

Vampires in the City: Mergence, Mystique, and that ‘New Orleans Thing’

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Kristin Painter's *House of Comarré* saga: New Orleans has 'such a draw for vampires', that it has become 'synonymous with them' (*Bad Blood*, 2011).

Deborah Harkness' *All Souls* trilogy: New Orleans is where the 'boisterous', 'charming' and 'most powerful' vampires are known to reside and thrive.

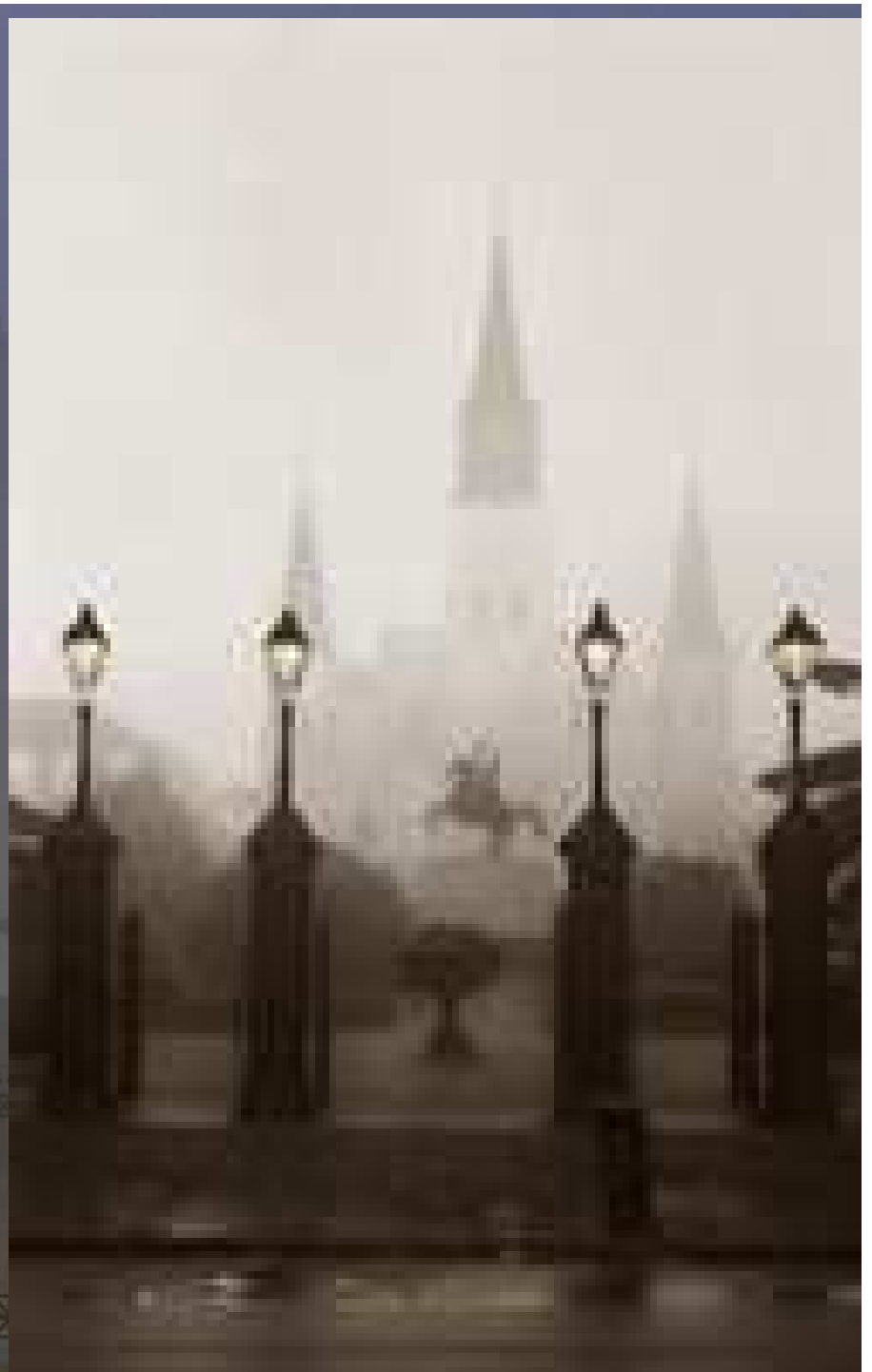
Charlaine Harris, *Sookie Stackhouse/Southern Mysteries* series: 'New Orleans had been the place to go for vampires and those who wanted to be around them ever since Anne Rice had been proven right about their existence. The city was like Disneyland for vamps'.

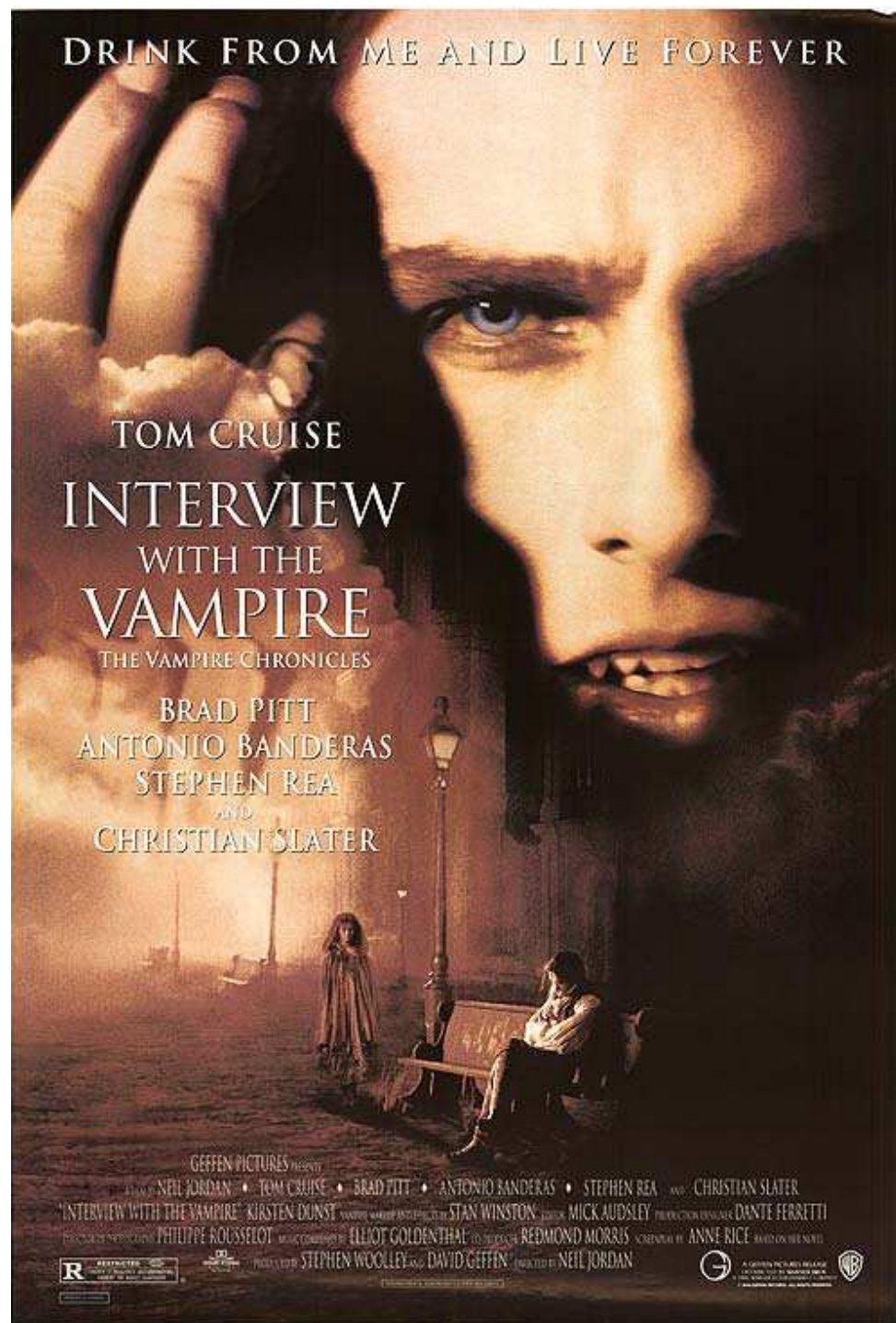
Simone de Behaviour: the city is surrounded by a
'pearl grey' and 'luminous' air.

Oliver Evans: the city maintains an omnipresent
'fine haze', 'soft and subtle, with opalescent hints'.

(Cited in: Louise McKinney, *New Orleans: A Cultural History*, 2006)









The vampires in the fiction...

Sookie Stackhouse: 'glow'.

Black Dagger Brotherhood: 'golden glow'.

Twilight saga: 'pale gloss' [...] 'crystalline skin'
[...] 'translucent white'.

New Orleans...

...a city of 'splendid decay'...

...showing 'the wear and tear of human life'.

(Louise McKinney, *New Orleans: A Cultural History*, 2006)

New Orleans...

...‘a fearsome place, difficult enough for building houses, lunacy for wharves and skyscrapers’.

(Peirce Fee Lewis , *New Orleans: The Making of an Urban Landscape*, 2003)

New Orleans...

...‘a city in love with its myths, mysteries
and fantasies’.

(Kenneth Holditch, 2006)



New Orleans...

...is 'complex and constantly mutating city', in which 'meanings of place and community' are 'inexorably intertwined with tourism'.

(Kenneth Holditch, in McKinney, *New Orleans: A Cultural History*)

Fantasia

‘Son of a
misbegotten
whore!’



‘Since vampire tourism now accounted for so much of the city’s revenue, even the humans in New Orleans listened to the [vampires’] wants and wishes, in an unofficial way’.

(Charlaine Harris, *A Touch of Dead*, 2009)



Ghost & Vampire Tour



Thank you!