



Blood Rites

Amity Cross

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A beautiful star, a dark prince with a price and an affair that pushes the limits of sanity...

Sebastian Vaughn has a secret.

Lorelei Lansford is the epitome of perfection.

Vaughn has darkness inside of him. Recruited by a criminal organization at a young age, he leads a double life. He deals in women, arms and intelligence, but to the outside world he's just another rich playboy living the lifestyle. That is until he crosses paths with a shining star, a beauty he can't keep his hands off.

Lorelei was born into a wealthy family and has certain responsibilities she is expected to obey without question. One of those is not falling in love with high society bad boy, Sebastian Vaughn. Money, sex, danger... Vaughn exudes it and like a moth to a flame, she can't stay away. When Vaughn steps into something out of his control there's only one way he can escape with his life. He has to make a deal that will betray everything he holds dear.

The price?

Lorelei.

Blood Rites Details

Date : Published (first published 2015)

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Author : Amity Cross

Format :

Genre : Romance

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From Reader Review Blood Rites for online ebook

Amy says

Royal Blood, Bad Blood, & Blood Rites

Amity Cross

5 Stars – are there more? Because if there are nail them all here.

WARNING: These are stories about pain and retribution. Some do not have a happy ending. There is strong language, brutal sex scenes and extreme violence. It is not intended for those of a delicate and prudish disposition. The Royal Blood Series is a dark and dangerous place. You have been warned. If you do NOT like graphic descriptions do NOT read this book and certainly don't review it. The author gives you a warning and nothing ticks me off more is when you have been warned and reviewers STILL dive in and then bash the book.

Moving on ... If I could rate this series higher than 5 stars it would be whatever that star is read for me. I now have an unhealthy addiction to dark, brutal, dirty reads thanks to Ms. Cross and a few other authors who have passed through my kindle recently. You know who you are! There is serious something wrong with these writers and even more so with me as I am panting for MORE.

The characters in the series are wicked. You have Xavier, Mercy, Vaughn, and Hawkes. Skyes, the Royal Blood & Necromancer MC, Weiss and Monsieur Lafayette (whom you only hear his name a few times which makes me pray and wish on the stars that this series will continue with the likes of his antics.)

Remember I am reviewing the entire series thus far so stay with me.

Royal Blood is our first book. Mercy Reid is running. She wants revenge. Not the sweet innocent kind but the kind with blood. The violent kind. Mercy Reid is not who she says she is but she's on her way to becoming her leaving who she was far behind. She is searching for answers after coming home to a blood bath. Everyone dead .. and not only dead shot point blank through the head. Mercy knew her brother was into bad dealings and that is why she didn't come home for four long years and the day she decides to come back her identity and her entire self will forever change.

Xavier or "X" is a hit man. Not your ordinary hit man either. This is the most brutal and messed up character I have ever read in a book with the exception of one other. He is aggressive, he is brutal, he is torturous and almost vile. AND DANG I LOVED HIM. Mercy Reid has opened the gates of hell for him that included an invitation of being aroused using pain and force. She is playing a dangerous game with him. A game she refuses to relent.

This isn't your typical love story, or your typical broken guy and girl story with a happy ending. This is much more. This is something like I have NEVER had the privilege of reading. We are talking extreme sexual situations, graphic murder and not just murder, torture. X and Mercy are engulfed in darkness. But each of them knows what they must do. X needs to find his next target and get the job done to find his freedom from being owned by the MC's and Mercy needs her revenge; her revenge that puts a bullet straight through her families murderer; right between the eyes – only then will she have redemption.

Bad Blood is is the continuation of Royal Blood. Bad Blood is even darker than the first.

Each has a chosen path before they met, (Check the Book 1) these roads lead to something unexpected for both. We dive into what happened to X and who made him the monster he is now. He wasn't born this way of course but he was conditioned, tortured and broken. His body tells the story and shows the pain that was put on him. On the physical side; I cant even put it into words. Emotions are written into each scene but they aren't filled with hearts and flowers yet they aren't anything I found horrific. It was more healing in a very

disturbing way. Mercy and X are on the road to redemption. Vaughn has agreed to give them what they need but for a price. Skyes has taken something very important away from him. He wants this man dead just like X and Mercy. X will kill to give Mercy what she wants. And so he does. Bad Blood takes us further into the “relationship” between X and Mercy along with Mercy’s redemption and revenge. We also find out what Vaughn has to do with all of this and his interest in Skyes being taken out as well. Hawkes is present in this story as well. He is one bad man and is Vaughn’s best friend and protection. However after with Skyes did to Vaughn he doesn’t need Hawkes’ protection.. the world needs protection from The Hangman.

This book is an explosive charge of rage, torture, seduction and a very dark landscape scrolling through the pages. And yes, it made me want more.

Moving forward to Blood Rites; this book says its 2.5 in this series but believe me when I say that there is no “half” of anything in this installment. It is a full on assault once again of brutality with romance. Again let me warn you that if you are unsure about this type of genre then DO NOT click it -- warning – this is not a pink fluffy novel. This one slams your will to continue reading into overdrive. This book takes you places that are not pleasant but in this story are vital and it does so with absolute conviction. Blood Rites gives us the back story of Vaughan and what makes him who he is. It details what went wrong in his dealing with Skyes and moved him on in his life that has resulted in him being the man he is today and as we are ready know his character, this man is difficult to get a handle on.

Vaughn was a decent sort of person; maybe prior to the events that took place. He is dashing, a billionaire and looks like your average billionaire in the daylight; but when the day turns to night he becomes just the same as X. A killer. There is much more that I cant tell you. You must read the book to understand why Vaughn becomes who he is in Bad Blood. It will completely make you lose your mind. Blood Rites is the story of the decisions that are maked and the repercussions that those decisions have for not only him but those around him. Lorelei will change his life forever.

Sykes is a vile character. He has no regard for the sanctity of life. Vaughan’s dealings with Sykes are the reason for his loss.

Lorelei’s character and undoing will gut you. Her thoughts at the end of the book will tear you apart.

Beware. Its not pretty and the boom just like that its over and you are yelling WTF just happened.

Just like that .. I want more dark, I want more twisted and I need it now. Where is the next book Amity!? Take me to the depths ... its oh so good!

Lisa says

Who would you choose the bad boy or the corporate man? It's a tough decision and one that isn't made lightly. We met Vaughn in Bad Blood and there I'm not sure what I thought of him to tell you the truth. But this guy man I could not decide what part of him I liked. He deal is drugs and women and two thing should not be something we are interested but it keeps our attention just the same. Lorelei what can I say about her but that I loved her character and the way she handles situations. Her and Vaughn chemistry is magic. However there are secrets and lies and Vaughn must decide which side of the law he is on and if he's man enough to keep Lorelei. And can Lorelei fight and be strong enough for the crap that Vaughn has thrown at her?

Sarah says

Found it a bit boring until near the end

Janett The Pleasure of Reading Today says

This is the short story of our beloved Vaughn and the only love of his life Lorelei.

Vaughn was a man who wanted no attachments and pretty much led a double life. Fine upstanding billionaire by day but law breaker by night. He wanted women for one reason only, always letting them know up front what that reason was, until a mystery woman bumped into him on a crowded street and proceeded to change his entire way of thinking.

Lorelei was a 25 year old heiress who worked at her museum and was constantly being hounded by her mother to settle down and get married, and after another argument, storms out of a restaurant and proceeds to run into a man that was breathtakingly beautiful and she was hooked from the moment she looks into his eyes.

These two were perfect for each other in every way and as we know from the previous stories theirs was a very brief time together, but although it was brief the connection between them was very strong.

I knew going into this book that what had happened to Vaughn must have been horrible but how horrible I never could have imagined. The anguish he goes through is so palpable that I was choked up reading about it, it made me feel even happier knowing that Vaughn got his revenge in the end, and I hope that revenge was beyond what I read about ;-)

Loved this novella and can't wait to read more of not only Vaughn but also X and Mercy. I don't know if Vaughn will ever love another as he did Lorelei but I truly hope he will because this poor baby deserves to have a happily ever after. Nothing is sexier than a damaged man coming back to life after years of pain and anguish.

5 I love you Vaughn stars

*** Review by Tammy ***

Klaire says

Gifted for an honest review – 4 ½ stars

We were introduced to Sebastian Vaughn in Royal Blood #2, just enough to whet the appetite and wonder exactly what that grudge he has with Sykes is. I went into this knowing that there was no HEA for this particular man so if you're looking for that then this is not for you. I'm a diehard fan of Amity Cross and when this was announced I was over the moon to be getting the back story to Vaughn, I think it's one that really did need its own little novella to fill in the blanks. It would have consumed too much of X and Mercy's story and detail would have been lost in amongst their story.

So in true Amity style, she brings us this novella with much gusto...yeah, there's an insta love but those I

don't mind especially coming from the pen of this lady. Vaughn is your rich bad boy with a double life; Lorelei is from money but has none of the haughtiness and entitlement mostly associated with this type of character. The time span in this novella is short, however these two characters explode when meeting each other and Amity paints a rich picture of their two worlds colliding. I have to say I preferred Vaughn as an unknown, I think it made him more dangerous, enigmatic, but it was utterly captivating watching this story play out and seeing the consequences of certain actions. It also serves to remind us Royal Blood fans exactly how ruthless Sykes is. I loved the brief appearances of X and The Watchman. I have a feeling that The Watchman will be a defining role in the next Royal Blood book and it was good to get a little bit of an insight to his "job" and why he's so revered.

Whilst you will get lost in this story about Vaughn and Lorelei I think that you get left with mixed feelings. Don't get me wrong, I like Vaughn but I do wonder if his intentions to help X are correct or if he harbours a little bit of animosity for X not helping when asked. We shall see.

Great little novella for which I have awarded 4 1/2 stars for. For me there felt like a little was missing from when Lorelei was taken. I needed more details than Amity gave I think. I know....gruesome as that sounds, it was the only part that I kind of felt lacking. Moving on, it will be interesting to see how much more of a part he plays within the next book. Again Amity, another fab ride!

Diana L. Matranga says

redhat lady

Book three made me cry so hard when Vaughn saw how is Loralei was tortured and died. O had to keep reading the rest of the series.

Saunders says

so good!

Tonya says

Review from Abibliophobia Anonymous Book Reviews

After reading Bad Blood: Royal Blood #2, I was really curious about Sebastian Vaughn and why he wanted to kill Sykes so bad. Especially with the little mentions of Lorelei. I am so happy that Amity Cross wrote this novella and gave us the story about Vaughn. I loved it.

Sebastian Vaughn basically had two lives. His daytime life as a billionaire businessman. And his night time life...bad guy that dealt with all sorts of illegal things, like guns and drugs. He is "the bad boy of High Society." He did a good job of keeping his two lives separate. That is until Lorelei literally ran into him and everything changes for him.

It was love at first sight for both of them.

Even though we knew Lorelei was killed, I was still shocked by how. my eyes may have leaked a little bit.

We see how Vaughn went from who, and what, he was...to being 'The Hangman', and why.

"In time, I'd come back a stronger version of myself and make Sykes pay. I'd bathe in his blood and laugh at his tormented soul. I'd make him feel everything she did before she died."

Now I am surprised that he helped Xavier Blood in Bad Blood, after what happened in this book. Bring on the next Royal Blood!

Maria Lazarou--Obsessed by Books Blog says

*****Reviewed on behalf of Obsessed by Books *****

Here we find out more about Vaughn, we previously met him in the previous book, and I for one would love to find out what is behind his façade.

Vaughn is most definitely a bad boy and he is an ultimate one as his dealings include drugs and women. His other interest is Lorelei, the chemistry between these two is sizzling hot.

There are decisions to made by both of them, Vaughn needs to decide what is most important to him and Lorelei needs to decide whether she can forgive, forget to be with the man that she is in love with.

Amity has written a book where she keeps your attention from page one, this read is dark and dirty and I loved every minute of it.

This series just gets better and better, I will be looking forward to what Amity writes next, as we have one extremely talented author here and she is not one to be missed.

Nadia Debowska-Stephens (Obsessed by Books) says

~*~ Obsessed by Books are given in exchange for an honest review ~*~

"Open up the wound and let me stitch it back up."

But as we learned in Bad Blood Vaughn has a wound that just keeps on bleeding...it is his motivation, his driving force and in this novella we explore how that came to be. Sebastian Vaughn is a bad man. Keeping his two lives separate he works in the financial sector successfully by day and has an alter ego in the darker side of life; dealing in hard drugs, women and weapons. He is riding high in both circles, his reputation reknown, whispers and accolades surround him but believes he is untouchable. Striking a deal with Sykes, the leader of The Necromancers MC he quickly changes his mind as Sykes wants more than Vaughn is willing to give.

This is Vaughn's story of how a chance meeting with a beautiful woman alters the course of destiny and shapes the man he is to become, The Hangman. Vaughn becomes infatuated with the stunning woman he accidentally bumps into, the electricity sparking between them. He knows she is different but doesn't realise just how far he will go to win her. They play a cat and mouse game of seduction but ultimately can they resist the pull?

Wrong choices, poor decisions and man's hubris creates the ultimate Romeo and Juliet type love story. We learn what became of the beautiful Lorelei and Vaughn's metamorphosis from a bad man to a very very bad man, he goes somewhere much darker after his dealings with Sykes. We also meet again with The Watchman. He is not someone to bump onto in the dark. Hawkes is another interesting character his loyalty to Vaughn unsurpassed. Lorelei is a high society lady, born wealthy but without title and she feels she has never quite fitted in. Successful too in her own right in her chosen career, she is swept up in the storm that is Vaughn. A good girl with an inner bad side, she accepts every dark secret he has to give. Having never felt so passionately before about someone she gives him her all and tragically that also includes her very last breathe. Unfortunately she is just a footnote in my review as she was nothing more than a pawn in Syke's blood soaked game of chess, expendable in his grand scheme.

This is another adrenaline filled, smoking hot, sexy read that has no happy ending or hero's rushing in. Just darkness and things best left in the shadows, my all time favourite flavour of story.

A five star sizzling read.

Books Laid Bare says

This may be book 2.5 in this series but believe me when I say that there are no half measures in this book – it is a full on assault to your senses and one that if you are at all unsure of, you should take good heed of the authors warning – this is not a pink a fluffy novel -it punches you square in the face early on and it makes no bones about doing so because this book takes you places that are not pleasant but in this story are vital and it does so with absolute conviction!

This gives us the back story of Vaughan and what makes him tick- what has gone on in his life that has resulted in him being the man he is today – and as we are ready know – that man is difficult to get a handle on.

If ever there was to be a poster boy for split personality – it would be Vaughan. Because as much as he looks the part – successful, well-groomed professional – when the day turns to night – his true self comes into play and he likes the kudos that come with being the bad boy in town – that is until what is needed from him is more than the price he is willing to pay .

This is Vaughan in all his glory – the good and the bad and there is much more of one than the other I can tell you. It is the story of the decisions that he makes and the repercussions that those decisions have for not only him but those around him.

It is the tale of two people caught in a situation that was never going to end the way they wanted it but that were left dealing with the hand they were dealt – and keeping everything crossed that they could make it work – but not everything that we hope and pray for is achievable.

We pay witness to the situation with Lorelei and what those events do to Vaughan – the fact that whatever he may have been before, he is life is much darker than he could have ever envisaged now.

Sykes is a truly reprehensible character one that has no regard for the sanctity of life and one that plays everything and everyone around him like a finely tuned guitar. Vaughan's dealings with Sykes were always going to be the root of his demise but his internal struggle meant that he was destined to fall much further

than I ever thought possible.

There are some truly dark characters and moments in this story but they are necessary as this is not a book that will have you weeping tears of joy, it will leave you aghast at the depravity of some and astonished by the naivety of others.

Like Lorelei, it will be Vaughan that is the recipient of that very last breath, the one you hold right to the end, just before you flick to the last page and murmur WTF!

Donna says

This book takes a short break from Xavier Blood and Mercy Reed's tale to dive into the backstory of Sebastian Vaughn (remember him for 2.0?) Having read book 2, I had an idea of what was coming for poor Lorelei and I have to say I was a bit freaked out as I was reading. I had no idea how much detail would be given about what she went through. These books lean towards the dark side, so it could have been very disturbing, but it wasn't so, worry not. Amity did a great job letting the reader know what happened without pushing the book to the "all light has been lost from the world" dark.

"It's time to be bad, Mr. Vaughn."

I love these books, love, love, LOVE them. This book is a novella and I knew that when I started reading. I wish it could have been a bit longer because their whole relationship felt rushed to me. I just couldn't buy that aspect of the story.

"I'd changed so much in such a short amount of time, it was alarming."

One other thing, being from America I thought there were some mistakes made, but the author assured me that what I had pointed out were English sayings and since this story is based in London, there should be British sayings and not American ones. So keep that in mind American readers, in England they say "out the front" when a car pulls up someplace.

"Never fuck with The Hangman."

Vaughn is a sexy, sexy man as well as dangerous. If you didn't hate Sykes yet, you will by the end of this book. What he got in book 2 was way too easy! All, in all it's another I LOVE IT book by Amity Cross and I am serious when I say I CANNOT WAIT for book 3 to be released!! I give this book 5 stars with 3.5 hands down the pants (not enough time to get down and really dirty)

WTMO Words Turn Me On says

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Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says

A wolf in sheep's clothing...

I confess, I had mixed feelings about this book. I was initially upset, mentally revoking the author's literary license for the #MindFu@k she put me through. I went into it reluctantly, believing I already knew what was coming, afraid to see it but unable to stop myself. Yes, I did learn some of the details in the previous book, but not all of them. I knew the facts, but not the feelings. Getting a look inside the softer emotional side of Vaughn was an eye opener. He was definitely a playboy, using women for his pleasure and then casting them aside. They didn't know the real him, they only saw what he allowed. He was a sharp dressed bossy billionaire by day and a corrupt bossy badass by night. It was his ambition that drove him, I guess billions wasn't enough and he needed gazillions. He was brilliant and I think it was the mental challenge that motivated him. When he ran into Lorelei (literally) the attraction was immediate and intense. It was more than just the physical impact of their collision, there was a spark that neither had felt before. But she was a good girl...and he was a bad man. It wasn't common knowledge, he kept up appearances in his local community. But if he was to consider a relationship, then he would have to let her see the real him. Could he risk it? Could she handle it? Could they fight it even if they wanted to? I was so damn addicted to the Royal Blood series at this point that I couldn't stop reading it, you couldn't pry it out of my hands. Thank goodness the author couldn't hear all the things I was thinking earlier...whew. I fully intend to fan girl when I meet her in person some day at an author event. She'll never know, so I'm still in good standing, right?

1-Click Addict Support Group says

Ooooooo, here I go again with falling hard for another Amity Cross Alpha male character!!

Sebastian Vaughn (just Vaughn) is super tough, hot and hardcore with everything. Ms. Cross writes in a way that even a fast-paced connection feels real. That can NOT be said about every author. I have ALWAYS been able to connect and believe the characters' chemistry Amity brings to the page, even IF they are drug dealers by night. Even though Lorelei comes from a different life than Vaughn, their attraction was steamy from the start.

With this book being considered 2.5 in the series, I didn't think I would get as much out of it as I did! A great, dark addition to this awesome, must read series. ~ Krissy, 5 stars
