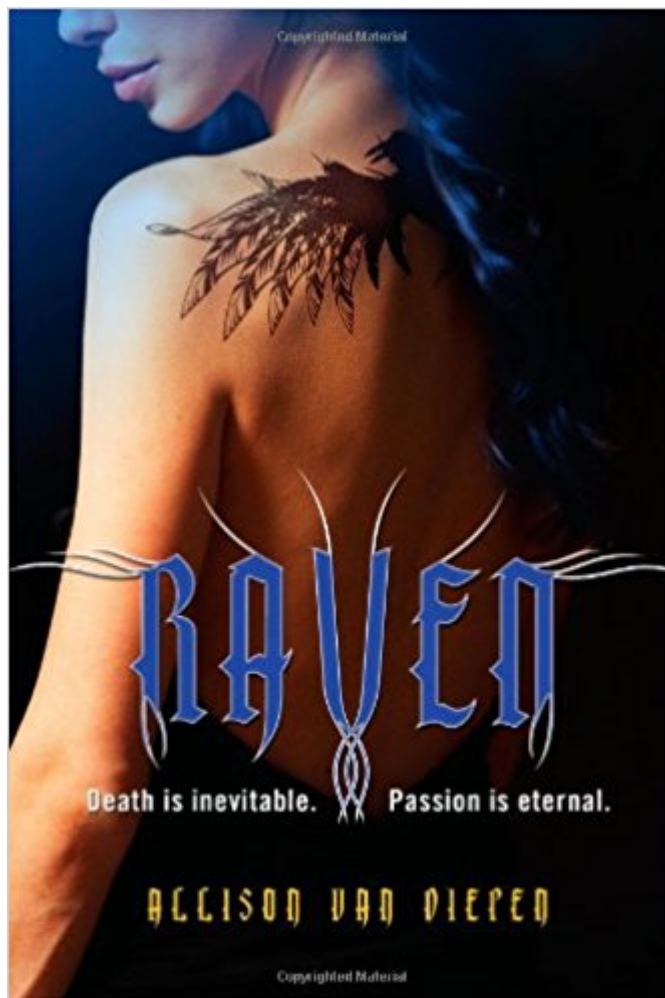


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# Raven



## Synopsis

She wants him. Zin dances with fire in every step; speaks with a honey sweet voice; and sees with eyes that can peer into your soul. Nicole's friendship with him is the only thing that saves her from the boredom of school and the turmoil of her family life. It's no wonder why Nicole is madly in love with him. But she can't understand why he keeps her at a distance, even though she can feel his soul reaching out for hers. Zin is like no man Nicole has ever met, and he carries with him a very old secret. When Nicole uncovers the truth, her love may be the only thing that can save him from it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up • Nicole, a high school senior, falls in love with Zin the first time she sees him dance at a New York City club. But Zin is keeping a terrible secret, one that won't allow him to love her, or any mortal, for he is a Jiang Shi, one of a select few who have survived for centuries by absorbing the souls of the dying. So now Nicole must decide whether to be turned or to live out her mortal life. But immortality isn't all it's cracked up to be. And even the Jiang Shi have enemies. The romantic tension builds steadily as Nic's soulful relationship with Zin gains momentum and she is confronted with the startling realities of his existence. Peppered with sometimes strong language and vivid descriptions of the moves performed by the Toprocks (the break-dancing group to which she and Zin both belong), Nic's narration is believable, honest, and riveting. This darkly compelling read will find a niche with teens who like their fantasy well seasoned with the gritty reality of life,

from the glitzy flash of the club scene to the darker, crueller side of survival on the streets. -- Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

> is the author of *Street Pharm*, *Snitch*, *Raven*, and *Takedown*. She teaches at an alternative high school in Ottawa, Canada. Visit her at [AllisonvanDiepen.com](http://AllisonvanDiepen.com).

I was excited to read this book about an immortal falling for mortal but was disappointed. There were opportunities for the novel to delve into a more substantial storyline but all these opportunities were skipped over. The basics of the story could have turned into something great! The love between Zin and "Raven" could have been great and there were glimmers of hope throughout the book but it never materialized. The lives of the immortals could have been so interesting but they never explained them and any mention of the hundreds of years they had lived were made in joking. Like Queen Elizabeth being crusty, literally! Okay, so Queen Elizabeth's makeup was crusty but if you have lived since then you should know so much and have so many stories! But...nothing. Also, the fact that the main character is a senior in High School and is allowed by her parents, the owner of the club, and the LAW?!? to work in a night club until 4am serving drinks is just ridiculous. What parent would allow their child to do that all the while worrying about another child that has gone off the deep end? I don't think so. It seems that the author was looking to make the main character seem more grown up but being grown up is more about being responsible and not about working at a bar and knocking back drinks with her breaker friends and immortal boyfriend.

Nicole "Nic" fell in love with Zinadin "Zin" when she saw him dance. Even though Nic is still in high school, she works serving drinks at a bar called Evermore. On the weekends at Evermore, Nic, Zin, and their friends battle it out on the dance floor with other hip hop dancers. Zin's dark secret is discovered when Nic's life is endangered on the way home one night and she is pulled into the world of the Jiang Shi and their enemy, the Heng Te. *RAVEN* is not only about love, but an exploration into the afterlife. Allison van Diepen goes above and beyond to bring readers into this dance world, but I trouble connect emotionally to love between Nic and Zin. I think the reason is this book isn't just a paranormal YA romance as I'd expected. There are more dimensions to the story, such as drug addiction and the damage pain can cause to our souls. Knowing this going in would have helped me to relax and enjoy the story more.

Nicole is a smart, loyal, break dancer/waitress with a beautiful soul. She's infatuated with Zin, the gorgeous, mysterious leader of her breaker group, and senses the feeling is mutual. However, they can't be together. Not unless she's willing to turn the entire universe as she knows it upside down. This fast-paced, exciting, creative, and sometimes gut-wrenching story shows the power of the soul and the strength of love. I read it in one day and can't stop thinking about it.

I got a distinct feel of Twilight while reading this, though it ended up going in a different direction. The plot is not bad, though laden with break dancing which I personally don't really enjoy, but the writing style I think could have been improved upon greatly.

Raven was a unbelievable awesome book. I love the immortality and nic and zin. The way they love each other and the way they feel for each other its like your the character of them.

My students love this book!

I bought this book looking a good read. It fell flat! I did not understand the break dancing language. The story was slow, and took to long to get to the point, if there was a point. This was not one of my most favorite read. Dont waste your money on this one. NOT a must read. Dont waste your time!!!

The book wasn't what I expected. Of course I assumed the book had to do with vampires, but I came to the dissappointing realization that the "vampires" were really just human immortals with heightened senses. So overall, the book was just ok.

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