



Origins

Jessica L. Padilla

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Red pain, Red desire, Red need, Red hunger...

I have been plagued by the same dream for months now. A nightmare filled with red, dripping with death, where I am the hunter. There is no escape, no end in sight.... The nightmare has become a reality and I am forced with a choice – I can become one with the darkness that lives within that is clamoring, clawing to escape, or I can bury the demon, and the nightmares, once and for all.

It may seem like an easy choice, but not when I also have to choose between the father who has raised me or a mother whom I have thought was dead. Not when the choice is my humanity or Immortality....

Aided by a dark mysterious stranger, a hidden world is opened up to Adelin - a world full of bloodlust and death - the Black world of Immortals. Torn between the two, she faces the hardest decision she's ever had to make. Will she choose the safe, familiar life she has always known? Or will she let the darkness consume her?

Origins Details

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From Reader Review Origins for online ebook

Rimsa Ivashkov says

As far as vampire books go, this wasn't all that original, all though, the beginning was promising. The way the story progressed was kind of disappointing because the Vraiden, Luc and Eris stories were clichéd and I was expecting the plot to go another way. Still, the book is pretty easy to get through because it's quite short. Enough happens to keep you interested. Adelyn was a good protagonist mostly, and I liked that she stood up for herself when Vraiden was being a jerk. Speaking of him, I really hated him. He was an arrogant douche bag and he would have been netter as a villain, than a love interest.

The romance was a letdown. Adelyn and Vraiden fall in love for no reason, I didn't see the chemistry, and nearly have sex the first time they actually have a proper conversation. I didn't find it believable that Vraiden had been murdering and torturing people his whole life for the fun of it, and suddenly, he turns good just because he exchanged a few words with Adelyn. I mean, what was so special about her, that he changed for her? And, Adelyn didn't give a shit about his past. She didn't even raise an eyebrow, let alone freak out and run away screaming like a normal person would.

However, Luc's character was pretty cool and I loved his personality. His back story was pretty tragic and I think the book would have been better if he'd shown up sooner and the book had focused on him and Adelyn, rather than Vraiden and her. The pacing of the book was ok and there aren't any really slow moments. On the whole, this book left me with mixed feelings. There aren't any big negatives in the book other than what I mentioned, but there aren't a lot of unpredictable twists either. The book is okay, but it kinda fades in to the background and doesn't stand out to me among the other vampire books. Still, I'll probably read the sequel.

Katerina says

If you want a light read this book is not for you.

If you want an emotional rollercoaster, with characters that are neither bad nor good but more interesting and complicated, then you'll love this book.

What i love most is that the story is not Y/A or Adult but something in between .

I'm not going to write about the story line, you can read the summary for that. It's fast paced not a dull page and i'm looking forward to the next Black story.

voluptuous_sheen says

i'd enjoy reading the book ???

the story was fast moving and direct to the point

i'd love the rivalry of brothers..

i love the maturity of the character (coz a lot of stories occur in teenage years, unlike this character that occupies in her 20's)

i quite fascinated on their intimate scenes.lol!

i'm really looking forward for the next book ???

Katy says

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review, and I will say the book is not without it's flaws, but I enjoyed it.

Immediately from Chapter 1, Gilbert has a unique style of writing simple - a quick read that's easy to breeze through - yet her descriptions make sure readers see every single detail of the scene, but not in a way that slows down the pace or bogs down the story.

And what I thought was going to be a typical paranormal romance ended up being a bit more as readers are thrown into the politics surrounding the Black family, the rivalry between the brothers, some cool actions scenes, as well as a few unexpected twists, although I confess, I'm still not sure how I feel about the last chapter (see below).

What got me with this story was the chemistry between the main characters, and I didn't mean in the romantic sense because included was the relationship between the two brothers. This book stirred so much emotions from me, whether it was swoony moments or frustration at the characters.

Adelin was a feisty character who had a spunk to her and doesn't take crap from anyone. I will say, though, that there were a few times that I wanted to yell at her, "What the hell is your problem?" like how standoffish she was when she first met V even though she did not know him at all or the way she treated Lucien.

Vraiden is quite something else. Who wouldn't want to be the girl who turns the hot, bad boy into a sweet romantic, who has more than just a few moments that just make you melt. But for me, the kicker was Lucien, who has so many layers to him, from his damaged past to his protective loyalty for those he cares about. Luc is one of those characters where you have a feeling the author would never write the girl to end up with (like Puck in *The Iron Fey* or David in *Laurel*), but he has such a well written personality that you can't help but root for him.

But like I said, I'm not sure how I feel about the last chapter, but I do know that it did not sit 100 percent well with me. (view spoiler) Of course, I may be biased because of who I prefer in this book.

Melissa says

[From the book: "We're Immortals- not vampires. We don't run around biting people like a bunch of sissies. We don't even have fangs. Vampires don't exist, they're made up- nothing but fanciful stories made from half truths about Immortals." (hide spoiler)]

Amanda says

****1.5 stars****

First to explain the rating: I did not hate the book (which I reserve 1 star ratings for) nor did I think it was okay (which is 2 stars). It just wasn't good. The book is fairly short and I really think the plot suffered because of it. The characters weren't developed, the places weren't described well, and nothing was resolved. In the beginning of the book, we are introduced to several characters who initially appear to be important. For example, Bryn the best friend. Yet a few pages after being introduced to these characters, they are never heard from again. I had really hoped that Bryn would have made more of an appearance since she is, after all, the best friend. But all she gets is one little scene and then she disappears completely from the story with not even a little phone conversation to tie her back in. The conversations between characters were, for me, the unrealistic conversations that make you roll your eyes in disbelief. I'd be lying if I said I didn't skim most of the dialogue.

Next comes the romance. I couldn't keep up with it half the time! They like each other one second, the next they hate each other, then they are back to making out, then they want to kill each other, and so it goes. All in one or two paragraphs. I guess that just isn't really my kind of love story.

I think the overall idea of the book was decent, but the execution was really lacking. But that could just be because I'm not a huge fan of the genre. I wouldn't recommend it, but it also isn't on my "avoid at all costs" list.

Lex says

Author Interview: Jessa L. Gilbert - Origins (Black Novel #1)

Yay!!! Origins is now up in Amazon! Hopefully I'll be able to buy it soon. :) I'm on Asia that's why it's still not available for me. :(

Dani says

First of all I gotta say that I was a bit scared about this book. Mainly because it's been so long since I've liked a new paranormal series, and even though I was super excited about this one (loved the teasers), it was still paranormal and I was afraid it wouldn't meet my high expectations. The reason I don't usually like paranormal books is that most of the times they seem to be all the same thing to me. This didn't happen at all with Origins. This story was fresh and quite different from all the PN books I've read before.

I liked that the characters were a bit older than they usually are in YA books. To my surprise, I really liked the MC, which is rare for me. Usually MCs in YA books piss me off but again, this was not the case with Origins. Adelin was strong, smart and mature, and even though she was in a very difficult situation she didn't act like a victim or a damsel in distress and didn't make me want to punch her.

The boys were simply perfect. I liked that it wasn't a bad boy and a good boy. Both Vraiden (sigh) and Luc were bad boys in that super hot way. They were funny and witty and the sexual tension between both Vraiden and Adeline and Luc and Adeline was off the charts hot. I also liked those little glimpses at these boys' pasts

and I can't wait to find out more about their back stories.

Actually I can't wait to find out more about everything! When I got to the last page I almost threw my nook against the wall, I was so frustrated it was over so soon. But I really really liked the ending. I thought Adeline made a good decision given the circumstances, and the whole situation was a really good set up for the next book.

Finally, I think Gilbert's writing was incredible. The pace, the description of places and characters and their emotions was, the dialogues, the whole story was beautifully written. An amazing debut. Origins definitely met my expectations and became one of my favourite books. Second book can't come fast enough!

Shelly says

A Must Read!

No part of this book wasn't perfect for me! I loved it, even the acknowledgments! Including the playlist at the end (I went through it & listened to every song after) is just genius! The writing is exceptional and just sucks you in...once you start you just cannot stop! I couldn't put it down! It's so well written, kept me interested till the very end!

The characters were great, all of them! Loved the witty banter...I loved **Adelin**. She is not a weakling! She is feisty, obstinate, independent and just downright lovable. The perfect protagonist! **Vraiden**, a bad boy with good intentions and **Luc**, the tortured soul...I loved both of them! I feel like my heart has been torn in two because it's impossible to like one more than the other! I'm so glad we got to read things from their point of view occasionally, it helped with getting to know the characters.

I can't wait to read the second book! (view spoiler)

Fabianne says

Great read!

Great start for a new fabulous series in the YA genre. I liked the mythology (It's NOT about vampires as we know them, thank god), the guys (Why I always pick the one that the heroin doesn't choose?) and mainly I liked the MC. Adelin is a great character, she is strong, she is extremely funny (I loved all her lines), she is caring.

I am impressed with the author's writing since it is her first published work. Recently I've read a few YA from already published authors that gave me headaches, interesting premise but boring-to-death writing style. This didn't happen with Origins. It has an interesting premise, likeable characters AND the writing is very good.

I wished the book were longer!!!

There were just a few small things I didn't like, though I have a feeling they will be explained in the next book. So I'm really anxious about the sequel.

1: (view spoiler)

2: Some things got a rushed explanation. Like the mythology about the Immortals. I didn't like the WAY that was explained like "That's it and end of story." I would like to read the background or more information about the others Immortals and their world.

3: I didn't like the villain. (But I hope that changes in the next book)

PS.: I have to say that I absolutely LOVED the characters' names, ALL of them! Great research and taste. This series have a great potencial, looking foward the other books.

Lexie Gilbert says

This book is just not for me. Cover is good and the book was not expensive when I got it so I gave it a go but.. no. I ended up not liking it. The characters are so bipolar! One moment they felt like this and another moment they felt like that. It's hard to explain :) And the girl! What's her problem? Most of the time it's like she wants to pick up a fight but probably that's the definition by the author of "kiss ass." Not my business though :P

This is my honest opinion about the book. So don't try to troll on me, all right?

Terrie says

** May include plot points but I will steer away from spoilers as much as I can**

This is the story of Adelin, an 19 year old girl who has grown up as a single child with her single father, having lost her mother just after being born. She grew up knowing that she may contract her mother's 'fatal condition' at some point and has undergone routine medical tests to see if the illness starts to make itself present in her own body. Adelin is a cool girl. As characters go, I like her. She's intelligent and not whiny or incapable. She is put in some difficult situations and has to make some tough decisions she reacts in ways that are understandable to the reader (or at least to me!) One day she receives a visit from her doctor and it's news that she never wanted or expected. The good news - it's not fatal, her life is not necessarily in danger -- just life as she knows it.

Adelin soon takes a trip to a private island where she becomes acquainted with a group of immortals, including her own mother, who she learns is still alive. She has to use her time to decide if she wants to become one of them herself and really get to have the mother she thought she'd never get to know, or if she want's to stay human and live her ordinary life with her father.

While Adelin is living on Black Island she get's to know the family providing it's namesake. Moira Black (who is somewhat of an immortal queen) and her husband Elrich have to have two very good-looking sons; Vraiden and Lucien. Both of them definitely have serious appeal. The relationship between them is full of

skeletons in the closet.

The first time we are introduced to Vraiden in the story, I immediately thought to myself, SOCIOPATH!! If that is what the author was going for on a first impression then I think she hit the nail right on the head. I know that he's not human and therefore might not be classified as such from his own peers, but being on the human side of the line myself, I will go ahead and defend my snap judgement of him for at least a little while. :) Many of the details that we learn as a reader are not known to Adelin as she gets to know him, he does tell her that he's done some bad things but does not give all the scary details. Adelin is not fully human when she meets him so he presents no imminent danger to her, so I can see why not being a victim to his murderous ways helped her to see his finer qualities and feel an immediate attraction to him. After all... he is very attractive!

Lucien or Luc is much more sympathetic to the human cause. I had a much better immediate reaction to him. He takes time to really help Adelin understand the origins of the Immortal race and how they came to be. I really enjoyed this part of the story's legend, it was kind of scary.

While I have pointed out the faults of one character and the strengths of another, it's not as easy as black and white. There is not one brother who is all good and one who is all bad. Adelin is kept safe by the efforts of both brothers. I don't want to comment further on the plot because I feel I would be giving too much away if I did. I will say that the author did a great job of creating one idea for these characters and then turning those ideas inside out by adding twists and turns in the plot. I am left thinking about these characters and their choices long after closing the book.

Origins is an imaginative and enjoyable read. The world and plot are fresh and original. I will eagerly anticipate future writings from this author. As it stands now, I don't know how long I can hold out for the next book in the trilogy after the last words of the last chapter.

Esther says

[like the way adelin so easily excepts vraidens past as -lets be honest- a serial killer. But since he is an immortal and she an half immortal can be overlooked I suppose, maybe they think differently (view spoiler) (hide spoiler)]

Ann says

When I first read the summary for this book, I was so excited and had such high hopes for this it. To be honest, it was kind of a letdown.

I really liked Adelin, she's a pretty good MC. She's determined, stubborn, and doesn't take shit from anyone. I absolutely loved how she talked back and spit in Eris's face near the end and had so much respect for her. However, the way that she trusts Vraiden so easily really pissed me off. I mean, honestly, if a boy (no matter how hot) told me he's tortured dozens of girls for fun and then killed them, yeaaaaah, bye-bye.

I didn't understand the chemistry between Adelin and Vraiden AT ALL. One moment they're arguing with each other and the next moment they're trying to rip each other's clothes off. Um what. I don't understand.

Why does Adelin like Vraiden? Why does Vraiden like Adelin? I don't know, maybe it's because it's been awhile since I've read a book where the romance progresses so quickly that I'm so annoyed. And the way Vraiden decided that he was going to be a better man and change his ways for Adelin. Bitch, please. You've known this girl for about what? A month?

I absolutely **loved** Luc though. He was one of the best characters in the book and asdfghjkl;' ALL MY FEELS. When Luc was first introduced in the story, I thought for sure he was just a cliché antagonist but he turned out to be this amazing and wonderful character with so much depth. I'm almost sure that Vraiden is going to be the one that ends up with Adelin (view spoiler) but I can't help but root for Luc.

The plot wasn't what I expected, but it wasn't *bad* I suppose. It had so much more potential though.

Deniz says

First up I had high expectation of this book. Since I really did like the teasers that Gilbert had posted here and on her blog. And to my utter surprise all my expectations were exceeded. The book, was in so many ways so much more than i ever could have expected. The thing is, I knew that I liked Gilbert's way with words. As I said I read those teasers. What I didnt expect is how much I would love it. She managed to draw me in and captivate me right from the beginning until the (for me) way to sudden end of the book. Gilbert is an extraordinarily talented writer, a master of description with tons of imaginations and very witty. You know that rare book that makes you forget everything around you, the story that takes you in, becomes a part of you while you reading? yeah that was *Origins* for me. It totally got under my skin. i cannot wait for the next book of the series to be released!

The plot threw me several times and as the story unfolds many things get explained... but one is always left wanting more. A kind of a vampire story but not the. kind i have ever read before. A great new take on immortality

WARNING! there will be some spoilers in following parts

I found in most paranomal fiction lately there are two types of female leads, they either kick-ass hard core and then have often commitment issues or they are whining damsels in distress. And they often make really stupid and unreasonable choices...**Adeline** is neither, she is a young woman with her problems and insecurities (like all of us), that has a choice to make which she does contemplate carefully. She is loyal to the ones she loves and is trying to find her own way, with the choices life has given her. She also doesnt expect other to be perfect she accepts their pasts and their faults, which i think is probably what makes her most endearing to me.

Vraiden is the bad boy, who gets caught off guard with how much he likes Adeline. And decided not only to be honest with her but also tries to do whats right for her. Oh and this is not a bad boy suddenly becomes an angel story. He tries to do whats right. I loved him from their first encounter, since he smirks and looks exactly like i like them ;) but from the beginning one knows that there is more to him. Totally love the chemistry between Adelin and Vraiden and so want them to end up together.

And then **Luc** comes in the picture. And honestly at first i found him a bit off putting. but i couldnt help but

laughing at his great one liners. He is so incredibly witty, its a pleasure to read! And as the story goes on and one gets to know the background and what had happened between the two brothers, I started to really like him. While he is somehow broken, to a huge degree through his brothers actions, he still protects his brother and Adeline and even swear an oath to do so.

Gilbert managed to create characters that have real depth. and its not a oh this is the goody and thats the bady situation. which is what really life is like. there are many shades of grey never just black and white. and i think thats what really got me. the fact that it is a really good story, a new take on the blood drinking type of immortals is just one side to it. her descriptions of the ocean the forest and also of peoples emotions are impeccable. they draw one in and all of it is supported by characters that a real ,are complicated have depth and many facets to themselves. the story line is not one of happy clappy one either. each one of the MC has to make hard decisions during it, and as the story unfolds you can see why they have taken them.

Honestly this is one of the best releases in 2012 for me!
