



# Shakespeare's Trollop

*Charlaine Harris*

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Welcome back to Shakespeare -- a charming Arkansas town with endless back roads, an eclectic mix of residents, and a dollop of noir. Featuring cleaning woman/karate expert Lily Bard, Charlaine Harris's series puts a unique spin on the traditional cozy to create mysteries that "work on every level". — In the latest installment, Lily discovers lifelong Shakespeare resident Deedra Dean murdered inside a car parked in a woodsy area outside town. Determined not to get involved, Lily wants to leave the police work to Sheriff Marta Schuster and her team of deputies, and concentrate on cleaning, high kicks, and her boyfriend Jack's impending visit. But when Deedra's notoriously promiscuous lifestyle provides an extensive list of suspects but very few clues, Lily has no choice but to resume the roll of amateur detective and join the investigation.

In this fourth book in Charlaine Harris's highly acclaimed and darkly compelling series, Lily Bard delivers a hard-hitting mix of Southern charm and street smarts, a combination so alluring that long-time readers and newcomers will be dying to visit Shakespeare again.

## Shakespeare's Trollop Details

Date : Published May 4th 2004 by Berkley (first published January 1st 2000)

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Author : Charlaine Harris

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# From Reader Review Shakespeare's Trollop for online ebook

## Kelli says

Difficult book to finish. Lily is so judgemental and just really awful that I don't like her anymore. She's consistently horrible and snappy to everyone and obsessed about herself and her needs to the exclusion of all others.

I'm unlikely to continue the series.

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## Carol says

I just finished this audiobook. I've followed some of Charlaine Harris's works in the past and thought I'd give her another try. This is an entirely different genre than what I've read before. There is no paranormal activity at all.

Lily Bard has the misfortune to discover the naked body of Shakespeare's trollop, Deedra Dean, in her car in the woods. As the new sheriff, Marta Schuster investigates the list of possible suspects which seems unbelievable. Given Deedra's promiscuity, and includes her own brother, Marlon, lately close to Deedra. Lily's cleaning job leads her to talk to many Shakespeare residents, and she begins to wonder if the staging of the body to look like a sexual crime. In this version, Jack and Lily's relationship progresses enough for her to declare her love. Lily decides she wants to stay in Shakespeare, she likes having friends and a steady relationship, she is stronger and sees herself less a victim. Harris has created a very likable heroine with standards and principles, wisdom and thoughtfulness. The plot had enough twists to keep the reader engrossed, and the dialogue is realistic and often humorous. Recommend if you like this type of reading. I once again didn't get a #1. The libraries rarely have them.

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## Judy says

Sadly, there is only one more book in this series by Harris. I have enjoyed the series with the unusual protagonist, Lily, whose background gives her an unusual perspective. There is always a good mystery that keeps me interested. I have read some of Harris' series with Aurora Teagarden, and they are good, too.

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## Becka says

a LOT of victim blaming in this one. apparently sleeping with more than a dozen men in years means you're basically asking to be raped, mutilated and left dead in the woods. i'm aware that this was published 14 years ago and attitudes toward sexual assault have come a long way in that time, but there's still no excuse for the ridicule doled out by the main character and everyone around her towards the murdered girl in this novel. Lily makes the unconvincing statement at the end that because Deedra's death resulted from a 'strength' of hers (efficient use of a VHS recorder) rather than her 'weakness' (promiscuity), she didn't actually deserve the contempt heaped on her. this means next to nothing to Lily however, and she resolves to continue

thinking of Deedra how she did when the girl was alive - still with contempt. how that makes sense, or excuses any of the victim blaming (from a main character which has undergone rape and mutilation herself!), i don't know. i'll read the last one in this series, as i want to know what happens with Lily in the end, but I've lost a good deal of respect for her character.

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## **Starling says**

I've discovered that one of the things I like about all of Charlaine Harris series is that the characters change, and grow.

When we first meet Lily Bard in the first book of the series she is an almost totally isolated victim of a horrific crime. But almost without her noticing it some things have changed. She is no longer running from town to town trying to be invisible. She has created a cleaning business from scratch, even though she calls herself a maid and even though she only has one "employee", herself. She has put down roots and bought a house. She has joined a gym and is making herself someone who is no longer a victim by learning how to protect herself with karate and weight lifting.

In that book she also begins to make some real friends and also begins to date.

By book four, she has become part of the life of her town. And she isn't invisible any more. Her life has become entangled in the lives of the other town members. This time the body belongs to one of the people she cleans for. And she spends the entire book being entangled with the County Sheriff and the mystery of who Deedra Dean really is really going on with Deedra's extended family.

Her personal life also changes as her friendships entangle her with life and as her love for Jack intensifies.

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## **Andi says**

Although I actually correctly predicted who the killer was this time, which is unusual for this series of books as it's usually fairly well hidden, I could not have foreseen why she was killed or the other circumstances which led to her death. There were certainly many other events which took me by surprise in this one too.

I am enjoying this series tremendously. I love Lily Bard and the way her character is developing through the series. I like Jack and he is obviously the right person for Lily, however, it would also have worked for me if she'd stayed with Marshall, the hot karate sensei!

Now reading the final book of the series, after reading them all one after another, I feel sad it is the last. It's been good to read one after another as the stories link smoothly to one another. There is enough character development and variety in plot to give each book individuality and keep the storylines fresh, yet the subtle references to previous events ensure that each book can be read in isolation while not missing key information and that readers going through the series one book after the other, as I am, do not have to plough through the same recap of events each time.

How will the series end? I'm excited to find out!

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## Marianne says

Shakespeare's Trollop is the fourth in the Lily Bard series by Charlaine Harris. Lily Bard has the misfortune to discover the naked body of Shakespeare's trollop, Deedra Dean, in her car in the woods. As the new sheriff, Marta Schuster, investigates, the list of possible suspects seems daunting, given Deedra's promiscuity, and includes her own brother, Marlon, lately close to Deedra. Lily's cleaning job leads her to talk to many Shakespeare residents, and she begins to wonder if the staging of the body to look like a sexual crime is intended to mislead: is it really Deedra's wantonness that led to her death? Is the murder motivated by her family connections? Has she learned something in her job at the County Clerk's office that put her in danger? The manner of her death leads to anyone with martial arts abilities coming under suspicion. In this instalment, Lily: washes a dog; attends a funeral; kisses (really kisses) another man; watches some pornographic videotapes; rescues an old man from the work of an arsonist and attends the wedding of a close friend. Jack and Lily's relationship progresses enough for her to declare her love. Lily's character is further developed: she comes to realise she wants to stay in Shakespeare, she likes having friends and a steady relationship, she is stronger and sees herself less as a victim. Harris has created a very likeable heroine with standards and principles, wisdom and thoughtfulness. The plot had enough twists to keep the reader engrossed, and the dialogue is realistic and often humorous. Excellent murder mystery.

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## Lisa says

The fourth outing for Lily Bard (and my fourth in three days), this was as easily readable as its predecessors, but also managed to irritate me more than some of the others thanks to Lily's constant judgement of the victim, the titular town 'trollop' (the title in itself winds me up some) Deedra Dean.

Throughout the series Lily has very much disapproved of Deedra's lifestyle, with many visits from many men, but when she finds Deedra's naked body in her car in the woods, Lily's judgement ramps up even more. Whether blaming Deedra for getting murdered (which she obviously assumes is because she liked sex) or telling herself that 'she was nothing' when wondering why she cares about her death, Lily seemed to constantly be looking for new ways to make me twitch. And Lily doesn't so much do any investigating this time around, but merely be in the right place at the right time for the answers to fall into place around her.

As I'm still feeling cruddy, I know I'll now be reading the next (last?) in the series, but that'll be it for me and Harris again for a while.

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## Deb says

"I really enjoy the Lily Bard series as a whole, and I think this is a good contribution to the series. In this one, a minor character in previous books is ""elevated"" to the status of murder victim - if you've read those books, the title will probably tell you who it was.[return][return]Due to the nature of the victim (i.e., ""trollop""), everyone simply assumes she slept with the wrong guy, and pretty much got what was coming to her. Since Lily knows at least a few other aspects to Deedra's character, she at least considers other motives. She also does her best to conceal the worst of Deedra's acts from her mother while helping to clean out the apartment; it's nice to see Lily being more considerate of the feeling of others - she's often depicted as

being very ""hard"", due to the nature of her experiences. It was also good to see Deedra's character expanded on, even posthumously - learning about her strengths, as well as the weaknesses already alluded to in earlier books.[return][return]I also enjoyed the continued development of Lily's relationship with Jack, with both of them learning to cope with their pasts within the relationship. It seems to be a reasonably realistic depiction of a relationship where both sides come with heavy baggage."

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## **Yvonne Hop says**

I think Lily Bard is one of my favorite characters so far. She is strong, independent and in contrast to other Charlaine Harris characters, she doesn't rely on men to make her life worthwhile.

In this book one of Shakespeares frowned upon women is found murdered outside the town. Lily doesn't want to get involved, but of course she eventually is.

I love these cozies and the Lily Bard series seems darker and more believable than the other Harris' series. Reads real well, always a nice mystery. I liked this one, but I think I liked the first few a bit more. I would love to get to know the people of Shakespeare a little better. With only one book left in this series, I'm looking forward to finding out what's next for my favourite murder solving cleaning lady.

The romance between Lily and Jack doesn't feel right. It feels like they don't like to be around each other or tell each other things. They just have a relationship based on physical attraction and it's quite boring actually. Also, Lily looks down on Deedra for being 'loose', but she has quite a rap sheet of her own. That being said, other Harris' characters are horny all the time, that's a character trade Lily doesn't have as much.

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## **Erin ? \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

**"But it was not her weakness that had caused her death; it was one of her strengths that had killed her."**

Many readers have been turned off by the disparaging inner thoughts from the main character, Lily, about victim's lifestyles and "slut shaming." I've seen from reviews that some wouldn't even continue the series. Now, I wouldn't stop the series over something such as that since I know many books start with a character that needs to grow more into realization and knowledge. This book highlights the annoyances so many hold about Lily, not apologizing and actually enhancing the prejudice.

Shakespeare's trollop is even named after the 'town trollop' that Lily mentally disses in each book. I'm not a fan of slut shaming either, but Harris did make it clear the victim has always been ridiculous undiscriminating with who she sleeps with, how often, the toys, the tapes. There may be a light at the end of the tunnel, however, as Lily closes her eyes on the last page, thinking deeper about Deedra and her life.

There was a scene that especially irked me. Lily felt violated and angry about Deedra's death eventually, and in one scene was angry while using her anger against the punching bag. She was trying to reassure herself by saying, "She was nothing," "She was nothing," while punching. That's a low blow. Deedra may have been slutty by Lily's terms, but a nothing because of that? For shame, Lily. For shame, Harris.

There's not a high mystery this time around either. Lily ponders here and there but does not do actual snooping. Things just kind of fall into place as she encounters a situation after another.

There is a development with Jack, of course, that's big for Lily. I'm not feeling realism in their relationship or spark from him. Claude and Carrie are sweet and that development was quick. The villains turned out very surprising, as the person's been around for awhile and this kind of came out of nowhere. That said, it wasn't unrealistic because of that....but it was impossible for a mystery reader to ever guess. It was more of a thriller/suspense book shock ending, not a reasonable conclusion a detective could solve until one of the last page clues.

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### **Regina says**

I was so wrong and glad I revisited this book. Thanks for all the commentators who gently advised me to ride the book out. A full review soon.

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I am giving this another chance but commentators to my review has said that the comment that bothered me is actually examined further on in the book. Plus I miss Harris at her best.

Original thoughts:

I am not going to rate this because I am only maybe 30 minutes in to listening to this audio. But I can't finish it given the comments by the main protagonist indicating that a murdered woman put herself in line for this happening because she was promiscuous.

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### **Trisher says**

I didn't like this one as much because Lily was so damn judgemental of the "trollop" that it annoyed me and took me out of the book. I see that it's true to her character but it still rubbed me the wrong way.

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### **Kandice says**

I really like Lily! She's feisty and fun and super smart. The fact that she had to run away from something that was done *to* instead of something done *by* her just makes her that much more likable. She is so unflinchingly independent that you can't pity her.

One of my favorite things about Charlaine Harris' female characters is just how real they are. They work for their living and Harris doesn't let you forget it. Lily is no exception. It's that very work that seems to always put her on the spot, in the thick of things! She is just so observant, and like I said before, smart.

This was just one more little mystery for Lily to solve and she does so on the last five pages, just like always.

I love reading these and it feels like coffee with an old friend, but they are pretty formulaic. Won't keep me from reading the next one, though!

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### **Anna says**

Alas poor Deedra, we knew her well. This fourth book in the Lily Bard series is Deedra's story in the worst way, as Lily finds her dead and violated in her car at the beginning of the story. Since fans of the series know Deedra, town slut and one of Lily's employers, from the first three books it has an extra poignancy and the depth it adds to the mystery is another reason why I think this series is Charlaine Harris at her best. Lily Bard is a rape survivor with PTSD, making her way in a small southern town, cleaning houses and building up her fighting skills so that she will never, ever be victimized again. Lily has complicated feelings towards Deedra and knowing full well that you don't blame the victim for the crime she looks further into a case that pretty much everyone assumes is just the outcome of Deedra's promiscuous ways. The investigation takes her through the complex web of small town relationships, and I found it entirely satisfying. I love this series and I love the way it is read, with a world-weary doggedness that encapsulates Lily's approach to life.

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### **Bill says**

The Lily Bard books are always a good read. The mysteries are interesting and I do like Lily; it's been a developing process watching her grow and move on from the issues that she experienced before her move to Shakespeare, Ark. It's unfortunate that the series is finished as I would have enjoyed seeing more of her and her friends. Good, solid read.

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### **Hailey says**

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I felt like it was out of character and it disgusted me. There had been a mention in one

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### **Sarah Adamson says**

Reread of this book.

Not my favourite in the series but deals with some very important topics. Many of the low star reviews on goodreads come from people who haven't fully understood or fully read the book. Charmaine Harris was tackling difficult issues in this whole series, writing about them almost 2 decades ago when many of the issues were viewed as secretive and closed door issues. I only give 3 stars because I like to enjoy my books thoroughly and this deals with such hard issues and is a bit too close to my heart on many points that I loved the mystery and the relationships but just couldn't enjoy the dark aspects of the real issues being addressed. A book to read and to learn from.

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## **Erin says**

I didn't really appreciate the victim blaming and slut shaming going on in this one.

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## **Tracy says**

3 1/2 stars out of five. I liked this better than the second. Not quite as much as I liked Shakespeare's Christmas, more than Shakespeare's Champion. I did enjoy Lily's growing realization that Deedra Deen's promiscuity did not cause her murder and that no woman deserves to die like that no matter who she has sex with. In the previous novels and in the early parts of this one Lilly was often extremely judgmental of Deedra's choices even though they were none of her business. I was a bit surprised at the scene between Bobo and Lily, I thought that crush went only one way.

I read the Midnight Crossing books a couple of months ago. It was nice to see that Bobo did grow into a good man, and I think that is why I started reading this series. I had read a couple of them years ago and I barely remembered them. It was nice to read all of them back to back in less than a week and see the progression of Lily's character.

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