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Laurell K Hamiltons In Order

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Discovering the Works of Laurell K. Hamilton: Your Ultimate Guide to Reading Her Series in Order

For fans of urban fantasy, paranormal romance, and dark, intricate world-building, few names carry as much weight as Laurell K. Hamilton. With a career spanning over three decades, she has redefined the genre, blending visceral horror, intense action, and deeply emotional relationships into sprawling narratives that keep readers coming back for more. Whether you are a newcomer looking for a new obsession or a longtime fan wanting to revisit a beloved universe, understanding **Laurell K Hamiltons In Order** is essential. This guide will walk you through her two major series—the iconic **Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter** series and the lush, erotic **Merry Gentry** series—ensuring you experience her stories as they were meant to be read.

Why Reading Order Matters for Laurell K. Hamilton

Laurell K. Hamilton writes series that are deeply serialized. Characters grow, relationships evolve, and world-changing events have lasting consequences. Jumping into the middle of either series will leave you lost in a web of complex lore, shifting alliances, and personal histories. More importantly, Hamilton's writing style and thematic focus have evolved significantly over time. The early **Anita Blake** novels are gritty detective stories with horror elements, while later installments become more focused on polyamorous relationships and eroticism. By reading **Laurell K Hamiltons In Order**, you get to appreciate this natural progression, witnessing the characters mature and the world expand organically.

The Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter Series: A Complete Reading Order

The **Anita Blake** series is Hamilton's flagship creation. Beginning in 1993 with *Guilty Pleasures*, the series follows Anita Blake, a necromancer who raises the dead for a living and works as a vampire executioner. Over the course of more than 28 novels, Anita transforms from a solitary, tough-as-nails professional into a powerful figure surrounded by a vast network of lovers, allies, and supernatural beings. This list presents the books in publication order, which is the recommended reading order for the series.

1. Guilty Pleasures (1993) – The story that started it all. Anita is hired to investigate a series of vampire murders, plunging her into the dangerous underworld of St. Louis.
2. The Laughing Corpse (1994) – Anita faces a voodoo priest and a zombie-raising case that tests her moral boundaries.
3. Circus of the Damned (1995) – The vampiric master of the city makes his move, and Anita's powers begin to awaken further.
4. The Lunatic Cafe (1996) – A foray into the world of lycanthropes, where Anita confronts a killer targeting shapeshifters.
5. Bloody Bones (1996) – Anita travels to Branson, Missouri, to raise an ancient monster, leading to deadly consequences.

6. The Killing Dance (1997) – A turning point in the series, where Anita's relationships with Jean-Claude and Richard become more complex and dangerous.
7. Burnt Offerings (1998) – A vampire arsonist tests the limits of Anita's power and her growing connection to the vampire council.
8. Blue Moon (1998) – Anita goes on the run to save Richard, exploring the darker side of lycanthropy.
9. Obsidian Butterfly (2000) – A fan-favorite installment featuring the terrifying villain known as "The Harlequin." This book deepens the lore of the vampire world.
10. Narcissus in Chains (2001) – This novel marks a major tonal shift, introducing the concept of the "ardeur" and expanding Anita's romantic connections.
11. Cerulean Sins (2003) – Anita faces challenges from the vampire council and her own growing harem of lovers.
12. Incubus Dreams (2004) – The erotic elements intensify as Anita navigates her role as a succubus-like figure.
13. Micah (2006) – A shorter novel focusing on Anita's relationship with Micah, a powerful leopard shapeshifter.
14. Danse Macabre (2006) – A dance competition becomes a political battlefield for supernatural dominance.
15. The Harlequin (2007) – The ancient vampire police force known as the Harlequin arrives in St. Louis, threatening everyone Anita loves.
16. Blood Noir (2008) – Anita and Jason head to North Carolina, leading to a confrontation with the vampire council.
17. Skin Trade (2009) – Anita is called to Las Vegas to help a sheriff hunt a vampire serial killer.
18. Flirt (2010) – A novella that involves a kidnapping and a dangerous vampire client.
19. Bullet (2010) – The vampire council is in turmoil, and Anita must use all her power to survive a coup.
20. Hit List (2011) – A serial killer who targets psychics puts Anita in the crosshairs of a deadly conspiracy.
21. Kiss the Dead (2012) – Anita investigates a group of rogue vampires threatening the peace of St. Louis.
22. Affliction (2013) – A zombie plague threatens the city, forcing Anita to confront her necromancy powers like never before.
23. Jason (2014) – A novel centered on Jason Schuyler, one of Anita's closest friends and lovers.
24. Dead Ice (2015) – Anita's work as a zombie raiser intersects with a dangerous new drug called "Dead Ice."
25. Carmine (2016) – A novella that continues the ongoing saga of the St. Louis supernatural community.
26. Serpentine (2018) – Anita travels to Florida to solve a mysterious case involving serpent-like creatures.
27. Sucker Punch (2020) – A new threat emerges from the past, challenging Anita's position as a leader.
28. Rafael (2021) – The story focuses on Rafael, the king of the rats, and his deepening bond with Anita.
29. Smolder (2023) – The latest installment, which explores the aftermath of recent revelations and sets up new conflicts.

When reading **Laurell K Hamiltons In Order**, it is important to note that the **Anita Blake** series experiences a significant evolution in its storytelling. The first nine books are heavy on plot, mystery, and horror. Starting with *Narcissus in Chains*, the series shifts toward a more introspective and erotically charged narrative. This change divides some fans, but by reading in order, you can appreciate the logical progression of Anita's character and her ever-expanding world.

The Merry Gentry Series: A Complete Reading Order

If you enjoy Hamilton's writing but crave a world of even more explicit sensuality and high-stakes fairy politics, the **Merry Gentry** series is for you. Set in a modern-day America where the fey are real and living among humans, this series follows Meredith Gentry, a half-human, half-fae princess who must produce an heir to survive. The series is darker, more lushly romantic, and more overtly erotic than the **Anita Blake**novels. Here

is the correct reading order for the Merry Gentry

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