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laurell k hamiltons in order

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Laurell K. Hamilton's Bibliography: A Comprehensive Guide to Reading Her Works in Order

Laurell K. Hamilton has become a household name for lovers of urban fantasy, paranormal romance, and erotica. Her sprawling universe—most famously anchored by the *Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter* series—spans more than thirty books, a handful of spin offs, and a collection of short stories and novellas that weave a complex tapestry of vampires, werewolves, shapeshifters, and supernatural politics. For new readers, the sheer volume can be intimidating. Where should you start? In what order should you read the books to fully appreciate the character arcs, lore, and overarching plotlines?

This article presents a detailed, reader friendly ordering of Laurell K. Hamilton's works. We'll cover the recommended reading sequence, highlight key story arcs, and offer additional tips for navigating her expansive bibliography. Whether you're a longtime fan looking to fill gaps in your collection or a newcomer eager to dive into the world of Anita Blake, this guide will help you enjoy every twist and turn.

1. The Foundations: The Anita Blake Series

Laurell K. Hamilton's debut novel, *Guilty Pleasures* (1993), introduced readers to Anita Blake, a professional vampire hunter, necromancer, and part time crime scene investigator. The series quickly became a staple of the urban fantasy genre, blending action, romance, and eroticism with a sharp, witty voice. Because the Anita Blake books are the backbone of Hamilton's oeuvre, reading them in publication order is essential for following character development, plot continuity, and the gradual expansion of the supernatural world.

1.1. Publication Order (1993–2008)

1. Guilty Pleasures (1993) – Anita's first assignment and the beginning of her complicated relationships with the vampire world.
2. The Killing Dance (1994) – Anita's first foray into vampire politics.
3. All That You Love (1994) – The first appearance of the "Vampire Queen" plotline.
4. Waking the Demon (1995) – Anita's struggle with her own demonic powers.
5. Rapture (1996) – Anita's first major romantic entanglement.
6. Wicked Game (1997) – The introduction of the werewolf pack.
7. Skin Trade (1997) – A deeper dive into Anita's supernatural enemies.
8. Cold Intoxication (1998) – The start of the "Wolves of the West" arc.
9. Frostbite (1999) – Anita's first trip to the frozen North.
10. Blood Noir (2000) – A noir twist on the supernatural world.
11. Vampire Love (2001) – The rise of the vampire queen.
12. Dead Ice (2001) – The final book in the "Wolves of the West" arc.
13. Blood Brothers (2002) – Anita's growing influence in vampire politics.
14. Blood Feud (2002) – The climax of the vampire queen storyline.
15. Blood Noir (2003) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original noir story.
16. Blood Rites (2003) – The introduction of the "Ritual" plotline.
17. Blood Brothers (2004) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original story.

18. Blood Rites (2004) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original story.
19. Blood Rites (2005) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original story.
20. Blood Rites (2006) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original story.
21. Blood Rites (2007) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original story.
22. Blood Rites (2008) – (Re issue) A re imagined take on the original story.

While the above list includes re issues for completeness, the core reading experience is found in the first 23 titles (1993 2008). These books establish the primary characters, setting, and recurring themes that recur throughout Hamilton's later works.

1.2. Key Story Arcs in the Anita Blake Series

- Vampire Queen Arc (Books 3–6) – Anita's entanglement with the political machinations of vampire society.
- Werewolf Pack Arc (Books 6–9) – The introduction and development of the werewolf community, culminating in the "Wolves of the West" storyline.
- Vampire Queen & Werewolf Arc (Books 10–13) – The intersection of vampire and werewolf politics.
- Vampire Queen & Werewolf Arc (Books 14–17) – The resolution of major conflicts and the introduction of new supernatural threats.
- Vampire Queen & Werewolf Arc (Books 18–23) – The final chapters of the main arcs, including the "Ritual" storyline.

2. Expanding Horizons: The Midnight Series

While the Anita Blake series focuses on the gritty, city based supernatural world, the Midnight series explores a more mythic realm. Set in the same universe but centered on a different protagonist, the Midnight books provide a fresh perspective on the same supernatural politics while introducing new characters and mythologies.

2.1. Publication Order (2001–2012)

1. Midnight (2001) – Introduces the protagonist, a half vampire, half werewolf.
2. Midnight Rising (2001) – The protagonist's quest for power.
3. Midnight's Children (2002) – A deeper dive into the protagonist's family.
4. Midnight's Curse (2003) – The first appearance of the "Curse" plotline.
5. Midnight's Revenge (2004) – The climax of the "Curse" storyline.
6. Midnight's Legacy (2005) – A new threat emerges.
7. Midnight's Vengeance (2006) – The final book in the Midnight series.

2.2. How the Midnight Series Connects to Anita Blake

While the Midnight books stand alone, they share recurring characters and lore. Readers who follow the Anita Blake series will recognize familiar names, settings, and supernatural factions. The Midnight series offers an alternate viewpoint on the same supernatural politics, making it a great complementary read.

3. The Bloodlines: The New Blood Series

In 2012, Hamilton launched the *New Blood*series, a spin off that explores the world from the perspective of a new generation of supernatural beings. The series is set in the same universe but follows different protagonists, offering fresh narratives and a modern take on the supernatural world.

3.1. Publication Order (2012–Present)

1. New Blood (2012) – The first book introduces the new protagonists and their challenges.
2. New Blood: Blood and Fire (2012) – The continuation of the main conflict.

3. New Blood: Blood and Blood (2013) – The climax of the first arc.
4. New Blood: Blood and Blood (2014) – The second arc begins.
5. New Blood: Blood and Blood (2015) – The continuation of the second arc.
6. New Blood: Blood and Blood (2016) – The third arc begins.
7. New Blood: Blood and Blood (2017) – The climax of the third arc.
8. New Blood: Blood and Blood (2018) – The final arc concludes.

3.2. Reading Order for the New Blood Series

Because the *New Blood*books are self contained, readers can dive in at any point. However, following the publication order ensures that the evolving plotlines and character arcs remain coherent.

4. Crossovers and Short Stories

Hamilton's universe is peppered with cross overs, novellas, and short stories that expand the lore and provide additional context for major events. These works often appear in anthologies or as bonus material in deluxe editions.

4.1. Notable Crossovers

- Blood and Fire (2004) – A crossover novella featuring Anita and Midnight protagonists.
- Blood and Blood (2005) – A crossover novella featuring the Anita Blake and New Blood protagonists.
- Blood and Blood (2010) – A crossover novella featuring the Midnight and New Blood protagonists.

4.2. Short Stories and Novellas

Hamilton has released several short stories that delve into backstories and side plots. These are often available in anthologies such as *Blood and Fire: The Anthology* and *Blood and Blood: The Anthology*. While not essential for the main plot, they provide depth for avid fans.

5. Recommended Reading Sequence for New Readers

For those new to Laurell K. Hamilton's world, here's a streamlined reading order that balances narrative flow with character development:

1. Guilty Pleasures (Anita Blake)
2. Midnight (Midnight series)
3. New Blood (New Blood series)
4. Continue with the rest of the Anita Blake series in publication order (Books 2–23).
5. Finish the Midnight series (Books 2–7).
6. Finish the New Blood series (Books 2–8).
7. Read cross over novellas and short stories as desired.

This approach allows readers to experience the core of each series while maintaining the overarching continuity of the shared universe.

6. How to Keep Track of Your Reading

With so many titles, it can be easy to lose track. Below are a few practical tips to stay organized:

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