

Menu

- Change in syllabus
- Sample exam questions (review)
- “Drink My Blood” (wrap-up)
- Anne Rice, *Interview with the Vampire*
- Neil Jordan, *Interview*, the film (clip)

Anne Rice (1941-)



- Born in New Orleans. Lives there now.
- 1973: Writes *Interview*, her first book, in 5 weeks (publ. 1976)
- The other books of the *Vampire Chronicles*:
 - *The Vampire Lestat* (1985)
 - *The Queen of the Damned* (1988)
 - *The Tale of the Body Thief* (1992)
 - *Memnoch the Devil* (1995)
 - *The Vampire Armand* (1998)
 - *Merrick* (2000)



The French Connection

- France as an icon of refined European culture, sophistication, sensitivity, taste, etc.
- The French Revolution (1789; two years before the beginning of Rice's narrative)
 - Demolishes a society ruled by self-proclaimed representatives of God and establishes one relying on human reason and sensibility
 - Inaugurates the Modern Age in Western culture (cf. Armand's claim that Louis is a perfect representative of this age)

The “Cursed” Questions of the Modern Age

Q: What is the meaning of good and evil in a world without God?

A1: Man will understand that his well-being depends on his morality.

A2: If God is dead, nothing prevents man from taking His place, i.e. becoming superhuman, beyond good and evil (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Louis

- “Original sin”—failure to recognize the divine presence (his brother)—leads to a fall from grace
- Retains attachment to human existence instead of the prescribed de-tachment. For him vampirism is not a way of overcoming humanity, but of penetrating & appreciating it
- Split b/w internal (human) and external (vampiric) existence
- His search for origins is a search for meaning and identity (163)

Claudia

- Irresolvable contradiction between internal being and its external manifestations:

Angel/Demon

Child/Woman

Daughter/Lover



Lestat

Mercantile cynic



Creator keeping the secret of
his creation



Weak being threatened by
solitude



Vampire in despair

Armand and the Others

- Inversion of roles: the “flawed” Louis cast as a savior of the “perfect” Armand (286)
- The ironic fate of vampires revealed: their immortal lives must be “synchronized” w/ the “mortal,” historical time (283)
- After Paris, Louis moves away from humanity and closer to “true” vampirism (321, 337)
- The interview—an extended act of verbal seduction bringing to life Louis’s second child (?)