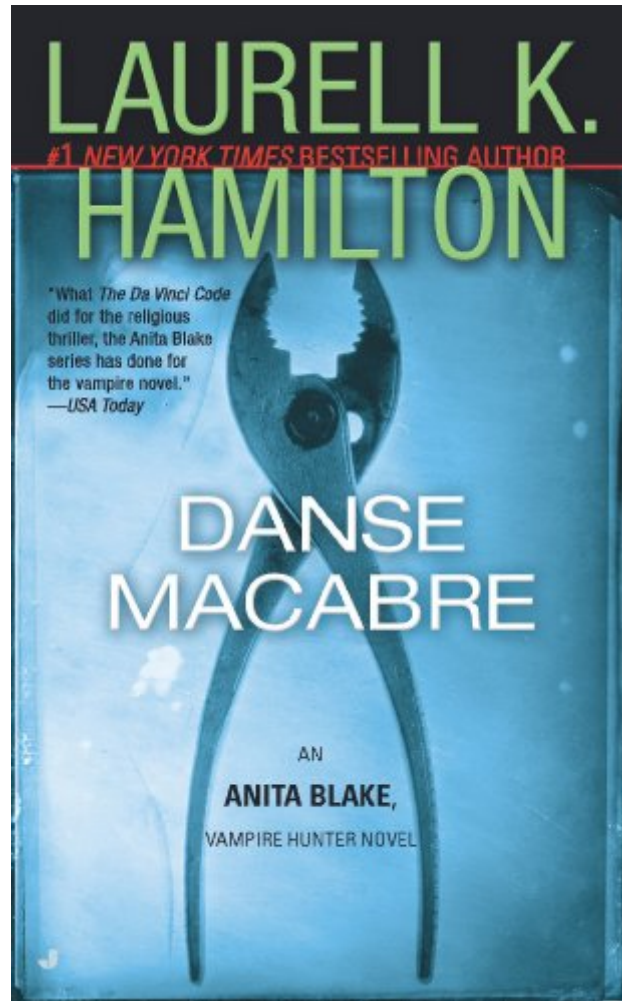


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Danse Macabre: An Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter Novel



Synopsis

In the thralls of supernatural passion, Anita Blake faces a most human dilemma.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I remember when this series was great. Not just good, not just very good, but simply great. Sure the first two books were a little rough in character and writing style. However, the characters were interesting, the setup was clever, and the A-line police work plots made an excellent framework for the B-line character development. By book three, the series had hit its stride and was simply a great fantasy series. Then, it stumbled. The sex became a larger part of the books and the characters became less and less interesting. I don't mind the sex but, as a previous reviewer has said, it's poorly done sex. There's no erotica, no sensuality, just a detailed step by step list in prose form of the steps Anita takes to screw one of her many lovers. It's a sexual flowchart and bores me to tears. Beyond that, the non-sex parts are beginning to feel tacked on to the rest of the story. The ballet here was occasionally mentioned but didn't happen until the end and frankly is a pretty thin A-line plot. Where are the detective stories that made the series interesting? I used to like the personal relationships but that time has passed. Anita is so screwed up right now she's just boring

and one gets the impression that if Ms. Hamilton could find a way to get rid of Richard without screwing up the trinity, she would. I would enthusiastically recommend that she do so and let Richard eat a bullet and stop bothering the reader (and Anita) with his constant whining. What really has ruined the series for me is Anita, which is quite unfortunate as she is the main character!

Having read and been disappointed with Laurell K. Hamilton's latest work, I swore I'd never buy any more of her books. Well, I checked this one out of the library, so I spent none of my money, but even so I feel as though I've been robbed from time I could have spent reading something better. *Danse Macabre* is a dismal excuse for a novel. You get the impression that the author has either given up on the series or is too lazy to conjure up a decent and cohesive plot. And why should she make the effort when people continue to buy her books? I often devote the first paragraph of my reviews to summarizing the plot, so here goes. Anita Blake, the so-called vampire executioner and animator, might be pregnant and has no idea who the father could be. There's also something about a dance ball involving some powerful vampire Masters of the City. Oh, and more fighting between Anita and Richard. There is a new powerful vampire in town and we meet some mermaids. And there's sex. Lots of (extremely boring) sex. The end. All of that stuff is thrown into this book without any real sense of a story or pretty much a point to anything. There is no plot in this book. There is, however, variations of the same ol' same ol' sex scenes that make trashy, low-budget porn movies seem like works of art in comparison. Sometimes I think the author opens up a file containing a previously written sex scene and all she does is change the setting and its characters and voila! A book has been written!

Let me just start by saying, the first few books of this series were so good that Laurell K Hamilton became one of my favorite and most recommended authors. I quickly read through the entire Anita Blake series (and even began the Meredith Gentry series) but with each book I have grown more and more disappointed. With each of the last couple books, I vowed NOT to read the next one. Well, this is truly the end boys and girls. *Danse Macabre* was so bad that I had to skim through the last 1/4 of the thing because I couldn't bare to read it all. I was closer than I've ever been to just tossing it, because even bad TV would be less excruciating. There is no plot. No real sense of beginning, middle, or end. The entire book is a string of tedious, ususally inexplicable, and always overwrought discussions between the characters as they over-analyze their relationships with one another. (And as a drama queen myself, I'm not kidding when I say it's over the top). Every scene goes something like this: Anita is confused/angry/out of control while everyone around her seems to secretly know

why she is confused or what's going on but they don't want to tell her. Then Anita goes on and on through her mental hamster wheel and teeth-pulling to get everyone to explain things to her, and when they finally do, it is something so simple and unimportant that you can't believe you had to read through all of that for nothing. Since there is no plot, there is no real ending. Apparently, once Ms. Hamilton reached a certain number of pages she got tired and ended with a couple pages of Anita's narration as if she were wrapping up an entry in her diary... you know the kind: bland, totally unsatisfying and totally not resolving a darn thing. Ms.

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