



Lasher (Lives of the Mayfair Witches)

By Anne Rice

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From the day her first Vampire Chronicle was published, critics and readers--readers by the hundreds of thousands--have been mesmerized by the writings of Anne Rice. And with the publication of **The Witching Hour**, she created for us yet another world and legend, and both the chorus of praise and the multitudes of her readers once more increased.

Now, Anne Rice brings us again--even more magically--into the midst of the dynasty of witches she introduced in **The Witching Hour**.

At the center: the brilliant and beautiful Rowan Mayfair, queen of the coven, and Lasher, the darkly compelling demon whom she finds irresistible and from whose evil spell and vision she must now flee. She takes with her their terrifying and exquisite child, one of "a brood of children born knowing, able to stand and talk on the first day."

Rowan's attempt to escape Lasher and his pursuit of her and their child are at the heart of this extraordinary saga. It is a novel that moves around the globe, backward and forward through time, and between the human and demonic worlds. Its many voices--of women, of men, of demons and angels, present and past--haunt and enchant us. With a dreamlike power, the novel draws us through twilight paths, telling a chillingly hypnotic story of occult and spiritual aspirations and passion.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

At the center of this dark and compelling tale is Rowan Mayfair, queen of the coven, who must flee from the darkly brutal, yet irresistible demon known as Lasher. With a dreamlike power, this wickedly seductive entity draws us through twilight paths, telling a chilling and hypnotic story of spiritual aspiration and passion.

From Publishers Weekly

Returning to the Mayfair clan she introduced in *The Witching Hour*, Rice offers another vast, transcontinental saga of witchcraft and demonism in the tradition of Gothic melodrama. The eponymous Lasher is a demon spirit who preys on female Mayfairs in his attempt to procreate. Rowan Mayfair, queen of the coven who has borne Lasher's child, has now disappeared. At times this main narrative is lost as the story moves from the Louisiana Mayfairs to the Scottish Donnelaiths and the clandestine London Telamasca society, with copious personal histories and myriad characters. Long sections ramble without a compelling point of view, and are dampened by stock elements: clichéd wind storms, sexy witches, the endless supply of money the Telamasca has at its disposal. At times, Lasher is too much in evidence (rattling the china, gnashing his teeth) to be frightening. But embedded in this antique demonism is a contemporary tale of incest and family abuse that achieves resonance. It is maintained through the character of Lasher, both child and man at the same time, who manipulates his victims with his own pain. At their best, Rice's characters rise above the more wooden plot machinations with an ironic and modern complexity: Mona, the young feminist witch with sharklike business instincts; Julien, the dead patriarch, who movingly recalls his male lovers; Yuri, the clever Serbian orphan. Despite lapses into uninspired language, ultimately the novel is compelling through its exhaustive monumentality. 700,000 first printing; Literary Guild main selection. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

The sequel and conclusion to Rice's *The Witching Hour* (1990) shows Rice both at her best and at her hackiest. Volume One brought forth the *Mayfair Witches*, an incestuous family in New Orleans' steamy Garden District, headed by supersurgeon Rowan Mayfair, who is putting some of the family's seven-and-a-half billion into the Mayfair Medical Institute. At that novel's end, Rowan had given birth to an "entity" on the living-room rug that, assuming human shape, had nearly killed husband Michael in the swimming pool, then abducted Rowan. Now the evil being--which looks like D•rer's Christ and has been using witches in the Mayfair line to have itself reborn after dying time and again since the earliest days of the Reformation in Scotland-- is skipping about Europe while trying to breed with Rowan and give birth to a female demon. But these porny pages don't arrive until we wade through 200 tediously undramatic sheets of dialogue filler quite lacking in storytelling oomph--though we are treated to teenygenius Mona Mayfair's seduction of the recovering Michael. All this is a case of background detail turning story into tapestry. Once Rice plunges us into Rowan's long rape, two miscarriages, and at last the birth of Emaeth, sister/wife for Rowan's demonic son Lasher, the novel lights up with rocket blast. How will Rowan escape her tyrant son, whose endless suckling and inseminating keeps her constantly orgasmic and horrified? But pigging out on Rowan's plight takes up only about 200 pages all told, and then more background filler--well, the novel's huge mythic underpinning-- dims our spirits, although the story of Uncle Julien, as told by Julien's ghost to Michael, dances nicely. Too much Rice-A-Roni, but addicts will lick the pot. (Literary Guild Dual Selection for November; First printing of 700,000) -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katherine Anderson:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular Lasher (Lives of the Mayfair Witches) book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Sarah Ruff:

The feeling that you get from Lasher (Lives of the Mayfair Witches) may be the more deep you looking the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but Lasher (Lives of the Mayfair Witches) giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this Lasher (Lives of the Mayfair Witches) instantly.

Mary Bradford:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book Lasher (Lives of the Mayfair Witches) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

Ellis Pauling:

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