



The Book of the Beast

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Book by Lee, Tanith

The Book of the Beast Details

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Author : Tanith Lee

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From Reader Review The Book of the Beast for online ebook

Jessica says

I want to read more Tanith Lee, but I think I am done with Paradys. I hope her other books aren't so dang rapey, like, calm down. The story was interesting, I like the jumping narrative. Didn't like how she kept repeating the Jew and Jewess. Like I said in my review for the last one, just because you're using old-timey style, doesn't mean you need to use old-timey language all the time.

Heather says

I love Tanith Lee's books, but one cannot gobble them.. these take a little longer to read....

Pam Baddeley says

I enjoyed book 2 of the series more than the first volume. This was one coherent tale, with the framing structure of the young scholar in the "present" day - from clues, a version of the 18th century perhaps - being given lodgings in an old house with a sinister past, encountering someone from that past who carries a deadly curse and then having the scholar return as the focus of the end of the tale.

In the central part of the book, we learn of the beginning of the curse during the founding of the city of Paradys during the late Roman Empire - at that time known as Pars Dis, due to the association with Pluto, god of the underworld, in the form of Dis, "the wealth", due to the former silver workings in the area, now played out. A Roman centurion becomes fascinated by a high class prostitute who seems to be from Egypt and who eventually offers him a jewel which will take away his bad luck - but, he discovers, at a terrible price in the form of a curse which is transmitted both sexually and from mother to child.

I liked the much more coherent nature of this volume with everything revolving around this one deadly element. One thing that was slightly confusing is - in keeping with the theme of precious stones for each part of the previous book - the jewel in the central story is amethyst and the eyes of those who are affected by the curse turn that colour, but in the framing front and back parts of the narrative, in the later period they exhibit emerald coloured eyes instead. Other than that, the story made a lot more sense than parts of the first volume and although there was still a lot of violence and sexual content, quite usual with the author's work, at least the rapes were "off camera" and more of the sex was consensual - although if the demonic force was trying to spread the curse, it doesn't make sense that it then went on to murder the victims as well. Anyway, this is a better rating, 3 stars.

Lauren says

Overall, more consistent than the first book, but it never reached the heights of Malice in Saffron. Will any story in this series? It was very cleverly constructed; each story was a puzzle piece that fit together perfectly at the end. I give it a 3.5.

Liz says

Since I read the last chapter in 2010, I think it still belongs in 2009.

This one was much easier to deal with. Only the beginning was the kind of scary I can't do. (Ghosts, no. Monsters, oh hell yes!) And as Lucas said, the monster was excellent. I'm still a little confused about the change in eye color from purple to green, but I have decided to believe that she wouldn't leave such a gaping hole, and that it's in there somewhere.

Overall, I don't think it was as good as Book of the Damned, because at no point did I set it down and say "Woah," like I did with Malice in Saffron. But it also didn't give me nightmares. A careful balance, this. So I give it 4 stars like the other.

Richard says

An epic in miniature that manages to pack a Gothic saga in fewer than 200 pages. Very evocative and atmospheric, The Book of the Beast builds on the foundation established by The Book of the Damned, but this story is better realized and the "beast" is truly monstrous and intriguing.

Lauren says

One of the 1st 2 books in the Paradys series, which must all be read together to be truly enjoyable. See my review of Book of the Dead.

Kaila says

More like a 3.5 but in this case I am rounding down. I wanted to love it more than I did. The writing is absolutely beautiful and evocative, the story creepy and altogether original. It's hard, actually probably almost impossible, to sit down and just devour. I could only handle a few pages at a time, as the writing is quite dense. It just left me feeling a bit unsatisfied.

I have the next two books in this series, and I have the distinct feeling that they are better taken as a whole, so I'll get back to you on that. Already I like the first book more (The Book of the Damned) after reading this one.

Andromeda M31 says

I've read all the Secret Books of Paradys before, and this my year to give the series a reread.

And I have to say, I've read all the Books of Paradys more than once already, except for the Book of the Beast. This is by far my least favorite of the series. I didn't even remember the second half of the book where the history of the curse is revealed and dispelled. But that said, the monstrous sex in the first half will always

be vivid in my memory.

The Book of the Beast details a sexually transmitted family curse of a Bird Demon in two different eras of the City of Paradys. Women are doomed to carry the seed of the demon and men are doomed to transform during climax. Tanith Lee's female characters remain witless and are always described as white white white, and sex in this book is cosmic and frightening.

The Books of Paradys are one of my favorite series by Tanith Lee, but having read the majority of her work, I know a weak link when I see one.

Suzanne Moeller says

Tanith Lee is a master of dark and elegant fantasy, and this book is no exception. Well paced and plotted, but the ending seemed abrupt.

Xdyj says

Reasonably well written, but imo not as interesting as the last one.

Paul Perry says

The second volume of The Secret books of Paradys is more of the same high-Gothic, colourful, arcane, mysterious fiction as the Book of the Damned, but more of a piece, the tales tied together more directly into a consistent single story.

Millerbug says

The Book of the Beast wasn't nearly as bad as the Book of the Damned as far as leaving me feeling icky. I enjoyed the story of how the Beast was laid on this family as a curse. The only thing that was left open was why the woman laid the curse on the Roman soldier in the first place. And also why the eyes started out amethyst and then later they turned emerald green. Still I liked the ending. It was pretty good.

Karl says

This is copy 30 of 250 signed numbered copies published by Unwin & Hyman in the UK.
