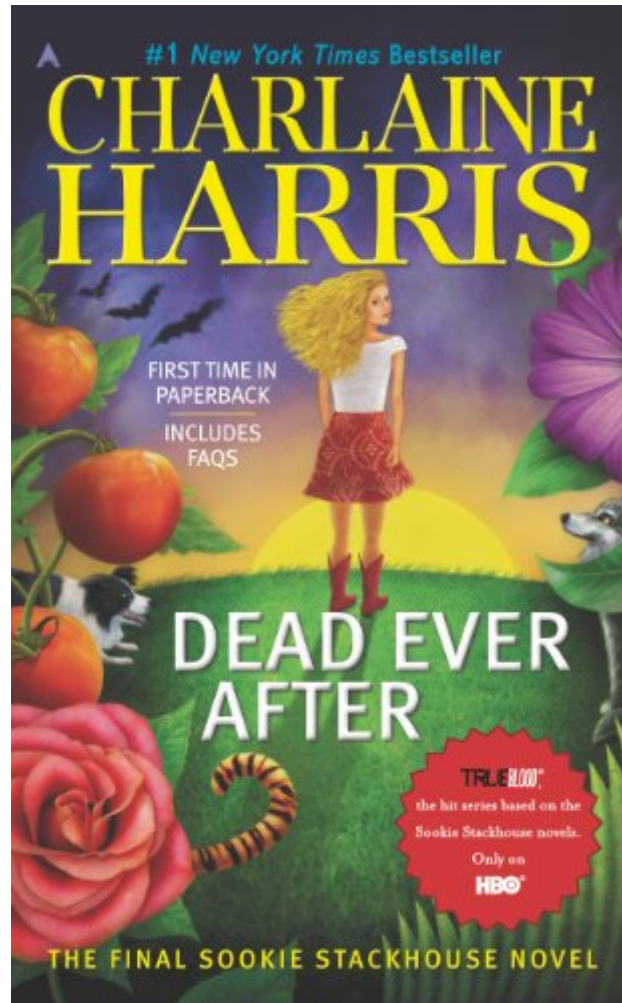


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Dead Ever After: A Sookie Stackhouse Novel



Synopsis

THE FINAL SOOKIE STACKHOUSE NOVEL Following a shocking murder, Sookie will learn that nothing is ever clear-cut in Bon Temps. What passes for the truth is only a convenient lie. What passes for justice is more spilled blood. And what passes for love is never enough....Includes an excerpt from MIDNIGHT CROSSROAD, the first book in Charlaine Harris's new Midnight, Texas, series

Book Information

File Size: 1967 KB

Print Length: 354 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 193700788X

Publisher: Ace; Reissue edition (May 7, 2013)

Publication Date: May 7, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B009NY43NY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #16,717 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #25 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > TV, Movie, Video Game

Adaptations #45 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Vampires

#50 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Werewolves & Shifters

Customer Reviews

**** SPOILER ALERT! ****When the other books in the series were released, I burned through them like a spark through a tinderbox, even though the last two or three weren't all that spectacular. I made it through DEA in one day only because I was sick in bed and couldn't go to work. DEA was so awful, in my opinion, that I actually took breaks to watch a little Food Network on TV, play Candy Crush Saga, nap, and lurk on Facebook. Yeah, it's that bad. I have to agree with a friend of mine who is convinced this was done by a ghost writer. The feel of the whole story is off...way off. And NEVER has CH used third person point of view in any of the SVM books. It was used frequently in this one.

It's almost like she didn't want to bother with having to figure out how to relate what the extraneous characters were up to while telling the story in Sookie's POV. It's a common sentiment that most of the characters have totally gone lame during the last few books, but this time they're just flat-out strange. After being publicly divorced by Eric, Sookie appears to pretty much just shrug it off like she hasn't spent the last nine books agonizing over, fighting with, fighting against, and rolling in the hay with him. Amelia comes back and Sookie forgives her Alcide transgression. Alcide himself comes back and is forgiven his (grossly stupidly written) bedroom incident. Hell, Sookie is even tickled pink to see John Quinn when he comes strolling in after she selfishly kicked him the curb. And we all know Sookie always forgives Bill. This go-round she even momentarily considers rebound sex with him after Eric divorces her. Really, Charlaine?

For 10+ years many have been caught up in the tales of Sookie Stackhouse, the telepathic waitress who was born with an "essential spark", destined to "experience and accomplish great things". Dead Ever After is the highly anticipated ending to this series..... and it fizzled out. DEA is a hodgepodge of our beloved characters acting OUT of character laden with token curtain calls for minor players awkwardly crammed into scenes. I disliked the beginning. I suffered through the middle. By the final page, I was just glad to be done. For me, each chapter felt forced and stilted. Where was the spunky, witty Sookie? Where was the caustic-but-lovable Pam? Where was the zest-for-life Eric? One by one Ms. Harris redefined these beloved characters as shallow, cold, and selfish. I found myself longing for Bill's irritating declarations of his unrequited love for Sookie - anything to remind me of the Sookie World Ms. Harris left behind. *WARNING - SPOILER TO FOLLOW* The HEA is Sam. Surprised? You ought to be. He was hardly present in the last 9 books. In the final pages of DEA Ms. Harris springs this sudden passion on Sookie and Sam ... followed by 3 paragraphs of icky seal-sex that will forever haunt me during visits to Sea World. Post coital Sookie surmises that the "love" was manufactured by the magical fairy device. THIS is the long-anticipated "Happily Ever After"? I've seen dish soap commercials with higher emotional impact. This book did not flow, it jerked and spasmed between scenes as you guessed whose POV was speaking. It was as if Ms. Harris had a specific agenda and would check off each item instead of weaving it into the story: Make Sookie a selfish, whiney twit [check!]; Punish Eric for loving a human [check!]

****Contains Spoilers**** I was so very excited for the finale of the SVM series by Charlaine Harris. I had a 7 hour flight ahead of me, returning to Boston from London, and was ready to fill the entire flight time with saying goodbye to Sookie and finally accepting it was over. All I can say is this; Dead

Ever After should have been titled, Dead on Arrival, A Southern Vampire Misery. Never would I have expected my favorite series to be ended in such an awful and incomplete way. Charlaine Harris really, really dropped the ball on this book. Books 11 and 12 were a bit lacking, but not enough to deter me from wanting to read the next installment. This book, however, made me want to weep for those few hours of my life I wasted reading and will never get back. My problem with this book is not necessarily Sookie's "HEA" choice, but with the author's complete and total disregard for the characters and world she had created. Charlaine Harris spent almost 14 years pulling us deeper and deeper into the world of Sookie Stackhouse. With each book the stakes got higher, making us feel that much closer to her characters. Each book had a pivotal moment when our hearts broke right along with Sookie, making us feel the emotions she so expertly brought out. Perhaps it was a huge Sookie moment, like when Bill admits his deceit and his true intentions for coming to Bon Temps. Or, perhaps it was a smaller, more intimate moment, when Eric stays by her side to help ease her pain after she is staked in Club Dead. No matter what was happening, readers of these books felt it deep within their souls. Dead Ever After had none of these moments...not one. This book read as though it was penned by a complete stranger.

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