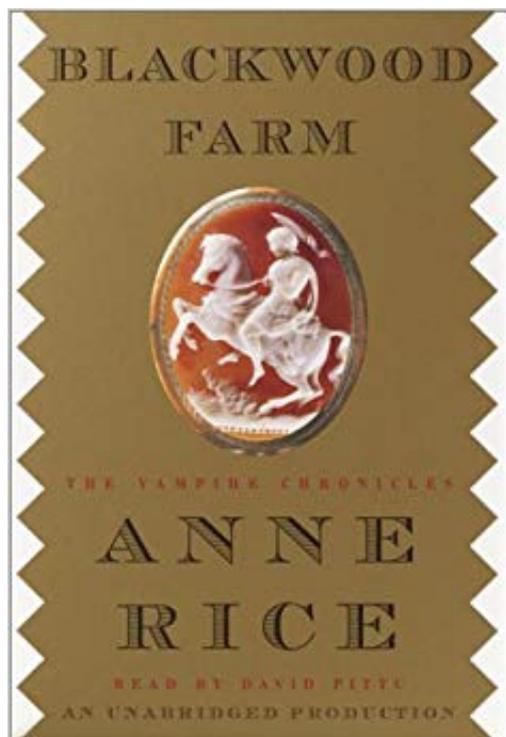


Blackwood Farm: The Vampire Chronicles (Anne Rice) *by* David Pittu, Anne Rice



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In her new novel, perennial bestseller Anne Rice fuses her two uniquely seductive strains of narrative -- her Vampire legend and her lore of the Mayfair witches -- to give us a world of classic deep-south luxury and ancestral secrets. Welcome to Blackwood Farm: soaring white columns, spacious drawing rooms, bright, sun-drenched gardens, and a dark strip of the dense Sugar Devil Swamp. This is the world of Quinn Blackwood, a brilliant young man haunted since birth by a mysterious doppelgänger, "Goblin," a spirit from a dream world that Quinn can't escape and that prevents him from belonging anywhere. When Quinn is made a Vampire, losing all that is rightfully his and gaining an unwanted immortality, his doppelgänger becomes even more vampiric and terrifying than Quinn himself. As the novel moves backwards and forwards in time, from Quinn's boyhood on Blackwood Farm to present day New Orleans, from ancient Athens to 19th-century Naples, Quinn seeks out the legendary Vampire Lestat in the hope of freeing himself from the spectre that draws him inexorably back to Sugar Devil Swamp and the explosive secrets it holds. A story of youth and promise, of loss and the search for love, of secrets and destiny, **Blackwood Farm** is Anne Rice at her mesmerizing best. *From the Hardcover edition.*



Reviews of the **Blackwood Farm: The Vampire Chronicles** (Anne Rice) by David Pittu, Anne Rice

Braendo

As always, Anne Rice creates a world you don't want to leave. Her characters jump off the page and live with you. Even though Lestat is marginalized in this book I understand she can't always write about Louise and Lestat. Her imagination is too complex to restrict to our individual preferences. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Faulkner and Charles Dickens have been favorites of mine since I was a very young man. Mrs. Rice joined their ranks many years ago. I am thankful for every sentence she gives and I always regret finishing one of her books. I need to take a sabbatical afterwards since it takes me time to settle for less than she offers.

TheFresh

I cannot even explain how amazing this book is. The coming together of the vampires and witches in a grand tale of secrets, love, family. Wow. Each book in the Vampire Chronicles just keeps getting better and better.

Zeli

Absolutely fell in love with this book! The Blackwoods are my new fav family. Now if you are looking for a book focused on Lestat, this is not your book, but get to know Tarquin and his clan, they are fab.

Siatanni

So this book wasn't the usual for Anne. She actually created a good little mystery here. I think the book would have been better if she'd left out the vampires altogether, and allowed the main character to remain human. I found him to be sultry but stupid. But then again, what 18 year old isn't stupid? There are a lot of characters in this story, and that takes some paying attention to keep straight. This detracted somewhat from the story. Her descriptions are spot on as always, and she doesn't shy away from some pretty unusual erotic scenes in this one. For those who have already read this book, I found the shower scene to be a little disturbing, and even more so when Goblin's true identity is revealed! I mean Yuck! But yeah it's a good read, and will keep you entertained with all the plot twists.

Lbe

Even though this was more story and less vampire stuff I somehow really enjoyed it. It had been some time since last reading an Anne Rice novel so maybe I was a bit disappointed that there wasn't more in the way of vampire things going on. I hope the next in the series gets back to vampires being vampires. With that said the story read well and I really did enjoy it.

salivan

SPOILER:

If you are a follower of her Vampire and Mayfair series and I am. This novel provides some interesting updates about the Mayfair Clan. But far more interesting than the Over The Top Quinn and Get Over Yourself Mona are Uncle Julian and Aunt Queen. Let's follow Julian around for awhile and I want to hear all about Aunt Queen. Leave Quinn alone until he grows up or something! Check out this review. He says it better than I could: [...]

The romance between Quinn and Mona was straight from a Teen Romance Magazine (if there is such a thing). Ho hum.

Ms Rice, I do love your books, but the moment we met Mona, we knew she'd become a Vampire. Write Uncle Julian and Aunt Queen's story. But before you do find some way to renew, reinvent, reinstate, and reclaim your writing self. Your fans would welcome you back with open arms.

Runemane

I had not read books by Anne Rice for many years, so when I began this book I was excited and interested to see what was going on in the world of vampires.

The fact that Lestat was involved in the plot made the story more interesting to me than if he was not, primarily because he was the first vampire in Rice's books, and in my opinion, the most interesting.

Because this story was so good, I also downloaded *The Witching Hour*, which I had not read. I loved both stories. Reading these made me get "Lasher," which I am now reading.

All good so far.

After the solid "Merrick" and spectacular "Blood and Gold" Anne Rice returns with "Blackwood Farms." Let me start off on a positive note, nobody can do adjectives like Anne Rice, she is exceptionally gifted as a writer. However, this book suffers from several major flaws: First, Lestat is simply not interesting anymore, he comes across more like an abridged version of himself, it may be time to retire him and focus on underused characters (such as Jessie, Gabrielle, Mael, or Vittorio.) Secondly, there are way too many characters (Big Ramona, Little Ramona...and they all seem to die one after the other, as if there was no reason for them to be there in the first place.) Third, the role of money is unplausible, one would think that Madonna and Bill Gates are bankrolling Blackwood Farms (for ex: at one point Pasty (Quinn's mother) get left a trust of \$500,000.00 a month-wouldn't \$50,000 or even \$5,000 been a little more grounded in reality?) Fourth, the inclusion of the dull and lifeless Mayfair family added little to the book- Mona has to be one of the most unlikeable characters in print.) Finally, Quinn is simply not a believable character...he has major issues with masturbation..but not with having sex with ghosts or being bi-sexual??

This book could have been more structured an editor could have cleaned this up....better luck next time!

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