



The Passion of Cleopatra

Anne Rice , Christopher Rice

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From the iconic and bestselling author of *The Mummy* and *The Vampire Chronicles*, a mesmerizing, glamorous new tale of ancient feuds and modern passions.

Ramses the Great, former pharaoh of Egypt, is reawakened by the elixir of life in Edwardian England. Now immortal with his bride-to-be, he is swept up in a fierce and deadly battle of wills and psyches against the once-great Queen Cleopatra. Ramses has reawakened Cleopatra with the same perilous elixir whose unworldly force brings the dead back to life. But as these ancient rulers defy one another in their quest to understand the powers of the strange elixir, they are haunted by a mysterious presence even older and more powerful than they, a figure drawn forth from the mists of history who possesses spectacular magical potions and tonics eight millennia old. This is a figure who ruled over an ancient kingdom stretching from the once-fertile earth of the Sahara to the far corners of the world, a queen with a supreme knowledge of the deepest origins of the elixir of life. She may be the only one who can make known to Ramses and Cleopatra the key to their immortality--and the secrets of the miraculous, unknowable, endless expanse of the universe.

The Passion of Cleopatra Details

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From Reader Review The Passion of Cleopatra for online ebook

Kindle Alexander says

If I could name a moment in time that I began reading paranormal, it would be The Mummy by Anne Rice. My husband insisted I read the book. I only did for him – I think I said it was a Christmas present to him, that's how much I didn't think I'd like the genre. It turns out, I loved that book so much, giving him a win. For 25 years, I tried the best I could to follow Anne, waiting for any word on a continuation of the story. When social media became a thing, I waited for her to join - she was the first author I followed for the sole purpose of making sure to hear about any possible sequel. I never gave up hope, I loved The Mummy that much.

An important side-note, my husband and I argued over one section in The Mummy. It's been an ongoing debate for 25 years. I'm not going to spoil either one of the books by giving any of the details away other than the answer to our argument was cleared-up and I win. Yay!

Ramses is outstanding. A great continuation to a great original. Even more so, it's like Christmas early, the story really feels like it could continue – I hope 25 years doesn't pass for the next possible installment. ?

I had read somewhere that the writing between the stories feels different. I haven't read much Christopher Rice, I thought he might be the influence (not bad, just different), but I found this story to be very much in that same Anne Rice voice that I've grown to love. Nothing felt different in POV shifts, in storytelling, in plot development/twists or in dialogue. They captured everything perfectly to me and more than that, I can say Ramses may have a depth that sometimes comes when writing partners really click with one another. Also, the story flows in one voice, there's no identifiable shift, (you can't tell two people wrote Ramses) it's very well done.

I encourage anyone who loves Anne Rice to give this book a try. I can't imagine you'd be disappointed except when you read the last page and know that the book is over. If I could eat these stories, I would, just so they would be closer to my heart. I love Ramses. He's my new Book Boyfriend. I love Cleopatra – she's really good at being the right amount of - yeah, I don't want to spoil the story. Just read. You'll see.

Thank you for writing this book.

Emily says

I received an ARC of this book from a Goodreads Giveaway.

I chose to not reread the first book before starting this one. I read and adored the first one a decade ago during my high school Anne Rice phase. This book does a pretty good job of reminding the reader of pertinent plot points and I only felt the need to take a quick look at the first one to refresh my memory.

It took a few chapters for the story to gain steam, but once it did I devoured the book in two sittings. By the time I reached the second half of the book I couldn't bring myself to put it down ~~Yet another night of sleep given entirely to a good book~~. All of the characters were interesting to read about and I enjoyed bouncing back and forth between their perspectives. I found myself eagerly awaiting the moment where they would all

come together.

While the story left me feeling satisfied, I was left wanting to know more about the characters. (view spoiler)

Overall, I loved this long-awaited collaborative sequel as much as I loved the first one and I encourage fans of Anne Rice's other works to pick this lesser-known series up.

Dana Aprigliano (TheVaguelyArticulateReader) says

I would like to thank Penguin First to Read for providing me this book in exchange for an honest review. Speaking of which, this review will be FULL OF SPOILERS for THE MUMMY, OR RAMSES THE DAMNED!

Even now, as I've finished reading Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra, I'm still so shocked I was given an ARC to read and review. As you might be able to tell from that swoony-sounding first sentence alone, I'm a fan of both Anne and Christopher Rice. I began with the Vampire Chronicles three years ago, then proceeded to read pretty much every single book Anne Rice has published under that name (note: I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THAT HAPPENED, IT ALL WENT SO FAST), as well as two of Christopher Rice's books as a result of recommendations. But REGARDLESS, I will review this ARC as I would any other ARC.

I read The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned, the prequel to this book, for the first time about a month ago, so I still had it fresh in my mind upon starting this book. However, I realize that there's a ton of people who have been waiting for this sequel for nearly thirty years. For those who fall into that category, there was some pretty comprehensive introductory material at the beginning of the novel to bring you up to speed on all the most essential information from book one. Nonetheless, I do not recommend that you pick up this book unless you've read The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned first; there is a good chance you will get lost.

This book begins about two months after The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned ended. Those two months give the world enough time to realize that Julie Stratford's eyes seem to have suddenly turned bright blue while she was in Cairo with "Reginald Ramsey", but not enough time for the world to realize that she's not aging naturally. Julie and Ramses are engaged, and Julie's ex-almost-fiancée Alex is still mourning the accidental death of the mysterious woman he met and fell in love with in Cairo. Everyone's on their way back to England so that Alex could throw an engagement party for Ramses and Julie, but Cleopatra, who Ramses rose from the dead in a momentary lapse of reason, is still out there and still murderous. These plot threads are tied with some others that result from the introduction of a group of new characters in this novel, and these plot threads were all pretty well-tied-up in multiple resolutions during an explosive ending sequence that I WILL NOT SPOIL!

Okay, I'm going to break from that rule I said I'd follow earlier, that I'd review this ARC as I would any ARC. This book struck me as very similar to Anne Rice's other new book Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis. That is not necessarily a good or bad thing, just... a thing. In this novel, like in Realms of Atlantis, a group of strange, new characters from a mythological, pre-history utopia are introduced to the present-day. They shake up the world that the main characters have known for thousands of years by revealing answers to questions that the main characters have always been unable to answer about their identities. These primeval characters bring their primeval, ten-thousand-years-in-the-making problems into the present-day, and our

pre-established set of main characters have to help solve their problems. Oh, and there are some understandably dramatic identity crises happening accordingly. I like this format, both since it allows for a large cast of vibrant characters interacting and since it results in a lot being shown to the reader and not told.

But I did give this book four stars. I just wasn't able to give this book five stars, since I felt as though the plot of this book was a little flimsy. I won't give away any spoilers, but I feel as though if the main male villain in this story could have just done one thing differently, which really would not have been all that hard, one of the biggest conflicts in this book would not have needed to happen. Thus, most, if not all, of those new characters I talked about would not have been necessary. And I got this feeling very early on in the book, too! All this didn't necessarily invalidate my entire reading experience, but it did make the matters in this book seem a lot less pressing and urgent.

The high point of *The Mummy*, or *Ramses the Damned* was most definitely that dinner scene in the middle of the novel, during which Alex argued with Reginald Ramsey, who he had no idea was actually an Egyptian pharaoh, about Egyptian history for pages on end. In *Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra*, there is a sort-of-equivalent scene in which sparks fly, and I really appreciated that scene! I recommend this book to any other die-hard Anne Rice fans like me, as well as anyone who even remotely enjoyed the first book in this series. *Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra* is a fun ride with a lot of flair, and you won't regret it. Anne and Christopher Rice are a solid writing team, and I hope to read more from these two.

Review originally posted on THE VAGUELY ARTICULATE READER BLOG, at <https://thevaguelyarticulaterreader.wo...>

Juli says

Years ago I loved Anne Rice's book *The Mummy: Ramses the Damned*. The story of a famed Egyptian Pharaoh returning to life was chilling, yet totally engaging. It didn't hurt that the now immortal pharaoh was incredibly sexy too. When I saw that this new book was coming out...bringing back Ramses and adding in Cleopatra...I was on board immediately. Oh yeah. No question....just gimme the book and I'm reading it! :)

Even though I initially read *The Mummy* years ago when it first came out, I was easily able to jump into this new story. There was enough background and history given in the first sections of the book to remind me what happened in the first story. The basics: Ramses is preparing to marry his fiancée, but makes the poor decision to revive the mummy of Cleopatra first. Cleopatra struggles with the changes in the world and how she will fit into it....and, well.....things don't go well. I'm not going to say much more because.....no spoilers from me! Read the book!

If you haven't read *The Mummy*...you can choose to go back and read that initial book first...or just jump in with this new one. There is plenty of background and explanation given to explain what happened to Ramses in the first novel. It's a great book....I highly recommend it to all fans of the creepy cool stories Anne Rice writes. This new novel is a collaboration with her son, Christopher.

Not sure if there will be more to this story down the road....I just hope it doesn't take quite so long this time. I was completely stoked when I saw this book was coming out! When you read a book in 1989 and still remember how good it was in 2017.....that's a good book! Keep 'em coming, Anne & Christopher! Great story! And the cover art is fantastic!

I did not realize Christopher Rice was a bestselling author. I enjoyed this book and I'm going to check out some of his thrillers! For more info on his books, check out his website:

<http://www.christopherricebooks.com/>

Check out Anne's website as well: <http://www.annerice.com/>

I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book from Knopf Doubleday via NetGalley. All opinions are entirely my own.

Debra says

3.5 stars

Ramses the Great, former pharaoh of Egypt became an immortal after drinking the elixir of life. He is engaged and living in Edwardian England with his fiancée Julie. Julie has changed recently, and no one seems to know why her eyes are now bright blue. Ramses and his immortal fiancée are not the only immortals - Cleopatra was resurrected when Ramses gave her the elixir, but something is not quite right with her. She is having issues with her memory and a romance writer who has been having visions her entire life is suddenly experiencing what Cleopatra experiences. There are a couple more ancient characters in this book...one which was my favorite- the ancient Queen who has the garden, the elixir, potions and last but not least a pet cat.

This book was difficult to get into. The Author's took a lot of time to build their story and I found myself losing interest and turning to other books to read. This book did not pick up for me until over halfway through - then things started to get interesting. That is when the book earned its 3.5 stars from me. There is a lot going on in this book - present lovers, past lovers, queens, Pharaohs, back stabbing, attempts to find the elixir, those with the elixir, conflict death, revenge, etc.

Anne Rice and her son Christopher wrote this book together. I wish the beginning would have had more action or more "something" because the last part of the book delivered. There is a hump that one needs to get over in reading this book - the slow beginning.

Thank you to Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group - Anchor and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

See more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Angela says

Why????????????

I wanted a sequel to *The Mummy* for YEARS! I absolutely adored that entire book, and it *begged* for a

sequel.

But why **now**??? I just can't. :(

Douglas Meeks says

First: If you have not read book 1 The Mummy then you need to stop here and get it and make sure you are as enamored by this story as I was and still am (this is a sequel that took almost 7 years to be written)

I am not going to talk too much about the story itself, the synopsis and other reviewers are doing that, I want to talk about the whole story that is told in 2 books that took 7-8 years or more to write. I consider this combined story a bit of a masterpiece, there was nothing to scan because you were afraid you would miss something, the characters were riveting and the multiple plots converging was masterful and exceptional.

Both books shared a similar multiple plot style merging and culminating in some event, I loved it and most authors could not have pulled it off. I am not a big Anne Rice fan and sadly these 2 books and her masterpiece Interview with the Vampire are still the only books of hers I would tell anyone to spend their money on but these 3 are worth every penny.

Karen says

See my full review and much more on my blog **KissinBlueKaren**

THE PASSION OF CLEOPATRA picks up a few months after THE MUMMY. I have to admit I didn't re-read THE MUMMY before reading this book and I feel like maybe that was a mistake. Perhaps a re-read of both books would give me a better perspective. Honestly, I don't think it matters because the authors have done a great job of explaining, without great detail, how we got to this point in the story. I would recommend reading the first book at some point before picking this book up though.

Ramses is with his now immortal lover, Julie. They are to be married and their happiness in love is where the story starts. They have a little turmoil dealing with Julie's ex-fiancé, but he actually turns out to be their one of their biggest supporters and even throws an engagement party for them. It actually ends up being a good thing for everyone. The only real problem is that Ramses has made this terrible mistake with trying to revive Cleopatra in her mummified state. Now they all have a reason to fear her wrath. It turns out she is not the only thing Ramses and Julie really need to fear.

This story introduces us to a happier Ramses. He is still 'Ramses the Damned', but now he is not alone. Also, he is going by the name Reginald Ramsey and finding a good place in society. I loved to see Ramses finally content and actually living in the world and not just witnessing time passing. Well, almost content. Ramses is haunted by what he did to Cleopatra even though he does not love her anymore. Cleopatra doesn't really show up until later in the story, but she is constantly on their minds. Then along with Cleopatra we are introduced to something much older than Ramses and someone not immortal who plays a vital role in this story.

Cleopatra struggles with her new role in this time and the gaps in her memory. Is life worth living if we can't

remember our past? That is the question Cleopatra brings to this story. She wants everything back, but she can't even remember what she is missing.

I don't want to spoil anything, so I will just leave it at that.

Anne Rice has teamed up with her son, Christopher Rice to finally complete this story. I can't even say that it is truly complete because, like all Anne Rice books, there could be more. I didn't even know that Christopher Rice was a writer. If his books are all like this, you can bet I will be reading whatever he pens. This book was so in the classic Anne Rice style that I love.

The time period that this story takes place is not modern, so it read like historical fiction. The story ends as the great WW is starting and although I felt like I was experiencing it for myself, I worried about what would happen to all these lovely characters during war time. This isn't something I ever remember reading about in an Anne Rice book so it really took me by surprise.

I would highly recommend this to fans of THE MUMMY. I would also recommend this series to people whom might enjoy reading about immortals that do not have to take life to live forever. I hope these two pen more books about Ramses because there were a few loose ends and so much more that I wish we would have explored. I would love to read more of Ramses adventures.

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

Woah! I can't believe I got approved for this! I've been enjoying her "reboot" of the vampire chronicles pretty well, so looking forward to a part two from another "old" book of hers!

Thank you Netgalley and publisher for providing a digital copy to read and review!

Cathy (cathepsut) says

I did not like the beginning at all, the writing had a very old-fashioned, stilted feel at first and I thought I had made a huge mistake to pick up Rice again after such a long time. But once Ramses popped up, the story moved more smoothly for me.

The alternating POVs of the various main characters made it lively and added a nice tension to the story. The brief recaps of the previous book's plot were nicely done and fitted in well.

It took me a bit to like the story, but especially the unfolding tale of Sibyl made me want to continue. Some nice little twists in an overall predictable plot. Enough suspense and mystery to make me fear for some of the characters briefly.

Unfortunately, once the main plot had been resolved, the last third of the book became a rambling discourse of the meaning of life, souls, heaven and hell that I could have done without. I was also not entirely satisfied with the way the various storylines were resolved. The happy-for-now ending of the main couple was to be expected, but Sibyl's story petered out pretty listlessly. Lots of potential for at least three more books. That I am unlikely to pick up.

I received this free e-copy from the publisher/author via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review, thank you!

Beth says

Slow start, with a complicated plot and many so characters to follow. It was intriguing enough to keep me invested in reading but I was thinking it just an okay read... And then right around 60% the fruition of the build-up came together and BOOM, I was completely and utterly hooked.

I received this ARC copy of *Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra* from Anchor. This is my honest and voluntary review. *Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra* is set for publication November 21, 2017.

My Rating: 4 stars

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Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Ramses-Damned-...>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/rams...>

Reviewed for: <http://tomtender.blogspot.com>

Amanda says

When I was about fourteen or so, I discovered Anne Rice. While most Riceophiles started their journeys with *Interview with the Vampire*, I happened upon the only Rice book in the school library, which just so happened to be *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned*. I absolute loved it, and couldn't wait for the next installment.

Which never, ever arrived.

This was the bane of my young life, then the prickly annoyance of my twenties, and eventually settled into a mild disgruntlement and occasional fits of "but *why*, Anne! You wrote seventy *bajillion* vampires novels about *every damn vampire in existence*, why is there no *Mummy* sequel!?!?". Only a few weeks ago, I was complaining about this very thing to someone at work, and I worked myself up into a tizzy all over again. So you can imagine my pleasant surprise (and my subsequent muttering about "synchronicity" and "brain worms" and "tin foil hats") when only a day or two later an *actual sequel* - written by Rice in partnership with her son, Christopher - became available for review and I got hold of a copy.

Obviously I had to review it immediately. *IMMEDIATELY*.

Except, it had been so long since I'd read the first book that I couldn't remember much about it. So I tracked down a copy and did a swift reread. For scientific accuracy. My findings can be summarized thusly:

There are so many more interesting and well-written Anne Rice books.

This is a bodice-ripper. Hmmm.

The female protagonist is drip who cries all the time.

Oh well, it's fun anyway.

I was interested to see where the Rices would go with the story, considering both are known for lushly gothic writing (and the first book is rather more "British" and reserved in tone). I'm happy to report that this is high-quality Rice. Julie, while still a little underwritten, is at least a little more interesting and independent (and isn't weeping all the time). Less focus is spent on Ramses / Ramsey in Cavour of the much more tantalizing (if a bit mad) Cleopatra, and the mysterious immortal queen, Bektaten.

The action - set on the cusp of what would become known as "The Great War"- sweeps from Cairo to London to Monte Carlo and the United States, and it really is a rather ripping yarn. It's definitely an Anne Rice story (with the exquisite descriptions of outfits and meals and the current emotional state of everyone in the room), but it has the feel of an old-school matinee movie from the 1930s or so. Friends, strangers, lovers and enemies alike find themselves drawn together by forces beyond their control, leading to an inevitable confrontation at the engagement party for Ramsey and his beloved Julie. It's a mark of how engaging the writing is that I was truly invested in the outcome - The Passion of Cleopatra is pretty "unputdownable".

So, all in all a strong return for Ramses, and a potentially addict new series. Hold thumbs that book 3 arrives before my 60th birthday.

Provided by Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

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Gary says

what to say about this book all I can really say is anne rice has done it again penned a story that the reader gets lost in. a world full of wonder and magic fantastic 5 stars all round

Doria says

Oof, yet another episode of Lifetimes of the Rich and Immortal. The writing is typical Anne Rice, without much trace of her son, Christopher, so far as I can tell. But, as with so many of her recent novels, she is falling back on increasingly hackneyed descriptions of impossibly gorgeous immortals having improbably glorious sex in lavishly decorated homes. Elements of plot and landscape are provided in cursory fashion, as a kind of obligatory window-dressing. Character development is virtually non-existent, and the forgettable cast of death-resistant day-trippers go through a predictable and unoriginal series of motions. They travel in luxury, wear silk, strike regal poses, consume oceans of champagne and fail to convince me that they aren't

as bored with their glossy monotonous existence as I am.

Kimberly says

I have read Anne Rice's books, both series, for years. Let me just say that this book is disappointing on many levels. The writing style, and writing itself is vastly different to Mrs. Rice's. It is rushed in tone. Gone are her beautiful, languid, descriptive sentences and conjured scenes. Replaced now with short vapid sentences, far too many characters, ridiculous dialogue scenes. Unfortunately, it just feels and reads differently to any other Anne Rice book.
