



## Crave

By Melinda Metz, Laura J. Burns

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Shay has had a rare blood disorder since she was born. In fact, her mother married one of Shay's doctors, Martin, who left his world-renowned leukemia research to try and figure out exactly what the disorder is and how to cure it. When she turns seventeen, Martin begins to give her new blood transfusions that make her feel the strongest she has ever felt. But she also has odd visions where she sees through the eyes of a vampire. At first, she thinks she must be imagining the visions, but when she begins to see Martin's office in them, she knows she has to check it out. That's when she finds Gabriel, a sexy, teenaged vampire, imprisoned in Martin's office. The connection she has built with Gabriel compels her to set him free. But when he kidnaps her in an attempt at revenge on Martin, their lives become deeply intertwined. She doesn't know the half of it.

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## **Crave** By Melinda Metz, Laura J. Burns Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Born with a rare untreatable blood disorder, 16-year-old Shay knows she will never lead a normal life. She has accepted her fate but longs for the day when people can look beyond her illness and see her for herself. That day comes when her stepfather, Martin, an expert in the field of leukemia research, begins giving her a new type of transfusion. The treatments give her energy, strength, and awesome visions, which stir Shay's desire to live and cause her to want more. She breaks into Martin's office and finds Gabriel, the guy from her visions, chained to a table and sets him free. Kidnapped by him and on the run from Martin, Shay finds her world turned upside down. *Crave* is a fast-paced, action-packed vampire thriller with an original and refreshing story line. Gabriel's life is beautifully revealed through Shay's visions, and the well-written plot conveys depth and feeling while exploring important issues like friendship, loyalty, trust, love, and betrayal. A satisfying read with a shocking cliff-hanger ending.—Donna Rosenblum, Floral Park Memorial High School, NYα(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Frequent collaborators Burns and Metz here combine the vampire craze with the terminally ill heroine plot device. Born with a rare blood disorder, Shay McGuire is frail, fragile, and yearns to live the life of a normal, energetic 17-year-old who pushes limits with sex and drugs, but she can barely get through a day at school. Her doctor stepfather carefully monitors her condition, while her devoted mother would literally do anything to save Shay. When a new type of transfusion causes Shay to experience vivid dreams (memories?) as a young man named Gabriel, she figures out the new blood she has been getting is from a vampire her parents are holding captive to keep her alive. She frees Gabriel, and so begins the predictable romance. It's not great literature, but fans of Lurlene McDaniels and *Twilight* will lap up every drop of Shay's fast-paced story. An abrupt ending promises this is just the beginning of what will no doubt be a popular new series. Grades 8-12. --Debbie Carton

Review

Metz, Melinda ***Crave***; by Melinda Metz and Laura J. Burns.

Reviewed from galleys Ad Gr. 8-12

*The Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books (BCCB)*, October 2010 Issue

Suffering from a rare blood disease, Shay has led a vastly curtailed life marked by overprotective parents and friends, constant physical exhaustion, and heightened teen angst ("That's what Shay was. Sick. Not creative or strong-willed or addicted to bad reality television. Just sick"). When her doctor (and stepfather) Martin introduces a new treatment, Shay is both giddy with its effectiveness and intrigued by its side effects: every time she is transfused, she dreams scenes from the life of Gabriel, a young man (a hot young man, naturally) who seems to be a vampire. Finally deducing that Gabriel is both real and chained up in Martin's office, Shay frees him; Gabriel kidnaps her; complications ensue. The authors' plays on the dynamics of power and addiction add a layer of interest: Shay is as dependent on and addicted to Gabriel's blood, the source of her transfusions, as he is to humans'. Unfortunately, readers will guess the secret of Shay's medical condition from a mile away, and Shay's endless self-involvement can be tiresome, if understandable. The first half of the book, in which Gabriel is merely a character in transfusion-induced visions, bogs down in Shay's vacillations between self-pitying "Sick Girl" and wild child; it is in only the second half, when Gabriel enters the plot as kidnapper, life source, and romantic foil, that the book takes off, careening to a cliffhanger conclusion. Still, the portrait of a longtime invalid whose taste of health and strength prompts reckless

rebellion rings true, and Burns and Metz refreshingly avoid minimizing the many obstacles—from the age difference to the species enmity to Gabriel’s determination to avenge his kidnapping—that make the inevitable romance not quite so inevitable.--CG

### **Crave.**

Burns, Laura J. (Author) and Metz, Melinda (Author)

Sep 2010. 288 p. Simon & Schuster, paperback, \$9.99. (9781442408166).

Frequent collaborators Burns and Metz here combine the vampire craze with the terminally ill heroine plot device. Born with a rare blood disorder, Shay McGuire is frail, fragile, and yearns to live the life of a normal, energetic 17-year-old who pushes limits with sex and drugs, but she can barely get through a day at school. Her doctor stepfather carefully monitors her condition, while her devoted mother would literally do anything to save Shay. When a new type of transfusion causes Shay to experience vivid dreams (memories?) as a young man named Gabriel, she figures out the new blood she has been getting is from a vampire her parents are holding captive to keep her alive. She frees Gabriel, and so begins the predictable romance. It’s not great literature, but fans of Lurlene McDaniels and *Twilight* will lap up every drop of Shay’s fast-paced story. An abrupt ending promises this is just the beginning of what will no doubt be a popular new series.

— *Debbie Carton, BOOKLIST*, November 1, 2010

### **4Q 4P S**

Metz, Melinda and Laura Burns. **Crave**. Simon & Schuster, 2010. 288p. \$9.99 Trade pb. 978-1-4424-0816-6.

Shay McGuire has always been different, special, a freak. She calls herself the Sick Girl, the one student in her school who cannot play sports, does not attend parties, has never even been in the gym. Shay has a mysterious blood disorder that has baffled doctors for years. Even her physician-turned-stepfather, Marcus, a blood disease specialist, is unable to do more than provide constant transfusions to postpone Shay’s death. After a particularly serious incident, Marcus administers a radical new treatment, a blood transfusion that transforms Shay mentally and physically. For the first time in her life, she can run and swim, but even more astonishing, she has dramatic visions of the life of a beautiful young man called Gabriel and his family. Gabriel’s saga mingles scenes of great beauty and tranquility with disturbing images of blood, fangs, loss, and death. Who is Gabriel, and why does Shay begin to crave the new transfusions as if they were a potent drug?

Two experienced screenwriters have teamed up to produce a vampire story with a few twists. Gabriel’s identity and Shay’s real nature will surprise readers, while the second half of the novel—an electrifying night flight to a sanctuary that is really a prison—will keep all but the most jaded readers avidly turning the pages. A cliff-hanger ending ensures eagerly anticipated sequels to this competently-written and imaginative tale. Suggest this title to older teens who crave more stories about the children of the night.—Jamie Hansen.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lawrence Gregory:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what your own problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't

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