

‘Crawford’s compelling account of how and why *Twilight* became such a controversial force in twenty-first century culture is essential reading for all with an interest in the contemporary Gothic. Effortlessly readable and encompassing an impressive range of material, it strikes a difficult balance between clear-eyed critical insight and sympathy for the readers and fans of paranormal romance. Joining the dots between the Gothic romances of the late eighteenth century and the vampire romances of the present, it provides the first authoritative, book-length attempt to plot the cultural history of this new and much-misunderstood genre.’

*Catherine Spooner, Senior Lecturer in English, Lancaster University*

This book explores the history of the paranormal romance genre, from its origins in the revisionist horror fiction of the 1970s via its emergence as a minor sub-genre of romantic fiction in the early 1990s, to its contemporary expansion in recent years into an often-controversial genre of mainstream fiction. Tracing the genre from its roots in older Gothic fiction written by and for women, it explores the interconnected histories of Gothic and romantic fiction, from Ann Radcliffe and Jane Austen in the eighteenth century to *Buffy*, *Twilight*, *True Blood* and *The Vampire Diaries* in the present day. In doing so, it investigates the extent to which the post-*Twilight* paranormal romance really does represent a break from older traditions of Gothic fiction – and just what it is about the genre that has made it so extraordinarily divisive, captivating millions of readers whilst simultaneously infuriating and repelling so many others.