



## Golden Blood

*Melissa Pearl*

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## **Golden Blood** Melissa Pearl

Gemma Hart never knows when her father is going to whisk her back in time. Her toes start tingling and she has a few minutes to find a secret haven where she can disintegrate and appear in another time and place. While “across the line,” her training and skills are put to the test as she completes a mission that will change history for the lucky few her father has selected.

Gemma's parents are adamant that secrecy is paramount to her family's safety. If people knew what they were capable of, they could be "used and abused", as her mother always says. Afraid she might accidentally utter the truth and break the ancient oath of her people, Gemma spends her school days as a loner. Only one thing can throw her sheltered life askew... Harrison Granger.

Harrison never expected to talk to the strange Hart girl, but after a brief encounter he can't stop thinking about her. He begins a campaign to chisel away her icy veneer and is met with unexpected consequences. As he slowly wins this girl over, he enters a surreal world that has him fighting to keep his newfound love and his life.

## **Golden Blood Details**

Date : Published February 27th 2012 by Melissa Pearl (first published November 4th 2011)

ISBN : 9781470021511

Author : Melissa Pearl

Format : Paperback 248 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Time Travel, Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Paranormal

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# From Reader Review Golden Blood for online ebook

## Novels On The Run says

MICHELLE'S REVIEW:

RATING : 4.5 HARRISON & DOMINIC STARS!!

I really enjoyed Melissa's first instalment in her 'Time Spirit Trilogy', I thought it was quite a 'cool' story. I think this series needs to be published and on book shop shelves.

What a wonderfully original tale of a time travelling family who are led or controlled, depending on how you want to look at it, by their father Alistair and loving husband to Penelope. I do have trust issues with Alistair and Penelope and also by the time you finish this book I think you are starting to realise that all is not what it may appear.

There are secrets.

1 Minute in the present is approximately 1 Hour in the crossed over.

I loved Gemma, the black Ducati riding younger sister of the twins Ruby and Dominic Hart. Dominic is six ft three inches of gorgeous, and totally loyal to his sisters. His nickname for Gemma is 'Slim' and it suits her.

Gemma is unfortunately known as the 'freak' at St. Augustine High School, Florida. What she lacks in social skills, she makes up for in beauty and fighting skills.

Gemma has a secret that she must keep..... well, secret. Unfortunately, circumstances don't always allow the opportunity for the cat not to get out of the bag, the chicken to fly the coop, the naked girl not to be caught in the nuddy....hehe!

Enter Harrison Granger, 17, blonde hair, drives a 1978 Corvette Stingray....have I got your attention yet? He comes from a loving family, mother Helen, stepfather Bryon, stepbrother Justin, stepsister Rosie and little brother Sam. Hmmmm, I have some thoughts there, but I shall see what 'Black Blood', tells me.

Jordan Monroe, I like to refer to him as Moron, has his eyes set on conquering the 'freak' and doesn't take too kindly to Harrison. Now the 'freak' doesn't want to be conquered by the Moron and lets him know. But he is a persistent little bugger.

Jordan and his inept minions are tracking Harrison down. Harrison ,keeping one step ahead of Moron and his

Minions, smacks into the 'freak', they shuffle through the door of 'Camilla's Closet', nab some clothes off the rack, off into the change room for some hide and hopefully not seek, by the Moron and Minions.

\* queue the music \*

Let the 'freak' label peel away, and Harrison sees Gemma in a different light, one that smells like apple blossom shampoo.

And there begins the connection of Harrison and Gemma.

I am having some trust issues with the missions Alistair is sending the family on and why. I don't want to give away, what they are, and where they go, and what they get up to as I thought that was wonderful to find out without being spoiled.

Melissa scatters little bread crumbs of intrigue about that have you picking them up and tucking them away in your pocket.

The last few chapters really got me chewing my finger nails as they are really, really good and exciting and nail biting, worthy.

The ending, well, that had me all grabby, grabby for, 'Black Blood', the second book in this trilogy, oh the intrigue will have you reaching for more.

FAVE QUOTE:

"Your house. I would like to go there sometime."

"Why?"

He reached for her hand and ran his thumb over her knuckles. "So I can picture you in it."

Michelle

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**Dianne says**

Gemma Hart is a little awkward, like many teens, but one big difference is that her father can take her through time! She meets Harrison, a boy from a different time and they are definitely connecting. Add to

this, the fact that there is a purpose and mystery to her family's time travel and you have a great, well-written YA read that should appeal to all looking to be totally entertained!

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### **carole says**

Melissa Pearl, you have successfully sucked me into this marvelous story of yours and compelled me to put all other books on hold to finish your series. Thank you for that, no really, thank you!

Golden Blood is a magical tale about time travel, living your life, love, family, and so much more. Trying to be a normal teenager has been hard for Gemma Hart, so she has shut everyone out and become the school freak. Until, the only boy she's noticed begins to take an interest in her as well. And from there her life changes drastically. She begins breaking rules that she never questioned before. She grows immensely in this journey.

A big part of the story is time travel, it's what the Hart family does and helps others. I really liked that the reader is introduced to the family (mainly Gemma and her life) before the details of the time travel or the change in time occurs. I was familiar with everyone before being thrown into the past, which was done in a way that flowed with the overall story. It also helps those not familiar or used to science fiction or fantasy books. Melissa Pearl eases the reader into the fantastical elements of the story, and doesn't overwhelm.

The characters Melissa has molded are nothing short of extraordinary. They are fun and lively group who surprised me throughout the story. I love this book, if that isn't already clear, and I feel completely connected and on a first name basis with not only Gemma and Harrison but their families as well.

Gemma and Harrison are my newest favorite couple. They balance each other perfectly and the fact that their romance is forbidden makes it all the more fun. Gemma is a tough girl, beating up boys and is thought to be mean. But, the reader quickly learns that that's not who she is at all and when Harrison refuses to give up on her, he finds out how much she shines when she finally opens up.

This story is full of mystery and questions, it's an excellent first book in a series in that it creates this world for the author to build on in the coming books. I haven't read many time travel books, but it's a genre I am very fascinated in, especially after reading this one.

The ending still has me speechless and I'm really glad the rest of the series has been released because I don't think I could take a long wait for book 2 (which I plan on reading as soon as I finish this review)!

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### **Michelle novelsontherun says**

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want to look at it, by their father Alistair and loving husband to Penelope. I do have trust issues with Alistair and Penelope and also by the time you finish this book I think you are starting to realise that all is not what it may appear.

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## **Meghan says**

This review can also be found on my blog: <http://meghankmcinnis.blogspot.ca>

Gemma Hart is a Time Spirit, along with the rest of her family. That means her father can whisk her and her family back in time, and Gemma will have only seconds' warning. Secrecy is vital to her family and, not wanting to betray her family or lie to potential friends, Gemma has isolated herself from her classmates, living the life of a recluse. She admires Harrison Granger from afar, knowing they can never be together. When it looks like Harrison might actually return her feelings, the walls Gemma put up come crashing down as she tries to balance family duty with the whims of her heart. By falling in love, has Gemma put Harrison, herself, and her whole family in danger?

As you can tell from my 4-star rating, I really liked this book! Time travel is not necessarily an original topic in young adult fiction, but Melissa Pearl had an original take on it. Her third-person narration is excellent. She goes back and forth between the thoughts of Gemma and Harrison seamlessly.

Gemma is a very easy to relate to. I could see myself being friends with her (if she was the type of person to have friends, that is). It was sad to read about her loneliness, but then I understand why she had to live such an isolated life. Her relationship with the various members of her family were very well developed. I especially loved her twin siblings. They were always looking out for her, and their occasional disagreements and arguments made them seem realistic.

Harrison could be a little cheesy sometimes, but that was pretty realistic, too. Guys aren't always the best at showing their feelings, so you have to love Harrison for giving it a valiant effort! He and Gemma were adorable together. Cheesy or not, I am definitely one of those girls who loves reading YA just so she can go "Aww!" at a cute relationship.

I loved all the time travel segments of the book. I think Melissa Pearl did a very good job with capturing the different historical eras. I really liked it when, upon returning to the present, Gemma could see the effects of her actions in the past. That was neat! Also, the way her family time travels, and the fact that Gemma had no control, was a very cool twist on time travel stories. The mythology behind it was also very interesting . . . I hope to learn more about that in the next two books.

One small criticism I have is about some minor grammatical errors. As an indie author myself, though, I know it's hard to catch them all! So I won't spend anymore time on that. The story was strong, and the errors weren't so big as to take away from that, so I really can't complain too much.

Golden Blood is the first book in the Time Spirits Trilogy.

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### **Book Chatter-Cath says**

I first stumbled upon this book a few months ago while on Smashwords and was intrigued enough by its blurb to buy it.

It then sat unread in my e-reader on the ever increasing and hardly ever getting read tbr pile.

It wasn't until I read an article in a small local newspaper that I realized the author, Melissa Pearl was a fellow Kiwi and that was enough to spark my interest again for Golden Blood.

And after some funny and interesting emails, I was lucky enough to purchase a signed print copy from the author.

Gemma is a little awkward and shy, and does her utmost to keep everybody in her life happy, often to her own detriment. She feels extremely guilty for having uprooted the family from their previous home and so in an attempt to not repeat past mistakes, has pretty much cut herself off from society.

Gemma is slowly and lovingly drawn from her shell by Harrison, a cute and seemingly unattainable boy who is intensely and inexplicably drawn to her.

Their ensuing love story is sweet and full of awww moments.

Golden Blood is a really great read.

The characters are very well written and draw you in straight away.

The story flows easily and the time travel element is intriguing with the possibilities and twists and turns, literally endless.

I can not say enough good things about Gemma and Harrison and Golden Blood without alluding to spoilers, so I'll keep it zipped except to say...read it, buy it, get it now!

You will not be disappointed :)

I'm so glad I got it in print but sometimes those impulsive e-book buys should just go to the top of the reading pile because Golden Blood is a golden read and a perfect 5 star one at that :)



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## Chapter by Chapter says

Let me just start off and say that I loved everything about Golden Blood; the characters. The plot. The Time Spirits and obviously the romance. Anyhow, I started Golden Blood a little bit blind. All I knew was that there was time travel involved and that was about everything. But after reading the opening chapter, I was already falling in love with the novel. What made me fall even harder was the way that the novel switched POV's between both Gemma and Harrison, the two main characters who are falling into a forbidden romance.

To me, it was the total air of mystery and secrecy that Gemma has that made her a totally but kicking main character. Not only does Gemma come from a strict family of Time Spirits, which are basically people who are able to turn their bodies into golden dust and travel backwards (and only backwards) in time, but she could also beat people up. Literally. Author, Melissa Pearl described Gemma as a dangerous girl who could break every bone in your body if she wanted to. I know what you're thinking: Are you being serious? Yes. Yes I am. In fact, Gemma reminded me of a non-dhampir Rose Hathaway from the Vampire Academy series.

Now to the good stuff, the romance. When Harrison and Gemma first meet, I was filled with a series of "Awwwwwww" and a few more "Awwwwww's" (or whatever the plural form of aw is). Again, Melissa Pearl managed to describe it in this perfect way where I could easily imagine the warmth that Harrison felt whenever he was around Gemma or that first time when he accidentally sees her go "across the line" and vanish into the past. The relationship between Harrison and Gemma is one that I could easily compare to Edward and Bella or Jace and Clary. It's definitely one of those character romances where you can't find anything wrong with it.

While Pearl did describe the world and setting around all of the characters with great fluency and kept up a consistent pace, I only had one complaint and it is that I wish there was more conflict. Don't get me wrong, the ending is gasp-worthy, it's just that I wished there was a bit more of a bigger picture. Though, I'm assuming that that gets introduced in later novels considering the last few paragraphs that Golden Blood finished with.

I would recommend this to anybody who wants to read a very unique novel and wants to spend a few chapters living in the past. Fans of the supernatural and of romance will definitely be falling in love with Golden Blood.

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## Valerie says

Gemma a teenager of great power, power limits she hasn't even come to realize yet. She's like most teens though wanting to fit in school, yet because of her secret she stays on the shy side trying not to get close to anyone. Yet she has a crush on a young boy Harrison Granger a boy that has noticed her and wants to know all about her. Through her travels back in time to her grueling workouts Gemma finally decides to go out with Harrison after much persistence. Harrison knows she is different just not how different till he catches her disappearance act.. now Gemma can't lie or dodge him. Her brother and sister and parents are all gifted as well..and work as a team to change events in time that may better events in the future..Harrison gets to

close to one of Gemma's warps..and..... Well you need to read this book.. its exceptionally written and really is a good read for teens. Looking forward in reading the next book.

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### **Jodie says**

I read this book in 1 sitting, it kept me interested the whole way through.

I loved seeing Gemma come out of her shell and let Harrison in and really enjoyed the training. I loved everything about this book. I thought it was wonderful that we got to meet the family and some of the other characters before we found out what They are. I loved the 'siblings' dynamic. They bickered, but their secret kept them understanding and supportive of each other.

I havent really read about time travel before and wasn't sure how I would go, but I shouldnt have worried, am going straight onto Black Blood and am itching to find out more. I have a teeny tiny feeling that Harrison's mum is in with the know and it has something to do with his dad, and i just know I am going to hate her parents. Meanies! Excited to find out who Gabe is...

I will try to pop and leave some more detail, but for now I have to continue! I just have to :)

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### **Rachel says**

More like 2.5 stars, but I'm erring on the side of 3 - mainly because the awful editing was almost hilarious:

- 1) "Thankfully he responded with a rye chuckle." - I suspect she meant "wry" instead of "rye," but I like the idea of a grainy chuckle.
- 2) "She wasn't quite ready to see someone else hooning down the highway on her baby." - Hooning? Like....zooming and honing? Or hooting and running? Hoeing and swooning? The possibilities are endless.
- 3) "Her mother always got titchy when she was worried about their safety." - I think she meant "tetchy," meaning irritable, which is a good deal different than "titchy," which means tiny. Kind of a funny mental picture if you assume her mother starts to shrink when she worries.
- 4) This one is my favorite - "A pair of hoes and a wide necked tunic was thrown in his face." Ah-hem. I think she meant "hose." Please also note that there are multiple things being thrown in his face, so the correct verb is "were" (even if two of the things are prostitutes.)

Anyway, getting past the editing - there were a few major plot holes. For instance, if you're planning out your time traveling mission, why not plan to depart together in a secure location, so the kids aren't stuck running to the nearest bathroom or janitor's closet, making it incredibly easy to blow your cover? And why wouldn't you have everyone learn a map of the area you're traveling to, along with the reason for the mission and necessary tactics ahead of time? And lastly, my biggest issue is hidden because it's a doozy - (view spoiler)

So. I won't be reading the sequel, but I have to admit, it was an (inadvertently) entertaining read.

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## Jenny Bynum Black Words-White Pages says

I won a paperback copy of this book a while back in return for an honest review. I was totally wowed and addicted to this amazingly written YA romance/time traveling story. I loved how the author put her own twist on time traveling and the lovable characters in the story. I felt the realness of the story in these characters and the love and dedication that they all had for one another. I am really excited to read more from this awesome author and where these phenomenal characters next journey will take them. I don't why it took me so long to get to this book but it is a magical story that will grab the attention of the audience and keep you entertained from beginning to end. A RECOMMENDED MUST READ FOR ANY AGE GROUP!!

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## Elaine says

I kind of hate this book on principle. The relationship dynamics between just about every character were horrifyingly unhealthy. It was kind of like taking all the worst YA has to offer and putting it in one book. But at the same time the *idea* was amazing. Time travelers who right past wrongs? How can you not love that? So I guess for premise alone I'd give this book 2 stars and I'll round it up to a **2.5 stars** because this book did have it's moments of being fun and good. I chose this book mainly because it involved 'the other' but not vampire, werewolves, witches and the other usual players.

These are thoughts that occurred to me as I read so they are in chronological order but I can't guarantee they make sense without the context of what ever I had been reading at the time.

1) It was sort of off-putting that Gemma and Harrison were the most attractive people in the history of the world and that they were so annoyed when people would hit on them. To quote Spike (from BtVS) "*I don't want to be this good looking and athletic; we all have our crosses to bear.*" Although in their defense, no one in this book seems to take no for an answer and sexual harassment/objectification is rampant.

2) A 17 year old boy who talks about giving up on dating because he fell in love and some girl broke his heart at 14 is insane. It may or may not be on the list of dumbest things I have ever heard.

3)It was heartbreaking how nervous Gemma is even around her own family. They should have been her 'people'. The ones she could let loose and be herself around.

4) Did Ms. Pearl just get done reading Twilight? Because Gemma's lip biting is at Bella Swan levels.

5) I felt really sorry for Gemma. Her parents had instilled such fear in her that she was a neurotic mess with social anxiety that would have landed her in some in-patient treatment in a normal world.

6) Although it was partly on Gemma for not standing up for herself, it really bother me that no one considered what Gemma wanted or how she felt. It was always about what people wanted her to do for them. Her mom wanted her to make friends not because every mother should want their child to make friends and feel loved, but because it looks weird that she doesn't. Her father was such a narcissist. It was all about the people he wanted to save in the past with no concern to how it was affecting his children in the present. Harrison was only concerned about how their relationship made him feel and how he wanted to show her off and have her meet his friends and family. He considered that it would make her uncomfortable but pushed it

anyway.

7) Speaking of Harrison, **HE IS A CRAZY GIRL!!** He and Gemma had only just been dating for the afternoon and he wanted to bring her home to meet his parents. After only knowing each other a month and dating a week he says "The only guy you're ending up with is me." Is that a threat? Creep much? No wonder that girl dumped him when they were 14. She's probably in witness protection now! Also this, "If I don't get to maul you at school..." How attractive! Isn't that just every girl's dream? I know my heart goes aflutter when a guy says he wants to *maul* me!

8) This should have occurred to me sooner, but wouldn't it behoove the father to shoot out a text before sending them back in time?! If secrecy is such an issue then why not give your kids more than a few seconds warning get alone. And also this, why have them out in society at all. Why not just live in a compound and train all day everyday? If they can't have real friends and are slaves to the family secret then why even bother allowing the rest?

9) It bothered me that the reasons Gemma and Harrison were in love never got explored. It was the kind of instalove that leaves you feeling left out. They both found each other attractive and then they hung out at a movie theatre where Gemma was a grade-A mess the whole time and then all of a sudden they were in love. And they said they were in love like 80 bajillion times but never really seemed to have a reason. If I'm going to be denied a great story around time traveling superheros (are they superheros? I've decided that they are) in favor of focusing on a love story, then *give me a love story!*

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## **Theodora Catalina says**

Originally posted @ <http://shattering-words.blogspot.com>

Golden Blood  
Time Spirit Trilogy #1  
By Melissa Pearl

My thoughts (Theo): I simply loved this book! So much that it hurt when the ending was approaching so fast!

I loved how the characters made me think of some random people I might even know, but I had no idea they possessed such powers!

It all starts with Gemma – the shy, never talking to anyone, kind of girl, some sort of a freak for all those around the High school, always playing it cool and safe, never saying more than a word to anyone! Yet she is still picking the interest of someone really interesting: a boy, by all means!

At first she is frightened about this sudden change in her behaviour, pushing him away – yet wanting him for some unknown reason!

Harrison, the nice, super-popular guy in school made an approach and now he is getting to start to understand his mysterious pull towards this beautiful, yet cold girl. She raises challenges for him that others couldn't, so it is easy to say that they sooner than later become a thing!

Now they are dating, always checking for her parents to show up and rip everything apart. Now is a whole new other game at which Gemma is not so good at: lying while smiling.

Her brother and sister, kind of figured it out, but now one said a word until Harrison, kind of popped-up, on one of her missions.

Wait!! What the..?? What missions?

Yeah, same reaction here, but I loved it altogether! She is a time spirit traveller, a kind of being that goes back in time to re-write the history along with her family! No doubt she was all secretive and running like hell on some occasions! But Harrison couldn't care less as he is already more than smitten with her, he loved her from the top of his heart and the same thing applies to her.

Even though relationships are being prohibited by her parents she manages to get Harrison a pass somehow, but bigger problems awaits them!

It is a thrilling, sort of smashing your heart, kind of story due to the always getting you by the edge kind of book! It's nice, beautifully written and always making you crave for more! I totally got smitten myself with the story and fell in love with the characters.

I recommend the book to all those of you ready to travel back, pour some mystery and love into it and this is it! You have it: the awesome book that Golden Blood is!

I offer this book a 4.5 / 5 stars!

Happy reading everyone~!

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### **Juhina says**

Golden Blood wasn't what I was expecting, it was so much more. From the beginning of the book the writing was likable, the story sucked you in, even though it might have seemed a bit too generic at first. However as I continued reading, and the paranormal aspect of the story was revealed, I fell in love.

Gemma, the protagonist, is a typical high school student. She struggles with the secret of her family, where they once had to move because she slipped the secret to one of her friends. When she meets Harrison Granger, really meets him, not ogling and fantasizing about him from afar, the struggle really begins. She doesn't know whether she should get close to him for she is endangering her family's secret and their existence. At the same time, she is falling hard for him, her sister's rule "keep it at fun and games" seemed to have worked... until it didn't.

I found the time traveling aspect of the story and the usage of it very fascinating. Her twin older brother and sister were great secondary characters, and her and Harrison's relationship was uncomplicated and free of misunderstandings, exactly how I like it. Golden Blood is the first book in a trilogy, the second and third books Black Blood and Pure Blood have already been released. I personally can't wait to get my hands on them to get back to Gemma's world!

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### **Suzy Turner says**

OMG I could not put this book down! I was literally hooked after the first page and that doesn't happen too often. Melissa Pearl is an absolute master of story telling. The way she weaves the plot and characters into her story leave you desperately wanting more.

The moment I 'met' Gemma Hart, I felt for her. I mean how can you not feel for a girl who is pulled back in time by her parents whenever they want to? I mean, the poor girl has a life of her own. Okay, maybe she doesn't have much of a life because of her parents but this whole predicament just made me desperate to turn the page and find out what happens next.

The second I finished this book, I bought the second in the series... I'm so glad I have a Kindle so that I could literally, at the click of a button, continue reading!

