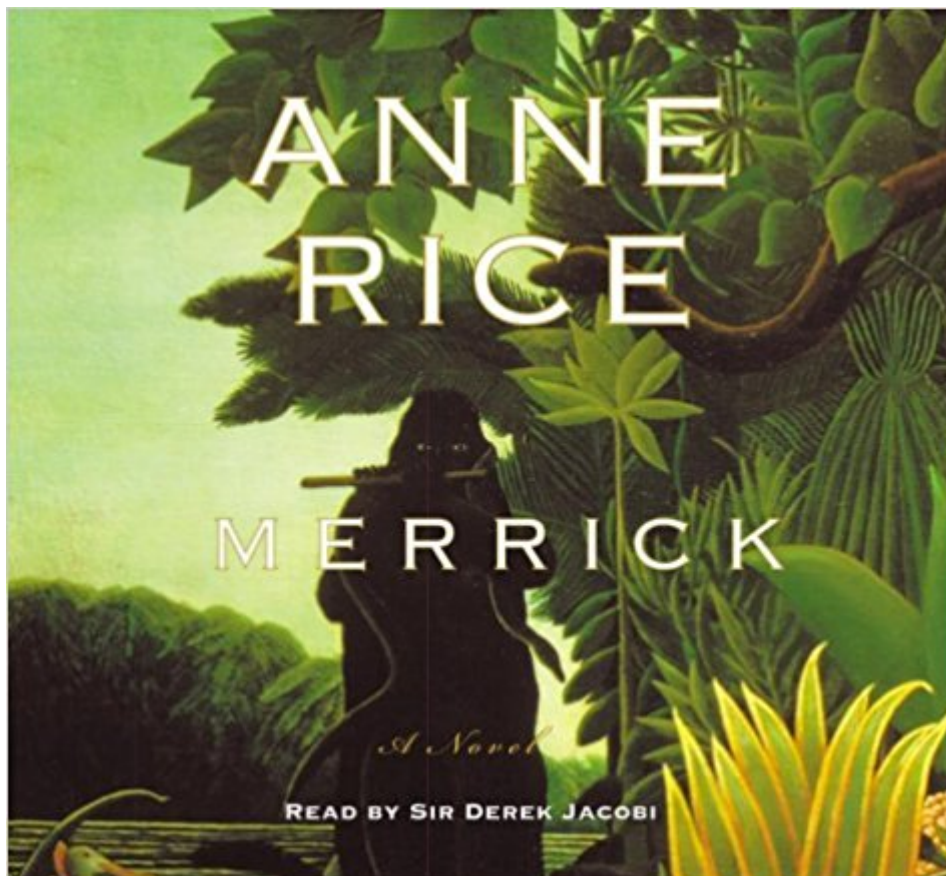


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## Merrick (Anne Rice)



## Synopsis

Read by 5 Cds/ 5 hours At the center is the beautiful, unconquerable witch, Merrick. She is a descendant of the gens de colors libres, a cast derived from the black mistresses of white men, a society of New Orleans octoroons and quadroons, steeped in the lore and ceremony of voodoo, who reign in the shadowy world where the African and the French--the white and the dark--intermingle. Her ancestors are the Great Mayfair Witches, of whom she knows nothing--and from whom she inherits the power and magical knowledge of a Circe. Into this exotic New Orleans realm comes David Talbot, hero, storyteller, adventurer, almost mortal vampire, visitor from another dark realm. It is he who recounts Merrick's haunting tale--a tale that takes us from the New Orleans of the past and present to the jungles of Guatemala, from the Mayan ruins of a century ago to ancient civilizations not yet explored. Anne Rice's richly told novel weaves an irresistible story of two worlds: the witches' world and the vampires' world, where magical powers and otherworldly fascinations are locked together in a dance of seduction, death, and rebirth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just when you thought it was safe for a bloodsucker to go out in the dark in New Orleans, along comes Merrick Mayfair, a sultry, hard-drinking octoroon beauty whose voodoo can turn the toughest vampire into a marionette dancing to her merry, scary tune. In Merrick, Anne Rice brings back three of her most wildly popular characters--the vampires Lestat and Louis and the dead vampire child Claudia--and introduces them to the world of her Mayfair Witches book series. It is Louis who

brings about the collision of the fang and voodoo universes. Louis made Claudia a vampire in Rice's classic *Interview with the Vampire*, in which she was destroyed, and now he's obsessed with raising her ghost to make amends and seek guidance from the beyond. (Claudia physically resembles Rice's young daughter who died of a blood-related illness. Rice nearly died of a diabetic coma in 1998, and writing *Merrick* turned her excruciating recovery into an exhilarating burst of creativity). Vampire David Talbot lobbies Merrick to call Claudia's spirit and slake Louis's guilt, but Talbot winds up in the grip of an obsession with the witch. You see, Talbot, unlike most vampires, lived 70 years as a human, so his sexual response to humans is still as strong as his blood thirst. Merrick can cast spells to make men crave her, and Talbot is tormented. After she reads his palm, he muses, "I wanted to take her in my arms, not to feed from her, no, not harm her, only kiss her, only sink my fangs a very little, only taste her blood and her secrets, but this was dreadful and I wouldn't let it go on." The secrets of Merrick are dark and sensuous, but the book is a romp animated by Rice's feeling of coming back to life through the magic of a literary outpouring. The narrative flashes back to the past, to an Indiana Jones-ish adventure in a Guatemalan cave, and to scenes from many other Rice novels. It may be helpful to read *Merrick* with the Rice-approved guidebooks *The Vampire Companion* and *The Witches' Companion* at hand. After many books, Rice's grand Vampire Chronicles tale was in peril of getting long in the tooth. *Merrick* Mayfair's magic represents an infusion of fresh blood. --Tim Appelo --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Talbot, a vampire familiar to Rice readers, though now inhabiting a different body, relates this eerie tale about an "octoroon of exceptional beauty" named Merrick, a Mayfair witch with whom he has been obsessed for an eternity. The narrative weaves through timeAfrom present-day New Orleans, to Talbot's first meeting with Merrick, to an adventure they shared years ago in the jungles of Guatemala. Flashbacks aside, this story focuses on Talbot's attempt to convince Merrick to use her voodoo magic to conjure up the vampire daughter of his friend and fellow vampire Louis. Fans will recognize characters from past books, including Louis and Lestat. Rice offers a haunting look at the separate but equally intriguing worlds of witches and vampires united here through Merrick's witchcraft on Talbot's behalf. Jacobi's reading of the tale is spellbinding. His refined British toneAwith the slightest trace of a classic Transylvanian accentAfits Talbot's character perfectly, and he flavors the narrative with verve and mystery accordingly. Simultaneous release with the Knopf hardcover (Forecasts, Aug. 14). (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The beginning of the story David tells of how he knew of Merrick's powers and abilities to Louis. Also about how much David care for Merrick. Louis is deeply tormented with thoughts that is beloved Claudia might not be at peace. Finally after David finished the story Louis get to meet Merrick. Louis and Merrick are taken with each other. Merrick agrees to do the spell to bring forth the spirit of Claudia. What will happen when Claudia comes forth? Will she confirm Louis' fear that she is not at peace or will she be at peace? What will be the consequences of the magic? Will anyone of our beloved characters be killed or hurt? What will happen to Merrick? I love, love, love this book. It is one of my all time favorites and it is the book that got be started on my love of vampires. If you love books about witches, spirits, and vampires I would recommend you read this series. To fully understand Claudia you need to read Interview With A Vampire. One last note. Anne Rice's vampires are different from any other vampire books I have ever read. (and I have read tons of vampire books) I love them!! They are the standard that I measure all other vampire books by. These books are romantic in a different level. The vampires are passionate but not in the sense of paranormal romance (and I love a good paranormal romance). They don't mate but they do stick together.

There's a story here, but it isn't (spoiler) the tale of how a Mayfair witch became a vampire. Not is it the story of Louis's "sort of" redemption from his guilt about his unnatural daughter and eventual vampire lover Claudia, and his rebirth into a new vampire family. That's nominally what the narrative builds toward. You could say there's very little action, what there is is mostly in flashback. But action is not what makes up this book's pleasures. I got the sense that Anne Rice wanted to share the smells and textures and that special rich atmosphere that had enchanted her about parts of New Orleans that possibly no longer exist, and she wanted the pleasure of sharing her observation of some real life people she loved to watch in life. So she came up with an excuse, some side plot lines, to allow her to indulge herself. I, for one, am grateful she did. I just wish she didn't have to tie it with the story of Lestat, and instead spent more time observing Merrick and her close family through the centuries.

Anne Rice is a great writer. So many writers have their pet cliché's which, after the second book, have gradually become not just obvious, but almost annoying; Anne Rice, however, is artistic and innovative. There are no catch-words popping up to snap the reader out of the story's progression with an unintended flashback. The motion is not interrupted by the periodic vocabulary favorite and

my attention remains focused. With "Merrick", we get more depth to the previously known characters, and we are introduced to the place witchcraft holds in the world of the "not-average". That vampires have gifts, I have bought that. That witches have gifts separate from those of vampires...gifts of which vampires can be jealous...this is cool and very enticing. Thank you, Anne Rice, for your artistry and your craftsmanship. Thank you for creating a world that is not only parallel to that of "normal", but is accessible allegorically...in a way that offers alternatives to those of us who don't fit.

The chronicles took twists and turns I've never expected and to see these vampires progress from that famous movie with Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise into the fantastic visions in my mind is a thrill, in the course of these novels I've visited ancient places, modern cities, questions of mind and soul, wondered through the impossible and through the inferno and into a world only Mrs Rice could have created.

Another great read that doesn't disappoint! I liked the story being told by David one of the youngest vampires, but one of the oldest in his human years. I can sometimes guess, speculate to a degree where she is going with some of her story lines, however, this one took me a little more by surprise. I like the way the story is told from David's mature point of view & his unique calmness. I love how you come to know and love the world and the characters Anne Rice creates. You can tell how much love and immense thought and imagination she puts into her stories, most especially her characters. I will never get tired of reading the vampire chronicles! Consider me a fan who is appreciative for her talents...for without her I could not escape the madness of this world and lose myself in her wonderful story telling. Thank you for another fantastic story!

Having read the entire Lives Of The Mayfair Witches trilogy, I had to read Merrick. Merrick is a powerful Witch from the other side of the family. Her history is rather different and more earthy than the regular Mayfairs. The garden district Mayfairs. Merrick is far from regular. She's adorable, psychic, intelligent, willing to dare. The organization, 'we watch and we are always here', returns to New Orleans, the scene of the spell. Whoops! Well, there it is. Now add some vampires. You have an entertaining, emotional, thoughtful extravaganza.

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!

God, I love the vampire chronicles. They are all amazing :)

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