



## Easter Bunny Murder

*Leslie Meier*

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"Reading a new Leslie Meier mystery is like catching up with a dear old friend." —Kate Carlisle, *New York Times* bestselling author

With a harsh Maine winter finally over, Lucy Stone is excited to cover the annual Easter egg hunt for the Tinker's Cove Pennysaver. Hosted by elderly socialite Vivian Van Vorst at her oceanfront estate, it's a swanky event where the eggs are as likely to contain savings bonds as jelly beans. But when Lucy arrives at Pine Point, the gates are locked, and a man dressed as the Easter Bunny emerges only to drop dead moments later. . .

Lucy discovers that the victim is Vivian's grandson, and all is not well at Pine Point. Vivian has been skipping lunch dates, and her charitable donations have abruptly stopped. Is she going senile? Or are her heirs a little too anxious to take over her estate? As Lucy gathers a basketful of suspects, she'll have to chase the truth down a rabbit hole before a killer with a deadly case of spring fever claims another victim. . .

"A fun and engaging read." --*The Barnstable Patriot*

"Delightful. . .Cozy fans will enjoy Lucy's hunt for the truth." --*Publishers Weekly*

"Once again, Meier delivers a top-notch mystery!" --*RT Book Reviews*

## Easter Bunny Murder Details

Date : Published March 4th 2014 by Kensington Books (first published January 29th 2013)

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Author : Leslie Meier

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# From Reader Review Easter Bunny Murder for online ebook

## David says

Easter Bunny Murder by Leslie Meier was an OK mystery. I enjoyed it well enough. However, its premise as set-up in the first chapter wasn't carried through. It would have been nice if the Easter theme could have been maintained. As it was, the story meandered its way to the heat of summer. As for the murder victim, that was introduced in the first chapter but the story digressed well away from the victim. It became more of a sub-plot. We, the reader, weren't even informed that the culprit existed as a person until the funeral of the victim. In a murder mystery I want my culprit to have a cameo appearance right near the beginning so that I know they exist in the story's universe. I want my murder mystery to focus on the solution to the murder. And I like a theme to be evident from beginning, to middle, to end. I wanted the Easter Bunny Murder to be consistent.

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## Crystal says

This was my first Leslie Meier Lucy Stone mystery and it won't be my last. Even though I started with book #19 I didn't see it as a problem. Yes I would have known a little more about the characters if I would have read the previous 18 books, but since this is a mystery and the books are focused on the mystery plot it wasn't too much of a problem coming into book #19 and learning the characters on the fly. I felt like Ms. Meier gives good background into each of the main characters so that I never felt lost in Easter Bunny Murder and that it felt like a stand-alone. With that being said, after finishing this one, I want to go forward with the series as new books are released and also read from the beginning of the series as well.

The plot starts as the annual Easter Egg hunt seems to be a no-go and a man dies in front of everyone on the lawn of prestigious Pine Point. Lucy, the main character of this series, is a reporter for the local paper which is just a weekly and she mainly handles features not investigative reporting, but she just can't seem to help herself and she has to get to the bottom of what is going on at the local mansion and what is happening to resident millionaire VV. This starts the book and her sleuthing. With the help of others in the town, Lucy starts to get to the bottom of things. I like this book because she doesn't seem to always be in danger like in some books. This was what I really think of as a cozy mystery. She's solving the crime, but kind of out-of-the-way. But as she gets closer and closer things get more and more interesting.

I was drawn in by Lucy and her friends and the other people that populate the town. I love small town settings, I'm from a small town. I'm familiar with knowing most everyone and having everyone know your business. I like how Lucy is proper and nice and tries to go about solving the murders in a way that doesn't hurt anyone. She's just a nice lady. I also like the slices of her family life that are shown. The mystery was interesting and it kept me guessing. By the end I was able to see the clues that were there, but I missed them when I read, so that was good. Some may find it predictable but I didn't. I found it to be a very enjoyable read.

Over the last year I have started to read more and more cozy mysteries and I am glad I got the chance to try out Leslie Meier. The Lucy Stone series has great promise for me and I look forward to reading more books in the series. Easter Bunny Murder was a strong entry in the series at least for me, but I have nothing so far to judge it against. It was an enjoyable read, fit the full bill of a cozy for me and kept me entertained for hours. I found it hard to put down and it was another book I found easy to read even with life and TV going on

around me. I felt like I was right in the middle of the chaos and mystery that surrounded Lucy. I also loved the Easter theme, and Lucy's grandson Patrick, he reminded me of my boys when they were just a little smaller. Kudos to Ms. Meier on a job well done!

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### **Mary (BookHounds) says**

#### **MY THOUGHTS**

#### **LOVED IT**

Lucy Stone, reporter for the Pennysaver in Tinker's Cove, is set to take her grandson to the annual Easter Egg hunt at Vivian Van Vorst's palatial estate, Pine Point. Something strange is up at the site when they arrive with the rest of the town to find the gates locked and no hospitality when her son, Van Vorst Duff (Van), comes out dressed as the Easter Bunny and drops dead on the porch. Even more strange is that VV has withdrawn from her social engagements and the charity checks she is so fond of writing suddenly stops. The town begins to talk about her lawyer and daughter who are now taking care of her and explain that she has been ill the last year. When Sue, Lucy's friend, comments that her daughter is now their cook and she can't cook, things really get suspicious.

With the somewhat dubious help of Van's common law wife and mother of his daughter, Lucy tries to get to the bottom of the mystery of whether Van was murdered or just dropped dead of natural causes. Lucy's boss doesn't think the story warrants much coverage and she is met with dead ends each time she tries to solve the mystery surrounding his death but seems to ignore some facts given to her by a private investigator. I loved that the characters all seemed to be real and easy to imagine living in a small town.

This is my first cozy by Leslie Meier, but I am definitely going to go back and read more. The fact that this is the nineteenth in the series was not a problem since it easily stands alone. I found that this is an easy story to get into and really enjoyed everything. I adored Lucy's daughter, Molly and hope to read more about her. The inhabitants in Tinker's Cove seem like an interesting bunch and I can't wait to get to know them better.

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### **Nicole says**

Classic holiday Lucy Stone cozy, which I highly recommend! A+

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### **Shona says**

Lucy Stone is like an old friend. Good reading for when you want to relax and calm your mind for sleeping. Nothing too suspenseful or scary to keep you up. Each book continues where the last left off so you can get to know all the characters of her little town in Maine.

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## **Nancy Narma says**

“Jellybeans, Secrets and Murder Abound”

It's almost Easter as we travel back to Tinker's Cove, Maine. There we find “The Pennysaver” Newspaper Reporter/Amateur Sleuth, Lucy Stone helping her Daughter-in-Law, Molly, get Grandson, Patrick ready for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the palatial estate of elderly millionaires, Vivian Van Vorst (affectionately known as VV). They join the gathering throng, waiting for the gates to open and the hunt to begin. But, something is wrong. The crowd grows uneasy then a wobbly-legged Easter Bunny appears on the porch, stumbles over to the entrance, and collapses. Closer observation finds VV's Grandson, Van Duff, deceased within the costume. This is only the beginning of the “Dark Cloud” hanging over “Pine Point”, VV's estate. Little by little, the staff dwindles down to a precious few, while VV's care becomes the next thing to elder abuse. But why? Other relatives have been recipients of VV's fortune. Does Greed play the big part in these dastardly deeds? Besides her newspaper duties, Lucy starts her sleuthing with help from friends, Sue and Rachel and elderly but sharp-as-a-tack Miss Tilley. In the midst of balancing her office duties and trying to unravel the growing mystery, Lucy's youngest Daughter, Elizabeth calls from Florida, needing her Mother's advice as she isn't feeling well. Harried by pressures, Lucy gives her a quick opinion and brushes her off—with later regrets. Lucy and her co-horts leave no stone unturned and even manage to help with the post-funeral gathering at the mansion. Who would want Van Duff dead? Is this family that dysfunctional that they would fight to be sole heir to VV's fortune, not caring about the woman herself? What secrets could VV possibly possess after all of these years? I enjoyed this latest work of Ms. Meier, but I was surprised at how snippy and smirky Lucy was in this volume, and how her relationship with Husband, Bill has undergone some changes. All couples, real or fictional go through rough periods within their relationships—and with some crankiness, non-attentiveness and unresponsiveness, Lucy and Bill are no different. As has been the norm, the Author provides many twists and turns while we try to unravel this cozy—one you don't want to miss, so put it on your TBR list today!

Nancy Narma

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## **Kari Anderson says**

It's Easter time and time for the annual Easter egg hunt at Vivian Van Vorst's house. VV is one of the wealthiest women in the country and always uses the holiday to give back to the children in the community through saving's bonds and scholarships... not your normal Easter goodies. But this year, the gates are locked and it looks like the hunt is off. Until the man in the bunny costume comes bouncing out with his basket of eggs. But he doesn't make it far before he falls... dead.

This is the first death of the Easter holiday, but not the last.

Reporter Lucy Stone happens to be at the hunt and gets a jump start on the story. She goes in undercover to try to uncover a crime that she believes is more than an accident.

My Thoughts:

I have had my eyes on Leslie Meier books forever. I love seasonal books and always thought they sounded

cute, but never picked one up. I got this one to review as part of an awesome promotion for the book (more to come on that soon) and I am so glad it landed in my lap. I absolutely love these cozy mysteries.

Now when I started this book, my husband was a bit offended by the title saying, "Why would anyone want to kill the Easter Bunny?". But I promise you, it's not as brutal as it seems. There is a bit of death, but the Easter Bunny will be just fine....

I love that Lucy is a part-time reporter. Liked her from the get-go and liked her even more as I got to know her and how she just happens to be the kind of reporter to find herself in the right place at the right time. Sometimes I wish I could be that reporter, others, I'm glad I sit behind a desk.

This is a fun, quick read with likable characters and a charming town. Oh and a cherry on top of the cake, THERE ARE RECIPES IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

I give Easter Bunny Murder 5 out of 5 bookmarks. This is the 19th in the series, so I have some catching up to do!

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## **Julie Barrett says**

Easter Bunny Murder by Leslie Meier

I like reading this type of mystery/holiday book and have read others by the author so when I saw she had this new one coming up, I asked the publisher to send me an ARC.

Love the traditions they have because they resemble the ones I grew up with also.

This one starts out where Lucy and other locals are heading to the annual Easter egg hunt at VV's, the McMansion house on the hill. In the plastic eggs are usually certificates for money or schooling or day care. Community service is done by all age groups, love the ideas. Lucy Stone is there to get a story for the Pennysaver newspaper as she writes for them. What happens next is not your typical annual event. The man wearing the Easter bunny suit has a heart attack. Turns out it's VV's grandson and afterwards Lucy is confronted with his ex wife, but he never married her, just had a child together. She's got some information that would prove he had just been to the doctor and somebody murdered him.

Lucy gets a friend Sue to help out at the mansion for the funeral service and buffet and she is able to go around the house to find any clues. She thinks a few things are not as they should be and with others help from the community she is able to piece together things.

Seems when she finds one clue and solves it two other clues need solving...

Light reading and love the community and the holiday and yes there are recipes in the back of the book.

Love catching up with the ongoing of the town...

The call from the hospital in Florida changes her plans to follow up but she will get back to it...That leads to a real PI coming from NY to their town and she finds all kinds of clues and it leads to a court trial.

Just when that is solved the mystery is NOT over as we find out the past details of events and the real killer...

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## **Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says**

I liked that the main character was a part time reporter. The mystery was handled differently because of that and it made for an interesting read. The whodunit was quite interesting and not what I expected. :D

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### **Linda says**

Another good Lucy Stone novel, this time starting off at the annual Easter egg hunt. I like that these books take place in real time where things aren't solved in a matter of days.

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### **Crystal says**

This book was on the top of my mom's to read pile. I just couldn't wait to read so I got to read it first. I love Leslie Meier and her Lucy Stone mysteries. She has a way of writing a wonderful mystery with humor thrown in as well. I've been reading Ms. Meier's work for a couple of years and I always enjoy her wonderful stories.

What started out as a normal day that Lucy and her daughter-in-law expected to be a fun Easter Egg Hunt for Patrick, suddenly took a turn for the worse when the Easter bunny collapses in front of everyone. Traumatized Children and parents are left watching a scene of the ambulance taking away Van Vorst Duff. Van doesn't make it to the hospital. From there lots of mysterious things happen, another death in the family, and VV who has been forced to be bed ridden, VV's staff is slowly being fired, and valuables are disappearing. Some bad is happening but who is behind it all?

Lucy Stone is a reporter for the local newspaper. She has a way of really getting involved in everything that is happening. She is one of my favorite characters of all time. I love Lucy, she finds herself in some really interesting situations. I always love reading how she gets herself out of them.

There is just so much drama and mystery in this book that it certainly kept me turning pages. Easter Bunny Murder is one of those books that had me on the edge of my seat wondering who committed the crimes.

If you enjoy a good mystery with fun characters I think you will enjoy Easter Bunny Murder.

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### **Liviania says**

My mom instilled me with a love of cozy mysteries. I venture into more hardcore thrillers at times, but often find the violence and other crimes too grotesque and gratuitous. I mean, if you read my reviews, you know that I love me a violent book. But there's something particularly ugly about the ways bodies are described in certain mysteries. However, you can trust a cozy mystery to be light on the gore and heavy on the gossip.

Lucy Stone is a reporter for the Pennysaver. She's not on duty when she goes to Vivian Van Vorst's annual Easter Egg Hunt, but she certainly switches over to investigative mode due to the events of that day. Nothing was as usual - the grounds not prepared, the gate not open, no parking attendants - and, oh yeah, a man dressed as the Easter Bunny dropped dead in front of a number of traumatized children.

VV is in her nineties and the richest woman in town. She's controlled the purse strings of her descendants for decades. Now her health and control are failing. Something is wrong in her mansion, but few can bring themselves to be bothered about an extremely rich woman reaping what she sowed. Lucy feels that a crime is a crime and keeps poking around to find out what is going on behind those gates.

I felt disconnected from the series elements. There are more than twenty Lucy Stone Mysteries, but this is the first one I've read. When the mystery part briefly stops dead for Lucy to tend to her ailing daughter, I didn't really care since her daughter wasn't relevant to the plot. Tinker's Cove, Maine is your typical cozy mystery small town so I could relate to characters by their archetypes, but I wasn't clued into the relationships I assume Meier has been building and there wasn't enough in EASTER BUNNY MURDER to make me care.

The mystery did hold my attention. It's not too complicated, so Meier wisely stacks a couple of crimes on top of each other. The momentum really gets going just when you think everything has been solved. I felt the court scenes went on for a little bit too long, but that's my main quibble with the actual mystery.

As far as cozy mysteries go, I prefer Joanna Fluke's more humorous style. I'm sure Meier's homey Lucy Stone has a wide appeal among cozy mystery readers though.

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### **Stasha says**

If you're a fan of tightly written mysteries which stick to the main story line, this is not for you. The book wanders between the mystery, tales of trying to get Lucy's husband to plan for the future, kids still living at home, kid's living away (still trying to figure out what the side trip to Florida did for the plot), and working with the small town paper. I got this as an available audio book from the library and it did stand alone although I do get the feeling that some of the character development and relationships would be better if I had read more of the series. But all in all not a bad book, interesting twist at the end and not in an Agatha Christie way.

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### **Emma says**

I am so glad this is finally over! I was very excited about reading an Easter-themed book (my very first) right before Easter.... and then... this happened.

Yes, I've noticed cozy mysteries are often "hit or miss" for me but nothing had prepared me for this one: absolutely nothing interested me about Lucy Stone's life, family, job (what is she exactly, a caring grandma or the next Pulitzer winner? She could be both, I agree, but the book switches awkwardly between one and the other, this is unpleasant).

The so-called mystery was awfully boring... and it dragged on... this book's only 236 pages long, but I'd rather read War And Peace twice in a row, than THOSE 236 pages again. And it was diluted too. For example, at some point, Lucy's older daughter appears out of thin air, she has appendicitis, the poor thing... we follow her operation, recovery, etc, and then she goes back to her life in Florida. And that's it. Who cares? What did she bring to the plot? Absolutely nothing! What did she bring to Lucy's character? Oh well, now we know she's anxious when one of her kids ends up in hospital. What a total newsflash!



I don't even know why I finished this book (maybe I wanted to see if it could get any worse) but I'd still like to read an entertaining Easter story. After all, I enjoy very silly Christmas novels.

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### **Jenny says**

Easter Bunny Murder is a great book to read on the Easter Holidays. Local reporter Lucy Stone took her grandson Patrick and daughter in law Molly to the local Easter Egg Hunt. It was meant to be a happy day for all the village children. However, this did not happen the Easter Buddy Van Vorst Duff collapsed and died in front of the children. Lucy Stone did not think anything about it until Van Vorst Duff ex-girlfriend comes into the paper saying it was murder and this started Lucy Stone to investigate the allegations. Intertwine with the investigation of the crime was the community worries over the health and wellbeing of the Van Vorst Duff's grandmother.

The readers of Easter Bunny Murder will enjoy following Lucy Stone investigation into the death of Van Vorst Duff. Also, at times will laugh with the characters and enjoy the conclusion of this book. I like the way Leslie Meier portrayed a small country village community and her characters.

I recommend this book

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