laugh. To me, Dr. Case didn't look like a Leroy; he looked more like a nervous Nelly." (Still escaping.)

END OF SPOILER

Apart from these wrongs there were also contradictions, such as it changed every minute whether she liked a certain person or not and what she knew or not. Though it could go with inconsequential, I imagine.

Another thing that didn't work out well for me was the unceasing hatred and shouting and some overused profanity. No, there wasn't too much and it wasn't obscene, nevertheless if I get to hear 'as*hole' once more I run out of this world.

ON THE OTHER HAND, it's too bad because the plot wouldn't have been bad. Nay! It was actually pretty intriguing and suspenseful despite the fact that sometimes I felt that all the stupid vampire myths were stuffed into it.

Britt says

On the Edge of Humanity is a paranormal young adult fictional that displays all the typical growing pains of being a teenager but with a twist. Alexander brings tons of twists and turns with the many characters involved. The main character, Jo is a growing teen who happens to be a twin. Among normal teen issues such a puberty, she has abandonment issues as well as authority issues. I was surprised and pleasantly happy that Alexander stayed away from the "Woe is Me" stereotypical plot that is normal found with young adult novels. Jo's character evolves in more ways than one.

Alexander does an excellent job in giving the reader real drama, action, and hormones in *On the Edge of Humanity*. How can you go wrong bring vampires and navy seals together? The plot will never get boring that's for sure. I will definitely be reading Book 2 of these series.

Sadie Forsythe says

I have to be honest. Even though I can't really fault the writing of this book I didn't like it. I lost count of how many aspects of it I just personally didn't like. That's not to say others wouldn't, or that it isn't actually a good book, but I didn't like it. Lets start and I'll explain why.

First off, given the series title, *Vampier SEALs*, I was expecting at least a little vampire/military badassness. I read the description and knew that wasn't going to be the main focus, but I expected some. There wasn't any. This is a YA book about one scared little girl's attempt come to terms with her situation. Major disappointment right there.

Next, Jo simply didn't DO anything of substance. She asked a lot of ineffectual questions, whined, and vomited a lot. That's about it. The realm of action was left entirely to the males. Even Ben, the token human, feeble as his attempts might have been, came out fighting. Jo just stood around and waited to be told what to do. This extended even as far as her own feelings. As an example, when she showed any anger toward her father he responded as such: "I lost both of you once and I don't want to screw this up again. I have a chance to get to know my daughter and possibly my son. So call me selfish if you want to, but don't ever, ever disrespect me again." However, when Sam woke up equally as pissed off at dear old dad he was allowed to have a fist fight with him. People actually stood back and let them hash it out.

Sam was allowed expression and possession of his own emotions. Like a child, Jo was chastised or physically restrained anytime she expressed anything but compliance. This paternalistic infantilization was further enhanced by the constant act of putting a finger under her chin to force her to look up at someone. I think every male character in the book did it to her at least once. Everyone of them apparently has more control over where she looks than she does. I wanted to vomit myself.

I mentioned ineffectual questions. Jo asked questions constantly, good ones too a lot of times. But was almost never answered. Yea, I get it. She was dealing with a top secret organisation so some things would remain secretive, but I got seriously sick of being denied information. Because, of course, as a reader I was left without the information just as often as Jo was. (As a side note, Sam got all of his answers almost without having to ask and Ben seemed to often have things explained to him.) On the flip side, Jo also constantly asked herself questions along the lines of, 'How did my life get here?' There were so many of them I wanted to scream. Add the rhetorical questions, which are of course unanswered, to the ones the SEALs didn't answer and you probably have half the book right there. It didn't leave me feeling particularly satisfied.

Then there is the fact that the book started with an attempted rape. I wasn't yet invested enough in the book to sit comfortably through that. I obviously made it through, but barely. It seemed to be a running theme that Jo attracted creeps and that Sam was constantly having to protect her from them. (Notice the continued helpless theme there?) But Jo somehow managed to hang tenaciously to her "I'm ugly" mantra, even in the face of evidence to the contrary.

So to conclude, I disliked the book. I didn't enjoy it, but those things that irked me so badly are almost all

personal preference kind of things. I hate seeing female characters patronised. It almost always rubs me the wrong way. That may not be the case for someone else, so I'll still give the book three stars.

Jenny says

I thought it was great! I started reading it and couldn't put it down! I haven't read the second one, on the edge of eternity, and I know the author started writing the third! I can't wait to read them!

Kayleigh henderson says

Amazing

This is the first of the series and I can read this series over and over. The characters are easy to love and the story line is amazing. Looking forward to see how it progresses.

Lissa says

This story isn't like most of the vampire teen fiction out there. It's an action-packed debut of teens and vampires, and I found the military aspect intriguing, exciting and original. I loved the relationship between Jo and her brother Sam, and thought this really held the story together as its beating heart. The uneasiness between Jo and her estranged father, as well as her coming to terms with choosing whether or not to become part of the vampire world, was also interesting and rounded out the book.

The author handles plot and action well – I found myself very absorbed at times, the pace didn't really flag, and I thought it bridged the transition from teen life to a dark, new world quite naturally – and thankfully balanced this with great touches of teen humour.

There are also enough little plot details that fans of the genre will enjoy and pick up on to wonder about in terms of future books, but I was impressed that this book felt complete enough in itself. I'm certainly interested in hearing what happens next!

Michelle says

loved it. hope the story continues Soon!!

Sally Hannoush says

I really liked this book and look forward to the second one in the series. There is a second one right? I thought this was a great set up as well as a failed set up as to what will come. I can't wait to learn more about vampire SEALs and what it is they do. I want to know more about Webb and Jo's spark. What will happen to Ben? What will vampire school be like? What powers does Jo and Sam have now? OK, this isn't much of a review, but I liked it enough to question all these things and continue on their adventure.

Elizabeth says

Very good read. The author held my attention through the whole story. The only thing that annoys me about suspense is that no one says what their motives are till the end of the story but that's the whole purpose of the book. Anyways can't wait to read the sequel On The Edge of Eternity.

Lisa Petty says

To be honest, I am usually not into vampire stories. I usually read biographies or realistic fiction, but On the Edge of Humanity was so realistic that it held my attention from beginning to end.

The story takes place in a regular, New England town, which makes the story believable. S.B. Alexander catches the reader's attention with well-rounded characters. Right from the first page, I wanted to know what would happen to Jo and Sam, and even their good friend Ben. The characters were presented as average American teenagers, although Jo and Sam did not have a regular family. We soon learn that they are NOT regular teens.

I would recommend On the Edge of Humanity to people of all ages. It's a great book for readers of all genres, too. Whether you like action, suspense, or biographies, you will love this book.

Joyffree says

A suspenseful and engaging YA paranormal read.

I enjoyed the unique twist Alexander gave the vampire race

Great job of character and scene building, with plenty of suspense and action -

The three main characters, are pretty spot on for teens - with their quirks and personalities one minute they seem sane and lovable the next you want to strangle them.

I say three because, besides the twins, I also feel their best friend plays a major role in this opening book, I also believe he will be important in the next book and a catalyst for future "hiccups "

My problem with the story -

I was left with 1001 questions and no answers at the end!

Since this is book one in the series and for that reason only,

?, I will be patient ... until book 2, then someone better start talking!

Kaiti Stewart says

This wasn't the best vampire story I've every read, but it was the most creative. I would have never thought you could combine the military and vampires but S.B. Alexander proved me wrong. I thought there was a good story line, but the story seemed to drag on. I admit to skipping through pages just to get to the point. Overall the story was alright I would've liked a little bit of romance between Jo and Webb.

