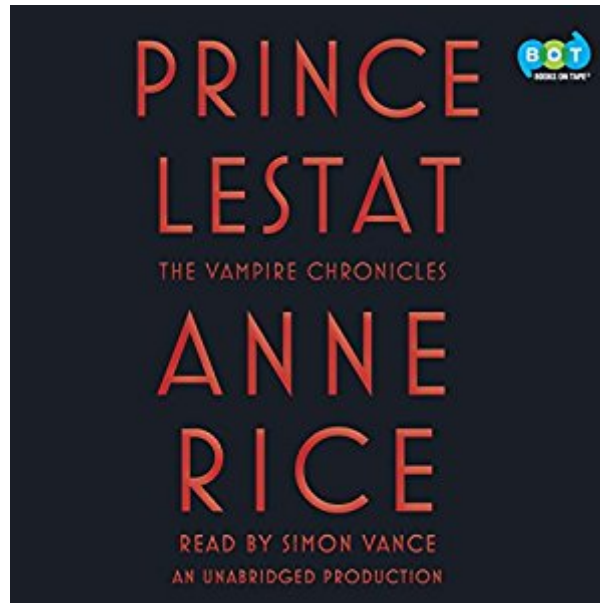


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Prince Lestat: The Vampire Chronicles



Synopsis

A stunning departure, a surprising and compelling return... From Anne Rice, perennial best-seller, single-handed reinventor of the vampire cosmology - a new, exhilarating novel, a deepening of her vampire mythology, and a chillingly hypnotic mystery-thriller. Rice once again summons up the irresistible spirit-world of the oldest and most powerful forces of the night, invisible beings unleashed on an unsuspecting world able to take blood from humans, in a long-awaited return to the extraordinary world of the Vampire Chronicles and the uniquely seductive Queen of the Damned, a long-awaited novel that picks up where *The Vampire Lestat* left off more than a quarter of a century ago to create an extraordinary new world of spirits and forces - the characters, legend, and lore of all the Vampire Chronicles. The novel opens with the vampire world in crisis... vampires have been proliferating out of control; burnings have commenced all over the world, huge massacres similar to those carried out by Akasha in *The Queen of the Damned*... Old vampires, roused from slumber in the earth are doing the bidding of a Voice commanding that they indiscriminately burn vampire-mavericks in cities from Paris and Mumbai to Hong Kong, Kyoto, and San Francisco. As the novel moves from present-day New York and the West Coast to ancient Egypt, fourth century Carthage, 14th-century Rome, the Venice of the Renaissance, the worlds and beings of all the Vampire Chronicles - Louis de Pointe du Lac; the eternally young Armand, whose face is that of a Botticelli angel; Mekare and Maharet, Pandora and Flavius; David Talbot, vampire and ultimate fixer from the secret Talamasca; and Marius, the true Child of the Millennia; along with all the other new seductive, supernatural creatures - come together in this large, luxuriant, fiercely ambitious novel to ultimately rise up and seek out who - or what - the Voice is... From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

You thought I was gonna say 'track', didn't you, DIDN'T YOU?! Well, no, I believe Lestat is done with the whole rock star phase of his life--you know, after all the havoc it caused--so you won't be finding any new tracks in this book. But you will find a massive host of characters! I said 'new' above in the title, but most of the 'new' characters are not new, but were very minor side characters in previous books in The Vampire Chronicles and have been fleshed out and cleverly weaved into the tapestry of vampire history Anne Rice has created. You'll even see the return of characters you had believed were dead! But to avoid spoilers, that's all I'm saying on that point. The way Anne Rice weaves together character story lines across millennia is pure genius. In scope, it reminds me of George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series, but the style of writing and storytelling is quite different. A fair amount of Prince Lestat is written in a kind of narrative summary style, which isn't to everyone's taste, but I actually loved it. It means that when Anne Rice comes out of this style, which she does in action scenes and for most of the dialogue, it gives a fast-paced feel to the reading experience; you kind of know she has purposely upped the ante. And the story also takes you all across the globe, which is totally fun! And if I haven't mentioned it already, I love this book!! I'm trying to keep this review as spoiler-free as possible, but I think it's fair to vaguely mention aspects that are hinted at in the synopsis. The main mystery that drives this novel forward is The Voice--a rambling and rather capricious voice that can enter vampires' minds and is compelling ancient blood drinkers to immolate the younger vampires. Who or what is this Voice?

If you're a fan of the Vampire Chronicles you may have had some mixed emotions about titles beyond Queen of the Damned. I found Tale of the Body Thief interesting in the beginning and at the end, but the middle was, at times, a tad painful. Memnoch the Devil was polarizing, to say the least, and even a die-hard like me must admit a certain difficulty with the hybrid Mayfair/Vampire novels. That said, Prince Lestat is everything Anne Rice's best novels have ever been and then some. Rice has become truly masterful at drawing the reader on. All the old favorites come back out in Prince Lestat, Armand, Louis, Gabrielle, Marius, and David, and so, too, ancillary characters or even characters previously referred to but unnamed in earlier works. The familiar characters are themselves after all these years, with no slippage in continuity or feel, and yet they are as vibrant as they were when we met them for the first time. There are also so many "new" characters, from

fledglings to the First Brood and Queen's Blood who were first Born to Darkness in Ancient Egypt. Each new character has a particular magnetism, from the beautiful Allesandra to the dangerous Rhoshamandes and his fledgling, the tender-hearted Benedict (Lestat's grandsire In the Blood). Naturally, one need not have read all the novels to appreciate this one and it may be the first introduction to Rice's world for some that's perfectly all right. She has written something that will appeal to first-time readers and Lestatophiles. Without spoilers I will say the novel is centered on an existential threat to the Vampire Species which necessarily draws them together despite the weariness of the Ancients and the solitary nature of most of the Undead. Lestat must rise as a reluctant leader or risk the destruction of the Vampire race.

I don't normally do reviews because I am a very harsh critic. I know what I like and what I expect from a book. There are very very few books meet those expectations. I think out of the 857 books I have owned I have written a review on three of them. So for me to write one now means I have a book that exceeds my expectations and from an author I have snubbed for a very long time. I really like the Author Anne Rice as person she is a kind, noble, and not afraid to share her wealth of knowledge to other aspiring authors. That has earned her my respect as a person. I tossed Anne Rice's vampires aside because I am a person who loves technical things. I like science and the reasons behind the way something is. I love history and knowing where something came from and for me, that wasn't present in her early works. When her new book Prince Lestat and the realms of Atlantis was revealed I was intrigued and decided if I was going to read the second book of a series then I should read the first book. So went from her page, bought the book and I was more than surprised. It was like Anne took everything complaint I had and said fine you want history here you are. You asked for science here you are. She lays out every single bit of history from the very beginning of the vampire family tree. She introduced science and explanations for why certain things occur and why others do not. She even explained questions I had but dismissed under the pretense that I was being too picky. This alone made the experience for me well worth it.

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