

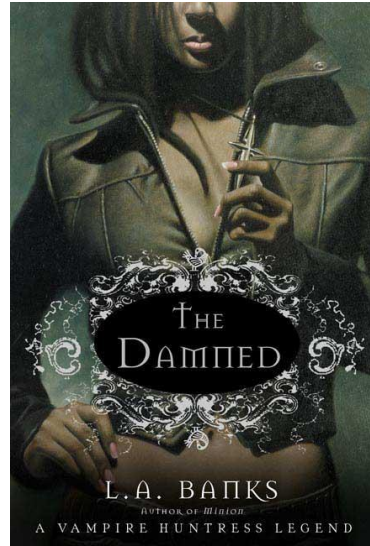
READING GROUP GUIDE

The Damned

By L.A. Banks

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About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *The Damned* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *The Damned*.

About the Book

Lilith, the consort of the Unnamed One, has released the Damned, tortured souls from all levels of Hell, to walk the streets as the living dead. A dark chaos leaks onto Earth, taking the form of a deadly contagion that not even the Neteru team can handle. One touch from these deadly creatures infects a human, driving him to madness, death...and worse.

This time, Damali Richards, the Vampire Huntress (aka the millennium Neteru), Carlos, and the Guardians cannot effectively close ranks. The infection spreads to key team members and threatens to wipe out the entire squad. Even the Covenant is infected. They must track down the Chairman before members of the Neteru-Guardian team are lost and the team implodes. The only antidote is to behead Lilith. But first they must find her.

About the Author

L. A. BANKS was the author of the Vampire Huntress Legend series and the Crimson Moon Novels, including *Left for Undead* and *Never Cry Werewolf*. She had a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and a master's in fine arts from Temple University. Banks considered herself a shape-shifter, writing romance, women's fiction, crime and suspense, and of course, dark vampire huntress lore. She lived with her daughter in Philadelphia until her death in 2011.



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Discussion Questions

1. The theme of relapse and redemption is explored here in depth. How do you think it is possible for a person to beat a substance abuse issue that clings to them if they briefly relapse into an old lifestyle?
2. What do you think about Yonnie and Carlos's friendship? Discuss the fact that while Yonnie was still in the old lifestyle, he encouraged Carlos not to relapse. What are some possible consequences if Carlos had relapsed? How would it have affected their friendship?
3. What are some daily issues in your life that cause your "dark" and "light" sides to battle, (just as Carlos struggled in the book)? How do you reconcile the two sides?
4. Was Damali's intuition that something was wrong justified? Do you think that after all she and Carlos had been through together, she was right to still hold herself apart from the unseen, nagging issue that she felt—or should she have accepted him "as is"?
5. What is your take on all the house drama among: Yonnie/Tara/Rider; Juanita/Jose/Carlos/Damali; and J.L./Krissy/Dan. Also consider Berkfield's reaction to his daughter's suitors; Marlene/Kanak/Shabazz; and Inez and Big Mike's infection?
6. Explore the role of The Covenant and how the team was "called back" during this time of crisis because they, too, were compromised. What are some possible scenarios in which religious leaders are ineffective because they are overly compromised? What are the consequences, and what should be done?
7. As the team evolves, and the relationships change, what do you see as the next major hurdle(s) for the Neterus and Guardian team in this series?

For more on the Vampire Huntress series, visit www.vampirehuntress.com

For more reading group suggestions, visit www.readinggroupgold.com

