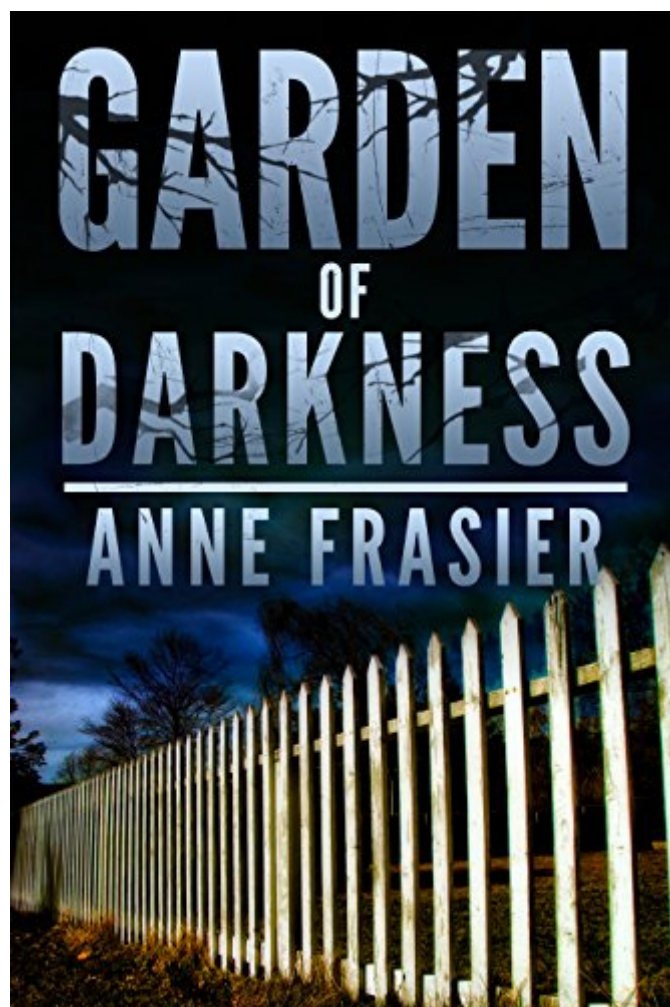


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# Garden Of Darkness (Land Of The Dead Book 2)



## Synopsis

RITA Finalist for paranormal suspense Return to the haunted town of Tuonela, Wisconsin, with the USA Today bestselling author of Pale Immortal. And find out if the rumors are true. Rachel Burton tried to leave, but the killing brought her back. The skinned body was found in the woods, just as Rachel—the town medical examiner—was driving out of Tuonela for good, or so she thought. Now her baby will be born here, and the betrayal of Evan Stroud—the man she’s always loved, the man who can never see the light of day—will continue to haunt her waking and sleeping hours. | Others are coming to Tuonela, drawn to the legend of the Pale Immortal, the so-called vampire whose exhumed body is now on display. And others will die. As Evan succumbs to madness, those around him will suspect the worst of him. But everything he is rumored to be will pale in comparison to the one who has been awakened. | Garden of Darkness was originally released by Penguin Putnam and was a RITA finalist. Anne Frasier (a.k.a. Theresa Weir) is an award-winning, USA Today bestselling author of twenty-one books and numerous short stories that have spanned the genres of suspense, mystery, thriller, romantic suspense, paranormal, and memoir. Her titles have been printed in both hardcover and paperback and translated into twenty languages. Her memoir, The Orchard, was a 2011 Oprah Magazine Fall Pick, Number Two on the Indie Next list, a featured B+ review in Entertainment Weekly, and a Librarians’ Best Books of 2011. Going back to 1988, Weir’s debut title was the cult phenomenon LILY, initially published by Pocket Books and later reissued by Bantam Books. Writing as Theresa Weir she won a RITA for romantic suspense (COOL SHADE), and a year later the Daphne du Maurier for paranormal romance (BAD KARMA). In her more recent Anne Frasier career, her thriller and suspense titles hit the USA Today list (HUSH, SLEEP TIGHT, PLAY DEAD) and were featured in Mystery Guild, Literary Guild, and Book of the Month Club. HUSH was both a RITA and Daphne du Maurier finalist. Her short stories and poetry can be found in DISCOUNT NOIR, ONCE UPON A CRIME, and THE LINEUP, POEMS ON CRIME. She is a member of Sisters in Crime and International Thriller Writers.

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## Customer Reviews

My normal review for a solid, well-written book is four stars (I reserve five stars for truly outstanding books). But I had several problems with this book. First of all, it took a veer into supernatural territory that I wasn't expecting (since the book to which it is a sequel - 'Pale Immortal' - was not supernatural). But I can accept that this might be a matter of taste. More importantly, the formatting was the worst I've ever seen. Sentences that go halfway across the screen and then split in the middle of a word are bad enough. It's awkward but at least I can still follow the story. But to have no line breaks or some way to indicate a scene change within a chapter is unforgivable. I'd be reading along and all of a sudden realize that it doesn't make sense, then have to back up and figure out where the scene changed. It really ruined the book. One final thing - I'm assuming that the 'bad guy' committed the two murders. But that's never actually clarified and no reason is given. Didn't make sense to me.

I've read and loved all of Frasier's works written as Theresa Weir and liked well enough the first two or three as Anne Frasier: Hush, Sleep Tight, Before I Wake. I liked Pale Immortal less and Garden of Darkness less than that, mainly because of the subject matter, but also partly because of the writing. As Theresa Weir, Frasier turned out very well written edgy romance/mystery character studies, with humor, wit and intriguing storylines. Her male characters had depth and were believable; her female characters had hangups but were sympathetic; you cared what happened to them. I find that to be less true in her novels as Anne Frasier. I was interested enough in Evan Stroud from Pale Immortal to buy GofD, but had I known where Frasier was going (and apparently intends to go) with these characters, I probably would have given it a miss, since I have no interest

in the vampire genre. In *Garden of Darkness*, I liked the teenage Graham and cared a bit about poor suffering Evan himself (though I think his future must remain a mystery to me), but was less interested in the other characters, including Rachel, and cared least of all about the dismal and depressingly dark town of Tuonela, Wis. Too, the quality of the writing is not as good in this book. *Pale Immortal* didn't have much life (no pun intended) and sometimes plodded along, but *Garden of Darkness* plods, occasionally feels disjointed and uneven, and suffers from awkward transitions. Also, the mysterious deaths in this novel are never explained. Perhaps we are supposed to assume we know the answer but I like a little Perry Mason closure with my mysteries, even in tales where the supernatural may be at work!*Garden of Darkness* was not terrible, in my opinion, but not good enough to tempt me back to Tuonela and its spooky citizenry.

Oh no, this was not what I expected. *Pale Immortal* was reasonably believable, but this was way off the grid. For some reason, I expected something totally different, I don't know, maybe I wanted a townspeople to be up to something a bit shady, but noooo. I think this may be the last Anne Frasier book I read until she gets back to the days of *Sleep Tight* and *Hush*. I've read all of her books and this one would definitely be at the bottom of the heap.

This book had the prospects of being a very interesting story. Unfortunately, it turned into a good idea executed poorly. It was impossible to follow because the writer changed from third person perspective to first person perspective without warning, causing enough confusion to ruin what could have been a good read. Extremely disappointing!

I like both of the *Land of the Dead* books. I'm not sure what some people were expecting. It is called *The Land of the Dead* and the 1st book was *Pale Immortal*. When I asked my husband and sister what they thought that meant, they chose correctly. There were a few things that could have been developed a little further like the dead bodies and woman drowning. Overall, I liked the stories overall.

But I totally did! I was able to follow the changes in voice/character rather easily. Characters were introduced in a way that I was able to discern who was who without issue. It was creepy as all get out! That said, I picked this one up not realizing it was a sequel...but it was good on it's own. I'll be going back and reading *Pale Immortal* now!

This book is not up to par with the other Anne Frasier books that I've read. Very slow, different parts of the book are written from different parts of view - some first person, third person, and omniscient. It doesn't sync with the first book in the series. This is the first book that I've forced myself to finish in 40 years. It's that bad.Ed

The story was great. I loved it even if it kept me sleeping very badly because I was really immersed in it. Usually I don't read horror or supernatural stories but I am glad I did. The only bad thing was the formatting that made the reading difficult.

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