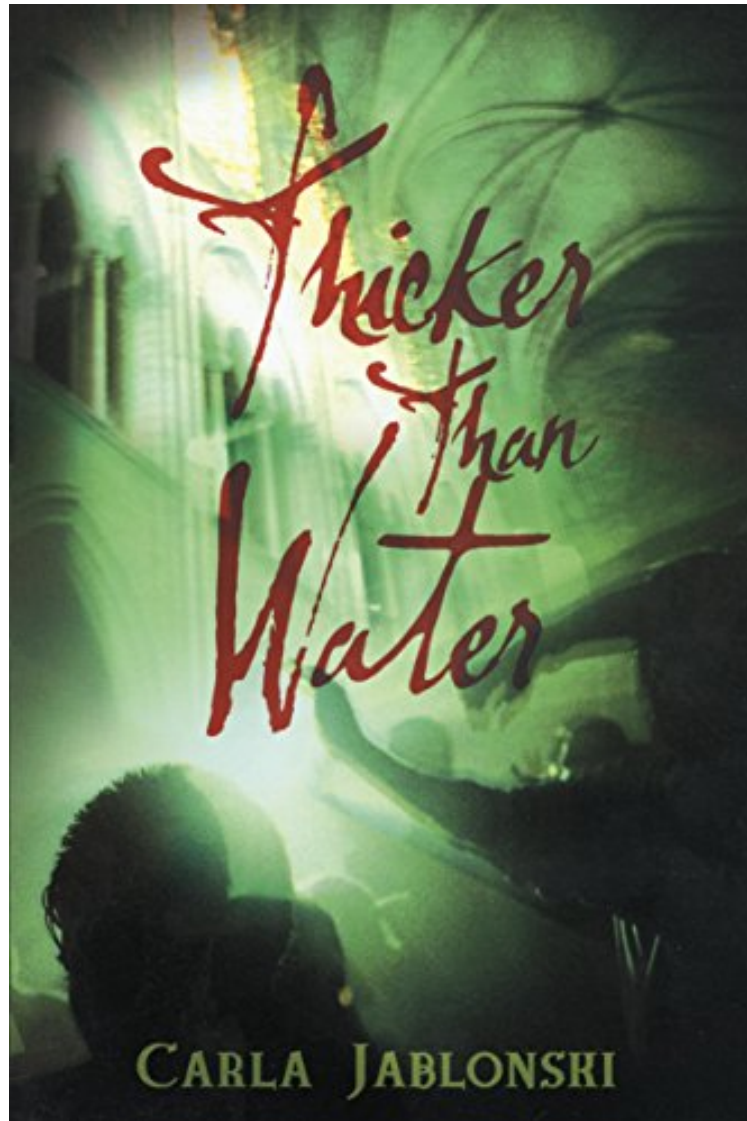


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## Thicker Than Water

Von Carla Jablonski

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**Von Carla Jablonski : Thicker Than Water** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thicker Than Water:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Courtesy of Teens Read Too Von Teens Read Too Kia feels powerless over her life. Her mom is dying from cancer, and no matter how many times Kia visits her, her mom never seems to get any better. On top of that, Kia is stuck living with her father, who is a joke of a parent. It's like he doesn't even know how to be a dad because he's so absorbed in his work. To help her deal with the pain, Kia sometimes resorts to cutting herself. It's not some petty cry for attention; Kia keeps

her cutting a secret. Even from her best friends, Carol and Aaron. One day, at the hospital, Kia meets a girl named Hecate, whom she connects with right away. Hecate introduces her to a new scene, opening Kia's eyes to a whole new world. An underground world where vampires rule. Where people dress up in elaborate Victorian costumes, with red contacts and fake fangs. Carol and Aaron find the vampire gothic club scene more than a little disturbing, but Kia feels more at home in the dark vampire world than anywhere else. These people seem to understand her in a way that nobody else does. They don't judge her, but just welcome her and support her. Plus, Kia's first night at the club introduces her to Damon, a captivating vampire DJ. There's something about Damon that is so intriguing that Kia can't stop thinking about him. She finds herself returning night after night, just hoping to see him and hoping to feel his touch. Damon is very important and respected member of this vampire world, and just knowing that he's chosen Kia, singled her out as his own, gives Kia a rush. As her mom becomes weaker and weaker, Kia immerses herself deeper into the vampire culture, though she doesn't quite understand all of it. Kia withdraws from her friends, Carol and Aaron and starts ditching school. It's not like her dad has any idea what's going on in her life, since he's always on business trips. The more Kia learns about the vampires, the more curious she becomes and the more she thinks that Damon just might be the answer to all of her problems. All clues point to Damon being a real vampire. Carla Jablonski does a fantastic job in blurring the lines of fantasy and reality as she shows how impressionable Kia is and how quickly Kia's life changes as her wishful thinking impairs her judgment. Although everything will never again be as it once was, Kia needs to learn to deal with her life, however unfair it may be, rather than running away from her problems. Reviewed by: Amber Gibson

**Kurzbeschreibung** Seventeen-year-old Kia barely survived her parents divorce several years ago. Now her mom is in the hospital battling cancer and Kia is stuck with her workaholic father, leaving her searching for an escape from the everyday horrors of her life. She finds this escape with a group of people acting out a dark fantasy. These "vampires" spend all night in dark clubs, wearing gothic outfits, and even baring fake fangs. But when Kia meets Damon, she begins to wonder if maybe a true vampire exists among them, one who could be the answer to all of her problems . . . . From Booklist Gr. 12+. When 17-year-old Kia discovers a network of Manhattanites who embrace their "shadow selves" as role-playing vampires, she thinks she has found a niche where her occasional self-mutilation might be acceptable, as well as a respite from grief at home. Despite concerned pals who see the detachable fang-wearing crowd as "freaks . . . working out some deep dark secret inner weirdness," Kia finds herself drawn to the elaborately staged parties (and to their alluring DJ), hardly noticing as the lines between reality and fantasy dangerously erode. Although Jablonski's storytelling prompts intriguing contemplation of the allure of rituals and cults, her interweaving of subplots feels strained, and her graphic descriptions of the vampires' sadomasochistic revels (notwithstanding Kia's position as observer rather than participant) may widen the eyes of some readers, even those accustomed to graphic YA fare. All the same, a huge population of older teens (and some twentysomethings), especially fans of Pete Hautman's *Sweetblood* (2003), will exult in the rococo tour of a bizarre subculture and respond to the questions Kia's intense experiences invite about the nature of true belonging. Jennifer Mattson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From School Library Journal Grade 10 Up-Kia, a 17-year-old New York City teen, cut herself for years before she stopped. Now, with her mother ill with cancer for the second time, she has started again. She meets an older, goth girl at the hospital, who invites her to vampire night at a club in Brooklyn. She quickly alienates her two best friends, begins neglecting her schoolwork and her mother, and becomes obsessed with Damon, the older, seductive DJ and leader of the vampire scene, who has a taste for sadistic, kinky parties. Kia's descent into this world is a strong metaphor for her sense of alienation and her need to belong, but most of the story is told rather than shown, and the protagonist herself is often unlikable. Characters are flat, even Kia's best friends, who are merely sketched in, and dialogue is sometimes clunky. Strange occurrences make Kia (and readers) believe that Damon may be a real vampire, leading to the climax. The concept is tackled more effectively in Annette Curtis Klause's *The Silver Kiss* (Delacorte, 1990). The ending-therapy, reconciliation with her friends and her father, and possible acceptance of her mother's death-is too quick and easy for the lengthy buildup. While there is always an audience for vampire books, even if the vampires turn out to be fakes, teens will prefer Pete Hautman's *Sweetblood* (S S, 2003), which covers similar territory.-Karyn N. Silverman, Elizabeth Irwin High School, New York City Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.