



Flourish: The Story of Anne Fontaine

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Following the death of her dominating mother, Anne Fontaine decides to leave the bayou to reconnect with her estranged half-sister, Adrienne Deschanel. Her hope is to forge a relationship with Adrienne that was not possible when her mother was alive. Secretly, she also hopes to find out if her extraordinary supernatural talents are shared by anyone else.

When Nicolas Deschanel gets wind of Anne's presence, he suspects that she is one of many con artists after his sister's money. Not knowing that her story is true, he engages in a game of cat-and-mouse with her, deciding to have a little fun.

Eventually, circumstances find both of them back at the Deschanel family seat, Ophélie, where secrets and stories come to life.

Flourish: The Story of Anne Fontaine Details

Date : Published (first published August 1st 2013)

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Author : Sarah M. Cradit

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From Reader Review Flourish: The Story of Anne Fontaine for online ebook

Rachel says

I received this novelette as a gift in exchange for an honest review. This was the first book I had read from Sarah M. Cradit and it will definitely not be the last. With descriptive dialogue and interesting characters this novella whispers of a wonderfully enchanting series of interconnected novels and after reaching the end leaves a reader wanting more.

In this short novella Anne Fontaine travels from the bayou to forge relations with her half-sister Adrienne. Anne is not the only person to claim an association with Adrienne and therefore finds that she must convince Nicolas that her relationship is honest before any meeting can occur. A paranormal ability, recently developed, needs to be explained. A relationship to a dead man needs to be proved. Wonderfully flowing from start to end, the twists and turns in the story-line made me gasp aloud.

S.K. Nicholls says

I recently had the honor of being gifted a copy of “Beyond Dusk: Anne” in exchange for an honest review. Having read “St. Charles at Dusk”, being much impressed, looking forward to “The Storm and the Darkness” as a book to read soon, I was eagerly anticipating “Beyond Dusk: Anne”. I have read a few novellas and was very glad to see that the author gave enough backstory from St. Charles at Dusk without rewriting that novel. I tend to resent that when authors are less than creative with their novellas. This novella was very creative indeed, and introduced a paranormal element that I found most delightfully done and intriguing. The characters, while matured, stayed true to their unique personalities. I could really relate to Anne Fontaine, having been a poor southern farm girl myself once upon a time, and her having to overcome her shyness and awkwardness in being introduced to, “High Society.” The flora and foliage were also beautifully described. My only complaint is that, this novella was not long enough nor complete enough to suit me. Just about the time I got really excited and was deeply into the story, it ended, quite like a teaser. I wanted to know the rest of this story. This teaser will only encourage me to keep reading the series, and will in no way deter me!

Katie Cross says

This was my first read of Sarah Cradit's work, and I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah left very good first impression on me as a writer. She was clean, with a solid manuscript and good characters. Beyond Dusk is a novelette at around 10,500 words. In that very short space, she created a very moving plot line. It's hard to find self-published authors with a very real talent for word usage and little to no mistakes.

While I won't recap the story here, it ties in with a few previous books of hers that I have not read, but stands alone well, without too much 'explaining' or 'recap' involved. If anything, this book has encouraged me to read the other copies, of which I already had in my TBR pile.

Overall a fast, great read.

Michele Breaux-Rowley says

A breathless 40 pages, was it really only 40 pages? Sarah put so much into this short, that I really did feel like I read a full book, and it left me craving more more more.

I was introduced to Anne in St. Charles at Dusk and while I really did not care for her character, I was sort of ambivalent toward her. Now I am totally rethinking it. We saw her unleash a fury that left me breathless and slack jawed. She is going to be formidable! I want to go back and reread Dusk to see if those feelings still exist now that I know more of her history. As far as Nicholas, he has some work to do to get redemption I think. But as I have learned, with Anne, I will reserve judgement for now!

That being said, Sarah, I want more ANNE! My question is still “Why did you end it there!?!?” I am a Crimson and Clover fan for life and cannot wait to see what else Sarah comes up with!

~Michele

Dauntless Indies

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Patti Hall says

This is the first time that I have read any of Sarah M. Cradit's House of Crimson and Clover Series. The new novelette, Beyond Dusk: Anne, has turned me into a fan.

Anne's story is quite capable of standing strong on its own, but be forewarned; you will still want to read all that came before, and all that comes after. This story revolves around Anne, yet gathers tendrils of a past filled with romance, mystery, drama, and a bit of paranormal magic from opposing sides of her family. Place is also a strong character in this novella. The family that she grew up with, is from the poverty-stricken depths of the Louisianian bayous. The family that she never knew, live in a stunning mansion in the rich culture of New Orleans.

Tying it altogether in 40 pages takes talent to pull off. Cradit has talent. The author offers up a perfectly comprehensive back-story, intriguing and character-driven Anne story, and several side trails to entice the reader to the next book.

Southern fiction, yes. Paranormal, yes. However, I highly recommend this novella to anyone looking for a great short read.

Brian & Tara says

Written as an accompaniment, or epilogue, to Sarah Cradit's first novel, “Beyond Dusk: Anne” surprisingly stands very nicely on its own. The end is satisfying with full resolution of open questions, and promises of future fun.

While the characters will be richer if you've read "St. Charles at Dusk," or even "The Storm and the Darkness," prior consumption isn't required. Those who know and adore Nicolas from Sarah's Crimson and Clover series will love him even more. Anne develops beautifully. Ever the tease, Cradit also cameos a couple characters who will (hopefully) play a larger role in future works.

Small in commitment, big on entertainment, "Beyond Dusk: Anne" serves two palates: This short is a sweet dessert for an existing Cradit fan. New-to-her readers will discover a lovely appetizer that is consummate Sarah, serving rich visual detail, naughty humor, agonizingly realistic characters, unexpected twists, and a generous dash of paranormal.

Oh, and be sure to pour yourself a nice adult beverage to sip. I recommend a cognac, neat.

Happy Reading!

Julie says

Beyond the Dusk: Anne by Sarah M. Cradit is a novelette and part of the Crimson & Clover series. This story focuses on The Fontaines in New Orleans. Anne Fontaine Deschanel has arrived in New Orleans in search of her sister, Adrienne.

Anne and Adrienne had not parted on the best of terms. All Anne wants is to reconnect with her sister again. She is aware of a brother named Nicolas, but they've never met. So, when Oz informs Nicolas that yet another person is claiming to be related to Adrienne, he decided to have a little fun with the girl calling herself "Jane".

Presuming Anne is just another fortune hunter, he meets up with her at the hotel bar and deliberately keeps his identity from her. This is a very dangerous game Nicolas is playing with "Jane". Suffice it to say, Nicolas rather underestimated Anne. He's gotten a whole lot more than he bargained for.

I really enjoyed this part of the series. New Orleans is one of my favorite locations and I could see the gardens and flowers and smell the aromas of the city. Nicholas is a character I have mixed emotions about. I'm just not sure how to feel about him. He is a jerk a lot of the time, but when it comes to family, he is as loyal as they come, usually.

He gets his comeuppance with Anne. You will not want to miss this installment in the series. Anne has a lot to offer and will be a valuable asset to the family.

Another solid effort from Sarah Cradit. This one gets an A.

Pamela Beckford says

I don't normally read short stories or novellas. I was reminded of that reading this engaging story...it was just too darn short. I wanted more. Greedy I know. But the characters created in the series are so well thought out and described that I just want to know them even better. I feel like I'm part of their lives, even if it is a relationship looking in from the outside.

This story enhances the series, but you wouldn't have to read the series first necessarily. I do think the

novella makes more sense after reading St. Charles at Dusk.

Do I recommend this novella? You bet I do. I recommend St. Charles at Dusk and The Storm and The Darkness too. I can't wait for the next book in the series to come out. This novella just reminded me that I want more!

I was given this novella in exchange for an honest review and these opinions are honest.

Becket says

Sarah Cradit has written in a novelette what many authors try to accomplish in a full novel. Having already encountered her characters in her inaugural novel ST. CHARLES AT DUSK, I thoroughly enjoyed her new novelette BEYOND DUSK. It shed a wonderful new light on the character of Anne.

In this novelette, Cradit did what Anne Rice did with Lestat. The vampire was not the hero of Interview With the Vampire; but he has been the hero of subsequent books. Cradit has done the same. Her character Anne is brought to life beautifully, and depicted as being a powerful and meaningful character.

One of the most charming elements of this story is a trick Stephen King did in Firestarter. In the same way King's inventiveness coined the word "pyrokinesis" (literally translated as *fire motion / fire mover*), Cradit brilliantly coined her own word for Anne's amazing ability: "Arborkinetic" (tree / grass mover). Cradit's wonderful character Anne has a remarkable influence over flora and fauna. It's absolutely brilliant!

A wonderful facet about Cradit's writing is its fluidity and organization. Her prose never allows the suspension of disbelief to be broken. And her narrative voice shows the readers how much Cradit loves her characters.

BEYOND DUSK makes me wonder what's next in store for Anne in future books for the House of Crimson and Clover series.

Highly recommended reading!

Shelley says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Anne is a Deschanel, even if she never grew up knowing anything about her father or the rest of her family, she shares one special bond with them, she is gifted. When her gift scares her she tracks down Adrienne, the only family member she knows, to try and understand what is happening. Nicholas is tired of people trying to take advantage of his family ever since the miraculous return of Adrienne Deschanel. When Adrienne's husband calls to tell him there's someone else trying to get a hold of some of the family money Nicholas decides to check it out. He thinks this girl is trying to scheme his family so he's going to get close to her to find out the truth. What he finds is another sister and a kindred spirit.

This book takes place several years after the ending of St. Charles at Dusk. However, it is not necessary to

have read that book in order to understand the events or people of Beyond Dusk. Cradit has made this book an easy adventure into the world of the Deschanel's. Her classical style of writing will entice you into a world where the fabulously wealthy have not only their own secrets to hide but mysteries about their pasts to discover and deal with. Cradit is amazingly talented at painting a picture in your mind and leaving a longing in your soul to visit this world in her books as well the real life inspirations. Her characters become family and friends with whom you have an interest in seeing them happy or at the very least not miserable. The fact that Cradit can pull so many emotions from the reader in such a short story is a testament to her genius with words.

Shawn Verdin says

Having not read the two full-length novels in this series, I wasn't quite sure what to expect from this novelette. I had a really good gut feeling about it though. Yes! I love it when my gut is right! I was pretty much sold at New Orleans, supernatural powers and a home named Ophelie. Oh, but there is so much more! Written to compliment the House of Crimson and Clover series, Beyond Dusk: Anne did a fine job at drawing me in, introducing me to the characters with no confusion and hooking me bait, line and sinker. I'm a sucker for rich characters, broad vocabulary and intricate storylines. This story delivers them all. I couldn't turn the pages on my eReader quick enough and was literally on the edge of my seat several times! I may have gone into this novelette blind to the series, but that will soon change! Ms. Cradit, consider me a new fan. Maybe even a stalker...a stalker of your series, that is!

Breezy *Lover of all things Alpha Male* says

I have a serious love for Sarah Cradit's House of Crimson and Clover series, and this was the perfect little morsel to follow up the last book! We see Nicolas being a little mischievous when he comes up with the idea to "play" with the people who are trying to cash in on his sister Adrienne's memory loss. He is being protective and enjoying himself at the same time.

We see Anne Fontaine come to see the only sister she has ever met. Anne has a powerful family "gift", she has the ability to manipulate plants. Everyone has a gift, most are benign, but Anne's is crazy powerful. She demonstrates this on Nicolas when his playing goes too far. Nicolas, seeing what she is able to do, also starts to see the family resemblance in her and takes her to their aunt. She confirms what Nicolas already knows, this is his half sister as well.

I have to say it was the perfect way for this story to continue, I enjoy reading Sarah's work and I find that every time I enter her world of Magi, I am more and more impressed.

I give this 5 Novella lipsticks!

~B~

MrsJoseph says

<http://bookslifewine.com/a-r-flourish/>

2.5 stars rounded down to 2 stars!

To quote my friend Colleen, "I must confess myself... disappointed."

I am supposed to be reading an anthology full of Romance novel firsts: the beginnings of 14 different *Romance* series. So I am not sure what the fuck to call *Flourish*. As you can tell by the title/heading, *Flourish* is NOT the first in a series - it's something like the **6th** story in this damn series. I had NOT A FUCKING CLUE the import of anything that happened in this stupid story.

Also - just to add insult to injury - this is NOT a Romance. *Not a Romance*. This has not a hint of Romance in it - so why is it in a Romance anthology?? I seriously would like to know.

Flourish is the story of Anne Fontaine. Anne has had some family issues and is searching for her half-sister, Adrienne, in order to re-connect after a hurtful parting. In search of Adrienne, Anne meets Nicolas. Nicolas is suspicious of Anne because a lot of fortune hunters were trying to contact Adrienne. In order to "force" Anne to admit she was not Adrienne's sister but instead another fortune hunter, Nicolas pretends to be someone other than Adrienne's brother. Nicolas also hits on Anne (and if I'm not mistaken puts his hand up her skirt). THANK GOD they didn't swap spit cause I would have thrown up in my mouth. Anne is Adrienne's half-sister so she is Nicolas's half sister, too (grossness abounds).

Nicolas takes Anne to meet their aunt and thus ends the story.

Yep. That's it. Anne meets her family. There is no ROMANCE here and I was expecting a Romance. No wonder *Red Hot Beginnings* was pulled - so far the offerings have sucked major ass. I have not wanted to move forward with any of the stories I've read in this anthology thus far.

Echo says

I received a copy of this story from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah M. Cradit shines with Beyond Dusk: Anne by not only showing her talent at telling a good story but also at being an incredibly good writer. It was an interesting novella, that kept me hooked all the way thru. The way that it's written with edges of the supernatural combined with the normal - I love it.

When Anne arrives in town seeking out her sister Adrienne she doesn't expect money or anything more than family and finding out answers to a particularly interesting secret that she has been keeping. Unbeknownst to her, Nicolas, Adrienne's brother and Anne's brother, decides to investigate her, thinking that Anne is lying about being related to them. After the miraculous way that Adrienne came back to them, people have been coming out of the wood work claiming to be related or that Adrienne promised them things while she was not herself. Suffice it to say Nicolas doesn't believe that Anne is their sister and sets out to prove she's lying.

What happens from there is both funny and awesome.

I actually genuinely like Nicolas, he's charming and kind of arrogant in a way that I really like. I liked him in the previous books and I like him here too. Anne, was a sweet girl who was both completely timid while showing that the potential for her growth as a character is astounding and her gift or her secret, I should say, is amazingly awesome.

Overall, I really liked this short novella. It wrapped up nicely and gave us a peek at this wonderfully complex family. The writing is fantastic and I can't wait to read more of anything else that Sarah M. Cradit gives us next.

Originally posted on Me, Myself & Books Blog
<http://memyselfandbooksblog.blogspot.com>

Cathy Ryan says

Adrienne Deschanel 'came back from the dead' after being missing for three years following the accident which killed all the members of her family except for her brother, Nicolas. Since her return a year ago they have been inundated with calls from people claiming to have been a part of Adrienne's previous life. Oz Sullivan, now Adrienne's husband, is also the Deschanel's lawyer and is dealing with the unwanted attention.

Anne Fontaine was born in a cabin in the bayou. When her mother dies she sets out for New Orleans in the hopes of meeting her sister again and finding out more about her background and the strange power she possesses.

Thoughts

A very interesting and engaging story that gives more of an insight into Anne's character and her place in the family. I like the introduction of the paranormal aspect and as with the first novel, this one is very well written and beautifully descriptive and has a lot of depth for such a short story.
