

Risen

Cole Gibsen

Reviewed by: Ashley Yamashita, 15

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Risen depicts a world where vampires are hidden from the human race. The vampire species is divided into three different clans led by three different siblings; Matteo, Seraphina, and Cornelia. Charlie is oblivious to all this until Aunt Rachel is kidnapped by Queen Seraphina's clan, the Mentis. One of the Mentis in charge of escorting Rachel, Sebastian, is left behind to investigate the house for clues, but later realizes that Charlie has a unique capability unlike any vampire or human he has ever met. Selfishly, Sebastian goes against his orders and proceeds to help Charlie get to safety and save her aunt if she can use her power to help him discover his human past life before becoming a vampire. Together, they face all three vampire clans, meet new friends, and attempt to save Aunt Rachel before she dies at the hands of the Mentis Clan.

The book's characters are all so well-written, each of them having their personality based on the backstory that was explained later on. One of my favorite characters, Opal, is so passionate and fierce, making her so much fun to read about. When she started to describe her past, I immediately got sad knowing that she's been through so much in her short years of living. Unlike Charlie, Opal is a more relatable character, easily becoming one of my comfort characters in the story. Her reactions were all genuine and believable, making her a more humane and easily understandable character. Sebastian is also one of my favorite characters due to his passion and persistence throughout the book. He's extremely sarcastic and very sweet towards Charlie, making him a hugs softie towards her. I love how honest and charismatic he is. Anyone can fall for his caring personality! Although Charlie was the main character, I had a harder time connecting to her and her feelings. I noticed throughout the book that Charlie seems so independent that she's almost afraid to share what's on her mind.

I would recommend this book to ages fifteen and older since there is a lot of cursing and several torture scenes. Overall, this book is perfect for a quick escape from reality and is honestly one of my favorite books. This book is great as a personal read, and showcases how true love can give hope to anyone! Sebastian and Charlie's relationship is the absolute cutest, and I'm so excited to see more of it in the next book!

Recommended Titles:

Shadow Falls by C.C. Hunter

Bloodlines by Rachel Mead

Marked by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast