



THE GOTHIC NOVEL

The Gothic novel is a stylistic mode or genre that uses a set of conventions to instill a feeling of fear, or uneasiness in the reader.

Gothic novels can be seen as an attempt to negotiate the anxieties enlightenment, rationalism, industrial revolution and urbanization brought with them. Religious certitude decreased as new theories, like Darwin's theory of evolution, brought humankind closer to animals and bestiality.

The Gothic novel, also known as "Gothic romance", was initiated by **Horace Warpol's Castle of Otranto**, a Gothic Story (1764), and spread over the 19th century. Generally, haunted places such as castles, crypts, gloomy mansions and convents were a popular setting to embody the Gothic theme.

The term Gothic novel broadly refers to stories that combine elements from horror and romanticism. The Gothic novel often deals with supernatural events, or events occurring in nature that cannot be easily explained or over which man has no control, and it typically follows a plot of suspense and mystery.

Common elements found in Gothic novels:

- Gloomy, decaying setting (haunted houses or castles with secret passages, trapdoors, and other mysterious architecture)
- Supernatural beings or monsters (ghosts, vampires, zombies, giants)
- Curses or prophecies
- Damsels in distress
- Heroes
- Romance
- Intense emotions

The vocabulary of the gothic

Mystery	diabolical, enchantment, ghost, goblins, haunted, infernal, magic, magician, miracle, necromancer, omens, ominous, portent, preternatural, prodigy, prophecy, secret, sorcerer
Fear, Terror, or Sorrow	afflicted, affliction, agony, anguish, apprehensions, apprehensive, commiseration, concern, despair, dismal, dismay, dread, dreaded, dreading, fearing, frantic, fright, frightened, grief, hopeless, horrid, horror, lamentable, melancholy, miserable, mournfully, panic, sadly, scared, shrieks, sorrow
Surprise	alarm, amazement, astonished, astonishment, shocking, staring, surprise, surprised, thunderstruck, wonder
Haste	anxious, breathless, flight, frantic, hastened, hastily, impatience, impatient, impatiently, impetuosity, precipitately, running, sudden, suddenly
Anger	anger, angrily, cholera, enraged, furious, fury, incense, incensed, provoked, rage, raving, resentment, temper, wrath, wrathful, wrathfully
Largeness	enormous, gigantic, giant, large, tremendous, vast
Darkness	dark, darkness, dismal, shaded, black, night

Typical motifs and characters

- Uncanny environments such as castles, dungeons, prisons, cemeteries, ...
- The supernatural
- Monsters
- Magic Objects
- Femme fatales
- Demons
- Walking skeletons
- The devil
- Witches and witchcraft
- Science used for a bad purpose

Anne Rice



Author Anne Rice hails from New Orleans, Louisiana. She gained notoriety as a writer of erotica and vampire novels. Her most popular book, *Interview with the Vampire*, was published in 1976 and later made into a movie of the same name, starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt. Rice rediscovered her Catholic faith in 1998 and wrote several books that reflected that her interest in religion, including *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt* (2005) and *Angel Time* (2009). In 2010, Rice said that she was no longer a Christian. Her most recent works are *The Wolf Gift* (2012) and *The Wolves of Midwinter* (2013).

Darkly brooding and sensuously written,
a tale of seduction and betrayal, decadence
and desire, death and immortality



Interview
with the
Vampire

ANNE RICE

introduced by Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*