



The Tear Collector

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Fans of urban fantasy should prepare for a new kind of vampire—one that feeds off of tears instead of blood. Descended from an ancient line of creatures that gain their energy from human tears, Cassandra Gray depends on human sorrow to live. Her job as a grief counselor at the hospital provides the perfect cover to keep this secret safe, and any time a friend needs a shoulder to cry on, she's there. Only Cass has grown tired of living a lie and wants to live like a human, especially now that she's found someone worth fighting for. With a perfect blend of supernatural and romance, Patrick Jones treats his current fans to a different taste of storytelling and will have new ones scrambling to devour this unique offering.

The Tear Collector Details

Date : Published September 1st 2009 by Walker & Company

ISBN : 9780802787101

Author : Patrick Jones

Format : Hardcover 263 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Tear Collector for online ebook

Mishel Forte says

The premise of this story sounded so different and unique. A vampire that didn't need blood to survive, but rather lived off the tears of humans. I was pretty skeptical at first. I haven't read anything by Patrick Jones before, but could he really pull this off?

Cassandra was an interesting character but I had real trouble connecting with her. This "vampire" is up to her neck in school drama and family troubles. And while I can certainly relate to her actual problems, I found a lack of emotional depth to her. Her character was a little flat and I simply could not sympathize with her. She basically seeks out emotionally hurt people at school or work and comforts them. She collects their tears and gains strength from them. Then she has to turn around and go home to give those tears to her weak great-grandmother. After that, she's off to do it again. Of course I kind of felt bad for her situation, but I feel there was so much more to be had with her family life. Towards the end of the book the reader meets her cousin and finds out a surprising twist to the story that basically flops at the very end.

Her school life is filled with dramatic stereotypes that really just made me yawn. I didn't feel anything though. The fighting between Cassandra and the other popular girls were petty and while there is nothing wrong with that I just felt it didn't really go anywhere. And then there is Scott. The relationship between Scott and Cassandra was limited at best. Yes, they really liked each other but how I don't really know. Their conversations were limited and if I was basically tired of hearing Cassandra say "Well, what do you mean Scott?"

The story lacked in a lot of different departments which really disappointed me. I didn't go into the story with high expectations because I had never read anything by Patrick Jones. But throughout the entire book I just wanted more. More depth, more description, more real interaction with the characters. I don't think I'd even classify this as a vampire novel. Not that I'm an expert, but I do love me some vampires. Even without the blood, this story was more about family duty - not vampire lore.

All in all, I was disappointed I didn't enjoy the novel. I would like to say I will be giving Patrick Jones another chance because I've read blurbs of his other books and I'm interested in them. But THE TEAR COLLECTOR just wasn't my cup o' tea. Maybe it will be yours though, I have seen a few reviews where the reader absolutely loved the book. Yay for them! I'm glad they found something in it that I couldn't.

Brooke says

Cassandra Gray is a vampire but not the blood drinking kind, her and her family live off of tears. She is also given the task of providing for her family. She must go out and feed off other people's pain, and take the tears back home. A huge problem for Cassandra is that she's been promised to a cousin for marriage, that way the family can continue their species and live on forever. But Cassandra is starting to have feelings of her own as a result of being so deeply involved in the human world. Her best friend dies leaving her unsure of how to feel, and she meets Scott who she thinks she's falling in love with. Cassandra is torn between helping her family and doing what is right for them, or moving on and living a life for herself in the human world.

You know, I thought this was going to be a good book since it has such a solid premise. I liked the idea of not living off of only EMOTIONS but the tears themselves. How does one go about collecting them? I wondered, so I had to buy this one. The Tear Collector was disappointing because it could have been so much better. The secondary characters were pretty awful. White boys who want to be gangsters, bitchy cheerleaders, and the sweet religious love interest. Alright, the sweet religious love interest wasn't too bad, but he was just too good. The bad guy isn't introduced for a while, he's mentioned but not an obvious bad guy until the end. Cassandra is almost impossible to connect with. I felt pretty bad that her family is so awful, but the emotional changes she goes through aren't that surprising.

The writing didn't pull me in, and I can only hope that his other books are better because he obviously has great ideas. Or maybe it was just me and I had trouble connecting with his voice. I'll have to check out his other book Chasing Tail Lights which has been on my list of want to reads for a while.

TinaMarie says

She collects tears to survive but wants to change

Alana Kelly says

Cassandra Gray comes from a very special family. See, Cassandra is a vampire. A special kind of vampire that feeds on tears instead of blood. Forced to feed off of other people's pain, Cassandra can never allow herself to get too close to any one person. To make matters worse, as her grandmother gets older and weaker Cassandra must almost help provide the energy they collect from tears to her grandmother. This added strain has Cassandra working overtime to try and reach her family's high expectation. But as Cassandra tries to be everything her family wants her to be, she realizes she's tired of having to keep everyone an arms length away. Even though Cassandra is popular and volunteers in a hospital bursting with people, she's actually very alone. But as Cassandra starts to reach out to the people around her, she learns sometimes there's a high price to pay for getting what you want.

One issue I really had with this book was the use of several different stereotypes. One, not all goths genuinely believe in vampires. This really bothered me because I felt like the entire goth subculture was being distorted and generalized for the sake of easy characterization. That's not to say there isn't a vampyre subculture, but I still think the oversimplification of goths was problematic. (I found a really great post here if you'd like more info.) While Samantha does happen to be a vampire-believing-goth, saying she's like this because all goths are like this was lazy writing. This also leads into my second problem, the way Jones characterized atheism. I'll admit there's the possibility I'm being overly sensitive since I'm an atheist myself, but I really felt like Jones botched the whole thing. I honestly felt like atheism was misrepresented in a pseudo-debate in an attempt to discredit the genuine and complicated reasons people question belief in a god. Instead I felt like Jones used these conversations to speak to me as a reader. And it pissed me off. The characters Catholicism also seemed too heavy handed for me. Considering how heavy handed all the characters were though, this isn't very surprising. The cheerleaders are stuck up and shallow. The jocks are all brawn and no brain. The villain is very very evil. Scott is the "surprising" love interest that's sweet yet shy. Samantha is the wounded goth girl who writes poetry and hurts herself. It's was all too...*expected*. There was nothing distinctive about any of the characters.

This story was also woefully short on details. We're told Cassandra's family is some kind of succubus or vampire that feeds on human emotions like fear and sadness, but that's about it. We don't know what extent these emotions can be. Cassandra mentions she wants to feed on love not tears, but I wasn't sure what she meant. Was she being serious? If so, did Jones not think of the horror such a thing would cause? Is Cassandra immortal? How does doing something inhumane make a person human? There simply wasn't enough details for me. The reader is left with zero understanding of the supernatural elements of the story and instead is bombarded with random high school gossip and drama. I know more about one of the cheerleaders facebook page then I do about Cassandra's powers. Honestly, compared to the Dresden Files, where the White Court vampires (similar to Cassandra in this story) are fleshed out and considered from several angles, the supernatural part of this story was seriously lacking.

Since this story is light on the details and heavy on the stereotypes, it would take a really strong protagonist to make the story still work. And that's where this book falls short. While the beginning of the story was interesting, it automatically distanced me emotionally from Cassandra. Her apathy caused my indifference and yet the story relies on the reader's connection with her. Instead of wanting Cassandra to get a chance at a normal life, all her introspection just bored me. Her whining about the unfairness of it all was just that, whining. I genuinely didn't care what happened to her. And because of that, I wasn't able to feel her sacrifices were genuine sacrifices or her fears were worth being worried about. I just felt really *meh* about it all. Even more boring was the love story. Jeez, when will two dimensional instant attraction just die already? There's a part in the book when Cassandra thinks "we have so many connections" because Scott has read *A Tale of Two Cities*. Yeah, cause that's a totally obscure book that no one has ever heard about. That's be like me getting all emotional over the fact Ryan also read *Huckleberry Finn*. It's called eleventh grade English. Soul mates it does not make. Also, the fact Cassandra had to *tell* us they had connections means they *didn't actually have any connections*. Except for their simplistic views of theology of course. I also love the totally ridiculous relationship drama that was thrown in just to move things along.

At the end of the day this book is more coming-of-age-story than urban fantasy and it just didn't work for me since I couldn't *feel* Cassandra's journey. The dangling plot thread with Alexei, Cassandra's evil cousin, also really bothered me. The best thing about this story are the first and last lines.

<http://sunshineandbones.blogspot.com/...>

Vicky N. says

I wanted to love this book. It has all the makings of a true masterpiece. A cliché(vampires) + hot, unexpected twist. But I must admit it went down with a flop.

I don't like vampires, I mean I've read a few books about them and liked (some even love) them, but I was never obsessed with the beings themselves.

Anyhow, this "vampire family" don't feed with blood, but the sorrow and sadness of people.

And although I expected to be mesmerized with this intriguing tale, it never did. It was cliché after cliché and I got to admit I barely got half way.

Warning: I don't know the next can be counted as spoilers, I personally think not, but I think I should warn you.

The reason I stopped altogether: the main character likes having boyfriends and then breaking their hearts so she can feed off them. So, she meets this guy and kisses him and thinks: "oh this guy needs some practice." And barely a page after she says she's falling for him without a serious explanation or any kind and/or progression of how her feelings got there.

Anyway, I think it's clear what I thought about this book. I tried getting through it, but there's so many books out there and didn't think I could handle more of this one.

La Femme Readers says

I really enjoyed reading this book. The vampire novels that are written now a days express the stereotypical blood sucking vampires. However, Patrick Jones totally took another approach to the definition of a vampire. At first I was a little skeptical since I have a fascination with the whole smooth, sexy approach of a vampire. But, once I got into the story with the main character Cassandra, I fell in love with the new type of urban fantasy. I loved the concept of vampires needing tears instead of blood. It is definitely not gruesome and does not fulfill a sexy, satisfying feel like the stereotypical vampire would experience. It is a more deep, emotional connection that these vampires have to induce with the human in order to receive their energy. So, I thought the idea of vampires having to work their way into getting what they want was awesome. I also feel Cassandra was relateable because most human beings fight turmoil within themselves and seek a way to rebel against the nature that every parent enforces on us. I recommend this book to readers if they are looking for something fresh and new that hasn't been done before.

Jacki says

Well, this book disappointed me. Even if I hadn't entertained high hopes based on the author's great work in the field of YA librarianship and the wonderful articles he writes, this book would STILL have disappointed me.

Positive: The different slant on vampires gave me my high hopes. Instead of drinking blood, these vampires live by soaking up human emotion via tears. The heroine is a tear vampire who attends a human high school, the perfect breeding ground for tear-producing drama. She falls in love with a human boy and begins to question her family's way of life, eventually leading to rebellion. It takes place in an ordinary high school full of ordinary cliques (Goths, cheerleaders, jocks) and ordinary high school goings-on (make outs, breakups, sex, cat fights, family drama, etc.)

Sounds great, right?

Negative (with spoilers, sorry, I HAVE to): This book may take place in a realistic high school environment, but I felt like it was TOO well-drawn. It read like a field guide for grown ups: this is what Goths think, this is how jocks act. The setting remains superficial throughout the book.

The heroine didn't get much of my sympathy. She doesn't just thrive on the high school drama, she gets at-risk people to trust her and then creates drama so they will cry on her shoulder, literally. Until she meets a boy and falls in love, she never questions the morality of her actions. Speaking of morality, she's also very blasé about sexual favors and uses them to get what she wants.

Character development is at a low here. The heroine is fairly well-done, and her boyfriend sort of has a personality. Everyone else is a cookie cutter, from the has-to-be-perfect cheerleader to the witch-with-a-B cheerleader, from the dumb jock to the traumatized Goth. Even the villain of the piece, the heroine's cousin (with whom she is supposed to "mate" and reproduce at the age of 16), is just evil, the end.

My big gripe with this book was the ending. The heroine wants to stop being a vampire, but finds out the only way she can is by taking a human life. She briefly contemplates killing her best friend's 8-year-old sister, who is dying of cancer. She decides she simply can't, because the child is too innocent and the heroine loves her too much.

At this point, I thought, "Wow, she is stuck. She just has to stay a vampire."

Oh, no. The book ends with her calling the cheerleader-with-a-B and asking if they can meet! Then I realized that character was set up to be the nastiest in the book: she starts rumors to break up the heroine's best friend and her boyfriend. When the best friend kills herself over it, she cries fake tears even as she hooks up with the boyfriend. She's so mean. She's so fake. Blah blah.

So it's okay to KILL her? I lost what little compassion for the heroine I still had at that point. Yes, the cheerleader was a fake mean girl. But only in cardboard cut-out land do fake mean girls with no feelings really exist. In real life, even mean girls have lives and feelings, loves and hopes and dreams and redeeming qualities. The author tries to make it seem like poetic justice. The heroine even accuses the girl of killing her best friend at one point, because she caused the breakup that sent the girl over the edge.

I know there are probably some high schoolers out there who are teased and tormented by pretty, popular girls every day. Been there, done that. Maybe for some of those kids, the ending will be cathartic and meaningful. But to me, it just meant the heroine was sinking lower than the villain. At least he didn't murder anyone!

I gave this book two stars because the premise was original, it obviously took considerable effort, and because some teens might like it. Other than that, I'd say "Complete BOMB. Walk on by."

Lisa says

It might be "urban fantasy" but urban teens won't read it! I tried taking it to book club and the kids refused to discuss it - even to say why they disliked like it so much. One teen did say he appreciated the effort of the author's project but didn't care about the book. Better luck next time...

Kristy says

This book 100% took me by surprise:

1. I thought the main character would be a boy from looking at the cover.
Wrong! It was a girl!!!
2. It was way more emotionally developed than I had thought from reading the back.
We deal with death, sickness, family devotion, bullying, abuse, suicide, etc., but it's entertaining.. not depressing

3. The actual "tear collecting" thing was interesting and complex.
Not cheesy or overdone.
4. The main character seems really selfish at first, but after a couple of chapters I really started to feel sorry for her and connect with her character.
5. "The Family" was a cool side story that added depth to the book.
I despise Alexi.

negatives:

1. To not know what love is or have any real feelings, Cassandra falls entirely too quickly for Scott!
2. Some of her family story needed more development, imo.
3. Some of the conversations feel a little forced/not like a real conversation.
4. I hate the ending... unless it means there is another story?!?!?!?

All in all, a solid 4 stars for me. A pleasant surprise. A book I recommend to you Young Adult readers.

Arlene says

The Tear Collector, by Patrick Jones, is a creative spin on the vampire myth, where the main character Cassandra Gray doesn't live off of the blood of humans, but rather the tears and sorrow of the people around her. The author did a good job of creating a paranormal creature that the reader was able to feel compassion for. The book is well written and structured in my opinion; however, I did find a couple of typos, but nothing major to distract me from the story line. I liked how the book immediately captured my attention, infused lore and action throughout, and ultimately ended with a captivating conclusion.

Cassandra is a succubus that maintains a human form in order to get along in the world, but she is void of what makes a person human. She sustains her and her family by soaking up human emotions and suffering into her skin in order to survive. Her kind is prohibited to cause sorrow, but at the same time is unable to feel love. All that changes when she meets Scott, a sweet and religious guy from her high school. After numerous relationships, that are void of the love and compassion she is incapable of feeling, Cass begins to experience emotions she never thought she could achieve. However, following her heart would mean two things; defying her family and their centuries old traditions, as well as battling with herself to be more than a creature that exists between fact and fiction and all that she has ever known.

Overall, I enjoyed the story and will continue to look for other novels by Patrick Jones. The Tear Collector was a book that I would feel comfortable recommending to my fellow readers if you are interested in something a little different than the typical vampire novel. The characters are likeable and the storyline is captivating. Great read!

~Tina~ says

Despite the mixed reviews for this read, I wanted to give this one a go and I could see both sides to the good and bad.

This is definitely a very unique concept to Vampires, collecting the emotional tears instead of blood for

energy's life force is something that is very different from the typical more traditional Vampire lore. However, I think I'll have to stick with the blood in this case. That sounds strange, I know, but when it comes to this kind of paranormal? You kinda don't mess with it.

Still, I found **The Tear Collector** to be very intriguing and again really enjoyed reading about a new concept. I could sympathize with the characters and the writing was very well done.

Anyone looking for something that is entirely of its own might want to take a look at this one.

Sara Grochowski says

I really liked the idea of *The Tear Collector*. When I read that the main character was a girl who basically lived off human tears, I was intrigued. While I felt that the idea of the book was well conceived, I didn't think the novel was very well executed.

One aspect that I felt was a major negative of *The Tear Collector* was the characters. I think this is the aspect that caused the most distraction for me. I didn't feel like the dialogue between characters was well written and I didn't feel like the characters were fully developed or believable.

The romantic aspect of the novel was very disappointing to me. I thought the love story would be greater, more epic, than it was. I felt like Cassandra didn't really do much to deserve any of the devotion that she received - her character was too flat for me to feel any attachment to her and I didn't see how any guy would be attached to her either. Her only quality that I could imagine her using to attract a guy would be her tendency to have sex with guys. I liked the idea of a guy finally seeing more to her than just what she could do for him physically, but I don't think that she ever really showed that other side.

I did think that the premise for *The Tear Collector* was a really unique and original idea. That was the one redeeming quality, it is unfortunate that I didn't enjoy the other main part of this book: the romance.

Ratings (Out of 10):

Plot: 8

Characters: 4

Writing style: 4

Romance: 4

Originality: 10

Total: 30/50 (D-)

The Tear Collector wasn't a book that I particularly enjoyed, but my sister read it as well and liked it. I recommend reading some other reviews before deciding whether to pick it up yourself.

Yan says

I think there is a misconception for the *Tear Collector*. So far I've seen many call this book a new twist to an old vampire lore. "...she's just like me now—not human, but not a classic horror movie vampire either. I'm more of a succubus that maintains a human form to get along in the world but is void of so much of what makes a person human—such as the ability to love." This is where things throw me off track. I'm not sure if

I can call this a vampire novel or not. There are certain attributes that make a vampire just as being able to transform into a wolf makes a werewolf. I'm grasping at thin straws right now; I guess it's up to the reader to decide. Anyway that's the least of my worries.

While I do think that *The Tear Collector* is unique within its idea and premise, the execution faltered. There seemed to be a lot of high school drama, redundant scenes, and many missing details.

I found the whole scenario of high school a bore actually. Jones starts a great idea then stops short from anything really exciting. We have the generic mean girls, the popular but still nice cheerleader, the why-do-you-keep-mentioning-that-Cassandra-gives-blow-jobs-often-to-jocks, the weird but deep Goth/Emo girl, and finally the not-the-best-looking-but-so-sweet guy. It's a battle between which environment is dominate—high school or Cassandra's family. There are times when they both intermingle but other times it's more of a Monopoly game—pass Go and collect \$200.

Cassandra hangs out in high school, comforts people, collects their tears, gives them to her great godmother, goes back to high school and collects tears again. This is where the redundancy comes into play. You can throw in random hissy cat fights but that doesn't make it any better. I did, however, like the friendship with Samantha and Cassandra. We follow them when they were enemies to being something special. I thought her story was touching but had missing details to make it even more of a pow.

I couldn't fully connect with many of the characters. I wasn't as empathetic to Cassandra as I would have liked, I didn't like Scott as much as I hoped, and I couldn't get the full intimate details of why they like each so darn much. I mean there were scenes that I thought "wow" but the conversations they had were very similar to other conversations she had.

Then there's Alexei, her cousin whom she was promised to. A third of the novel was a build-up to this point and even then it fell short and anticlimactic. Again it showed promise, the chapter articles of children kidnappings, the suspense, and the anticipation but in the end all I could say was "that's it"?

And the ending! Oh goodness. *no comment*

Overall: It's frustrating because it had so much potential not because it was horrid! I craved for something more.

Book Sp(l)ot says

Think all the teen vampire novels are the same? Then you definitely need to check out *The Tear Collector*, in this new tale, Patrick Jones really does find a new approach to the 'vampire' novel.

Cassandra (Cass) Gray and her family are not human, they don't burn in the sunlight or cringe away in horror when presented with garlic but they do need something extra to survive: human tears. And tears of joy or happiness won't do either, they have to be tears of sorrow...so you can just imagine what sort of life Cass lives, all the pain she is surrounded by.

But while the rest of her family is fine with this life, Cass has grown tired of it. Aching to be human and be done with her family 'duty' Cass has become discontent with the way things are.

The Tear Collector--which I find a hard book to summarize and still keep with my 'no spoilers' rule--is really a great twist on the recent explosion of 'teen vampire romance' books. The story is Cass's and her struggle keeping her identity secret from her friends and school (and dealing with high school drama like every other teenager) while still serving her family and deciphering how she feels about them and what they all are.

I really liked that there was Cass's family and her friends in fairly equal measure and not a 90/10 proportion because it was really need to explain who Cass was and why she had to deal with everything she did. Her family and friends were, though, where one of my few problems with one of the book came in. There were a few times where it felt like the storyline was at a sort of plateau to tell about both family members and different friends without really progressing to a peak/climax. Those parts weren't long or often, however.

I also really enjoyed that all aspects of Cassandra's life seemed to have been factored into the 'needing tears.' One hundred percent of her life (from the weather to her chapped lips and on) had something to do with her and her family's need for the moisture. It really added a lot to my enjoyment of the story that it wasn't, "Oh, Cass finds people when they're crying then her life is more or less normal."

It mirrored a traditional vampire story well in that there was still death that the characters had to deal with (in a high school setting no less). In this there weren't vampire killings, obviously, but I found it a nice symmetry to still have death be a part of the story and affect the characters.

One last bit, there was a character that added more drama to the story--and news reports interspersed with the story introduce that early on and that added another touch of drama and intrigue to the tale.

(thank you to the author/publisher for this book for review)

Lauren says

Going into The Tear Collector I wasn't sure what to expect exactly. Since there has been an abundance of negative reviews for it. Sadly enough I'm going to have to agree with those negative reviews; because while I did personally find the Tear Collector to be an interesting book with an even more intriguing premise, it feel flat for me in a big way.

Cassandra was someone who I found extremely hard to like and sympathize with, which is odd for me because I can usually find the good in almost anyone I read about. Though, Cassandra felt like a complete alien to me, but I guess that kind of makes sense since she wasn't exactly human. Since not only was she an odd girl, but I hated how for 95% of the book she used people to her own benefit, pretending to be their friend so that she could get to their sadness in life, and in turn fed of the one thing she craved the most: tears. I get that was something she had to do in order to live, but the way in which she never truly cared about most of the people she fed off bothered me. With saying that I did like the supporting characters, though, such as Robyn, Samantha, and Scott. All three where ones that I not only liked, but could feel sadness towards with the sad, lonely lives they were given.

As mentioned above, I did find the premise to be intriguing. I mean vampires feeding off tears instead of blood? I can't say I've heard that one before. Though while the book had an interesting feel to it that made it an easy read, at times the plot was predictable and the dialogue lacked emotion and feelings instead coming out in a clichéd type of way. With saying that I could still see promise in Mr. Jones' writing and because of

that, I may give at least one of his books another try, even though *The Tear Collector* was pretty much a let down.

In all, *The Tear Collector* is a book that I don't exactly recommend because in all truth, it's far from being a gem. Though, if you are set on reading, I would highly suggest you pick it up from the library instead, and maybe, just maybe, you'll see the light in it that I unfortunately did not.

Grade: C-
