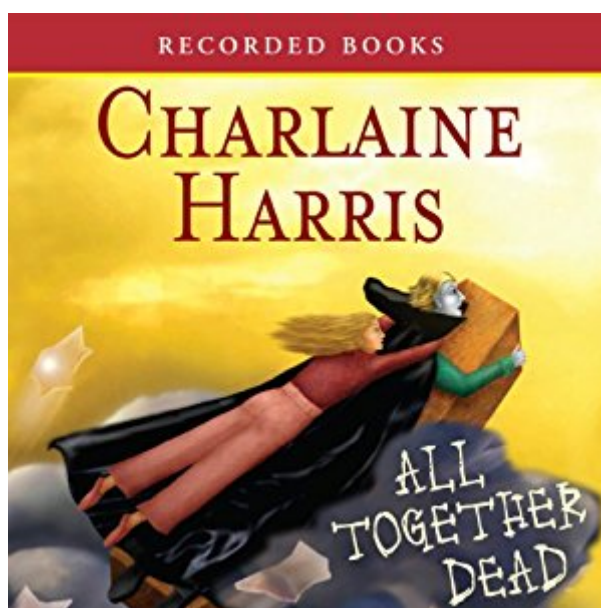


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All Together Dead: Sookie Stackhouse Southern Vampire Mystery #7



Synopsis

Louisiana cocktail waitress Sookie Stackhouse is stuck in the middle of a vampire gathering on the verge of disaster in the seventh novel in the #1 New York Times bestselling series. Sookie Stackhouse has her hands full with shapeshifter Quinn and a possible new man in her life and the upcoming central U.S. Vampire Summit on the shores of Lake Michigan. Sookie's job at the summit is to support Vampire Queen Sophie-Anne, whose power base was weakened by hurricane damage to New Orleans. But Sookie is about to discover just how dangerous that job can be, as she is drawn further and further into the vampire world... --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sookie's life has gradually been getting more complicated, and in Bk #7 the tense triangle between Eric, Sookie and Bill produces some unexpected and unwelcome results. Harris gives us a full panoply of vampire politics, with enemies both internal and external. The relationship between Sookie and Eric foreshadows what's to come in the series ending. The after-effects of the vampires' Summit will shake up everything, even Sookie's small hometown. Not sure if any other reviewers have mentioned this already, but I was intrigued by the introduction of the two alien bodyguards from the Britlingen Collective hired by the King of Kentucky, the tough professional mercenaries Clovache and Batanya. Ms. Harris wrote a short story about them (not a Sookie story). It's called "The Britlingens Go to Hell" and is included in the 2009 "Must Love Hellhounds" anthology, and is a

fun read that is quite different from anything else Ms. Harris has written. **Additional edit** While in the process of re-reading some of my older anthologies, I realized that Ms. Harris did a SECOND short story about side characters in "All Together Dead" - the vampire dancers, Layla and Sean. It's in the 2004 anthology called "Night's Edge" - Ms. Harris' short is called "Dancing In The Dark". Like the above-mentioned "Britlingens Go To Hell", this short story focuses strictly on Layla and Sean, so Sookie et.al. do not appear at all. It's the story of how Sean and Layla met, fell in love, and became permanent dancing partners. Straightforward and nicely done, and a charming vampire romance (if that isn't an oxymoron, LOL)!

This is the seventh novel in the Sookie Stackhouse series. Although some of the plotting defied credibility in this volume, this series is seductive in its appeal. We see some of the main characters involved here: Eric and Bill and Pam and the Queen of Louisiana (Sophie-Anne) and Quinn and . . . The repertory theater sees many of the familiar characters here. However, this is also one of the more sanguinary on the series, so--at the close of this work--many figures die. The Fellowship is involved here. Vampire politics is most heated. Without giving anything away, it is clear that the Queen of Louisiana engaged in very deep and subtle political maneuvering. After several books without his involvement, Barry the Bellboy (now named Barry Bellboy) is back in the picture, another human telepath. He and Sookie partner to try to ensure a successful vampire summit. And that conference is at the center of this work, held in the Chicago area. The Queen of Louisiana faces charges over her involvement in the death of her husband (the King of Arkansas). The Fellowship is attempting a spectacular assault on the vampire horde at the conference. There is the normal internecine vampire politics, which often leads to other vampires being killed. Sookie and her boyfriend Quinn (a weretiger) try to develop a halfway normal relationship (what are the odds of that?). But Sookie's past relationships with the vampires Eric and Bill complicate matters. The seventh entry in the series shows the increasing complexity of the network of relationships and builds well on top of the other previous works. Treachery is a key aspect of this novel. The vampire hotel becomes the center for a bloodbath, with numerous actors jockeying for position and for achieving their very distinct goals. One of the more interesting works in this series, because of the complexity of actors involved and the uncertain politics at issue.

In terms of action, book 7 in the Sookie series doesn't disappoint. It revolves around a vamp conference in Rhodes, taking place at a doomed vampire hotel. It's absolutely chock full of adventure and tension. I'm zooming through the series and this one pulled me in. So, Sookie is

compelled by the queen, Sophie-Anne, to attend the conference in her entourage, promising Sookie a big payday for her telepathic services. Sookie doesn't disappoint, but Sophie-Anne seems to. I found several elements to be a bit unbelievable. For example, vampires are portrayed as super-strong, super-intelligent (with a few exceptions) and super-protected. However, this "ultra-secure" vamp hotel seems to make some glaring errors. It turns out that there is a plot against the vampires (isn't there always?) and yet the hotel doesn't seem to truly question all of the empty coffins and unclaimed baggage that shows up there. They just store them away in the basement (the foundation!) of the hotel. Then, the underlings, Sookie included, just head down and bring up the bags back to their rooms. Sookie leaves one sitting in the queen's living room for quite some time. Sorry, but I'd notice a bag that didn't belong to me and send it off right away, and I can claim but a few decades of accumulated knowledge of personal safety. I can't imagine a queen, more than a thousand years old, would overlook such a glaring breach of her security. At any rate, the hotel's inability to protect its clients results in devastation on a scale which has not yet been seen in this series. (Too bad Sookie doesn't keep a journal. At the rate she's going, she could be writing a textbook of vamp history! She seems to be at all of the big events recently.) It's brilliant to see Sookie in action and reminded me of what hooked me into the series in the first place, Sookie's strength (and not just foolhardiness or pride.) She really shines. I'm really looking forward to reading the next books in the series and hope that it continues on this fascinating path.

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