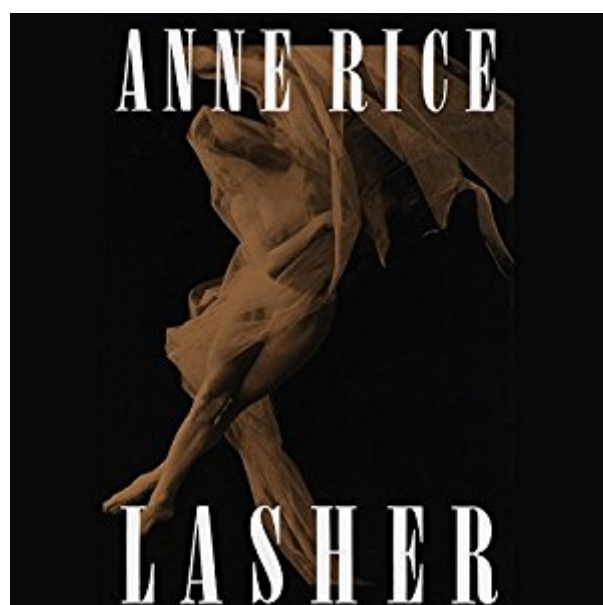


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# Lasher



## Synopsis

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 and listeners 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I loved every minute I spent reading Anne Rice's "The Witching Hour," and therefore looked forward to reading the book's sequel, "Lasher." I am certainly not disappointed now that I have finished the novel. I do want to mention here that although "Lasher" is part of a trilogy, it stands very well on its own as an independent work. I was almost as spellbound by this second book in "The Lives Of The

Mayfair Witches Trilogy" as I was by the first. The author continues spinning this seductive story in a manner that captures the reader's interest and imagination until the very last page. The characters introduced to us in "The Witching Hour," geneticist Rowan Mayfair, her husband, Michael Curry, their friend Aaron Lightner, along with a huge cast of ghosts, witches and Mayfair clan members, return to delight and chill, depending on your perspective. And some new folks, (not all human), come on board also. As the novel begins, the author summarizes the storyline and takes up the narrative at almost the same spot where the prior novel left us. Lasher, the former otherworldly spirit who haunted the Mayfairs, is now a flesh and blood supernatural being. He chose to leave the world of specters to join us humans in three-dimensional space on earth - New Orleans' steamy Garden District to be precise. He made this transfer through Rowan's birth canal. You have to read it to believe it. So Rowan and Michael, along with their many other roles, are also Lasher's parents. And you thought Rosemary and her baby had problems! Lasher, a very sensual, mesmerizing, manipulative entity, longs for love, yet doesn't really understand the human concept of the word. Therefore his motives are constantly misconstrued. And why not?

When I first read *The Witching Hour*, I was thrown into the dark and mysterious world of *The Mayfair Witches*. Rice has the ability to draw you into her characters, with her lore, and history. More of *The Mayfair* past comes out in this book, filling in holes and questions we had since the first book coupled with the just the mere thought of the entity known as Lasher has finally become human again - made this book worth reading. All Rice fans should know by now that the story is never fully over with one book and Lasher continues this thought. Lasher starts off as all Rice books begin, giving the reader a brief synopsis and an after math story before she plunges into the core of the book. Lasher as we all know is a very sensual entity with only the thought of love by his side. However, his ideas of love become misconstrued by his actions throughout his life, which makes for a very deep and constructed character. Rice has proven she has a flair for the not so obvious. She goes deep within her characters and expands them. They somehow jump off the pages and makes you wonder if that noise you heard, or that feeling you felt could have been your personal Lasher. Lasher is erotic, mesmerizing, sensual, and deep, and you can drown in his love if not careful. Rice has shown us this through his love affair with every witch in the family. She has also done a marvelous job with telling us more of Julien Mayfair, the only male witch to inhabit the family. Julien is such an integral part of the Mayfair history, that I often wondered if she would make a book dedicated to him. I recommend this book to all of Rice's fans.

Let me start off by saying this: I HATE the character of Mona Mayfair. Rice really messed up with "Lasher," and I wish "no stars" was an option for a rating of this book. Rowan has no spine and Michael is raped by a 13 year-old and that's just in the first two chapters. The story slipped through her fingers as she tried to make me identify with Lasher. Impossible. Her crass treatment of history and her corruption of Michael and Rowan made me wish I could set fire to my copy of this book and watch it go up in flames. In TWH, Rowan was strong and brilliant. If she had killed Lasher like she should have in TWH, this book would never have had a chance to have been written. Rowan ends up being held prisoner by Lasher while they're on the run, trying to find out what he is. During this time he rapes her repeatedly and she miscarries again and again. Not the fate she imagined, and while humbling Rowan is necessary, treating her like this was not. Meanwhile, back at the Mayfair house in New Orleans, 13 year-old Mona Mayfair, Rowan's flower girl, sneaks into the mansion and takes advantage of Rowan's absence by helping herself to Michael. The child, for that is what she is, is hell-bent on "shagging" (the real word I want to use cannot be printed here) every Mayfair man she can get her hands on. The self-styled wunderkind also lives in a run-down house in the neighborhood, yet she manages to afford a state-of-the-art computer and fancies herself quite the corporate stockbroker. As if. Several jarring anachronisms annoyed me about this novel. The first: Rowan was identified as being 5'11" tall in the File of the Mayfair Witches, compiled carefully by the Talamasca.

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