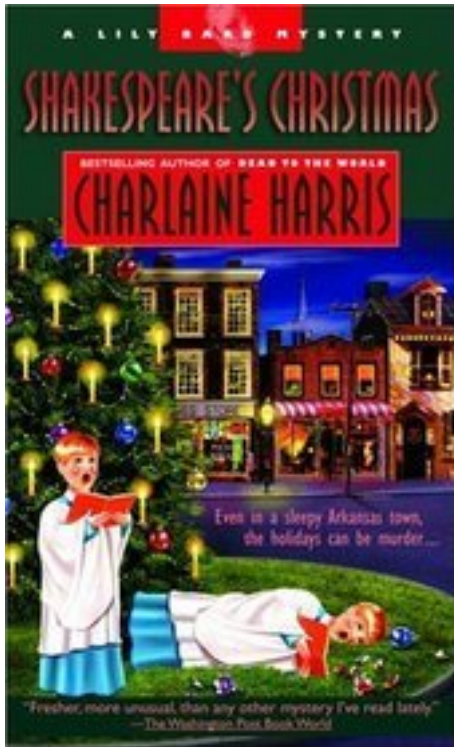

Charlaine Harris

Shakespeare's Christmas (Lily Bard #3)



Title: Shakespeare's Christmas (Lily Bard #3)

Author: Charlaine Harris

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Description

Even in a sleepy Arkansas town, the holidays can be murder.

Lily Bard is going home for the holidays. More comfortable in baggy sweats than bridesmaid's frills, Lily isn't thrilled about attending her estranged sister's wedding. She has moved to Shakespeare, Arkansas, to start a new life, cleaning houses for a living, trying to forget the violence that once nearly destroyed her. Now she's heading back to home and hearth--just in time for murder.

The town's doctor and nurse have been bludgeoned to death at the office. And Lily's detective boyfriend suddenly shows up at her parents' door. Jack Leeds is investigating an eight-year-old kidnapping and the trail leads straight to Lily's hometown. It just might have something to do with the murders...and her sister's widowed fiancé. With only three days before the wedding, Lily must work fast to clean up the messy case before her sister commits...marriage!

Insightful reviews

Erin (Paperback stash) *is juggle-reading*: I enjoyed how the author took Lily out of the small town of Shakespeare and back to her small hometown, the root of her pain and issues, the family members she felt so awkward around. Of course there is a mystery thrown in when she arrives, to be solved amidst family dramas and wedding plans, Jack popping into town to stir up her loins, and Lily again getting uptight and moody if anyone tries to act normal around her.

The parents and sister don't stand out too much, but they were enjoyable written. The father wasn't in many scenes but turned out to be my favorite. Jack and Lily's relationship, again, not sure about the insta-magic when he appeared last time, see it's still going strong. I was intrigued by the cop and the back-story of how he reacted to Lily tugged on my heartstrings.

These books aren't known for their intense mysteries, but this one holds the more intriguing, complex, and twisted one of the series. Involves kidnapping, child baby switching, potential murders that may have happened offpage a long time ago, and a gross, perverted revelation at the end. Dark stuff but a happy ending after all. This is likely the best mystery of the Lily Bard series, where Lily actually has to snoop a bit on purpose. She doesn't come to by a Hercule Poirot or anything, but it's an interesting story nonetheless.

This one was a better one as, besides the story being rich, the background with her adjusting to her family and hometown made it more lively. Her raised eyebrow at her sister about strength was a little annoying though. Lily has become a bit snobby with some of her preconceptions of others, although she does come to admire some strengths with her sister.

The ending felt too abrupt to me, and I don't get how she couldn't look back at all when she eagerly left her family and hometown. They seem to be sweet people. Overall a good installment of the Lily Bard series, maybe the best yet.

Sesa38: This was my first book in the Lily Bard series. I was looking for Christmas books so read this out of order. I'm not a huge Charlene Harris fan - I don't care for the vampire series at all - but loved this one. I immediately downloaded and read books 1 and 2 in the series next. The main character is a woman who had been brutally attacked in the past and goes on to learn self defense and get very strong. Because of her experiences, she has a hard time relating to people but is making friends in the small town she lives in. I like the characters. These books move very quickly. I usually read cozies and this is a bit more graphic than a cozy but a great series. I'll read the rest.

Audrey Jane: I'm dropping this series because of two reasons: first the lack of mystery/suspense, second Lily Bard.

- There's way too much descriptions and telling what Lily is going to do from Monday to Sunday. It's always the same routine anyway. Then she will eventually find a dead body, speculate while working or making out with Jack and just getting nowhere. All the while the reader exactly knows who did it because the culprit is just so obvious, but only in the last chapter does Lily find out and do we get some action. At first I paid attention to the descriptions and Lily's daily life since I thought there was a purpose to it and there might be clues. Nope, just there to fill pages.

- Lily Bard's point of view is quite hypocritical. She doesn't hesitate to inflict upon others what she has been through. For example her behaviour vis-à-vis Deedra Dean (and women in general): In Lily's point of view Deedra is a slut. She has casual sex and leads a 'risky life'. It's not even out of concern for Deedra because Lily doesn't like Deedra because of her lifestyle. Never mind the fact that sexual intercourse takes two people. The woman is pointed with the finger and called slut, while the man is not mentioned and seen as desirable if he sleeps around.

Also up till this book, to my knowledge Deedra has been sleeping with Marcus (the ex-neighbour) and that's it. Meanwhile, suddenly after 4 years Lily seems to be the most desirable women in town and had 6 potential love interests. And can have sexual intercourse after 5 minutes meeting a random guy in a supermarket. I don't care about Lily's relationship with Jack at all.

In Shakespeare's Christmas, Lily desperately tries to validate herself and wants people to recognise her as a strong woman. Physically.

She's also persuaded that everybody knows her past and will behave accordingly. This stretched credibility. It has been 7 years. Meanwhile people come and go. Yes people talk but people also forget or don't care or don't talk to each other.

I'm not invested in this series. I prefer the [Harper Connelly](#) series, which I recommend. The Harper Connelly series is more mysterious, darker, and the romance is believable.

Emily: I have gotten very connected to Lily Bard. It was once attention-grabbing this time round to work out her outdoor of the Shakespeare surroundings and interacting along with her family. (view spoiler)[cannot say I am very keen on her new bro-in-law after their final conversation.

What a tool. And after she wiped clean his condo (albeit with ulterior motives) for him too. (hide spoiler)] i love how Lily, even supposing there seems a homicide whenever she turns around, has steadily began to take pleasure in lifestyles again. She's commencing to belief people, she's making buddies and she's coming to consider Shakespeare as home. I imagine the lovable disguise paintings on a number of the variants supplies the incorrect impression, though. those aren't comfortable mysteries. Harris does not turn away from hectic topic matter, and this publication isn't any exception. yet she does not experience it either. I do not believe i have ever learn such a lot of mysteries in any such brief interval of time. directly to the next!

Julie (jjmachshev): i have loved each of Charlaine Harris' 'Shakespeare' mysteries. those are a lot darker than her different sequence aside from the 'Harper Connelly' series. in case you are anticipating something like her 'Dead' series...don't. but when you love a gritty secret with a kick-ass heroine with a dismal past...you'd be doing your self a opt to do that sequence out. those have been initially written within the 90s, yet were reprinted within the final couple of years. Lily has to come to her homeland in spite of everything this time. Her sister is getting married and Lily might be one of many attendants. Lily isn't really doing too badly again home. yet then everyone is murdered, her detective boyfriend exhibits up having a look into an outdated lacking child case, and there is one other murder. All Lily particularly sought after used to be a quiet Christmas! Like I said, i have learn the total Shakespeare sequence and basically want there have been more.

CalamityMane: Le sigh. i am tiring of Harris' writing characters who're so critically broken that they do not make experience anymore. What girl who is been via what Lily Bard has been via may locate herself drawn to a bodily competitive guy like Jack? And if Jack is the individual he is imagined to be - a guy who is familiar with what Lily Bard has been via - why is often manhandling her in this sort of manner that she has remind him no longer to? The premise for this booklet used to be larger than the former two, however the disjointed writing and terrible characters (NO individual in her family members understood and took her side?!) ruined this. Also, the pathetic and annoying reasoning for why the villain did what he did made this anticlimactic. The finishing is what my sister calls a "this-needed-to-in-by-5-o'clock-and-it's-4:59" ending. It did not support that she recapped characters and incidents from earlier books (save for the single subject matter that stored arising repeatedly again). i think that during a series, the reader takes their possibilities in the event that they decide to commence within the middle. I've learn higher through Charlaine Harris and should easily persevere with this sequence considering the fact that there are just books left. certainly now not my favourite.

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