



## Poppy Done to Death

*Charlaine Harris*

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## **Poppy Done to Death** Charlaine Harris

Aurora Teagarden, mild-mannered librarian, has spent her entire life in the same small Georgia town. Along with her sister-in-law Poppy, Roe has finally earned a coveted spot in the Uppity Women, an exclusive group that does more than flower arranging. But Poppy is a no-show on their induction day. Roe stops by Poppy's house to find out why and is shocked to discover Poppy dead on the kitchen floor, and it's not by accident. There's no lack of suspects, since both Poppy and her husband were unfaithful. Even the detective in charge of the case, Roe's former lover Arthur Smith, has a past with Poppy.

As if that weren't enough, Roe has rekindled a relationship with another old flame and things are moving fast, with plans to meet his mother at Thanksgiving. She's also acquired an unexpected house guest: her half-brother, who's run away from his parents' home in California. Balancing her personal life while looking into Poppy's murder isn't easy, but Roe is determined to give it -- and Poppy -- her best effort. And when Roe discovers that the crime scene has been ransacked, she knows someone is desperate to hide a secret. Roe will have to dig through Poppy's life to uncover the truth and bring the killer to justice.

Poppy Done to Death is the engaging eighth installment of the Aurora Teagarden mysteries by #1 New York Times bestselling author Charlaine Harris. The series has been adapted into film for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries.

## **Poppy Done to Death Details**

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# From Reader Review Poppy Done to Death for online ebook

## Kim says

Well, after reading the whole series I finally have given one 4 stars. 4 for an interesting plot, 4 for well developed characters and 4 for best improved writing. I hope there are more Aurora Teagarden's to come. Now, it still drives me nuts that she calls her step-sibling a "brother-in-law" half of the time. Where's the editor? This series got me through a five day flu and I thank Ms Harris for keeping me company.

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## Autumn Box says

This like the other Aurora Teagarden books was an entertaining read. There were no inconsistency's in this book like the last three.

At first Aurora started out whining, but I think the character is starting to mature. The happy little surprise is long over due.

What amazes me is that as much death and dead bodies she has seen she still doesn't understand why it happens to her.

This one was a quick but predictable book. Yet even so it still made me laugh and wonder what she would get into.

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## Dlora says

I like these cozy murder mysteries by Charlaine Harris. Her Sookie Stackhouse series about vampires have made her much more famous. I suspect that the supernatural setting is more intriguing to readers (I like them too), but I enjoy the small-town natural setting of these Aurora Teagarden mysteries. I've read all eight of the series so far. Aurora is a librarian and I have enjoyed watching her fictional life unfold, with mysteries to solve, romances to agonize over, murderers to catch, and correct Southern politeness to uphold. In *Poppy Done to Death*, Roe's sister-in-law is found murdered, and infidelity on both sides of the marriage confuse the issue. The reason I'm reviewing this book, instead of the other eight, is because I was drawn to Roe's musings about marriage, prompted by the revelations of so much infidelity in the story. Her own father was and still is unfaithful, now she discovers her sister- and brother-in-law have had several lovers, and we begin to wonder if any marriage is supportive and loving. Here are a few tidbits from Roe about marriage:

\*\*\*"There have to be some assumptions you make when you agree to bind your life to another person's, and the basic assumption and maybe the most important of all is that this person will get your exclusive attention."

\*\*\*"To make [an extended:] family work, you have to be willing to keep your mouth shut and park your judgments by the door."

\*\*\*"What I was missing at this moment was the state of being married. I missed having someone there to share the little moments of my day. I missed having someone to whom I was the most important person on earth. I missed part of being a team, whose job was to back each other up."

\*\*\*"Sometimes I just didn't understand myself. Half of me wanted to stand upright and independent, and half of me wanted to lean against someone stronger. Possibly the answer could be found in a good partnership, in which one could take turns leaning."

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### **Ishtar says**

[Para empezar, que Poppy, la cuñada asesinada de Roe, pase de ser la madre del año a ser una ninfómana con un trágico pasado en el que su padre abusaba de ella me choca muchísimo. Que hayan salido todos los novios de Roe durante e

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### **Lauren says**

Aurora sister-in-law is killed and of course Aurora's the First on scene and the first to investigate. I do not understand Aurora's ability to stumble upon murders or why she always insists on hiding and taking evidence and then wondering why cases are not solved as quickly. I did like where the personal storyline went between her and her boyfriend as well as her brother coming back.

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### **Jonathan says**

Originally, I had saved this book until right before All the Little Liars came out, because I wanted to read them close together. Well, I got caught up in other books and this one just slipped my mind, but when I went to a bookstore the other day and saw it, I knew I had to pick it up (Especially since All the Little Liars has been out for a year, and Sleep Like a Baby is almost out!). I am sure glad I did it, because I forgot how good these were!

The thing I love most about these books is the way Charlaine Harris writes. This series is cozy, but it's real. The author doesn't shy away from real life problems, and the books fluidly flow into each other. Roe's life has loads of problems, and, throughout the course of the series, some major characters leave or die, but it feels natural.

Roe is wonderful, she's smart, kind, but not afraid to say what she thinks. I really love her mother and John, and I was so glad Ms. Harris brought Phillip back. I really like his character and how he's evolved from the kid we first met. I must say, I really didn't like Robin at first, but he's grown on me now, and I really like him.

Though Roe and her family and all of their lives and issues are the stars of the book, the mystery was excellent, also. Tons of suspects, good motives, and Roe was not nosy! Perfect!

Overall a wonderful book, I can't wait to read All the Little Liars now, and I hope Ms. Harris continues this series for years to come. Can't recommend this series enough!

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## Heidi says

This book was the proverbial last straw, breaking my support of this author. You know, I \*enjoyed\* the Sookie Stackhouse books, even though the writing was poor and the plots were flimsy. I raced through the Harper Connelly books, even though they were, well, ridiculous. The Lily Bard and Aurora Teagarden books have just done me in though.

I've struggled through this particular series, put off by unlikeable characters, plots implausible even for a mystery serial, a writing style less developed than most high school students', and a lack of continuity in storyline 'facts' not just from novel to novel but even within the same novel.

I don't even know where to start in explaining what's wrong with this particular installment. Let's just say: don't bother reading.

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## Syrdarya says

I am glad this is the last in the series. Each book and the series in general has been rather uneven and seemed a bit experimental. Experimentation can be a good thing, but far too often the way these books were written rubbed me the wrong way.

In some of the earlier books I could see Aurora trying to emulate Sally Jesse Raphael by having brightly colored eyeglass frames, but this book came out in 2003, and Aurora was still doing it. The ridiculous way Aurora had several pairs of glasses and would change them to match her outfits seemed beyond silly.

Many times throughout the books male characters would speak in a way that very few men would in real life, and it was particularly evident in this book with the men singing the praises of Poppy.

The naming of stores or groups within this series has been rather uncreative and flat (the store called Great Day which appeared in earlier books, for instance), and in this book we meet the Uppity Women club. It's an exclusive group of 30 women in Lawrenceton who influence politics and talk about a different book each month. I'm sure similar groups do exist, but only 30 members and they only get replaced when someone dies and Aurora and her two sisters-in-law both recently become members? It sounds like there are a few 30-40ish members and the rest are old enough to be at death's door, and since there are only 30 members there can't be many women inbetween, and why would they really want to hang out with each other? No, I find it unbelievable. Every time the name "Uppity Women" was repeated I was more annoyed.

Changing the characters to fit the plot also aggravated me. Wasn't Bubba so in love with Lizanne a few books back? They were a pair truly in love? And then in this book it sounds like he never even liked her, and he was such a jerk when in the past he'd been so helpful to Aurora and others. Emily used to try to be friends with Aurora, so why the irrational hate? And suddenly Aurora and Aubrey were never seriously dating? Nuh uh.

Another thing: if you don't like cats or cat people, then don't put them into the story. Aurora saying it was "disgusting" to call a cat's human owner their "momma" was unnecessarily harsh and rude. I often felt like Harris was experimenting with language in this series, and the experiments didn't quite come out right.

Even though we never really meet Poppy, she sure seemed a lot nicer than Aurora (even after considering all the people she's hurt!). The mystery didn't seem well-developed enough, and the solution wasn't that much of a surprise, but I did see it coming from the time of the introduction of the murderer.

I find Harris's other series to be much better than this one, and this series actually seemed to worsen as it went along rather than improving.

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### **Catherine Noordenbos says**

I can't believe this is the same author who wrote the Sookie Stackhouse series. The Aurora Teagarden series is absolute trash. There are so many inconsistencies within the stories and there are gaping holes in the plot of each novel. The main character herself is one of the most annoying characters I have ever encountered in a book. She is supposedly 29 (if I remember right) when the series begins and 35 when it ends, but she acts more like 65. She is incredibly whiny, self-centered and shallow and at the same time she is holier-than-thou. I'm just disgusted by the whole series, and there are so many errors and inconsistencies I can't begin to list them all.

When Aurora marries Martin, he's 15 years older than she is. In the next book, he's suddenly 13 years older. What?? Then there's her brother, who moves to California when he's 6 and suddenly 5 years later he's 15. Is it just me, or has 6 and 5 become 15 instead of 11? I was also annoyed beyond belief with Aurora's changing uterus. Deformed, then suddenly just tilted? Um, no.

I found it so annoying how Harris was constantly changing the personalities of some of her characters. Bubba and Lizanne? They were supposedly the perfect match! And what about Shelby and Angel? They suddenly drop off the face of the earth. Arthur? He can't make up his mind if he loves Aurora or Lynn or...? Her male characters are so... unrealistic!

How stupid are these women who can't figure out and don't suspect pregnancies?? Aurora was so annoyed and overwhelmed with Hayden that I wondered why she even cared to have a baby!

Finally, I felt like Harris was bashing evangelical Christians whenever she talked about religion. It made me angry and I thought it was petty and egregious. I fully understand not everyone holds my religious views, but I sure don't go around bashing others. Ugh.

Honestly, I'm not even sure why I felt compelled to finish the series.

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### **Helen Power says**

[The cover, which depicts Aurora Teagarden standing in front of a swimming pool, actually reveals the identity of the killer, a professional swimmer. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Jim says**

[ standing in front of a pool. The character who is murdered is her SIL who doesn't have a pool, but her next

door neighbor does & we

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### **Angela says**

Nope. My review for the first book, Real Murders, was for too optimistic and hopeful.

Having sex on a regular basis didn't make Aurora more interesting. Instead, we're treated to more whining and sulking over her tilted uterus. ...Just adopt already! It won't be your kid, but guess what? You looked after a baby for a few days and couldn't handle it, so maybe that's a sign you shouldn't have kids. Adopting an older one that can speak and use the bathroom on it's own might be the best idea. But no. In typical, happy ending, fashion, the series ends with her miraculously getting pregnant by the guy she kinda dated in the first book, and he even proposes because...well, I don't know. I guess he loves her, even though we aren't shown much of why they work as a couple. But Aurora is happy he did because she doesn't feel up to going through the shame of being pregnant and unwed.

Oh, and the Uppity Women Club. ...Seriously? I mean, Aurora is uppity, constantly putting people down in her head for certain things they did that she doesn't. But come on. (Oh! That's who the murderer was. And the reason behind the murder was lame. The first book had such interesting murderers! And now this person? Not worthy of the last book in a series.)

This series was not worth my time. Boring main character, semi-interesting surrounding characters until the later books when Harris decided their traits from before weren't snazzy enough (one guy is so in love with his wife, then decides nope, he doesn't love her and would rather be with the town bicycle), and Robin Crusoe? Really? I had to stop myself from calling him Robinson Crusoe. Yeah, she's a librarian - it doesn't mean she has to be with a guy who has an almost-famous literary name. I know he was in the first book, but his name is only tolerable in very short doses.

Maybe I won't be attempting Harris' other series. Considering how they seem to go downhill right before the last book, I'm wary. Two of her four series have done this; those aren't good odds for the other two.

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### **Kelly-Marie says**

Such a good series. Love these books.

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### **Lynn says**

This book appeared to be the last in the Aurora Teagarden series. There were 8 books from 1990 to 2003. I enjoyed the series but still had several in my TBR stack. Then Hallmark's mystery channel picked up the Aurora Teagarden series and two new books were written. One was released in 2016 and the other one in 2017. Hopefully, there will more going forward. Charlaine Harris is a diverse author. She has written several series and each is uniquely different. It is like a different author wrote each series.

In this book, Aurora is on her way to the Uppity Women's club. Her step brother's wife Poppy is to be inducted into the club that day. The club is filled and future members have to wait for someone to die before

they can be inducted. It is an embarrassment when Poppy is a no show. Aurora goes over to Poppy's house and finds her murdered. Aurora becomes involved in finding out who killed Poppy. There are many suspects due to both Poppy and her husband's infidelities.

I enjoyed the subplots. Aurora's teenage step brother leaves his home in California to arrive in Georgia to be with Aurora. I hope Philip is in the next book. Aurora, who is a widow, now is in a relationship with a writer. The book ended with a change coming in their life.

I am pleased that there are now two new books to read in the series.

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## Julie H. says

I'd recently read the first two or three books in the series, and when I came across this one in a stack somewhere picked it up. Big mistake. Don't jump from book #3 in the series to book #8. Huge things change. In fact, the protagonist Roe Teagarden, who finally seemed to grow a spine by book #3 is back to her mamby-pamby second-guessing. (Dear god, is she really a 105-year old woman in a 30-year old's body?!) It was gaggingly cliched, and with the trite way it ended I will not be able to read on. And I love Charlaine Harris, but I feel that maybe this was done as some sort of work-through-your-worst-insecurities therapy or something. No thanks.

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## The Flooze says

**A fitting end(?) to the series.** Although I read the rest of the books back in 2009, I found it incredibly **easy to fall back into Aurora's world**. Charlaine Harris has a knack for creating **eccentric, memorable characters**. It took but a moment for me to remember the gossip about the various inhabitants of Lawrenceton and I was pleased to catch up on the latest news.

There were **a few plot threads left hanging**, making me hope that Ms. Harris visits Roe in the future. Perhaps a short story allowing us to catch up on how Roe and friends are doing? **There are so many life changes introduced in this installment that I can't imagine not getting an update!**

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## Shorty says

I am very not happy with this series now, and it's author. What a complete waste of time, reading through it all.

Harris decided a few novels ago, that the reason Roe could not have children with her husband (at the time) Martin, was because she has a "deformed uterus". Roe was understandably upset.

A novel or two later, it was described as "malformed", and Martin had died. Another novel later, Roe could date, and eventually sleep with, former boyfriend Robin, the writer who had left for Ca. at the beginning of the series.

So busy hoping from boyfriend to boyfriend, which included the cop Arthur, the priest Aubrey, and then



Martin, Roe goes from murder to murder in this TINY town, solving them all better than the lack-luster police in this place. Ok, I guess I can swallow this, as it helps give Roe the mysteries she needs, and the author something to write about. Even though I wonder about this, while reading.. just like I do with all the other series I read.

But then Roe's own sister-in-law gets killed, and everything is quite a mess... and I'm not talking about in the novel! Suddenly, Poppy (the s.i.l.) is a sexually abused nymphomaniac who uses men like tissues, promises them all kinds of things while sleeping with them, and then dumps them.. and leaves them all so besotted with either love or sex, that they cannot speak badly of her, even though...? Nope, not possible. Word in that town would have gotten out about her escapades, more than this. I live in a small town, I would know.

And then Harris covers all this neatly up, our/their not knowing just what she was like inside, and keeping this all away from everyone she knows (except the husband, who was perfectly happy to live with this), by saying something like, "You never know what people are really like, deep down inside"..? Nope, not gonna buy that. You can TELL just what a person is like, every time. Someone would have noticed she was a mess from her past, more than just the hubby. Something would have happened in Poppy's life, she would have made some kind of comment, some kind of slip-up, as that tightly wound a person does NOT keep all that abuse and crap inside them, never ever once leaking out. Someone would have noticed this.. and the talking would have started. It's a SMALL town.

Then we find out - it's quite obvious, actually, that Roe is PREGNANT?? BULLCRAP. Oh, but it's possible NOW, because that malformation was just a "tilted uterus", & now it is possible...

BULLCRAP, I reply!! A titled uterus is NOT a deformation, it is NOT a malformation, and it does NOT keep a woman from getting pregnant!!

How do I know? I HAVE ONE. Not only did I have 5 pregnancies, but 3 LIVE BIRTHS, even though I had one. My very first OB/GYN said it was VERY COMMON to have a tilted uterus, for women, and that it doesn't cause ANY problems in pregnancies - I asked. (My miscarriages were NOT from my uterus being tilted.) They get tilted during an especially difficult PREGNANCY, that stretches them out, and they don't settle back to where they were, to begin with. Roe had never been pregnant before, so there was NO way for hers to be tilted, suddenly.

Then, we find the killer... and she was right next door. Not even Arthur, who was screwing Poppy, knew who she was, while working on the case.. and he was RIGHT NEXT DOOR when Roe (Of Course!) figures this out. Mooning all over Poppy's house, obsessing about their relationship, and all that creepy stalker stuff. AS IF!! I mean, I knew he was a little obsessive, and slightly creepy before this... but never this bad.

Also, her little brother Phillip suddenly shows up at her town and house, and is WAY Older than he should be.. about 5 years have passed since he's moved away to Ca. He was 6 years old then, and suddenly, he's 15 years old, now? And hitch-hiked ALL the way from Ca?? And is FINE, mentally and physically?? And his parents just... leave him there, with Roe, and not give a crap about him again?? Uh huh, sure.... NOT!!

Bryan Pascoe, the lawyer in town, is hitting on Roe as well, even though she's dating/sleeping with Robin, and everyone knows this. And NO ONE can tell she's visibly thickening around the waist, from the unexpected pregnancy, except her other sister-in-law? HA.

I am glad that this is the last novel written in this series, as I am NOT reading any more of them. And I am doubly glad - maybe even triply glad, that Harris is now writing fantasy novels, complete with characters out of make-believe, where she can make everything up that she wants to, as she goes along, without continuity

or reason.. because her fans of her mystery novels would not stand for this kind of ridiculousness for much longer. NO wonder she changed over to that kind of writing. It suits much better.

HRMPH!!

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### **Paula Elena says**

Como suele suceder con los libros de esta serie no pude parar la lectura hasta terminarlo.

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### **Becky says**

This is the first Aurora Teagarden book and it is book #8 in the series. I didn't feel confused by not reading the other books. After seeing that the Hallmark Mystery Channel has several Aurora Teagarden movies, I was curious enough about Aurora to finally grab a book that was on sale. I enjoyed this easy reading book with characters whose other adventures I am adding to my TBR lists.

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### **Karen B. says**

Aurora Teagarden is back again with a murder that hits closer to home. Aurora's step sister-in-law has been murdered and Aurora is the one to find the body. There are many suspects and until the author began to give clues near the end, I had no idea who was responsible. Poppy was involved with a lot of men and each man seems to have been in love with her and wants to find the murderer. Meanwhile someone has ransacked Poppy's home. Who is doing the searching and what are they searching for? Meanwhile "Ro" has a continuing romance going on and is supervising her teenage half-brother. Will Aurora be moving out of the house that Martin built for her? An intriguing mystery

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