



Blood Song

Rhiannon Hart

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I wanted to turn but I was held captive by the song on the wind. I'm coming, I told the voices. Please, wait for me.

When her sister becomes betrothed to a prince in a northern nation, Zeraphina's only consolations are that her loyal animal companions are by her side – and that her burning hunger to travel north is finally being sated.

Already her black hair and pale eyes mark her out as different, but now Zeraphina must be even more careful to keep her secret safe. Craving blood is not considered normal behaviour for anyone, let alone a princess. So when the king's advisor, Rodden, seems to know more about her condition than she does, Zeraphina is determined to find out more.

Zeraphina must be willing to sacrifice everything if she's to uncover the truth – but what if the truth is beyond her worst nightmares?

Blood Song Details

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Author : Rhiannon Hart

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From Reader Review *Blood Song* for online ebook

oliviasbooks says

During the first chapters there were only *some* things that rubbed me the wrong way:

- the language in general and certain expressions that in my point of view did not match the high fantasy setting,
- the forced fairytale vibes - including a carriage that looked like a hollowed pumpkin and letters sent out within an instant to advertise the princess' hand in marriage to the bald and bumpy -,
- the heroine speaking of her mother as Renata while Renata always addressed her daughters as "Daughter",
- the heroine making sudden presumptions based on absolute nothing - just to push forward the plot's main mystery (I can imagine that it takes a lot of effort and skill to make a heroine's unraveling a riddle seem natural and smooth, but still. I scoffed and snorted repeatedly, but a little more irritated each time),
- the pet-*eagle* on the heroine's arm (I looked it up: There are indeed species that weigh only a pound, but most eagles lug around a few kilos) as if it were little parrot.

Later I got annoyed by Princess Zeraphina's hypocrisy (i.e. she expresses displeasure when she is served peacock, because peacocks are so decorative and should in her opinion be treated as no-food-decoration. But on the other hand she secretly craves blood and hunts in her spare time with a bird of prey), her general contempt, her bad mood and her limited view ... and I noticed that I was bored and had begun a calculation in my head about how much more time I would have to spend in this world before I could delve into the next one.

A few pages before I decided to pull the emergency brake (around page 150) the romance started to show first hints of bloom, but I already disliked the characters too much to get roped into a heart-throb-mode.

I am so sorry, dear Booker friends, for not loving the book like you do. And sorry for speaking ill of your new favorite. But I am also so relieved that I managed to cancel my order, because a friend intervened and offered to lend me her copy. 'You can always buy it later', she said. She is right. I can, but I won't. Thank you, M.!

Robert says

I am very lucky to have read this book well before publication. I loved it! (Bias note: I am a very proud Dad!!!)

Alexa says

My review can also be found on my blog Collections.

Blood Song first came to my attention after finding out it was written by an Australian author. (If you don't already know, I love to read Australian YA!) I became even more curious after reading some great reviews.

Fantasy seems to be one of the genres that I tend to pay less attention to. I'm not sure why. I have read some young-adult fantasy that I really love and are some of my favorite books. I'm really glad I had the opportunity to read *Blood Song* because I'm finally able to add another YA fantasy and Aussie novel to my favorites!

For the past few years, sixteen-year-old Zeraphina has had a strange craving for blood. Although she has never tried any, there are times where she can't stop thinking about it. What's worse is that she has felt an urge, a pull to go North. She practices archery to keep herself distracted, but it's in the back of her mind all the time and every day these urges and cravings seem to slowly intensify, causing her immense pain. She finds relief when her older sister becomes engaged to a prince from Pergamia, a northern country of Brivora. By accompanying her sister to Pergamia, Zeraphina has a chance to figure out why she's drawn northwards and why she hungers for blood. But the answers she desperately wants and eventually finds end up making her life much more complicated than before.

As soon as I read the first chapter, I knew I was going to love *Blood Song*. Zeraphina and her sister Lilith and mother Renata were making me laugh with some of the things they said. I love when a book gets me to laugh! I didn't even know there would be a bit of humor, so it was a nice surprise. (Other readers might not find it quite as hilarious I did, but oh well, maybe it's just the kind of humor I like.) What I loved about it is that it showed how close they were as a family. It was so great to read about two sisters actually getting along. There was no rivalry between Zeraphina and Lilith, and while Renata is just a little overbearing, it's obvious she cares deeply for her daughters and only wants the best for them.

"I knew what you were the minute I saw you [...] and you seemed so fierce, so...human, that it gave me hope."

That is part of one of my favorite quotes in the book. I couldn't include the entire quote and the next line because it might be a bit spoiler-y. But I can say that it was Rodden Lothskorn speaking to Zeraphina. Rodden is the 22-year-old advisor of the Pergamian king. He's mysterious and intriguing but also arrogant and infuriating. From the moment Zeraphina meets him, they can't seem to get along. Zeraphina is clever and pretty sarcastic and she can hold her own, so her clashing with someone like Rodden wasn't surprising. Their bickering kept me laughing, and I loved it.

Zeraphina doesn't know if Rodden can be trusted and he seems to feel the same way about her. I can understand Zeraphina's frustration, since Rodden is part of the reason why her life gets even more complicated. He hints at having the answers she wants but avoids giving them to her...until she starts figuring him out. I'm very happy it didn't take the entire book to get some answers. There is still a bit of mystery from Rodden, though, because he never goes into detail about his past. I really look forward to knowing more about him in the next book, and hopefully there will be more moments between him and Zeraphina because their connection was something that I really loved about the book.

I recommend *Blood Song* to Kristin Cashore fans and fans of *Poison Study* by Maria V. Snyder. And if you're not a huge fantasy fan, you should still give this book a read! It's hard not to get sucked into the story from the very beginning. There's enough suspense and action, and the world in *Blood Song* is beautiful but not overwhelming. Plus, who doesn't like awesome and kickass characters? *Blood Song* is the first book in a trilogy, and I'm already anxious and excited for the second book. So, if you get the chance, be sure to read it!

Shout out and big thanks to Nomes for giving me the opportunity to read this book! Thanks girl! :)

Emily says

I have been keeping an eye out for a new YA fantasy series to love and cherish and I think this is it! Blood Song is an intriguing and compelling read - it kept me up all night long, as only the best books do.

Hart's debut tells the story of Zeraphina, a princess who has an inexplicable desire to travel to the north. I loved Zeraphina from the very first page. She reminded me of one of the literary greats: Elizabeth Bennet. Each are stubborn, strong-willed, quick to temper... but care deeply about those close to them. Even the relationship between Lilith and Zeraphina reminded me of Jane and Lizzie :)

The world building is flawless. Hart created a traditional fantasy feel, old castles with overgrown forests and monarchies that throw extravagant balls. I have to add that the change of scenery (view spoiler) towards the end of the book was unique and felt quite unlike any fantasy landscape I had read about before.

The mystery and intrigue builds steadily in the first half of the book. As Zeraphina slowly uncovers clues as to who and what she is, the reader grows even more invested in the story. However, this is where the 1 and a half star comes away. I felt the story arc flowed beautifully over the first half, but I became impatient with the second half and a bit disappointed with the info dump that occurred after the masquerade ball. The book could have benefited from being a bit longer to allow Zeraphina to discover more of the answers for herself, rather than finding out over a few pages.

In saying that, I was still blown away by this story. I think fans of Isobelle Carmody will LOVE Blood Song (Leap and Griffin, the animals of this story, added a very Obernewtyn feel to the book). I think it will appeal to readers who don't usually read fantasy and die-hard fantasy lovers alike.

Book two of Lharmell can't come soon enough!

Special thanks to Random House for providing a copy of Blood Song for review.

Skye says

This review is also posted on my blog, In The Good Books.

Zeraphina is being lured northward and she thinks there could lie the answers to why she has such strange cravings for blood, so when the chance arises to travel there with her sister, she ignores her misgivings and takes it up -- but on arrival, she realises her misgivings may not have been totally unfounded.

If you expect anything even close to a clichéd vampire story from the synopsis, you're completely off. Blood Song proved to be incredibly imaginative and unique. It had all of the best parts of fantasy without all of the worst (and yes, by worst, I mean the cumbersome names. They just roll off your tongue in this one: Lharmell, Amentia).

Zeraphina was a great character to read about. She was strong; she could (and did) hold her own in an argument, and when faced with a challenge, she dealt with it head-on rather than avoiding it. Part of her

appeal was in how she realistically stood apart from the other women in the high fantasy setting, and wasn't moony and obsessed with men. Her relationship with Rodden was realistically developed, and their romance never became her number one priority. It was an appreciated sub-plot, a complement to the main plot.

On the topic of setting, the world-building was excellent, and the otherworldly backdrop to the story was vivid and portrayed in an apt light. For instance, Lharmell's creepiness felt tangible in every moment our characters spent there. The setting was richly imaginative and the tone suited it brilliantly.

Written expertly, you wouldn't guess this was Rhiannon's debut. The story was told in compelling prose, constantly foreshadowing and maintaining a tense and eerie tone. The plot took many turns, always unpredictable and exciting.

Blood Song was amazingly imaginative and atmospheric, definitely a welcome addition to the Aussie fantasy scene. I look forward to Rhiannon's future books!

I give Blood Song a 5 out of 5.

I'd recommend it for fans of: Graceling and Burn Bright.

George Jankovic says

Blood Song is a wonderfully written YA fantasy about Zeraphina who can't resist a call from the North. Will she be able to resist her lust for blood? And how will she resist a handsome stranger waiting for her there?

This is a strong character-driven story as we explore Zeraphina's urges and transformation.

Kwesi ??? says

When blood smeared all over the ground a putrid smell of a marigold spread all over your nose. The smell of death, hunger and cold that will hunt creatures in the night and the living will start to crumble. Two great lands with ultimate power fought for years and hunted by blood, and only one will survive. Is it the light that will help us see the truth or the dark that will creeps everyone until end.

When *Zeraphina* was young, she was sick and nearly died. After that accident everything changed, the thirst and the hunger that she did not expect in the end. She traveled in the other city, forced by the song she heard, and mentored her mother and sister to the land of *Pergamia*, the vast richness of the golden city that stands by its mighty power. She discovered things that are not normally discussed, things that society branded with taboo.

Her dreams are made to happen and the voice is meant to guide her but her will to know her identity made it clearer that she was different, different from her parents, different from others. The black hair and white skin, the cold and the ability, she became aware of her own capability but she doesn't have any idea who she was. A question that will linger readers and the deadly adventure that will soon be unfold.

You can't stop reading the book; it was an easy read, very short and very interesting. The first book

emphasizes more on the question behind her identity. She was a good archer, a good sister and daughter, and animal lover, for short she was a normal girl. But her thirst and hunger become more and more serious when days past. All she asks or hears was blood inside her.

Of course, in the first place I already guess who she was and I think from the synopsis you already know her identity but you are not sure of it. So readers keep on reading until the end and a very good technique to make readers hook from it. *Rhiannon Hart* also adds romance in the book, a puppy love or maybe a simple love-hate relationship. Very interesting but for me as a guy, I find it boring and nonsensical. This is meant for female readers at first place.

But why I read this book? Because it reminds me of a book that I thought will scatter my nerve out of its place. Unfortunately, I expected more from it and I'm very grateful that I got this from a friend of mine. I expected action and fighting scenes but it came out to be romance in the middle. This is a page turner and I don't have any idea why, I just keep on reading it. Maybe because of its simplicity or the interesting self discovery or I'm totally curious of what will happen in the end.

I suggest readers give this book a try because I'm not sure if my head really works well while reading it. I also hate how she keeps on questioning herself of her identity and I must admit that I got annoyed in the middle of the book. Guys, don't be disappointed, more unexpected events will happen in the near end and wish everyone had a good time reading it. When the moon came to life, be careful or you will be next in line.

I want to visit Pergamia, one of the greatest lands in the book. I have a question, where did she get her idea of the Pergamia? Any suggestion? O, this is my first Aussie too!

Review posted on *the day that the mighty one will create something surprising*.

Rating: *Blood Song* by Rhiannon Hart, **3 Sweets**

Challenges:

Book #243 for 2011

Nomes says

Blood Song grabbed me from the start. The thing about this fantasy ~ is Hart writes in such a way that the reading experience was so effortless. Her writing is tight, within pages you have a sense of the world and our heroine. Her world-building is all show (not tell) and Hart masterfully places the reader in the story alongside Zeraphina, letting the world-building evolve as we go along. I marvel at the way she handled it without employing the “awkward info dump” scenario that so often bogs down books in this genre.

I seriously *loved* Zeraphina (& from the first page). She's spirited without being overly in-your-face-feisty, she's confident even while aching and confused inside. She's got a gorgeous persona ~ exactly the kind of character I would love to be friends with. She has a smart sense of humour and she fiercely, spectacularly loves her pets (her cat, Leap, and Griffin, her eagle)

[detouring here to say ~ Leap and Griffin are such fab characters to add to the cast, they're brought to life

with all the nuances of a 3D human character. <3]

The other thing you should absolutely know about this book is it is crazily original. The plot continually heats up and the villains (!) are insanely, genuinely creepy. I had chills even as I couldn't look away ~ they are fascinating and dark and make for some completely vivid imagery. The stakes are raised and the truth is equal parts creative and horrifying.

Deep into the plot of the book, some of the imagery and scenery depicted reminded me of the way Marianne de Pierre's crafted such an intense setting in her book *Burn Bright*. While in *Lharmell*, the setting was so strongly evoked: ashey and dark and mysterious and incredibly foreboding. There is a kind of cult-esque feel with the *Lharmellins* which I gave me tiny little sparks of horror (and raised my curiosity ten-fold). Absolutely-deliciously-cannot-look-away-creepy.

Apart from the all mystery and darkness, there's a lot of fun in the book (including balls, a wedding, and an archery tournament).

So you want to know about the swoon factor ;) ? YOU GUYS. *dies of the swoon* Zeraphina and Rodden have one of those relationships that keep me glued to the pages. Rodden's 22 years old, dark, broody, effortlessly sexy and impossibly hard to read (oh-so-very-intriguing). He's enigmatic, charismatic and utterly appealing. And, wow, how he and Zeraphina spar. They have an amazing chemistry even as (okay, especially as) they antagonise each other.

It is the first book in a series, and while it doesn't end on a cliffhanger, it provides a whole bunch of answers while psyching you up for the next installment.

I can feel my review growing with everything I want to say. But I am worried that the more I ramble on, the more you'll skim and the less you'll read ;) So to summarise the essence of my review: oh my gosh, I loved it so.

Recommended: *Blood Song* is written with astounding talent, stunning creativity and complete heart. It's thrilling and mysterious and fun and creepy and dark, (with some sexy undertones). It's on my favourites list, best of 2011 list and tops my list of fave fantasies. I had no idea I would love this so. I cannot wait to see it in stores (in Australia from Sept 1). I cannot wait for you guys to all read it and see what you think!

[bonus reviewer material ;)]: Me + this book: I went to bed around 11pm @ night and thought I'd check out the first chapter of *Blood Song* before turning out the light. Fast forward 290 pages later and it's around 3am and I've devoured the book in one leaping go. I was so sucked in, so loving everything about this book that I didn't want to put it down. I spent time over the following week re-reading my favourite passages as I was not ready to let the characters and story go. Just sitting down and writing my review has made me nostalgic all over again :)]

Brodie says

The palace of Amentina is slowly falling into disrepair, the money is dwindling and Reneta, Queen of Amentina, is adamant that her eldest daughter, Lilith, marry a wealthy Prince soon so their land will not die. But when her betrothed suddenly dies, the plan goes awry and Lilith is left nursing a broken heart. Until Renata quickly puts her back on the market and she's offered marriage to Prince Amis of Pergamia. Lilith

wants no part of it at first, but something is calling, beckoning her sister Zeraphina to the north where Pergamia lies. The desire burning within her very veins, tugging on every inch of her being toward north. She *needs* to go there. She must convince Lilith to accept Amis' invitation. But what will await her?

Mystery, danger and Rodden, a man who rivals Zeraphina in all kinds of delicious ways. But can she trust him? What is he hiding? Why does he keep putting a stop to her finding any answers? And why is he such a jerk 90% of the time? (Hush, Zeraphina, don't speak such nonsense of ~~my~~ Rodden!) What awaits the reader is amazing tale that will suck you into it's heart, clutching tighter and tighter as you venture further into Pergamia and the terrors that lurk nearby. I could not read this fast enough, but so very disappointed when I had no more pages to turn!

I think Zeraphina may be one of my new favourite heroines. Your normal definition of "Princess" hardly applies to her and not just because the girl has a craving for blood. And I adore her two animal companions. She's such a plucky young thing - so determined and headstrong and stubborn. If she wants answers, she will go to all ends to seek them out. She doesn't sit around and let the chips fall where they may, she charges forth right in the middle of the action. I really admired her and that feisty spirit burning within. The wit she brings forth to rival Rodden's makes for such entertaining scenes between the pair and her determined bravery adds to the general awesomeness of this novel, particularly the ending!

I absolutely adored the connection between Rodden and Zeraphina. Their banter back and forth was brilliant. And oh that man. That sexy, brooding, *infuriating* man. The tension, the agitation and eventually the attraction between them builds and builds until it bleeds from the very pages and you're just as hungry for that blood as Zeraphina is. They grow into such a fierce duo, so full of fire and when they actually do hint at their feelings toward one another, you just about want to explode.

Throughout the novel Zeraphina is on this mission to learn more about the war between Pergamia and Lharmell, but nobody is giving her any answers. She'll find a vague hint here and there, but just when she thinks she might be onto something, Rodden is right there ready to squash all progress. I think that guy has an inbuilt, 'Zeraphina Is Finding Answers' radar to which he must put in motion the, "I Must Intercept With My Brooding Hulk And Piss Her Off" defense strategy. But don't worry, frustrating as it may be for her and the reader at not getting those answers, he makes it a sexy frustration.

Rhiannon has crafted an amazing new mythology with the Lharmellins. Do not chalk up the blood hunger to 'vampires' when you read the synopsis, because it is far, far from your typical bloodsucking craving. When we do learn more about them and their land of Lharmell, it definitely lives up to the mystery! Toward the end especially, Rhiannon has written some brilliant scenes that highlight the creepy, luring nature of the Lharmellins and their effect on Zeraphina. I am so intrigued to see where the story is headed next!

Rhiannon Hart is one debut author that everyone should be on the watch for. Blood Song is an incredible start to what is no doubt going to shape up to be a favourite series of mine. A rich, vivid new fantasy world containing such a unique and compelling mythology with creatures that will lure you into their frenzied web of seduction - to draw away from the pages would be a sin. The gradual romance which starts as a spark, a suspicious, uneasy spark, begins to simmer and then burn and flare into something delightful. If you like your heroines spunky, relatable and flawed, if you like a novel that will demand to be read in one sitting, then this is the perfect read. Do not pass it up!

Arlene says

Rating Clarification: 4.5 stars

If finishing this book in one day is any indication of how much I truly enjoyed **Blood Song**, well then there you have it. I adored it! Now I guess it also helps that this book is Australian and YA Fantasy, two elements that when done right are sure to grab my attention and catapult me into my *out-for-the-day-call-me-later* reading zone. I really enjoyed every minute of this adventure!

Blood Song by Rhiannon Hart is a masterful kickoff to a series that I'm a bit worried is not available in the states because I desperately want to see how Zaraphina and Rodden's story unfolds.

The writing is beautiful and the characters are full of passion and fire. I was pleasantly surprised finding myself more than half way into the book and not being distracted by love triangles or love interests. It was actually quite refreshing that this story concentrated on the main character's quest to discover what and who she truly is. So, when she finds a connection with Rodden closer to the end of the book, it felt real and genuine. Perfectly executed IMO.

In this story, Zaraphina is overcome with a blood desire she doesn't quite understand. Her mind and body are being pulled by an unknown force driving a need to take her to the northern lands. When her sister is to be betrothed to Prince Amis of Pergamia, Zaraphina goes on the journey with Lilith to the kingdom that will bring her closer to that mysterious land and right into the hands of a stranger that holds the answers she's been trying to uncover.

Definitely a book that shouldn't be missed by fans of YA Fantasy. It has everything that makes for a great read – captivating plot, engaging characters and fantastical writing.

Thank you so much to my Street Corner Booker friend Nomes for lending me her Australian ARC! I most definitely enjoyed this book. Oh and my comment count... 8. Let's see what other Booker can top that. =]

Tatiana says

2.5 stars

Guess you could call Blood Song a romantic teen fantasy, or teen fantasy extra lite?

It is probably unfair to compare this book to such outstanding fantasy novels as Daughter of Smoke and Bone or Finnikin of the Rock. After all, Blood Song is clearly aimed at the younger part of teen crowd. But everything about this novel is so simplistic, there is hardly anything to wow you, in my opinion.

The story itself is very basic. 16-year princess Zeraphina lives with her mother and older sister Lilith in a cold southern country of ... (sorry, can't recall). More and more often she hears a call/feels a pull from the north. That and her not long ago acquired craving for blood worry the princess. When an heir of a bigger northern country of ... (again, can't recall) expresses interest in marrying Lilith, Fina jumps at the opportunity to travel north. She later finds out that there is a mysterious northern country of Lharmell nobody talks about and Fina fears she has a bad connection to it. Only Rodden, the brooding best friend of Lilith's future

husband, has answers for her, but he is irritatingly mum.

Not only is the plot void of any twists or profundity, but the world building is very cursory. Instead of creating country histories and cultures, the author chose to concentrate on balls, gowns and various opportunities to play out plucky heroine/brooding hero romantic scenarios between Zeraphina and Rodden. But there is nothing new even there, although the dialog is occasionally flirty and fun.

While I don't find *Blood Song* off-putting like many recent US YA PNR offerings, I don't think there is really anything unique about this novel, especially for those readers who are not into bickering lovers-centric stories.

Annika says

I think by looking at my status updates you can tell how much I did or rather didn't enjoy *Blood Song*. After reading rave reviews for it I expected something awesome, maybe even groundbreaking. But it doesn't do any of those things.

Zeraphina craves blood. It's not a constant feeling but it comes back in painful bursts that sometimes go as far as to drive her into unconsciousness. She fights against it but everything about it draws her northwards so when her sister Lilith is supposed to marry Prince Amis from Pergamia she wants to go with her and she does.

Zeraphina goes snooping around, because she can feel something is wrong but she can't put her finger on it and so things begin to unravel, presenting her with something she never could've guessed.

#1 The Positive

The Writing: Even though the writing felt off and a bit strange at times it was easy to read and provided for a quick and fast read. Had other things not prevented me I probably would have finished it within two to three hours.

Lharmell & Lharmellins: They're the villains in this story and yet I was only really interested when we found out more about them which, unfortunately, took a loooong time.

#2 The Negative

Zeraphina: She thinks of herself as oh-so-clever but she was annoying, stupid and had a serious temper plus a tendency to rush into things without thinking about them. (view spoiler)

Rodden: Standoffish, mysterious, brooding guy who happens to treat Zeraphina like crap until they (view spoiler)

Romance: About one third into the story it stops concentrating on Lharmell, instead we're forced to watch Zeraphina and Rodden bicker around and fight with each other until suddenly falling head over heels in love with each other and (view spoiler)

The Pace: The book felt entirely too rushed for me and I would have liked more world-building, especially more descriptions of the world, including more of Amentia and Pergamia.

I would like to find out more about the Lharmellins, how they came to be but after reading the summary of the second book I doubt we'll find out more about them and instead will be subjugated to the Zeraphina/Rodden love story. No, thank you. I won't be reading any of the sequels.

Don't let my review discourage you from reading it though, many other people have loved it so it may just be me.

Lala_Loopsie [fire breathing B!tch Queen] says

I really hope I can get to read the next book!! And to those of you who haven't read this... Do read it. Marvelous book.

So I guess you can start saying that Serafina Or Zerafina, however you spell it has dark eyes, and dark hair, and maybe alabaster skin. And it was different from Renata, her mom, and Lilith, her older sister's hair, skin & eyes. Why was that? Well, don't wonder no more. She had had the Hundred-day-cough (insert thunder) *gasp* Yes, and as a baby of 6 months!!! Nooooooo. Too bad.

And that's all I'm giving, apart from that there's a wedding, a sheet with blood the next morning, shooting arrows, intrigue, a boy... ummm, well a man *blush?* And well... that's about it.

And yes, it took me a day to read this, but only because of my vacations. But also it's quite short.

Nic says

We all know that I am constantly saying I am not a huge fan of fantasy but it turns out I am. But only really good fantasy and that is definitely what Blood Song is. I absolutely loved it. For me it was the perfect reading escape.

Zeraphina has always known she is different with her unusual striking looks and her craving for blood which is getting strong each day and calling her to the north. When her older sister Lilith becomes engaged to Prince Amis in the northern land Zeraphina jumps at the chance to visit a place that will bring her closer to the answer she is seeking about her strange condition. There she meets Rodden, the King's advisor who seems to know the answers but isn't willing to tell Zeraphina the truth.

Blood Song has that easy style of writing that is just addicting. You can picture the world, the atmosphere so beautifully without being weighed down by heavy and boring world building unlike some other fantasy books. And then on top of that you have a suspenseful and intriguing plot that keeps you turning the pages.

I adore the main characters. There is something special about them. Zeraphina, is strong, independent and just an enjoyable protagonist. She seeks out the answers she needs even if it gets her into trouble. Also she is never without her cat called Leap and an Eagle named Griffin and they make awesome sidekicks.

Rodden, is one of those dark, sexy and mysterious types. He comes off tough and a little bit arrogant but you

know he is a good guy underneath. The relationship between Zeraphina and Rodden, is amusing. They didn't fall over each other. They had plenty of witty banter and you can just see the sparks flying between them. I am looking forward to seeing what happens next with these two.

Overall, Blood Song is a magical read that left me craving more. I definitely recommend this outstanding debut to fantasy and paranormal fans.

Holly Harker says

A while ago I was whinging about the lack of Aussie YA fantasy coming out, and how I really just wanted to sink my teeth into something amazing. Well! The book gods obviously heard my cries and answered with Blood Song, though I think this wonderful gem had less to do with book gods and more to do with superb début author Rhiannon Hart.

I was hooked straight away by feisty heroine Zeraphina. A pet hate of mine is when female characters are Pillars of Perfection: they do all the right things, are completely selfless and will bend over backwards to help others. No thanks. Give me a character who has her own best interests at heart any day, because she feels a lot more likeable. Zeraphina struggles with the fact that she knows she's not the perfect sister and daughter she should be, but thankfully she doesn't let that knowledge stop her from doing exactly what she wants.

Not only has Hart created some tremendously likeable characters here, she's also crafted a fantasy world that feels fresh and interesting. The mythology of the Lharmellans felt so well done, and the descriptions of these gruesome creatures were utterly compelling.

I raced through this wonderful book, and the end came all too soon. Can't wait for the sequel!
