Prism Of The Night: A Biography Of Anne Rice

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Anne Rice was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 4, 1941. She was originally named Howard Allen O'Brien (her father's first name was Howard and her mother's maiden name was Allen), but she disliked this name from an early age and it was legally changed when she was seven years old. Rice's father was a postal worker who also worked on sculpture and writing. Rice lost her mother, an alcoholic, when she was fourteen, and the family moved to Texas. Contemporary Literary Criticism, Volume 41, Gale, 1987.


Rice, Anne, The Queen of the Damned, Knopf, 1988. Book-of-the-Month Club News, December, 1990. In 1970, while Anne Rice was attending a graduate program in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University, her daughter Michelle, then about four years old, was diagnosed with acute granulocytic leukemia. Michelle died of the illness about two years later and Rice fell into a deep depression, turning to alcohol in order to cope. Prism of the Night: A Biography of Anne Rice. New York: Penguin Group. p. 355.