

Bitten by the Vampire Bug?

‘Hunted’ Is for You!

by Kelly Wims

A new vampire book is out in stores. No, it’s not a new *Twilight* book, and it’s not by Stephenie Meyer.

It’s actually by P.C. and Kristen Cast, and it’s the fifth book in *The House of Night* series and it’s called *Hunted*.

It’s not very well known, but seeing as it’s a vampire book, it’s sure to get really big later this year.

It’s about a 17-year-old girl named Zoey Redbird, who is a third former fledgling (a freshman and a vampire-in-training) at the House of Night. She’s not a normal fledgling, though.

She has an affinity with each of the five magical elements: air, water, fire, earth, and spirit, which makes the adult vampires at the House of Night think that she is the Chosen One for the vampire Goddess, Nyx.

She’s different in another way, too. Her blue crescent moon outline tattoo on her forehea is filled in and she has really cool spiral tattoos on her face, hands, shoulders, and her stomach, too, which is something only adult vampires have.

All five books take place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the House of Night.

In *Hunted*, Zoey and her friends Damien, Erin, Shaunee, Aphrodite, Darius, Jack, Erik, and Stevie-Rae are all in Tulsa’s Prohibition tunnels underground, hiding from an evil man named Kalona, who is at the House of Night, along with his children, the Raven Mockers, who look like grown men mixed with giant ravens.

While Zoey and her friends are in the tunnels, she comes across a poem written by a member of the other group of fledglings that she, Erik, and Damien think is a prophecy on how to get rid of Kalona and the Raven Mockers, along with Neferet, the High Priestess (headmistress) of the House of Night, who turned her back on Nyx and joined forces with Kalona.

While the two groups of vampire fledglings are trying to stay underground, Zoey’s ex-boyfriend, Heath, shows up. He tries to tell Zoey that he wants to get back together with her, but Zoey rejects him.

When she tries to get back down into the tunnels to get away from Heath, she gets attacked by a Raven Mocker who was sent to look for her, and ends up getting hurt really badly. Unfortunately, the only way she can be fully healed is to go back to the House of Night, which everybody was trying to avoid.

Ultimately, Aphrodite, Darius, Damien, Erin, and Shaunee all go back to the House of Night with Zoey because they each have an affinity with one of the elements and they’re part of the circle. (You have to read the first four books to understand.)

When they reach the House of Night, they see that everything around it looks dead because of the severe ice storm that hit Tulsa, but the House of Night looks like nothing is wrong with it all.

Soon after Zoey gets healed by Neferet, she starts to notice the difference with the students, and even the teachers.

The students, mostly the girls, are too distracted by Kalona and his “hotness” to realize the evil that’s going on around them. The teachers, even the most energetic ones, are all either nervous or really boring, because Kalona, Neferet, and the Raven Mockers are watching every class.

Zoey also learns that Neferet and Kalona have an epic evil plan: to have Neferet as the High Priestess of ALL vampires, after she killed the old High Priestess when Kalona arrived at the House of Night, and even though she turned her back on Nyx.

After she figures out their plan, Zoey finally understands the prophecy about getting rid of Kalona, thanks to her horseback-riding teacher, Lenobia, who helps Zoey sneak out of the school.

I recommend this book, (and the rest of the series,) to anybody who is a fan of the *Twilight* saga because this book is all about vampires, too. Plus, it’s about teenagers, and it relates to the normal teenage drama, (with a vampire twist, of course).

The writing is okay, but the real reason you won’t be able to put the book down is because of the many confusing things that happen throughout the story that you don’t understand at all. You just keep reading because you’re so hooked by the storyline and the plot that’s just developing.

Before you read *Hunted*, you should read the first four—*Marked*, *Betrayed*, *Chosen*, and *Untamed*—so that you really understand the entire story.

Neferet and Kalona end up getting defeated at an abbey. Zoey and her friends have lured them to. And this is where the prophecy comes into play, thanks to Zoey’s friends, her grandmother, and a nun named Sister Mary Angela.