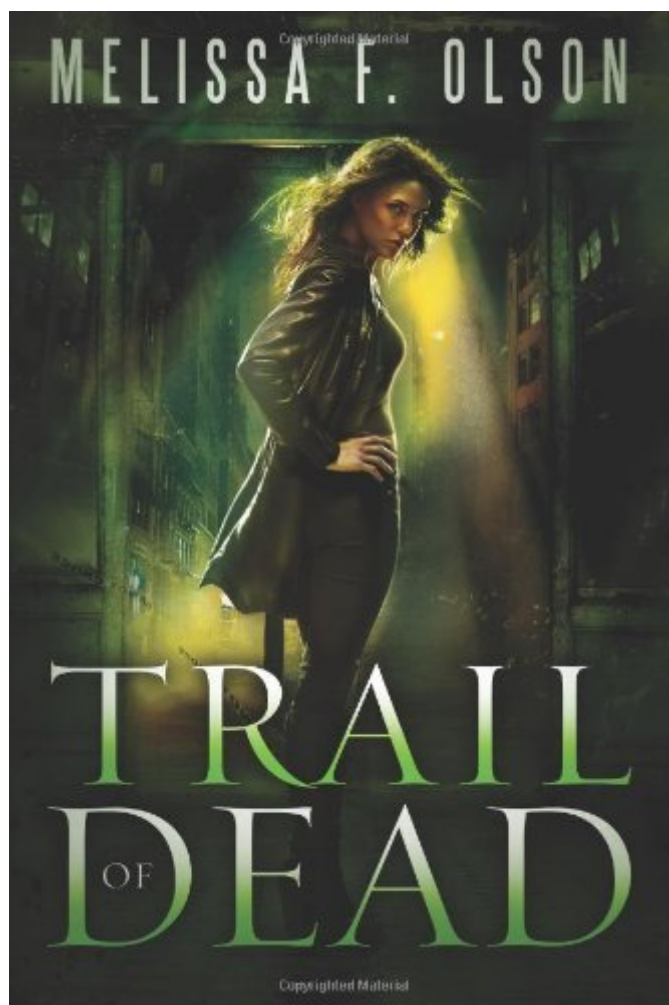


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Trail Of Dead (Scarlett Bernard Book 2)



Synopsis

Book 2 of the Scarlett Bernard series As a null, Scarlett Bernard possesses a rare ability to counteract the supernatural by instantly neutralizing spells and magical forces. For years she has used her gift to scrub crime scenes of any magical traces, helping the powerful paranormal communities of Los Angeles stay hidden. But after LAPD detective Jesse Cruz discovered Scarlett's secret, he made a bargain with her: solve a particularly grisly murder case, and he would stay silent about the city's unearthly underworld. Now two dead witches are found a few days before Christmas, and Scarlett is once again strong-armed into assisting the investigation. She soon finds a connection between the murders and her own former mentor, Olivia, a null who mysteriously turned into a vampire and who harbors her own sinister agenda. Now Scarlett must revisit her painful past to find Olivia unless the blood-drenched present claims her life first.

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Customer Reviews

This book is clearly written to bridge the start of the series with the last of the trilogy. It's all about change and growth and a lot of driving different cars. Scarlett is still her snarky self in

this book. I still love her, but she is a little more broken now than she was before. She's recovering from the ordeal that left her in the hospital and coming to grips with the fact that her insane ex-mentor is still alive-ish. This book was different than the first one in that I really want to punch Jesse in the face. He starts this book off in a bad mood and that kind of carries through the book. His life straddles the line between the "normal" and the paranormal and it's clear that this is driving him crazy. His very serious and clear values are suddenly a lot muddier. So what's the big deal in this book? There are witches turning up dead and it's shaking the very strong core of the leader of the witches. Jesse, and by extension Scarlett, have been tasked with finding the killer or killers before an irrational deadline or bad things will happen. I mean, bad things are already happening (hello, dead witches), but I guess that wasn't motivation enough. Scarlett is, at the same time, dealing with her internal love triangle drama. Sigh. And borrowing lots of different cars to drive places. Overall, I feel like the "big bad" in this one didn't really get the focus and energy that they were due. I will say, though, that I'm excited for where this is headed and how it has changed Scarlett, for better or worse. She's still my favorite part of this world and I'll sign up for another book (even if there is even more driving).

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I love Scarlett! This is the 3rd book I've read with Scarlett as the lead. The 1st was the beginning of a different trilogy and decided I needed to know more about this character, the 2nd was the beginning of this trilogy and she wasn't fully developed. But once again as I read about this strong, irreverent, slightly askew woman I knew I'd enjoy any book that Ms. Olson wrote that included Scarlett would be worth reading. A truly wonderfully strong woman created by an author! Oh Yeah!

I started this book immediately after reading the first book in the Scarlet Bernard series. I really like Melissa F. Olson's writing style. She has a contemporary take on "Old World" supernatural events. I particularly enjoy her occasional Disney references. But do not expect this book to be a "Disney-like" story. Her reference to Disney characters or places may mean that the author is a Disney fan, but the references are definitely a universally understandable reference to an iconic element of our modern culture. The stories deal with witches, vampires and werewolves and their interaction with a "Null" such as Scarlet Bernard. A "Null" is a rare person with old world magic, who cancels out the magic of other old world beings while within a certain proximity of a "Null". The stories are well crafted and interesting. It is an easy read, without being over simplified. I owe this to

the author's style which is very conversational. It is much like hearing a well known friend tell a story. If you like fantasy, magic or even police procedurals and whodunit's you will probably enjoy this book and others in this series and by this author.

Scarlett Bernard is a null, someone who nullifies magic around her. It makes for an interesting mix with the vampires, werewolves, and witches using her abilities to clean up any rogue crime scenes. It's a quick read with a smattering of confused romance. There is a lot of room for Scarlett to grow as a character and I look forward to reading the next in the series.

I find this supernatural series to be great escapist reading. The heroine, Scarlett, is likeable; she's a smart-aleck who doesn't always think before she speaks, and of course that sometimes gets her in trouble. Scarlett works for the three most powerful people/creatures in charge of the supernatural residents of Los Angeles: a vampire, a witch and a werewolf, and her work leads to some interesting adventures with interesting people. There is a continuing love??? triangle between Scarlett and the two men in her life; sexual tension abounds. While some of the plot elements are expected, there are plenty of surprises too. If you are looking for lots of depth, this isn't for you, but if you're looking for a fun read with a supernatural twist, give this series a try.

This installment of the series gave us a stronger and more confident Scarlett, the story was a great thriller and the love triangle is still as confusing. Her old mentor is killing people and she seems to have a witch to help her, but the problem is that the killings seem to be getting closer to her friends and love ones. She is going to have to hook back up with Jesse to get this one solved and as usual Scarlett might not be the strongest person in the supernatural world but nobody gets to mess with her friends. This story covers a lot of ground and after the first book this one seems to be a bit smoother and a bit better written. Our heroine borders on TSTL a few times but never crosses the line into idiot but it was close. This story revolves around the love she feels for her friends and male love interests, plus in the course of the story you get more background on Scarlett. The past of her and Olivia will come to a head and Scarlett grows into her powers a bit more which I feel may have problems for the future. Bottom Line: Great story, slightly better than *Dead Spots* but don't try to read this book without reading book 1 or you are going to lose a lot of back story and be confused. 5 Stars for mystery, great story and keeping the reader hooked without using cliff hangers.

Better than the first! Could not put this book down at all. Loved the story, very gripping and will keep

you on the edge. Love Scarlett's character and the other characters. Moving on to book 3. Hope there will be a book 4!!!

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