

Columnists

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Dark Shadows Witch Raises Hell in Soapy New Book

Happy Halloween!

In honor of this spooky holiday, I have a tasty treat — in lieu of a trick — for all of you soap fans.



It's an **exclusive excerpt** from the chapter entitled "Ooh Ooh Witchy Women of Daytime" in my new book, *The Q Guide to Soap Operas*. That chapter is a special tribute to my favorite soap-opera sorceresses, including Juliet Mills (Tabitha, *Passions*), Tanya Boyd (Celeste, *Days of our Lives*) and Lara Parker (Angelique, *Dark Shadows*). Angelique, in particular, holds a very special place in my twisted heart. Read this excerpt to find out why....

Chapter 6 Ooh Ooh Witchy Women of Daytime

Plenty of soap-opera scheme queens are just witches with a capital B. But a few of them are actually bona fide broom-riding, cauldron-stirring, crystal-ball-gazing witches! This chapter conjures forth an unholy trinity of sorceresses who have cast their camptastic spells on soap fans over the years. These formidable ladies know how to hurl a curse without using four-letter words.

Lara Parker

WHY WE LOVE HER: Long before American soap viewers were introduced to Susan Lucci as *All My Children's* Erica Kane or Joan Collins as *Dynasty's* Alexis Carrington, there was Lara Parker. The blonde barracuda was a masterful practitioner of witchcraft and bitchcraft as Angelique DuVall Collins on *Dark Shadows*. During the supernatural sudser's five-year run on ABC from 1966-71, teens rushed home from school to watch the lovelorn witch raise unholy hell at Collinwood.

"The bitch you love to hate was a concept that had been done in '30s films with Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, but not much on goody-goody television in those days," Parker says. "There were a lot of troubled teenagers who especially liked Angelique because she was smart, sarcastic, and she had power. She could make people suffer when they made her mad! If Angelique was ever away for awhile and she returned, it meant horrible things were going to happen to everybody."

LOVE BITES: A lowly servant girl, Angelique, cursed the blue-blooded Barnabas Collins (Jonathan Frid) to dwell in misery as a broody vampire. What was Angie's damage anyway? "Barnabas had seduced and abandoned Angelique," Parker says. "He loved Josette DuPres (Kathryn Leigh Scott), a lady of his own class. Hell hath no fury like a woman

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scorned. I had lots of voodoo dolls!

"Because I always wished I could be the ingénue of the show, I played Angelique's sympathetic side, not just the evil. Since she had powers, she was not about to give up, and yet Barnabas continued to resist her. She would try very, very hard to win his love back and when she didn't succeed, she turned mean. Angelique didn't take any s--- from anybody."

QUOTE ANGELIQUE'S CURSE: "I set a curse upon you, Barnabas Collins! You wanted your Josette so much? Well, you shall have her, but not in the way that you would have chosen. You will never rest, Barnabas! And you will never be able to love anyone — for whoever loves you will die. That is my curse, and you will live with it through all eternity!"

EVIL TWIN ALERT: Like other *Dark Shadows* cast members, Parker played multiple roles as the soap switched between the past and present. "For a brief time, I played Angelique and my good sister, Alexis," she recalls. "I once had a conversation with myself lying in a coffin!" At various times, Parker also played Cassandra Collins, Valerie Collins, Catherine Harridge Collins and Miranda DuVall.

I really hope you enjoyed the excerpt! To read more juicy soap-star interviews and sudsy trivia, go get yourself a copy of *The Q Guide to Soap Operas*.

Speaking of Halloween, you should see the super scary jack-o'-lantern I made at my friend's pumpkin carving party this past weekend. There's a pic of me and Jack [right here](#).