



The Vampire Sextette

Marvin Kaye (Editor) , Kim Newman (Contributor) , S.P. Somtow (Contributor) , Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (Contributor) , Brian Stableford (Contributor) , Nancy A. Collins (Contributor) , Tanith Lee (Contributor)

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Six pulse-pounding tales.

Original novellas by the modern masters of vampire fiction:

NANCY COLLINS

TANITH LEE

KIM NEWMAN

S.P. SOMETOW

BRIAN STABLEFORD

CHELSEA QUINN YARBRO

The Vampire Sextette Details

Date : Published September 24th 2002 by Ace

ISBN : 9780441009862

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Format : Mass Market Paperback 400 pages

Genre : Horror, Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy, Anthologies, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Vampire Sextette for online ebook

innae says

First tale by Kim Newman The Other Side of Midnight - took me a long time to read it. I dug the pop culture references (I have always loved Columbo) but, it was a slow read. Not my favorite

Second tale by Nancy Collins Some Velvet Morning - WOW! I dig Sonja, and it makes me want to seek out more Collins stories!!

Third tale by Brian Stableford Sheena - I enjoyed the story. It had a little bit of a twist, and I liked that.

Fourth tale by S.P. Somtow Vanilla Blood - told with court transcripts (and I have been to court many a time, this would never happen) But...although I think there were a few things that he could have alluded to rather than having someone say, it was over all a great tale.

Fifth tale by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro In the Face of Death - my favorite of the six. I truly enjoyed the writing style and the tale itself.

Sixth tale by Tanith Lee The Isle is full of Noises - the reason that finished has quotes. I read a few pages into this one, and the style is not easy for me to read, not enjoyable at all. Perhaps it is more literary? and I am just not in that mode right now? I couldn't finish it.

?Tamara says

"Six original novellas by the modern masters of vampire fiction."

Anthologies are always difficult to review. Every author is different and every story is written in a different way.

Out of the six novellas here I personally liked two of them. They were well written and very sexy.

The other four were kind of... meh. One of them was more of a cops and robbers type story.

I'm sure that somebody who enjoys reading sexy vampire stories would enjoy this book.

Chris says

The Vampire Sextette is a collection of six novellasIt is edited by Marvin Kaye, and each story is from a different author. The entire book oozes with sex with surprisingly little violence. As far as a book of vampire stories, I thought it was rather weak. I will outline the individual stories below:

The Other Side of Midnight by Kim Newman, about a woman vampire private eye in Hollywood seemed a little promising but really turned into kind of a flop. There were some entertaining tidbits, like the story's take on Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Some Velvet Morning by Nancy Collins, was kind of on the same tread as the first, started good and ended

as a flop. It was about a hooker human picking up guys for her Madame Vampire and the resulting ending with a poorly characterized vampire slayer. Apparently, this story would be better fitting if I knew the author's other books.

Sheena by Brian Stableford, was better fair. It is about a guy that falls for a goth girl with a pretty deep imagination. I think the characters were developed fairly well and I was actually sad with the ensuing death. It ran a little long and dry at times, though.

Vanilla Blood by S.P. Somtow, was written in a very clever way, in my opinion. It started with the narrator giving a backdrop while saying that reader knows all the background. Then it switches over to a court stenographer. I read this story to my wife outloud using voices and it was so over the top, it was at times hilarious. The dialogue, and there is only dialogue in this story, no narrative description, was great. This was an entertaining read.

In The Face of Death by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, was hardly a vampire story. It was, but only under the surface, as the main character was vampire only really in name. It takes place in 1850s San Francisco, the main character a wealthy Frenchwoman vampire hundreds of years old, falls in love with her banker, a well known Civil War officer, William Tecumseh Sherman. They have an affair and she apparently drinks his blood, though it isn't terribly present in the writing. I liked this story, but it was more a dry romance than anything.

The Isle is Full of Noises by Tanith Lee, was at times ridiculous and frightening. It is actually of two stories, one of an author on an island, and the other the story she is writing. The vampire is a shapeshifter, though I won't give away anymore. As I said, at times the writing evoked some fairly scary moments, but the idea behind a lot of it was just kind of dumb.

There were at times I wanted to keep reading and others where I didn't really care to pick the book back up. It will pass the time and provide some entertainment, but if you have anything better to read, I'd skip this one.

Sue Kooiman says

Yawn

Dharia Scarab says

Another 50/50 anthology of vampire novellas.

One was good, four were ok, and the last story was just bad.

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like

the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Bark says

The Vampire Sextette is an anthology that sets out to stray from the same-old tired vampire themes. It accomplishes this goal, the stories are not your run of the mill vampire tales, but only three out of the six thrilled me.

The first story, The Other Side of Midnight by Kim Newman, gets off to a slow start and never fully recovers. It is a mishmash of several elements but is basically the tale of a Genevieve, an ancient female vampire, who spends her time as a private investigator in Hollywood. She runs into Orson Welles who, in this alternate universe, is working on filming his version of Dracula. Orson hires her to check out the mysterious man financing the film. During the investigation she gets an inside look at the making of vampire porn (nothing too explicit though, darn it!) and meets up with the hilarious Barbie and her Overlooker (if you are a fan of Buffy The Vampire Slayer you will want to read the story for these priceless moments alone). There are many descriptive passages about the filming process which might have interested me if I were remotely interested in Orson Welles or in the process of making a film but sadly it was all wasted on me. Though it had its moments this 88 page story seemed much longer to me and I admit to skimming in order to get Barbie's next appearance.

Some Velvet Morning by Nancy Collins was more to my liking. This story features a witch with a rather icky beauty secret. In order to rejuvenate her youthful good looks she must bathe in fresh human blood. Her victims are horny (and nearly always married) males easily tempted with a promise of sex made by a beautiful woman. In my opinion this type of guy deserves everything he gets so the comeuppance, though gory, was quite entertaining for me. Vampire Sonja Blue, Nancy Collins famous vampire-slayer, is hot on the trail of the blood witch because she, unlike myself, does not believe the witch should be allowed to continue her public service work. Though this story slightly disappointed me near its end it was fast-paced, violent and an enjoyable little read if you are in the mood for nastiness.

Sheena by Brian Stableford was my favorite of all of the stories. Tony Weever is your typical young customer service-drone spending his working hours placating angry customers while surrounded by a group of venomous young female co-workers whom he does his best to avoid. Sheena is the exception. She is a loner and is rumored to be a goth who is too weird to date. Tony is intrigued and begins a tentative friendship with Sheena that slowly turns into love. Tony will do anything to please Sheena and initially feigns interest in her darker lifestyle but quickly becomes entranced in her world of music, past lives and vampirism. This is a lovely but bittersweet story of love and loss that sways towards the melancholy but remains hopeful all at

the same time. It also beautifully combines the threads of music and sensuality while painting a unique picture of vampirism.

Vanilla Blood by S.M. Somtow begins smack dab in the middle of a sensational court case involving the bizarre killing spree of one young man. It is a pretty blatant spoof of the over-the-top cases that were recent at the time the story was written (OJ and the like) and it is pretty darn funny in an extremely morbid and often juvenile, sex-obsessed sort of way. The story is written from the point of view of several key witnesses. My favorite was the sex obsessed best friend of the murder suspect who tends to go off on sexual tangents while telling the story that led up to the murders. This may not be the best written story I have ever read (for instance, two of the teenage witnesses are written in the same exact "voice" and I couldn't distinguish one from the other) but it has lots of sex, lots of blood and, most importantly, it made me laugh several times.

My least favorite of this collection is Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's dull entry titled In The Face of Death. The story chronicles the days Madelaine de Montalia, the so-called vampire of the piece, spends in the arms of her married human lover William Sherman. Initially, the two fight their bizarre attraction to each other (bizarre to me because there is nothing particularly attractive about either of these people) but of course they succumb to the temptation. The remainder of the story consists of scattered kisses, romps and slight feelings of guilt. Interspersed within the story are Madelaine's journal entries which only cement the fact that she is one of the most mind-numbingly boring vampires I have ever come across. She writes in excruciating detail about such interesting subjects as house hunting and financial matters. Worse, even, is the fact that there is no blood letting, no sexual tension, no violence, absolutely zero character development and darn it, there is not even a good old fashioned brood going on here! This story may as well of been about two regular unlikable dullards ~ there is no need at all for the vampiric angle. As much as I love an old fashioned love story, this one was so uninteresting what with its tedious plot and flat characters that I could barely get through it without skimming. Sadly, the only thing going for it was its short length.

Finishing up the sextette is Tanith Lee's odd, atmospheric tale called The Isle Is Full of Noises about an author obsessed by a man who has ignored her for decades. She gets her revenge by writing him into all of her books. His fictional character suffers hardships and usually comes to a painful and untimely end. Yse's current vampiric novel becomes a big part of The Isle Is Full of Noises and is interesting, if a bit slow moving. Somewhere along the line Yse's fantasy and reality begin to merge and I found the end result quite puzzling and a little vague and, as a result, this story was not one of my favorites.

Like most of these collections, The Vampire Sextette, ends up being a bit of a mixed bag.

S.A. Parham says

REREAD. The theme of this collection was vampires and sex, obviously. To be honest, I expected more out of some of the authors listed, but the book was a good read. "The Other Side of Midnight" by Kim Newman was passable, but relied too much on fake news reports to keep my attention (2 stars out of 5). "Some Velvet Morning" by Nancy Collins featured her Sonja Blue vampire slayer character and whetted my interest in finding those books (4 stars out of 5). "Sheena" by Brian Stableford won't qualify as a vampire story to most, but I liked it overall (3.5 stars out of 5). "Vanilla Blood" by S.P. Somtow was just outright porn/murder mystery, and while I know it was meant to be satire of today's "big trials", I disliked its style (2 stars out of 5). "In the Face of Death" by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro was good prose, odd story, and I'm torn between hating and liking it (3.5 stars out of 5). "The Isle is Full of Noises" by Tanith Lee reminds me of why I keep shying away from friend's recommendations to read her. Tedious, wandering, and utterly unreadable (1 star out of

5).

Jim says

It was a good read, definitely different takes on vampires than are normal now. I'd say they're more traditional, but that doesn't really cover it. No explicit sex or gore, although there is plenty of action. Each story is excellent, with the exception of the last, the one by Tanith Lee. If you like her style of writing, it's probably a good one. As usual, I got bored with her word play about 1/3 of the way through. I found all the other stories intriguing, though.

Laura says

I didn't like this book at all. It was so hard for me to understand some of these stories. The good thing I did like is that it had a different take on vampires.

Mina Lumiebre says

I only got this because Tanith Lee's story is in it.

Bryndís says

What a load of crap. I feel like this was published in the vampir-craze (was that in 2000?), when every vampire story (good or bad) was published. Cause it was NOT good
From the six novella's I only managed to finish one and it had not enough vampire, not enough blood, not enough music, not enough dark, nit anything.
I only liked the intro.

Candy says

I slogged through but this was a snooze-fest.

Chris says

“The Other Side of Midnight” by Kim Newman

It is nice to see Genevieve again, and she fits the role of private detective very well. There is a beautiful and fitting twist on the Beverly Hillbillies.

“Some Velvet Morning” by Nancy Collins

This short novella made me pick up the Sonja Blue series, far superior to the Anita Blake series. In this story, Collins makes use of the legend/story of the Blood Countess but tells it from the other side as it were. In some ways, the story is like a fairy tale, but one in which the characters gain control. The link to sex and blood is far more evident in this story than other, nicer, vampire stories.

“Sheena” by Brian Stableford

The vampire element in this novella is different and to really give a review of this short story would involve spoilers, but it is a good story, very tangible in places. The story that follows, “Vanilla Blood” is most likely the worst in the collection.

“IN the Face of Blood” by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro

A Madeleine story set in the Civil War, this novella is expanded slightly as a standalone novella in Yarbro’s vampire novels. Madeline seems more egoistical here and perhaps not as bright as she in the other novels.

“The Isle of Is Full of Noise” by Tanith Lee

A too constructed story even if the inversion in it is well done.

N.N. Light says

I picked up this book at a second hand bookstore with no expectations other than it had to deal with vampires. I’m a sucker for a good old-fashioned vampire story. None of the Twilight fluffy love kind of stories for me. I lust after something I can sink my teeth into. This book included six novellas by some of the best authors in the vampire genre (as of 2000). Each author stayed true to the Bram Stoker genre while adding their own little twist. My favorite story was Vanilla Blood by S. P. Somtow. If you love vampire stories, grab this book and maybe a clove of garlic or two.

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

Woo Hoo! Finally, vampires written by authors who've been doing it for ages and who are far better than most of the dreck being foisted off these days. These are the kinds of vampires a nosferatu snob like moi have sorely missed. And Chelsea Quinn Yarbro has a story in this anthology? Too sweet!
