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Dead Spots (Scarlett Bernard Book 1)



Synopsis

Scarlett Bernard knows about personal space: step within ten feet of her, and anything supernatural is instantly neutralized—vampires and werewolves become human again, and witches can't cast the slightest spell. Scarlett uses her status as a null to cover up crime scenes for Los Angeles's three most powerful magical communities, helping them keep humanity, and the LAPD, in the dark. One night Scarlett gets caught at the scene of a grisly murder by the all-too-human LAPD cop Jesse Cruz, who blackmails her into a deal: he'll keep quiet about the supernatural underworld if she helps him crack the case. Their pact doesn't sit well with Dashiell, the city's chief vampire, who fears his whole empire is at stake. And when the clues start to point to Scarlett herself, it'll take more than her unique powers to catch the real killer and clear her name.

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Customer Reviews

There are some good things and bad things about this book, but it still shows more promise than a lot of recent urban fantasy fare. The main character is interesting and shows depth, the way that her powers (or lack thereof) is handled is clever and entertaining (as is the case with Scarlett's

relationship with her landlady), and the stage has been set for some interesting interactions with secondary characters. I like how the author didn't throw the main character at the devilishly handsome main vampire, which pretty much any other new author would have been tempted to do. Of course the vampires here are a lot less friendly than in other urban fantasy books are certainly made to look less sympathetic. And while romantic triangles tend to be overdone these days, at least one leg of THIS triangle kinda sneaks up on you. The other leg of the romantic triangle, however, felt arbitrary. Being around the police detective seemed to turn the main character into a teenage girl periodically, which was greatly at odds with her character in the rest of the book. And I felt that the detective was a little too accepting of the weirdness he had been thrust into, and way too quickly. The final conflict felt kind of rushed though wasn't too bad. Also, there were some characters that probably should have had more screen time, but hopefully they'll show up in future novels. My only other issue was the constant switching of perspectives. I've tried to get over this major pet peeve I have against switching the story-telling point of view, but it is especially irritating when a book is written in 1st person and then switches to someone else's 1st person or pulls out to an eagle-eye 3rd person view before snapping back to the main character.

If you enjoy urban fantasy with a bit of mystery and love triangles, then you'll love this book. I don't care for love triangles, which is my biggest pet peeve with this book. They don't add anything to the story for me because I have to wonder how often those really happen and I guess, I feel like it is so rarely that seeing them in every book I read is annoying. Luckily this book isn't about the romance so much as it is about Scarlett. Scarlett is a null - which means that any magic creature that comes within a certain distance of her, is nullified and becomes human. It also means she is a good crime scene cleaner because she can defuse the paranormal forces around her and leave the humans none the wiser. Scarlett has a problem though. She works for the most powerful vampire in Los Angeles and when she doesn't make it to a job quickly enough; the cops get there before she has a chance to clean up a very grisly murder. The problem doesn't end there though. A werewolf shows up on a scene too and the first detective on the scene sees him go from wolf to human when he enters Scarlett's sphere of influence. When she manages to escape from the detective, she leaves behind something he can track back to her on accident. Now she needs to figure out how to keep a human from finding out too much about her world (and getting killed), and figure out who and what killed three vampires in the middle of a park. This book was an awesome read for me. I've already said I don't like love triangles but I found so much other great things that I can give that a pass. The quick pace and fun characters really made this book for me. I enjoyed the first page to the last page

and couldn't put this book down.

Dead Spots is a very good first book and another one I had doubts about until I started reading. 47 North is the publisher and this is another of 's publishing companies. I have had mixed results with their books but this one is first rate. Here is my opinion on different parts of the book. Plot: This is an intricate and complex plot. It kept me guessing until the very end. Expect to be surprised. It even set up the next book in the series in the context of everything that happened in Dead Spots. World building: I really liked how the author handled building this world. Information arrived just when you needed it and in a way that fit into the plot. I never felt like anything was just dropped in. Things were revealed in ways that fit and were a part of the story. This is a paranormal world and it was explained in a logical and believable manner. Back-story: There had to be a lot of back-story included in the world building. There was just enough to allow me to know the what and why of things. Again it was a part of the story and did not intrude on story flow. Characters: There were really three main characters; Scarlett, Jesse and Eli. Scarlett is the main character. She is very well-drawn and comes from a difficult back ground, is likeable, and seems to be drifting through life. Eli is just loveable. He cares for Scarlett even though she thinks he is just using her. Jesse on the other hand is the very clean all American type. There is a slight triangle here. There are a number of important side characters. Each had just the right amount of development to fit in the story. Writing: I was really impressed with the writing. Everything was laid out in a logical manner.

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