

Dead Ever After: A Sookie Stackhouse Novel Study Guide

**Dead Ever After: A Sookie Stackhouse Novel by
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Plot Summary

Dead Ever After: A Sookie Stackhouse Novel, written by author Charlaine Harrism is the 13th and final book in the Sookie Stackhouse series. In "Dead Ever After," Sookie Stackhouse faces the end of a long term relationship with her vampire lover Eric while trying to find out who is attempting to kill her.

The story begins with Sookie trying to understand the present state of her relationship with Eric. Eric has been betrothed to another vampire which makes the situation even more complicated. Eric offers Sookie the opportunity to travel to Tennessee with him and his new bride but Sookie refuses to be his mistress. The members of the vampire council insist on breaking ties between Sookie and Eric.

Sookie's friend Sam is also acting very strange and withdrawn since Sookie used the "cluviel dor" to bring him back to life after he was attacked in the Were Circle.

Arlene returns from jail to visit Sookie, not realizing that her new benefactors are only using her to get to Sookie. The men want Sookie dead. Sookie enlists the help of her friends, including her demon godfather Mr. Cataliades to find out who is attempting to kill her and frame her for crimes she did not commit. Sookie is kidnapped by the dangerous Johan Glassport and Steve Newlin. Sookie manages to get away and Claude, a fey that had been banished, and Glassport are killed.

The story ends with Sookie and Sam trying to decide where their relationship will go next.



Prologue and Chapters 1-2

Summary

Prologue

January - A devil meets a businessman and his bodyguard at a crossroads to make a deal. The businessman and the bodyguard think the entire thing is a sham but hard times call for drastic measures so the businessman made the arrangements. The men make a deal with the devil. In return, the businessman will get a chance to reclaim his former success in business and regain his position in New Orleans society. The bodyguard wants only one thing – a dancer named Gypsy Kidd. The bodyguard will not be dissuaded from his choice even though the businessman and the devil think the choice is foolish. The businessman is offered a signing bonus because he brought an extra soul to sell to the devil. The businessman says he wants to think about the bonus.

June - Two men are resting poolside in Baja enjoying the sun when one strikes up a conversation. The second man is listening to a sermon on an iPod. The second man talks about how he was once a preacher but that a girl ruined his life. The girl is Sookie Stackhouse.

June - The devil meets with the businessman, Copley Carmichael. The devil asks about the bodyguard, Tyrese. Carmichael tells the Devil that Tyrese has contracted HIV from Gypsy and is receiving treatment.

Carmichael tells the devil what he wants as a signing bonus. He wants a magical object known as a cluviel dor. Carmichael's daughter, Amelia, had told him about the object which is in the possession of Sookie Stackhouse. The devil is intrigued by the request.

Carmichael tells the devil that Sookie inherited the cluviel dor from her grandmother and is not likely to give it up without a fight. The devil says he has heard of Sookie.

July - The devil arrives at Carmichael's table in a restaurant. The devil tells Carmichael that he has located the cluviel dor but that its energy had already been expended. Carmichael demands an explanation. The devil tells Carmichael that Sookie used the item to raise someone from the dead. The item is now useless.

Carmichael is furious and argues that the devil agreed to get the cluviel dor. The devil corrects Carmichael.

Carmichael swears vengeance on Sookie and demands that the devil help him. The devil says he has no reason to harm Sookie.

Chapter 1



It is a bright July day. Sookie awakes and goes to check on Sam, her boss and business partner. Sookie had raised Sam from the dead the night before. Sam is disoriented and not at all himself. Sam leaves without saying much except that he is not sure how he feels.

Sookie analyzes her blossoming garden. It is unnaturally lush and filled with blooms and ripening tomatoes. Sookie waits for someone – anyone – to call her. The phone does not ring.

Elsewhere, Arlene Fowler is being released from jail. Arlene had attempted to murder Sookie. Although she is serving a life sentence, Arlene is out on appeal, thanks to her lawyer, the tall man that works for the devil.

Once in the car, the tall man tells Arlene that he will expect some things in return for his advocacy.

The first thing the tall man requests is that Arlene visit Sookie. Arlene is sure Sookie will not want to see her.

Chapter 2

Sookie prepares to visit her vampire lover and husband, Eric. Sookie had expected a visit from Eric but he had been silent. Sookie knew there were important people in town but had to speak to Eric. After Sookie raised Sam from the dead, Eric became convinced that Sookie loved Sam more than she loved him.

Sookie also worried about the presence of Queen Freyda from Oklahoma.

Sookie visits Eric at his club, Fantasia. She is greeted at the door by Pam, Eric's second in command. Pam rebuffs Sookie. Sookie does not attempt to enter the club. Eric steps out of his office and tells Sookie that he cannot see her. Sookie is escorted out.

Sookie calls off work and is at home, upset and brooding over the events at Fantasia. Tara, Sookie's best friend stops by. Tara wants to know what has made Sookie so upset. Sookie does her best to explain the situation with Eric and the events that took place at the circle where she saved Sam's life.

Tara convinces Sookie to go to Shreveport to go shopping for summer clothes. Sookie agrees. While Sookie is trying on a dress for her brother Jason's wedding the clerk has a strange reaction to Sookie. The clerk, a shape shifter, recognizes Sookie from the were circle. The clerk is afraid of Sookie's powers. Sookie buys the dress and leaves the store.

On the way home, Tara apologizes for being absent from Sookie's life and hopes their relationship is stable.



Analysis

There is a great deal that has happened in the previous novels of the series that is alluded to but not clearly explained which may be confusing to the new reader.

The devil and the two men that work for the devil have some connection to Sookie Stackhouse. Carmichael's problem with Sookie goes beyond her influence on his daughter Amelia. Amelia has begun to forge her own path, much to the chagrin of her prominent father. The rage and resentment shown by Carmichael is a hell of its own, and he thinks little of striking a deal with the devil.

Carmichael and Tyrese claim that they do not believe in souls and look at the whole ordeal as somewhat of a joke. Tyrese has his mind set on capturing the heart of an exotic dancer named Gypsy Kidd. Carmichael, who is completely self-centered, surprisingly tries to talk Tyrese out of his choice. Kidd is a dancer with a horrible reputation and is little more than a prostitute. It is easy for the reader to surmise that the relationship will end badly. Almost immediately, Tyrese becomes infected with HIV, which is fairly predictable.

Sookie's relationship with Tara spans many years. The two are obviously close friends and are having some growing pains with the way their lives are headed.

Sookie's performance at the Were Circle raised many eyebrows. Her ability to raise Sam from the dead quickly became a thing of legend and strengthened her reputation as a powerful woman. Many people are afraid of Sookie. Sookie is very aware of this fact by the behavior of those around her. She is also able to read the minds of vampires, were animals, shape shifters and humans.

Sookie's relationships are somewhat complicated. Eric is Sookie's vampire husband and lover. Sam is Sookie's best friend. The men's dislike for each other makes life difficult for Sookie. Eric's behavior regarding the raising of Sam's body is childish and immature. Sookie feels the need to make things right with the man, although Eric is too busy sulking and taking care of vampire business.

Arlene Fowler, once Sookie's good friend, tried to have her murdered by crucifixion. Arlene's release from jail is clearly a plot to get back at Sookie. Arlene is not a terribly bright woman and falls for the ruse.

Discussion Question 1

Carmichael desperately wants to obtain the cluviel dor. Why does Carmichael want the object? Will he use it for good or evil?



Discussion Question 2

Who are the tall man and the medium man? What is their job? Why were they hired by the devil?

Discussion Question 3

It is said that the devil is not THE devil but one of many. If the devil is not Lucifer, who is he?

Vocabulary

accompanied, prearrangement, deluded, crossroads, abnormally, irises, elaborately, chauffeur, sluggish, trickle, prosperous, gleaming, prosperity, passionate, sincerity, fly-by-night, briskly, greed, hastily, version, encounter, gringos



Chapters 3-5

Summary

Chapter 3

Bill arrives at Sookie's house. Bill tells Sookie that Karin, Eric's other "child" is in town. Sookie has never heard of Karin. Bill tells Sookie that Karin is more ruthless than Pam and is referred to as "The Slaughterer." Bill assures Sookie that Karin is not in town to harm her in any way although no one is quite sure why Karin is in town.

Bill and Sookie discuss the events at the Were Circle. Bill says Eric is furious but is saying little about the events. Sookie tells Bill that Eric was aware she had the cluviel dor. Sookie's great grandfather Niall, told Eric. Although Niall wanted the cluviel dor for himself, he knew it belonged to Sookie. Niall wanted to test Eric's love for Sookie by sharing the information, curious to see if Eric would pressure Sookie into using the object for his benefit. Sookie is aware that Eric wanted to use the cluviel dor and would have preferred that Sookie allowed Sam to die.

Sookie returns to work and learns that a former coworker had visited while she was off sick.

Sookie goes next door to check on Sam. She finds Sam's mother, Bernie, lounging on the porch in dog form. Sookie is surprised to find Sam is out of sorts. Instead of being grateful that Sookie saved his life, Sam seems to be disoriented and melancholy.

Chapter 4

Sam keeps telling Sookie that she cannot understand how he feels. After all, he died.

Sookie makes no headway with Sam. Sookie explains the situation to Bernie. Sookie also learns that Sam does not remember a great deal about the evening and must explain how he was stabbed and what eventually happened to Jannalynn. Bernie becomes upset with Sookie for telling Sam the gory details.

Sookie returns to the bar and receives a visit from Arlene Fowler. Sookie is stunned at Arlene's nerve. Sookie is incredulous when Arlene asks for a job. Arlene attempts to show contrition but fails.

Shortly after Arlene leaves Bernie arrives at Merlotte's to see Sookie. Bernie says she owes Sookie a life.

Elsewhere, Arlene reports to the men that her mission was not successful. The men are not surprised. The medium man tells Arlene that her last mission is to break into Sookie's house and retrieve a scarf. After, Arlene can move into a new place with her kids. Arlene agrees.



Chapter 5

Sookie returns home. She spends the evening doing mundane chores. Sookie calls Eric and tells him that they need to have a conversation.

Sookie receives an email from Mr. Cataliades, saying that he will be visiting soon. Mr. Cataliades tells Sookie that he has heard rumors and that he is unhappy.

Sookie receives a middle of the night visit from Eric. Eric tells Sookie that he is being watched. Eric tells Sookie that no matter what she hears or sees, she must believe that he loves her.

Analysis

The author includes many mundane things in Sookie's life that should add to the overall picture. However, these items do not always succeed in moving the story forward. Sookie's position at Merlotte's becomes even more important when Arlene comes to visit. Arlene has forgotten that Sookie is a telepath and tries to lie about her remorse in trying to have Sookie killed. It is odd that Sookie is unable to pick up on Arlene's involvement with the two men.

Sookie is baffled by Sam's reaction to his near death and seems to have little compassion for his situation, focusing on his lack of gratitude. Bernie seems to intimidate Sookie but clearly has her son's best interests at heart.

Sookie has many people looking after her, from Mr. Cataliades to Bill to Eric, albeit the latter has strange ways of showing it. There are many things in the works that are unknown to Sookie. These events promise to make trouble for Sookie yet Eric is unwilling to share that information.

There is still a great deal of fondness between Sookie and Bill and it is clear that both wonder what things might be like if their former romance could be rekindled.

Arlene, Sookie's former friend, seems like a relatively intelligent human being yet she cannot see that the tall man and the medium man are using her as a pawn. Part of Arlene simply does not care. Arlene should care that men such as the tall man and the medium man are ruthless by nature and that her usefulness will most likely be short lived. At this point, it is unclear why the men wanted Arlene to make contact with Sookie or what their plans are for the future.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Sookie put so much value on Bill's opinion?



Discussion Question 2

What secrets do you think Eric is keeping from Sookie? Why must Eric keep his affections for Sookie secret?

Discussion Question 3

What kinds of rumors could be so upsetting to Mr. Cataliades?

Vocabulary

resolutions, rousing, volition, non-communication, venture, patrons, sparked, scent, scouting, catnip, residence, kin, dispel, lingering, briskly, erected, donor, registries, admirable, peculiar, seduction, facility



Chapters 6-10

Summary

Chapter 6

Sookie meets Karin. Karin has been put on guard to protect Sookie. Sookie observes that Karin is a lot like her in the looks department, although Karin seems to be much colder in her personality.

Sookie spends time worrying about the state of affairs and tries to avoid the feeling that something bad is going to happen.

Sookie goes to work and meets up with Sam. Sam discovers Arlene's lifeless body in the Dumpster behind Merlotte's. Sookie calls the police. The morning and early afternoon are taken up by crime scene investigators. Sam and Sookie are baffled by this turn of events. The day seems as if it cannot get worse.

Elsewhere, the tall man makes a call to his boss. He relays the news that Arlene's body has been left at Merlotte's and that a charm has been placed inside the deputy's car.

Chapter 7

Sookie is exhausted. The bar is permitted to open at 3 PM. Customers and employees talk non-stop about Arlene's murder. Sookie is ready to scream and tries to turn the attention to other topics. Sookie is saved temporarily by Jason and Michele. Sookie tells Michele about the dress she found for their wedding. Jane Bodehouse, the local drunk, saunters into the bar and begins to drink. Sookie berates the woman for daring to show her face considering that she intends to sue Merlotte's for bodily injury during a fiasco at the bar. Sookie also berates Jan's son Marvin, who comes after his mother. The matter is eventually settled with Merlotte paying only for Jan's injuries.

Karin enters the bar and approaches Sookie. Karin tells Sookie that Eric must see her immediately. Sookie tries to explain that she is working, but Karin will not accept a refusal. Sookie goes with Karin to Fangtasia where Eric, Felipe de Castro—King of Nevada, Louisiana, and Arkansas—and Freyda, Queen of Oklahoma are waiting for her. Sookie is informed that Eric will become Freyda's consort and therefore must divorce Sookie. Sookie participates in the ceremony and then goes home, devastated.

Chapter 8

Sookie arrives at home. She chooses to ignore the fact that Bill is sitting in her front yard. Sookie thinks about the events of the evening.



Eric arrives and a heated argument ensues. Sookie learns that Eric had intended to turn Sookie into a vampire. Eric had also intended for Sookie to move to Oklahoma and become his mistress. Sookie is furious.

When Sookie wakes the next morning, she is greeted by police at her door. Sookie is arrested for Arlene's murder.

The tall man and the medium man discuss Sookie's arrest. The medium man calls their boss, who seems to be pleased. The medium man is stunned when the boss says he wants to meet face to face. The tall man is pleased because the turn of events may mean that Sookie will have to pay for her misdeeds.

Chapter 9

Sookie is stunned to find the police at her door.

Sookie reads the men's minds. Alcee's mind, however, was black inside. The man seems dead in a way. This concerns Sookie.

Jason is standing inside the jail when Sookie arrives. Sookie tells Jason to call her lawyer and to contact Mr. Cataliades and Sam. Sookie is booked for murder.

Sookie ends up in the same cell as Jane Bodehouse, who is in jail for yet another alcohol-related offense. Jane tells Sookie that Arlene was with two men. This confirms Sookie's suspicions that she is being framed. It also means that someone saw Arlene after their confrontation at Merlotte's. Unfortunately, Alcee is not willing to listen.

Sookie is led into the courtroom where bail is set. Mustapha puts up bail for Sookie on behalf of Eric. When Sookie arrives home, she receives a threatening message. Sookie calls Andy to come to the house.

Chapter 10

Sookie tries to go back to her normal routine. Many people have questions for Sookie, but Sookie has few answers.

Mr. Cataliades contacts Sookie to say he will be arriving shortly with company in tow.

Bill stops by and asks Sookie if she is willing to be interviewed by Harp Powell. Powell is writing a book about Kym Rowe and wants Sookie's input. During the interview, Sookie realizes that Powell is too fascinated with vamps for his own good. Sookie asks the man to leave.

Sookie learns that Karin has been placed outside her house for protection.



Analysis

Sookie's life is about to turn ugly. Finding Arlene's body in the Dumpster is a sign that there is foul play afoot. Although the police have very little evidence, Sookie is blamed for the murder. Sookie suddenly finds herself without many of the people she used to count on including Sam, who is still traumatized, and Eric. Eric does pay for Sookie's bail but must maintain a distance. Sookie is surprised that Eric would go to such lengths and take the chance on angering his bride-to-be. Sookie does realize that there are people who have her back, including the powerful Desmond Cataliades.

The reader finally learns that the medium man is Johan Glassport; the tall man is Steve Newlin. Glassport and Newlin are returning characters from *All Together Dead*. Glassport is out for revenge.

The reader is left to surmise a great deal at this point. For new readers of the book, the presence of Glassport and Newlin makes little sense beyond the fact that they work for a mysterious boss who, for some reason, wants Sookie to be punished for some unknown misdeed.

The relationship between Sookie and Mr. Cataliades seems to be awkwardly formal considering that Cataliades is Sookie's godfather and friends with her grandfather.

Discussion Question 1

Why might "the boss" have hired Glassport and Newlin to frame Sookie for murder?

Discussion Question 2

What kind of charm was placed into Alcee's car? How has it affected the deputy?

Discussion Question 3

How might Mr. Cataliades be able to help Sookie get out of her current predicament?

Vocabulary

paralysis, accented, consented, doubtfully, obvious, patience, matter-of-fact, slaughterer, crouched, weirdly, progression, golden, paler, spectrum, expressions, aptitude, yoga, washable, detergent, expand, unsatisfactory



Chapters 11-16

Summary

Chapter 11

Sam tells Sookie not to come to work that day. Sookie prepares for the arrival of her guests which include Mr. Cataliades, Diantha, Amelia, Bob, and Barry. Sookie is surprised to see Barry. Sookie struggles with the fact that she had not parted on the best of terms with Amelia and Barry and hoped that the situation would not be too awkward.

Sookie had almost forgotten that Barry was a fellow telepath until she found herself communicating with him without using actual words. Sookie could tell immediately that Amelia was sorry for their past troubles and wanted to make up for them. Perhaps the most awkward interaction came with Mr. Cataliades, the nearly all-demon lawyer.

Sookie realizes almost immediately that Amelia is pregnant and lets the cat out of the bag. Amelia and Bob are thrilled.

Barry and Sookie play catch up. Sookie lets it slip that her small cousin is also a telepath. Barry asks Sookie about Eric.

After dinner the group discusses Sookie's troubles.

Chapter 12

Sookie and the group discuss her problems. Many offer solutions including hiring a touch psychic and placing a truth spell on the two men who probably killed Arlene. Diantha offers to check out Alcee's car for the magical object. Mr. Cataliades says the prosecution's case is weak but that he should talk to Karin just the same.

Mr. Cataliades asks Amelia to keep her pregnancy a secret, at least for a day or two. He also tells Amelia that her father was seen dining with the devil. Mr. Cataliades suspects that Copley Carmichael has sold his soul to the devil. Once one makes that pact, the soul is lost forever.

Sookie spends time with her were friend Quinn. On the way back from a walk, Quinn smells fae. Sookie says the fae have been gone for a long time but Quinn is sure of the scent. They discuss the possibility of a rogue.

Chapter 13

The group spends time at Sookie's house, eating and relaxing while discussing the matters at hand. Sam will not answer Sookie's calls nor talk to her. Sam has told Sookie



to stay home for a while. Sookie emails Sam. She cannot figure out what has happened to make Sam act in such an aloof manner.

Chapter 14

Mr. Cataliades and Diantha go to meet Sookie's attorney. Barry goes along, hoping to rent a car so that he can visit Chessie Johnson, the woman keeping Arlene's kids. Barry hopes to get answers about Arlene and perhaps figure out what she was up to with the two strangers.

Sookie goes to Merlotte's to confront Sam. Sam seems happy to see Sookie. Sam says he cannot tell Sookie what is wrong with him and that he has been sworn to secrecy. Sam is hypersensitive and Sookie does not push the issue.

Barry returns from Chessie Johnson's house with little information except that Arlene had seemed nervous about something and had shown up without warning. The information jived with what Sookie had learned from Jane Bodehouse.

The wolf pack leader comes to Sookie's house to sniff out the possible rogue fae. The pack found little but told Sookie that her garden had been blessed with fae magic which explained the luxurious blooms.

Diantha and Mr. Cataliades return. Diantha managed to retrieve the scarf from the police evidence room by turning herself into one of the guards. Now it is possible for the touch psychic to examine it and hopefully provide information about the real killers.

After dinner Amelia and Bob cast a circle of aggressive protection around Sookie's house.

Chapter 15

The alarm goes off in Sookie's back yard. The group runs out to see who has been detected by Amelia's circle. It is Felipe's right hand man, vampire Horst. Horst is unconscious. Bill feels the magic in his house next door and comes to investigate.

The touch psychic arrives the next day. She channels the killer and speaks in his voice. Sookie and the others recognize it as Johan Glassport's voice. Sookie also learns that Glassport wants to kill her. Sookie has a strong dislike for Glassport but has no idea why he would want to kill her. Sookie also learns that Glassport has an accomplice, as previously suspected.

Tyrese comes to Sookie's house. Bob figures out that Tyrese works for Carmichael. Tyrese has come to kill Sookie. Tyrese explains that he has nothing to lose. He has contracted HIV from his girlfriend Gypsy. Gypsy had committed suicide.

There is a shootout and Tyrese is shot and killed. Sookie is safe.

Chapter 16



Mustapha tends to Sookie. Tyrese is dead. Warren, the one who shot Tyrese, is not supposed to be carrying a gun. Thoughts filter into Sookie's head as she is being tended to by paramedics.

Sookie goes to the hospital. Sam comes to visit. Eric also arrives, surprised to see Sam. Eric offers to heal Sookie but she refuses. Eric tells Sam he will not release him. Sookie is baffled by the comment. Eric leaves.

Analysis

Sookie relies on somewhat questionable people to help her. The most capable seems to be Mr. Cataliades who often hides a great deal of his power. Amelia is well meaning but not completely in control of her powers. Barry is a good telepath but seems to be reluctant to use his gift. The wolf pack helps to sniff out the fae but offers little but the promise of help at a later date. Sam, the one Sookie would likely rely upon the most, is absent for the majority of the time. It is clear that there is something going on between Eric and Sam, but neither will tell Sookie. Sookie is frustrated but does not push the issue as much as one might expect.

Eric seems to have little remorse over the end of his relationship with Sookie. It is surprising that Sookie would not let Eric heal her as a final gesture of good will.

The magic item in Alcee's car explains his behavior toward Sookie although Andy is reluctant to try and retrieve it due to Alcee's behavior. One must wonder if Sookie wasn't in jeopardy if the others would just leave it alone until Alcee found the enchanted item.

The realization that Johan Glassport was behind Arlene's murder did not seem to surprise the group overmuch. It is strange that Sookie would recognize his voice. No one questions why he wants to kill Sookie.

It is also unclear why Tyrese wanted to kill Sookie other than the fact that Carmichael wants her dead. Tyrese has nothing to lose so perhaps it is a last ditch effort to prove his loyalty to his boss. Tyrese's situation proves the point that one should always be careful what one asks for because it just might happen. In Tyrese's case, he got the girl he loved but he also got HIV in the bargain.

There is a great deal of sitting around and talking and eating which does little to move the story forward.

Discussion Question 1

What do Sookie and Barry have in common?



Discussion Question 2

What happened to cause Sookie and Amelia to be on less than good terms? Can the situation be resolved?

Discussion Question 3

What is Mr. Cataliades' plan to help Sookie?

Vocabulary

stubbed, pluck, tumbling, suspiciously, co-boss, trooper, scrambled, doubtless, shrieked, civilian, seldom, lode, dashed, blouse, dryness, bony, bulk, bellboy, telepathic, ordeal



Chapters 17-22

Summary

Chapter 17

Amelia visits Sookie in the hospital. Amelia blames herself for the trouble her father has caused but Sookie assures Amelia that she is not to blame. Amelia says that no one has seen her father, Mr. Cataliades or Diantha.

Sookie learns that during the night Bill had visited her. He left a note. The note explained the events of the night Horst tried to get to Sookie.

Sookie is released from the hospital. Friends have cleaned up the mess left by the shooting. Several people come to visit.

Bill comes to Sookie's door and tells her about the deal made between Sam and Eric.

Chapter 18

Sookie is furious. She calls Sam and demands that he come out to her house immediately. Sam makes excuses but Sookie makes her demand and then hangs up. Sam arrives 30 minutes later. Eric begins to give the Sookie the details of his pact with Eric. Sam had tried to get money for Sookie's bail and failed. Eric was the only option if Sookie was going to get out of jail. Eric agreed to pay but only under certain conditions. Freyda had also placed conditions on Eric.

Sookie spins into a turmoil. Sam admits that he does want her. Sookie asks Sam what has changed between them. Suddenly Sookie considers Sam in a new way.

Sam hands over a note that had been left at the bar. The note said that someone had left a surprise for Sookie in the hidey-hole in the guest bedroom. Sookie and Sam investigate and find Copley Carmichael trussed up and placed in the hole.

Sam and Sookie take a nap. Tara comes over to check on Sookie.

Sookie checks in on Carmichael. She tries to be kind and think of a way to get him to the bathroom, but there was no way she could do it, especially since she was injured.

Chapter 19

Andy, Mr. Cataliades and Diantha go to Alcee Beck's house. Alcee grudgingly gives Diantha permission to look in his car. Diantha retrieves the magic object planted by the two men that had killed Arlene. Alcee learns that he has been scaring his wife whom he loves very much. Diantha burns the charm, and Alcee falls to his knees. Mr. Cataliades



believes he will be fine the next day and may even admit that Sookie probably did not kill Arlene.

Diantha and Mr. Cataliades return to Sookie's house and tell her what happened at the Beck house. Sookie tells them about Carmichael being hidden in her house.

Sookie learns that Barry has decided to follow Glassport even though the man is dangerous.

Pam and Karin stop by. Karin tells Sookie that Carmichael was skulking around Sookie's house so she captured him. Pam tells Sookie to kill Carmichael. Sookie says she can't do it. Pam offers to take Carmichael off of Sookie's hands and to "take care of the situation." Pam also relays that she has been named Eric's successor as sheriff.

Pam also heals Sookie of her shoulder wound.

Sookie thanks Pam and Karin for their help.

Mr. Cataliades explains to Sookie that she cannot read his mind because he was the one that gifted the telepathy to her through her grandfather. Carmichael cannot be read because he has no soul.

Mr. Cataliades and Sookie say their goodbyes.

Chapter 20

Mr. Cataliades and Diantha leave in the morning before Sookie gets out of bed. Sookie finds a note saying they will be in touch and Barry will let her know if he gets any information on Glassport.

Sookie goes to Sam's house. She and Sam kiss for the first time and become intimate.

Sookie agrees to go dancing with Jason and Michelle. Sam also agrees. The night goes well until Glassport arrives and drags Sookie out of the club. A bouncer tries to stop Glassport and gets stabbed. Sookie is tossed into a van and is stunned to learn that the driver is her fae cousin Claude.

Chapter 21

Sookie is in shock. Glassport and Newlin sit and gloat while Sookie talks to Claude.

Each of the men tells Sookie why they were in on the plan to kill her.

Sookie tries to figure out how to get away. She manages to escape from the van and runs into a corn field. After a chase and the arrival of good Samaritans from the club, the three kidnappers are killed.

Chapter 22



Sookie's group is back at her house. Barry has also returned and Sookie is stunned that he had been injured so badly by Glassport and Newlin. Sookie tries to convince Barry to go to the hospital. Sookie and the others learn that Barry had been beaten with the hopes of learning the whereabouts of Sookie's little telepathic cousin. Claude had ratted out a child. Barry says he has to leave Bon Temps. Sookie arranges for Barry to stay with Sam's mother in Texas.

Sookie learns that Niall had allowed Claude to go free from the land of fairy so that the rest of the traitors planning the coup against him would be caught. Niall had underestimated Claude.

Sookie gives Sam the details and both are relieved that the ordeal is over.

Analysis

The end of the story is very rushed. Sookie is kidnapped. Claude seems to hate Sookie for illogical reasons. Sookie manages to get away by instigating an argument between the men. The men could have easily caught Sookie but the cavalry – in the shape of good Samaritan bar patrons – shows up in the nick of time. The ending is almost too convenient, as are the deaths of the three men who want to get their hands on Sookie's little cousin Hunter.

The relationship between Sam and Sookie is also quite predictable.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss the content of the note given to Sookie from Bill. What was the purpose of the apology?

Discussion Question 2

What was the deal that took place between Sam and Eric? Was the deal upheld?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss Sookie's reaction to Eric leaving Louisiana for good.

Vocabulary

hostage, armed, gunman, swaying, slightly, defer, reevaluate, transporting, uncertainty, progresses, exceptional, soulless, lore, coven, evidently, obligingly, attempt, flowery, script, incident, reluctant



Characters

Sookie Stackhouse

Sookie Stackhouse is the main character of the novel. Sookie is an ordinary human who has been tied in with various supernatural creatures including vampires, "were" animals, shape shifters, and fae.

Sookie is a blonde woman in her late twenties. She lives in a house she inherited. Sookie works as a waitress at Merlotte's a restaurant/bar. Sookie recently bought into the bar with the owner Sam, making her a minor partner.

Sookie is gifted – or cursed – with the gift of telepathy. The gift was given to her by her grandfather's friend and her godfather, Mr. Cataliades. Sookie has also inherited from her godmother, Claudine.

Sookie's relationships are somewhat complicated. Eric is Sookie's vampire husband and lover. Sam is Sookie's best friend. The men do not like each other which makes life difficult for Sookie.

Along the way, Sookie has become involved with a wide variety of people and creatures, some of which are not altogether scrupulous. These people also include her relatives, the fae, which are much more dangerous than the little winged fairy creatures featured in bedtime stories.

Sookie must find a way to manage her life. She longs for a normal life yet her involvement with the supernatural is a great barrier to domestic serenity. This will change when Eric leaves her life and her ties to the supernatural community are lessened.

Sam Merlotte

Sam Merlotte is Sookie's best friend and the owner of Merlotte's, a restaurant/bar. Sam, a native Texan, is a were animal and shape shifter. Although Sam and Sookie are very close, there is no romantic entanglement until the end of the book.

Sam is a tall man with golden red hair which always seems to be in a giant snarl. Sam is someone who likes to brood and keep to himself. He harbors feelings for Sookie but respects the fact that she is with Eric for the time being.

In the beginning of the story Sam had just been raised from the dead. Sam has no recollection of the events of that night and it is up to Sookie to tell him. Sam's girlfriend, the evil Jannalynn, had struck out at an opponent and ended up slaying Sam.

Jannalynn was then executed in the were circle. Sam does not receive this news well and must come to terms with the fact that he was dead and has been saved by Sookie.



The Devil/Claude

Claude is Sookie's cousin. Claude is an evil man who had been sent to the land of fae, never to return to Bon Temps. Claude manages to escape and seeks vengeance on Sookie.

Diantha

Diantha is a fast talking woman who comes to help Sookie. Diantha is Mr. Cataliades' niece.

Amelia Carmichael

Amelia Carmichael is a witch and the daughter of Copley Carmichael.

Mr. Cataliades

Mr. Cataliades is a demon lawyer and the godfather to Sookie.

Eric

Eric is the vampire sheriff of Shreveport and Sookie's husband.

Pam

Pam is Eric's vampire daughter who takes over after Eric moves to Oklahoma.

Arlene Fowler

Arlene Fowler is the woman who tried to kill Sookie and is used as a pawn in a scheme for revenge.

Copley Carmichael

Copley Carmichael is a formerly prosperous businessman from New Orleans that makes a pact with the devil.



Symbols and Symbolism

Cluviel Dor

Cluviel Dor is a magical object given to Sookie by her grandmother, Adele. Adele had received the object from her lover and Sookie's grandfather, Fintan after he died. The object, not well described, is rather small and trimmed in gold. It makes Sookie happy when she touches it, as if her grandfather is connected to the item.

Copley Carmichael heard of the cluviel dor from his daughter, Amelia. Carmichael knows this is the last cluviel dor in existence and that it carries great power. Carmichael wants the cluviel dor to be able to control Amelia and is furious when he finds out that it has been used.

The cluviel dor was made by the fae. It contained powerful magic. The user of the magical object had to wish for something personal. The cluviel dor could be used only once and then it became little more than a cherished family gift. Sookie uses the cluviel dor to save Sam from death. Eric is angry because he wanted Sookie to use it to benefit him in some way. Sookie claims that she did not even think about using it, it just happened. This is somewhat of a strange twist as it is never explained why Sookie was carrying a priceless artifact if she had no intention to use it.

Bon Temps

Bon Temps, Louisiana is home to Sookie Stackhouse and the majority of the characters in the story. Bon Temps is a small town where everyone knows everyone and their business. It is unusually accepting of unique characters like Sookie and her supernatural friends.

Bon Temps, a town filled with a great deal of history and Southern charm, is a tourist spot for the curious. Bon Temps is a community full of hard working people, many of which are farmers. The citizens put a great deal of stock into work ethic. As with most small towns, there is a great deal of gossip in the town, particularly when it comes to the rumor that Jannalynn had run off to Alaska, leaving Sam behind.

Bon Temps is located a short distance from Shreveport, where many of the supernatural characters reside, including Eric and Pam.

During the story it is July. Bon Temps is blistering hot and the temperature plays a part in the discomfort of the characters.



New Orleans

New Orleans is home to Mr. Cataliades, Diantha, the Carmichaels, Tyrese, and Bob. It is also the location where Copley Carmichael meets the devil.

Sookie's House

Sookie's house is the location of many activities from the shooting of Tyrese to the planning of various schemes involving saving Sookie. Sookie inherited the house from her grandmother Adele and works hard to make it a home for her family and friends. Sookie's house represents home and hearth as well as a sense of security.

Fangtasia

Fangtasia is the vampire bar owned and operated by Eric. It is a hangout for super naturals and curious humans.

Were Circle

This is a place where were animals gather to feast and fight. It is in a were circle that Sam is killed. To some a Were Circle represents a sense of community, while others view it as a place of danger and evil.

Merlotte's

Merlotte's is the restaurant/bar owned by Sam Merlotte. It is located in a rural part of Bon Temps, next door to Sam's double wide trailer. Merlotte's is a casual place where locals come to eat and drink. In recent times, Sookie bought into the business and is now Sam's partner.

Arlene Fowler worked at Merlotte's alongside Sookie, and the two women became good friends. Arlene turned on Sookie and tried to have her murdered via crucifixion. Arlene went to jail. When Arlene got out on bail, she approached Sookie about getting her job back. Sookie refused.

Merlotte's is also the site where Arlene's body was dumped after she was strangled by the tall man and the medium man.

Sam's Trailer

Sam owns a double wide trailer that sits in a lot adjacent to the bar. Sam attempts to make the place as nice as possible considering his limited free time and finances. Sookie often stops by the trailer to visit.



Fae

Fae is another name for fairy. However the fae are not sweet little creatures with wings. They are powerful and magical and can sometimes be evil and vengeful. Sookie has relatives that are fae, including Claude. The fae are responsible for creating the cluviel dor.

Magic

Magic plays a large part in *Dead Ever After*. The first use of magic is shown in the meeting between the devil, Carmichael and Tyrese. The story uses the age old myth of selling one's soul to the devil. Once a soul is sold to the devil, the seller is granted a wish. In Carmichael's case he gets an extra wish as a "signing bonus" for bringing a second soul for sale. The devil uses his brand of magic to grant the wishes. In this case, the wishes involved restoring Carmichael's former standing as a prosperous and well-respected businessman and Tyrese's foolish wish to have the woman of his dreams.

Oddly enough, Carmichael spurns the idea of magic when it comes to his daughter Amelia. Amelia is a witch in training. While Amelia has great natural power, she is trying to find her niche and develop a skill set. Amelia uses magic in trying to help Sookie although it is not fully accepted as a sure thing. Amelia's magic does work, however, when she casts a circle of protection around Sookie's house. Any human that tries to enter the circle will be thwarted as if he had run into an electric fence. Amelia continues to work on her spell. She realizes that it does not work on the living.

There is a great deal of talk about the magic created by the fae. Sookie's grandfather blessed the gardens around the house and caused them to bloom unnaturally. The cluviel dor, the greatest magical object, was also created by the fae.



Settings

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Themes and Motifs

Cluviel Dor

One of the themes in *Dead Ever After* is the use of magical objects such as the cluviel dor. The cluviel dor causes people to be greedy to the point of committing crimes - even murder. Although there is much good in the object, it also brings out the evil nature of man.

Cluviel dor is a magical object given to Sookie by her grandmother Adele. Adele had received the object from Sookie's grandfather Fintan after he died. The object, not well described, is rather small and trimmed in gold. It makes Sookie happy when she touches it, as if her grandfather is connected to the item.

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Relationships

Relationships are one of the main themes in "Dead Ever After." There are many types of relationships that are important to the story line including romantic relationships like the one between Sookie and Eric and later Sookie and Sam. There is also a new relationship between Sookie's brother Jason and Michelle, who are planning their wedding.

There are many platonic relationships that play a large part in Sookie's life, such as her earlier relationship with Sam, who is also her business partner. Sookie has many friends, including her best friend Tara, Eric's second in command Pam, and her vampire neighbor Bill.

Family relationships also play a large part in the story, although they can be a bit convoluted. For example, Claudine and Mr. Cataliades are Sookie's godparents, but they seem to take on different roles. Sookie talks lovingly of her grandparents, super naturals Adele and Fintan. Lastly, there is Sookie's cousin Claude, an exiled fae that returns to kill Sookie.



Styles

Point of View

The first person point of view and the third person omniscient point of view are used in “Dead Ever After” by Charlaine Harris. These work well throughout the book as there are several components and underlying factors that would not be revealed otherwise. The story itself is rather complex and using two points of view allows the reader to follow and understand the activities of all of the characters as well as the dangerous and deadly events being planned against Sookie, and the complicated relationship between Sookie, Eric and Sam. It also allows for the reader to follow and understand actions and thoughts of other characters in the book as well as those events of which one single character has no knowledge.

While the first person point of view might have been interesting when coming from the characters in their time of confusion, third person conveys the entire story and not just the subjective opinions of the characters. It also permits the reader to take part in the journey and development of each character in the story.

The first person point of view gives the readers insight into Sookie’s mind, which is a complex place to be. It helps to convey Sookie’s thoughts and the reasons for her actions which might otherwise seem strange. It is also a strong way in which the reader can understand more about Sookie and her situation.

Language and Meaning

“Dead Ever After” by Charlaine Harris takes place in modern day Bon Temps, Louisiana. The language used is modern although there are some references to ancient languages when it comes to objects like the cluviel dor or to groups of people such as the fae. There are many terms regarding supernatural creatures that are not explained but that may have been explained and used in former books. The most noticeable use of formal language in the story can be seen in the scenes involving Mr. Cataliades who chooses to speak in a very formal and proper manner.

Harris does not use a great deal of slang or any language that would date the work in a negative way. There are many examples of the locals peppering their speech with slang from their native tongue, e.g. Cajun or French. This is often prevalent when it comes to the vampires.

Harris is a master of language and is not afraid to exercise her vocabulary. There is a marked absence of sex, violence, and vulgarity throughout the stories and it is rare to see any use of profanity. This may be due to the fact that this is a young adult book.

If one chooses to delve deeper into the meaning of the book, it is possible to do so. For those who prefer to deconstruct the story, there are several underlying reasons for the



characters' actions. As with many texts, meaning may be entirely subjective and left to the reader to decide.

Structure

"Dead Ever After" by Charlaine Harris is a work of fiction. It is the thirteenth and final novel in the Sookie Stackhouse series of books that inspired the hit television show "True Blood." The novel is chronological in nature. It is comprised of 250 pages, broken into 22 chapters plus a prologue. The shortest chapter is two pages in length; the longest chapter is fourteen pages in length; the average number of pages per chapter is eleven.

The prologue starts the story. It is split into three parts by date, from June through July. It introduces the devil making a deal with Copley Carmichael and his bodyguard Tyrese.

Chapter 1 starts where the previous book ended, with Sam recovering from being raised from the dead by Sookie. The story continues that thread to a minor degree while introducing the newest plot, a group of men bent on getting revenge on Sookie Stackhouse.

The points of view used in "Dead Ever After" by Charlaine Harris are first person and third person omniscient. These points of view work well throughout the book as there are several components and underlying factors that would not be revealed otherwise. The story itself is rather complex and using two points of view allows the reader to follow and understand the activities of all of the characters. In order to keep the points of view separate, Harris alternates between chapters. If it is necessary to intertwine the two within a chapter, it would be separated by date or location. For example, if the narrator is telling a tale about Sam but then switches to Sookie's point of view, there may be a page break with a change of location as to not confuse the reader.



Quotes

So Amelia had been talking to someone about a cluviel dor," the devil said. "That led her to bring it up with you. How interesting. No one's had one for . . . well, in my memory. A cluviel dor would have been made by the fae . . . and you understand, they are not tiny, cute creatures with wings.

-- Devil (Prologue paragraph 7)

Importance: This is the introduction to the cluviel dor, a magical object belonging to Sookie Stackhouse.

Arlene Fowler knew instinctively that those few things would not really be little, and definitely not optional. Looking at the two men, she didn't sense they were interested in something she might not have minded giving up, like her body. (Chapter 1 paragraph 3)

Importance: Arlene Fowler has been released on bail due to an appeal. Arlene has unwittingly sold her soul to the devil - and her lawyer - for a chance at freedom.

Eric's maker, Appius Livius Ocella, had signed a contract with Freyda that (to my mind) basically sold Eric into slavery with Freyda, but in a really cushy way: as her consort, with all the benefits you might imagine would pertain to such a job. Only thing was, Appius hadn't checked with Eric first. Eric was torn, to put it mildly.

-- Sookie (Chapter 2 paragraph 4)

Importance: This is the first mention of Eric's betrothal to Queen Freyda. Eric is torn between his love for Sookie and his obligation to his maker.

The first day Mom was here, she had to help me walk. It's weird. I was okay riding back with you that night, and I drove home okay next morning. But after that it was like my body had to relearn things. Sort of like . . . after a long sickness. I've felt so bad, and I can't figure out why.

-- Sam (Chapter 4 paragraph 8)

Importance: The quote shows that while many characters possess some otherworldly skill, it is not always known what the outcome will be. In Sam's case, he reacted strangely to being brought back to life although the change was immediate.

Dearest Sookie, I am back in New Orleans, having settled my issues with the local supernatural community and done some essential detective work. I hope to visit you very soon to verify your well-being and to give you some information. I hear rumors of what is happening in your life, and those rumors disturb me.

-- Mr. Cataliades (Chapter 5 paragraph 2)

Importance: Mr. Cataliades is a powerful demon lawyer from New Orleans. Cataliades is also Sookie's godfather. The fact that he has heard rumors about Sookie lets the



reader know that Sookie's troubles are much larger than they originally appeared and that she may need outside help.

Watch me, I'm beautiful and lethal. (Chapter 2 paragraph 7)

Importance: This is the image portrayed by Karin. Sookie knows that looks can be deceiving. Karin is a stone cold killer, but no one would know it by looking at her. This proves that things are never as they seem.

Sam has always been a good friend to me,' I said, wondering again what the hell was going on with my good friend.

-- Sookie (Chapter 12 paragraph 4)

Importance: Sookie must take care of business at hand but is distracted by Sam's strange behavior and unwillingness to speak to her. Sookie knows something has happened and wonders how it relates to Eric or her other problems.

I sacrificed my chance to keep Eric,' I said. 'I gave it up to save Sam's life.

-- Sookie (Chapter 13 paragraph 2)

Importance: The basis of the problems with Eric stem from the fact that Sookie used the cluviel dor to save Sam's life rather than using it to benefit Eric. Sookie believes that by doing so, she has driven Eric further away and will most likely lose him.

My comfort level had just shot out of the uneasy area and into the blood-pressure-medication zone. (Chapter 15 paragraph 12)

Importance: Sookie learns that Johan Glassport is responsible for her troubles. Sookie realizes that her problems are much larger than she knew, and she is frightened of the man and his capabilities.

I had no idea if their love for each other would last, but I was glad they were giving it a chance, despite the very obvious differences in their upbringings. (Chapter 17 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote refers to the impending marriage of Jason and Michelle; however, it sums up most of the relationships in the book between two people who are markedly different and must overcome those differences.

As long as they know I couldn't and didn't kill Arlene, they can dance naked on the courthouse lawn and I'll show up to clap,' I said, and Diantha laughed.

-- Sookie (Chapter 19 paragraph 15)

Importance: Diantha and Mr. Cataliades manage to destroy the enchanted item that had caused Alcee Beck to pursue Sookie so relentlessly regarding the murder of Arlene Fowler. After the artifact is destroyed, Alcee returns to his former logical behavior and realizes that Sookie is not guilty, freeing her from part of Glasport's evil plan.



My fairy cousin Claude was never supposed to see the human world again. Yet here he was, with two of my worst enemies, and he was kidnapping me. (Chapter 21 paragraph 1)

Importance: The reader finally learns the identity of the devil.