

Dark-Hunter Tour of New Orleans

*Please note, the tour contains Spoilers from some of the books

1. Sanctuary Bar and Peltier (Pell-tea-aa) House



Home of the Howlers and Limani (Lah-mah-knee) for all preternatural beings. 688 Ursulines (The block where the Convent is)

You might want to know that there really is no 688 Ursulines. If it were to exist, it would fall right here where the convent rests. This location was chosen for several reasons. One being that Sherri didn't want fans going up to someone's house and trying to meet a Were- laugh, but it has happened. She knew the church would most likely never sell off Ursulines so it seemed like a safe bet.

But more than that, it's said the convent is haunted and might even possibly contain vampires. In fact it has a long history of paranormal sightings (feel free to embellish). What better place to be the location of the infamous bar of Were-Hunters that also welcomes the vampiric Daimons. When Sherri lived in New Orleans, this was one of her favorite spots and she's always been fascinated by its history from the Casket girls, all the way to victims found on its doorstep.



The number 688 was chosen as an homage to the world famous punk club in Atlanta that was called 688 (on Spring Street). It was one of Sherri's haunts during High School and college and was even where she went on her first date with her husband. And just like the Crowbar here in New Orleans where Sherri also frequented, it was sold and the name changed after the owner was found bludgeoned to death inside the club.



2. The real Sanctuary

St. Germaine House (corner of Royal and Ursulines)

Take a moment and look at this house. Imagine a sign hanging over the door the says Sanctuary, Home of the Howlers. And a tall curly haired blond standing guard. You should recognize this place because it's the physical model for the Sanctuary Bar. It is here that the Were-

Hunters gather and the Daimons seek respite... and often victims.

Like the convent, this house has a history of vampiric activity.

That alone would tell you why Sherri loves this house, but more than that, she has a psychic connection to it. One she can't explain. Since the moment she first walked by it in 1987 and stopped to stare at it, she has felt it was her home. That it was waiting for her to buy it. Ironically, it's been up for sale every time she's been here- like it's waiting for her. Like the house won't let anyone else possess it.

If she ever does get to buy it, she would definitely open up Sanctuary bar here.

3. Peltier House

Diagonally across from St. Germaine on the opposite corner.



Again, this building should be familiar to all of you. In the books, it's connected to Sanctuary. In reality, it's across the street. But that building is the one again that Sherri used as a physical inspiration for the Peltier's.

The reason for this was partly due to the size of the building, but also to the contrast it had with St. Germaine. Sherri would love to have this one to turn into a Dark-Hunter Hotel where fans could come and visit all the scenes from the books.

Imagine the shape-shifting dragon in the attic. Carson's hospital on the second floor. And wait... what is that blue paw print someone put there?

Could it be the Were-Hunters marking their territory? And no, neither Sherri nor anyone from her crew did that. The symbol appeared right after the building went up for sale. Odd, huh?

4. Nick's House

On Bourbon Street, directly across the street from 812



There it is. An innocuous gray house on Bourbon Street. It doesn't look like much other than condos, but in the books, this is the house of Nick Gautier. For those who don't know, his last name is pronounced Go-shay. He takes his name from Go-Shay Mississippi. If his name had an "h" in it, it would be pronounced (Go-chay) and those who know Cajun often call him that, but it is without the "t" and the way you pronounce Gautier, MS, is Go-Shay. Ergo his name is Nicholas Ambrosius Gautier. Nick would be the first to tell you his name isn't pronounced Gah-tee-aa; that would be a fancy French designer and

not our favorite half Cajun character.

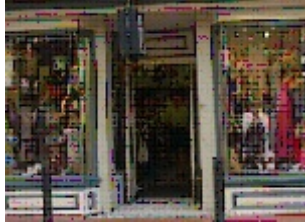
As you can see while the house is shielded from much of the bluster of Bourbon Street, it is still only steps away from the bars and shops that Nick frequented as a boy. In fact, the club where his mother stripped is only a few blocks down. As is Tabitha's store and the alley where Nick first met Kyrian and was introduced to the world of the Dark-Hunters.

It was in this house that his mother Cherise was murdered by the Daimon Desiderius. And here that Nick shot and killed himself, then sold his soul to Artemis. And it was here that he found Menyara waiting on him when he finally returned to New Orleans.

This house is also prominent in the Chronicles of Nick.

5. Tabitha's Shop Pandora's Box

It's the adult store next to where Mike Anderson's used to be.



I know you guys know what this is. It's the physical location and inspiration for Tabitha Devereaux's store. And as you can see it's close to Tony Moran's where Tabby finally got Valerius something decent to eat after he complained about the Penironi. It's also not far from Chris Owens where her roommate Marla works and it just around the corner from Acme Oyster House which has been in several books as a favorite for the characters to chow down.

Acme is one of Sherri's favorites as it was where she used to eat after work here in the Quarter. It's also where she met Flea and hung out with the Titanics back in her college days.

But back to Tabitha's for a moment. This was the store originally owned by her aunt that she inherited and where she worked while in High School.

If you look next door, that's where Mike Anderson's Seafood restaurant used to be and where Julian and Grace went for oysters.... yeah, the infamous oyster scene. Unfortunately, it fell victim to Katrina.

6. Pere Antoine Alley



This is one of the most notorious places in the series. Because of the location, it's where the Daimons have preyed on a number of victims in several books. It's also where Vane was hit by electricity in *Night Play*.

If you look up, you'll see the blue Ethel Kidd Realty sign. Right under it is where Stryker, Acheron and Nick meet in *One Silent Night* and walk together down Orleans to the St. Louis Cemetery. BTW Nick's mother is buried in St. Louis.

Also on Orleans you notice Boutique Du Vampyre another of Sherri's favorite places. The Boutique though has a history of moving on her and she often jokes that she has to hunt it down almost every time she comes to New Orleans. If you visit, don't forget to say hi to the dog Turbo who is the model for Tabitha's dog Terminator.

7. Pirate's Alley

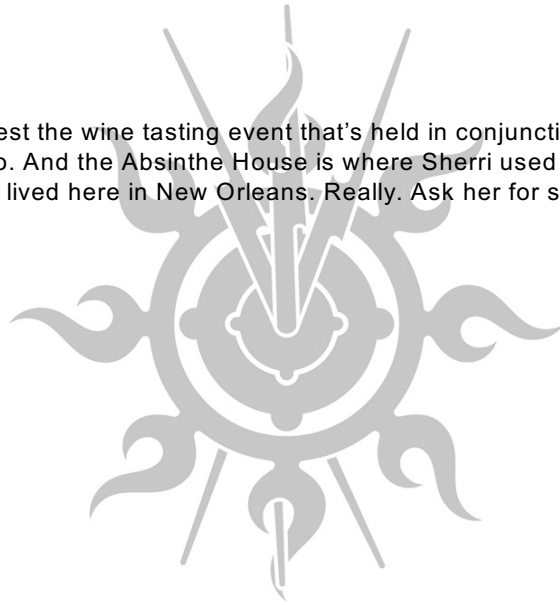


Again, another favorite haunt of the characters. Jean-Luc is often found at the bar, trading drinks and stories. Janice will often pass by to say hi on her way to get ice cream at the shop on the corner. At one time, the Boutique Du Vampyre was located here too.

But the most interesting thing about Pirate's Alley is this. If you look up directly over the Old Absinthe House bar there on the corner of the top floor is the condo that belongs to none other than Acheron Parthenopaues (Pahr-thin-oh-pay-us). That's right, that's where our favorite eleven thousand year old god chose to set up a location so that no one would get suspicious since he was spending so much time here and staying at no one's house.

Yes, he could have continued to stay with Kyrian and Amanda, but he wanted to come and go without their getting suspicious. So he bought himself the tiny little condo up there that you'll remember from his book.

Oh and as a point of interest the wine tasting event that's held in conjunction with the annual Anne Rice Lestat Ball is held here too. And the Absinthe House is where Sherri used to come and hang out with her vampire friends when she lived here in New Orleans. Really. Ask her for stories.



Jackson Square Locations

8. The Corner Café



Here it is... this is where the series began in *Fantasy Lover* with Selena and Grace having lunch on that fateful day. This site was chosen for one simple reason. This was where Sherri ate the very first time she came to New Orleans. It was here that she tasted Red Beans and Rice for the first time, and here she fell in love with the sights and sounds of the city.

She'd been studying for finals at the University of Georgia when her best friend Rebecca Baker who'd been coming here for years looked up at midnight and said, "We need a road trip." Sherri had declined, saying she was out of her mind.

But within half an hour, Rebecca had talked her into it. The next thing she knew, they were headed out and arrived just as dawn broke over the city. Sherri can still remember the first time she laid eyes on it. They could only stay a few hours, but here they ate and afterwards, they went for Beignets at Café Du Monde and they stopped at Laura's Candies (just like Vane and Fang in *Night Embrace*) and picked up chocolate for the ride home. BTW she did make it back for finals. And she passed with an A.

From here you can see Jackson Brewery which was also featured in *Fantasy Lover*. Sherri worked at the Limited which had a store there when she lived here. And she would often come over here for lunch.

The corner right there with the street light is where Julian saved the little boy from being hit by a car and if you look at the mules and buggies, that's where Zarek walked down the line of them in *Night Embrace*.

By the way, Sherri had put that they were mules, but the copyeditor on the book replaced it with horses. Sherri pitched a fit, but the book has horses in it and Sherri cringes to this day because New Orleanians know they have mules and buggies. And it was there that Vane and Bride took their carriage ride. Although, they did, for a very brief time use horses for the rides. But mules are more heat resistant and unlike a horse, a mule will stop when it's overheated. A horse will go until it drops. So after about a year, the city returned to using mules.

9. Café Du Monde.



No trip to New Orleans is complete without coffee au lait and a beignet (ben-yaa). When Sherri lived here, there wasn't a fence around the place. At the time *Night Embrace* was written, you could come and go freely. That corner table in the far end is the one that Talon prefers and it's where he's sitting at the opening of *Night Embrace*. It was also where Sherri would meet up with her friends after work at night and sit until dawn.

But if you turn and look down the Pedestrian Mall you can see why he chooses it. Good line of vision when looking for Daimons.

10. Pedestrian Mall

Outside the Tabasco Store



This is where Selena Laurens chained herself to the fence in the beginning of **Seize the Night** and it was here that Tabitha and Ash joined here. Her protest about the psychics being removed from the Square was a very real one. It actually happened. You will notice that they are now allowed back, but only in front of the Cathedral.

The shop across from here is the one Ash bought to make her happy. But if we come a few steps down to the corner, that is where her stand actually was. The reason Selena's stand was put here is because that was where Sherri used to put her card stand up and do tarot card readings back in 1989. If you were here

then, you could have had your card or palm read by the author goddess herself.

The person whose stand was next to her was an artist named Tommy. She still has a charcoal drawing her made of her. Tommy's spot was given to Sunshine and originally in the series, Sunshine was male, but Sherri decided while writing *Fantasy Lover* to make it a female. And yes it's right here that Bride met Vane and Julian was ogled.

And right across from here was Madeleine's Bakery which too fell victim to Katrina. It was also featured in several books and as is the Presbytere building right in front of us. This is a legendary corner both in Sherri's memory and in the book series.

11. Café Pontalba



Again an infamous location in the series. If you look at the historical marker, that was where Acheron was waiting for Nick to arrive in *Night Embrace* (Illustrated here by Sherrilyn's brother Warchild). This is where Nick and Ash were when they saw Zarek on the news. And here that we see Vane, Fang, Fury and their wolf pack for the first time.

It was also here that Talon, Amanda, Sunshine, Kyrian and crew were eating when they saw Valerius and Tabitha fighting... look toward the bakery.



12. 823 Chartres



Here it is... the bookstore where Selena bought Julian and where the book with Priapus still waits for some unlucky soul to find it.

BTW the Trashy Diva next door is where Sherri's roommate here in New Orleans bought her her first corset. Okay, it's actually at the Trashy Diva lingerie a few steps down, but the lingerie and Trashy Diva have always been Sherri's fondest memories and it was why she chose this bookstore for the series.

For more stories and photos, don't forget to visit SherrilynKenyon.com.