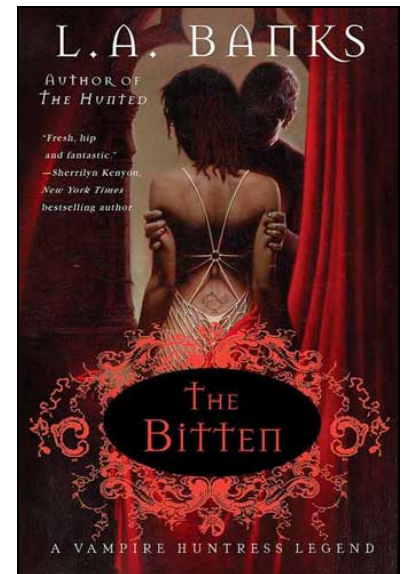


READING GROUP GUIDE

The Bitten by L.A. Banks



St. Martin's Press
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Introduction to *The Bitten*

The vampire civil war has been averted, deadly were-demons have been beaten back and now it Damali Richards and Carlos Rivera (now a Council level vampire) will finally have the chance to settle in and explore their deeper, sexier love. But Carlos and Damali should know by now that there is no rest for the saviors of the known world. One of the four topside Master vampires has stolen one of the Keys-the living blood of Christ---that opens the sixth seal as foretold in Revelations. He who possesses the Key and the Seal can decide to the outcome of the Final War, a.k.a. Armageddon. With a vampire in possession of the Key, the balance between the Light and the Dark have been thrown off and even Damali is deeply effected. She is now sporting a pair of fangs. In order to retrieve the Key, Carlos and Damali are quickly thrust into a web of vampire politics and intrigue. And when Carlos's secret drug, Oblivion, finds its way into the hands of the enemies, even the seventh level of Hell comes calling.

Reading Group Guide Questions

1. Now that Damali is twenty-one and can hook up with Carlos, do you think she should have?
2. Early in the series, what did you think about Damali's need to remain celibate until her twenty-first birthday? Would that fly in the "real world"? How do you feel about the whole issue surrounding the "choices" women must make regarding childbearing?
3. Which character in the book is your favorite hero/heroine and why?
4. What character do you love to hate and why?
5. What did you think about the depiction of the levels of Hell?

6. Have you visited the Web site at www.vampirehuntress.com to see how each level is organized by a governing structure? If so, what parallels does that possibly have to some of the “real world’s” social, political, and economic infrastructure?
7. Do you believe a person can be redeemed after they’ve lived a wild life?
8. Are there types of characters (or creatures) you would like to see in the upcoming novels within the series? If yes, who or what?
9. Discuss the role of the Chairman versus Father Patrick as father figures to Carlos Rivera.
10. Remember that bad boy, Fallon Nuit? What did you think about his near sexual encounter with Damali on the astral plane (from the special edition scene in the mass market edition of *Minion*)?
11. Discuss the metaphor of “vampirism” as a seductive force to draw humans into a lifestyle of violence, crime, fast money—but ultimately incarceration into “a system.”

About the Author

L. A. Banks lives in Pennsylvania, a paranormal hotspot. Her unforgettable vampire characters, she says, are drawn from past experience, but she isn't naming names. But if you look closely you may be able to figure out who they are.