



The Exchange

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Lev Baronovsky, a soulless creature of the night, has a problem. Carly, the love of his life has just died in an accident and in three days will pass to the other side. Without a soul, he cannot cross over with her and the thought of spending eternity without his beloved is unbearable. Is seventy-two hours enough time to find a way?

With the help of his brother, Alexei, they must face the vilest creature of all, Boris, an ancient one with selfish motivations of his own.

The Exchange Details

Date : Published February 11th 2015

ISBN :

Author : Jeanne Bannon

Format : Kindle Edition 78 pages

Genre : Business, Amazon, Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires

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From Reader Review The Exchange for online ebook

Reader's Hollow says

It starts out as a tragedy. I think I liked this because it easily could have ended the story. Much like a popular vampire series we're all familiar with, there are rival vampire brothers. One is a ruthless killer (and in some ways hits a few Lestat notes) and the other a brooding softie. Sound familiar? That's about where it ends though.

There was a nicely woven pattern that merged the beautiful vampires and the ugly truths. Some of this weaving defied the stereotypes.

The author created Alexei in such a short amount of time that it was something to admire. Alexei was probably the most well-rounded, though he isn't the main character. I think I enjoyed his personality best because it wasn't contradictory but was still rich and interesting.

The primary focus is, of course, a love story and the separation of death. It didn't feel too short, nor was the pace slow. I think for a quick read, this one hit a lot of marks.

Fans of Vampire Diaries will love this book. It's quick and bubbling with romance, conflict and questions of the afterlife. The writing is fabulous and fits the story very well. I was impressed with the writing the most.

FULL REVIEW @ thereadershollow.com under "Paranormal" in "Reviews"

Kelly Smith Reviews says

Vampires. My lifelong obsession and love. And the more violent the vampire story is, the more I love it. Rarely, nowadays, can a vampire story be both beautiful and brutal. Usually, you must sacrifice one for the other, but not with Ms. Bannon's latest novella!

The story is dark, brooding, beautiful and very vicious. Two vampiric brothers, each as different as night from day. Lev is more human, he falls in love and never kills. Alexei is dark, murderous, but harboring a deep secret fear.

The plot is very fast-paced. No lingering gazes or drawn-out confrontations here! Just blood, death and loss. Alexei is my favorite of the brothers (don't ask why; I always fall for the a**holes), and he is so wicked, it's very refreshing. Lev is sweet, until he has to be strong and bitter. He constantly surprised me throughout the story. Alexei did as well, but not in the same way. You'll see.

The story was wonderful, all violence with an undertone of love and loss. It's not too violent, I think anyone could read it, but it's not so sweet that men will scoff at it. It's one of the few books that could entertain anyone who loves vampires, no matter if they prefer 'Salem's Lot or Twilight.

A great, wonderful book. It left me craving more!

5/5--read this. Now.

TDCbookreviews says

Beautiful Monster by Jeanne Bannon

Lev is a soulless undead monster. A vampire. He has never taken a life or turned someone, unlike his brother Alexei, his own "maker". This one act makes him different than any other of his kind. He can fall in love. A pretty terrible habit to have if you keep falling for frail and weak human women.

A lesson Lev learns the hardest way possible when he loses the love of his life in a freak accident. Guilt ridden he mourns Carly and knows he must stop at nothing to be reunited with the woman he loves. The question is how? And will the price he could have to pay be too much?

This short story is everything you could ask for if you are a vampire fan. Ms. Bannon made the characters come to life in a way you wouldn't think possible in only 71 pages. All the way from Lev, the brooding recluse, to Boris, the disgusting ancient villain of the story, each character is developed just enough to feel like you know them. Then it's all topped off with a majorly twisted ending you don't want to miss!

A solid 4 out of 5 stars. Don't pass this one up if you're a vampire fan, I promise you will not regret it!

-Word Girl

Penny Estelle says

Beautiful Monster is a paranormal romance story with a plot unlike any I have read before. Lev, a creature of the night, finds the love of his life, Carly, has died and is now a ghost. Her spirit has only a few days before she will be gone forever. In these few days they have to figure out how to get Lev's soul back so they can be together for eternity.

This story never lost my interest. There's emotion, drama, and lots of intensity that makes the story fast-paced. Ms. Bannon's gift for writing dialog and descriptive scenes puts the reader right in the thick of the story.

Great job, Ms. Bannon

Naturalbri (Bri Wignall) says

What a brilliant read. I love the author's writing style and the story, as a whole.

From the start, I was drawn into this read. I loved that fast-paced action that started straight away. Already we were thrown into the lives of our main characters. The author also has an exceptional writing talent.

I found it hard not to connect with the characters. From the start, we are given enough detail to picture what the characters are like. I loved that the author was able to create a full cast of characters, each with their own personality and characteristics, and each either joined into the story or was inherently against the grain.

The pace of the story was done very well. It was a great blend of a action packed, fast paced, urgent battle to hunt and slower, subtle moments where we got to know our main character. I liked how the pace would flip, in a moment's notice, leaving me wanting more more more.

The storyline was good. The detail and storytelling skill really brought the story to life. It gave the story a feel that it was real and true part of this world. This made it easy to connect with and really get into.

Overall, I found this story interesting and a true pleasure to read. I highly recommend giving it a go. I know I'll be checking out more by this author.

*I received this book for free in exchange for my honest and unbiased opinion.

books are love says

This is a tragically beautiful poetic story full of such irony that there is sadness in the lovely quality of it. Lev is a soulless creature who loves deeply and still holds on to his moral compass and doesn't kill. His brother who was turned by a monster still has some beauty deep down in his soul for his brother but no one else. He doesn't regret like Lev and he certainly doesn't love or have guilt. His life is one with guilty pleasures. But his brother he does love.

Lev loses his true love. Not wanting the life he has anymore he turns to his brother for help to get him to be with his love again. At first Alexei is adamant about not helping but when he sees what Lev is threatening he agrees. At first you start to see a side to Alexei that warms your heart but then his monster within comes out as does his selfishness. Lev truly is the tragic irony. A monster with beauty and kindness. One with morals and love to give.

A decision is made that hurts Lev but he knows that it is right after all the hurt his brother has caused him. To see the tragedy of Alexei and how his turning made him a monster in a sense but Lev's made him beautiful in a ironic sense. His beauty is more now than before because he fights the nature of what he has become to stay true to himself.

This is the story of Lev finding a way to be with his true love. A way to maintain his true self even in his monstrous existence and find peace and happiness. A truly beautifully poetically written story of Lev and his journey to be who he was meant to be.

Kira Simion says

Damn.

While this reminded me of The Vampire Diaries in the way that both brothers were vamps and polar opposites it seems there was an interesting twist.

Turns out Alexei was the better brother if [spoiler removed] so Lev is the umm....still good vamp but that twist. Dang. That's pretty sad, even for a vamp.

4/6 stars.

Luigina Leonelli says

I bought this book because I love the paranormal and in particular vampires. It was a quick read but that was okay because the author wrapped it all up quite well. All in all I was impressed. I loved the atmosphere and the creepy, strange characters. One in particular - Boris, was really well done. Never a dull moment in this story

Sheila says

This story of a vampire in search of his soul - and his soon-to-be-lost love - is a great read. I only like vampire stories with a human twist (meaning, I can feel for the characters as 'real' human beings) and this one fills the bill. It's also quite dramatic and fast-moving, with lots of suspense, and some clever twists. I like language, and some of the descriptions are beautifully done. It may be grim in that bloody, undead way, but it would be disappointing if it wasn't! It's also fun, and oddly heartwarming.

angela says

Enjoyed the book and I thought it was an interesting concept on vampire stories. There are some sad parts for sure, and one really gruesome part.

Tish says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for honest review.

This is a beautiful paranormal romance Novellea.

How far will you go to be eternally with your true love??

This is the question lev had to ask himself when faced with the news his love (Carly) had died!

Three days the pair had left together, how would they spend there time and is there any chance at FOREVER??

A beautiful romance tale that tugged at my heart strings, lev's devotion to Carly was out of this world.

That ending epic. Like seriously amazing.

Looking forward to seeing what book two has to bring to the table.

Kelly says

This is a story about a vampire and his soon to be dead love, Carly. Lev wants to be reunited with his love, but he has no soul and can't go into the light with his love. In his quest to find a way to be with his love, Lev and his brother meet with his brother's maker, an ancient creature that Lev hopes will be able to help him to reunite with Carly. This is a fast paced read and will keep you interested until the last page. I highly recommend this book.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for a review.

Sabrina says

I love vampire books and when the author can spin the mythology and make it their own I love it even more. I can't wait for the next book in this series.

Shannon Waters says

Firstly I would just like to say that I absolutely loved this book! I am a sucker for a good vampire story, they always intrigued me. This one definitely did not disappoint. The protagonist Lev is an emotional character, in which I felt I could really connect to. The description given to him is just beautiful and engaging.

The story of the book is dramatic and intense which I loved because the fast pace created a lot of suspense. Not only did this make me completely emerge myself into the story but it also allowed me to emotional connect with the characters. The beautiful description added to the passionate and dramatic story line; making it more emotional.

The thing that I found most interesting about this story was the relationship between Lev and Alexec (the brothers). It added another complexity to the novel because it oozed with raw emotions, due to the fact that Lev blamed his bother Alexec and although Alexec was the 'bad' guy, I felt really sorry for him. I wanted to jump into the story and help them; I want Lev to reconnect with Carly and for the brothers to sort out their troubles. However their relationship kept me intrigued and on edge.

Bannon creates a dramatic story, accompanied with a skillful and appealing writing style that makes you both weary and sympathetic towards the characters. The beautiful description from the author majestically paints a vivid picture of the supernatural. Although it was a quick read, the story held my attention the whole time. I really think that if you enjoy reading intriguing stories about vampire then this is for you.

S.K. Gregory says

Lev has lost the love of his life Carly and as a vampire he does not have a soul so he can't join her in the afterlife. With the help of his brother Alexei who is also a vampire, they try to find Alexei's maker to see if he can help him find a way.

This was a good story and I enjoyed the story between the two brothers. I did think there could have been more on Carly considering she was the reason Lev was risking his life for. She didn't have much of a back story. The interactions between the brothers and Boris made up for it though. An entertaining story for fans of vampires.
