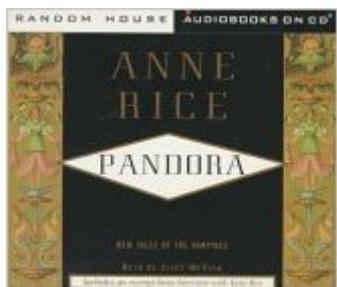


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Pandora: New Tales Of The Vampires (Anne Rice)



Synopsis

3 hours / 2 CDs Read by Janet McTeer Also available unabridged and abridged on cassette

Anne Rice, creator of the Vampire Lestat, the Mayfair witches and the amazing worlds they inhabit, now gives us the first in a new series of novels linked together by the fledgling vampire David Talbot, who has set out to become a chronicler of his fellow Undead. The novel opens in present-day Paris in a crowded cafÃ©, where David meets Pandora. She is two thousand years old, a Child of the Millennia, the first vampire ever made by the great Marius. David persuades her to tell the story of her life. Pandora begins, reluctantly at first and then with increasing passion, to recount her mesmerizing tale, which takes us through the ages, from Imperial Rome to eighteenth-century France to twentieth-century Paris and New Orleans. She carries us back to her mortal girlhood in the world of Caesar Augustus, a world chronicled by Ovid and Petronius. This is where Pandora meets and falls in love with the handsome, charismatic, lighthearted, still-mortal Marius. This is the Rome she is forced to flee in fear of assassination by conspirators plotting to take over the city. And we follow her to the exotic port of Antioch, where she is destined to be reunited with Marius, now immortal and haunted by his vampire nature, who will bestow on her the Dark Gift as they set out on the fraught and fantastic adventure of their two turbulent centuries together.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anne Rice fans will greet *Pandora: New Tales of the Vampires*, the first of her new vampire chronicles, as hungrily as the Fang Gang facing a fresh new neck. Our heroine, Pandora, a

senator's daughter in Augustus Caesar's day, flees to Antioch when her family gets killed and discovers the antidote to stern Roman rationalism in the occult wisdom of the East. "Something attacked my reason," Pandora writes. "The very thing the Roman Emperors had so feared in Egyptian cults and Oriental cults swept over me: mystery and emotion which claim a superiority to reason and law." Pandora gets her sexy vampire initiation at the fangs of handsome Marius (who later inducted Rice's famed vampire Lestat). Pandora tells how a nice Roman girl became a vampire in modern Paris, but mostly the book celebrates the sights and sounds (and philosophical bleedings) of the classical world. Pandora is more like Robert Graves's sublime *I, Claudius* than Rice's *The Complete Vampire Chronicles*. Yet Pandora is a logical extension of Rice's work, and Pandora is a combination of her past vampire heroes and the nakedly, horrifyingly autobiographical heroine of Rice's 1997 novel *Violin*. Now, *Violin* is remarkably messy, but it captures the volcanic passion that erupts in her best work--Rice calls it "a study in pain." Pandora is really a dramatized debate between passion and reason, which Pandora calls "male reason." She teases her vampire mentor: "Marius guarded his delicate rationality as a Vestal Virgin guards a sacred flame. If ever any ecstatic emotion took hold of me, he [would] tell me in no uncertain terms that it was irrational, irrational, irrational!" (To hear how close Pandora's voice is to her passionate creator, listen to the 1997 audiocassette Interview with Anne Rice.) Rice's research gives fresh blood to her storytelling. Even her chronic third-act problem scarcely slows down this brisk romp of a novel. Pandora has intellectual thirst as well as blood lust, and she conveys the high old time Rice obviously had imbibing historical lore. "It is fun to read these mad Gnostics!" exults Pandora in the early Christian era. It is also fun to read this mad Pandora. Anne Rice hasn't been this fun to read in years. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although Rice bid goodbye to the vampire Lestat in *Memnoch the Devil*, her fifth novel in *The Vampire Chronicles*, she has not abandoned vampires altogether. Two installments are planned this year in her *New Tales of the Vampires* series, and in the first of these, the ancient vampire Pandora tells her story. Urged on by David Talbot?fledgling vampire, self-appointed chronicler and former psychic detective?Pandora documents in sophisticated detail her pre-vampire existence as the privileged daughter of a Roman senator. She's a curious character, first introduced in *The Queen of the Damned*, in which Marius described her as the Greek courtesan who seduced him into making her a vampire and helped him care for the vampire progenitors until strife forced them apart. Here, Pandora herself sets the record straight. Born early in Augustus's reign, the educated, spirited Pandora was no courtesan?though we do see her challenge the sexual mores of her moment.

When Tiberius brings chaos to Rome, and dishonor and death to Pandora's family, she goes to Antioch and tries to solve the mystery of her compelling blood dreams about Egypt. There, she reunites with her childhood crush, Marius, and learns from him what it means to be a vampire. Along the way, we find little of Rice's trademark eroticism, but Pandora has long been one of her more elusive characters, so fans will relish this vivid rendering of her life and times. Random House audio. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm not generally a fan of vampires, but I started reading Anne Rice years ago and really enjoy the universe of characters and events that she created. Her stories would work (with some adjustment) even if her characters were not vampires--they're basically just human beings with some extra powers and some degree of immortality, which allows Rice to put them in historical situations. Pandora goes back to Roman times (Anne Rice is great with history--really does her research) then goes into the 20th century.

I'm the biggest Anne Rice Fan in general. Every summer for over a decade I make a point to re-read most of her books. I'm a big Marius fan so it's no surprise that I enjoyed this book. After years of wearing out my paperback and rebuying them I finally started picking up the eBooks. This review is a result of that! This book is basically a journal written to David Talbot about Pandora's human life, her life was a free un-married woman in Antioch, her vampire origin, and the complicated relationship she had with Marius. I know many other fans wouldn't put this book at the top of their list but this one is special as it is the only one of her vampire novels in the voice of a woman. Also, how can you not love the ancient world? I get my vampires and historical fiction in one swoop!

Wonderful read. I would love just five minutes in Anne's imagination or is it her reality? I am never disappointed with her writings. I would recommend this book to those that enjoy suspense thrillers! It is another book that is hard to put down and cannot wait to read the next in this series.

I enjoyed Pandora's story from her point of view, as opposed to Marius's, but I must admit to Deja vu at times because so much seemed familiar. As per her usual set, Rice mixes storytelling and sensuality with philosophy on human nature, but the deeper meaning seemed rushed. In addition, Pandora's split with Marius felt rushed. Finally, I would have enjoyed more about Pandora's time without Marius and her interactions with other vampires. Overall, I enjoyed the story but it could have

been so much more.

Very enjoyable. I skipped it when I re-read the chronicles in order and now I wish I hadn't. It is a deviation but I still count it as part of the chronicles and one day (probably when Anne releases the next chronicle) I'll read them all again in proper order including The Mayfair Trilogy where it fits in between.

The story of Pandora fills in more of the holes in Rice's vampire series. Pandora has been mentioned previously in more than one novel, and is a significant minor player in Blood and Gold, the story of Marius. In Pandora we hear about her childhood growing up in a rich Roman family. Marius who is not yet a vampire, is the younger son of another family. She meets Marius in Rome at age 10, and at age 15 her father refuses Marius' request for her in marriage. For some unknown reason, when Pandora is age 35, one of her brothers causes the other members of her family to be assassinated in a political plot. Pandora flees with Jewish merchants to Antioch where she meets Marius again. By now Marius is a vampire and keeper of the ancient mother of vampires. Much of her story describes her trials getting settled in Antioch, another conflict with her traitor brother, her conversion to a vampire by Marius, and the first attack by Satanic vampires. Little is told about the subsequent 1800 years before she ends up in a Paris cafÃ© where she writes the story. I found it to be an entertaining afternoon read. I enjoyed Rice's obvious research into Roman life, but I was disappointed in not learning more about her life during the centuries while Marius searched for her. For example, we learn nothing of the Indian vampire with whom she apparently spends centuries traveling around the capitals of Europe during the Middle Ages. Maybe Rice is saving that for another volume.

normal rice stuff

I am a big Anne Rice fan, so I am pretty particular about which characters she writes her books through since they are always changing. This is a new character, I really like her, definitely worth reading. It could be a little out of context though from the beginning if you've never read the full vampire chronicles. It's not a book you can pick up in the middle and catch up later- you would miss a lot of important character and story development.

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