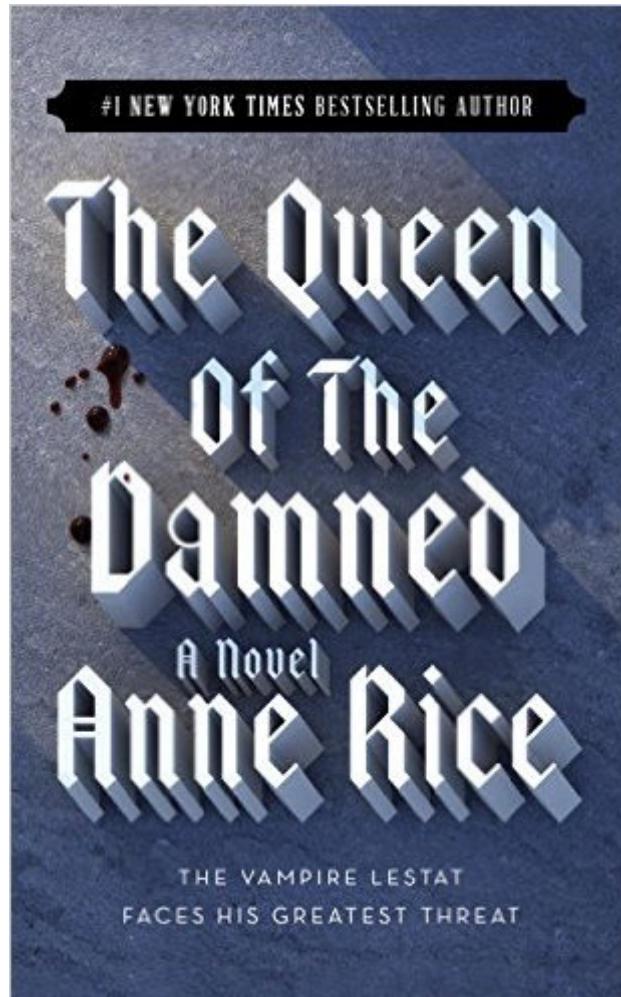


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The Queen Of The Damned (The Vampire Chronicles, No. 3)



Synopsis

In a feat of virtuoso storytelling, Anne Rice unleashes Akasha, the queen of the damned, who has risen from a six-thousand-year sleep to let loose the powers of the night. Akasha has a marvelously devious plan to save mankind and destroy the vampire Lestat "in this extraordinarily sensual novel of the complex, erotic, electrifying world of the undead." Praise for *The Queen of the Damned* "Mesmerizing . . . a wonderful web of dark-side mythology." "San Francisco Chronicle" "With *The Queen of the Damned*, Anne Rice has created universes within universes, traveling back in time as far as ancient, pre-pyramidal Egypt and journeying from the frozen mountain peaks of Nepal to the crowded, sweating streets of southern Florida." "Los Angeles Times" "imaginative . . . intelligently written . . . This is popular fiction of the highest order." "USA Today" "A tour de force." "The Boston Globe

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Customer Reviews

I've just finished reading *Queen of the Damned* for the sixth time, which probably says it all really. The Vampire Lestat and the Queen of the Damned are my favourites of the Vampire Chronicles – although I love them all with the exception of Memnoch the Devil, (even that has its saving graces). As wonderful as Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' is I still think that Lestat is the definitive vampire. He encompasses everything a vampire should be, and Ms Rice has created a character that will stand the test of time, just as Dracula has. I wasn't too sure I'd like *Queen of the Damned* as much as the previous book when I first started reading it, because instead of being narrated by Lestat himself,

we are told the story from the perspective of several other characters, most of whom were already familiar to us. However, after a few minutes I got into the narrative and found that it didn't bother me at all that we were viewing the events from other people's points of view â " in fact I found it refreshing to see the world through the eyes of the others for a change. It does seem that Ms Rice is more comfortable writing history than contemporary passages, because there were several places when you could almost see her squirming with modern terminology and dialogue, whereas when she is recounting events from history, she is totally comfortable and manages to bring those eras and places to life as well as anyone. The wealth of detail and atmosphere she manages to convey are breathtaking and they make it wonderfully real. The detail might perhaps be too much for some readers, but wheel it on. I love it. We are told the story of the twins, and how Akasha came into existence and they are totally believable.

The Queen of the Damned is strikingly different in both form and substance from the first two books of The Vampire Chronicles. Several new characters are introduced, a number of truly old vampires we have only heard of up until now become part of the action, and the story is woven together into a mosaic much more wide in scope from what has come before. This is essentially Lestat's book, but he is not really the focus of the tale; while he narrates his own role in events, much of the book is written in the third person. This, plus the addition of so many new characters and the truly elaborate scope that is covered, makes this novel much less cohesive than the first-person narratives of the first two books. The action is spread out over six thousand years from one end of the world to the other, with a lot of mythology and pondering taking the place of the thrilling, energetic action of the earlier novels. The book begins a week or two before Lestat's legendary rock concert and the ensuing mayhem that erupted outside the auditorium on that night. We follow the paths of other vampires in the days prior to this, including Armand and Daniel, the young man from Interview With the Vampire. We also learn that the immolation of vampires that Lestat, Louis, and Gabrielle saw that night had actually begun several days earlier, as a number of covens were destroyed by Akasha, the newly awakened Queen of the Damned. After the story of her awakening is told, the book takes on a somewhat mystical air. Almost all vampires are dreaming of two red-headed young women preparing to feast upon their dead mother, only to be taken prisoner by soldiers while their village is destroyed around them.

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