Team Human by Justine Larbalestier and Sarah Rees Brennan

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In New Whitby, a city where vampires are considered cool and zombies aren't unheard of, Mel is appalled when her best friend Cathy starts making eyes at the new vampire transfer student, Francis. Soon Cathy and Francis's budding romance blossoms, and he invites her to become a vampire. Then a friend’s dad disappears, and the principal of Mel’s high school starts acting suspiciously. So it's up to Mel to do some detective work and figure out what’s going on. Enlisting the aid of the handsome, vampire-raised Kit, she learns the truth of what is happening in the basement of their high school, finds her friend’s lost father, and works to convince Cathy to stay on team human.

In the wake of the Twilight craze, dozens of vampire books have flooded the shelves, but Team Human has something special to offer. There are books that romanticize vampires and books that vilify them, but Team Human manages to portray both sides of typical vampire literature with its sympathetic cast of vampires, vampire haters, and vampire lovers. Mel's first-person narration is spunky, sarcastic, and funny, and the mystery keeps you guessing until the very end. Readers will find themselves laughing at Mel and her antics as she cracks the case, helps her friends, finds romance with Kit, and learns that maybe vampires aren't so bad after all. The book’s characters and themes are best suited for a female young adult audience looking for a dependably funny romantic read, although young men could likely enjoy the mystery, too.

Reviewer: Mary-Celeste Lewis