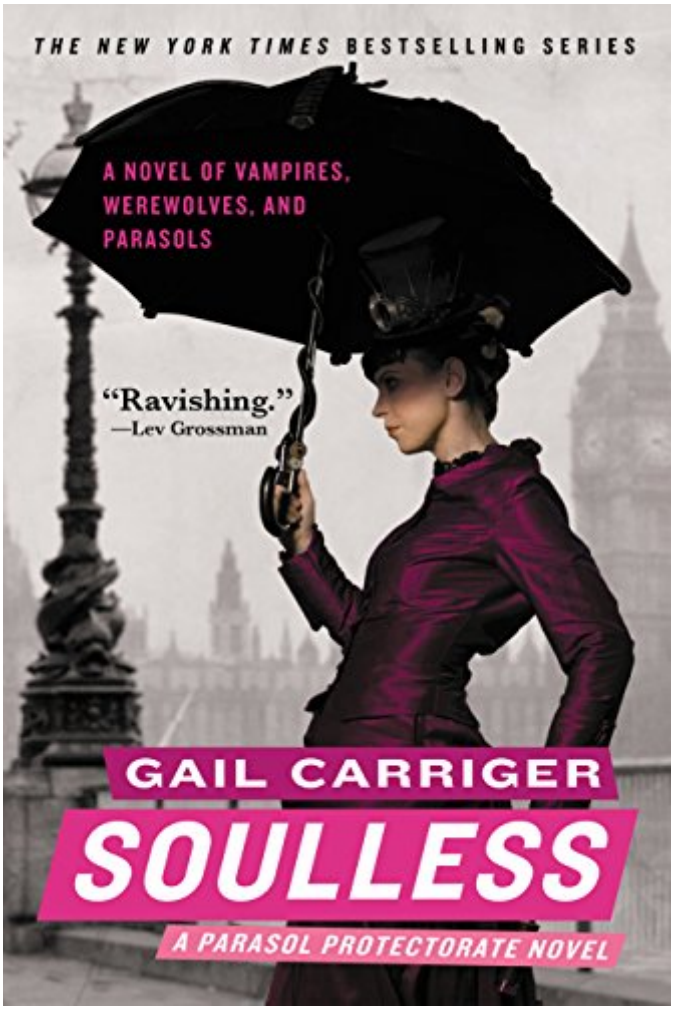
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Soulless (Parasol Protectorate Series Book 1)



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Synopsis

Alexia Tarabotti is laboring under a great many social tribulations. First, she has no soul. Second, she’s a spinster whose father is both Italian and dead. Third, she was rudely attacked by a vampire, breaking all standards of social etiquette. Where to go from there? From bad to worse apparently, for Alexia accidentally kills the vampire -- and then the appalling Lord Maccon (loud, messy, gorgeous, and werewolf) is sent by Queen Victoria to investigate. With unexpected vampires appearing and expected vampires disappearing, everyone seems to believe Alexia responsible. Can she figure out what is actually happening to London’s high society? Will her soulless ability to negate supernatural powers prove useful or just plain embarrassing? Finally, who is the real enemy, and do they have treacle tart?SOULLESS is the first book of the Parasol Protectorate series: a comedy of manners set in Victorian London, full of werewolves, vampires, dirigibles, and tea-drinking. The Parasol ProtectorateSoullessChangelessBlamelessHeartlessTimelessFor more from Gail Carriger, check out:The Custard ProtocolPrudenceImprudenceFinishing School (YA)Etiquette & EspionageCurtsies & ConspiraciesWaistcoats & WeaponryManners & Mutiny

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I actually came across this book several years ago in Barnes and Noble and Ihave finally gotten a copy of this novel, the first book in the series. I love thecharacters like Alexia Tarabotti, Lord Akeldama (he’s a hoot!), Alexia’s friend Ivy,Lord Maccon,and Professor Lyall. I love how the author blended Victorian Englandwith the supernatural. I could not put this down! Also contains an interview with theauthor and previews for the second book in this series - Changeless and Etiquette andEspionage, the first book in the Finishing School series. Must read! Buy this book!

10/10 would recommend!There are few settings I love more than Victorian London. Often when fantastical books are set in this time they combine my favorite elements of books: Magic, steampunk inventions and Victorian sensibilities. This book is no exception.The entire plot line is ridiculous amounts of quick paced fun and hilarity. Alexia finds herself in ridiculous situations which made me laugh out loud at times. The plot is a bit predictable but it won me over anyway. The quick witted poke fun at the slow witted and everyone has a good time.From the very first pages I found these characters irresistible. Alexia is witty and has some modern ideas but she is still a proper Victorian lady. I loved how Carriger created a strong lady of her time rather than a lady out of time. I was submerged deeper into the story and the world because Alexia was written so well. Carriger also created a seamless combination of the supernatural and Victorian manners.In short, this book is a barrel of fun and I already have book two so I’ll be continuing on this adventure soon.

I am simultaneously disappointed and intrigued by this story. The premise was excellent. And I did grow to care about the characters though I had a difficult time connecting with them initially. However, there were several issues I had a hard time overlooking:1. The writing style. It took me many chapters to "get into the flow" of the author’s peculiar way of writing. The dialogue in particular often felt wooden and out of place. Also, there were some truly awful transitions, which was distracting (at one point I actually flipped back to see if I had skipped a page). And the too obvious attempts at quirkiness often felt uncomfortable and forced.2. Predictability. There wasn’t one single surprise in the entire novel. The "hints" to the plot that the characters missed were rather clumsily done thus making everything obvious to the reader. Where’s the fun in that? Also, the bad guys and their evil plot had a been-there-done-that feel to it.3. Lack of World Building. The Victorian era setting where the supernatural are a known and, mostly, acceptable entity was only superficially explained in this book.I wanted to love this book. And I found certain aspects of it appealing (the soul as an actual quantifiable entity was very interesting). However, the steam-punk aspect was downplayed and glossed over.. The supernatural element was the most prominent genre but it got

muddled by a lack of explanation. And though this was not a bodice-ripper as some have said (there are a couple short kissing scenes and one love scene at the end but it is not too descriptive) what is there was a bit contrived. In short, the mixing of genres, which I was excited about, was poorly handled by the author. Combine this was the three main issues I had with the book and I have to give it 2.5 stars, rounded up because this was the author's first. This was an entirely uncomplicated book and not necessarily in a good way (it desperately needed some more...soul). And though I might pick up the next one if I see it on a shelf somewhere, I won't be rushing out to buy it either.

Having found herself a the heart of a murder investigation, Alexia Tarabotti refuses to wait until someone finds who has killed the poor dead man because she already knows who did it. She did. But it was purely in self defence, the fanged blighter was going to kill her. It wasn't her fault she was taking a spot of tea and cake in the sitting room all alone, she had had enough of being at the dreadfully boring ball and couldn't wait for someone to serve something substantial to eat. How was she to know that a new vampire was going to try to suck her blood dry and how was he to know that she was soulless and all his vampiratic powers wouldn't work on her. Goodness, does she have to advertise her ability to negate supernatural powers?And then to top it all off, the loud and rather poorly dressed Lord Maccon arrives to investigate in all his grumpy werewolfishness and won't allow her to find a bite to eat - the dead vampire fell over the tea trolley with the little cakes on it making them inedible - and then he goes and threatens to tell her mother on her if she doesn't cooperate, of all the things...But the curious thing is that there shouldn't be a new vampire on the streets of London, because the only Westminster hive queen who can turn anyone denies having done so. What started out as a curious investigation for Alexia turns into a deadly adventure of the high society kind as she has to circumvent all of the various social etiquettes for the vampires, the werewolves and the ghosts as well. All while trying to hide her after hours extra curricular activities from her obnoxious mother.Seriously, this book starts from one exciting and rather funny situation to the next and it really doesn't stop. With a series of books based on Gail Carriger's lovable characters, the Parasol Protectorate is one of those laugh out loud, can't put it down for nobody kind of books, you really should grab a few of them at once and find a place to hideaway for a few days without the kids to read. Just laugh and read.Loved it! Highly recommend it, especially if you love steampunk, paranormal, magic and mystery adventure.5 out of 5 stars for Soulless, 5 out of 5 stars for the whole series.

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