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Vampire Academy by Richelle Mead

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Author: Mead, Richelle

Title: *Vampire Academy*

Year of Publication: 2007

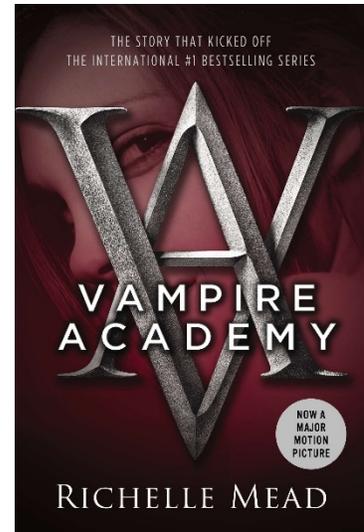
Publisher: Razorbill

ISBN: 9780141328522

Number of pages: 332

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult



Keywords: Vampires; Romance; Supernatural; Depression; Bullying; Young Adult, Novel

Review:

Rose and her best friend, Lissa, have been runaways on their own for two years. This book opens with their capture and return to school at St. Vladimir's Academy. The unique thing about St. Vladimir's is that its pupils are either 'living' vampires or guardians for those vampires. Rose falls into the latter category, and Lissa the former. Back at school Lissa and Rose find that the problems that caused them to run in the first place have not gone away, but are coming together in alarming ways. In addition, both the drama and romance of high school pull at their attention as they both fall for boys they should not want, and the girls try to navigate the catty, rumor-filled world of their popular, and not so popular, peers.

Instead of being just another vampire book, the first Vampire Academy series novel may give readers a welcome surprise. Mead deals thoughtfully not just with the angst of forbidden romance or the threat of imminent danger, but pulls together a number of well-rounded characters who act and think in relatable, and even insightful, ways. While there is certainly enough love story to the plot to keep romantics interested, the full storyline revolves more around the friendship of Rose and Lissa, and touches honestly, even if only lightly, on real teen topics like depression, definitions of maturity, self-control, and bullying. The book hits a bit of a flat note as it closes, solving its whodunit element, but also letting the bad guy go in a bit of a cliché "I'll get you my pretty!" sort of way. This is a good alternative for those interested in the current paranormal romance genre but who find similar books like *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer, or *Hush, Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick lacking.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

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