



Merrick

Anne Rice

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In this mesmerizing new novel, Anne Rice demonstrates once again her gift for spellbinding storytelling and the creation of myth and magic, as she weaves together two of her most compelling worlds? those of the Vampire Chronicles and the Mayfair witches.

From the Paperback edition.

Merrick Details

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From Reader Review Merrick for online ebook

Fangs for the Fantasy says

At Louis' request David gets back in touch with Merrick Mayfair, a powerful witch and member of the Talamasca. He has known her since she joined the order as a child and knows her long, powerful and often frightening history.

But that history may be why she can do what Louis needs and call on Claudia's ghost to confirm for him whether the child vampire has reached a peaceful afterlife or suffers as a ghost. And David's connection to Merrick may be why she'd want to do it.

Though Merrick may be playing her own game

So, Louis wants to get in touch with Claudia's ghost because the angst monster needs fuel for his eternal mope. To do this he contacts David who in turn calls on a contact he has in the Talamasca, Merrick.

And then tells us her life story in excruciating detail

I think it's a good thing vampires don't eat, because every time they ordered a pizza they'd have to pause to have an epic monologue on the delivery boy's history. I'd actually be wary of working with these vampires simply because if you do anything for them they demand a full biography – which they then apparently put into print and share with the world. It's one of the unknown vampire afflictions – can't go out in the sunlight, blood diet and compulsive biography writing. Honestly, I do not even remotely understand the need to tell extremely long, irrelevant back stories to characters that we know nothing about and have little, or no, reason to care about.

I need an aside on the Talamasca – since I've previously called them the Talastalkers. Their motto is "We watch and we're always there." I presume this is because "We Know Where you Live and Where Your Children Go to School" and "We're In The House!" were both already taken.

When I first saw that David was the narrator of this I celebrated. For a brief, deeply frightening moment, I thought Louis was going to be the POV and we would have lots of whining. At least David doesn't whine... oh how wrong I was. No, because now David has thrown his hat in the ring – he too will compete for the title of whiniest one of all!

Between the moping, excessive descriptions and unnecessary art references (honestly, I do not understand authors who try to shoe-horn in these references to show us how knowledgeable they are) there was a surprising lack of philosophising to a degree. But it does seem that everything Lestat learned and we endured during Memnoch the Devil has been forgotten. There was even one interesting philosophical point of Louis refusing to upgrade his power level, even if he would then not have to kill so often, because that way he is capable of suicide, capable of dying which inherently makes him more human than, say, Lestat or David who wouldn't know how to kill themselves even if they tried.

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Michelle Bacon says

I really wanted to like this book more than I did, and I really wanted to give this book 4 stars instead of 3. I just couldn't find it in my heart to give it that high of a rating.

creep - factor gets an A. raising the dead from a spot of blood, severed limbs, burnt flesh, and the revival of life from being burned is all pretty creepy. there's a good amount in here.

Anne Rice 's witches: an A- here. I love Anne's witch chronicles and the further development of Merrick was great, but the magic of the witch chronicles was lost. Louis wanting to call Claudia up from the dead...meh.

once again I slumbered through a majority of this due to the immense amount of description. (Anne loves to describe old Victorian decor.) I was hoping for the ending to pack a heavy punch like Anne has done in previous works. This punch was merely a small slap.

Darth J says

OMFG this one was so good. It was a breath of fresh air from the usually Victorian or New Orleans settings of her other novels. We get to go to the jungle AND we get to see some ghost shit through a jade mask? Are you friggin' kidding me, that's awesome! I'm glad Rice finally touched on a non-caucasian character, because her character lineup thus far seemed whiter than milk.

Read this.

Seriously.

I am not even joking.

Don't make me cut you.

Kidding. [Not kidding]

Louise Colclough says

Nobody writes the myth of the vampire better than Anne Rice...

Aspects of this book are truly beautiful but I have one criticism of the writing which I have never come across in any of her other novels. I found myself having to re-read the occasional sentence two or three times before it made sense. For example she would put a word at the end of the sentence and then it didn't make sense whereas if it had been placed elsewhere it would have been fine. Also I think she found a new favourite word when writing this novel if I EVER see the worn "insofar" again in my life it will be too soon.

However, there was one more point I want to make about the structure of this novel. It is 480 pages long and when you read a synopsis you expect certain things. The actual story mentioned in the blurb and the one I think is the motivation for many people picking this book up, did not truly begin until page 360. This was highly disappointing. It is actually a story about the narrator and his lifetime experiences with the title character of Merrick. I think the blurb on the back is very misleading because of this.

Overall, it took me a long time to get through this book but it was still enjoyable as I said at the beginning of this review nobody writes the vampire like Anne Rice. She remains one of my favourite authors for her beautiful and sensuous writing style and of course as the creator of one of my favourite literary character, Lestat.

Liz Hopps (Elizabetha) says

Decepcionante ... 548 hojas perdidas D:

Y "Crepúsculo" Renacer de Claudia Gray no era lo peor que se ha escrito sobre vampiros

Recuerdo cuando allá por el 2008, tomando un certamen a los de primero de Licenciatura como flamante ayudante universitaria, me acomodé en el asiento del profesor y me puse a leer "Sangre y oro". El pavor que sentí al leer que el magnífico y soberbio Marius (un patrício romano con mezcla bárbara, quien cuenta con más de dos milenios de existencia) se maquillaba por las noches para ir a bailar/cazar a una disco, mató todo mi amor por Anne Rice e hizo que me arrepintiera amargamente de haber comprado TODOS los libros de su Saga vampírica. Acto seguido, los sepulté en las sombras para no recordar el horror que sentí antes los vampiros con base de maquillaje y, probablemente, delineador de ojos y glitter.

Desenterré "Merrick", pues necesitaba un libro para un reto y porque llevaba "mirándome" bastante tiempo desde mi pequeña biblioteca. Decidí darle una oportunidad y me sedujo que fuera un cruce de su serie de vampiros con las de las Brujas de Mayfair. Además, salía mi muy amado Louis ...

¿Qué tan malo podía ser?

Respuesta: mucho más de lo que yo creía.

Fue una lectura lenta y torturante, plagada de millones de detalles innecesarios y muchas veces desagradables, sin un trama real y con exageraciones tales como incluir descripciones de leyendas, excavaciones y artefactos mayas que, obviamente ¡cómo no!, tiene un poder "relacionado" con el "Don Oscuro" ¿Todo para qué? sólo para que Lestat despertara de su sueño de "Blancanieves", pasarán cosas innecesarias y olvidables, Louis dejará de ser el personaje maravilloso, complejo y semi-humano que tanto me gustaba (decepcion post mortuaria, fantasma vengativo y amor estúpido incluido) y para que, otra vez, se estableciera un nuevo aquelarre, "tan bueno" como aquel del cual formara parte Claudia (si, claro)... y de esta manera, nuevamente (y ante de mi desesperación más abigarrada), dejar abierta la historia. Todo para que su creadora siga recreándose en si misma, escribiendo más y más detallitos superfluos de su decadente y (a esta alturas) aburrido y manido mundo.

Sin duda un libro olvidable y prescindible, sin brillo ni maestría, redactado perfectamente (eso hay que destacarlo ... algo bueno debe haber tenido ya que lo terminé y no fue a parar al basurero) con el fin de explotar la franquicia hasta la saciedad. Yo amé con mi vida "Entrevista con el vampiro", precisamente, por todo lo que no posee este libro.

¡Ah! y ODIE que Merrique, un nombre de ascendencia francesa, se haya "GRINGUZADO" y transformado en Merrick... Destruyo el utilitarismo intelectual que ello conlleva y a ella también, con mi alma. Su prototipo de heroína me tienes harta con saña.

calificación:

1 de 5 estrellas

¡Huye de este libro! ¡no lo leas!

D:

Kellie says

Hmn. On the one hand, I think the writing, the prose itself, in Merrick is a return to form. Rice is known for her insanely purple prose, and I think it works in this one as it did in Interview. I didn't cringe at the writing as I did through Armand. Merrick's flow felt natural and lush. Perfect Rice. I also love the framing plot, with Louis and David approaching a witch to help raise Claudia's ghost. I didn't even mind that 90% of the book was Merrick's backstory that you might or might not care about. Overall, I think it's just fine as a standalone book.

On the other hand... if you have any investment in the characters as they were portrayed prior to this book, then you will probably be left somewhat befuddled. Characters, particularly Louis, Lestat, and David (you know, the ones you actually care about), actively subvert their previous characterizations, which I found frustrating. There were revelations about David and Louis (and Claudia) that I really question. Also, I don't know why the world's gayest vampires are all so obsessed with Merrick's breasts to the point of mentioning them every other paragraph-- not an exaggeration. Okay, so the writing isn't perfect and, yes, Anne, even you need an editor. I could have bought and maybe even liked the new love story if more effort had been given to developing it. I wish more of the book had been given to developing the framing plot, period.

Sabrina Rutter says

In this book the Mayfair witches, and the Vampires come together at last through Merrick a very powerful witch. This is fast paced, and I love that we get to spend a little bit of time with Louis whom I love so much! This truly is a great read!

Stephanie Orban says

It's definitely not one of Rice's best and in hindsight, it's even a toss-up as to why this book was written, other than more royalties for Rice, because it doesn't add anything valuable to the overall plot of the Vampire Chronicles. Much of the book delves into reminiscing about the past and the last three hundred pages or so, it finally tried to lurch into action and falls flat on its face, like a flan in a cupboard.

You don't feel for the main characters either - all of the known characters act terribly out of their usual canon, or are exaggerated to extremes. One doesn't really feel for Merrick and I'm not even certain which emotions Rice wished to provoke from the reader. Sympathy? Or hatred? It is hard to say, because at first glance, she seems to be one dimensional - just something that has to set the wheels in motion.

And that failed.

What Rice did manage convey in this particular book, is her love for New Orleans and the 'exotic'.

Long story short, 'Merrick' could have been more. Much more. In hindsight, for some, it was also an early peek at the Mayfair family, and it would have been wise for Rice to have delved more into this, rather than what she did in the first place.

SivanNava says

Here is an attempt made by Anne Rice to merge two themes into one: vampires and witches. In theory, forming a blended story in order to draw readers into a new series is a grand idea, but if only the application were worthy. Let's face it, no matter what hocus pocus Merrick has in her back pocket, with all her rich familial history, voodoo, jungle masks- can anything come close to the horror and mystery of the vampire? The pages which starred Louis and Lestat were few and left me thirsty for more tales of the "savage garden". Perhaps I come off as one sided, caring more for the old-school characters. But for the majority of the book, the blend simply didn't come off as successful. It felt divided: scenes involving Merrick and David on the one side, and then Louis and David on the other, and of course, a stone faced Lestat in his own world (which begs the question- why even have Lestat make presence if he contributes next to nothing as character). In fact, there were countless mentions of past vampire tales that felt like unabashed "plug-ins" to have you purchase them if you haven't already.

The story opens with promise: David sits with Merrick and discusses Louis' wish to bring Claudia back from the dead. Intriguing proposition, no? But alas, the reader must wait 100 pages, roughing through pages on end of Merrick's bosom descriptions (a faint reminder of Rice's lush erotic writing days of yore. Only now, stale and quite frankly- embarrassing) to find out the true reason for such a request. And once it is revealed, there is no shock value. Then, once again, Louis and Lestat are gone from the plot until the end, where things do get interesting. And for this, I give the 3 stars, because the story really picks up the last 100 pages and feels like there were scenes that could have been placed at the start. Suddenly, the story felt complete. My faith in Rice restored. Sure, I had to turn a cheek to Merrick's "pink nipples", but all in all, I'm glad I forced my way to the end.

Conclusion:

Strong start--> Merrick's boobs--> Lukewarm--> Merrick's boobs--> Booooring--> Interesting--> Merrick's pink nipples--> Satisfying End! Worth the read

Angela says

Merrick is the seventh book in The Vampire Chronicles by Anne Rice. Interview with the Vampire introduced me to Anne Rice many years ago now, and I have been a fan of her work ever since. I think I have now read everything she has ever written, some several times over. Every so often I work my way through this series again and I found myself reading the Vampire Chronicles for about the fifth time, as a friend of mine who had never read any of Ms. Rice's work asked me to 'buddy read' them with her. Needless to say, Ms. Rice has a new fan.

It was a fun way to read this great series, because I had someone to discuss each book with as we finished. We have decided not to stop at just this series, but to read everything she's written, together. The last few

months have been fun, bringing up memories from the other times I've read them, plus now creating new ones with our 'buddy read'.

I can't believe I had never left a review for any of these books before, but sometimes I get so caught up in reading that I forget to leave a review. My reading challenge reviews were down about 150 or so last year because I would get so caught up in the books, that I would forget to leave a review, especially when reading a whole series back to back. So, this year I am determined to leave a review for every book I read.

I adore Ms. Rice's work, she writes so passionately and has a rich, vividly descriptive and detailed style that really lends itself to her Gothic fantasies. The stories are woven so well, I am not merely reading them, but experiencing them in exquisite detail. The historical elements that are sprinkled through her books are so cleverly done, and given her own unique twist.

If you have never read any of her work before, I really recommend starting with this series- as they are a wonderful showcase of Ms. Rice's limitless imagination and spellbinding storytelling abilities.

This is The Vampire Chronicles meets the Mayfair Witches. Merrick is a powerful witch descended from the Mayfair Witches, and this is her story. David Talbot makes an appearance as we are swept up in this enthralling tale. This is New Orleans, Voodoo, magic, other realms, witches and vampires, Mayan ruins- all rolled into one.

Fantastic!

Thank you, Ms. Rice!

Draven says

After the first 3 books in the Vampire Chronicles, Merrick is the next dearest tale to my heart. Tying together her beloved vampires and beloved witches, producing such a gorgeous, full and sensuous story. To see my Louis again, to watch his doomed love affair with Merrick unfold was absolutely exquisite! I tore through this book, I was so voracious in my adoration. An all-time favorite, for sure!

Wendie Fouard says

There are two books in the vampire series I hold higher than the others; Merrick and Queen of the Damned. The story of Merrick and David is a great addition and brings David alive as one of the vampire family. What a wonderful addition to the family we get in Merrick as well. She is so seductive and intense. I love the idea of her and hope that she appears again in future books. I also love the story of David in this book. Davids mortal years are explained in this story and his history with the Talamasca. We also learn a great deal of his relationship with Aaron. There are some interesting revelations into the mind of David Talbot and his time spent finding his way as a youth. A great read! As soon as it was finished I wanted to read it again. Merrick is such a strong character! This book makes me respect Tale of the Body Thief a bit more for introducing David to the family. Without him, there would be no Merrick and that would be a crying shame! Also, the story of Luis and Claudia comes to a close in this story. Tragic and gripping! This book also hints at the history of the Mayfairs and the inevitable combining of the two stories. I just love Anne Rice!

Soukyan Blackwood says

The rest is at [NMR]: So far I didn't know Anne to be able to refrain from describing countless of art pieces

her characters encounter in Vampire Chronicles, but here it is. Merrick is a fairly easy read in many a sense. Maybe it is because David Talbot told it. Maybe because it was spun around Mayfair witch and archaeology, two topics I delight in. Or maybe just because it's getting better by the book.

Unlike Armand's story, this wasn't filled with descriptions of paintings, and architecture. In fact, I feel like this was the first book in Vampire Chronicles that I encountered, where details were spared for the reader by sparing the reader (mind you, details aren't always bad, I'm just saying that it makes it hard sometimes to sift through them, and all things must have balance).

Jess The Bookworm says

This is definitely my least favourite in the Vampire Chronicles series by so far. Not much happened until much later in the book.

This, the 7th installment, introduces us to Merrick, a witch descended from the Mayfair line of witches. David Talbot, newly turned vampire, recounts his meeting and subsequent relationship with Merrick, while he was a member of the Talamasca.

The novel outlines Merrick's family history and her powers, while dealing with the present day: Louis is miserable because others have seen the spirit of Claudia, his erstwhile vampire child, and he has not. He is worried that she is a lost spirit unable to find rest. He asks David to request Merrick to conjure the spirit of Claudia so that he may see for himself.

I was quite excited when I saw that witches would be involved in the story, but was disappointed with how boring it was. Merrick also didn't come across as the alluring and amazing character she was meant to be in my opinion.

The pace of the story did pick up near the end at least, but in general I don't think it adds much to the series.

I think I'll take a break from the series for a while.

Gregory Spiker says

Disappointing, truly. First, almost nothing actually happens within the present timeline in which the book is written. It's a string of stories told over a glass of rum. As a result, it reads like a "best-of clips" episode of a sit com (and is about as interesting).

You get to hear all about Oncle Vervain, Cold Sandra, Great Nannane, and Oncle Julien. This could have been interesting, but because Rice never managed to make me care about any of these characters before plunging into these droning stories, it came across like an old drunk woman you've met at the bus stop telling you her life story for no reason known to you.

The premise of this book held so much potential, but Anne Rice has managed to realize absolutely none of it. The most powerful witch known to the Talamasca being made into a vampire by the most powerful vampire in the realm? Sounds brilliant, right? Well, none of the things that spring to mind with that description come to fruition in Merrick. It's emphasized repeatedly and in many ways how powerful a witch Merrick is; but

she never really does anything much more than reading minds (a trick which even the weakest vampires could achieve with the Mind Gift).

That aside, it's heralded as the "blending of the stories of the mayfairs and the vampires," but neither story is really present in this book. Have you noticed that some lists show Merrick in the Vampire Chronicles, and some lists do not? That's because this novel is of absolutely no consequence to the saga. In fact, while Merrick is technically related to the Mayfairs you've come to know before this book, she makes it a point not to involve herself with them, so hers is an entirely different story, really.

And once again, Rice falls into purple prose (surprised?). You get countless descriptions of her imbibing of rum, of the texture of the fabric on her bodice, of her breasts and hair; and suddenly you realize you must backtrack to remember what's going on in the story.

That said, I'd advise you to skip this book and move on to *Blood and Gold* (which is well worth the read). As I've said, none of the proceedings of this book are of any consequence, so skipping this book will not diminish your understanding of future installments.
