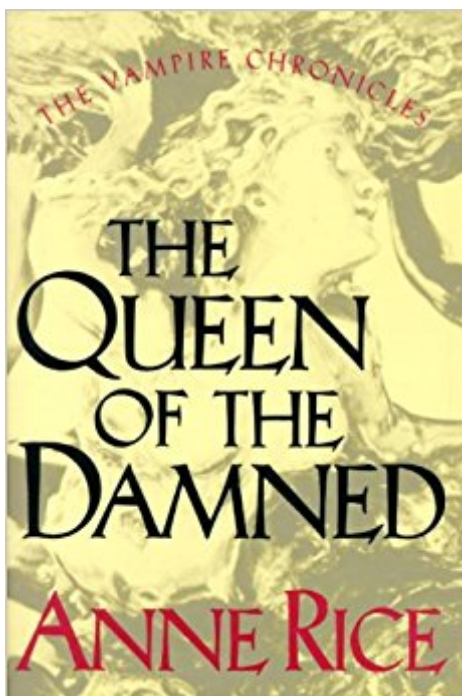


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The Queen Of The Damned (The Third Book In The Vampire Chronicles)



Synopsis

In 1976, a uniquely seductive world of vampires was unveiled in the now-classic Interview with the Vampire . . . in 1985, a wild and voluptuous voice spoke to us, telling the story of The Vampire Lestat.Â Â In The Queen of the Damned, Anne Rice continues her extraordinary "Vampire Chronicles" in a feat of mesmeric storytelling, a chillingly hypnotic entertainment in which the oldest and most powerful forces of the night are unleashed on an unsuspecting world. Three brilliantly colored narrative threads intertwine as the story unfolds:- The rock star known as Vampire Lestat, worshipped by millions of spellbound fans, prepares for a concert in San Francisco.Â Â Among the audience--pilgrims in a blind swoon of adoration--are hundreds of vampires, creatures who see Lestat as a "greedy fiend risking the secret prosperity of all his kind just to be loved and seen by mortals," fiends themselves who hate Lestat's power and who are determined to destroy him . . . - The sleep of certain men and women--vampires and mortals scattered around the world--is haunted by a vivid, mysterious dream: of twins with fiery red hair and piercing green eyes who suffer an unspeakable tragedy.Â Â It is a dream that slowly, tauntingly reveals its meaning to the dreamers as they make their way toward each other--some to be destroyed on the journey, some to face an even more terrifying fate at journey's end . . . - Akasha--Queen of the Damned, mother of all vampires, rises after a 6,000 year sleep and puts into motion a heinous plan to "save" mankind from itself and make "all myths of the world real" by elevating herself and her chosen son/lover to the level of the gods: "I am the fulfillment and I shall from this moment be the cause" . . . These narrative threads wind sinuously across a vast, richly detailed tapestry of the violent, sensual world of vampirism, taking us back 6,000 years to its beginnings.Â Â As the stories of the "first brood" of blood drinkers are revealed, we are swept across the ages, from Egypt to South America to the Himalayas to all the shrouded corners of the globe where vampires have left their mark. Vampires are created--mortals succumbing to the sensation of "being emptied, of being devoured, of being nothing." Vampires are destroyed.Â Â Dark rituals are performed--the rituals of ancient creatures prowling the modern world.Â Â And, finally, we are brought to a moment in the twentieth century when, in an astonishing climax, the fate of the living dead--and perhaps of the living, all the living--will be decided.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Did you ever wonder where all those mischievous vampires roaming the globe in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles came from? In this, the third book in the series, we find out. That raucous rock-star vampire Lestat interrupts the 6,000-year slumber of the mama of all bloodsuckers, Akasha, Queen of the Damned. Akasha was once the queen of the Nile (she has a bit in common with the Egyptian goddess Isis), and it's unwise to rile her now that she's had 60 centuries of practice being undead. She is so peeved about male violence that she might just have to kill most of them. And she has her eye on handsome Lestat with other ideas as well. If you felt that the previous books in the series weren't gory and erotic enough, this one should quench your thirst (though it may cause you to omit organ meats from your diet). It also boasts God's plenty of absorbing lore that enriches the tale that went before, including the back-story of the boy in Interview with the Vampire and the ancient fellowship of the Talamasca, which snoops on paranormal phenomena. Mostly, the book spins the complex yarn of Akasha's eerie, brooding brood and her nemeses, the terrifying sisters Maharet and Mekare. In one sense, Queen of the Damned is the ultimate multigenerational saga.

--Tim Appelo --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The cult audience for Rice's two previous vampire novels, Interview with the Vampire and The Vampire Lestat, will undoubtedly broaden with this third book, which features the same characters and a more complex plot. As before, Rice tells her story in fine melodramatic style, overwriting with zest and exuberance: the text pulses with menace, mystery and violence, and with sensuality verging on erotica. Here Lestat and all other vampires pay the price for his obsessive need for fame, his reckless honesty in describing the "blood drinkers" among us, and his frenzied rock concert in San Francisco. Lestat's kiss has awakened Queen Akasha from her 6000 year sleep. She

immediately begins a wholesale slaughter of most of the world's vampires, sparing only a small remnant (including Lestat) who she expects will join her in a crazed crusade against male mortals. Meanwhile, vampires and psychic humans around the globe are having the same terrifying dream in which twin red-haired women weep over the body of another woman, whose eyes and brains are on a plate nearby. As Rice gradually reveals the significance of the dream, she also focuses on Jesse, who works for the Telamasca, a secret society that collects data on those with paranormal powers. Though she ingeniously pulls together the various plot strands, Rice then almost loses the reader in philosophic overkill. She regains her verve in the final chapter, however, promising yet another mesmerizing installment of the Vampire Chronicles. 150,000 first printing: Literary Guild main selection. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A book I enjoyed a lot, despite some descriptions too long and detailed to hold the reader tightly. (But even those may be a pleasure to mostly female readers, if the sex stereotypes about reading are valid: careful descriptions of countenances insisting on declared emotions and on the demonstration of tenderness between lovers -and all of a special interest, if we keep in mind that the persons involved are vampires!) Apart from that, the book is a rich and well-woven work, managing not only to present an independent whole species and genealogy, in other words a special, well defined fictional world (which to my opinion is one of the main -and difficult-to-obtain -features of good literature), but also to give a resourceful explanation for its birth and development, as long as to connect it with the most significant issues of human religion, history, and controversy of ideas through centuries. It has also a very strong feministic look which I would expect at least to be referred to in the book's presentations-it's not a spoiler. The most significant idea of the book though, which is in the core of the main action -the desire of the Queen to rule the humanity as a goddess in her own way and with her own ideas and prejudices- is the very strong, philosophically supported mainly by Hannah Arendt, idea that the evil is simple and stupid! This is what the whole primary story of the book is moving to, and is shown not only in the arrogant, stubborn, ridiculously narrow-minded character of the Queen (an amazing anticlimax to her unique supernatural powers), but also in the triumph of Lestat over human masses as a rock idol! The part of the book which to my choice is the most valuable extract (about page 300 I think) is the scene in which the twins encounter the Queen for the very first time, and one of them (in her narrating that encounter some millenniums after) gives a deep, explicit and psychologically reasonable interpretation of the Queen's character, revealing her inner lie, which comes from her need to deal with her nothingness and is well-established by her own sincere belief in it! This selfish stupidity of her is

further enlightened in the (relatively) last pages, where she protests in tears that "no one stands by her" or "everyone is against her", or something like that, marvelously reminding us of some very human -and very disastrous- type of person! It is a pity that books like that are mostly read (or at least so I think) by people just obsessed with vampire stories and often only superficially following the plot. I think Ann Rice is of the authors who use the vampire tradition to seriously talk about deep human thoughts, instincts and feelings, as well as of moral and social issues still crucial (or even especially crucial) in our years. It is the kind of literature that forms a bridge between "difficult" or "upper" art and the "mainstream" one, and this, in terms of education involving pleasure, is worth a lot.

I first read this book 25 years ago in 1990. I read it immediately after "The Vampire Lestat" but before "Interview With The Vampire" - it seemed a logical expansion of the mythos of the Chronicles, with the "Creation Myth" of the vampires told from their own perspective. Brilliantly and gorgeously told. Very much recommended. The movie of the same name was a huge disappointment by comparison.

Has been my favorite author since Jr High, and I have always been quite the bibliophile (now in my 30s). I have my 7th grade daughter reading these books now. They are transforming, rich, educational, and complex. I have more respect for Anne Rice than any other fiction writer rivaled only by Daniel Quinn, possibly. Her characters and dialogues are so well written that I would easily believe that she listened to these conversations as they happened. Vampires that were "created" 6,000 years ago to today from locations all over the world provides readers with tantalizing glimpses into histories and cultures that must have cost Rice quite a bit of research to deliver. Romantic and dark, her books find the spark of poetry in the most Stoic of souls--- as poetic as that may sound, I am known for being fairly Stoic.

Such a great end to the trilogy; I know that there are many more books but I feel as though the three can easily stand alone. Lester is such an interesting, arresting narrator. The characters are all so incredibly well developed; and they stay true to character throughout- their reactions, thoughts, etc. become as those of friends and loved ones. Who doesn't want to know Lestat (and the others) after reading this book? A wonderful delve into another world

works grate ty so sorry for trouble seem there was never any problem ty

My personal pick for Anne Rice's masterpiece of multiple pov narrative...et carter

Great book and gives the story more depth.

Checkout The Vampire Lestat before taking on this book. Queen is a fantastic read for those into metaphysical deep sea diving, with just a bit too much oxygen in the air hose. I love Anne Rice; she drills down through so many ideas that never occur to most of us (certainly not me.) I feel both dumber and smarter after reading her. Even though she released QotD in 1988, the topic of female subjugation has only become more relevant. Look at the valiant struggles of Islam's daughters for emancipation. I like the Mother Queen Akasha's solution. It's unique and it works. After The Queen of the Damned you're ready for Memnoch the Devil. Whew, baby! Anne Rice really is the Queen.

Sorry, Countess Stephanie.Marty DeLand

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