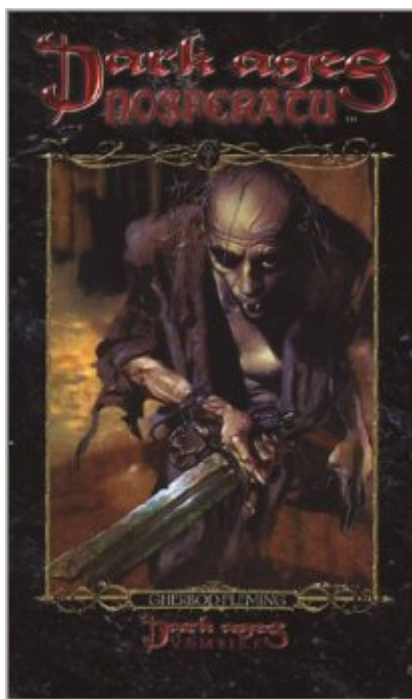


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Nosferatu (Dark Ages, Clan Novel #1)



Synopsis

It is the year 1204, and the city of Constantinople burns. For the immortal monsters who have spent eternity in its shadows, it is both a cataclysm and a call for vengeance. Malachite, leader of the city's Nosferatu, hunts through the ashes and dodges crusaders to find the Patriarch Michael, the vampire who founded the city as the expression of his immortal dreams. Malachite's search brings him beyond the city walls and sets him on a quest that will restore the Patriarch's dream-or damn it forever. Dark Ages: Nosferatu begins the epic thirteen-part series of Dark Ages Clan Novels, chronicling a vast conflict among the vampires of the Middle Ages. The War of Princes begins here

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Customer Reviews

The basis for this series is the idea that Constantinople was a city largely owned and run by vampires. Vampires far more focused on creating a 'civilization' than the modern clans are, i.e., they have a dream of their own. Religion plays an unexpectedly large part. It drives the decisions of Malachite, who was a bishop while alive, and an intensely worshipful Nosferatu in his undeath. The worship has been displaced, however onto Michael one of the rulers of the city, who is a true elder. But the city of the dream has come to naught. In 1204 the invasions of the crusades come to the walls of Constantinople, and Christian knights, Turks, and even pagan barbarians overrun the city. Malachite, entering the city to find Michael and try to save the dream must face the horror of invading kine and kindred come to kill and plunder. Malachite's quest for understanding is the sum of the story, as Fleming uses him to introduce the themes that will haunt this series. As a character,

Malachite has some shortcoming. He is a 300 year old vampire in the service of one of the rulers of the city, and all he seems to be able to think of is finding someone who will set things right. That and worry on perpetually about the state of his scions. I would have preferred some stronger at the center of the story rather than someone who is always looking under a rock (or a tomb) for what to do. He also shares a common trait of Camarilla vampires - a tendency to mourn his state as a fallen creature. No doubt Fleming will make something more of Malachite before the series ends. The purpose of this book is to outline the focus of the series, and set a scene where mysticism, insanity, and betrayal are the great themes.

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