



Blood Lust

Zoe Winters

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Blood Lust: The Preternaturals, Book 1

This is an anthology of: Kept, Claimed, and Mated.

KEPT:

... The enemy of my enemy is my lover. Is that how it goes?

No one should have to be on the run from their family. Family is who you can trust, right? Dark magic users are the ones on the don't trust list. Yet, when Greta learns the werecat tribe plans to sacrifice her on the full moon to steal her potent magical blood, she ditches common sense in favor of running to the one man who can protect her. Will Dayne kill her as he has so many others of her kind, or is his grudge against her family strong enough to save her?

CLAIMED:

... Vampires claiming amnesiacs is the new black.

Anthony is cold, ruthless, undead, and hard to like. Yet, all it takes is one human with amnesia, to soften his heart. Ever since being bitten, Charlotte hasn't been the same. More than anything, he wants to return to a time when she saw him for the man he is, instead of the monster she's discovered. A time before she feared him.

In the midst of a power struggle for vampire king, it soon becomes clear that the only way to protect a fragile human in his care is to claim her as his mate. Meanwhile, his deepest wish is to have his lover awakened from the memory loss that took everything... not just the memories he meant to erase.

MATED:

A classic, sweet werewolf love story. Or maybe not.

Be small. Be invisible. It's an odd life mantra for a human woman in a world of monsters. But Jane's blood contains a touch of vampire magic, making her their victim over and over. With her faster-than-normal healing time, she's an ideal punching bag for the abusive vampire she's been living with, the one she thought might protect her this time.

Paul owes a debt to the werewolf alpha, and Cole doesn't care how he gets paid: flesh or coin. \$10,000 or Jane? The human is a small price for the vampire to pay to be debt-free.

Cole is attractive and warm---so different from the coldness and death Jane has grown used to. If the werewolves didn't have a worse reputation than the vampires, being taken by the alpha might feel like rescue, but Cole's growing possessive nature, makes Jane fear he'll only abuse her like the others. If he doesn't, could becoming an alpha's mate free her from the vampires for good?

Blood Lust Details

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From Reader Review Blood Lust for online ebook

Blodeuedd Finland says

3 novellas in 1.

Kept was the first one. Greta is a shifter, Dayne was a wizard. She needs help, he can give it. This was pnr and I liked it, omg. But I do think it was because there was no instalove, no alpha ahole. Just a woman on the run, and yes she was in heat so yes they got it on. But that was not love, that was lust. It worked. I enjoyed the story.

Claimed was at it seems now the weak one of the bunch. And it was all cos it was the most pnr one. Anthony was a total alpha-hole. I mean seriously. He attacked, almost killed her, held her hostage. Then at the end they were in love. Ugh. But it was still a good story, with weak points.

Mated was the last one an about Jane who can see vampires, and therefore is spending her time with them. For good and bad. She was with an asshole and that is how she ends up with Cole, the werewolf alpha. And you know the story, they will be mated. I enjoyed this one, he was not an alpha-hole. He wanted to protect her, and the love was the mated kind.

So yes behold, I liked a paranormal romance. Nice stories.

Jessica says

I was going to review each novella individually but I lost some memos after a factory reset so it'll just be general impressions. This author has a writing style that I greatly enjoy which makes the fact that 2/3 of the heroes were creepy, controlling if not full on abusive, and rapey all the more disappointing. The first two were so unenjoyable that I'm frankly amazed I made it to the last. above and beyond the gross heroes there were other issues. I find the idea of a were cat (yes a domestic cat) interesting. If there are weres that are wild animals why not domestic types? Were dogs, cats, and goats oh my! I think they might be better suited for a lighter comedy type read than a dramatic romance. Also the whole her being in heat thing was creepy because I kept picturing what my cat did before I got her fixed and it made the resulting sex scenes very uncomfortable. In the second story the relationship nevermade sense it seemed more like Stockholm syndrome than love.

The last story though....If they had all been that sweet and non creepy I would actually read others by this author. But this book showed me that she knows how to write an actual romantic hero but chose to write gross rapey one's for the others.

tldr: though I like the author's writing style and loved the last story the heroes of the first two are skeezy enough that I won't read this author again

L.J. DeLeon says

I enjoyed this book. It gave me three good novellas in one book: Kept, Claimed, and Mated. Kept starts her series and each builds upon the other. All the characters know one another.

"Kept" introduces the world. The heroine is a cat therian named Greta. Therians are shapeshifters. The hero is a wizard named Dayne. He's gotten a bad rep, undeserved but much cultivated. Greta is wanted for her blood because she was born in animal form. Dayne is the only being powerful enough to save her. This book introduces the hero and heroine of "Claimed."

"Claimed" starts the same night that "Kept" ends. The vampire Anthony is drunk on Greta's blood--he had to drink to draw the poison from her. He visits Charlees--Greta's best friend--is overwhelmed by her scent, and attacks her. Ashamed of almost killing her, he wipes her memory. When she wakes she doesn't know her name, the name of her dog, or anything about herself. That's where the fun begins. Anthony now has to save Charlee from himself and his kind and find a way to restore her memory.

"Mated" deals with Charlee's newfound friend Jane. She has the ability to see the demon that possess the vampires. They want her dead or as their pet. Cole, the leader of the werewolf pack, takes her from a fledgling vampire to satisfy a gambling debt. Once in Cole's world she learns the truth behind her blood, the history of the vampires and werewolves, and just how important she is to Cole's world.

Also, in the Claimed we are introduced to an incubus named Cain. I can't wait to see him in other stories.

Sarah says

Blood Lust is the first book in the Preternaturals series by Zoe Winters. This book actually consists of 3 paranormal romance novellas that are also available as ebooks. Zoe sent me all 3 novella ebooks for review (& I also now own the paperback) and I love the world that she has created - it is packed full of paranormal species but everything fits together really well and you can see how much thought has gone into it. Just check out the website that she created for a store featured in the series & you'll see what I mean!

Considering the books are novellas Zoe has done a fantastic job of creating characters you can care about and I can't wait to see what she will do with a full length novel! Please see below for my reviews of each novella.

Kept:

I really liked Greta, she is a cat shifter who is on the run after she finds out that her tribe is planning on sacrificing her. The only person who is strong enough to protect her is Dayne but she is wary of him as he is a dangerous sorcerer who previously killed members of her tribe. I'm not usually a big fan of sorcerers but Dayne was a great character - he isn't a typical "good guy" but the more you get to know him the easier it is to understand why he acts the way he does. By the end of the story I really wanted him & Greta to have their happy ending.

This is the first glimpse at the world Zoe Winters has created and I read the whole novella in one sitting. Although the main characters are a werecat and a sorcerer we are given hints at a wide range of characters and species that left me keen to continue reading the series. I was impressed at the amount of detail Zoe managed to pack into just 86 pages, I would have loved to read a longer story but for a free introduction to an author this was a great quick read. Although I love books where the sex scenes are more fleshed out I still felt the passion between Greta & Dayne but also connected to them on a more emotional level. A great start

to the series & I'd recommend this to any paranormal fan.

Claimed:

I loved both Anthony & Charlee when they were introduced in Kept so I was really pleased to see that they got their own story which continues the events right after the ending of Kept. When Anthony is drunk on magical blood he almost drains Charlee when he feeds from her - not wanting her to remember and be afraid of him he wipes her memory of the event. However, it soon becomes clear that he didn't just remove her memory of that night, she remembers absolutely nothing - not even who she is. When he is trying to help restore her memory he unwittingly draws human Charlee into the vampire world and ends up having to protect her from other vampires who want claim her as their pet.

After enjoying Kept I was looking forward to Claimed and thoroughly enjoyed it. I continue to be amazed at how much Zoe Winters can pack into a novella. Claimed is full of action and I loved watching the relationship between Anthony and Charlee develop. Charlee is a feisty character full of quick come backs that will have you laughing out loud. She has every reason not to trust Anthony after what happened the night he nearly killed her and several things happen that cause her to trust him even less but everything he does after the first night happens when he is trying to protect her. Being a vampire fan I couldn't help but love Anthony - he really is great hero material & I loved how everything was resolved at the end of the story. I'd definitely recommend giving this series a try but I would recommend reading them in order. If you're a fan of the paranormal I'm sure you'll enjoy this - Zoe has a great writing style that is full of humor, action and romance.

Mated:

Jane has been able to sense vampires since she was a child and this has meant she has lived her life in danger from the vampires who don't like the fact that she can see them. She has been forced to become a vampire groupie in the hope that one of them will turn her so her life will no longer be at risk. Abused and beaten by the vampire she had hoped would protect her it only gets worse when he gives her to the werewolf alpha Cole as payment for his gambling debt. She knows the rules of the vampire world and knows how to survive but finding herself at the mercy of a werewolf she has no idea what will happen to her. She has always believed that the werewolves are even worse than the vampires but can Cole prove she was wrong? And what will happen if the pack member who wants Jane dead manages to get hold of her?

Although I loved the first 2 novellas in this series I have to say that Mated was my absolute favorite. We were introduced to vampire groupie Jane in Claimed when she became friends with Charlee. I didn't think she was a particularly interesting character but as soon as I got to know her better in Mated she quickly became my favorite heroine in the series. She has been to hell and back but is a survivor and desperately wants to find somewhere she is safe and accepted. I absolutely adored Cole! He is a strong alpha who quickly recognises that Jane is his mate and wants to protect her. Understanding what she has been through he doesn't want to rush her or force her into anything so goes against all of his instincts by not immediately marking her as his mate. He is so sweet as he tries to gain Jane's trust & I dare you not to fall for him yourself.

Overall I would definitely rate this as a must read trilogy for fans of paranormal romance. Even if you're new to this genre I'd recommend giving it a try. I love Zoe's writing style and having seen what she can accomplish with these novellas I can't wait to get my hands on the full length novel that is due out this winter. I love the world she has created and am looking forward to immersing myself in it again in the future. My only warning would be not to start reading unless you have time to finish the whole story - I've read each of these novellas in just 1 sitting and devoured all 3 in less than 24 hours!

Marq(ReadingRomanceinColor) says

Kept - Enjoyed it. Great read. Greta is a strong heroine and the interaction with Dayne was funny and sexy. I liked how Dayne was trying to not lose his rep as a "bad boy" sorcerer.

Claimed - Charlee was too stupid to live and got on my nerves. I liked her in Kept and at the beginning of Claimed but as the book progressed, I became more and more frustrated with her character. I would have bought the HEA for her and Anthony more if she wasn't such a psychotic wench during most of the story. Honestly, if I was Anthony, I would have kicked her to the curb. I don't think vampires have the mating issue as werewolves. So why he stuck by her, I have no idea. I guess his guilt got the best of him.

Mated - We find out more about Jane who we were introduced to in Claimed. Cole is the sexy alpha male of his pack and sees Jane and immediately is drawn to her. He is her protector even though she has trust issues. Enjoyable read. I'm a werewolf girl so of course I loved this one. Out of the 3 novellas, this one had the most sex, which isn't saying much.

Flutter factor:

There isn't much smexing going on in each novella. There's chemistry between the characters, some dirty talk. It's kind of like when you're watching a TV show and the characters start kissing and then they go in to the bedroom and then the next scene is the afterglow moment. It's implied what happened but you don't see it happen. Not every book has to contain smex in graphic detail but I don't like being teased either.

Mads says

3* review –

Melanie says

This book is a compilation of three PNR novellas all by Zoe Winters. The characters do intersect and there is overlap, as you expect in a PNR series. Whether you listen or read this story, you get three romances for the price of one.

Kept is the first novella. It consists of Greta who is a cat therian (another word for shifter), and Dayne, a sorcerer with a very bad reputation. Greta is sentenced to be a sacrifice. Her mother, who is refusing to save her, but helps her to escape and sends her to Dayne for help. Dayne is in a bind because he needs therian blood to go after the head of cat shifter clan, but can't get it from his normal online source. When Greta shows up to his door, Dayne agrees to protect her until the full moon. There are several hilarious moments between the two. There is also many misunderstandings between the two.

Claimed is the second novella in this book. It contains the story between Anthony, a vampire running to be king vampire for the next century, and Charlotte (Charlee) a human friend of Greta. In a drug induced blood lust, Anthony drinks from Charlee and then attempts to wipe her memories, but completely erases her entire memories of herself. Anthony is forced to care for her while trying to win the tournament, to keep it from Lucas who is evil.

Mated is the last story in this book. We meet Jane in Claimed when she is trying to stay alive in the vampire world. She has been able to see vampires for what they really are, which is part demon, since she was a child. Vampires don't like that much. They are also not able to control her mind, like they can with normal humans. Jane is given to the alpha werewolf, Cole, as payment for a debt. We learn a lot about Jane's past, which is truly horrific.

This is a great PNR series. I can't wait to read more. I would highly recommend this series to people who like PNR stories. The sex does exist in these stories, but not to the graphic detail as in many other PNR stories. I don't think this subtracts from the story in anyway.

I listened to this story after reading it. I have to say, it was done well and I enjoyed going back and revisiting the characters. I think the narration is great. He does a great job with not only the different male characters, but the female as well.

Robin says

I'm embarrassed to even admit I read this...

Efe Joy Agho Clodi says

I couldn't even finish - bad storyline

Cid Tyer says

I won a copy of Blood Lust via Cynthia Eden's blog. All I saw was something about shifters and I was sold! I didn't realize at first that the three novellas were linked; I was anticipating three, non-connected stories. Wrong! The three lead into each other, starting with Greta's tale.

Kept was interesting in the manner of the shifters, therians, that populate the world. I was imagining something big, bad and bad ass. Greta was not that. And I totally dig having my expectations put on their head and spun around. I think the one thing that hung me up on this was Greta's easy acceptance of the big bad news she gets. Maybe it's just me, but I would have tried to ferret out answers, so I was a bit disappointed. That said, the interaction between Greta and Dayne was believable – and you want them to work. You also want to bash their skulls into a wall until they'll just talk to each other!

Claimed was the one I was cringing about reading. Anything vampy makes me skittish about reading it; there are only so many ways you can romanticize a vamp before it's just not interesting any more. I liked that the vampires weren't romanticized; yes, Anthony has some very redeeming qualities, but he is what he is. The

situation that gets Charlee and Anthony thrown together actually kicks off in Kept, and creates a huge mess. I liked the mess. I liked Charlee's spunk. I liked Anthony being thrown off kilter and still having to juggle a large amount of stuff going on. I think I would have liked to see more of the romance play out on the page; you see a lot of the struggle between them over the mess that happens, but not a lot of the two coming to the conclusion of romance. The end and epilogue made me cheer though. Claimed totally won me over, even with the vampires.

Mated was undeniably my favorite. I think I have it big for redemption type stories. Jane plays a role in Charlee's vamp education and fills a much needed role at the end of the book, but is mostly left to her own devices – which considering what she is, that's bad. I've said it before and I'll say it again, I don't like reading things that feature abusive situations in them, but I'm such a sucker for stories that show the girl getting back up on her feet and grabbing hold of her life. Okay, so Jane is sort of tossed into a situation where she's left with few choices, but Cole will win your heart over. Heck, I might have fallen in love with Cole just reading about him.

The world of the Preternaturals is layer on layer of races and things just outside of the normal human's perception. It's full of politics, old grudges, and complexity I really didn't expect in three novellas. I found myself reading each of these novellas and wishing there was more. I wanted to know more about Greta's situation, what happened to her mother, why did she get help to escape? I wanted to see more of the romance and drama with both Carlee and Jane. But ya know what? Sometimes it's more fun to not be told what happens and just fill in the blanks for yourself. Kept and Claimed both have some really great wit that I loved – if you can give me a good romance and a laugh you're on my faves – and then you're turned around and given a beautiful story that's about overcoming the past and seizing the future. Blood Lust wasn't anything I was way more than I expected it to be.

Tamara Rose Blodgett says

Surprisingly good.

Chelsey says

Blood lust is made up of three basically unrelated short stories. They're cute and light. The first book is by far the steamiest and my favourite of the three, and I'd probably give it a 4/5. The second two stories are okay, but there's not as much tension between the characters as I like, and the pacing drags a bit. Anyway - decent summer romance read.

Larissa says

Previously Published on my blog: Welcome to Larissa's Bookish Life

Blood Lust is a compilation of three Paranormal novellas, all part of Zoe Winters' The Preternaturals Series. Each one tells the story of a couple and their journey into their Happily Ever After. All the stories are set in the same world and some characters cross over between them at times.

I have to say that I was very pleasantly surprised by this book. I tend to enjoy a shorter story now and then but I do prefer full length novels. I feel it is hard to make a HEA work in less than that.

However, I feel that Zoe has done an amazing job in introducing us to these characters, this world and telling their stories. I loved the mix of supernatural races that Zoe has written. We have Vampires, Cat Shifters, Werewolves, Witches, Warlocks, Demons and so much more.

Kept is the story of Greta, a cat therian (shifter), and Dayne, a very dangerous sorcerer. Greta's life is in danger when she finds out that her tribe plans to sacrifice her because of something she has no control over, Dayne is the only one who can keep her safe. Dayne is HOT and his bad boy reputation gives him the privacy he needs, that is until Greta comes into his life and steals his heart.

Claimed is all about Anthony and Charlee. Charlee is Greta's best friend and co-worker and for a while she has been flirting almost daily with this very hot man that keeps showing up at the store where she works. Anthony can't seem to resist stopping by and flirting with Charlee, specially since her blood seems to draw him more than any other person's blood has. But one night, Anthony loses control and does the imaginable, he drinks from Charlee. Ashamed of what he has done, Anthony erases her memory of the night, but something goes wrong and she wakes up the next day not remembering anything at all. Now, the only one who can help her claim her life back is the Vampire who took it all away in the first place.

We meet Jane in Claimed, when Greta meets her as one of Anthony's adversaries' girl. In Mated, Jane is now the being mistreated by another vampire and Cole, the local Werewolf Alpha, saves her by taking her as payment for gambling debts. Jane has been in Vampire's radars for as long as she can remember, something about her just attracts them, but now she has the chance to leave that all behind. However, she is not sure how safe she is, hiding away in a Werewolf den, where one of them seems to be enjoying human meat.

I really enjoyed all these stories, but my favorite was Mated! I love a shifter and Cole is just a great specimen of the race LOL.

All in all, Blood Lust is a full plate for any Paranormal Romance lover out there! The romance is great, but it never overshadows the story, I think Zoe did a great job in balancing that out and I can't wait for more books from her!

Mei says

Kept, Claimed and Mated...Greta, Charlee and Jane...Ridiculous, Clueless and Pathetic could have been the titles for these tales. This trilogy made a complete mockery of being a woman in the preternatural world. The more I read the worst it was. Jane's story being the absolute worse with her being passed around from one faction to the next. The author wants us to believe any of this dribble could lead to "happily ever after" with any of the monsters in this book?! Not happening. The female leads are weak and lack interest. The male leads are poorly written and boring. Definitely not what I would recommend to those who were looking for a story with bite and a woman with a spine. On my Were Scale of Hotness, 1.5 stars.

Trish R. says

3 good stories! Vamps, werewolves, cat shifters, sorcerers and humans..

Part One: KEPT

Wow! What a great little story. I absolutely loved Dayne and Greta. Well, except for the part where she took the raw steak out of the fridge and ate it. I thought that was pretty gross. But mostly, I really liked the story. It was all about her running to Dayne, a sorcerer, to protect her from getting sacrificed. And, even though Jaden wasn't in it too much I liked her, too. And Simon got exactly what he deserved, the jerk. Anthony was kind of cool, too.

Yes, there was some pretty heated and explicit sex in this story.

Part Two: CLAIMED

So, Anthony messed up with Charlee and had to find a way to fix it. And then icky Linus shows up and ruins things, since he wants to go back to killing humans. Eventually, Anthony has to tell Charlee the truth, and overall that goes over pretty well, although Charlee trusts him even less now, thanks partially to the crap Jane told her. And Gregory should have given up on the tournament to choose who would be king of the vampires. LOL, he was pretty funny sounding in the audible version.

Hmmm, I don't remember any sex in this story.

Part Three: MATED

OK, I love Cole right off the bat, but it could just be the voice the narrator gave him. And I did like Paul in the other book but he turned into a real a-hole in this one. Wow, I just wanted him dead. The other thing I didn't like about this is when Cole and Jane started to make love, they'd been together for weeks and never even kissed, and as soon as they finally started kissing she put her hand between the two of them and started to stroke him. Really? How unromantic is that? Suddenly, I didn't care if they had sex or not, I was so bummed about Jane's actions. At this point I just wanted to story to end. I know, I'm really weird!

Anyway, Rhonda and Anthony were taken care of. Cole and Jane, Greta and Dayne, Charlee and Anthony, lived HEA and this was a good book. I'll have to see what other books go with this one.

There was explicit sex in these stories and swearing and the F-bomb was released 43 times.

As to the narrator: Chet Williamson is new to me and overall I really liked him. The funny things in the book were even funnier the way he read them. His women's voices weren't very good, so he needs to practice that, as they are masculine. I did listen to him at 1.25 and that seemed to be perfect.
