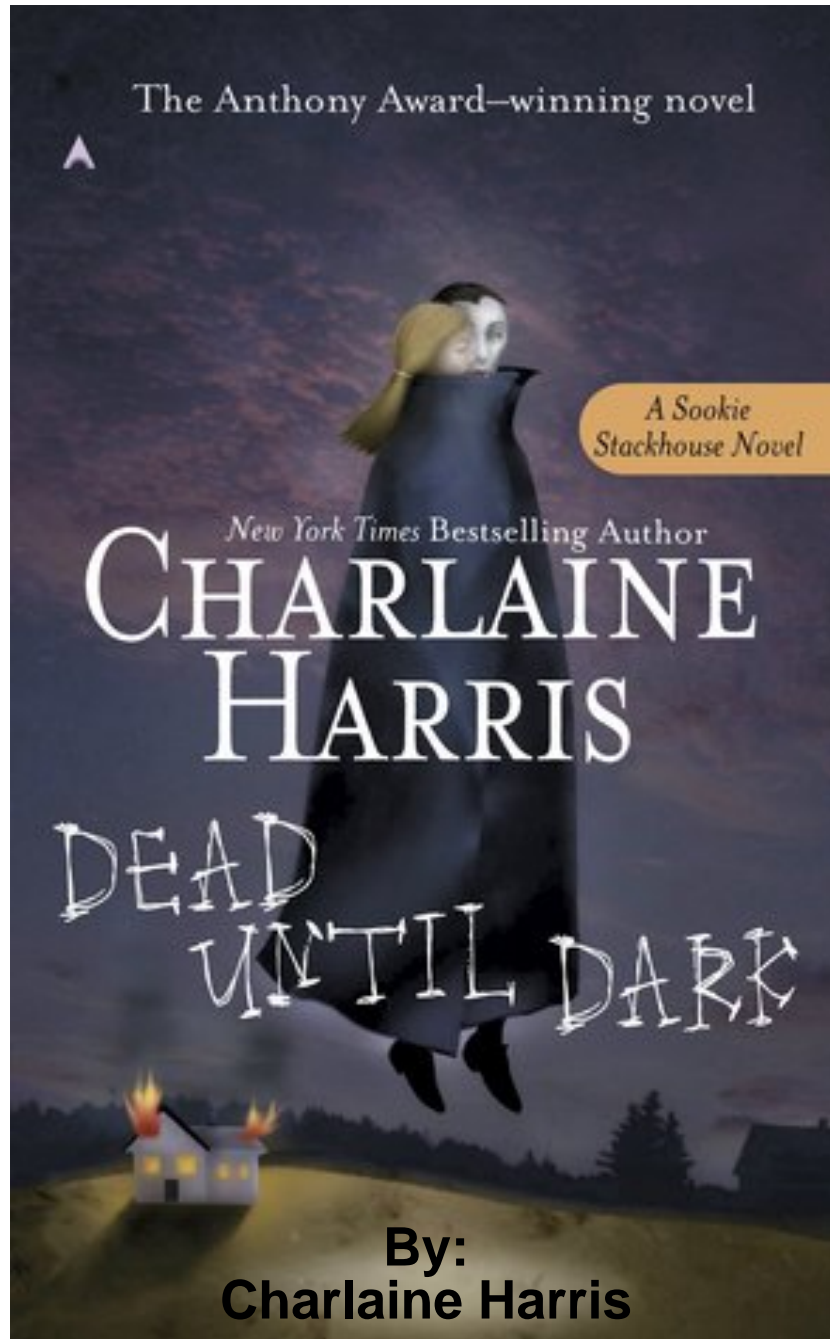


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What people Say:

Vanessa

After reading a succession of more serious books, I felt the need to read something light and trashy. As I discovered from reading this book, you should be careful what you wish for. Light? Yes. Trashy? Oh yes. Oh yes, yes, yes. But not in a good way - just trash, trash, trash.

It is hard to say what I disliked more about this book - the sophomoric writing, or the annoying, vapid, 2-d, Harlequin-romance-heroine-helpless-twit persona of Sookie Stackhouse. Sookie is a psychic, and this fact is used

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It is hard to say what I disliked more about this book - the sophomoric writing, or the annoying, vapid, 2-d, Harlequin-romance-heroine-helpless-twit persona of Sookie Stackhouse. Sookie is a psychic, and this fact is used to explain everything from why she didn't do well at school and became a cocktail waitress to why she spends all of her free time sunbathing to why she can't see an obviously dangerous situation until she's up to her eyeballs in it. It does not, however, explain why she has such bad dress-sense (denim mini jumper dress with yellow bandana hair clip to impress the vampire who comes to dinner; Tweety Bird night gown that drives him wild with desire), or why her sexual naivete comes and goes like a rash - at times she is very confident about her sexual attractiveness (wearing "fuck me" red high heels etc) and other times wondering what Bill the vampire and all of the other men in Louisiana could possibly see in "I'il ole me".

The sex scenes are either squirmingly bad or tedious. After reading two I just had to skip ahead a few pages any time sex with Sookie looked like it was going to rear its ugly and badly-written head.

I know a lot of folks have enjoyed this series, and have devoured every book written by Charlaine Harris. From reading other reviews, it seems to be a very polarizing book. As for me, I could barely choke this one down and will look to satisfy my literary appetites elsewhere.

3/28/10 - After having viewed the first two episodes of the HBO series "True Blood", I can now understand why people have gone bananas over this series of books. The show (what I've seen so far) is exceptionally good, thanks to a great cast and the writing talents of Alan Ball, who has turned a sow's ear into a silk purse. I can see how a reader might enjoy the books if they had viewed at least some of the series first and kept it in mind while reading Charlaine Harris's less than stellar prose. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case for me - and while I won't be reading any more of these books, I will continue to enjoy the show!

Jennifer

The first book in the Sookie Stackhouse series.

I confess - I picked this up at the bookstore for a few reasons:

1. The cover was sparkly and I liked the art.
2. Vampires! Having spent a huge chunk of my youth hoping the vampires in Anne Rice's novels would knock on my window late at night (shut-up, like you didn't???) I have been looking for the next Brad Pitt with fangs. (shut-up, like you aren't???)

And yeah. That was all it took. Sparkles and vampires - SOLD.

I opened up the book and kinda reg

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Emily May

I started reading this series because I was currently watching True Blood and had developed a slight obsession with Eric. Since then, the books have become an absolute guilty pleasure of mine. They are not the best written and occasionally we get a little too much of what we don't care for (i.e. fairies and shifters) but amid the hot vamp sex and murder mysteries... who really notices those anyway??

Most characters have both annoying and redeeming qualities, but this is good - I never did like th

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anyway??

Most characters have both annoying and redeeming qualities, but this is good - I never did like the I-can-do-nothing-wrong hero/heroine. Plus Eric is

... have I said this already?

If you're looking for a life-changing experience, try

, but if you want something light, chick-lit style and kinda sexy too Sookie Stackhouse and her merry band of random supernatural creatures are where it's at. That probably sounded like a cheesy, promotional ad but what the hell.

Trin

Sigh. I tried to give this a fair chance, I really did. I went into it hopeful, despite some other negative reviews that I've read, because I quite liked the pilot for

, the new HBO series based on these books.

, however, loses points from me right away because the two most interesting characters on the show "Sookie's cranky best friend Tara, and Lafayette, the fabulous (in every sense of the word) chef at the bar where Sookie works" either completely don't exist or have only the tin

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, however, loses points from me right away because the two most interesting characters on the show "Sookie's cranky best friend Tara, and Lafayette, the fabulous (in every sense of the word) chef at the bar where Sookie works" either completely don't exist or have only the tiniest of roles, respectively. Lame. Still, I find the basic premise Harris has cooked up intriguing: in this world, vampires have come "out of the coffin" and are public knowledge; they can drink Japanese-manufactured synthetic blood and have basic human rights. (On the show I believe they are still

toward those rights, but it hasn't been made entirely clear.) That's an idea that seems rich with symbolic significance that, correctly handled, could be truly fascinating.

Instead, as Harris handles it, it's just another boring romance between a powerful, possessive alpha male and his frail human woman who's in need of his protection. Sookie isn't, to be fair, as helpless and hopelessly devoted to her man as Bella

Swan is, but the basic power dynamic between her and Vampire Bill is still incredibly

. In general, as a couple, they are boring. So there's that dullness "bad enough" which Harris proceeds to combine with several shakes of sheer lunacy. Sookie completely under-reacts to incredibly traumatizing things, like waking up with a naked shapeshifter in her bed, or a loved one's murder. She believes the PR that vampirism is a virus and is

Fabian

Stephenie Meyer has nuthin' on this woman (understatement). Harris has in one pinky all the talent of the aforementioned hack, and her huge fan base must take note. "Dead Until Dark" is a loud middle finger to all those in deep love (& therefore those with questionable tastes) with the "Twilight" series.

This book reminds me that not all fiction has to be poetry. This one has a clear plot, it ties together all loose ends. It is enthralling, addictive, everything one wants in the PERFECT paper

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This book reminds me that not all fiction has to be poetry. This one has a clear plot, it ties together all loose ends. It is enthralling, addictive, everything one wants in the PERFECT paperback novel. If only I knew about it before the HBO series "True Blood" (on which this book, book 1, is based) I would have definitely watch the series, but it occurred vice versa. The series explores characters, has more sex & violence (duh, HBO) but does not touch the same ground this one cleverly hides within its first-look junk-lit verse.

Sookie is the Everygirl, clever, lost, in love, found, frightened but curious and courageous. Bill the Vampire lacks the Lestatness of those that came after the Anne Rice novel, but it's okay. At least he's not one-dimensional like Edward Cullen.

Everyone here, it seems, has secrets. The theme.

There are dark inhabitants of the world, some don't have to be vampires or shapeshifters but humans with deep flaws. Once the mystery is solved (I solved this one way before the climax), this theme comes to light. I wish I was a writer, important, like Charlaine Harris.