



Last Scene Alive

Charlaine Harris

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Aurora Teagarden has never forgotten her first case: a serial killer who terrorized suburban Lawrencetown. Now that story is about to hit the small screen. Even if she wanted to, Aurora can't help getting involved. Her ex, Robin, wrote the TV movie's screenplay and her stepson, Barrett, has a starring role. Then there's Celia--the catty actress portraying Roe--who, by the way, also happens to be Robin's latest squeeze. But when Celia is murdered and Barrett is accused, the real-life script takes a deadly turn. Between threatening letters, deranged fans and renewed feelings for Robin, Aurora has one goal: catch a killer and make it to the final scene alive.

Last Scene Alive Details

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From Reader Review Last Scene Alive for online ebook

Deanne says

Quick read which I found by chance in the library. Read the previous books in the series and what I like is that Aurora's life isn't perfect, and she doesn't make ridiculous leaps of reasoning when solving a crime. Often it's a chance encounter or a conversation, or in some cases a blow on the head.

Kelly says

Rating: 1.5 stars

Lori says

Maybe if I'd started with the first one of this series I would have liked this one, but it was definitely a disappointment. The main character is rather pathetic, constantly talking about her "independence" while turning to various men in her life and being rescued by other women. The mystery isn't terribly mysterious, even with multiple killers/plots. This one just isn't my cup of tea.

Kelly-Marie says

5 star... what can I say there's a reason she's my favourite author!

Jim says

The last one available at this time, it's better than the rest, but I wouldn't suggest reading them out of order. You can, but there is a lot of history to catch up on. She did much better at creating a mystery & not just one, yet still kept the same style. It's not quite the same kind of candy book as the first of the series & certainly showed her maturing as a writer. It's still light & engaging, a fun read with no pretensions to be anything else. A good mystery with a bit more romance, no explicit sex & a twisty plot.

Delonda says

About a year has passed since Roe's husband Martin passed away after a heart attack. In this book, Harris revisits indirectly "Real Murders", the first Aurora Teagarden mystery, with the events of that story being filmed for a television miniseries in Lawrenceton. On the scene are Robin Crusoe, a mystery writer upon whose works the film is based. Oh, by the way, Robin had also been interested in Roe at the time but subsequent events had put an end to any real relationship. Also, Martin's son, Barrett, with whom Roe has a

less than cordial relationship, has a part in the movie. Playing Roe's role in the film is Celia Shaw, an upcoming actress, who had a relationship with Robin prior to the filming. Just days into filming, Barrett finds Celia dead in her trailer.

(view spoiler)

Jonathan says

Review soon

Karen B. says

I wanted to read this book before watching the TV movie. Although I have read other Aurora Teagarden mysteries I have not necessarily read them in order and with this one I realized the importance of reading them in order to get Aurora's history and the history of the town.

This one reflects back to the first in the series. The story of the first murder mystery Aurora solves is brought back when it is being made into a movie and the movie people come to town.

One of the things I like about A.T. is that it's never just involved with Aurora solving a murder. This one has a set of complex situation including renewing an old romance for Aurora. Aurora's stepson is involved and a renewing of an old romance.

Xulieta NeveraDeLibros says

Tras el dramático final del anterior libro de la saga estaba deseando leer más de mi carismática Roe. Estaba intrigada sobre todo por el camino por la que la llevaría la escritora y como haría que afrontase cada uno de los obstáculos puestos en medio tras la tragedia...

En este séptima entrega los habitantes de la localidad de Lawrenceton se ven obligados a revivir los asesinatos llevados a cabo en el primer libro "Unos asesinatos muy reales" ya que el caótico y excéntrico mundo de Hollywood decide empezar a grabar una película basada en el libro escrito por Robin Crusoe, ex-novio de Roe. Es por ello que el pueblo, en su gran medida, acoge con ilusión el glamour y la fama y se

preparan para ser el centro de las miradas durante un tiempo.

Y es con este panorama con el que se encuentra Roe, que de rebote acaba conociendo el reparto pese a que lo único que desea ahora mismo es estar sola y lidiar con sus penas para avanzar.

Es así como poco a poco aunque a tropezones Roe va retomando el contacto con Robin que había desaparecido engullido por el dinero y la fama huyendo del "pacífico" pueblo.

Todo se complica al cabo de unos días al encontrar muerta a Celia Shaw, protagonista de la película que hacía de Roe. ¿Cuáles serían los motivos de este asesinato? ¿Querría alguien ver muerta a Celia o el simplemente hecho de que haga el papel de Roe ha enardecido a alguien hasta tal punto de matar?

En esta nueva entrega parece que la autora ha querido cambiar un poco la forma en la que involucraba a Roe en los crímenes hasta ahora para dar más importancia a su evolución emocional y sentimental ya que así lo requería el seguimiento de la saga. Esto por un lado está muy bien ya que he disfrutado de el debate interno que llevaba muchas veces en su cabeza y las decisiones que tomaba finalmente pero por otro me gustaría que la trama del asesinato se hubiese extendido un poco más y la hubiese arrollado como en otras entregas.

Además, se ha introducido como una historia, con otro personaje del pueblo, que se ha ido desarrollando en paralelo con el asesinato que me ha llegado incluso a sobrar.

Cabe destacar que el desenlace mezclado con el misterio e intriga del descubrimiento del asesinato y los métodos utilizados en él me ha parecido más complejo de lo que suele hacer Charlaine para este tipo de género y la verdad es que me ha gustado mucho. Al igual que en los libros anteriores, Charlaine ha sabido crear un asesinato original para disfrutar.

En resumen "Muerta y... ¡acción!" es el séptimo libro de la saga de Aurora Teagarden. No es el mejor de todos pero su lectura ha sido muy llevadera, rápida y entrenida. El misterio se ha cocinado bien y se ha servido con más intriga de lo normal pese a no involucrar como venía siendo habitual de lleno en la investigación a Roe.

Lo mejor: la evolución emocional y sentimental de Roe.

Lo peor: una historia paralela, que aunque no tiene mucho bombo, me sobra.

Imogen says

This book was great! I was on shaky ground with this series after the fifth and sixth books but Last Scene Alive blew me out of the water. It may be my favourite one of the series. The plot was great, there were believable and clever sub-plots and the writing was on form.

It's set around the murder of one of the cast, of the movie based on Aurora's life- and I love anything to do with acting and movies and TV and directing. It's one of my fantasy jobs to act so I really loved reading about it from Aurora's point of view. She's so down to earth and small town that she's just a lovely character to read the story from.

"I learned a lot. The thing is, I didn't want to know most of what I learned."

Originally posted on Imogen's Typewriter.

Elle's Book Blog says

I liked this one but it's a bit more dreary due to Roe's recent loss. Hopefully the next one is better because I really enjoy this series.

Karen A. Wyle says

I'm rounding up considerably, but I prefer that to rounding down.

I haven't read all or even most of this series, but Harris makes it fairly easy to dive in anywhere. I assume that readers who have followed the series and read all the books in order will find more depth and interest in the characters than I did, but I found the characters, and the book as a whole, entertaining and occasionally intriguing.

I leave it to those who have lost a spouse or other life partner to decide how well Harris portrays that experience.

The question of mercy killing arises (discussed? implemented? thwarted? I'm not telling, as that would be a spoiler). I was a bit disturbed by the way it was handled, but can't (without those pesky spoilers) say more. (I know I could include spoilers and hide the review -- but what would be the point of that? Reviews are primarily for those who haven't read the book and are deciding whether to do so. And they're the ones who should be spared any spoilers.)

The Flooze says

With book 7, Charlaine Harris brings Aurora back around full circle. She's single, she's entrenched in the movie version of the events that started the series, and lo and behold, Robin Crusoe is back on the scene. But although there are many similarities between Roe then and Roe now, we're keenly aware of how much she's changed. By her own admission, she's a kick butt rich widow who's not afraid to be blunt and more than a little eccentric.

As always, one thing never changes: Roe is a mini murder magnet. Trouble seems to follow her no matter what. But Harris' depiction of this spitfire southern belle and her exploits is always fresh and exciting, and the humor is delightful. Roe is only one of a whimsical cast of characters who are charming yet baffling. It's a wonderful series and I'm looking forward to reading *Poppy Done to Death*.

Aaron says

Aurora Teagarden's past is back to haunt her, and this time it is preparing to go onto the small screen. Roe's first opportunity to deal with murder first-hand was when she was in the Real Murders group, a number of local residents of Lawrenceton, Georgia, with an interest in true crime. Things got a little out of hand when

certain members decided to make true crime something more to read about. Those adventures made up the first book in this series, *Real Murders*.

Robin Crusoe, famed author and one-time boyfriend, helped in solving the crime as well as took an opportunity to write a bestselling book based on the events. Roe was less than pleased with the latter part, and is now going to be confronted not only with past events, but her ex-boyfriend, and she is not sure if she is ready for that even with her new status as a widow. In fact, she is still heavily grieving the loss of Martin in the last year.

Crusoe's book has been picked up to be made into a two-part television mini-series, and it is going to be filmed in Lawrenceton. To make things even more interesting, his new girlfriend Celia Shaw, a recent Emmy winner, will be taking on Roe's role. To make things even more difficult, Roe's stepson Barrett, who has never had a close relationship with her, also has a role in the movie.

Despite the fact that the film is based on some really rough times for the community, the whole town is caught up in celebrity fever, and they are hoping that Roe's connections will help them get on the set and meet stars. Before she knows it (and despite her best intentions), Roe finds herself on the set and mingling with those working there. Celia even tries to arrange a dinner with her so she can get a better sense of how to play Roe.

Things take a surprising turn when Barrett returns to visit Celia in her trailer after having a night of bliss with her. Upon entering, he finds her body on the floor with a clear head wound ... her Emmy had literally gone to her head.

The detective assigned to the case is Arthur Smith, another of Roe's old flame. He seems more than willing to put the past behind them, which is probably easier since he is the one who cheated on her, as he focuses on the case. It does not take long for him to start pulling clues together, but not before Roe gets a threatening letter herself.

As Roe is being forced to confront the past, both she and Robin find old feelings returning. Unfortunately, it is going to take everything in the repertoire to figure out who murdered Celia if they are going to find happiness together.

Harris definitely has no trouble with throwing red herrings in on this case as the reader is often misdirected as to the real killer's identity. In most cases, the distractions are tied to interesting subplots, and they help move the action along. It does take a while for the body to turn up, but once it does the reader needs to be ready for a quick-paced ride to the end.

I was a little disappointed to find that Aurora comes across bitter in the book. She sees so many people around her as being unhappy and persnickety. In the process, she ends up being the same. I figure I should give her a break, though, since she is still having a really rough time with Martin's death in the previous book. This was another great adventure for my favorite librarian detective.

Dawn Michelle says

3 1/2 Stars

Good read. I like this series so much! even with how unhappy I was at the end of the last book (yes, I CRIED, even though, early on in the book, I wondered if they were going to go that route), I love this series!!

Aurora is moving on. Not easily, but slowly she is coming back to life. But the re-appearance of Robin Crusoe (and a Hollywood menagerie making a movie based on his book about the 1st book in the series murders...get that??) and her almost instant re-attraction to him throws a guilty wrench in her "Martin Memory" and her moving ahead without him. Mourning is tough stuff.

Can Aurora heal and find love again? Does she even **WANT** too? Can she ever be ok with this movie based on a horrible period in her life? Can she avoid being killed in the process?? Its so much fun reading these books to find out!!

Amy lifewiththe_williams says

Loving Aurora's adventures still on book 7! Can't wait to begin book 8! Already starting to feel anxious about what I'll do after I finish book 10!

Autumn Box says

This was a typical Aurora Teagarden mystery. It was entertaining and a quick read.

The things wrong with it are the way it isn't consistent. The age of the characters jumps from book to book. There was one line where the characters were interchanged.

I think I would have liked it better if someone hadn't wrote in the book and underlined for the clues of who done it. I had a library copy. I believe if you check out a book it shouldn't be marked in.

Rachel C. says

Robin is back! Yay! Although I could have done without the semi-redo of the obsessive would-be killer. Still new spin and all made it worth listening to. I love the narrator and Aurora is really growing on me with each book. I can't wait to see what happens next at this point.

Punk says

An Aurora Teagarden Mystery. The seventh to be precise. Roe's caught up in grieving her loss from the last book; meanwhile, a movie based on the book based on the murder from the first book of—lean into it—the Aurora Teagarden series is being filmed in town, and Roe can't get a moment of peace. Then, wouldn't you know it, there's a murder on the set.

But the murder doesn't happen until about halfway through the book. This is more about Roe than it is about the mystery, and since Charlaine Harris believes quotidian detail is the same as character development, Roe

makes a number of phone calls and shelves some books in between making major life decisions. There's just a lot of dead air in this one. One of Roe's many ex-boyfriends is back in town, too, and while her sexy librarian act was quite sexy, I can take or leave Robin. I can't tell if I just don't like Roe's taste in men or Harris can't write believable romance, but I haven't cared about any of her boyfriends except for the one I accidentally fancast as David Hewlett, and since that one discredited himself roundly, I feel like it's probably Harris's fault.

Two stars. Roe's a sensible person who makes sensible decisions, and I love her for that, but sensible decisions and a weak mystery aren't enough to give this life. Two guys go on a date, though! Which is notable because I think that's the first time we've seen any queer characters in this series.

Syrdarya says

This was the first Aurora Teagarden book I read, and I thought reading the series would make me like the character more, but instead I pretty much detest her. The mystery itself is okay, but Aurora's internal monologue drove me crazy for the entire book. I also really noticed how she's always dressing in shades of yellow, orange, brown, or dark green, and the description of the clothes make her sound like she's twenty years older than she is. The other characters also seemed to dress in these colors. In the first or second book Aurora was rather plain and mousy, but now men notice her or come on to her like she's some great beauty. There's a little bit of the changing glasses for frames to fit her mood in this book, but luckily we no longer get the prattling on about how weird her name is.

The story begins with a movie crew coming to town to film a 2-part miniseries based on the book by Robin Crusoe about the serial murders from the first Aurora Teagarden mystery. Aurora spends a good chunk of the book acting all angry because the townspeople are happy to have Hollywood come to town, and acting like she's the major victim here. Really? What about the families of people who were actually killed, like your friend Lizanne who lost both of her parents?!

Aurora also spends a good chunk of the book being judgmental about her stepson Barrett because he didn't like her and he lived off money from his father. This coming from a woman who in the first book was living free in a property owned by her mother, who worked part-time at a library and quit that job as soon as she got a minor inheritance from a friend, even though it was clear she would have to go back to work in a couple years and since she wasn't going to move out of Lawrenceton and she wasn't going to work in realty, it was obvious she'd have to go back to the library... part-time. This coming from the woman who then ended up marrying that Martin guy who was so rich but other than sex they really had nothing in common. And then she goes back to work at the library because she's bored, and her marriage was pretty unhappy no matter how she tried to paint it after his death. When she's a widow she's living off the money her husband and that friend left her and working part-time at the library but missing work all the time. Whereas Barrett does try to get as many roles as he can, but in the in-between times he hurts for money and she begrudges him that. Earlier in the series she went on about how much money she would inherit from her mother, too, so basically Aurora lives off and will live off the hard work of three other adults, but Barrett is the one who needs to grow up. Yeah, right.

The grieving was understandable but too often took on a mean tone. Okay, she was in love with Martin even though he was a jerk, but to keep thinking things to herself along the lines that her loss and her relationship were greater than someone else's (in this case, Robin) is petty. Her "decision" to be rude now was silly, because all along Aurora has been rude, it's just more pronounced now. The funniest part is when she says

something really rude to another character and then gets upset when they say something rude back. She even tries to get Patricia in trouble with their boss, but he sided with Patricia and Aurora tries to pull the seniority card, which is a joke because she quit the job for a few years in the middle and she's so unreliable to work.

One more book to go.
