



## Bite Me

*Parker Blue*

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## **Bite Me** Parker Blue

Barely eighteen-year-old heroine Valentine Shapiro got a raw deal in the parent lottery. Her father was part incubus demon, and her mother's never forgiven her for that.

Life after high school is tough enough without having to go 15 rounds with your inner demon. Thrown out of the house by her mother, Val puts one foot in front of the other and does the only thing that seems to make any sense - she takes aim at the town vampires. A stake a day, keeps the demon at bay. But don't call her Buffy. That makes Lola, her demon, very cranky.)

Her dark side makes everyday life a roller coaster, but means she's perfect for her night job as a bounty hunter. San Antonio's vampires are out of control, and it's up to Val, her faithful hellhound Fang, and her new partner, a handsome San Antonio police detective, to get the deadly fangbangers off the city streets.

Soon enough she finds herself deep in the underbelly of the city, discovering the secrets of the Demon Underground and fighting to save those she loves. Whether they love her back or not.

## **Bite Me Details**

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Author : Parker Blue

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## From Reader Review *Bite Me* for online ebook

### Wendy Darling says

3.5 stars Val Shapiro is a part-demon vampire slayer. And she has a snarky dog named Fang who thinks at her in all caps.

*Bite Me*, the first book in the Underground series, surprised me with its butt-kicking heroine, deadpan humor, and an interesting set-up. I really liked Val and Fang, whose relationship is the most compelling one in the book. There are also some great fight scenes and some intriguing secondary characters, including Shade, Micah, Ramirez, and Tessa, and the whole thing is well-written and moves along at a fast pace.

The book could have used some fleshing out, however, in the conflicts with her family. Val handles it maturely (so refreshing for YA), but there's not much insight into her mother's or her stepfather's or her sister's characters. They only make themselves known in the context of the main character, so it's hard to get to know them--and therefore it's hard to get a good feel for emotional tension. Some of the plotting in the middle and latter parts of the book could have used some streamlining as well, as there are a LOT of visits to go see this person and that person and a LOT of talking at all those locations. Plus the whole set-up might've been a little more convincing if Val were simply helping out an underground task force rather than an official police department--I mean, the girl *is* only 18. Most of all though, Val needs a better love interest than the good-hearted but supremely uninteresting Dan.

I thought the scene where Val lends her strength to Dan by using Shade as a conduit was very strong, though, and I'd love to see more of that type of thing in future books. I'm intrigued enough to keep reading the series (the next two books are already out), as I think the author shows a lot of promise. But please--let's get this succubus a sexier boyfriend!

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### Stephanie says

This book was a great start to a series. People are right to say that it's reminiscent of Buffy. She's actually name checked a few times. But it was all in good fun. Besides, who says there can only be one 'slayer'? It's not too similar though, so no need to fear a cheap rip off version of an old favorite.

It was a fun and quick read, and one that I had trouble putting down. It even made me tear up a bit during some of the more emotional family scenes (don't worry- I'm a notorious crier). But mostly I smirked along with Fang and Val as they went around town beating up vampires. Or saving them, depending on the vampire.

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### Claudia says

*Bite Me* was an engaging, tough not very original, read. I have to admit that after the first quarter of the book, which was pretty rushed and introduced me to the witty (and big-headed) half-demoness Val, I was hooked to the point I finished the book in one day and immediately attacked the second installment in the *Demon Underground* series.

Although Val's family situation seemed absurd to me, I enjoyed following her first steps in her "adult life" and I really like both her involvement with the SCU and her almost-relationship with Dan.

The vampire part was also unoriginal and unreal - I mean, vampires reveal their existence and **kindly request** demand that humans provide blood for them, and *nobody* is suspicious, asks anything, wonders what the heck is going on?

The true reason I enjoyed this book so much?

Fang. That dog was a total laugh, I fell right away for him as he was just sooo cute and irresistible, nobody could possibly not like him.

Overall, *Bite Me* was a quick read that lacked a bit in realism (and substance) but was enjoyable all the same.

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### **Jackie says**

*Bite Me* was free on Kindle so not expecting too much I downloaded it about lunchtime onto my Kindle and before 9 pm that night had read this quirky tale!

I thought that I would like the book from the synopsis and since it was set in Texas it was doubly intriguing to me as I live 2 hours from the location of San Antonio!

I could not put it down, loved the fact that the main character Val Shapiro was a half human/half lust demon or since a female half succubus! Val is not beautiful, not the most popular girl of her age group and is probably one of the more realistic female heroines in this kind of story that I have found in a long while... She is a refreshing change of pace in fact as a character!

Eighteen years old and all attitude Val is a kick ass vampire slayer who puts poor Buffy to shame! Thanks to the stepfather who helped raise her from age five on Val has taken all kinds of martial arts training in order to channel the energy needed to keep her demon half under control... That same training has come in handy time and again as she started killing Vampires at a young age and being able to use her fight training has kept her from serious injury, along with her demon strength and speed!

On her 18th birthday Val's younger sister Jen tags along without her knowledge and witnesses her taking down and dispatching of a vampire. Also a witness to the slaying of the vamp is Special Crimes Unit Officer Dan Sullivan, he briefly talks to Val and Jen explaining who he is and gives Val his card in case she needs to reach him...

Unfortunately upon arriving home her Mother and Stepfather see that Jen is with Val and they then and there make the decision that for her younger sisters welfare the two need to be separated and banish Val from seeing Jen and at the same time throw her out of the house!

Val takes off on her motorcycle and ends up at the San Antonio River Walk where she finds a little shaggy mutt who comes up to her and allows her to pet him. Not surprising to me a Vampire shows up and Val is astonished to see the dog leap up and attach himself to the Vamps genital area and hang on for dear life! Val dispatches the vamp and hears a voice in her mind that turns out to be the dog who is in reality part Hellhound and goes by the name of "Fang"...

Not since reading Lizzie Brown's talking sidekick the Jack Russell Terrier "Pirate" in author Demon Slayer series have I laughed as much as I did with the comments and observations of "*Fang*", he is truly the best

part of the story at times!

My second love is for the character of Dan Sullivan... He is a "*Mr Clean*" and All American nice guy cop who becomes Val's partner when she is recruited into the Special Crimes Unit that Dan works for... They are the division of the San Antonio police that is unknown to most of the cities population, the ones responsible for policing the paranormal bad guys who hurt or even kill humans!

To say that this is a good read is an understatement, it was fun and it was fast and it was also a realistic look through the eyes of a young woman who is still figuring out how to make the best life for herself she can given the circumstances she is faced with... That is all the information you will get out of me on this one, the story has to be read to be appreciated and it is well worth the time you spend as very enjoyable!

I can say that the story can be read as a stand alone as pretty much has the loose ends tied up by the end but since books #2 Try Me (released in March of 2010) and #3 Fang Me released this month of March 2011 are available I will be reading them soon!

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### **Lina says**

I would first of all like to thank netGalley for this ebook. Thank you very much for the opportunity to read your product.

Now on to the review.

This book came off to me as trying to be like *Buffy: The Vampire Slayer*, but ironically. Hipster *Buffy*, almost. Which is upsetting because it could clearly be something on its own. Our lead is Val Shapiro a half-human half-succubus who takes the edge off her demon side by hunting vampires. Her mother and step-father decided to kick her out of the house one night when her half-sister sneaks out and follows her out for a hunt.

For me this book went up and down in terms of quality constantly. There were times where I found myself rooting for Val and others where I wanted to hit her with a large rock. The support cast fairs no better because they are either (a) judgmental or (b) outlandish. The latter was especially true with Val's half-sister, I mean she is the definition of TSTL and I actually hoped she would die as in death she would at least not to worry about thinking.

*Bite Me* is an alright book and for a young adult "slayer" book it isn't too bad, but its genre does not excuse the sloppiness of the story.

2: 1/2 stars.

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### **Carol. says**

Val Shapiro is on vampire stake-out. Killing vampires is not only a public service, but the violence gives her temporary respite from her internal sex-demon, Lola. Which is weird, because I call mine 'Lola' too, only my Lola is a sugar-demon. Lola is the reason Val is strong and super-fast and able to kill vampires. I realized

this is what my English teacher termed an ALLEGORY, and now I'm sucked into reading a book about a young woman discovering her sexuality, and I can see we are already off to a banner start.

Despite precautions to remain hidden, a cop witnesses Val saving some chump and killing a vampire. But it's okay that he saw, because he's a member of the area Special Crimes Unit and does the same thing, only without the sex demon. The vampire disposal is also witnessed by Little Sister Stow-away, who is hoping to be just like big (half) sister, only she doesn't have a sex-demon. Unfortunately, Val and Sister's mom is seriously upset when they return home, so mom asks Val to move out, along with firing her from the family bookstore, all under the guise of protecting younger sister.

Because that always works out. [eyeroll]

Val walks around the city, despondent, and meets a special dog THAT TALKS IN HER HEAD. I'm absolutely predisposed to like most dogs, except that not only is this one a terrier mix, but he TALKS ALL CAPS AND IT ISN'T DISTRACTING AT ALL. The cute cop Dan, calls later and encourages Val to meet with the head of Special Crimes Unit. Her interview consists of hand-to-hand combat with various team members, which is completely normal. She kicks their asses with her special sex-related powers (this is a METAPHOR). Voilá! Tough eighteen year-old woman AND HER HALF-DEMON DOG gets a job on police squad with no official training, and they even get paired with Dan.

Special Crimes has been investigating an uptick in vamp crimes. While asking human gangs about local competition, they notice a poster for the New Blood Movement for vampire rights. They sneak into the rally (that's how secret the vampires are--they rent a hall to hold a rally) where the panel is speaking and are surprised when the head vamp has to intervene to protect them from all the other vamps, just because Val is also called The Slayer on the streets. This is news to her, but apparently her sister has been trying to cash in on Val's reputation. Head vampire is super-sincere, charismatic and really sexy, so Val automatically suspects him of being behind all the killings.

In the course of business, they discover an supernatural stripper bar--because that's never been done before--run by a man who seems very familiar to Val. Wait--it's not a love interest--it's a 'cousin.' Maybe. He's an incubus and tells Val she needs to figure out how to feed her succubus Lola, and soon, because he can tell Val and Dan have serious chemistry.

Somewhere in there, she also discovers her kid sister is now working at the vampire blood banks, so of course it becomes her mission to change the kid's mind, or failing that, get her fired. They go to a couple of blood donation centers and Val discovers that some people really like donating blood to vamps because it is super-sexually satisfying. This will not encourage Val to accept Lola (the METAPHOR).

At some point, Val and Dan kiss and Dan gets seriously freaked out by Val being half-succubus. I, on the other hand, was seriously freaked out that Mr. Professional Police Officer somehow thought it was okay to make out with his recently homeless, eighteen year-old partner whose only work experience is in her family's bookstore. Somehow, this allows Dan to be mad at Val and Val to become despondent over Lola.

Val and Dan stalk Head Vampire at the vampire compound, and are helped by a new guy Shade. Shade will be important in the future, because he is a super-sexy half-demon as well. Val does the traditionally stupid thing by ditching her team to go combat evil all by herself, at which point she learns that her team cares for her and that by embracing her sex powers, she can win.

SIGH.

I always feel like I have to explain when I read a book and give it less than four stars. Which is ridiculous, really, as I generally go into books expecting to enjoy them, not to write rage reviews. But here we are again, a mismatch between book and reader. I had picked it up as an e-book bargain, noting one of my friends had really liked it. And, while I've gotten a bit bored with parts of the urban fantasy world, I thought a story about a woman who was half-demon sounded intriguing. There I go again--hope for the genre that often disappoints. A half-demon has interesting potential; warring with the urge to do bad, or perhaps to encourage chaos, or even coping with a bit of self-satisfied sadistic glee. As I said, potential about women embracing the bad within. Then I open the book and see the character is actually half-succubus, which usually means an excuse to write sex scenes.

Bite Me isn't bad, but it isn't great either. The promising beginning of a young woman finding her place in the world becomes seriously trope-ridden as the story progresses, and Blue's world-building leaves a lot to be desired. Fans of paranormal urban fantasy will likely enjoy the book, although the mental barriers Val currently has about sex mean it'll be awhile before readers--and Val--enjoy some satisfying action.

## TWO AND A HALF STARS

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### **Nikki Peterson says**

The book starts out with Val's sneaky ass little sister stowing away in her car while she goes out to hunt some vamps. She is approached by an officer of the SCU (special crimes unit) and he, Dan, lets her know that they know about the vamps and that he had been watching her. He gives her his card and tells her to give him a call if she ever wants to share her secrets on fighting vamps. When Val and her sister Jennifer get home Val gets in trouble from her mom and step-dad for it. What is her punishment? The kick her ass out of the house and fire her from her job at the family book store. Totally fair, right?

She drives off pissed and stops by the river to do some thinking and that is where she hooks up with a cute little terrier. But it's not just a terrier. He's also part hellhound. Val feels a rapport with the dog, Fang. She herself is part demon. Part Succubus from her father's side. That's why she hunts vamps. To try and appease her lust demon with the hunt. She is able to communicate with Fang by way of mind and that is one smart ass dog, let me tell you! They decide to "hang" together. Now Val has to find a place to live and a job.

She calls Dan and gets a job through him and by the next day she has a place to stay, rooming with Dan's sister Gwen. Things are looking up for her and Fang. And then things veer off course again. She finds out that her sister is becoming a part of a vampire movement to find Val. However, Jennifer gets in over her head. And Dan finds out that she, Val, is part succubus. Does she save her sister? Does she lose her job? Is she able to keep Dan as a friend? Read it and find out my friend...

I liked it...

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### **Jessie (Ageless Pages Reviews) says**

#### **Read This Review & More Like It On My Blog!**

Straight off the top, I have to disagree with my little blurb copy and pasted above. I don't agree that this is a

novel that "spans the gap between young-adult and adult fiction" - I think this is a solid but not spectacular series opener for a definitely young-adult series. *Bite Me* more than delivers on the rest of the promise hinted at above: it is edgy, it is fun, and Val and Fang are a comedic duo with flair and timing. I can understand the appeal for older readers - at almost 24 I'm probably at the outset of the target demographic - but this is definitely a young-adult vampire/supernatural novel. Not the most original or ground-breaking, but full of enough verve and unique mythology/lore to keep me more than interested.

Set in San Antonio, Texas (hey, is there anywhere near Morganville, TX? Texas definitely has a bad infestation of vampires...) *Bite Me* is vampire-slayer Val(entine) Shapiro's starring show. Eighteen years old, part succubus lust demon and a vampire slayer, Val is far from normal but completely real and grounded. Echoing her split nature, Val is a half-Jewish and half-Catholic tumult of drama, danger and humor ("The name's Val, not Buffy. Do I look like a blonde cheerleader with questionable taste in men?") She might come across as trying too hard on occasion, but Val amused me by and large and I definitely bought her persona of tough, funny capable vampirehunter. The lust-demon/part succubus thing is a huge problem in Val's life (even though she's technically only 1/8 succubus): she doesn't feel human, that she belongs or is even loved by her family - common teen issues that make Val intensely relatable for younger audiences. While "Lola" (what Val calls her demon) doubtless gives Val boons (extra speed and strength, accelerated healing) she doesn't come without a hefty price. Val's personal issues with herself and her nature are another strong point for the novel: she consistently struggles to distinguish "demon-Val" and "human-Val" while almost resenting a key part of who she is. The truth about Val she refuses to acknowledge is that she is much more powerful of she works with the Lola part of herself instead of denying her nature and being ashamed by it. She can be either immature or mature (her handling of her mother's rejection was surprisingly mature for YA), but she always presents herself as a real person.

The supporting cast is not as rounded out as it would need to be for a higher rating - and one of the main ones this is only a three star review, instead of a four. Val's younger sister Jen is an important part of the events of *Bite Me*, so it's too bad she lacks any real characterization. Like her daughter Jen, Val's mom Sharon is also drawn in broad, undetailed strokes. Her substantial (and somewhat overwrought) issues with Val are left clouded and unexplained - making Sharon appear as a cookie-cutter villain rather than a conflicted woman with a uneasy relationship with her daughter. The only really fleshed out supporting characters were that of Val's snarky hellhound/terrier Fang and love-interest/partner Dan. Fang is practically human in personality and actions, but the hellhound with humor and heart nearly stole the show several times. The only one that unequivocally loves Val, Fang is one of the most likeable demons in the book. Dan, Val's partner in SCU, plays a good straight man to Val's loose cannon antics. He's stoic and reserved - almost the archetype for a detective but emerges as a sweet and kind companion to balance Val's more dangerous nature. Lieutenant Ramirez of the SCU also has potential for a character - I can see him easily as a father-figure for the vampire hunter - but he as mostly relegated to the background for much of the novel.

I liked the variety the reader experiences during Val's excursions. Not just vampire hunting, or demon powers, Val has to contend with more mundane issues as well. The style of the novel is definitely geared more towards action than dialog, but I thoroughly enjoyed the well-described fight/sparring scenes. Val believable holds her own, but definitely isn't impervious to a few punches herself. Parker Blue also went and created her own lore/mythology for demons and vampires - and I definitely like the individual flair she placed on the creatures, i.e. "vein of vampires", the shadow demons, etc. The New Blood Movement for vampires (people donate blood, these vamps don't attack and take blood) isn't the most revolutionary idea for supernatural fiction (hello *Twilight*, and *Eat, Slay, Love*) but it allows for some interesting power struggles amongst the nightwalkers. Slowly, deliberately parsing out information about Val's world and creatures as the novel progresses provided an excellent way for me to slowly submerge myself in Parker Blue's *Bite Me*, and leave me clamoring for the next in the series *Try Me*.

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## **Unabridged Bookshelf says**

Val Shapiro is a vampire slayer with a unique gift in the form of Lola. Lola being what Val likes to use to refer to her demon side. Val Shapiro is teenager trying to learn to deal with her inner succubus, making it hard to connect with anyone. The opening of the books jumps right into the action with Val fighting with a vampire. Val uses the hunting and killing of vampires to quench the thirst of the lust demon part of her. This avoids the need to use her powers to seduce men and have Lola feed on the lust energy.

My favorite part of this book is the relationship between Val, and her hellhound Fang. The relationship between the two has a way to lightening the mood, in certain situations. Even though Fang is a dog, he is holds his own, and he almost feels like a human character. Besides who does not want a vampire hunting hellhound at their side.

Val Shapiro as a character that is immediately fascinating, and the author, Parker Blue, creates a character that draws a reader in almost immediately. The setting for the book is also intriguing, because San Antonio is not a common city featured in supernatural, vampire novels. The change made the book even more fun to read. This book held my interest, and I could not put it down. I loved this book, the characters featured, and it ended with me wanted to know more. I cannot wait to start reading the second book in the Demon Underground series by Parker Blue.

\*\*Unabridged Bookshelf received this book from netGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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## **Shelley says**

Bite Me, is the first release in the Demon Underground series featuring 18 year old Val (Valette) Shapiro. This is a crossover between being a Young Adult and Adult Urban Fantasy. Set in the city of San Antonio, Texas, Val is a part succubus (lust demon) vampire slayer. Only, don't call her Buffy, she's a different breed all her own. Val's alter ego is fittingly named Lola. When Lola comes out to play, Val's eyes turn purple, like black light. Val also has a human half sister (they only share a mother) Jenifer who is always getting herself into trouble following Val around.

In this book, Val has some decisions to make after being thrown out of her own house, and then fired by her "rents" from her job at the bookstore after Jenn follows her into a dangerous situation. Val makes, in my opinion, the correct choice by choosing to leave and putting distance between herself and her "rents" and half sister who is the most troubling and irksome character you will find.

Val also has a motorcycle that she uses to troll for vampires; a Honda Valkyrie. Fitting if you catch the name of the book and what she does for a living. Val's own father died when she was 5 years old. We later find out that he took his own life because Val rejected him. Val has the strength, speed, agility, rapid healing, and the ability to read vampires minds when they try to control her.

Val is an awesome character who is besmirched by her own mother time and time again. Her mother has issues with her other half, and goes as far as distancing herself from Val. The only thing this does is cause Jenn to run out and get herself into trouble. Val is far from the perfect character. She's been isolated all her life away

from humans for the sake that she can hurt them by draining their energies. The only thing she's really good at is slaying vampires. There are those who will relate this to Buffy, but please, don't.

Her stepfather Rick, has actually been helpful, more than I can say for her own mother. Rick encouraged and trained her in martial arts, and the hunting of vampires to release and control her inner Lola. Later he makes a stupid decision that nearly costs him and Jenn their lives and turns them into the undead.

My favorite character of this book? Fang. Fang is part hellhound and can sniff out vampires like nobody's business. Val and Fang's partnership is what makes this book fun to read. Fang and Val can communicate as though he is talking, which is also very cool. Fang's protectiveness of Val was inspiring.

Detective Dan Sullivan ends up becoming Val's partner at San Antonio Police Department's Special Crimes Unit. His only failure as a character, is not understanding the Demon underground, and that there are those around him that have differences that he can't understand. Yes, they have a good partnership and relationship, but it takes him way too long to realize how strong and useful Val can be to him, and the department. Good points: 1. Having Val rent space from his sister Gwen. 2. Finally, at the end, accepting Val for who she is.

Micah Blackburn comes into the picture a bit later, and tells Val about her other half, and the fact that he is the leader of the Demon Underground, and has been watching over her and her family. Micah, himself, is an incubus, so he understands the cravings his other half demands. Micah and Val's relationship should be interesting to read as this series grows and they dynamics change as well.

Recommended to YA readers, Urban Fantasy lovers, and those who enjoy the mystery of finding out who the real villain is.

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### **Sarah Maddaford says**

Although it was an overall enjoyable, quick read, I had a couple issues with this book. Why do recent strong evil fighting girls feel the need to reference Buffy? It wouldn't be a crime to mention the connection only once and leave it at that, but we keep hearing the title Slayer and really 40 isn't high enough to justify continued harping on it. Also, how old is Dan supposed to be again? Is he a detective or a beat cop? Maybe he should feel uncomfortable with his feelings for Val, who just turned eighteen and got kicked out of her house at the same time. It's a big difference in maturity between someone used to living on his own and someone used to the comforts of having parents around to take care of things. The author does get points for avoiding vilifying the step family in order to create conflict, but then loses them with the younger sister being too dumb to survive without nearly ruining her sister's life along with being a sheep to the slaughter. I'll give the second book a try, but I'm not expecting great things from this series. The dog tries too hard, Ramirez is weird (and shady to me) and everything is slightly too sexual for my tastes.

There's some language, but I don't remember the f-bomb being thrown. The violence is fairly typical of a girl fighting vampires type book, there's stabbing, blood drinking, decapitation, and martial arts fighting. As for sex, there's making out, and the clear desire for more on the part of both characters as well as Micah working at a strip club and being part incubus with Val being part succubus.

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### **Nadine X says**

I don't like to be overly critical or mean. I believe it takes courage to write and share it with the world. But I have to say that this book was terrible!

Within a page, I knew this was the author's first attempt at writing. Perhaps even it was a first or second draft. The language and style of narrative is so juvenile and awkward that it actually made my mouth drop open. It reads like a story written by a young teenager who hasn't read a lot, but watches a lot of Twilight and Supernatural. From the first page, it's evident that the main character is a Mary Sue- she's really cool, senses evil with her super senses, and she's oh so powerful, yet lonely because of her uniqueness. Geez. Shoot me already. I got to about page 10 and just couldn't continue...I know its probably unfair to review this book considering I didn't even make it to the halfway point, but I just don't have time to waste on stuff like this. Especially when I could be reading much better bad fan fiction about characters I actually know and I love.

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### **Louise says**

This was a brilliant book! Full of action, humour and love. I absolutely LOVE Fang - I want a dog like him! Val is a great character and I can't wait to read the next 2 books in this series.

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### **Kat Kennedy says**

[image error]

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### **Diane ~Firefly~ says**

Val has a not so great 18th birthday that leads to a new life. I might check out the next book, but if so mostly for Fang.

What I enjoyed:

- \* Fang. Love the part hell-hound in a terrier body.
- \* The idea of a demon underground was interesting.

What could have been better:

- \* The romance was unrealistic.
- \* Her mother was a horror. I have a hard time believing she was able to live there all that time.
- \* Alejandro seemed a bit too accommodating.
- \* The mystery kind of had a cop out, easy way to find out with no real reason for what was done.

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