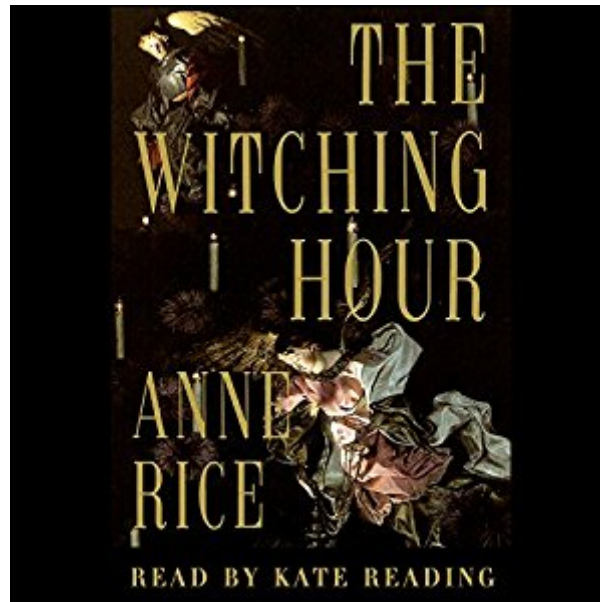




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The Witching Hour



Synopsis

Demonstrating once again her gift for spellbinding storytelling, Anne Rice makes real for us a great dynasty of four centuries of witches - a family given to poetry and incest, murder and philosophy, a family that over the ages is itself haunted by a powerful, dangerous, and seductive being called Lasher who haunts the Mayfair women.... Moving in time from today's New Orleans and San Francisco to long-ago Amsterdam and the France of Louis XIV, from the coffee plantations of Port-au-Prince to Civil War New Orleans and back to today, Anne Rice has spun a mesmerizing tale that challenges everything we believe in.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought the electronic version of this book because my hardcover copy was getting a bit worn. Actually more than a bit worn. As blasphemous as this may sound, this is probably my favorite book by Anne Rice. Maybe it was the age I was at when it was released. I don't know. I can honestly say that I have read, and pretty much loved every book she's written, but this one put so many hooks in me that I guess I never got away. There are so many stories going on. There is the child, practically stolen at birth. The ghost that gives wealth and power while it plots its future. The lost women, used and discarded. An evil woman so cloaked in self righteousness that she believes her behavior is not only acceptable, but necessary. And the witch determined to free the family from its curse. Witch burnings, the Renaissance, moving to the New World, the Jazz Age. After all, this story covers some 300 plus years. And then there is New Orleans and the House. There is simply no other place like New Orleans. Even today the streets, houses, cemeteries, people, churches and sometimes, it

seems, the very air are different. A very Old World place plopped down in the New. I truly believe that in just about anyone else's hands all of the threads of this story would be a knot so tangled it would require a knife to undo. A really big knife. How she manages it is beyond me- but she does. Beautifully. So, if you like history, romance, mystery, suspense, and some seriously spooky goings on, you might love this book as much as I do. Well, almost as much.

I honestly love Anne Rice and she made me fall in love with New Orleans through this book. The mood is suspenseful and dark and the pace for most of the book is quite steady. For this book Anne Rice developed a beautiful way to give you the backstory of the plot and *The Mayfair Witches*. I felt myself so engrossed in this part that I actually felt that I was a member of the Talamasca myself! It's a hefty book nearing 1,000 pages of semi small print pages and even though I'm an avid reader I at first felt intimidated. After knocking out the first half of the book in a day it seems like no time at all has passed. This book is also so easy to pick right back up after a day or two break. I said the plot has some twists instead of full of surprises is because as you read and you take in the actions and behavior of the Mayfair Witches and why and how things happen you can easily identify and explain why things happen, but there's plenty of surprises to keep you wondering. EDIT: I completely forgot to mention that I ordered this book used and it came to be practically like new.

The middle part of this book bogs down considerably. The beginning recounts the lives of the Mayfair witches. Yep- got it. Then for some reason Rice chooses to revisit the entire history in excruciating detail. What starts as interesting (and does pertain to later plot points) becomes boring and droll. A major plot point dissolves into nothing- I won't explain for fear of ruining it. This book became a lot of detail and background- with very little actually happening to the "modern" characters. All that felt like filler to compensate for so much time spent on the older Mayfair characters. By the time I got to the end the last chapter fizzled completely. Had this book been sheared of a couple hundred pages...it would've been a better book. I love Anne Rice- but not this book.

Engaging epic tale about a family of witches. The story spans generations of the family along with their interaction with a spirit called Lasher. Anne Rice at her best!

This may be my all time favorite book. Ever. I first read this book when I was 9 years old. I skimmed through it, reading bits and pieces. As I got older, I kept picking this book up and re-reading it,

gleaning more and more of the information contained within the text. So many different stories, so many different characters. I remember re-enacting some of the stories with my dolls. This novel is epic, both in length and in the story. Dr. Rowan Mayfair discovers that she is adopted several years after the death of her adoptive parents and after the death of her biological mother, a woman she never even knew existed. Rowan is an heiress to a massive fortune and a large mansion in the Garden District in New Orleans. Along with the house and fortune, Rowan inherits a massive family with a long and twisted history and a family ghost. Maybe I love this novel because I too, am adopted. I think every adopted child fantasizes about their biological parents,, imagining them to be someone famous, royalty or very wealthy. Anne Rice created a character that seems absolutely real from the beginning, coming alive off the page and turning into a living, breathing woman before your eyes. All of Anne Rice's characters throughout the novel have a tendency to leap off the page and become real for the reader. I can almost hear their voices, accents and inflections in the dialogue, as if I was watching a mini-series in my head. With each re-read of this book, I enjoy it more and more. With each turn of the very last page, I feel as though I have uncovered yet another dark secret from within the novel. A sense of accomplishment comes every time I read the last few words. Not only have I read this novel over and over again, I have also read every other novel Anne Rice has published to date. I think this book shines brighter than any of her other novels or series. Don't misunderstand me, I loved reading her other novels, but this one has always seemed like the best of the best. One of the characters in *The Witching Hour*, Michael Curry, re-reads Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* over and over again because it is his favorite book and never fails to capture his imagination. I feel the same way about *The Witching Hour* and read it any time I need to escape from reality. This book has it all: grand plantations, townhouses, a ghost story, family secrets, family history, witches, and a mystery to solve. This novel never fails to suck me in, transport me to the streets of the Garden District and into the Mayfair Family history. I have never been to New Orleans, but I know it would feel familiar if I visited. I would recognize the places in the novel that Anne Rice describes. It wouldn't surprise me to see a twisted old woman sitting on a screened in porch in a rocking chair and know that she was Deirdre Mayfair, or see an old Englishman standing on a street corner and know it was Aaron Lightner. Anne Rice may not know it, but I think that she may have written one of the best books in literary history with *The Witching Hour*. I can't ever get enough of it, that is the basis for a damn good novel: one that you never want to end.

All time favorite book for over a decade now. My hardbacks are falling apart from reading them so

often. So, I finally broke down and ordered a kindle version. It never gets old or dull anytime I reread it. Still waiting to see this story on the big screen!

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