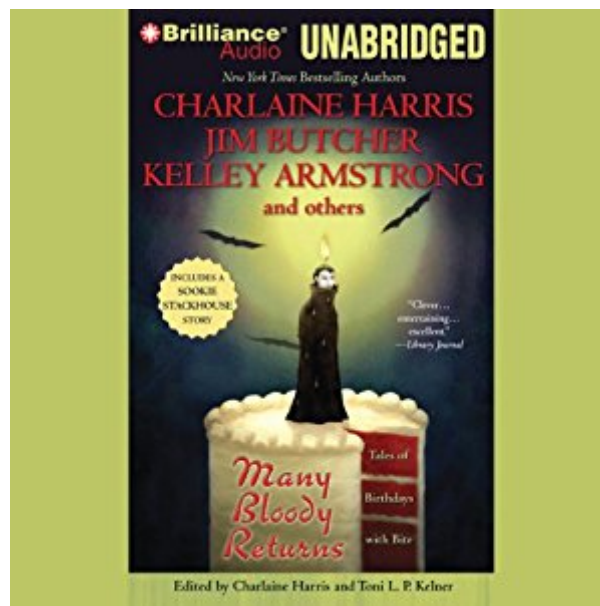




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Many Bloody Returns: Tales Of Birthdays With Bite



Synopsis

You're invited to a celebration of vampires by a baker's dozen of favorite authors. Sink your teeth into 13 stories, each one a fresh and unique take on the concept of what birthdays mean to the undead. In New York Times best-selling author Charlaine Harris's "Dracula Night", Sookie Stackhouse is the only human at the annual commemoration of Dracula's birth. But this year, the Prince of Darkness actually shows up - and finds Sookie a tasty-looking present. New York Times best-selling author Jim Butcher's crime-solving wizard Harry Dresden, of the Dresden Files novels, heads to a role-playing party to give his vampire brother a birthday present in "It's My Birthday, Too", only to discover there are some bloodthirsty party crashers who don't share their brotherly love. In "Twilight", Cassandra DuCharme, from New York Times best-selling author Kelley Armstrong's Dime Store Magic, knows she has to kill to live as a vampire another year - but finds herself disturbingly disinterested in the hunt. National best-selling author P. N. Elrod's hardboiled vampire PI Jack Fleming, from The Vampire Files, infiltrates a suspicious sÃƒÆ'Ã¢â‚¬Å¡ance on the eve of the dearly departed's birthday in "Grave-Robbed". And in award-winning author Toni L. P. Kelner's "How Stella Got Her Grave Back", vampires become amateur sleuths (with breaks for feeding) to solve the murder of a Jane Doe. Suspenseful, surprising, sometimes dark, sometimes humorous - these and eight more frighteningly original stories will ensure you'll never think of vampires or birthdays quite the same again. The list of authors also includes Jeanne C. Stein, Rachel Caine, Tanya Huff, Carolyn Haines, Christopher Golden, Bill Crider, Tate Hallaway, and Elaine Viets. This anthology was edited by Charlaine Harris and Toni L. P. Kelner.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Full disclosure, I had read Wolfsbane and Mistletoe first, so I was a bit spoiled and found the first several stories in Many Bloody Returns to be less than first rate. But then things picked up, and the last story was worth the price of the book all by itself. I have read several of the Sookie Stackhouse books and both I and my husband like them as a pleasant diversion, so we are enjoying the collections Harris has edited also.

I'll admit it....I bought this book for the Sookie Stackhouse story. I'm a big Charlaine Harris fan and having read all of her books, I wanted to read her short stories (especially the ones relating to the Sookie series of books). The Sookie story was the first short story in the book...I enjoyed it! But I loved the book!! I honestly didn't think that I would even finish the rest of the book, didn't plan on it even. But the Sookie story was so short, I kept reading. I was pleasantly surprised to enjoy every short story in the book. Most of them I LOVED and had me wishing the story could have continued or that I could have just known more about a character that so quickly I was caring about. At the end of each story, I would re-read the intro about the author and found that the story was very like the Sookie Stackhouse story because it included characters from that author's book series. Or the short story was written by talented authors from "this genre". So for me, this book was a little gem that has led me to new authors and books that I would have never read if I hadn't picked up "Many Bloody Returns".

I ordered this book for Tate Hallaway's Fire and Ice and Linguine for two, a short story in the Garnet Lacey series. I enjoyed that story along with the rest of the short stories making up the book. Vampires celebrate birthdays too...kinda

MANY BLOODY RETURNS is an anthology of 13 short stories by written by the masters of the vampire genre. These 13 stories explore the concept of vampires and their birthdays - which in some cases refers to the actual day of their birth, but in most cases refers to the date of their transformation into vampires. MANY BLOODY RETURNS gives a "taste" of some of the best in the business and definitely leaves the reader wanting more."Dracula Night" by Charlaine Harris is a Sookie Stackhouse story that takes place during a vampiric celebration of Dracula's birthday."The Mournful Cry of Owls" by Christopher Golden is the story of a 16 year old girl's coming of age, and how she discovers what she really is."I Was a Teenage Vampire" by Bill Crider is the story of how a teenager, well, became a vampire."Twilight" by Kelley Armstrong is the story of a long-lived vampire

who must take a human life once a year before the anniversary of her conversion, in order to remain immortal. But after so many years and so many lives, is it really worth the effort?"It's My Birthday, Too" by Jim Butcher is a Harry Dresden story. It is Thomas's birthday, and Harry wants to celebrate it with him. But things never go well for our wizard and his vampire brother."Grave-Robbed" by P.N. Elrod is the story of detective Jack Fleming, a vampire P.I. who helps his client save her sister from a con man."The First Day of the Rest of Your Life" by Rachel Caine is the story of a young Morganville woman who turns 18 and must choose her vampire protector or dare to go it alone."The Witch and the Wicked" by Jeanne C. Stein begins at a birthday party for a vampire being catered by a witch. The guest of honor ends up immolated by the birthday cake...but is he really dead?"Blood Wrapped" by Tanya Huff is an extended conversation between vampire Henry and wizard Tony about their friend Vicki's upcoming 40th birthday. And all while they attempt to locate and rescue a kidnapped child."The Wish" by Carolyn Haines is the story of a woman who cheats death by becoming a vampire."Fire and Ice and Linguini for Two" by Tate Hallaway ask the question "can a vampire with a cursed birthday and his girlfriend who shares a her body with a goddess thwart a Norwegian ice demon?" "Vampire Hours" by Elaine Viets is the story of an older woman's vengeance on her creep of a cheating husband."How Stella got her Grave Back" by Toni L.P. Kelner is the story of a vampire who visits her grave on her birthday. But now someone else is buried there. What happened? Who is there? And why?I had not previously read many of these paranormal authors, but plan to do so in the future. Most of these stories are outstanding and really appealed to me; however, some were just not that memorable. Perhaps it is best to say that not every story is for everybody, although I am sure each one has its own following. In any case, **MANY BLOODY RETURNS** is a fun, entertaining, and creepy read, especially for fans of the genre. It is a great volume to pick up when you only have a few minutes to spare.

This anthology features some of the superstars of the paranormal genre writing about their most popular characters - Charlaine Harris (Sookie Stackhouse), Jim Butcher (Harry Dresden), Kelley Armstrong (Cassandra du Charme from the women of the Otherworld universe), PN Elrod (Jack Fleming), Tanya Huff (Tony and Henry Fitzroy), and Rachel Caine (Eve Rosser from the Morganville Vampires books) - along with some other fairly recognizable authors such as Christopher Golden and Jeanne Stein. It was the superstars who made this anthology worth buying. Their stories were, with the exception of Ms. Harris' contribution (which seemed quickly thrown together and unsatisfying), well crafted and engrossing, providing deeper insight into the characters which will make reading future installments of their series even more enjoyable. Some of the other stories left

me cold (such as *The Mournful Cry of Owls*) and others, like Jeanne Stein's "The Witch and the Wicked" were so interesting and original I will definitely be looking at the author's other works. All anthologies have their weak moments but this one has less than usual due to the high caliber of the contributors, with a good 2/3 of the stories being excellent or better. It's a must read for devoted fans of any of the series included.

I bought this book hoping to get a taste of a few different supernatural authors. It was a great read. I would read it again, if one of my friends wasn't borrowing it right now. There are, of course, a few stories that aren't very good, but it's still interesting to read them and see how the authors tie vampires and birthdays together. It is definitely worth reading if you like any of the authors listed or you just like anthologies and supernatural stories.

Quite a variety of stories. Some of the authors are more familiar than others - Charlene Harris, Jim Butcher, P.N. Elrod to name a few - and some of the stories are better than others. There's humor, horror, mystery - in short a little something for everyone. Just not everything is for everyone. I really enjoyed Butcher's Harry Dresden story and Elrod's Jack Fleming but then, I'm a huge fan of both. Harris' story was interesting with a neat little twist at the end.

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