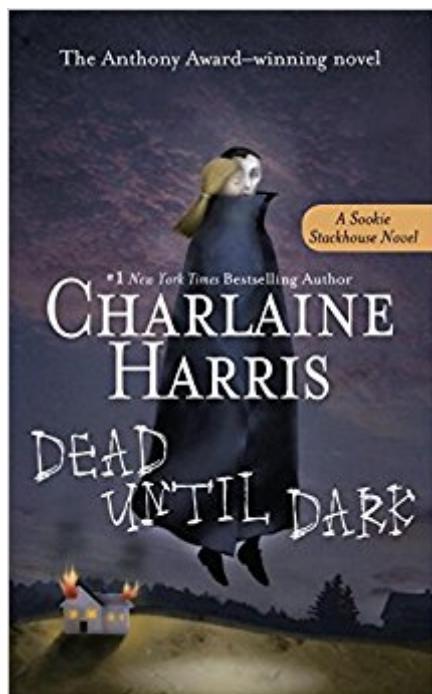


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Dead Until Dark (Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood, Book 1)



Synopsis

The first novel in the #1 New York Times bestselling series that gave life to the Dead and inspired the HBO® original series True Blood. Sookie Stackhouse is just a small-time cocktail waitress in small-town Louisiana "except for her disability. • She can read minds. But she can't hear a word that Bill Compton is thinking when he walks into her life" and then one of her coworkers is killed... Maybe having a vampire for a boyfriend isn't such a bright idea.

Book Information

Series: Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 3,208 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,935 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror > Vampires #86 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Vampires #453 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Amateur Sleuths

Customer Reviews

Praise for #1 New York Times® bestselling author Charlaine Harris's Sookie Stackhouse novels is the kind of book you look forward to reading before you go to bed, thinking you're only going to read one chapter, and then you end up reading seven. "Alan Ball, executive producer of True Blood, says Vivid, subtle, and funny in her portrayal of southern life. "Entertainment Weekly says Charlaine Harris has vividly imagined telepathic barmaid Sookie Stackhouse and her small-town Louisiana milieu, where humans, vampires, shapeshifters, and other sentient critters live... Her mash-up of genres is delightful, taking elements from mysteries, horror stories, and romances. "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel says The series continues to be inventive and funny with an engaging, smart, and sexy heroine. "The Denver Post says Blending action, romance, and comedy, Harris has created a fully functioning world so very close to our own, except, of course, for the vamps and other supernatural creatures. "The Toronto Star

Charlaine Harris is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Sookie Stackhouse and *Midnight, Texas*, fantasy/mystery series and the *Aurora Teagarden*, *Harper Connelly*, and *Lily Bard* mystery series. Her books have inspired HBO's *True Blood*, NBC's *Midnight, Texas*, and the *Aurora Teagarden* movies for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries. She has lived in the South her entire life.

I admit, I was drawn to Charlaine Harris' work by the HBO series *True Blood*. What a pleasant surprise her work is. The characters jump off the page and the story winds slowly and steadily. It was a fun and easy read. I plan on reading this series. The world she shows is unique but not juvenile. Fantasy fun for grown ups.

There was lots of humor without entering the camp grounds, & plenty of fast paced action (suspense & erotica alike). I'd recommend this to anyone that enjoys things with a sense of levity. Bonus points for those that have ever lived down south- There are so many subtle references you'll get a kick out of.

It may not be classic literature, but this book and the entire *Sookie Stackhouse* series is incredible. Once you start reading, there's just no stopping. Not only is it difficult to put an individual book down, but once you finish one you absolutely have to read the next one right away. It's just an incredible and engrossing story. And I think part of that is the idea of an entire supernatural world outside but within our own normal and occasionally boring reality. The thought that just outside your door could be a world full of vampires, shapeshifters, werewolves, fairies, actual demons and angels is so enticing especially for those that desire that magic and fantasy to exist in the real world. This book and the whole series is a wonderful escape into the exciting world of *Sookie Stackhouse*, as she discovers an almost unbelievable supernatural world right within her own humdrum (but not for long) life. From *Sookie*'s first encounter with a vampire to the many adventures she has along the way, this series is absolutely worth taking the time to spend in her crazy little world.

If you're hooked on the *Sookie* books for the mystery, you'll be sadly disappointed. However, at this point in the series, I think that many readers (like me) are simply hooked on the characters and the unfolding story of *Sookie*'s magical life. This is a fabulous background book and supplies a lot of answers to the ongoing questions I had been developed. Some of the story lines are furthered. We

find out more about Sookie's brother Jason and Crystal, Amelia's character really seems to come more to life in this book, the Weres become a more prominent part of the story and the vamps aren't far behind. Some parts of Sookie's life are resolved (think Quinn, the weretiger) and others are brought to light, like Niall's role in Sookie's life. As always, you'll find this novel full of action and adventure, romance and routine. It all comes together to continue the rather crazy life Sookie has been leading over the past several years. Although some of the other reviews have complained that this story is choppy, it needs to be to fit everything in. There is a lot that happens here. Although, I do have to say that there wasn't too much of a mystery in this installment. It was still a lot of fun!

It's really hard to find things to say when reviewing a series all at once so some of my reviews might be short and sweet that being said. I have to rate this book in my top 5 favorite of the series. The story-line progressed pretty quickly and I like always enjoyed the characters but there was just a couple moments I may not have cared for as much. Potential Spoiler Beware; Like I said I may not have thought Quinn was suited for Sookie, I didn't care for how she just broke up with him the way she did. I can completely understand why but I did feel she was being a bit selfish. Another part was I do like Jason but man I didn't care for him when it came down to the punishment. He should have done it not Sookie and Arlene boy am I really beginning to if I haven't already despise her. One thing I can say I am surprised just how fast of reads these books are, I don't find myself skipping any parts even though I may not care for how the story is going.

From Dead to Worse was a big improvement over the formulaic books 5 and 6, though not as enjoyable as All Together Dead. Just as I was beginning to tire of the series with its vignette relationships for Sookie and its lack of meaningful conversation between characters whose actions suggest greater depth than their described discussions or relationships, Harris surprises. The book shows us greater emotional complexity in all the supes, beyond their obvious powers. Sookie herself finds a greater depth and honesty and her character is finally able to reflect better on whether anyone is truly free from strife. She finally realizes her contact with the supernatural world has allowed her greater personal freedom, reverence and expression than she has realized. That realization seems to have enhanced her quality of life, as well as her value to all the characters in her world. The ending of this book leaves many avenues open for Sookie to interact more with newly discovered relatives, with Eric, and with the humans in Bon Temps. I hope that Harris keeps subsequent books more in line with the tone of this one.

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