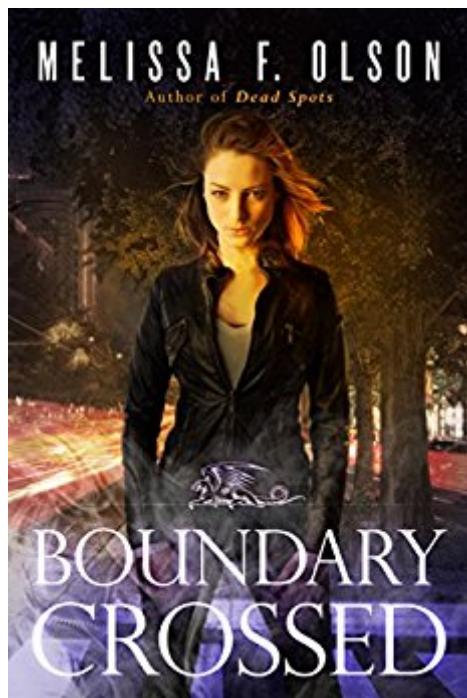


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# Boundary Crossed (Boundary Magic Book 1)



## Synopsis

After her twin sister's brutal murder, former US Army Sergeant Allison Lex Luther vowed to protect her niece, Charlie. So when two vampires try to kidnap the baby, it quickly turns into a fight to the death. Lex's death, that is. She wakes up to two shocking discoveries: she has miraculously survived the fight, and baby Charlie is a null, gifted with the ability to weaken supernatural forces...and a target for creatures who want to control that power. Determined to guarantee her niece's safety, Lex makes a deal with the local vampires. She sets out with the mysterious and undead fixer Quinn to track down whoever is responsible for the kidnapping, sharpening her newfound magic skills along the way. But the closer she gets to the truth, the more dangerous her powers become. *Boundary Crossed* is a dark, thrilling journey into a world where the line between living and dead isn't nearly as solid as it appears...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just for a change, I'll cut to the chase- this book reminds me a LOT of early Charlain Harris/ Laurel

K Hamilton- before they went down the all-powerful-heroine-porn path. If you enjoyed their early books, I think you will enjoy this. (Witches and vampires and magic, oh my!) If that's not your cup of tea, then you should probably look elsewhere. And as far as the April, 2015 Kindle First picks go- good luck with that :) So the long story... It was especially important to me to find a kindle first book that I liked this month. Unfortunately, I can't bring myself to pick a romance, fiction written in the present tense or a mystery that seems to start with a rape scene so that left the fantasy option. I haven't been impressed with past KF fantasy picks so I wasn't very hopeful- especially considering the abysmal cover art. But, Yea!, I actually like this one. Likeable characters, fast pace, not excessively graphic. At about the 32% mark I thought it was telegraphing too much about plot twists but I turned out to be completely wrong so that was another plus. A very little foul language and no sex (but a whiff of romance of course) for those who care. On the down side, well, it's not great literature, but if you were looking for that you probably didn't read past the first paragraph :) It has a bit of the too-powerful-heroine thing going on and is definitely formulaic, but it is unabashedly light escapist reading. And then there is the awful cover art. Seriously, who finds that interesting? Its like something from an SPA or bad romance novel. When I reached the end of the book (on a kindle fire) I see that the author has other books out but they have the same dreadful covers. Sigh. I'll definitely have to get a sequel to this book but just can't make myself pay for other books with those covers (silly I know, but a pet peeve) This is the first time I've posted a review from the Fire so I hope it works.....

I hadn't run into Melissa Olson's stories before, despite enjoying urban fantasy reads regularly in the past years, but I'm extremely glad I picked this up when it was on sale--I bought the sequels as soon as I finished reading this first story and will be checking out the author's other series, because the story was hands down better quality of writing than most of the other light-reading, witches/vampires/werewolf stories that I've found in recent months. The author clearly took the time to flesh out Lex as a character that both echoes the stereotypical characters that one might find in a urban fantasy mystery story while giving her unique complexities and uncertainties that avoided the Mary Sue challenges often seen in these stories. While Lex is perhaps overpowered given her inability to die as evidenced in the first few pages, her powers and strengths were believably written and matched her background as an army vet and her unique witchy qualities and left numerous mysteries to be explored in the following books. Equally important and refreshing, the romance was a side-story to the overall exploration of Lex's abilities and development of a new life after leaving the military under tragic circumstances and losing her sister. Unlike budding romances in many

stories, it played a positive role driving both the main story and character development of Lex and Quinn and moved forward in fits and starts given the lack of trust between the two characters at the start of the story. A nice shift from the turn towards erotica seen after the first few Anita Blake books, which has a similarly persistent character seeking to explore her powers. The supporting characters were more than one-dimensional, which is always a big plus. I deeply enjoyed all 3 books currently out in this series and hope to eventually see a fourth, although in the meantime I'll be quite happy to check out some of Melissa's other works in the same universe.

Women from rich family skips college to join the army. Everyone in her unit dies except her. (Well, she dies to, but she gets over it.) She comes home with night terrors, refuses offers from her rich parents to pay her way through college, refuses a job in the family business, refuses veterans benefits. She gets a job working the night shift at a...hardware store?, doesn't date, doesn't have friends, has no social life beyond what her parents force on her. Then her sister dies and the protagonist becomes obsessed with her niece. Then she discovers she has rare magic powers but has to be forced to learn how to use them...this is clearly someone who prefers to fight then to study. Oh, there are vampires, I almost forgot them...probably because they are kind of forgettable. The characterization is much better developed than the fantasy elements. If you like your Life After Wartime/Survivor's Guilt novels with a dash of vampires, this is the book for you. I'm not sure if the author is going for an anti-elitist "You don't have to go to college or be rich to lead a worthwhile life" message or a "This character is paralyzed by PTSD, Survivor's Guilt, and grief, and has to move on" message...there are hints of both. I couldn't help thinking of what this story looks like from the perspective of her father, who is dealing with the death of one daughter and another that clearly needs help but is refusing it. I'm not talking much about the Fantasy elements, probably because there isn't much to say. Vampires straight out of Urban Fantasy Central Casting pursued by the team of a hot Vampire and a broke girl with rare magic powers she doesn't understand. In an unusual deviation from the trope, the vampire romantic lead wasn't explicitly a Master Vampire or rich.

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