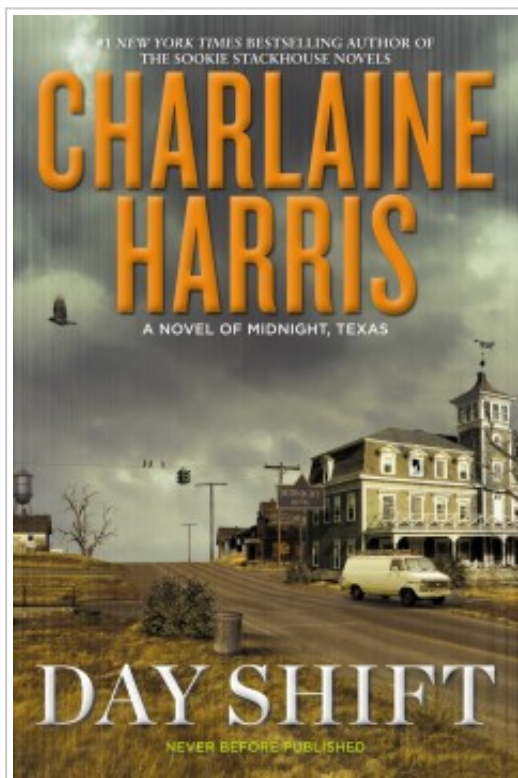


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Day Shift

by Charlaine Harris

Price: \$27.95(Hardcover)

Published: May 05, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: In Midnight Crossroad, Charlaine Harris “capture[d] the same magic as the world of Bon Temps, Louisiana, and [took] it to another level” (Houston Press). Now the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Sookie Stackhouse novels returns to the one-traffic-light town you see only when you’re on the way to someplace else...

There is no such thing as bad publicity, except in Midnight, Texas, where the residents like to keep to themselves. Even in a town full of secretive people, Olivia Charity is an enigma. She lives with the vampire Lemuel, but no one knows what she does; they only know that she’s beautiful and dangerous.

Psychic Manfred Bernardo finds out just how dangerous when he goes on a working weekend to Dallas and sees Olivia there with a couple who are both found dead the next day. To make matters worse, one of Manfred’s...

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What We Say

Has a new sort of work of art sprung up before our eyes? Many classic works of fiction were serialized in magazines, Charles Dickens being the best example. And naturally some epic works need to be told over multiple volumes but tell essentially one long story: think Proust's masterpiece "In Search Of Lost Time," or Tolkien's "The Lord Of The Rings." And fiction has always featured on-going series, especially in mystery and sci-fi. But now I think TV is proving a bigger influence on fiction and what writers set out to do in one of their worlds. Used to be, a mystery might launch a detective with a satisfying, self-contained puzzler. If it worked, the hero would return and the world would deepen with each new mystery. But Charlaine Harris and others are doing something slightly different. Her new series is set in "Midnight, Texas," an isolated town with denizens who all are hiding secrets, like the vampire, the hotline psychic who really is a psychic and the witch that has more potential than she realizes. Some fans complained the first book was a little slow. But now having read "Day Shift," the second book in the series, I realize that first book wasn't a novel: it was a pilot, just like on TV. It introduced the characters, told a story and set up some puzzles we realized wouldn't be explained until later in the season...I mean series! Book Two is more contained, but it too feels like the latest episode of a TV series. I don't mean Harris is looking at the success of "True Blood," which to me never quite captured the loopy humor of her Sookie Stackhouse tales. I simply mean that she realizes fans are with her for the long haul. They don't need one long tale and they don't need neat, self-contained tales that provide a modest bit of background or insight into our hero. They're willing to take the long view while Harris does something that's not quite a series of adventures and not quite one long story and not quite self-contained mysteries. If the Latin market didn't already give this a particular soap opera spin and that idea of one complete story told over many episodes, you might call it a telenovela. Fans of the first book will be satisfied as we enjoy seeing the townsfolk of Midnight reluctantly come together to fight a common foe and keep their much-needed privacy from the world. It's low-key, character-driven and quieter than Harris' most famous work. But I'm intrigued and hope it gets renewed for at least four or five seasons. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

Praise for Midnight Crossroad

"Excellent...No matter how unlikely or fantastic an element she might introduce into her pages, it's always down-home and believable. She's the Mark Twain of things that live under your bed."—Houston Press

"An excellent follow-up to True Detective...If you aren't quite ready to let go of the eerie South yet, pick up your copy of Midnight Crossroad."—The Novelettes

"A little magic, a little mystery, and a lot of imagination make for a story that is both fun and edgy."—Kirkus Reviews

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