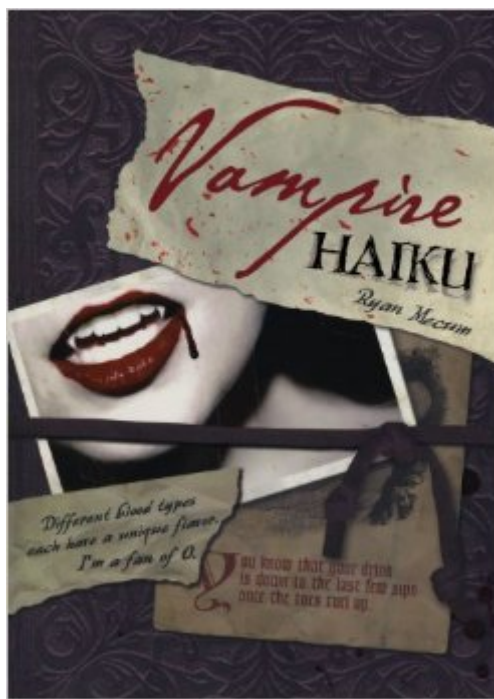


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# Vampire Haiku



## Synopsis

Those were not vampires. If sunlight makes you sparkle, you're a unicorn.

Different blood types each have a unique flavor. I'm a fan of O. Poetry sucks! William Butten was en route to a new land on the Mayflower when he was turned into a vampire by a fellow passenger, a beautiful woman named Katherine. These pages contain his heartbreaking story - the story of a vampire who has lived through (and perhaps caused) some of America's defining events. As he travels the country and as centuries pass, he searches for his lost love and records his adventures and misadventures using the form of poetry known as haiku. As Butten documents bloody wars, a certain tea party in Boston, living the high life during the Great Depression, two Woodstock festivals, the corruption of Emily Dickinson, and hanging out with Davy Crockett, he keeps to the classic 5-7-5 syllable structure of haiku. The resulting poems are hilarious, repulsive, oddly romantic, and bizarre. Read along, and you just may find a new appreciation for - and insight into - various events in American history. And blood. Those were not vampires. If sunlight makes you sparkle, you're a unicorn.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ryan Mecum's *Vampire Haiku* mixes humor and poetry in diary form for vampire William Butten, who was turned in 1620. He falls in love with a beautiful woman on the Mayflower named Katherine, who turned him into a vampire. Soon he's parted from his love to roam America on his own and make his own friends. There are tales of some well known historic figures from Davy Crockett to Amelia Earhart and famous events in history like the Civil War and Woodstock. Readers may initially be attracted to the cover haiku, which also appears on page 37: "You know that your drink is down to the last few sips once the toes curl up." Butten has a twisted sense of humor, but readers will enjoy his little anecdotes about becoming a vampire and bumbling around learning how to feed, etc. Mecum uses his linguistic and historic knowledge to create fun and witty haiku. Although they are not precisely haiku in the traditional sense, they mostly adhere to the form's syllable count. It is fun to see Butten reveal insider knowledge about the deaths of Davy Crockett and other major historical figures. In some cases, the poems will have readers cringing in disgust. "Discarded band-aids are rare unexpected treats. My version of gum." (page 113) There are even moments in the book where the vampire makes fun of the modern vampire crazes from the goth kids to the latest vampire movies. One of the best haiku in the book is about the Twilight movie: "Those were not vampires. If sunlight makes you sparkle, you're a unicorn."

There's a lot of vampire dreck being produced in the world today, a great deal of which has taken its cue from certain very popular juvenile fiction products and films. It's hard to do vampires these days without attempting to redefine the parameters in either implausible non-traditional ways, or to simply produce something overly clichéd and hackneyed. This book manages to stay within the pretty standard expectations of the vampire genre, and yet the most unique thing about it is not the treatment of vampires, nor even the story (despite its ingeniousness at many points), but instead the medium itself. It might be a stretch to imagine that an early seventeenth century Pilgrim would be writing a journal in haiku (since wide Western familiarity with that poetic form wouldn't have been a reality until the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), and yet the charm to this poetic form as a narrative vehicle is intrinsically appealing. Traditionally, individual haiku often have a sense of timelessness in their capturing of a single moment, transitory and yet eternal. What better medium,

then, to narrate the life of a vampire, a being who lives through many ages and the changes they inevitably bring, and yet remains essentially beyond change himself? While the occasional haiku in the book is hypermetrical, this can be easily forgiven, particularly in one case, when onomatopoeia is involved. The opportunities for humor in this book were endless, and yet tastefully exploited. Much fun is had at the expense of vampire fiction and film of the past, including using two syllables with the word "sparkle" in one particular jab at the recent Twilight franchise, and a masterful incorporation of Joss Whedon into the storyline. Wonderful stuff!

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