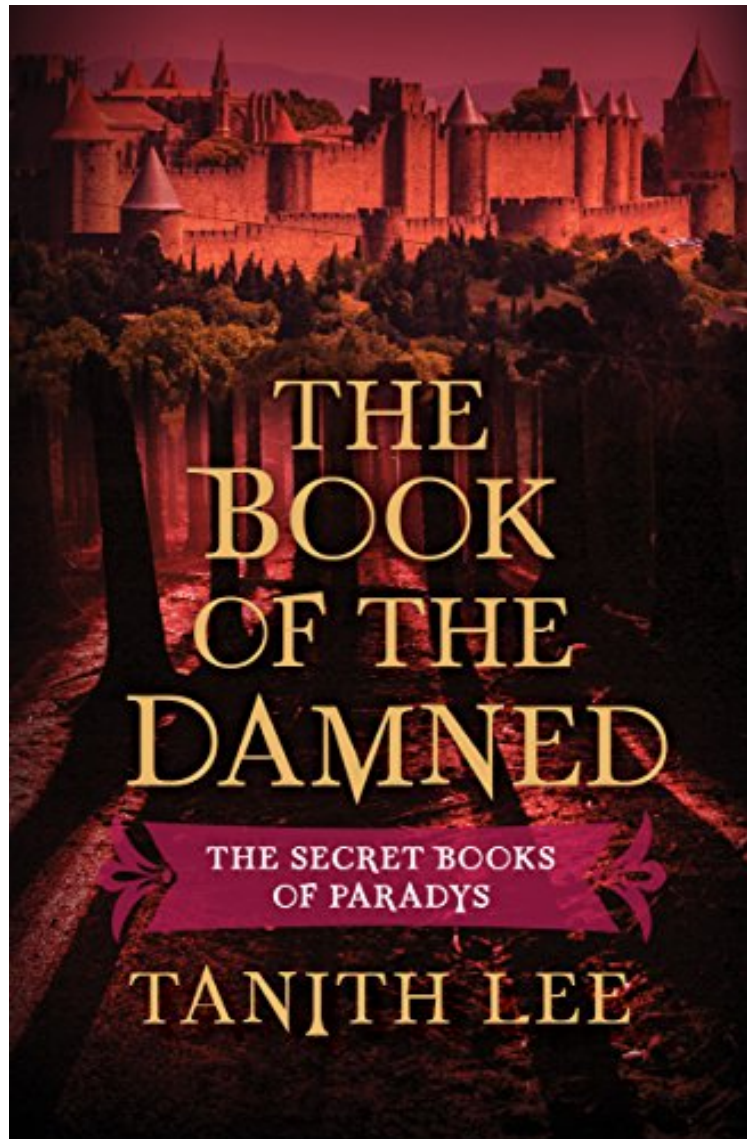


(Pdf free) The Book of the Damned (The Secret Books of Paradys 1) (English Edition)

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Von Tanith Lee

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Von Tanith Lee : The Book of the Damned (The Secret Books of Paradys 1) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of the Damned (The Secret Books of Paradys 1) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Adjectives: eerie, decadent, intriguing, puzzling

Von Ein Kunde

The Book of the Damned was my first encounter with the writing of Tanith Lee (I've since read four other novels by her, including the other three Secret Books of Paradys, which are all very good), and a strange first encounter it was. The first story is one of vampires, but it is not quite a vampire story, or certainly not a typical one. It flows with a dreamlike quality and is the best of the three novellas included in the Book of the Damned. The second is that of a young lady traumatized by the unthinkable horror which ends with the breakdown of her relations with all members of her family. This young lady's sanity is henceforth questionable and she takes up all manner of un-sane practices, including but not limited to murder. The third story, which has a vague and cheesy connection to the first, focuses on the history of an item essential to the stories of life and death surrounding two characters. This last is not an action-based story, but it is compelling and not terribly difficult reading--quite satisfactory in the end. As a student, I'm in the habit of analyzing literature, looking for little tricks, references to other literature, especially religious in nature, etc. It was very difficult for me to do this to my satisfaction with most of Tanith Lee's work. Either she is the oracle for some higher power which writes very well about strange but fascinating things, and sometimes her writings turn out oddly, or she is way too smart for me. The first novella is at times dreamlike and strange connections are sometimes made. Important plot points are hidden and later revealed. The second novella is somewhat confused by a frequent return to a nunnery as the setting, and certain twisted references to Christianity and Satanism, including mentions of the dark angels Azazel (familiar to readers of Milton or the Book of Exodus) and Esrafel (whom I've never heard of before or since). The religious point of the story, or the significance of religion within the story are both rather lost on me. The third novella is more straightforward but hardly immune to Lee's stylistic tricks and habits. The only real common ground for the stories is gender-bending. One may not be who s/he at first seems in each of the stories, and Lee's treatment of gender is both puzzling and fascinating, compelling at times and merely bizarre at others. It is best done in the first and third stories, and is not completely gratuitous, adding atmosphere as well as advancing the plot. If this sounds intriguing, it probably will be, and if you've a taste for the decadent, especially in the middle ground between horror and philosophy, you probably out to read this book. I highly recommend it.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bizarre, compelling, and original!

Von Ein Kunde

First in the Paradys Tetralogy, "The Book of the Damned" is a three-part exploration into the dark, decadent, and thoroughly bizarre (but completely enjoyable) world of Paradys, something of an alternate-world Paris steeped in sorcery and darkness since its earliest days.

The first story, "Stained With Crimson," is a less-than-conventional vampire tale. Andre St. Jean, a poet living in Paradys shortly after the Revolution, becomes the owner of a ruby ring in the shape of a scarab and is shortly thereafter introduced to the owner of the ring, the beautiful Antonina Scarabin. His obsession with Antonina leads to her death and his...and their dual gender-bending resurrection as Anthony and Anna. Pursued becomes pursuer, predator becomes prey, and it all grows surreal and cyclical. While not my personal favorite of the three, the story is excellent. The language, rich with color, is descriptive and disturbing; the reader views Andre/Anna's story through the poet's dream-darkened eyes. "Stained With Crimson" is expertly told, dark and ironic, and maintains its dreamlike quality up to and past the last line of the story.

The second novella, "Malice in Saffron" is my personal favorite of the three and, to tell the truth, one of my all-time favorite short stories. Taking place in medieval times, it follows a young woman named Jehanine from her country farm, where she is raped by her brutal step-father, to the City Paradys, where her disbelieving brother Pierre--gifted with a topaz cross by the same doting father that so abused Pierre's sister--rejects her violently. She is then led by a mysterious dwarf into a bizarre double life: by day she lives as Jhane in the Nunnery of the Angel, a quiet female penitent; by night she is Jehan, a beautiful and cruel young man who leads a gang of thieves and cutthroats to greater and greater atrocities. When the Black Death comes to Paradys, Jehanine is forced to confront the conjunction of her two lives...add a holy vision, an enigmatic, and a bizarre redemption, and you have some idea of the complexity of Jehanine's story. Stark, painful, and ultimately beautiful, "Malice in Saffron" is a fascinating tale that deserves at least two re-readings: once for the story and once to understand it, or at try and unravel the stunning weave Tanith Lee has set before you.

The last story, "Empires of Azure," is a ghost story set in 1930's Paradis, but hearkening back to a time when the city was known as Par Dis, a community of silver mines at the fringe of the Roman Empire. Told through the eyes of a journalist, a young woman who uses the male pseudonym St. Jean--a tribute to Andre St. Jean of the first story--"Empires of Azure" follows Louis de Jenier, a cross-dresser who moves into a house said to be haunted by the girl who was murdered there years ago. In time, the house with its blue-stained windows yields up two things to Louis: a spider-shaped earring made of sapphires, and visions of Timonie, the murdered young woman. Timonie herself possessed the earring, believing it to be a link to Tiy-Amonet, an Alexandrian sorceress and the mistress to the Roman commander of Par Dis...but neither Tiy-Amonet nor Louis de Jenier are what they appear, as Mademoiselle St. Jean soon discovers. Most of the story seems distanced from the reader, as all but the very beginning and ending are Louis' actions as told by the journalist St. Jean, but the language is no less flawless and the story, despite its odd structure, holds together masterfully.

Elements from all three stories interweave among the others--the name St. Jean, the church known as Our Lady of Ashes--but the three stories are fully distinct from each other. Common elements such as gender reversals and jewelry form another set of links, as well as the triad of primary colors that provide the novellas' names. "The Book of the Damned" is a look at Paradys at three different times in its history, at the people who live in

that dark and fascinating city--and a story well worth the reading. If you have a taste for darkness and flawlessly crafted prose, read "The Book of the Damned" and its three sequels. They may disturb, but they will not disappoint.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Incredibly Vivid 3-in-1 Novella Collection Von Ein Kunde This books is comprised of three novellas that are linked only by setting, a city called Paradys that switches era and culture from story to story. The 1st novella "Stained with Crimson" was disjointed and vague with un compelling characterizations. Just a hazy vampire tale. The 2nd novella "Malice in Saffron" was both depraved and beautiful in a way that only Tanith Lee seems to be able to pull off. It haunted me for days afterward, this brutal tale of revenge redemption, highlighting the state of affairs for young girls in pre-renaissance times. The characters were unforgettable, making this my favorite of the 20 or so novels I've read by her. The 3rd novella "Empires of Azure" was a fun ghost story, kind of in a classic mid-century scifi style, with the glamour and mystery of decadent 1920s Paris culture. Overall, definitely worth reading. Tanith Lee's writing is like candy.

Kurzbeschreibung The award-winning author of The Birthgrave invites you to Paradys, an alternate Paris, with three tales of dark magic, eroticism, and gothic fantasy. Three novellas from Tanith Lee World Fantasy Award winner, Nebula finalist, and the first woman to win the British Fantasy Award for best novel cast shadows on the history of the City of Light. Stained with Crimson: In the nineteenth century, poet Andre St Jean comes into possession of a ruby scarab ring, only to discover it belongs to the pale-skinned, ebony-eyed Antonina von Aaron, the most beautiful woman in Paradys. Preying upon Andre, she taps into his deepest, darkest desires, drawing him into her vampiric world of gender shapeshifting and bloody nightmares ... Malice in Saffron: In the Middle Ages, young Jehanine has had her innocence torn from her by her brutal stepfather. Fleeing to Paradys, she seeks sympathy from her stepbrother, Pierre, who accuses her of lying and casts her out into the inhospitable streets. Finding refuge in a nunnery, Jehanine tries to live in Gods grace. But when dusk falls, she transforms into her male alter ego, Jehan. Prowling the alleyways with a gang of Devil-worshippers, he stalks the citys denizens, unknowingly sowing the seeds for the fall of Paradys ... Empire of Azure: In the early twentieth century, writer Anna Sanjeanne receives a cryptic note from a mysterious man: In a week or less, I shall be dead. On the predicted date, Anna follows the strangers trail. A chain of clues a shattered window, a hanging corpse, a leather-bound diary, and a portrait of an unknown woman soon lead the young journalist toward a sinister and ancient force ... Told with lush fantastical prose and an acute aesthetic sense, The Book of the Damned ventures into a morbid and disquieting parallel world, exploring the recesses of identity, gender, and sexual transgression that lie within.