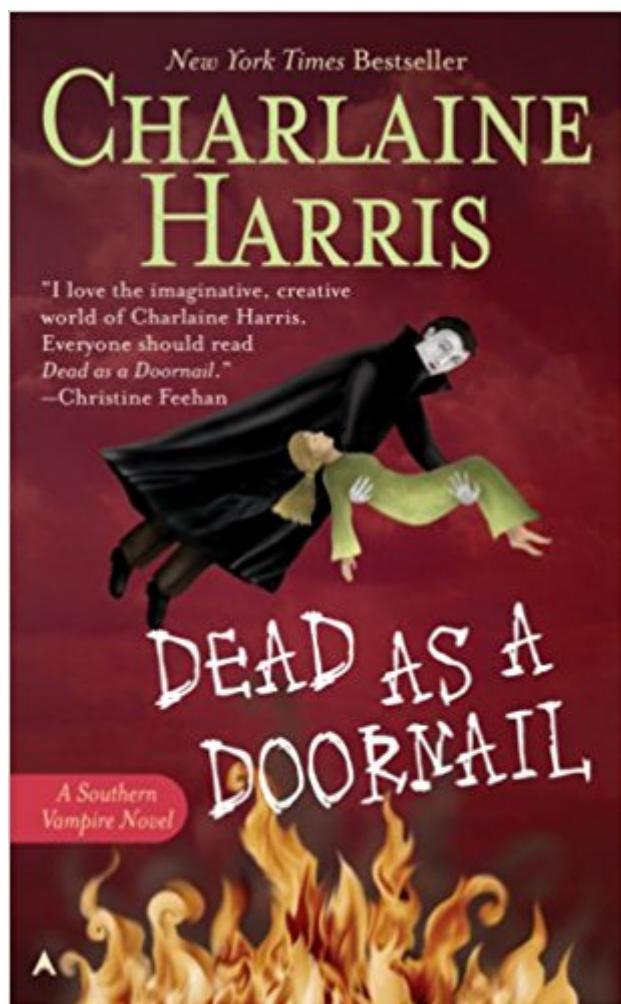


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Dead As A Doornail (Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood, Book 5)



Synopsis

Small town cocktail waitress Sookie Stackhouse's supernatural existence puts her in the line of fire in the fifth novel in the #1 New York Times bestselling series. When Sookie Stackhouse sees her brother Jason's eyes start to change, she knows he's about to turn into a were-panther for the first time. But her concern becomes cold fear when a sniper sets his deadly sights on the local changeling population, and Jason's new panther brethren suspect he may be the shooter. Now, Sookie has until the next full moon to find out who's behind the attacks—unless the killer decides to find her first...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Harris's rousing fifth Sookie Stackhouse fantasy-mystery (after 2004's *Dead to the World*) pits vampires, were-creatures, shifters and one fairy godmother against a sniper with an apparent aversion to nonhumans. If trying to discover who's behind the shootings isn't enough, the telepathic cocktail waitress from Bon Temps, La., has to cope with a few other distractions: her sexy "Were" friend, Alcide Herveaux, needs her help in his father's bid to become the next leader of the local werewolf pack; her boss, Sam Merlotte (a collie in his spare time), gets shot; her house partly burns down; and what's she to do about the handsome vampire bartender who dresses as a pirate at Sam's place? Between one mishap and another, Sookie is one busy gal. Harris does an admirable job of creating a heroine who's not only interesting but completely believable in a world of

the strange and the different. Natural and humorous dialogue and a nicely paced plot that doesn't dwell so much on Sookie's old boyfriends help make this entry the best yet in the series. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Sookie Stackhouse just can't seem to stay away from the supernatural denizens of Bon Temps, Louisiana. In *Dead to the World* (2004), she found herself embroiled in vampire politics; this time around, she's involved in the machinations of the Were-people, whose pack leader has just passed away. -Alcide Herveaux asks her to accompany him to the funeral, where Alcide's father declares his candidacy against a slimy, calculating rival. Angry at being drawn into the conflict, Sookie can't distance herself entirely, because a sniper has been taking shots at Were-people, and the community suspects Sookie's brother, Jason, a new shape-shifter. Sookie's love life is every bit as complicated as usual, and her collection of would-be beaux continues to grow. Also, someone wants her dead, which she learns when an assailant sets fire to her beloved house. Harris' southern vampire series remains one of the best of the breed, concocted out of just the right mixture of humor, intrigue, and excitement. Its latest entry does not disappoint. Kristine Huntley
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I enjoy the heck out of these books. I love Skokie Stackhouse for her pragmatic yet joyous life philosophy. The writing is real, it portrays the residents with color and affection. These books are my chicken soup, when life is looking cruel, capricious or sad I can read about Bon Temps and drift into Sookie's fascinating life and soak up some of her outlook. Best series ever, for me (my sis didn't like it though).

Now, how many different things can happen in one novel. Sookie, waitress at a bar, is a telepath, whose life used to be bedeviled by her hearing people's thoughts. Once she entered into the world of supernaturals--vampires, weres, shape-shifters, fairies--she came to use her power as a tool. This volume, # 5 in the series, sees her facing many challenges. First, several would-be or past boyfriends are showing their interest in her, including ex-lovers Bill (a vampire) and Eric (another vampire--and a boss) and bar owner Sam and one-time pretend boyfriend Alcide. Second, someone is shooting shapeshifters and weres--including one person actually killed. Third, someone is out to get Sookie, half burning her home to the ground (she would have perished in the flames but for some luck). Then, she gets shot (because she heard someone's unusual thoughts, she ducked in

time to take the bullet in her shoulder rather than someplace where the wound would have been mortal. Fourth, there is a challenge for packmaster, with Alcide's father competing against someone who turns out to be a cheater. The winner becomes packmaster. And the loser? Well, losing carries a high price here. Fifth, two detectives are investigating the death of Alcide's old girlfriend (whom Sookie happened to kill with a shotgun as the other woman tried to shoot her). Sookie is an attractive and sympathetic character. The vampires and other supernatural creatures are portrayed in a manner that is oddly effective, although certainly not realistic. The plots of these books tend to be somewhat incredible, with many different strands playing out. But the ensemble of characters works pretty well together and the books are quick reads.

This book veers a bit from the vampire stories in that it's not so much a story weaved around the vamps, but they're more threaded in to the story. Of course, Eric is intent on discovering what happened in the brief (relatively speaking as his lifetime is measured in centuries) time that he spent at Sookie's home. That's pretty much it in terms of vamp involvement. Frankly, that led to some disappointment. Alcide, however, features prominently in this installment and we learn a lot more about Weres and shifters. It just feels like something's missing from Charlaine Harris' normal style. One thing that I noticed, and is a bit of a pet peeve of mine, is the increasing use of catch-ups. I understand that some people like to just jump into a series without starting with the first novel. The rest of us, however, shouldn't be punished for it and forced to read catch-ups constantly. It's such a digression in momentum and drives me bonkers! It's still a good read. I wish I had more feelings about Sookie and Alcide so that I could savor some of the scenes between them, but it just didn't seem like he really cares for her, other than wanting to get in her pants. Speaking of which, how many men are hot for Sookie now? It's getting a bit tiresome to hear of yet another admirer hopping on the Sookie fan train. Sookie's love life can only be spread so thinly until it'll shatter. I hope that she finds someone worthwhile soon. We also learn more about Claudine and her surly twin, Claude. Tragedy, as usual, seems to follow hotly on Sookie's heels. Surprisingly, after the author has spent so much time telling us how isolated Sookie's house is from pretty much everywhere (except Bill, who's handily just across the adjoining cemetery), the volunteer fire department manages to put out a fire in a historic home (aged wood burns quickly, doesn't it?) before any major damage is done to the majority of it, other than the kitchen, happily destroying any evidence from the whole Debbie Pelt slaying. Reality check, please. One last note on editing... once again, this book seems to be filled with missed errors. I understand that spell check corrects words, but if the wrong word is in the sentence, but it's spelled correctly, it's still an error.

In the fifth installment of the Sookie Stackhouse mysteries there is a sniper on the loose who is shooting shift-shapers. Sookie, everyone's favorite telepath, is especially worried as her brother, Jason, was recently bitten by a were-panther, making him one also. He is at risk of being shot and Sookie is also concerned that the were community will think Jason is the shooter, angry at what happened to him. The police can't find a link because they are unaware that there are shape-shifters, much less that they are being shot in their animal form. Add to that, Sookie's house has been burned down and her boss, a shape-shifter was shot. Sookie's friend and former potential romantic interest, Alcide, a Were (were-wolf), wants Sookie present as the Were's have a ceremony to determine the next pack leader. Vampire Eric agrees to lend his club's bartender to replace Sookie's injured boss. But on one condition; Sookie has to tell Eric everything that happened between them during the period when he lost his memory. Sookie tells him, Eric is speechless. I really enjoyed this installment as we get further into the supernatural community. This book focuses more on Sookie alone and her relationship with men take more of a back seat. Vampire Bill has only a cameo appearance.

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