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Servant Of The Bones (Anne Rice)



Synopsis

In a new and major novel, the creator of fantastic universes of vampires and witches takes us now into the world of Isaiah and Jeremiah, and the destruction of Solomon's Temple, to tell the story of Azriel, Servant of the Bones. He is ghost, genie, demon, angel--pure spirit made visible. He pours his heart out to us as he journeys from an ancient Babylon of royal plottings and religious upheavals to Europe of the Black Death and on to the modern world. There he finds himself, amidst the towers of Manhattan, in confrontation with his own human origins and the dark forces that have sought to condemn him to a life of evil and destruction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I finished reading Servant of the Bones this morning after staying up as late as I could last night in an attempt to finish the book. Reading over many of the reviews I can think of one thing that would have helped some of those that read the book: reading further. At first I was almost put off by it being another interview book like Interview was, the only other book by Rice that I have read. I was glad that I continued, however, because once she reached the interesting parts the story picked up tremendously. The interesting parts to me would be everything to do with religion and history. I know this is in part because they are things I am currently hoping to research. She made them vibrant, brought the old stories alive and for days I could not get the image of Azriel painted in poisonous gold out of my mind. To me that is what a writer is supposed to do, create a living story, vivid images that haunt the reader day and night for a time before they can continue on with the tale. That

is what Anne Rice did in this book. Many said they could not get past the first 50 pages and first 100 pages and that skimming ahead provided nothing. Of course, it did not. One has to take the time to think with this book and that's another thing I love about it. People may think the Belkin ideals and ideas were very contrived, but one never knows. We are very used to our safe and careful world where fights and cults are things that are distant from us. But who is to say what is out there and that this could not happen? In the mind of a madman anything can happen. I told my husband about this book as I read it since he rarely gets a chance to read anything this long. I would recommend it to others as well, but be prepared.

Vampires, mummies, and witches (oh my!) are all subjects that have received the star treatment from renowned author Anne Rice. The great otherworldly writer tackles another aspect of the supernatural plane when a genie stars in her latest novel. In doing this, Ms. Rice brilliantly provides vivid insight into the biblical culture of Babylon. Frightening is the tale of Azriel, an exiled Jew living in Babylon, who has the misfortune to become the favorite one of the great god, Marduk. Azriel comes to the attention of the temple priests, who have hatched a plan for King Cyprus of Persia to claim Babylon without bloodshed. In order for this plan to work, Azriel's father hands him over to the priests in exchange for the promise that the Hebrews living in Babylon will be allowed to return to Jerusalem. In a ceremony, Azriel is to play the role of Marduk, a role that always ends in death. Death is not quite what fate has in store for Azriel because a witch's spell separates his spirit from his body at the time of death. This turns him into a genie or Servant of the Bones. Through two millennia, Azriel is paged by many different masters, but it is not until the 1990s that fate provides Azriel an opportunity for redemption. Terrorist tele-evangelist Gregory Belkin has a diabolical plan to put himself in control of a new world order. He summons Azriel to help him put his plan in motion. Azriel knows what will happen to the world if Gregory succeeds. The genie forces his "master" into a confrontation that will decide humanity's destiny. Readers will give Anne Rice much credit for being a very visual and challenging story teller who uses words as a magical means to mesmerize her audience. Her perception of a genie's psyche has its roots in her vampire mythos.

Before I begin I feel it is important to point out that Anne Rice is my favorite author so if you're looking for a negative review you should look elsewhere. I've cherished everything I've ever read from her and don't anticipate that changing. I've read the entire vampire chronicles, Mayfair witch series and the wolf gift. I just today finished for the first time Servant of the Bones. This is my first attempt at writing a book review and can only hope that I do the process justice. Servant of the

Bones is not part of a series it stands on it's own a singular story and because of this it dose not enjoy any of the popularity of the series novels that have made Anne so popular. I feel it is in large part overlooked and partially ignored by her fan base and by the media in general. This is a grave disservice to a masterful piece of literature. Reading it I drew many similarities to the Witching Hour from her more famous Mayfair witch series. Indeed any fan of that novel would be doing themselves an injustice by not reading this one as well. From page one Anne ensnares you in the story of Azriel a powerful spirit who is the hero and tells it's tale from his perspective. In typical Anne Rice fashion she transports you back in time to a setting full of vivid color and characters, this time to Babylon so he can tell you how Azriel came to be the spirit that he is. It is a gripping story of love, beauty, betrayal, murder, and an inevitable victory. The story goes beyond that of just Azieris with brilliant and believable character development, the plot of which I'll leave you the reader of this review to discover on your own. You'll find that the climax of this novel is a feminine one coming in rapid succession of ever more gratifying waves.

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