



# The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires

A Novel

By Grady Hendrix

Patricia Campbell's life has never felt smaller. Her ambitious husband is too busy to kiss her good-bye in the morning, her kids are wrapped up in their own lives, and she's always a step behind on thank-you notes and endless chores. The one thing she has to look forward to is her book club, a close-knit group of Charleston women united by their love of true crime and suspenseful fiction.

This predictable pattern is upended when Patricia is viciously attacked by an elderly neighbor, bringing the neighbor's handsome relative, James Harris, into her life. Sensitive and well-read, James makes Patricia feel things she hasn't felt in twenty years. But there's something . . . off . . . and then Patricia's senile mother-in-law insists she knew him back when she was a girl. When local children go missing, Patricia has reason to believe that James may be more Bundy than Beatnik. But once she and the book club members investigate further, the true monster emerges—and he's far more terrifying than any serial killer they've ever read about.



**GRADY HENDRIX** is a novelist and screenwriter based in New York City. He is the author of *Horrorstör*, *My Best Friend's Exorcism*, *Paperbacks from Hell*, and *We Sold Our Souls*, which have all received critical praise from outlets like NPR, the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, the A.V. Club, *Paste*, *Buzzfeed*, and more. He has contributed to *Playboy*, *Village Voice*, and *Variety*.

**PRAISE FOR THE SOUTHERN BOOK CLUB'S GUIDE TO SLAYING VAMPIRES:**

"[A] clever, addictive vampire thriller...This powerful, eclectic novel both pays homage to the literary vampire canon and stands singularly within it." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Hendrix cleverly sprinkles in nods to well-established vampire lore, and the fact that he's a master at conjuring heady 1990s nostalgia is just the icing on what is his best book yet. Fans of smart horror will sink their teeth into this one." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review



**STEEL MAGNOLIAS AND  
FRIED GREEN TOMATOES  
MEET BRAM STOKER'S  
DRACULA IN THIS HORROR  
NOVEL SET IN THE 1990S**

**Subject:**

Fiction - Horror  
Fiction - Thrillers -  
Supernatural  
Fiction - Southern

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**PRAISE FOR  
THE SOUTHERN BOOK CLUB'S GUIDE TO  
SLAYING VAMPIRES:**

**INCLUDED IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK  
REVIEW'S* 2020 SUMMER READING ISSUE!**

**#1 APRIL 2020 LIBRARYREADS PICK**

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**AMAZON BEST BOOK OF APRIL 2020**

**A *LIBRARY JOURNAL* EDITORS' PICK  
FOR APRIL 2020**

***THE A.V. CLUB* BEST BOOK OF APRIL 2020**

***POPSUGAR* BEST OF APRIL 2020**

**GOODREADS BIG BOOK OF SPRING 2020**

"Ghosts of the past have also inspired one of the most rollicking, addictive novels I've read in years: *The Southern Book Club's Guide To Slaying Vampires* by Grady Hendrix, a tale of housewives battling vampires that is sweetly painful, like hard candy that breaks a tooth."

—Danielle Trussoni for  
*The New York Times Book Review*

"A delight...its incisive social commentary and meaningful character development make *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* not just a palatable read for non-horror fans, but a winning one."

—USA Today, 3.5 out of 4 star review

"The novel is a charming testament to friendships and life's imperfections, with dashes of rot and savagery to earn its keep in horror literature....It's a rollercoaster [that] lands as a vampire story con-creted in vileness and Southern charm."

—Fangoria

"[Hendrix] remains excellent at staging page-turning sequences of excitement and anxiety...[and] a master of adding little details that fill in the landscape of his Southern-fried world."

—*The A.V. Club*

"[A] clever, addictive vampire thriller...This powerful, eclectic novel both pays homage to the literary vampire canon and stands singularly within it."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Hendrix has masterfully blended the disaffected housewife trope with a terrifying vampire tale, and the anxiety and tension are palpable...a cheeky, spot-on pick for book clubs."

—*Booklist*, starred review

"A vampire's hunger for blood may be insatiable, but this mas-terpiece novel ladles out ample thrills, chills, and relevant exam-ples of sociopolitical injustices to satisfy any literary appetite."

—*Foreword Reviews*, starred review

"In turns heartwarming and enraging, bloody horror and social critique, this genre-bending vampire story helps cement horror as a frontier for feminist storytelling."

—*BookPage*

"*Book Club* lures you in with the bucolic setting, charming women, and Southern affect, but when it turns, it does a hairpin one-eighty, goes and spins sedys in the police parking lot while screaming obscenities, then turns around and delivers the vigilante-style vindication that we—and Patricia—so desperately deserve."

—*Tor.com*

"*The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* is funny and warm and it's genuinely creepy and disturbing. Grady re-creates a time and place without the dangerous, distortive lens of nostalgia."

—Paul Tremblay, author of *A Head Full of Ghosts*  
and *The Cabin at the End of the World*

"Grady Hendrix has cemented his place as a literary luminary with *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*. Hendrix has taken his genuine affection for housewives and their work, and folded it seamlessly into a horrifying story of social decay and community betrayal. Cancel your plans and lock your doors—you won't be able to stop reading this one until the very end"

—Sarah Gailey, Hugo-Award winning author of *Magic for Liars*

"Every vampire novel is going to have blood and teeth, but this one's got that one essential ingredient that nobody else does like Grady Hendrix: heart. These aren't characters, they're people, and I consider myself lucky to have known them for a few pages."

—Stephen Graham Jones, author of *The Only Good Indians*