



# Violin

*Anne Rice*

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## Violin Anne Rice

Anne Rice's Violin tells the story of two charismatic figures bound to each other by a passionate commitment to music as a means of rapture, seduction, and liberation.

At the novel's center: a uniquely fascinating woman, Triana, and the demonic fiddler Stefan, a tormented ghost who begins to prey upon her, using his magic violin to draw her into a state of madness. But Triana sets out to resist Stefan, and the struggle thrusts them both into a terrifying supernatural realm.

Violin flows abundant with the history, the drama, and the romantic intensity that have become synonymous with Anne Rice at her incomparable best.

Anne Rice is the author of eighteen books. She lives in New Orleans.

## Violin Details

Date : Published January 1st 2002 by Distribooks (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9788466302203

Author : Anne Rice

Format : Paperback 289 pages

Genre : Fiction, Horror, Fantasy, Paranormal

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# From Reader Review Violin for online ebook

## Sandi says

Just a short revue. A poorly done Mary Sue. Whatever happened to the author that wrote *Interview With the Vampire* and *A Cry to Heaven*?

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## J. Stone says

I could never put into words what this book means to me. A game changer indeed. VIOLIN rightfully deserves more than one visit, deserves my precious time again and again! Why have I only read it now is beyond me, but it has been a real treat.

Engrossing prose and an experimental narrative. Characters deeply connected to pain and desire. The exact kind of book I literally ENJOY reading probably because nobody understands it. But I do. Not a book for the basic reader. Not a book for people who enjoy "good reads" and that's probably why so many people hate it.

The book starts a little slow but then evolves white-hot as each page turns, and the pages TURNED for me as this book sucked me in. I found myself gazing, gawking, jaw-dropped, jealous, angry, amazed, drooling...and more. Stefan and Triana make quite the pair. And each character introduced plays an important and effective role even if just for a little bit in the book.

The ending is absolutely heartbreaking and uplifting at the same time. It brought tears to my eyes. This is Anne Rice's best book. She can never write something like this again, and that's how I like it.

Read this book. Read it again. Then again.

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## Cienna Lyon says

I've waited a long time to give this book a proper review. To start with, I wish that there was some rating less than one star. This book was absolutely abhorred. I read many of the reviews by other readers to try and gather my thoughts on this. The characters were utterly undeveloped and shallow. This fat middle aged woman is disgustingly rich and keeps getting richer the entire book and yet thinks nothing of it. I'm fairly certain that Anne Rice culturally appropriates and misrepresents several people in this novel, and it seems like something taken out of her fantasies/diary, and is way too personal and clearly about herself or what she "hopes" would be her life. The obsession with death is much too overdone in this depressive manic eulogy to a ghost violinist that only gets 10 pages or less of background/story development. Anne Rice is commonly known for these themes but this has just gotten out of hand. Very disappointed and I honestly wish I hadn't wasted my time on this. Zero plot, zero climax, zero ending. One of the worst books I've ever read.

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## Casey says

As someone who reads as much as I do people are often surprised at how I haven't read many 'Classics' nor big popular authors-This is an example of that. Anne Rice is well known, If you have read her stuff or not you know her name or have had a conversation about her at some point. I have a great friend who is an Anne Rice lover to the core and she kept telling me 'You have got to read some of her stuff', 'I really think you would like Anne Rice, Pick up one of her books' and so on. My 'To Read' list is very lengthy and all the Anne Rice novels just sort of blended in with the rest of the others until I decided to pick up a Rice novel while I was at the library. My local library isn't big by any means nor does it have all the books I would like it to but it does the trick, I found where Anne Rice's books were and began to sift through what I should get-The cover that caught my eye was that of her stand alone novel Violin.

Jumping in head first I began reading Violin, at first I was confused to say the least. Anne Rice has a style all her own and it was difficult to really see where she was going with everything. The words were beautiful, poetry in a sense, the description she uses definitely doesn't lack by any means. Violin was a mix of emotions and thoughts, Feelings of sadness, happiness and sometimes just feeling downright demented for the pictures this amazing Author was creating in the mind of her reader.

The character profiles created for each name dropped in this book are fantastic, There was no feelings of wonder when it comes to what each character was like personality wise nor was there any mystery in how the reader will feel for each one. Anne Rice truly has a way with words and an intricate mind to create such stories and characters.

Reading the First Ten chapters was definitely a treat, Something entirely new and astounding. As a reader you may get lost at some points with the 'back and fourth' memories Rice uses but it is easy to get back on track after a few paragraphs. The next Seven chapters began to lack a little, Seeming almost like a bunch of throw in stuff that did get tiresome at times. The novel picked back up in the last Four chapters ending the novel in a wonderful way.

This being the first Anne Rice novel I have ever read was a great experience and I will definitely be reading more from her.

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## **Taralen says**

A partial autobiography disguised as a "horror" novel, **Violin** is a daunting tale about a 54 year old widow named Triana Becker who constantly delves into her maddened depression over the death of her loved ones. She is driven into even deeper despair when the ghost of a handsome Russian violinist named Stefan Stefanovsky, a virtuoso at his art, comes to her with haunting music played on his precious Stradivarius. Although Anne Rice does a pretty decent job at making the narration musical in rhythm, the constant repetition of Triana's woes is both boring and irritating. Triana is undoubtedly one of the winiest protagonists I have ever encountered. She is one of the primary reasons why I cannot rate this book higher than a two. Stefan, although much more interesting than Triana, is still a rather dull character: moody, unpredictable, and without properly explained motivations.

One of the biggest problems this novel has is its unexplained plot points. We never know why exactly Stefan chose Triana, why he is the kind of ghost that he is, or what exactly is the problem with many of these various side characters, specifically Faye, Triana's youngest sister.

The ending is rushed, not explained properly, too jubilant for a "horror" story, and so superficial that you can't help but see just how shallow Triana's damn family is. To top it off Anne Rice has to mark her finish date of the novel at the end, like it is of some importance that she was the one who wrote it and when it was

finished.

**Violin** is barely a horror story and, in truth, barely much of a story at all. Most of the book is just constant rambling and inner conflict that neither interests nor makes us like Triana any more than from the start. It is clear Anne Rice put a little too much of herself in this book, a little too much for even a Rice fan like myself can bear.

Shy away from this book if you have no patience, otherwise read it anyway to enjoy the musical prose of the narrative.

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### **Dottie says**

My daughters, one perhaps more than the other, urged Anne Rice and her works on me and I resisted. But when this book was out, it pulled me -- the cover art snagged me, the talk about it, whatever it was -- I bought it and then gave it to the daughter. Years afterward, I sought out a copy and read it and found myself drowning in one of those books which sweep the reader under and into the current before they know what's happening -- and just as suddenly the reader finds themselves coming up for air as the book ends and tosses them aside. I will read this one again one day -- meanwhile it holds a place of honor on the shelves among my books and looks lovely.

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### **M says**

Crap, crap, crap. Quite possibly the worst book I've ever read. Take all of Anne Rice's worst traits as a writer--her self-indulgence, how long-winded and overly detailed she can be, her narcissism--all of it comes full circle to create this piece of crap book. I think it's her fantasy come to life, which is why it's so bloody terrible. The one and only good part of this book is when she tells the story of the violinist. Rice is at her best recounting history; she does her research and truly loves the eras she writes about. I wish this book had been completely about the violinist. That might have made it a worthwhile read. Steer clear.

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### **Kathryn says**

Tedious, boring, depressing - pick one or more.

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### **Shayna Ross says**

I didn't finish this book, it's just too weird for me to handle right now.

Seriously, it was just all sorts of messed up.

WTF.

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## **Bill Tucker says**

I've always liked Anne Rice. She throws in just the kind of details into her stories that get me interested from the very beginning. *Violin* is a stand-alone tale, and a good one at that. The soul of this story is music...its heart is the fulcrum between despair and hope. Not sure what I mean by that? Sit back and let her explain it all.

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## **Adriane says**

As usual I am amazed at Anne Rice's writing style. It's like being under an enchantment when I read her work! Such a spellbinding tale of misery, mourning, hope, renewal and above all, music.

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## **Jamie says**

I'm currently on a mission to read Anne Rice's entire body of work, and I've been doing so for a couple months. I worked through the Vampire books first, then the Mayfair witches, and moved on to her erotic novels (the *Sleeping Beauty* books, *Exit to Eden*). After that came the singletons: *Cry to Heaven*, *Servant of the Bones*, *Ramses the Damned*, etc. I'm sure there's more, this is just off the top of my head. The last ones I read were the two books written in first person about the life of Jesus Christ, and the Angel books (whose names escape me at the moment).

I love to devour everything an author has written, and decipher their belief system and particular passions through reoccurring themes in their novels. And there is a lot to mine in Anne Rice's novels. I'm going to write a blog post about it when I'm actually finished (I think I missed one or two when I was collecting the eBooks, so I'm not quite done yet!).

The *Violin* received largely TERRIBLE reviews. As usual, I hopped online immediately after reading the novel to see what others had thought of the book. I was actually rather astonished at the vitriol. Perhaps it was my state of mind that predisposed me to a rather intimate understanding of this book and its main character.

I am familiar with guilt, that special guilt that can only be born in the crucible of a highly religious childhood. I LOVED my childhood, but I was very sheltered, and was brought up in a very specific belief system. Not Catholic, but I don't think that matters particularly.

Unlike the main character, I'm not in love with death, but I'm also not afraid of it. And I have an extremely finely tuned sense of guilt, which I prefer to call responsibility. And I have a tendency to take responsibility for things that are largely outside of my control, simply because I can see the cause and affect so clearly, and am able very easily to see where I could have done better, reacted better, been more accessible, been more loving...

The reviews largely slammed the book as self-indulgent twaffle. Perhaps. Or perhaps it's a book that Anne Rice needed to write for HERSELF. Because writing, in its purest form, is absolute catharsis. I know that

when I write, I am able to purge myself of my excess of emotions and come out the other side feeling cleansed and happy.

Music has never been my language, but while I will never be a great composer or a violin player, I understand that desire to BE the best at something that you know you never will be. And I understand guilt. Intimately. So I understood the heroine. I understood her, and I understood all of the anguish and the love that went into the writing of this novel.

I cried, at the end.

It didn't matter to me that it was a ghost story. Anne Rice writes about the supernatural, but that's largely been a vehicle by which she is able to explore these themes that have followed her throughout her life and been threaded deftly through all of her novels. Her search for meaning in a world where the presence of God often doesn't seem to make sense. Her identification with the loners, the strugglers after truth, her knowledge of passion and love and loss.

And it seems to me that you can't write a character like the heroine in the Violin without having experienced that level and kind of emotion yourself. You simply cannot.

So for me, this book gets five stars. And I could care less that most people don't understand it, or find it self-indulgent. Not every book is written for others. Some are just written because they NEED to be written. And for me, I needed to read it. It's definitely not for everyone, however. And there's nothing wrong with that, either. I don't suppose that I would WISH the ability to understand this book on everyone. They're probably happier NOT understanding, really.

But I read it, I loved it, it made me feel that there are others in this world for whom guilt cuts like a knife and caresses like a lover. And it made me cry (not sad cry, happy cry, there at the end). So there's that. It's messy, ugly, real and beautiful. I won't be reading it again any time soon, but I WILL read it again. And it will be perfect for me again when I do.

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### **Allison says**

seriously? If I want to be that depressed I will think of dying babies and poke myself in the eye. I really tried to like this. I just could not get past the florid sweeps of melancholy, and all the blah blah blah. Save this for therapy Anne.

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### **arthael says**

Several years ago, I bought it with more than 70% discount. I still wish I could get my money back. haha.

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### **Melanie says**

Considering the level of all Anne Rice's books that I have already read, this one was a complete let down. Perhaps I was expecting something different, as sexy as the books from her vampires series. How upset I was

when I found that this book actually tells the story of a woman in such a depression level that it get actually annoying. Amidst her sorrow, this woman meets the ghost of a violinist.

You hopefully suppose that the story is going to improve now that the woman met the subject of the book, but this is actually where the book gets awfully tedious. During the 400 pages of the book, the only thing that they do is argue and scream at each other. As you go through the story you get to the conclusion that, in spite of the bonds that tight them together in the story, whatever still keeps them together is not clear. It's not the violin. Seriously, it CAN'T be the violin because Triana barely played violin. Stephan's attitudes can be justified. Not Triana's.

As for the main character, she tells her weird, non-violin related, stupid story about her bizarre past.

The only part of the book that I effectively liked (and, in my opinion, should've been the core of the book since the first page) was Stephan's story, which could have been better explored but only lasted 10 or 20 pages.

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### **Maria (Mhemnoch) says**

¡Desconcertante!

Me ha encantado en este libro la capacidad de Rice de sacarte sentimientos, sensaciones....

No es una historia típica que tenga principio, trama y final.

Al principio puede liar un poco, por la falta de costumbre, y no saber si se está en la realidad o en los sueños o visiones y no siguen un orden cronológico los acontecimientos, cosa que ya se avisa al principio del texto.

En muchas ocasiones turbador. Hay veces que he cerrados sus páginas sintiendo un poco de agobio o ansiedad. En muchos momentos te crea una aprensión y te transmite unos sentimientos angustiosos...

¡¡Es fantástico que con solo letras sea capaz un/a autor/a de despertar todo eso!!

Una lucha psicológica entre los dos personajes protagonistas, en el que sacan sus peores recuerdos y sentimientos, arrastrando al lector con ellos.

En cuanto a sensaciones se refiere, me ha desbordado mucho.

Creo que, en más de un sentido, Rice a puesto aquí su alma (cosa que también se aprecia por ciertos personajes si se conoce su vida personal).

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### **April Simmons says**

Most boring book I've ever read. I'd recommend vcr manuals over this.

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### **Alexis Chateau says**

This is quite literally the WORST BOOK I'VE EVER READ; evoking the great discomfort that is felt when one stumbles upon the private diary of a twisted, manic-depreasive old woman who is as conceited as she is insecure.

I hated all the emotional ramblings and the unnecessarily detailed and repetitive intrusion into people's lives while they took a sh!t and discarded their period blood. It was just too much, and pointlessly so. I learned



nothing and I felt nothing but a distinct hatred for Triana and a strong wish that Stefan would find the power and the nerve to strike her dead and impale her with the violin's bow; thus ending the awful, awful story!

Anne Rice should have kept this little self-indulgence into her personal life to herself. It needn't have been made public!

There is no plot, no proper character development; just aimless emotional ramblings and a crying 25 year old ghost who miraculously has his ass repeatedly kicked by a 55year old hag, who is most definitely based on Anne Rice herself.

Rubbish, rubbish,rubbish! I wish I had never found this book and only finished it because I finish what I start.

Anne Rice is my favourite author and the writer of my favourite books, but she is also now the source of the worst I've ever come across. Her works are almost always hits or misses and this? This was a definite miss!

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### **Fiona says**

Honestly the worst waste of time a book has ever been. Hours of my precious life were wasted reading about a fat middle-aged woman sobbing and snorting over a ghost and the violin she stole from him. Pointless, meaningless, frustrating and boring. Goodness only knows how I found the determination to finish it.

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### **Wendy Reiersen says**

This book called to me from the library shelf when I was learning to play the violin, something that I always wanted to do. I related to the main character's longing for the music, and more specifically, to be able to produce the music. I was just discovering the connection between playing the violin, and the musician's mood. It is amazing, but if I'm anxious (not necessarily about playing - I could be practicing with no audience at all) or in a bad mood, I can't play the violin at all. Anyway, the book is very obsessive, and haunting, and I enjoyed it, but that might have been just where I was at the time. I can also see why others called it tedious.

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