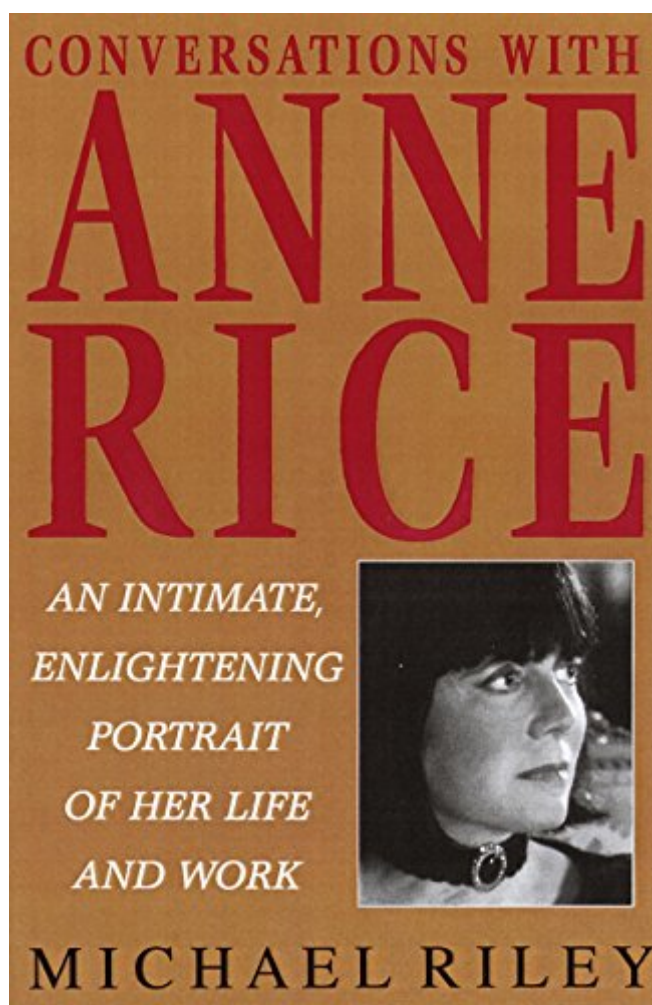


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# Conversations With Anne Rice: An Intimate, Enlightening Portrait Of Her Life And Work



## Synopsis

In the novel that introduced Anne Rice to the world, *Interview with the Vampire*, a reporter seeks out the facts behind an extraordinary life. In the years since, Anne Rice has created a remarkable and acclaimed body of work--encompassing her celebrated *Vampire Chronicles*, *The Lives of the Mayfair Witches* novels, two haunting historical epics, and her controversial, equally sought-after excursions into erotica. One of the world's best known and biggest bestselling authors of contemporary fiction, Rice has herself been the subject of countless interviews, profiles, and a full-length biography. Yet, who Anne Rice is, and the beliefs, fascinations, desires, fears, and passions that inspire her work, remain endlessly fascinating topics. In this first-of-its-kind book-length interview with Anne Rice, film scholar and author Michael Riley seeks out--and finds--the truth behind the extraordinary life and work of a unique, tantalizing writer. In *Conversations with Anne Rice*, the creator of Lestat, Louis, and Lasher talks in depth--and in her own words--about everything: from her early struggles toward publication to the tremendous literary reputation she has achieved. From the success and adulation of the vampire novels to the lesser-known books that are her personal favorites. From the influence of classical and popular literature to that of Catholicism and eroticism. From the role of movies in her literary vision to her definitive critique of the film version of *Interview with the Vampire*, and far beyond. Here, then, is Anne Rice--her heart, her psyche, her soul--in candid and captivating dialogue with her audience. From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating book if you are an Anne Rice fan, which I am. It gives you a window into her mind on why she wrote some of her books and took the path she did. For example leaving her Vampires, and writing her books about Christ. Which is quite a leap. It also touches on some of her earlier books under a nom de plum which are virtually pornographic. An interesting book for any fan.

How could I have missed this when it first came out? A friend of mine got a copy as a gift and I snagged it before he could even open it. This is Q & A conversation between Anne Rice and Michael Riley. It seems clear they know each other well and he is aware of her work and history. It is wonderful to be as a "fly on the wall" and learn what Anne thinks about the creative process, getting along with women, being a woman, the creative "buzz". determining "what the author meant when reading and discussing a book, Anne's body of work as literature..... and so much more. As I was reading I fell into my old college mode of taking notes, jotting down page numbers and designating things to remember. I couldn't underline because.. ah. it isn't MY copy. I'll have to rectify that. Should you buy this book? Absolutely. ....unless you are not a fan of Anne...in which case why are you even reading this? I will share one thing I think is significant .. there are so many .....Anne is talking about struggling with "a dark period" ..... "because I wanted very much to write that book" ..... "I was struggling with all the questions that any writer faces" Then she says, "At one point I remember thinking, go home and just write, just produce, because if you don't do that, every thing is lost." I really needed to hear that. It motivates me I am getting my stuff organized.. .. I have ideas that have been sitting, percolating, waiting for the right time... I think now, I need to just get going. Oh, there is more about the process she uses and her life experiences and how she mines them for realness of emotion in her characters but I will let you discover that for yourself.

She broke the mold of bestselling authors with her tormented vampires and complex witch families, often set against the mossy, misty backdrops of her native New Orleans. Anne Rice is one of the few authors whose lives and opinions are as interesting as what they write, and Michael Riley offers

more insight than virtually any other interviewer has done. Michael Riley was a friend of Stan Rice's, and met Anne Rice at her wedding to Stan; he remained a pal after Anne shot to fame. Yet "I had rarely if ever seen an interview or profile that I thought did justice to her." So the two sat down and discussed many things about Rice: Her youth and her Catholic upbringing, about good and evil, New Orleans, California, her mold-breaking fiction, the immensely popular vampire Lestat, the handling of sex in her books, intellectual pretensions and elitism, the movie adaptation of "Interview With The Vampire," and what in her life inspired aspects of her books. A less respectful reviewer probably would have descended leering or sneering, given that Rice's works include erotica, S&M fiction, and a Lolita-type novel. But Riley is professional, affectionate yet not gushing, and his questions have brains behind them. (Not the usual "what's your favorite food? Do you have any pets?") His respect for Rice is clear, and it makes the book especially interesting that he has genuine interest in what she says. But of course, the book hinges on Rice and what she has to say to Riley -- whether or not you agree with what she's saying, her warmth and humor are in clear evidence, and she's clearly thought through what she says. It may not be necessary to know the author to enjoy his/her works, but it definitely can't hurt. Fans of Anne Rice will find this a must-read, and even casual readers of her books should give it a shot.

This just isn't a biography of Ann Rice, it's as if she's telling you herself all the answers to questions we've all wanted to ask. This is her thoughts on her family, fans, characters, and herself. She shares her opinions freely and openly. I truly developed another view of this remarkable woman after reading this. Michael Riley had a good idea when he decided just to write this in interview form. That's exactly what everyone's been waiting for: 'Interview with Ann Rice'

I just finished reading this book in one sitting. It seems as if you're in the same room as Anne & Michael Riley. He knows exactly what questions her fans want answered. It's refreshing to read Anne's own responses in their entirety without having a reporter interpreting her "meaning". I give this a "9" because the only thing that would have made it better would be if Anne had offered pictures of herself & environment.

Why this book is so good??? Because Anne is allowed to talk. Everytime we see an interview with Rice, people don't let her talk. Michael is a close friend of Anne and they do this kind of talking all the time... If you are looking for motivations and in-depth talk of Anne Rice's books, this book is for you. After all, who better than Anne Rice and her friend to talk about her books??

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