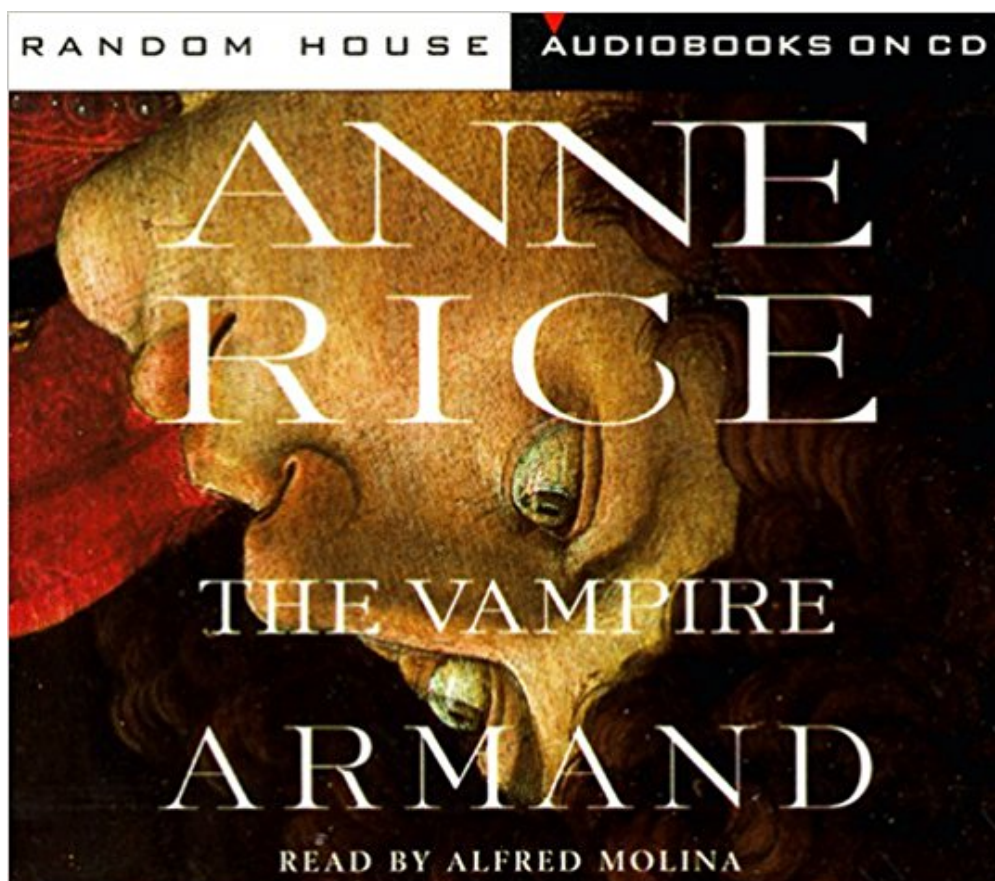


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The Vampire Armand (Rice, Anne, Vampire Chronicles (New York, N.Y.)



Synopsis

3 CDs / 4 hours
Read by Alfred Molina
Also available abridged and unabridged on cassette
In the latest installment of The Vampire Chronicles, Anne Rice summons up dazzling worlds to bring us the story of Armand - eternally young, with the face of a Botticelli angel. Armand, who first appeared in all his dark glory more than twenty years ago in the now-classic Interview with the Vampire, the first of The Vampire Chronicles, the novel that established its author worldwide as a magnificent storyteller and creator of magical realms. Now, we go with Armand across the centuries to the Kiev Rus of his boyhood - a ruined city under Mongol dominion - and to ancient Constantinople, where Tartar raiders sell him into slavery. And in a magnificent palazzo in the Venice of the Renaissance we see him emotionally and intellectually in thrall to the great vampire Marius, who masquerades among humankind as a mysterious, reclusive painter and who will bestow upon Armand the gift of vampiric blood. As the novel races to its climax, moving through scenes of luxury and elegance, of ambush, fire, and devil worship to nineteenth-century Paris and today's New Orleans, we see its eternally vulnerable and romantic hero forced to choose between his twilight immortality and the salvation of his immortal soul.

Book Information

Series: Anne Rice

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (October 10, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375404333

ISBN-13: 978-0375404337

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 0.9 x 5.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 586 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,485,000 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (R) > Rice, Anne #406 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #1348 in Books >

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Customer Reviews

In the familiar style of vampire as seducer, narrator Alfred Molina (Boogie Nights) uses his smooth, tranquil voice to excellent effect, luring listeners ever deeper into the dark, mysterious, and blood-soaked world of The Vampire Armand. Rice has crafted an intriguing plot, one that expands

on events from her earlier books, yet stands alone as a compelling exploration of the Cimmerian secrets that have shaded one of her most fascinating characters. Molina is a talented reader, and he revels here in the expertly crafted story line, lush language, and tortured emotions of a haunted soul caught in the eternal darkness that lurks between the living and the dead. (Running time: four hours, four cassettes) --George Laney --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fantasy's great advantage is that authors can make anything happen?even rewriting their own stories, as Rice does here. Readers of her 1995 novel, *Memnoch the Devil*, will recall that the vampire Armand ended his existence by stepping into the sun. Since he was a popular character from earlier tales, a resounding protest from fans followed. In response, Rice concocted a way in this, her seventh Vampire Chronicle since *Interview with the Vampire* (1976), to raise Armand from the dead. He is, in fact, the narrator of this story, in which he looks back on his earthly existence, revisiting his apprenticeship in 16th-century Venice to the regal vampire artist, Marius De Romanus, who saved his life with the kiss of immortality. Afterward, Armand returned to his Russian homeland, but when disaster parted him from Marius, he became the nihilistic leader of a pack of Parisian vampires. Rice offers exquisite details of erotic romps and political intrigues while reprising other material familiar to her fans, but finally returns to the pressing question of what happened to Armand in the sun's lethal rays. She supplies a vivid and resonant description of the experience, set against the counterpoint of Beethoven's *Appassionata*. Unfortunately, she dims the effect by dragging Armand through rambling scenes involving two odd children, Sybelle and Benji. Otherwise, this is a lavishly poetic recital in which Armand struggles with the fragility of religious belief. The final scene is a stunner. Editor, Victoria Wilson; agent, Lynn Nesbit. First printing 750,000; BOMC main selection; simultaneously available in audio and large-print editions. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Has been my favorite author since Jr High, and I have always been quite the bibliophile (now in my 30s). I have my 7th grade daughter reading these books now. They are transforming, rich, educational, and complex. I have more respect for Anne Rice than any other fiction writer rivaled only by Daniel Quinn, possibly. Her characters and dialogues are so well written that I would easily believe that she listened to these conversations as they happened. Vampires that were "created" 6,000 years ago to today from locations all over the world provides readers with tantalizing glimpses into histories and cultures that must have cost Rice quite a bit of research to deliver. Romantic and

dark, her books find the spark of poetry in the most Stoic of souls--- as poetic as that may sound, I am known for being fairly Stoic.

I rate Vampire Armand 5 stars because it's a good back story that explains why Armand interacts with the rest of the characters in the Vampire Chronicles like he does. It helps you feel that much closer to the characters when you have their backstories. I have only one book left to read. Prince Lestat. But a few more to buy to replace ones that have been stolen. I would recommend this book to anyone who reads Anne Rice books. The side stories on the other vampires gives you all those questions you have while reading the Chronicles. It's worth the time and reading.

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 ordered this used, not a new copy. It seemed as if the bottom of the pages had a slight mold thing happening. But Tea Tree Oil takes care of that if you don't mind your books having some oil stains or markings. Personally I'd rather have tea tree scent than a musty old book smell. But when you buy used you take that chance & learn to take of them as they come!

Maybe it's because I'm kind of new to Anne Rice, but, by far, Armand is my most favorite character because of this book. It seems that most of the reviewers who didn't like this book were looking for a more "action" book (i.e. Queen of the Damned). Let's get this one straight, Armand is absolutely a different and very unique vampire even by, dare I say, Rice's standards. This is the kind of book you would read w/ your cup o' Java, not one that you'd expect to have all blood and glory. Armand seems like the ultimate brat prince but at the same time seems like a fragile angel teetering on the brink of oblivion, and in some parts of the book he falls in, but amazingly flies back up, reborn but still the eternal child. He's the fallen angel, but the only one worthy of Heaven. Rice, as always, is poetic in all her work and this book is no exception, she treats every detail as if it is a divine revelation. I say keep it up, her books just keep getting better and better, even if some of the things she writes aren't very agreeable to me, but at least I still respect her passion of HONEST expression. I don't think she even tries to sugar her novels up for the sake of readers. She writes what's in her heart (which is purely selfish) at that moment, and I praise her for it.

I loved this book, I love reading the back stories of reoccurring characters to get a better

understanding of the part they always play in the story itself. This book provided that well and get to better know the character of Armand, His story is a sad one so I guess it puts the torment that someone who never dies might feel in perspective I think knowing characters just makes the stories give you that "Oh I get it" feeling.

I was a big fan of Anne Rice and the original Vampire Chronicles and the Witches books. So I thought for sure this would be an enjoyable read. But unfortunately, I couldn't even finish it. I was really disappointed. It was such a slow and uninteresting plot line. I read maybe two thirds of the book before finally giving up and that's never a good sign. I doubt the last third of the book could have rescued it for me.

I am a lover of all of Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles. I read them when I was in my early teens and enjoy them even more in my 30's. She's the queen of the vamps and Armand is one of my favorite stories to revisit!

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