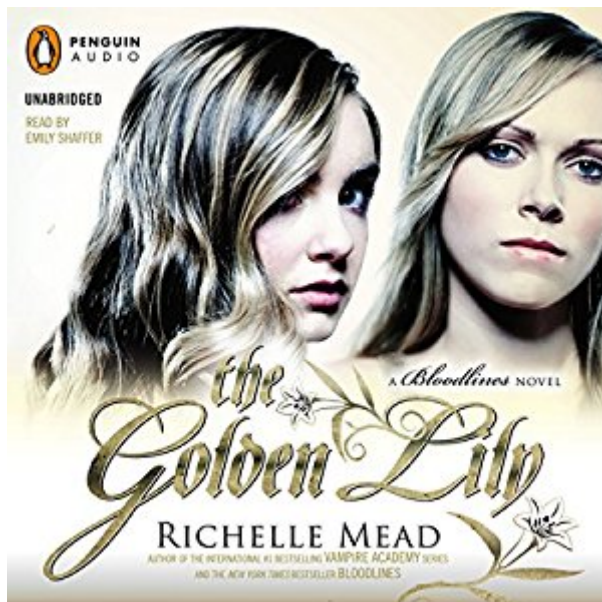


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The Golden Lily: Bloodlines, Book 2



Synopsis

The second thrilling installment in Richelle Mead's Vampire Academy spinoff series. Tough, brainy alchemist Sydney Sage and doe-eyed Moroi princess Jill Dragomir are in hiding at a human boarding school in the sunny, glamorous world of Palm Springs, California. The students - children of the wealthy and powerful - carry on with their lives in blissful ignorance, while Sydney, Jill, Eddie, and Adrian must do everything in their power to keep their secret safe. But with forbidden romances, unexpected spirit bonds, and the threat of Strigoi moving ever closer, hiding the truth is harder than anyone thought. Populated with new faces as well as familiar ones, Richelle Mead's breathtaking Bloodlines series explores all the friendship, romance, battles, and betrayals that made the number-one New York Times best-selling Vampire Academy series so addictive. In this second book, the drama is hotter, the romances are steamier, and the stakes are even higher.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My biggest complaint about this book was the tortuous (to my heart) ending, and the lack of updates on my beloved Rose. And since Richelle has done this to me before, leaving me hanging and wanting so much more, I really expected it, though I have some awesome things to hold on to until Indigo Spell is released. As far as Rose, I know that this series isn't above her, it's about Sydney and Jill, along with smoking hot Adrian, but through Dimitri I hoped we might get a small guest appearance or something... But, that might just make it even harder to let go. So, notice that my biggest complaints were really praises for Richelle's writing? Yeah, safe to say that I totally enjoyed

this book. Sydney is such a different main character from Rose, but she is still compelling, and it is such character growth to watch her struggle against what she has been taught her whole life and what she sees with her eyes, and feels with her heart. Are humans really capable of being as evil as vampires? Would you take a room of vamps that you trust over a group of humans that seem to be out to get you? Her answers were once crystal clear, but now, more and more she is changing. It is really hard to write the review without spoiling anything, but I loved to watch Sydney and Adrian. Getting the closer view into Adrian and what he is dealing with is exactly what I wanted at the end of Vampire Academy, and this series is delivering. His one-liners are fantastic, and we get to see a deeper and more intense side of him that VA only hinted at. I love Richelle Mead's young adult books (I haven't tried the adult ones yet, so can't speak for them), and she does not disappoint with this fast paced, page turning sequel and spin off.

Sydney Sage is an Alchemist, one of a group of humans who dabble in magic and serve to bridge the worlds of humans and vampires. They protect vampire secrets and human lives. Sydney would love to go to college, but instead, she's been sent into hiding at a posh boarding school in Palm Springs, California, tasked with protecting Moroi princess Jill Dragomir from assassins who want to throw the Moroi court into civil war. Formerly in disgrace, Sydney is now praised for her loyalty and obedience, and held up as the model of an exemplary Alchemist. But the closer she grows to Jill, Eddie, and especially Adrian, the more she finds herself questioning her age-old Alchemist beliefs, her idea of family, and the sense of what it means to truly belong. Her world becomes even more complicated when magical experiments show Sydney may hold the key to preventing becoming Strigoi, the fiercest vampires, the ones who don't die. But it's her fear of being just that special, magical, powerful that scares her more than anything. Equally daunting is her new romance with Brayden, a cute, brainy guy who seems to be her match in every way. Yet, as perfect as he seems, Sydney finds herself being drawn to someone else, someone forbidden to her. When a shocking secret threatens to tear the vampire world apart, Sydney's loyalties are suddenly tested more than ever before. She wonders how she's supposed to strike a balance between the principles and dogmas she's been taught, and what her instincts are now telling her. Should she trust the Alchemists or her heart? Warning: There are spoilers for both Vampire Academy and Bloodlines in this review. Click the titles to go back and read those reviews. I loved this book. I really do. I got vampires, vampire hunters, more witchcraft and Alchemists. I love seeing Sydney open up more as a person, and I especially love her beginning to question the

Alchemists. I love Sydney and Adrian's relationship. They're very close as friends, and I feel like that's how the best romantic relationships start. Jill's growing up, and I love it. She's fifteen, and while she still has some adorable ramble-y moments, she's beginning to grow up into a fantastic woman. I love that Mead didn't write a romantic relationship between Trey and Sydney, both because of the Alchemists and the Warriors of Light, and because Trey is such a great bro for Sydney. Introducing her to Brayden was a great thing for Sydney, and for us as readers, because having Sydney realize that someone like Brayden wasn't right for her. He was also unmemorable, as mentioned by the rest of the members of the Melrose family. I got a kick out of the fact that no one but Trey could remember his name. Unwarranted advice about dating: After the third date, if your close family can't remember your date's name because he's boring? I don't recommend another date. Sonya is probably my favorite minor character in this book. I want more about her. I want to know what she went through because of her use of spirit and lack of medication. I want to know more about her and Mikhail. I still hate the book covers for this series. Since I'm writing this as a TBT, I don't mind saying that I hate the book covers for all of these books. I'm going with five stars for this book, because there was nothing that I really disliked in this book. I couldn't wait for The Indigo Spell to come out after I read this. You can pick up a copy through Indiebound or your other favorite bookseller! Five stars

Richelle Mead has written over twenty-five novels for teens and adults. She is the author of the international #1 bestselling Vampire Academy series and its spinoff series, Bloodlines. Her recent standalone novel, Soundless, draws upon Chinese mythology and history, and her forthcoming series, The Glittering Court, follows the adventures of girls destined for arranged marriages in a fantasy world inspired by colonial America. A lifelong reader, Richelle has always had a particular fascination with mythology and folklore. When she can actually tear herself away from books (either reading or writing them), she enjoys bad reality TV, traveling, trying interesting cocktails, and shopping for dresses to wear on tour. She is a self-professed coffee addict, works in her pajamas, and has a passion for all things wacky and humorous. Originally from Michigan, Richelle now lives in Seattle, Washington, where she is hard at work on her next novel. I've reviewed Vampire Academy as a series, as well as Soundless and The Glittering Court from the same author! Check back on the third Thursday of the next few months for the #TBT reviews for the rest of the Bloodlines series! Disclaimer: All links to Indiebound and are affiliate links, which means that if you buy through those links, I will make a small amount of money off of it.

The fact that I am writing this review right now is a miracle. Why you ask? Simple, I would rather be reading the next book in the series, The Indigo Spell! However, I have forced myself to review this one before I read the next one or it just won't happen. We return to Palm Springs and Amberwood in the second installment of Bloodlines. And the more I read in the series, the more I love it. I was so convinced that I would never enjoy Bloodlines like I enjoyed Vampire Academy, but I was so wrong! Sydney Sage is again the main character and POV we read in TGL. I really love Sydney and enjoy her comments and thoughts. However, to be so clever and smart, she can really be dumb too. She has all the book knowledge in the world but the simplest things can throw her for a loop. I suppose that is why she is so endearing. It is obvious that Sydney is struggling with morals in this book. As an alchemist she is supposed to despise Dhampirs and Moroi, however, at times she notices they are more ethical and moral than some humans. The dilemma only becomes worse the more time she spends with Eddie, Jill, Dimitri, Sonya, Angeline and Adrian. Speaking of Adrian, I am so proud of the strides he is making in this series. Despite the fact that he has a history of being rebellious and insensitive, he wants to grow and become a better person. We saw him "attempt" this in VA to try and win Rose, but Rose was always meant to be with Dimitri. This time is different as he has a hard time even explaining it to himself. The other issues in the book surround Sydney and her issues with magic. If you recall, her teacher is a witch and believes that Sydney could become a powerful one as well, if she would only embrace it. After Sonya and Sydney are attacked the struggle to resist magic and claim it is evil is much more difficult. Events in this book also lead Sydney to think about the ethics of an offshoot of the Alchemists and if they are hiding things from her as well. Clearly, her struggle with right and wrong will continue in book 3. In conclusion, be prepared for a heck of an ending that we have all been waiting for a long time. It was totally worth the wait! And since the remainder of the series is already released, I don't have to wait any longer to dig into The Indigo Spell!

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