



## Burnt Offerings

*Laurell K. Hamilton*

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## **Burnt Offerings** Laurell K. Hamilton

"You can't trust anyone who sleeps with the monsters."

That's what I've always said. That's what I've always believed. But now I'm the one sharing a bed with the Master Vampire of the City. Me, Anita Blake. The woman the vampires call the Executioner. From part of the solution, I've become part of the problem. So it hits close to home when an arsonist begins to target vampire-owned businesses all over town -- an arsonist who seems to want to destroy more than just property. It's the monsters who are in danger now. And it's up to the Executioner to save them from the inferno...

## **Burnt Offerings Details**

Date : Published February 23rd 2010 by Jove (first published 1998)

ISBN :

Author : Laurell K. Hamilton

Format : Kindle Edition 452 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Romance

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## From Reader Review Burnt Offerings for online ebook

### A.M. says

I have to admit, Hamilton manages to introduce a new, interesting and intriguing supernatural creature in each book.

Thus it's a shame her main character is so utterly predictable. I now skim through any paragraphs which contain descriptions of Anita's scars, guns, clothes, and hair.

Would it be interesting to extract all these passages from the Anita Blake series and see how much copy-pasting Hamilton has done? Naw.

(Is anyone else sick of reading 'naw'? Naw!)

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### Marianne says

Except for Yvette and her constant "I'm going to rot on you" threats, this was as enjoyable as the rest. You can certainly sense that this series is taking a turn for sex fest town.

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### Tilly Slaton says

Out of the entire series, one of my favorite characters is Nathaniel. So when I realized that this is the book he would be introduced into .. I was like woo hoo!

Ok, now that I have that out of my system, I can move forward with the tid bits of this and that's I have for this book.

Another brilliant piece of work by Laurell Hamilton! The twists in this book are amazing, and they end up playing through to the end of the series. It's neat to be able to reread a series and pick up on all the little things you missed.

Blake: *Mercy will get you killed, but sometimes it's all that makes us human.*

Love triangle, Anita, Jean-Claude and Richard. It really eats at you and I've discussed this book with many others and we all end up disagreeing .. wholeheartedly lol .. about whom she should be with. Go figure.

*Lupa was the word the werewolves used for their leader's mate. I was the first human so honored. I wasn't even dating their Ulfic anymore. We'd broken up after I saw him eat somebody. Hey, a girl's got to have some standards.*

Thus far, the books in this series hop back and forth within basically the same theme. Find the bad guys. Get hurt. Seek revenge. Kill the bad guys. Make love to a hottie.

In Burnt Offerings, the ultimate law, a vampire council visits Jean-Claude's city. There have been many deeply disturbing scenes in a few of the books so far, and this book definitely does not disappoint.

You have the Traveler. A super-duper vampire that finds a suitably sexy male host and takes over the controls for a while. The Traveler and his sexy homosexual lover use and abuse the borrowed bodies as they deem fit. A little whoaness factor there but I thought it very interesting as I read about some of Blake's friends' bodies being abused by the traveler and his lover.

*You have the Master of Beasts, Padma and his sidekick rapist son Fernando. Being the Master of Beasts, Padma is able to put forth a call to the shapeshifter leaders of the city and they apparently are unable to refuse. The leopards, the werewolves and the rats. Between being skinned alive for wall decoration, repeatedly raped or forced into an eternity of furriness, Padma is one of my least favorite characters in this book. It is not to say he isn't an amazing character! He is. I just dislike him And his bastard of a son.*

After finding out that Fernando is one of a gang that raped Sylvie, Blake promises Sylvie that they will all die. Hell YES!

*"Is he your only son?" I asked.*

*"My only child," Padma said.*

*"My condolences," I said.*

Then you have Yvette! A vampire whom can rot her body at will and punish others by forcing a similar state, she's just gross. It's one thing to be furry. It's one thing to be raped. It's one thing to be skinned. Now, can you imagine being intimate with a woman who all of a sudden starts rotting and oozing bodily fluids all over the place? Gross.

Asher is introduced in this book. A lost lover betrayed by no other than Jean-Claude himself, threatens Anita's life. The choking bitterness of hate engulfs him, and he wants to see Jean-Claude suffer as he has for the past two centuries. The progression with Asher, Anita and Jean-Claude is fun. Enjoy!

Filled with a pyrokinetic psycho that is burning down empty buildings, sexually sadistic members of the vampire counsel, and Anita slipping into the spot of protector for the leopards, Burnt Offerings is totally rockin' awesome!

I recommend this book to adults ONLY. This book contains moderate to extreme deviant sexual scenes. The violence is astounding with a two thumbs up from me.

~Happy reading!

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### **Nick says**

This was an interesting one but at the same time had some serious flaws for me.

The relationship story was back in force \*groans\* but at least we saw some interesting shapeshifter dynamics from Anita's leftover role of Lupa and her new role for the wereleopards.

Richard is still annoying, the squeaky clean upstanding citizen with a deep dark lust filled side, its like some

bad porn movie plot almost. They could have been made into an interesting character but instead they are the stereotypical scorned not-quite-lover with lots of dark pouty looks thrown in for good (or bad) measure.

The Council members had some interesting abilities but these were in no way really explored or explained, it was just 'here is the big bad, be scared' and the seemingly constant threat (and reality) of rape and violence just seemed a really poor way to show menace when it could have been so nuanced.

I liked Warwicks character and I hope that gets explored a bit more later on, Yvette was just a rehash of the rotting girls, Padma (not queen Amidala) and his son were too much 'I WILL CONTROL YOU' and Asher was partly interesting and at least his change of heart on Anita and Jean Claude seemed reasonable. Traveller was just odd, you got a bit of a sense of him but again it just seemed like she needed to reach for a bigger power since Anita et al have gained power themselves.

As an episode it was ok but not great, I've heard too much that this series goes downhill in later books I just hope i'm not seeing it already.

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### **Bark says**

Hmmm, I noticed most of the reviews here don't go into any sort of plot here. I couldn't figure it out at first but now that I'm almost finished with this reread I get it. There isn't one.

Well, that's not quite true. There were threads of plot, the vampire council has come to town to rape and pillage the beasties, but really this book is all about Anita gaining power, dealing with her two lover boys and gaining new puppy doggies and kitties who follow her every command. It's bloody, it's sexual but mostly in a vile, violent way and it's so not my favorite of the series. I think I need a break from these books now. I found myself getting grouchy and bored with the oh-so-perfect and all-powerful Anita. I want tomboy Anita The Vampire Executioner back and as much as I complained about the Nike swish descriptions I'd give anything to have them back. If I have to hear another description of a whored up Anita outfit I'm going to gag.

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### **Elise X a.k.a Ryder's Pet X says**

Loving this one! It had a lot of Jean-Claude, who i LOVE, and im pretty sure that's why i gave this one four stars.. Or perhaps because a lot happen, nothing was boring, and i actually love the new characters we got to meet! Like Asher, and The Traveler! i do hope we get to see more of those two :)! Anita keeps being hardcore, independent, snarky and a kickass heroine, though if she doesn't really let Jean-Claude all the way in, -not just trough the marks, but in to her heart,- im seriously gonna strangle her... Because, im pretty sure you get that im #TeamJean-Claude! I took me a while to get really started on this book, probably cause i'd read 6 Anita Blake books in 6 days, which probably made it to... much? So i took a break from Anita, and thank god i did, cause then the book because so much more good and exiting :)! Can't wait to read the next book.

**Rate: 4 stars.**

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### **Amanda says**

Seriously, Laurell K. Hamilton used to write good vampire-slayer novels. Now she writes erotica. Don't get me wrong, I like erotica as much as the next guy (or gal), but when I want to read a vampire slayer novel, I want to read a vampire slayer novel!!! Damn you, Anita Blake.

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### **Jilly says**

These books are getting grittier. The Vampire Council comes to town and they are some sadistic motherf\*ckers! Torture, rape, and murder are their nice qualities, and Jean Claude and Anita have giant bulls-eyes on their backs. The good news is that Anita keeps getting more and more bloodthirsty herself. *Some days I thought I was becoming a sociopath. Some days I thought I was already there.*

*sociopaths have the best senses of humor...*

In this book we get to meet some awesome new characters: Nathaniel the leopard, and Asher the vampire. I'm excited that it looks like they will be around for a while. But, we also get a lot of Richard. Richard really should have the nickname Dick because it fits him so well. He was always a whiny baby, and now he's a whiny baby who is bitter and angry. It doesn't help improve his sparkling personality.

*Calling for the party of one... pity party of one....Richard? Your table is ready at the Get-Over-It Cafe.*

The only thing that annoys me more than Richard's jealous baby tantrums is the fact that Anita still finds him so "irresistible". yeah, bitter assholes are so sexy!

On the other end of the spectrum is Jean Claude who is sweet, smart, and totally mature and confident. He even encourages Anita to try and make peace with Richard. He may dress-up everyone around him like gay pirate romance novel covers, but he also showers Anita with gifts and romantic notes. I can handle that! I'll dress like a dominatrix pirate for him any day.

*okay, Jean Claude, what do YOU want me to wear?*

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### **Denisa says**

4.5

I really like this series.

Normally I'd get bored by now but these books are just that good. Everything is so well written that I can't put them down.

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## **Spider the Doof Warrior says**

I'm too generous with stars.

She just has too much going on. It's like one moment Anita is talking to some firedude and suddenly all kind of shit hits the fan. LKH CRAMS tons of stuff into her books. It's not totally a good thing because there's too much going on and the story could be tighter. Things like clothing descriptions can be reduced. Better yet, no clothing descriptions. No one cares if their pants are too tight or if Anita doesn't want to flash her underwear. And why is she running around in high heel shoes if she hates them so much? If I walk in high heel shoes it would be stumble stagger fall slip trip crash AUGH!!!! Yet Anita's all like Rambo in heels chasing people with her Uzi all ready to shoot everyone.

Also, why are these weres so wussy? I'm sorry, but if you can bench press cars, you have no business allowing an almost ordinary human to boss you around. It's as bad as in the Merry series were all of these men have special hands of power and allow that bitch Andais to dominate them and tell them what they can and can't do with their penises.

Also, do you really need so many scenes with out of town vampires tormenting people and raping them? Why do her books have to have so much dang rape in them? Even if you're at the bottom of the pack, you should not put up with that crap. And why does Ronnie puke all over the place when she is a Private Eye and has shot people? Do not weaken strong characters to make Anita look badass.

Why do I keep reading these books? They are entertaining until you get after Either Obsidian Butterfly or Cerulean Sins. Once you get to those books, stop. Don't read any more for your own sanity.

I do like the penguins. It's cute how they were all on the desks and Anita thought, should I take them all? Ignore them? That was adorable. But at some point, you have to jump off of this train of insanity and I can't really find blue Moon anyway.

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## **Crystal Starr Light says**

"Why does everything with you have to be so [darned] serious?"

A fire chief approaches Anita Blake to let her know about vampires going up in flames. She notes that then heads off on a date with boyfriend and Undead Master of the City, Jean-Claude. But Anita never can have a date without a million things going off at once. Richard is off his rocker and creating a vacuum in his pack, one that Anita as his lucoi must fix. Jean-Claude is being pressured to join the Council--or face being destroyed. People are getting raped right and left. Can Anita save the day once again?

This is probably one of my more favorite of the Anita Blake books. That said, pretty much every single problem I've had with the previous books in the series remains.

One of the things I liked about this book was the interesting story elements. The combustible vampires. The appearance of the Council. Anita having to keep her pack together. The new, highly fascinating character, Asher. Even the tendrils of reconciling between Anita and Richard (whom I think have amazing chemistry and actually FEEL like lovers, not just people in lust) were fascinating. There are some really great ideas in

this book, ones that most definitely kept my interest.

Which is why it is so frustrating when LKH gets in the way of her story with the usual suspects:

1) Anita Blake. What a misogynistic, hypocritical b!tchy woman! I swear to God, there is no pleasing her! If people ignore her, she is upset at how she isn't the center of attention. But when Tammy tries to befriend Anita, Anita brushes Tammy off as a shallow person only interested in the zombie raising aspect of Anita's life.

As for Anita's rampant misogyny, I'll let her speak for herself:

"Women are just not designed to look tough."

"No, I was not in tune with my feminine side."

"It made me feel girlish in the worse way."

And then some random character makes the absolute stupidest remark I've ever heard:

"What a man you would have made!" I'd spent enough time around macho guys to know it was a compliment, a sincerely meant one. They never understood the implied insult."

I work in a male-dominated field. Before that, most of my classmates in college were men. NEVER have I heard ANYTHING so sexist.

The other thing I can't stand about Anita is her raging hypocrisy. She tries continually to sell us that she is "in love" with Jean-Claude, but then she makes statements like this:

"I had to trust him. Trust him not to hurt me. Trust him not to do something awful or embarrassing. I realized that I didn't trust him. That no matter how much I loved his body, I knew he was other. I knew that what he thought of as okay, was not necessarily okay at all."

What does Anita love about Jean-Claude other than his body or his seduction techniques? Does she love how he makes breakfast? How he calls her up at work to check on how she is? How he makes coffee in the morning? Does she like spending time with him mountain climbing or watching musicals (two things she enjoys doing with Richard)? The only things Anita appears to like about Jean-Claude are A) his incredibly, breath-taking body and B) the sex. Last I checked, both those things were lust. But when Ronnie attempts to call Anita out on her dating Jean-Claude, Anita becomes snippy.

What's even worse is that when either Ronnie and Louis or Larry and Tammy act like a couple, Anita immediately jumps to the conclusion that they are in lust with each other and probably not in love. Honestly,

I see more examples of love in Ronnie and Louis' relationship than I ever had in Anita and Jean-Claude's.

2) Clothes, clothes and more clothes! LKH can't go a few pages without detailing everything that a person is wearing--or not. Which means Anita talking about the evening gown she's wearing, and, of course, griping about not wearing her black Nikes, which hide all the blood she steps in.

And because LKH's entire male cast pretty much goes commando in the entire series:

"The pants were black linen, clinging smooth and perfect to his body, so form-fitting that I knew there was nothing under the pants but him."

LKH makes it even worse by having Anita stop in the middle of a scene where people are seriously injured to detail all the flowers she planted in her yard. Yes, people, flowers.

3) Too much in too little time. LKH has no sense of pacing. Instead of giving her characters breaks or time to process events (and her audience as well), she pretty much has them facing one crisis after another. Which is why for most of this book, Anita is wearing some stupid dress that would flash her @\$\$ if she attempted to reach her gun hidden in a belly band (if she felt the need to bring a gun, why make it so unreachable?) and ridiculous 3" heels (that she b!tches about endlessly--honestly, Anita, if you hate them so much, wear something else!). Anita goes from the office to a date, to several posturing events with vampires, to rescuing some of her weres, to a shootout at her house, to Dolph calling her to a crime scene--it's TOO BUSY. It's like eating an entire package of Double-Stuf Oreos in one sitting: SICK and BLOATED!

4) Constant arguing. As usual, most of the "investigating" occurs in long dialogue sessions. And during these sessions, people of course have to argue with Anita for half a lifetime. It's so bad, that when someone DOESN'T put up a fight with Anita, she has to mention it:

"Truthfully, it was a damn relief not to have to argue with anyone. No debate--what a relief!"

You gotta wonder, doesn't Anita ever perhaps notice how SHE'S the one involved with all these super-long, drawn-out, excessive talky scenes?

5) Rape, rape and more rape. My God Almighty, is there rape in this book. I swear, everyone gets raped or sexually assaulted. Nathaniel, Sylvie, Jason, even Anita (though Jean-Claude "helpfully" tells her to turn it into "enjoyment" to make it "more tolerable"--instead of, I don't know, KILLING THE GUY WHO IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTING HIS F@#\$ING GIRLFRIEND!!). It's just...disturbing. Rape is a serious subject; it shouldn't be tossed around helter-skelter and not treated appropriately (no one really needs any therapy).

6) Good Old Fashioned Misogyny. There is no other woman in this book whose name isn't "Anita Blake" that A) can rescue herself, B) isn't a victim, C) isn't an evil biotch, or D)isn't hated by Anita. Ronnie resolves into a puddle of tears after shooting a guy (Anita also does not respect her opinion); Sylvie is raped and must have Anita enact revenge on her killer (although Sylvie is a shapeshifter). Vicky is a horrible woman who tried to kill a vampire and lied about sexual assault. Liv participated in Sylvie's rape. Yvette abuses Jason

and makes him rot while taking Pleasure from him. Anita views Tammy as a slut who sleeps with Larry to learn more about Necromancy and questions Tammy's shooting abilities, even though Tammy is a cop. The female fire officer is killed. Other than Anita herself, there are no strong, capable women in this series that aren't psycho or evil and who are at least respected by Anita. It's sick. It's disturbing.

7) Sex. Already, I can see how sex is beginning to be a more dominant force in the book. I have no problem with it cropping up in Anita's romantic life. My problem with it is this: LKH is starting to use it to solve problems. To heal people. To feed vampires. Anita basically gives Nathaniel a lap-dance, but she is in a dating relationship with Jean-Claude that seems pretty steady. She does something similar with Asher when he demands to be fed (after a billion years of arguing about it, of course). In the previous books, Anita would have rolled up a sleep and slit her palm, and the vampire would have fed off her blood. Slowly, that is going away. And it seems a bit odd, since it hasn't been established in the past.

If you are a fan, you'll probably enjoy this one just as much as the others, maybe a bit less because of the Jean-Claude vs Richard or because of the increasing sex. If you are brand new and wonder if this is indicative of the previous ones: yes and no. Yes, Anita pretty much acts like this in the previous books; no, the previous books had less sex.

My personal opinion: there are probably better vampire hunter books out there, with better action, better plots, better romantic interests, and better heroines. You could do worse, of course, but there is better. I'll be hanging on to the ride, because there are bits I'd like to see how they are addressed in later books.

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## Faye says

**First read:** April 2006

**Re-read:** May-June 2017

**The plot:** Anita is asked to help out on a Firebug case while also figuring out how to balance her responsibilities to Richard's pack and her private life as the girlfriend of Jean-Claude now that the European vampire council have come to town.

### What I liked:

- The mythos behind the Firebugs. The idea of these supernatural humans who control fire was fascinating and I liked the casual way in which Anita imparts information about them to the reader. The idea that the majority of them die through spontaneous combustion as they get older and lose control is so clever and sounds realistic for that type of power.
- Anita's protective instinct towards Nathaniel and the other wereleopards and werewolves.
- The details concerning the vampire council in Europe and the political manoeuvrings were very interesting, particularly the inclusion of the Traveller and his abilities.
- The underground/underwater scene at the Church of Eternal Life was especially creepy and horrifying.
- Anita's powers and influence in the supernatural world are starting to grow and make her a force to be reckoned with.
- The inclusion of Dolph and the growing distance between him and Anita is sad but realistic.
- Raina's continued influence on the pack.

### What I didn't like:

- Richard. He's moody, angry, blames everyone else for his issues but especially Anita, and worse he strikes one of the female members of his pack across the face hard enough to leave a bruise because she was reluctant to go back and confront a group who until recently had held her captive. I don't understand why Anita has this blind spot where he's concerned; she seems to still believe he's a good guy and he really, truly, isn't. He's a manipulative, abusive, waste of space.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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### ?Ikim says

Bu yorumu Kitap Esintisi sayfas?nda bulabilirsiniz.

2.5/5

Bu kitap serideki rahats?zl???m? en üst düzeye ç?kart?p seride ara vermemeye neden olan ögeler bar?nd?r?yordu. Ne mi mesela? Mesela Anita'n?n süper güç gibi bir ?eye dönü?mesi ve vampir konseyini bile dize getirmesi. ?imdi bu vatanda? ilk kitaplarda sadece bir animatördü, sonra nekromens?r oldu?unu ö?rendik (buraya kadar bir sorun yok), sonlara do?ru kurt sürüsünün lupa's? oldu, yani alfadan sonra kararlardaki en etkili i?i, sonra da leoparlarr?n garip isimli bir ?eyi oldu; hat?rlayamad?m ad?n? ama leoparlar ona ba?land? diyebilirim. Anita onlara gidin kendinizi camdan at?n derse atarlar hani o derece. Ayr?ca üç tane vampir izi de var, bir nevi JC'nin “özgür iradeli” insan hizmetkar? ve de sevgilisi ve bu sayedeh?zl? iyile?iyor, etki alt?na al?nam?yor felan... K?z resmen di?i terminatör olmak üzere, çünkü öldürmek de onu etkilemiyor.

Peki bu kitapta ne yaptı? spesifik olarak onu anlatay?m. Vampir konseyi ?ehre gelip JC'nin bir ?eyler kar??t?rmad???ndan emin olmak isted. Ama bu s?rada da ?ehirdeki di?er vampirlerin güçlerini emdiklerinden gün içinde uyanan vampirler bir anda artt?. Bir de pirokinetik bir vampir olas?l??? ile ilgilendi. Bu vampiri kitab?n sonlar?nda ö?reniyoruz tabi ve ?ahs?m ad?na söylemek gerekirse bu vampiri sevdim de ben. Bu kitapta da yine göründü?ü gibi olmay?p gizlid?n gizliye planlar yapan karakterler var. Ayr?ca konseyin de ar?zal? üyeleri var, kim o? Tabi ki de Hayvanlar?n Efendisi. Bu vampirin özel zevki çevresindekilere eziyet etmek, bir de tecavüze dü?kün olan o?lu var ki beni de, Anita'y? da çileden ç?kar?yor. Anita ona cezas?n? elbette ki veriyor ama nas?l, i?te buras? beni gerdi. Hayvanlar?n Efendisi adl? bu güçlü vampiri kontrol ederek. Söylemeyi unuttum, kurt sürüsünün geçen kitapta öldürülen sadist di?isi Raina'n?n bir ?ekilde içinde ya?ad???n? da fark ediyor ve onun güçlerini de kullanabiliyor. Eh yuh yani de?il mi ?imdi? Bu küçük dipnottan sonra devam ediyorum: ??te bu Raina'daki gü?le deyim yerindeyse Hayvanlar?n Efendisi'nin kalbini parmaklar? aras?nda tutuyor ve vampir ondan o kadar korkuyor ki o?lunu hemen Anita'ya verip toparlan?p kaç?yor.

Sanki biraz da Anita'n?n yenilmesini ister gibiyim, ya da en az?ndan birkaç kitap boyunca zorlans?n.

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### Amy says

Where is all the sex reviewers keep talking about. There are some sexually charged scenes but everything is really tame thus far. This is however my favorite so far. I absolutely loved the fact that Jean-Claude was in almost every scene. I think that he is sometimes portrayed as too weak but I still love me some JC!

I am glad that Anita realized it wasn't that Richard is a monster but that she was afraid of wanting to join the pack feasting on Marcus. Now, she just needs to explain that to Richard. I still prefer Jean-Claude to Richard though. If Richard would just claim his beast I would like him much more.

I am not sure what I think about Nathaniel yet. I know he is a big character but he seems more like a pet than a lover for Anita. I am not sure how I am going to feel about that storyline. I do think I will like Asher though. Jean-Claude needs a friend and it doesn't bother me that Asher might be in love with Jean-Claude.

There are many different relationships in these books. It can get overwhelming but they also keep me very interested.

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### **Diane Ehrlich says**

The first several novels in the Anita Blake series are great. Funny, scary, a touch gory and a touch sexy. As you read each book, you can really see the character development as Anita becomes more sure of herself and more comfortable with the "monsters". However, some the later books have deteriorated into little more than soft porn for women. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

However, I feel it cheapens the series, which features a great role model in Anita as a women who has accepted that her life works the way it is and makes her happy, even if it is not what the rest of the world thinks is normal. She is strong, independent, and accepting of her sexuality.

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