



Dead in the Family

Charlaine Harris

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It's all about family ...

Sookie Stackhouse is dealing with a whole host of family problems, ranging from her own kin (a non-human fairy and a telepathic second cousin) demanding a place in her life, to her lover Eric's vampire sire, an ancient being who arrives with Eric's 'brother' in tow at a most inopportune moment. And Sookie's tracking down a distant relation of her ailing neighbour (and ex), Vampire Bill Compton.

In addition to the multitude of family issues complicating her life, the werewolf pack of Shreveport has asked Sookie for a special favour, and since Sookie is an obliging young woman, she agrees. But this favour for the wolves has dire results for Sookie, who is still recovering from the trauma of her abduction during the Fairy War.

Dead in the Family Details

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From Reader Review Dead in the Family for online ebook

Jennifer says

After the last two books, I think I was expecting a little more from this book than what I got. Don't get me wrong, I liked the book and would've given it a 3.5 had it been an option.

My biggest problem is that while I know this is clearly a transitional book, very little happens that is of consequence (if we're being set up for something big in a later book, Harris has done a poor job of building tension/momentum).

It was also very choppy, as if significant edits were made and you can see the lines where the plot was glued back together, but it doesn't come together cohesively every time.

Finally, the poor introduction of new characters. Faces that had become so familiar over the last few books are gone one way or another (Amelia, Octavia, Tray, Caludine, etc) and new people (beings?) are introduced. The character development is weak at best and non-existent at worst. (And seriously, Charlaine- no mention of what happened to Arlene after she tried to kill Sookie? Is she rotting in jail? Did she get off scott-free? You managed to make mention of things that happened five books ago and anyone familiar with the Sookie-verse would know it already, but you can't follow up with Arlene? But maybe I should just be happy that Sookie is wearing her hair up in a scrunchie anymore and you aren't mentioning it every chapter.)

However, there were several things I *did* like. Jason- finally growing up. Eric telling Sookie just *why* he didn't come to rescue her right away in the previous book. Sookie- not being a vampire doormat. All these are good things, but I wasn't left wanting MORE MORE MORE like I have been after the last few books.

I hope Harris takes some time off between this book and the next one and really thinks about where she's going with Sookie's story, and give it the thoughtful attention it deserves.

Marcia says

Having followed Sookie Stackhouse's adventures since the first book was published (way back in 2001, I think), I have certain expectations from the series. This book failed to meet them completely. In fact, it was so poorly written (and plotted), I could not even finish it, skipping from here to there, as though it were a collection of disjointed short stories. My personal opinion is that since True Blood debuted on HBO, Charlaine Harris has lost her Mojo. She doesn't even seem to know who her characters are any more.

Granted, True Blood is definitely the Alternate Sookieverse, and light years removed from these charming books. You either like it or you don't. (I don't, except for parts of Season 2). BUT...True Blood should have little or no effect on the "Real" Bon Temps and its residents, as have been carefully detailed & developed by Harris over many years.

In Dead In The Family, Sookie behaves in ways that are totally foreign to the kindhearted & plucky girl we learned to love over time. Her treatment of Bill was abominable, as though his dying of silver poisoning was nothing much to her, even though he acquired it saving her life. Her relationship with Eric is domestic to the point of being sickening. (Who wants Eric Northman all tamed down and husbandly, anyway?) Even 2nd

and 3rd tier characters sound & behave nothing like themselves at all.

Maybe this was what Harris planned all along, but I can't help but feel she has lost her way with the series, and really ought to bring it to an end. It's the humane thing to do.

Meanwhile, with a plethora of Urban Fantasy books available at every store, I have decided to bid Sookie farewell. In my heart, I know how her story should conclude, so I've settled it up thusly, to my own satisfaction. The End, Sookie.

Bookin' It

Juicy Fruit says

INCONSISTENT is the word for this book. That is, inconsistent with the other books.

There are just so many things that make dubious sense in a way too short book, which doesn't even take advantage of the subplots and just lets them rot and eventually spoil the book.

Not to mention that the actual plot was such a mess. Weak, really. Not a chance of any tension build-up.

I am also very bothered by the logic, which, for the most part is nonexistent.

The love scenes could have been a bit interesting, with Sookie's issues and stuff. But everything was "repaired" out of the nowhere and for no apparent good reason, leaving us "wtf?".

First of all, Eric becomes just a love-blinded version of his old viking self, this time, being entirely unbespelled. It is really hard to believe his sudden transformation, given that lately he has not been through any traumatising, life-changing experience that could perhaps explain it. Why the sudden change in personality? There is no trace of the yummy, juicy character he was. I am having trouble imagining Alexander Skarsgard portraying this Eric.

Secondly, I feel that Sam was just shut from Sookie's universe. He basically had no impact in the plot whatsoever and he was just a filler character. Why then did Sookie go to dinner with him? Just to fill some pages? I was expecting some event taking place or something that might effect the novel in any way. Unfortunately, this book completely ignored Sam, even if it set the background for, perhaps, a more interesting role of him in a future book.

Thirdly, the thing with Bill had so much potential which was just wasted. Why did Bill need her help in sending a bloody email? If all that subplot could be solved with just an email, why did Harris go through the trouble of even including it? I think it was very wrong of her not to dwell on this more. We just get the impression that Sookie sends an e-mail and then BAM, Bill is better and possibly, on with his sister - which of course, doesn't make sense given Bill's actions in the previous books, but I am sure that the writer will arrange for those two to get together. It was really disappointing that the Bill issue was solved in 5 lines and not given more attention in a book so short, which definitely had enough space for more development in this part.

The FAIRY PART. This just a big fat NONSENSE to me. It is just illogic on so many levels!!! Why was

Dermot put a spell on by Niall? And if so, why was he still against the good side in the war? If now he suddenly loved his family, how come he was against them. Why was the spell broken so easily? I am not referring to the actual way, but to the fact it took her 2 seconds to figure it out. Again, the book was so short and unsatisfying that this could have been easily exploited and developed. And why the fudge did they all end up in bed, like family? Why?

I am seriously expecting to see Michael Jackson as vampire in the next book. Maybe Princess Diana too. Hm, who else? Let me think. Maybe Napoleon? Vlad the Impaler? Jimi Hendrix? Cliff Burton? Julius Caesar? William Wallace? Kurt Cobain? I am looking forward to see who will get the chance to be resurrected as a vampire.

As to the actual plot, it was pretty much non-existent as well. No tension build-up at all because you don't know what the conflict is - oh, wait, there is none, except a fabricated one in the last 20 pages. Which of course, unravels with the speed of light and burns down equally fast.

And why was a 100 year old vampire stronger than both a bad ass Viking and a creepy Roman???

The were-wolf part was out of the nowhere as well.

In the future, I expect more sub-plot development and a more substantial main plot, with an actual tension build up.

P.S. The love scenes were quite crappy too!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Dead in the Family is a great book. I used to love this series, adored the characters, but it has one of the worst endings ever! Do not read the last book. Stay away from it. But this one, and the ones before and the two after are fine. But stay away from the last book!

Jen says

This review is for an ARC.

I would say that Charlaine wasn't joking when she said the title for this book was very apt. It is all about family. Blood families and packs alike. I liked how each corner of the Sookieverse gets a look in, and something about that family is developed - the humans, the fairies, the weres and the vampire families all get story time.

The character of Eric is filled in wonderfully in this book, and his fans will be delighted with how he, his history, and his family are written. I won't say more and ruin anything, but I thought it was fun that we finally got to find out a little about where the great man rests his head.

Bill, Sam and Alcide all get appropriate chunks of the story, and the virtues and vices of each become clearer to Sookie. I feel like I can now see a glimmer of who she will end up with when all is said and done.

Speaking of Sookie herself, she is a much darker character in *Dead in the Family*. She has suffered a lot, and struggles on a daily basis to keep that suffering in check. She has more moxie than before (if that was possible) and seems to be developing a new catchphrase... 'geeze Louise'. I'm not sure I like that, but it sure is a Sookie-phrase! She speaks her mind more, and is inevitably more wary.

At 295 pages, the book is about the right length, and it is split into 3 definite parts. The start deals with Sookie's recovery from the events at the end of *Dead and Gone*, the middle delves into the family theme in detail, and the ending is very Shakespearian.

At times I felt like the story was meandering, and lacked the clear focus of other Sookie books; the mystery in this one is smaller, and less pressing. However I feel that in order to continue the series, this book is absolutely pivotal to collect up all the many threads which have been written, tie a few together, and leave us ready for the next installment - which must surely focus on the legal implications of the wercommunity's revelation.

I'd give this 4.5 stars if possible, as I really really enjoyed it, but I felt the necessary meandering stole a little of the urgency away from the story.

valee says

This book was not what I expected. I waited so long for it that I just wanted more of it. I mean after all the time it took to get published, the book could have been a bit longer. Still it was much better than the previous book.

I loved to finally see Sookie and Eric in a real relationship. It seemed so natural. I was extremely happy as well because Sookie even considered how it would be to be changed into a vampire. Finally. Although she didn't give much thought to it, just a paragraph, lol, and not a real answer.

My problem with this book was that nothing really important happened. After having read about wars, conferences and congresses between the sups, the plot in this book seemed a bit weak. And as all the "enemies" appeared and died in this very same book, it seemed as a poor addition to the series. I think it would have been better if we had get more Victor in it and more about the sups we already knew.

But there were some great things in the book. First, I loved this new side of Claude. I really liked him and I think he will turn a great character in the next books, as well as Dermot. I love the family aspect and how it's developing. I hope they stay in the series as good guys because I really like the 2 fairies. They make everything more interesting. I loved as well to see this more mature side of Jason, because in the previous books he had annoyed me tremendously. And it couldn't have been invented a better ending to the Bill Drama. I loved how everything turned out.

I think this was a great book, which gave closure to a lot of problems that had been going on but were not a very big deal. This book was like a transition between what had been going on and what will happen next. I believe everything has been presented to give us the idea that something very big will be going on next book. Can't wait. I love this series, although I'm not sure how I will tolerate the waiting. I wanna read next book NOW.

Andreea Daia says

Once upon a time there was a handsome Viking with a great sense of humor. He was no prince like the people from the realm of HBO seem to believe – just the garden variety Northman. But where he lacked in nobility he made up in boldness, generosity, and zest.

He had a perky girlfriend who was not only openhearted but gifted above all other humans with nerve, wits, and a sixth sense. They loved each other, although not always in a conventional way, and they tried hard to make their relationship work out in spite of all obstacles. They lived in an enchanted kingdom called Northern Louisiana, where most unusual creatures roamed: werewolves, fairies, demons, shifters of all kind, and the mighty vampires – the Viking's kin.

In the beginning their life was fascinating, with the most wondrous adventures and fortuitous turns of fate. Their stories were told around every campfire for years and years, and the good maidens from the city of GoodReads lived vicariously through them. But their happiness was not meant to last.

A terrible disease threatened their world: chronic *boredomitis*. The first maidens got sick during the seventh year of kingdom's existence, but the illness was not pervasive. Then two years later, a grisly outbreak hit with merciless fury: people all over the city of GoodReads were falling off their feet yawning with ennui and, in some severe cases, were even falling asleep while listening to the stories. A petrifying dread filled everyone's hearts when the virile Viking and his merry damsel, along with most of their friends perished, victims of the plague.

Some blamed the Northman's maker, Appius Livius Ocella, for bringing the sickness. But the elders know better that it was the maker's maker, Charlaine Harrisella who brought the *boredomitis* upon everyone.

The End

AH says

Oh, how I missed Sookie and Eric and all of the Bon Temps gang.

Charlaine Harris can sure tell a good story. She takes the most boring and mundane details of life in a small town and makes it an interesting and humorous read. I had to chuckle when a comment was made about the patrons of Merlotte's singing Bad Things by Jace Everett so loud that Sookie couldn't hear the conversation she was having with Sam.

So many things happen in this book. The weres are coming out and this would have been a great story line if only more time was given to it. Instead we get a few little anti-were protests. I did enjoy the were politics. I did miss Alcide and I now have a new respect for his role as an Alpha.

The vampire politics and intrigue continued. As I continue on with this series, I really do appreciate Pam more and more. She is one astute player, carefully thinking out the repercussions of any move that can or will be made. Eric was different in this book. He kind of seemed defeated, maybe a little bit softer than in

previous books. I miss the Viking Eric.

I noticed a few things that are very different from the TV series, notably on the vampire back stories. In the book, Eric's maker is Appius Livius, not Godric. Honestly, I prefer Godric to this character. Bill's back story also differs a little. Bill has a shining moment when he makes peace with his human family.

What would a Sookie book be without some sort of fairy story line? Claude the most gorgeous fairy misses being with his kind so he becomes Sookie's new roommate.

Oh, and did anyone notice the mini baby boom in Bon Temps?

While this is not the best book in the series, it was an enjoyable read and something to keep me in Bon Temps until the next season of True Blood.

Alyssa says

Review posted at Hesperia Loves Books

Let me start off by saying that this series is truly one of my favorites and I always eagerly anticipate any new books when they are released. Unfortunately, I can't say that this book was well worth the wait. I felt like I was waiting for the real story to begin the entire book. There were too many plot lines going and none of them really made a whole lot of sense. You began with Eric/Victor issues but after a certain point it was almost as if that storyline was forgotten. To me nothing from this book added to the series story progression and I was very disappointed in the lack of relationship interaction between Eric/Sookie. I know that CH has signed on for 3 more books after #11 so hopefully all of those will be much better. I would rather have fewer books and great stories than more 'just ok' stories to produce more books.

Positives:

1. Eric 'My Lover' (Eric being involved is always a positive)
2. Hunter's appearance - finally after so long
3. Jason growing up (taking care of Sookie)
4. Alcide (nice Alcide, not mean & bitter)
5. Bill talking to Caroline Bellfleur & acknowledging he was her Great-Great Grandfather
6. Finally finding out why Eric wasn't able to get to Sookie when she was held captive.

Negatives

1. Not enough Eric/Sookie relationship (they admit they love each other, but they barely have any scenes together in the book. And no I'm not just talking about sex scenes either)
2. Eric's maker -Appius Livius Ocella & Alexei -WTF!
3. No story progression - was this a short story?
4. Weres! I love a good werewolf or shifter just like the next gal, but come on. At least give me a good story, the only good thing was Alcide!
5. I had to wait a year for this, WTH! I wanted the story to grab hold of me and not let go, I've been waiting so long.

With all this being said, Eric still makes reading any of Sookie's books worthwhile and I will continue to

read them as a faithful fan.

Jayson says

(B) 74% | More than Satisfactory

Notes: Despite interesting backgrounders and an all-in play on the family theme, it's critically low on plot and development.

Stacy says

Shannan and I love, LOVE this series. It is fun, never boring, filled with entertaining mysteries and is often quite humorous...and other things I am too prudish to write.

The book starts off with a very morose Sookie, but who can blame her after being tortured, physically and mentally? Slowly, and thankfully, Sookie does return to her Sookie self. Just in time really, because all her friends are having family issues and Sookie being Sookie, she is there to help. Oh, and there is a mystery of the new corpse on her land.

Why I like Sookie in this book:

- She says crapanola, which I will probably use very often now.
- She loves Eric and tells him.
- Despite the company, she always offers tea or coke. She could never let Gran think she wasn't hospitable.
- She is faithful to her family and friends 100%.
- Gradually (and with lots of Sookie spunk) overcomes her emotional and physical scars from the last book.
- Did I mention that she said (more than once mind you) that she loves Eric?
- She doesn't play nice with bullies, i.e. FBI Agent Lattesta.
- She shows forgiveness (think Dermot.)
- She still babbles when nervous.
- She gives Eric special smiles.
- She eats Little Debbie's, shouldn't all heroines?

Why I like Eric in this book:

- He is honorable, for a vamp anyway.
- He loves Sookie and tells her.
- Concerned about the safety and well being of those in his territory.
- Tough and decisive, yet vulnerable when it comes to Sookie.
- His helplessness at the end of the book, shows his vulnerability.
- His house rule, no shoes.
- He calls Sookie, "my lover." Cheesy, I know. Normally, I would hate this.
- He drives a corvette. Okay, so I really don't like this. I think it is a trashy car, but it really fits the bill though.
- Did I mention that he tells Sookie he loves her?

Here are some things that I noticed in the book, in no particular order. Jason seems to have majorly matured since the last book, he even gives Pam some blood. Wonder what this will mean in the next book? Talking

about blood exchange, there was none going on between Sookie and Eric, hmmm. The whole Alexei thing was creepy, due to his age. CH did explain it well, but I still found it gross. I also found the were political “thing” in congress and Eric’s explanation of vampire territory in the US boring. I can only think this is a set-up for the next book or so. Oh, and I am not sure what to think about Bill and his “sibling.” Finally, finally Sookie address the big question, immortality!

My only question, who was the vampire smelled in Sookie’s woods, and if it was Bill what does that mean? Has he been spying on her?

Overall, I think I expected too much from this book. I mean I really liked it. It was just not the best one in the series (think book 4.) There was not enough Eric/Sookie time, the political stuff was boring, and honestly the plot was a little yawn-ish.

I give this book 4 STACKS

Stacy – who now has to wait another whole year for the next book!

visit girlsinthestacks.com for more book reviews, author interviews and more!

Trish says

I read this book in a day and a half...and I tried to pace myself. I wanted more Sookie and Eric, but I ALWAYS want more Sookie and Eric!! I loved it anywho, but am eagerly awaiting book eleven...

The Flooze says

Why, oh why had I been so worried?

Displeased with Sookie’s attitude and the overall plot of *Dead and Gone*, I was reluctant to start *Dead in the Family*. Concern that the series had finally lost its luster made me hold off. I was a fool.

Dead in the Family is a wonderful addition to the Southern Vampire Mysteries. The dialogue is comfortable, the characters are true to form, and the plot rolls along steadily, touching on all the key threads that make this series a success. Harris returns to Bon Temps as spring takes hold, bringing with it change and growth so clearly reflected in the story.

Launching with a prologue, Harris offers a window into how the characters are coping after so much horror. I’m glad Ms. Harris took the time to touch on Sookie’s healing process; her progression from depression to resignation, to the realisation she wants to live, to finally being able to wrestle some happiness out of life, was powerful and necessary. Though Sookie is certainly more cynical than she once was, it was nice to see her confidence and her fiesty attitude return. *Dead in the Family* brings practical Sookie back to the fore (with a little more ruthlessness thrown in).

The obvious theme of this book is family: Sookie’s and Eric’s primarily, with reinforcement from Bill, Sam,

Tara, and even characters who are just passing through. Offering several relationships to compare and contrast, Harris displays both the positive and negative aspects of familial ties. All of the connections were interesting, some were heartbreaking, and others - like Sookie's relationship with her cousin, Hunter - were filled with promise. I enjoyed this theme and the questions it raised about Sookie's future. I suspect there's a lot of foreshadowing scattered throughout, and I'm starting to build some theories on how the series will wrap up.

Having Eric's maker around was not as thrilling as anticipated. I couldn't help feeling disappointed that he didn't cause a lot more turmoil. Despite that, Eric's vulnerability was a sight to behold and well worth dealing with the lack-luster Roman.

Eric and Sookie. I like the progress. I'm enjoying seeing them relate to one another in a more open way. I'm glad we got an answer to the "Why didn't he come?" question that's been plaguing us all. At the same time, I wish this book had given them more space for heart-to-heart conversations.

Even more than Sookie's love life, I wanted to explore the continuing predicament with the new ruling parties. I'm eager to dive into the full political implications of Victor's behaviour, Felipe's reign, and Eric's precarious position. I suspect this is a slow build up to major maneuvering. Bring on the vampire intrigue!

Speaking of supernatural politics: Since outing themselves to the rest of the world, the shape shifters have had an increasingly rough time of it. In an example of solid storytelling, updates on Sam's family offered a tidy and welcome way of highlighting the problems the general shifter community must face.

Finally, the fae. They've been my primary issue with the series as of late. They aren't as well-developed as Harris' other races, so I've never felt invested in them. And I can't stand Niall's selfishness and lack of foresight. That said, the mystery fae mentioned in the blurb came as quite a surprise. A welcome one, since the motivations behind the lurking were understandable and even helped tie up some loose ends. For once, the inclusion of the fae didn't drive me batty.

As I mentioned, I see a good deal of foreshadowing in this book. Knowing the series will soon end, I can't help but examine every little detail more closely. I'm terrible that way - always trying to suss out how the author will leave things. In this case, Harris has given me much to ponder over the next five months.

Jamie Collins says

I could swear that the earlier books weren't this badly written. Rather than invest more time in composing a coherent review, I'm just going to make a random list of complaints:

* Lifeless writing, tons of exposition and little characterization. I thought the best bits of the writing were the phone conversations.

* The utter ruin of Eric's character. He spends this entire book being vaguely and ineffectually afraid. And the sex scenes were cringe-worthy.

* Alexei the vampire. Yes, that Alexei. I think Harris didn't have enough plot for a novel, so she figured that by introducing a famous character she could fill a few pages with a history lesson.

* "Oneys" and "twoeys" has to be the worst nomenclature I've ever seen in urban fantasy.

* Boring lecture on vampire politics that was irrelevant to the plot and will certainly be reiterated in future books. More filler.

* Terrible action scenes where superstrong, superfast vampires are defeated in hand-to-hand combat with a cocktail waitress.

Mrs. Badass says

Disappointing to say the least. The whole book was rather boring. There were a few interesting parts, but overall, I skimmed a lot because it didn't add to the plot or story, and I was very irritated with the lack of Eric and Sookie. It seemed like Harris is trying to tell us they won't end up together. With Eric's Maker telling Sookie that she'll never keep Eric, with Bill confessing more, with Alcide confessing more, With Eric being absent a lot, and no communication with Sookie for days at a time. I don't know, I feel rather cheated with this book. The last few books have felt like major filler books, to pass the time and make money, but not really developing anything new in Sookie land. The fae stuff was 'interesting' but... felt sort of silly.

Chloe says

Dear Charlaine Harris,

You can stop now. You have officially sucked all the life out of all of your characters and made them all eminently dislikable. I know this is your cash cow but, please, let Alan Ball take over for you and you can go and do... whatever it is that you do to occupy your time. Bake moon pies? Write Robert Pattinson fanfic? Hunt for the long-mythologized swamp weasel of South Carolina? Anything would be an improvement over you letting your imagination continue to run amok in Bon Temps.

I probably wouldn't mind so much if ANYTHING HAPPENED in this 300 page travesty of a "book" but I guess you were too busy counting your True Blood royalties to bother too much with a little detail like that. Instead you wanted to write 20 page scenes about taking Sookie's telepathic cousin to the park or the funeral of an incredibly minor character who you have only ever mentioned in passing before. Why should we care? You allude to much, but in the end you say NOTHING and I'm left bitter that I waited anxiously for this book to finally be returned to the library so that I could read it.

I would have been better off watching this Snoop Dogg fan video again. In summation, you and I are through. Please stop taunting me with your stupid ass book covers and ridiculous sex scenes.

Best Wishes,
Logan

Tatiana says

Charlaine Harris's books are definitely a guilty pleasure of mine. They are not great works of literature and

not written terribly well, and yet I never cease to enjoy them. Same applies to this newest addition to the Sookie Stackhouse series - Dead in the Family, only this book adds another dimension to the expression "guilty pleasure," because more than any other book in this series it has a soap-operish feel to it.

For one, it is virtually impossible to give a short summary of this installment, mainly because nothing major happens in it. Rather, it wraps up all unfinished business left after Dead and Gone. Specifically:

- 1) how will Sookie deal with her memories of fairy torture?
- 2) will Bill recover after silver poisoning?
- 3) will Eric and Sookie finally define their relationship?
- 4) did all fairies leave the human world with Niall?
- 5) will Sookie train her young cousin Hunter to manage his telepathic abilities?

All these plot threads are tied together very loosely and in fact should have been a part of the epilogue to Dead and Gone.

What serves as a sort of main mystery line - some werewolf business - is very thin and has just enough "meat" for a decent short story.

And second, what is with a sudden epidemic of pregnancy and return of long-lost relatives?

You might think I hated the book, but it's not so. It was an easy, enjoyable read. Harris has an ability to keep me interested even while describing the most mundane things, her characters are very vivid too. Reading about Eric was a pleasure, but his presence in Dead in the Family was minimal and there was almost no smut (I am not counting that one weird "tryst" when even no clothes came off)! I am also glad the author finally abandoned the fairy story line, because let's face it, her fairy lore was a big time joke. Harris should stick to what she does best - weres', vamps', and shapeshifters' politics.

Dead in the Family is definitely one of the weakest books in the series. It seems Charlaine Harris is grasping at straws here, attempting to extend the series as much as she possibly can. I realize it and yet, I'll be reading the next book. She has me hooked...

Kat Kennedy says

Dead in the family isn't a book that you can easily judge on its own. Dead in the Family is really just a filler book between the Fairy battle of last book and the inevitable show down with the King of Louisiana and his people to come.

This makes it hard to review because, to be honest, nothing really happens. We have what I would call a short story "arc" to bridge us between what I would consider the main story. Sookie finishes up in this book much the same as she started though she has undergone some very positive character upgrades since the beginning of the series.

The writing is okay, the mystery is flat and the end is kind of a let down but this book isn't bad. I think it's just not what I came to expect from this series and frankly, I felt like this book didn't really need to happen.

The positive parts are the characters of Jason and Claude who get a happy little depth and improvement to them. The relationship between Sookie and Eric is nice.

However that's all I can really say about this book. It wasn't exciting, it wasn't a page turner and it doesn't really leave me hanging out for the next one.

I hate to say it but maybe it's time for Sookie's story to come to a nice close but I wonder how much there really is left to tell. Judging by this book, probably not much.

Shannon says

Hrm. I'm not exactly sure how I felt about this one, it was just kind of meh. **There were too many storylines going on and things were tied up way too neatly.**

I've also come to the realization that I like Sookie and Eric better when she's fighting her attraction to him. As a couple, they've kind of lost their appeal, which is weird, because he's always been my favorite pick for her. I think Charlaine writes better sexual tension and conflict than actual sex scenes.

The title of this installment is ridiculously accurate; the story revolves around almost every character's family. **It got to the point though that things started to get convoluted.** We've got Sookie's two cousins, Eric's "brother" and his maker, Bill's family and his "sister," Tara's pregnancy, and Sam's problems with his family all thrown into the mix. On top of that, people are calling for the Weres to be registered, and even though that storyline seemed like it should have taken precedence, it gets thrown by the wayside in favor of all the drama.

This one was ... weird. I saw that a lot of people thought it started off slow and boring, but I never felt that way. It moves at a leisurely pace and Sookie isn't running from danger at every turn, but I was never *bored*. Maybe I was just happy to be with these characters again. **This novel feels like filler for sure, but I wasn't completely disappointed by the storyline.** There were some interesting things that we finally have answers to, but I thought the main mystery was figured out too easily. Although, at this point it makes sense that Sookie can figure out things a little quicker now; she's got more experience and more resources to help her out. **There just wasn't that suspense and tension that I look for in Charlaine's books this time around though.**

Even though the main mystery was solved and many things were tied up neatly, **some interesting new questions have been thrown into the mix at the end.** I'm not completely disappointed with this book, but I really wish I didn't have to wait a year for the next one when this one was lacking that certain special something I've come to expect when I read her books.

Oh well, until next May!

Emily May says

This is the first book in the Sookie Stackhouse series that I actually didn't want to finish. I only did out of tradition because I've been with this series for so long. It's gone from being a 4 star addiction to a 3 star guilty pleasure... and now it's gone down to a dismal 2 stars. It's so disappointing.

I guess I just really don't care anymore.

The novel was slow and boring. Nothing really happened to contribute to the overall plot, the whole story was just quite pitiful. The only parts I really enjoyed were the sex scenes with Eric, like I always do, but I'm starting to think about dropping the series and sticking with True Blood for my Eric fix.

It's quite sad but I'm losing grip on the story and characters. I might come back to it one day though.
