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From Fabricating Vampires to Fabricating Jesus Anne Rice's Long and Winding Road from Catholicism and Back Again

by G. Richard Fisher

The world is full of ironies. For example, Anne Rice has written nearly 30 books. She is best known for her fiction series "The Vampire Chronicles," which comprises at least a dozen books. Her first vampire book, *Interview with the Vampire* (published in 1976) "has gone on to become the second best-selling vampire novel of all time, second only to Bram Stoker's *Dracula*."¹

But a few years ago, the startling news out of the book world was that she was writing a book about Jesus. She also wrote an autobiographical book, *Called Out of Darkness*, which describes her return to the Roman Catholicism of her youth.

O'Brien because her mother wanted her named after her father. She renamed herself Anne on her very first day of school and Anne she remained.

She earned her bachelor's and master's of arts degrees at San Francisco State University. As Rice moved from writing vampire fables and erotica to stories of Christ — her other more recent titles included *Christ the Lord:*

Out of Egypt and *Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana* — *Time* magazine reported, "Rice could rival C.S. Lewis as a popular apologist for the faith,"² and *Christianity Today* magazine said, "Rice couples her writing talents with the zeal of a recent convert."³

But while her autobiography is titled *Called Out of Darkness*, she still (continues on page 15)



BECOMING ANNE OF MANY GUISES

Rice was born in 1941 in New Orleans, where she spent her childhood. She was named Howard Allen

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