Memnoch The Devil
by Anne Rice
As Lestat opens the story, it is clear he is afraid. He is being stalked, and he thinks his pursuer is something more terrible than any mortal vampire hunter. He meets David in Manhattan to describe his experience, which had begun in Rio nearly a year earlier. This same creature stalked him in New Orleans, and he believes it may be the one finally coming to claim his soul. He overhears fragments of strange conversations that seem to his stalker to the vision David once had in *God and the Devil*. Lestat thinks that God and the Devil are discussing him. David believes that
Lestat’s stalker has some connection with Lestat’s intended victim and perhaps is following Lestat because he/it does not want Lestat to kill him. Lestat decides to kill Roger and see. He goes to Roger’s house and takes him, then, to protect Dora, cuts his body into pieces and hides the parts around the city. All the nearby, aware of what he is doing, Roger’s ghost appears to tell him:

As a boy, Roger had discovered books of religious mystic names Wilde. He had responded to
while, his stalker is doing. In a bar, Lestat his life story.

He read the illuminated Wynken de the way Wynken

wove together the joys of the flesh and the idea of union with God. Roger had wanted to found a cult on his ideas, so he had set but to collect all of the mystic’s books. Along the way, he had become a drug dealer and killer, acquiring the money to collect all manner of valuable religious art. He wanted to give ground her religious wealth was tainted with his relics. Roger had artifacts he has Dora to have the
Dora some relic on which she could gion and raise funds, but because his rejected, she had rejected his money and

begs L estat to save the religious spent his life collecting, as he wants them. He also wants L estat to look

after Dora. Then his ghost fades and gets taken by a huge winged figure that resembles L estat’s stalker. L estat is so amazed, and so in love with both Roger and Dora, that he stores the relics in the Olympic Tower, then goes to New Orleans to tell Dora her father is dead. Roger had believed
that Lestat’s appearance to her would give her what she craves—evidence of the supernatural world—and would help her view his death as a way to cleanse her inheritance from the crimes that had built it. Dora lives alone in St. Elizabeth’s Orphanage, and this is where Lestat goes. He encounters the man he believes to be the Devil, who wants to discuss his soul but who will wait for a better moment. Dora arrives, and Lestat explains what he is and what he has done to her father. She is unafraid, wanting only to know how he might fit into her plan to produce some spectacular
To prove it, he takes the form of a large goat-legged creature with armor and gets into a fight with him, and Memnoch affirms her religious truth. Lestat is confused about what he should do. The man approaches again, scaring him, so he leaves and to his town house. But there he soon realizes his stalker is once again upon him. He calls himself Memnoch, and he does claim to be the Devil.

vision to affirm her religious truth. Lestat is confused about what he should do. The man approaches again, scaring him, so he leaves and
needs Lestat’s help to turn back the tide of evil in the world. To do this, he wants to take Lestat to Heaven to speak to God and to Hell to see if he can best serve the truth. Lestat consults Armand and David to see what they think of the Devil’s offer. Armand is suspicious; David is interested but noncommittal. Lestat seeks advice, but firsts transports see Roger’s relics. Dora accompanies Memnoch, St. Patrick’s Cathedral. angelic form-slightly large.
Lestat decides to ask for Dora's support and brings her to Manhattan to encourage Lestat to meet Memnoch. Memnoch adopts an angelic form with diaphanous wings to tell his story. He first takes Lestat to Heaven as promised, and the light, perfection, and glory of the place overwhelm Lestat. The interconnectedness among the beings he encounters astonish his sensibilities. He wants to sing with them, longing for what they have. Memnoch seems to remember a history of God turning through Route 777.
Memnoch snatches Lestat away, talking him to an earthly paradise a few thousand years before his time. There he dilvuges the Thirteen Revelations of Physical Evolution, laying out the stages of God’s creation of the world. The angels had all witnessed it, and some
had been concerned about the creation of human beings: they looked like angels but were divided into male and female sides. Memnoch had led the way in questioning God’s wisdom, but God had instructed him to study humankind first. Memnoch did so and disliked the suffering he saw; he tried to persuade other angels to join him in questioning it, but they left him to stand on his own. Memnoch then adopts human form and experiences the joys of sex. For this, God banned him from Heaven. He returned to Earth to teach the hum-
in question.

Experienced

him to Heaven. Memnoch made a case on behalf

of humans, citing their spirituality and questioning

why death and suffering were part of God’s plan

for them. God explained that humans are part of

the energy exchange of nature, insisting that they are not part of Sheol, the realm of the dead,

humans, to see if there were other means of ending

of Heaven. Memnoch returned to his wife, which God accepted into Heaven.
however, wanted God to open Heaven up to all human souls, not just those who were spiritually evolved enough to be worthy. He challenged God to adopt human form Himself and see what He made. God rejected the idea and cast him from Heaven. For a long time, Memnoch wandered the Earth. For a long time, Memnoch wandered the Earth. For a long time, Memnoch wandered the Earth. For a long time, Memnoch wandered...
Finally, he went back to Palestine, where he met a man who emanated divine-presence. He wandered into the desert and found God in the form of a man. God told him, as a man, He had learned to love His children; as a result, He would offer, His death on the cross, holiness, glory, and redemption to humanity. Memnoch was appalled that God based his plan on the worst human superstitions. He even questioned the merit to God’s suffering as a human, in view of the fact that all along He had known He was God and would be able to escape
does so, he experiences a tremendous sense of light. Veronica steps out and offers her veil to Christ. When Christ wipes His brow, His face miraculously imprints itself on the cloth. Christ then gives Lestat the veil. Overwhelmed, Lestat flees with the icon. Memnoch then takes him back to Heaven. Before Memnoch finishes his story, God invites Lestat to witness for himself Christ's passion rather than base his decision merely on Memnoch's interpretation. Lestat watches Christ pull His cross along the road. Christ invites Lestat to drink His blood, and when he
a whirlwind to the Fourth Crusade and describes other events during the bloody history of Christianity. Lestat witnessed the debate between God and Memnoch about Memnoch’s function in God’s plan, then goes with Memnoch to Hell. Horrified to discover that people are tormented there by their victims, he realizes that at the door, his own victims await him. To Hell because they have not learned to Heaven is through forgiveness. Lestat refuses to be Memnoch’s lie not abide the thought of participating
that behind a
They are all in
and acceptance.
leutenant; he can-
ting in such a
horrifying place not is he sure of the truth any-
more. He flees, but Memnoch grabs him, ripping
out his left eye. Lestat escapes and returns to Dora
in Manhattan, where David and Armand have
joined her. He feels as if no one is safe nor ever
will be again. Lestat tells his story and, when
asked, shows them
takes it to St. Patri-
gious miracle Arm
he goes out to die
confirmation. Oth-
including Mael. A
people flock to see the veil and to experience its power. Lestat is appalled that he has unintentionally perpetuated this destructive, bloody religion.

Dora cuts all ties to her former life to become the Keeper of the Veil. She gives Lestat all of Roger’s relics and St. Elizabeth, her home in New Orleans,
believing this to be a lie, but Maharet reminds him that it is the age-old dilemma he cannot be certain one way or the other. As Lestat recovers from this horrifying revelation, David writes down the whole story. Eventually, Maharet unchains Lestat. Unsure what it all means, he wanders around New Orleans where the relics have been sent. Lestat and David go there and discover that Louis has arranged all the icons. Maharet arrives and gives Lestat back his eye, then binds him chains as she delivers a message from Memnoch: Lestat has served the Devil perfectly, a job well done. He reacts angrily,
and says he will now pass from fiction to legend.
DEAD
END.