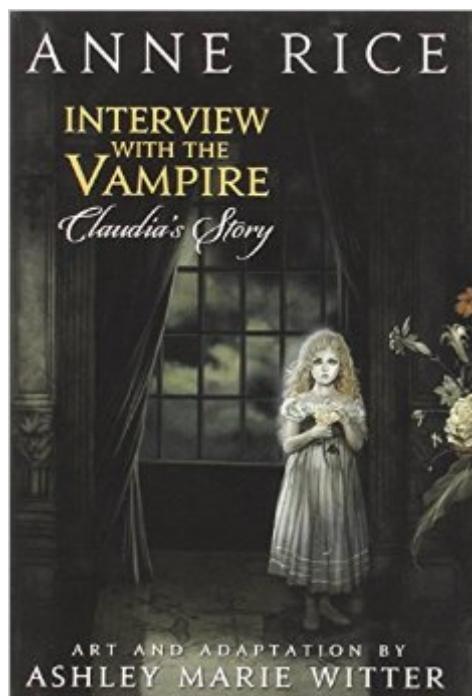


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Interview With The Vampire: Claudia's Story



Synopsis

A richly-illustrated graphic novel adaptation of Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire, told through the eyes of the vampire Claudia, who was just a little girl when she was turned by the vampire Lestat. Though she spends many years of happiness with her two vampire fathers, she gradually grows discontent with their insistence upon treating her like a little girl, even though she has lived as long as any mortal man...and her lust to kill is certainly no less than theirs...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ashley Marie Witter gives a stunningly beautiful monochromatic retelling of Anne Rice's classic "Interview with the Vampire" - and from Claudia's point of view. The parchment-toned sepia paper makes it feel almost like a lost tome, and the striking occasional use of color (notably, a rather vivid crimson) gives a bit of spice to it. I love her character design for Lestat, it's less as Rice envisioned in the 70's/80s (Rutger Hauer) and more 90's movie-style (Tom Cruise)- but there's also the flare of the artist and her own interpretations and personal art influences. Louis is distinct, and the faces he makes - Witter gets a lot of emotion out of him, and that smug look Lestat gets - it's fangirl heaven. Claudia is as charming as she is in the book, if not more so - there's something of transcendence as the novel progresses, she goes from the dead-eyed dying child to growing fully into herself and then some. Oh and the costumes - amazing attention to detail. It's awesome to see an artist skip over screentone (especially if they're a manga-style artist) and just do everything with proper shading and intricate hand drawn details. I highly recommend it to Rice fans who do enjoy comics (Anyone

else remember the 'Vampire Lestat' comic from Daerick Gross & Faye Perozich?), but I also think it might serve as a good introduction to the series for friends or family who may be intrigued.

A NEW ANNE RICE BOOK? No, it's not. When I first heard about this book some time ago, I don't think it said it was a graphic novel, and I thought it was a new book by Anne Rice. Instead, a talented artist has adapted a part of *Interview With The Vampire* to graphic novel form. Some reviewers are put off by this. If you would like to review Claudia's story from her perspective, and enjoy looking at a lot of nicely penned drawings to illustrate it, with cartoon balloons for dialog, you might like it.

THE STORY The story is something like the middle third of *Interview With The Vampire*, focusing on Claudia, a little girl who Lestat (an older vampire in a young man's form) turned into a vampire. It is a tragic story; a great deal of Claudia's problem is that her body remains in the form of a little girl, yet her mind grows up, and her plight makes her increasingly angry. I suspect that if you have not read *Interview with the Vampire* but pick up this graphic novel, you will totally understand the story and find it complete, but will be left with a lot of questions. Reading the original novel will answer most of them and add a lot to the experience. I don't have a copy of the original novel handy, so I don't know just how much of the dialog came from the original story. I suspect that a lot of the words in this graphic novel, possibly most or all of them, were written by the artist. In that sense only, you could say this is not an Anne Rice book. On the other hand, the story is true to the original book, with some enhancements for revealing Claudia's perspective (since the original was from Louis' perspective). The added ideas are in the spirit of the original.

THE ART One reviewer said this was nothing more than a comic book; having read comic books produced from 1950's on, I really don't agree. I have seen a few graphic novels, so I am aware of how they differ from comic books: they are generally written for an adult audience and have a deeper plot. Some have a lot of frames that have no dialogue, or (as in this one) an empty speech balloon with an ellipsis (...) in it. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then truly these stylistic features add tremendous expression to the story.

Books that Anne Rice writes often feature characters who are young, beautiful, and rich. This book is no exception. Claudia, Louis, and Lestat are beautiful people, and the artist conveys this in each frame. They are also vampires and sometimes monsters, and this comes across very strongly. Some of the background characters are drawn as more ordinary people, perhaps to emphasize the beauty of the lead characters. Rather than black and white, this book is done in sepia tones, perhaps to make it look old. I thought my copy was flawed, because I kept seeing these little water spots appearing in places that should be white or nearly so. But as I looked closely, I noticed that these spots were not flaws, but in fact part of the art: I could easily see the rosette patterns

used in the printing process for mid-tones. The near-total use of sepia tones servers very well to bring out the shock value of blood when it appears; it is the only time red is used, and while it is not extensive, it jumps out. Orange is used in the scene of a fire with the same results.

MY REACTION Before ordering the book, I wasn't sure I would like it; in a way I did not want to. Curiosity got the better of me. Having read it now, I am astonished at what a beautiful creation and labor of love this book is. It is clear that the artist/author has a deep appreciation for the original book. I can't imagine how much thought, creativity, planning, and time must have gone into drawing all these beautiful pictures. For me, overall it is a startling, unexpected, enormous success. I could imagine the demand this book creates starting an entire line of books covering all of The Vampire Chronicles and even The Witching Hour and its sequels. In fact, I'd like to see that happen; it would be a chance to revisit all of these books from a new perspective.

BOTTOM LINE says five stars is "I love it". I don't give five stars often or easily, but this one was so unexpected and fun, and a wonderful tribute to the original story, that I must. Bravo, Ms. Witter!

This is a really beautiful adaptation of Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire, as told from the point-of-view of the immortal child, Claudia. The artwork is positively stunning - very beautifully drawn and colored, relying heavily on a sepia sort of tone that helps the vivid blood and fire really stand out. I'm very impressed by the art alone. The expressions and the sheer beauty of it would endear this book to me even if nothing else did. I love that the storyline stays true to the novel, even taking exact lines and actions from it. I would have liked to see a little bit more that indicates that it's actually from Claudia's point of view - this doesn't really supply anything new and different than what we get in the original novel, which takes place in Louis's point of view. I rather expected to see some experiences that Claudia underwent on her own that went unbeknownst to Louis in the source material, but there were none. I'm also not sure that someone who has not read Interview with the Vampire would really be able to follow everything that's going on. Still, for a seasoned Anne Rice fan, this graphic novel is a fantastic addition to the bookshelf. I borrowed the copy I read, but I fully intend to add this to my personal library now.

This adaptation is simply gorgeous. The illustrations are rich and each panel is more beautiful than the last. I really enjoyed the monochromatic theme and the crimson splashed in like an exclamation point. Claudia has her own voice and gives a story that I know well a new richness. I am looking forward to seeing more work from this artist.

I must say I was weary when I saw this product. I thought that there was no way that someone other than Anne Rice could tell one of my favorite character's story. I was gladly mistaken! The story is perfect. The artwork is still a wonder. The style of illustration coupled with the color palette really take the story to the next level. The added crimson splashes reinforce the action sequences and honestly are a thing of beauty. After finishing the story I leisurely went back through and took in the individual story panels. Looking deeper into each one I felt as if I were looking at a stand alone work of art. The details of both the architectural illustration and the esthetic nuances are of the highest level in my opinion. If you are a fan of Ms. Anne Rice, I think you will approve. A fan of graphic novels will find this to be a great introduction to her body of work, should they be unfamiliar. This is the best gift I found under my tree! Looking forward to more from the genre and my beloved books.

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