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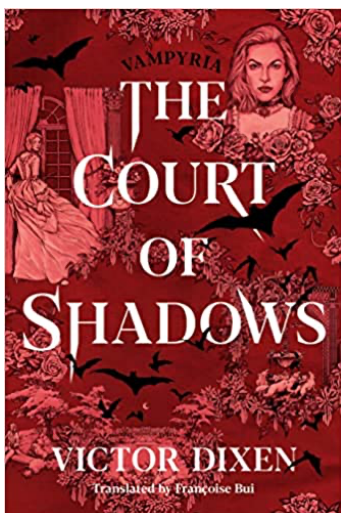
THE COURT OF SHADOWS

by VICTOR DIXEN
translated by Françoise Bui

“Seductive, thrilling, and deliciously dark, **THE COURT OF SHADOWS** brings the glamour and danger of eighteenth-century Versailles to life. This is historical fantasy at its finest!”
—Kass Morgan, bestselling author of *The 100*

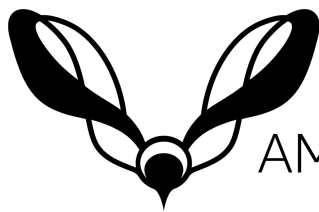
“I loved it! The tension, the intrigue, the undercurrents of revolution, and above all else, a warrior girl who still wants to love and be loved. This will be an immediate classic. Bravo!” —Amy Harmon, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and *New York Times* bestselling author

**A fiery heroine seeks vengeance against a royal court of deadly vampires
in this epic alternate history set in lavish Versailles.**



Two-time winner of the Grand Prix de l’Imaginaire, Victor Dixen stands at the forefront historical horror fantasy in France. Now, thanks to an impeccable translation by Françoise Bui, English readers will have the opportunity to experience Dixen’s thrilling writing firsthand. **THE COURT OF SHADOWS: *Vampyria Sage Book One*** will be published in hardcover by Amazon Crossing on September 19, 2023.

Victor Dixen, who grew up in Versailles, has long been interested in the Grand Siècle, which shaped France into what it is today: centralization of power, development of architecture and the arts, the rise of gastronomy, and the art of living. It’s a pivotal moment in French history that brims with paradoxes. It’s the time of Descartes, of Pascal, and of the advent of reason, which prefigured the Age of Enlightenment. But paradoxically, it’s also an age of darkness, with



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an incredible resurgence of superstitions and of the occult. Witchcraft was never more practiced in France than under Louis XIV, while in Spain, the Inquisition reached its sinister apogee, and in America, suspected witches were burned in Salem.

In **THE COURT OF SHADOWS**, Dixen has composed a baroque and horrifying alternate history of this pivotal period in history. "Essentially, this story is a way for me to tackle an icon that has always fascinated me, the vampire," says Dixen. "The vampire is, in fact, the supreme literary creation, truly immortal, always reborn from its ashes, from century to century, from book to book." In writing **THE COURT OF SHADOWS**, Dixen was inspired by Anne Rice for her intoxicating Gothic ambiance and characters with psychological depth; Alexandre Dumas for his breadth of epic adventure; and Quentin Tarantino for his frenzied pacing, the eruption of "pop" patterns in the narrative, and psychological tension.

"You will bloom in Versailles like an exotic flower. The vampyres of the palace love anything out of the ordinary. But beware: the Court of Shadows has its codes, its deadly traps, and the slightest faux pas pay with the price of blood..."

In the year of grace 1715, Louis XIV transformed from the Sun King into the King of Shadows when he embraced immortality and became the world's first vampire. For the last three centuries, he has been ruling the kingdom from the decadent Court of Shadows in Versailles, demanding the blood of his subjects to sate his nobles' thirst and maintain their loyalty.

In the heart of rural France, commoner Jeanne Froidelac witnesses the king's soldiers murder her family and learns of her parents' role in a brewing rebellion involving the forbidden secrets of alchemy. To seek her revenge, Jeanne disguises herself as an aristocrat and enrolls in a prestigious school for aspiring courtiers. She soon finds herself at the doors of the palace of Versailles.

But Jeanne, of course, is no aristocrat. She dreams not of court but of blood. The blood of a king.

MORE ADVANCED PRAISE:

"Victor Dixen has crafted a decadent literary feast that makes vampire lore fresh again. **THE COURT OF SHADOWS deserves a place on your bookshelf with all the bloodsucking classics."**

—Megan Shepherd, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Grim Lovelies*

"THE COURT OF SHADOWS** has intriguing world-building and a protagonist with true, merciless grit. You're rooted in the familiar, yet there are enough twists to break your expectations. Jeanne is vicious in her determination, and the king is utterly fascinating. I NEED TO SEE HIM WITHOUT THAT MASK!"**

—Charlie N. Holmberg, *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author of *The Paper Magician*

"A brilliant and brave young heroine who is still realistically vulnerable, in a world of vampires who really do want to kill people—and yet retain their creepy fascination. Read this to find out why Victor Dixen's thrilling series is a huge bestseller in France. I can't wait to read the next one!" — Ellen Kushner, World Fantasy Award and Locus Award winner, author of *Swordspoint*



For review copies, interview requests or additional information, please contact Jennifer Richards at Over the River Public Relations: jennifer@overtheriverpr.com, 201/242-9637.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND TRANSLATOR



Victor Dixen is the author of many bestselling French novels, including four series for young adults: *THE STRANGE CASE OF JACK SPARK*, *ANIMALE*, *PHOBOS* and *VAMPYRIA*; and he is a two-time winner of the Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire, the most prestigious science-fiction and fantasy award in France. Born to a French mother and Danish father, Victor grew up in the city of Versailles. As an adult, he has lived in Denver, Dublin, Singapore, and New York City. He now divides his time between Paris and Washington, DC with his family and his two inquisitive cats. Discover more about Victor Dixen on Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter: @VictorDixen and at: victordixen.com.

A major international success, the *VAMPYRIA* series has been widely translated and is available in 9 languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Czech, German, Russian, Dutch, Finnish, and now English).

Françoise Bui spent twenty years as an executive editor at Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, where her list of edited books included numerous novels in translation. Of these, four received the Mildred L. Batchelder Award (for most outstanding children's book initially published in a foreign language), and two were Honor titles. Originally from France, Bui lives in New York City.

THE COURT OF SHADOWS: Vampyria Saga Book 1

Written by Victor Dixen, translated by Françoise Bui

Amazon Crossing | September 19, 2023 | Historical Horror Fantasy

Hardcover | \$28.99 | 384 pp. | ISBN#: 978-1662505690

Paperback | \$16.99 | 384 pp. | ISBN#: 978-1662505706

Kindle eBook | \$28.99 | ASIN#: B09XMD8S52

Brilliance Audiobook | \$29.99 | 11 hours | ISBN#: 978-1799798477