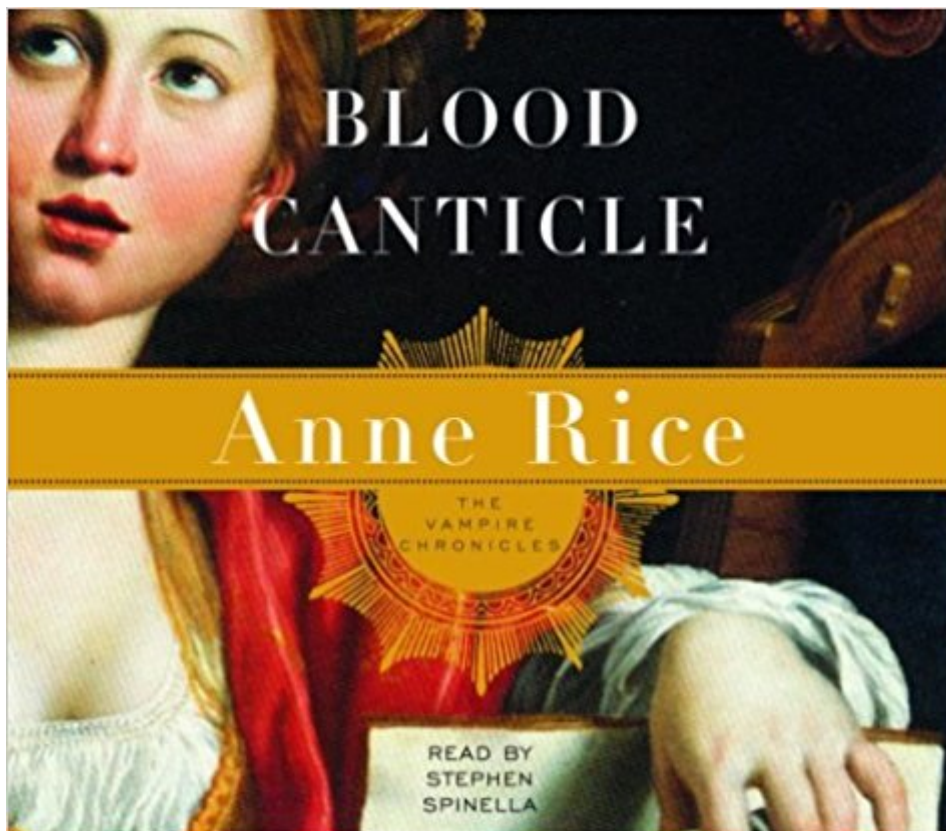


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Blood Canticle (Anne Rice)



Synopsis

Anne Rice continues her astonishing Vampire Chronicles in a new novel that begins where *Blackwood Farm* left off and tells the story of Lestat's quest for redemption, goodness, and the love of Rowan Mayfair. Welcome back to Blackwood Farm. Here are all of the brilliantly conceived characters that make up the two worlds of vampires and witches: Mona Mayfair, who comes to the farm to die and is brought into the realm of the undead; her uncle, Julian Mayfair, guardian of the family, determined to forever torment Lestat for what he has done to Mona; Rowan Mayfair, brilliant neurosurgeon and witch, who finds herself dangerously drawn to the all-powerful Lestat; her husband, Michael Curry, hero of the *Mayfair Chronicles*, who seeks Lestat's help with the temporary madness of his wife; Ash Templeton, a 5,000-year-old Taltos who has taken Mona's child; and Patsy, the country-western singer, who returns to avenge her death at the hands of her son, Quinn Blackwood. Delightfully, at the book's centre is the Vampire Lestat, once the epitome of evil, now pursuing the transformation set in motion with *Memnoch the Devil*. He struggles with his vampirism and yearns for goodness, purity and love, as he saves Patsy's ghost from the dark realm of the Earthbound, uncovers the mystery of the Taltos and unselfishly decides the fate of his beloved Rowan Mayfair. A story of love and loyalty, of the search for passion and promise, *Blood Canticle* is Anne Rice at her finest. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

For her 25th fan-pleasing outing, Rice reunites some of her most popular creations and, for the first time since *Memnoch the Devil* (1995), lets the Vampire Lestat "write" the book. Taking up where last year's *Blackwood Farm* ended, the now-doppelganger-free Quinn Blackwood and Lestat save Quinn's true love, the witch Mona Mayfair, from certain death by making her an immortal. In his effort to attain sainthood, Lestat must deal with a lot of metaphysical angst. The opulent Blackwood estate and its spooky swamps, as well as New Orleans and a Caribbean isle, provide the settings for many elegant costume changes as the exquisite vampiric triumvirate gleefully suck several deserving victims dry and lay waste to dozens of a drug lord's minions. The vampirisation of young Mona, a true child of our times, gives Rice a dynamic new vampire personality with whom to play. Writing as if her blood-inked quill were afire, Rice seems truly possessed by her Brat Prince of darkness as she races through the story. She sometimes slights members of the vast supporting cast, both dead and alive, but neatly ties up all their loose ends. The complete unification of the Mayfair witch saga with that of the Vampire Chronicles provides either a befitting end or a new beginning for the Queen of the Vampires. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Elements and characters from many of Rice's previous books come together in her new novel, which picks up where her previous one, *Blackwood Farm* (2002), left off. This time, popular antihero Lestat is the narrator, and he's become obsessed with becoming a saint. As a vampire, the option isn't really open to him, but the desire to be good nags at him. He wrestles with the decision of whether or not to change the dying Mona Mayfair, the love of newly made vampire Quinn Blackwood, into a vampire. He finally gives in and changes her, despite the wrath he knows her family will feel when they learn she is a vampire. Rowan Mayfair, who was Mona's doctor when she was sick, immediately captivates Lestat when she arrives at Blackwood Farm demanding to see Mona. When Rowan's own secrets threaten to drive her insane, her husband, Michael, comes to Lestat, begging him to help her. Deeply in love with Rowan, Lestat agrees, and upon his visit to Rowan, he learns she and Mona share a secret. Both gave birth to Taltos children--an ancient species that evolved separately from humans but can occasionally mate with them. Mona's daughter was taken from her by a Taltos man, and she wants to track her down. Lestat boldly agrees to help her. Though a lot of elements from Rice's previous novels play into this one, new readers won't be lost and old ones will enjoy how the different threads come together. Kristine Huntley Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Cut the first two chapters of Lestat's defensive blabbing and several paragraphs of the last and you have an ok story. It was good to get an update on the Mayfairs and the Taltos and it intertwined adequately with the vampire stories. Given all the references to Memnoch the Devil, which I loved, Lestat's shallow perspective was pretty disappointing. I found it especially unbelievable that the love of his life turned out to be the sociopathic Rowan, one of the most unlikable cold characters I've encountered in Rice's writing.

I've done it - I read all of the Vampire Chronicles. It's been one amazing journey and I've learned and felt so much. For this, Anne Rice - I thank you. I am so happy to know that the Vampire Chronicles will once again continue and I look forward to reading Prince Lestat. For those of you out there on the fence about this particular novel (Blood Canticle) I would say skip it. It's more of the same merging of the Mayfairs and the vampires and if you couldn't stand the likes of Mona and Quinn, it doesn't get any better here unfortunately. The last chapters however are redeeming and we see a tremendous personal growth in The Vampire Lestat.

I really like the book, however page 214 of Blood Canticle ended and a completely different book (Empire of Ivory) started from pgs. 217 thru 248). Then Blood Canticle restarts on pg. 247. Does not pick where left off so I plan to return for a replacement. Bummer. The publisher must have had a time lapse?

I did not dislike this book. It followed Blackwood Farm which was an incredible read. I was disappointed that it just wasn't as beautifully written. Lestat's attempts to be cool left me feeling like Rice was trying to draw a younger audience to the book. And frankly fell flat. Still Ann Rice is one of my favorite authors she can leave you spellbound. This book just didn't.

I loved that this picked up right where Blackwood farm stopped and I also like that it was written from Lestat's point of view. I liked his natural modern voice, that he was recounting the story in less formal language and he really seemed up to date with the modern world even though he's a couple 100 years old at this point. I'm not a fan of the whole Mona story line and her alien species baby. The Mayfair family has gotten a little too "out there" for me by this book. (I have not read the Mayfair Witches at this point yet, though I do plan on reading the new chronicles now that I'm done with the original set of chronicles) The Taltos is where I had to draw the line and where this book lost my

interest. I really just want to read about my beloved vampires and their stories. I'm excited for October 2014 when Anne Rice has mentioned a new book in the series is due out.

Love Anne Rice's writing. Love the vampire chronicles. Have the series in both bound book and e-book form and have read the series often!

I liked this and the other Blackwood farm Segway in the chronicles. I hope ms. Rice revisits these characters again in future volumes.

Excellent read. Great plot, and the story moves at a good pace.

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