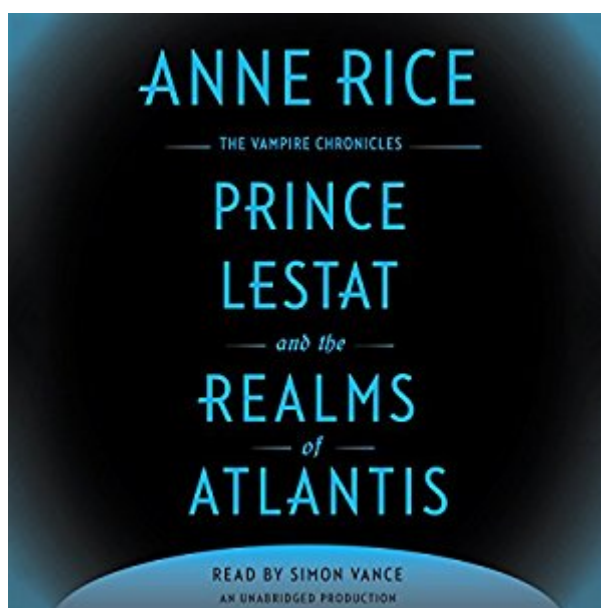


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Prince Lestat And The Realms Of Atlantis: The Vampire Chronicles, Book 12



Synopsis

From Anne Rice, conjurer of the beloved best sellers *Interview with the Vampire* and *Prince Lestat*, an ambitious and exhilarating new novel of utopian vision and power. "In my dreams, I saw a city fall into the sea. I heard the cries of thousands. I saw flames that outshone the lamps of heaven. And all the world was shaken...." (Anne Rice, *Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis*) At the novel's center: the vampire Lestat de Lioncourt, hero, leader, inspirer, irresistible force, irrepressible spirit, battling (and ultimately reconciling with) a strange otherworldly form that has somehow taken possession of Lestat's undead body and soul. This ancient and mysterious power and unearthly spirit of vampire lore has all the force, history, and insidious reach of the unknowable universe. It is through this spirit, previously considered benign for thousands of vampire years and throughout the *Vampire Chronicles*, that we come to be told the hypnotic tale of a great sea power of ancient times, a mysterious heaven on earth situated on a boundless continent - and of how and why, and in what manner and with what far-reaching purpose, this force came to build and rule the great legendary empire of centuries ago that thrived in the Atlantic Ocean. And as we learn of the mighty, far-reaching powers and perfections of this lost kingdom of Atalantaya, the lost realms of Atlantis, we come to understand its secrets and how and why the vampire Lestat, indeed all the vampires, must reckon so many millennia later with the terrifying force of this ageless, all-powerful Atalantaya spirit.

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Customer Reviews

Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis has disappointed me. After her two Wolf Gift books, which I enjoyed tremendously, I was willing to see what she did with the idea of Vampires in Atlantis, however dubious that premise might sound at first blush. I dearly wish she had not written this book, because I have loved the Vampire Chronicles all my life. I tend not to write negative reviews, but this book prompts one. This book seeks to retroactively alter the established mythology of the vampires--it would have been well and good to write about a new immortal species, aliens, Atlantis, etc. without having to change, or mention, or even touch any other Immortal race. The concepts and ideas Rice is putting forward are the ideas of 2016 progressivism, and they often feel tacked on to characters and themes already well established by earlier works but poorly fleshed out in this novel; often her characters are more sketched than described. Whatever her vision of her older characters at this stage of her life, they are, in some cases, radically different for the reader than what they have been before. I respect Anne Rice as a person and a writer, and I hope for more offerings in the future, but this novel is something like *Blood Canticle* or the *Christ the Lord* books in that it speaks more of the author's preoccupations than about timeless beings rooted in the eras from whence they came. In terms of technical merit, the writing is good in places, but there are issues of pacing and character development that really hurt the story. In some cases, characters are more listed than narrated, in some cases barely described, and even Lestat's motivations seem forced. I don't quite buy it so much of the time in this one.

SPOILERS: In terms of the descriptions of Atlantis, they are, to my mind, somewhat unimaginative in the sense that it feels like she's describing Manhattan. There is nothing particularly innovative or that does not function as an analogue for current technology, except for "clean energy" tropes every so often. The power source for Atlantis (and more), "Iuracastria" seems like a ludicrously simple plot device, and lazy science fiction. Moreover, to finally explain vampirism on the planet as a great accident due to alien interference is one of the most unsatisfying explanations I have ever read, and totally unnecessary. The new Immortal race of "Replimoids" is perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of the whole book, for the name alone. The destruction of Atlantis was out of left field, and felt random, unclear, and without much tragedy because it happened so quickly and so definitively, and so utterly without reason. The characters needn't even have been there for all the difference they made to the plot, and this was characteristic of most of the characters in the novel for most of the novel. I respect that Rice is trying new things, and I know she has been ill and that has taken a toll. Sometimes what she does really works. This one, I think, did not.

It is so very interesting to me to see Anne Rice's style of writing and storytelling evolve over time. If

you look back, she wrote the first book in her Vampire Chronicles in the seventies. The seventies! She's had a long, wonderful career, but over time, she has grown and evolved as a person, and naturally, her writing has, too. It's hard for me to really rate this book because I am so partial to certain older books of hers, particularly the vampire and witch books. Because her style has changed, there's this part of me that still trying to compare the newer books to the older books when Anne herself is a different person. So I think instead of rating this book "good" or "bad," I'd like to point out some of the changes in her style that I've noticed, particularly in this book. Her prose is tighter now. Instead of spending pages on descriptions, she sets the scene quickly and gets to the story. Her newer works are also heavier on the dialogue and almost read like scripts. Where her older stories were more violent and erotic (which I'm partial to) and it was pretty clear why she fell under the genre of "horror," *Realms of Atlantis* could almost be labeled as sci-fi. It's more sci-fi/fantasy, and it's much more cerebral. Also, instead of the moody, depressive feel of some of her older work, this one has a more warm and fuzzy feel with a focus on loving one another. Undoubtedly some readers will knock this book for the differences I mentioned above, but I think it's important that we let our favorite authors grow and evolve as people and as authors and respect the stories they want to tell today. Even though *Realms of Atlantis* has a way different vibe than, say, *The Vampire Lestat*, it's still an interesting, very creative read. I advise long-time fans of Anne's to go into it expecting something new, something more cerebral and more sci-fi than horror, and to respect it for what it is.

Any fans of our adored Lestat should read this latest in The Vampire Chronicles. I had a hard time dealing with the concept of Bravenna, but then remembered that vampires aren't real either, right? But, despite the kind of new legend introduced with the Bravennans, who can resist Lestat for long? Does it matter whether he is real? Real or not, he is fascinating and magical, and I look forward to the next adventure with him in the *Savage Garden*.

Anne Rice finally answered the question of the true beginnings of the vampire clan and the parasitic relationship between them and the being Amel in this well crafted novel. Very entertaining and thought provoking. The new immortal characters that are introduced will win you over, but you will wonder what might happen between them and the vampires in the future. Lots of surprises in the storyline too. Anne is finally getting back in the game with this novel.

The Vampire Chronicles continue and I like the direction Rice has taken with this. It's a little more

coherent in its direction and narrative compared to the previous novel. But I admit that was the prelude to this interesting tale that delves much deeper into origins of the vampire "tribe" It also is impressive in how she portrays the continuing coming together of the "community" and the pitfalls that arise in that social dynamic. IMHO this is the best book Rice has written since the ending of the original Vampire Trilogy. So expectant of the next novel!!

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