



Lemon Meringue Pie Murder

Joanne Fluke

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The residents of Lake Eden, Minnesota, are planning to paint the town red, white, and blue to celebrate the Fourth of July--but the fireworks are already going off at Hannah Swensen's bake shop, The Cookie Jar. . .

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Hannah Swensen thought she'd finally discovered the recipe for a perfect life. But her sometime beau Norman Rhodes tosses a surprise ingredient into the mix when he phones to tell her he's just bought a house from local drugstore clerk Rhonda Scharf--which he plans to tear down in order to build the dream home he and Hannah designed. It seems the plan has been cooking for quite some time, and Hannah's shocked. Especially since her ring finger is still very much bare. . .

The good news is that the soon-to-be-torn-down house is full of antiques--and Norman has given Hannah and her mother first dibs. They uncover some gorgeous old furniture, a patchwork quilt. . .and Rhonda Scharf's dead body. A little more sleuthing turns up the half-eaten remains of a very special dinner for two--and one of The Cookie Jar's famous lemon meringue pies. Now it's up to Hannah to turn up the heat--and get busy tracking down clues. Starting in her very own kitchen. . .

Includes nine original cookie and dessert recipes for you to try!

"Fun. . .frothy. . .Enticing recipes for cookies and other treats, presented with helpful procedural hints, are an extra bonus." --*Publishers Weekly*

Lemon Meringue Pie Murder Details

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From Reader Review Lemon Meringue Pie Murder for online ebook

Holly says

This is a really quick read. The plot is o.k. It is pretty easy to guess who the murderer is. I have a problem with the 2 boyfriends of the heroine Hannah. They are friends. What's up with that? Neither guy is jealous of the other. Not normal. And another thing. One of her boyfriends is a dentist living at home with his mother?? Not a manly man in my book. And he violates HIPAA! You can't go around telling people who you treat and what you are treating them for at a party. And I am pretty sure there is such thing as blue jello. It is called Berry Blue. At least she got the Kraft part right. Coffee. Hannah drinks too much coffee. If the author really wants to impress me, Hannah better be dealing with anxiety, an irregular heartbeat & fibrocystic breast lumps in her next book. Diabetes too from all the cookies & pies that everybody seems to be scarfing down. Every couple of chapters has a cookie or pie recipe with it. They look pretty good, so I might have to try a few before returning this book to the library. I picked it up because it was in the wrong place at the library. I took that as an omen that it was so good, someone was hiding it. Someone was hiding it all right, hiding it so no one else would have to suffer through it.

Ann says

[The murderer turns out to be the person Hannah suspected from the beginning (hide spoiler)]

Mandy says

Ok I gave this 4 stars because I knew who the killer was halfway through. Otherwise it was a great Hannah Swensen book. I just hope Hannah picks a man soon because I'm getting exhausted trying to pick for her!

Dawn says

Each book just keeps getting better. I want these books for the sole reason of the recipes. I'm enjoying the mysteries as well.

Chaitra says

I'm getting bored of Hannah's problem solving already. I mean, it's been the same pattern in the four books of this series - Hannah/someone close to her finds a body, the dead body has been doing something with one of Hannah's amazing confections, everyone wants her to solve the murder and she wants it too, but Mike has to be satisfied first because he gets grouchy (and well he should - what is HE doing when Hannah solves the murders, I'd dearly like to know), and then she brings out her steno-pad and painstakingly takes all these notes, goes everywhere with the free samples that Lisa baked, has Andrea do all the interviewing, and then manages to accidentally solve the thing when the killer decides to kill her off because she's getting "so

close".

Why does Hannah come across as a 60 something fuddy-duddy? She's only 30. It's hard to believe that a person like her would refuse to do anything with technology, and that she'd be such a prude. It's only just the beginning of her Mike/Norman dilemma, and I'm bored of that too. I know. I can just give up on the series, but it isn't offensively bad. The recipes look good, and even though I'm not about to bake them, I can still salivate reading about them. Maybe #18 is when she'll finally grow up. Here's to hoping. 2 stars.

Noriko says

I normally hesitate to give a light read such as cozy mysteries and chick Lit high ratings thus I'd settle for 4 stars, but I absolutely adored this 4th installment of the Hannah Swensen series.

As my friend who keeps following this series once said, the side plots including family drama story get longer and longer each book, but for once, I didn't even mind the slight devoid of the mystery element. If anything, I found myself more and more enraptured by the characters and Lake Eden itself.

The warmth of townspeople particularly stands out in this book. Beautifully intertwined with all the excitement and festivities surrounding the Independence Day preparation, the lure of Lake Eden and the kindness of the townspeople are vividly portrayed, it made me want to visit Lake Eden myself, I think this installment is my favorite in the series so far. Vivacious like the sunlight in summer, the festive and cozy vibe is definitely running through this book.

The sleuthing plot is well-delineated as well. It was funny yet ironic that Hannah decides to stay away from the investigation and focus on prepping for the Independence Day catering and events, but everyone - including Mike and Bill, or even the officers in the station - are expecting, or even asking her to investigate/cooperate in this case. Mike used to be a bit rough around the edges up until the last book and I was personally a bit offended by his obstinacy, but he comes around a bit in this book and that's one of the things I liked about this book.

That Hannah hits the dead-end in the investigation was also interesting; the development is slow going and for once, I suspected if it would end up being a cold case because there wasn't a tangible development/twist until 95% into the book. Just like Hannah, I sort of figured who attacked Freddy, who is certainly my fave character in this book, but I couldn't connect it with the murder case. When it's all figured out and explained, I thought it was really well done. Well contemplated.

Come to think of it, there are lots of diversions that got me sidetracked in a nice way. Michelle's what seemed like erratic behaviors and the suspicions surrounding Jed's treatment toward Freddy... I even suspected Michelle was not as good a character as I had been made to expect. This may be only me, but I felt that way anyway.

I can only assume the more and more creativity in culprit reveal is called for each book, and I was curious how Joanne Fluke pulled off this time.

Let's just say I saw a different side of smartness in Hannah this time, I didn't expect the author to narrate the reveal from that angle, I was pleasantly surprised.

The love triangle between Hannah, Mike and Norman positively frustrated me and was irresistible as well. As a hardcore supporter of Norman, I wished Delores and Andrea left out Mike sometimes so that Norman

and Hannah could have some private time together, but oh well... I must say I'm frustrated, but I cannot wait to see which man Hannah chooses in the end.

This book left me hopeful for the next book in the series and of course, I am all up for reading it!

Barbara says

Hannah Swensen, owner of a cookie shop, is surprised to hear that one of her boyfriends, dentist Norman Rhodes, has purchased a house - lock, stock, and barrel - from Rhonda Scarf. He plans to tear down the house and build a dream home.

Before the house is demolished Hannah and her mom, an antique shop owner, go out to look for treasures. In addition to a few valuable antiques they find the dead body of Rhonda Scarf. Hannah's other boyfriend, detective Mike Kingston tells her to keep her nose out of the investigation but Hannah can't resist and dives right in.

This is a real cozy mystery in the sense that the police/detectives seem to do nothing at all. As Hannah runs around questioning people and making phone calls and taking photos of the crime scene, etc. it seems like she's the first one on the scene every time.

Soon after the murder, money from an old bank robbery starts circulating through town which provides clues to the crime. The book is chock full of fun characters - Hannah's sisters, mom, and friends. It's a fun light mystery that includes recipes for lemon meringue pie and a variety of (what sound like) delicious cookies.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot....>

Cherry says

Hannah has trouble with her cat in this one. He steals her expensive pillow. I won't spoil the surprise of whether this problem is solved.

Hannah's trousers are too tight, so she goes on a diet. I nearly cried. I have a salad every day as part of my lunch, and it's the most delicious part. I felt so sorry for Hannah, who thinks there is no middle ground between dieting and... eating. (Would that be the opposite?) Why not eat healthy food? She can 'solve' 18 or so murders, but she can't work that out? I suppose that's what happens when the town's doctor (Doc Knight, anyway) thinks that bran cookies are the best way for people to get fibre (in another one of the series). Is lettuce the only vegetable they have?

Norman has bought the old Voelker place, intending to tear it down and build the dream house that he and Hannah designed. Ooooooh - will he propose? To Hannah? Wait and see!

I've just realised that Hannah doesn't have any non-family friends except Mike and Norman.

Oh - someone is murdered in this book, and Hannah 'solves' it in her usual (view spoiler).

James says

The cozy continues... I can't get enough of these type of books. They transport me out of regular life and drop me in the reality I sometimes want to be my own. But I can also escape it when I need to...

A cop and a dentist after me? Perhaps not my ideal but it is for Hannah. I enjoy her escapades and look forward to what comes next!

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. *Note:* All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

Martha Davis says

My husband jokes about the various mystery series I read and the professions of the solvers of said mysteries. He loves to pick some far fetched job or hobby and then have them solve the crime. Topiary sculptor or glass blower, teapot collector or professional sock darner you name it they solve crimes. I myself am perfectly okay with this idea but then, I do have a remarkable ability to really suspend disbelief. So it all works out.

I'm just fine with Hannah Swensen being a baker who just happens to solve murders. I'm good with the idea the police in her town can't seem to solve any of these murders without her input. I'm alright with the fact Hannah stumbles on dead bodies more often than most people come across litter. This series works for me and I do enjoy most the characters.

In this outing Hannah's mom discovers a body in the basement of a house recently purchased by one of Hannah's love interests, Norman. (See she didn't stumble on the body this time so it works) In no time Hannah is investigating the murder and even has the okay of her other love interest, Mike, a detective in the local police. There's also a sub plot of stolen money and a local boy being led astray by his cousin and all of this takes place during 4th of July festivities.

I had a hard time sticking with this story. It moved just a little slow for me and it wasn't hard to figure out who and why the murder was committed. The side stories of Hannah's diet and her little sisters visit didn't really move the story along (though I did like the character of the little sister). There were also time where Hannah came across as a little prudish or behind the times which just struck me as odd.

None of this turned me off to the series and I'm sure I'll keep plugging away. Plus, there are some really good recipes throughout and I love a good cookie recipe.

Donna says

This series is really growing on me. I like how the characters are evolving. I am adjusting to the fact that the reader always knows who the "bad" guy is before the main character. This is just pure escapist reading--no literary quality whatsoever.

Moriah Venable says

With the fourth of July rolling around, the town is buzzing around getting everything prepared.

When Hannah's sometimes beau, calls informing her that he bought a house from the local drugstore clerk Rhonda Scarf, to tear down and build their dream house (the one they won from the contest last book), to say Hannah was surprised is an understatement. The whole town expects an engagement announcement and for her to move into the house, which Hannah spends most of the book denying to those who ask her.

Hannah is also excited to see her younger sister, Michelle, who is coming home from college. Freddy, the local, well isn't the smartest person in town, but he has a lovable personality. His cousin had returned to town to help him.

When Delores, Hannah, and Norman, go to the house, to see if there is anything they want, before it gets torn down, Delores discovers the body of Rhonda in her basement, Hannah is reluctant to investigate the murder, but with so many people having "investments" she decides to investigate. While investigating, she discovers stolen money is circulating around town, and she feels that the two things must be linked.

I have mixed feelings about this book. I loved the story and while I figured out who the murderer was about halfway through, it was still enjoyable. I just didn't really like the motive.

The love triangle is starting to get a bit tiring, but I am still rooting for Norman. I like Mike but sometimes he can be really chauvinistic in my opinion. Let's face it, he's upset that Hannah is better at getting information and finding murders than him.

I look forward to reading the next book.

Rebbie says

4 1/2 stars

So... I knew who the killer was pretty early on, but that's ok because the book was still fantastic! Things are really starting to heat up in Lake Eden, MN and I've noticed that the author is getting into a comfortable groove with both her characters and general storyline too. I don't know about you, but I love it when authors settle in, so to speak, because readers get to settle in as well. It definitely makes it easier to keep going with a series when this happens.

Anyhoo, this is book #4 in the Hannah Swensen series, and this time in Lake Eden, MN Hannah finds herself at a crossroads between two love interests: the cutey-patootie detective hunk Mike, and the nerdy-but-also-cute dentist Norman.

Norman has recently bought a home and land, with the intention of building the house of his and Hannah's dreams. Even though they had mapped out a blue print for their idea of a perfect home, Norman still took Hannah by surprise when he purchased the home and land because they had not formally discussed their romantic plans for the future.

Inside the home is where the murder mystery begins, but this time it's Hannah's mother Delores who stumbles upon the body. As is par for the course with this series, Hannah is determined to solve the case and track down the murderer, and in doing so she finds herself in a dangerous place and has to use her wits if she wants to stay alive.

The reason I didn't give this 5 full stars is because I was hoping for a bit more of a resolution as far as Hannah's romantic life goes. That's perfectly fine though; it'll just keep me excited to continue reading the series (I know I've said this before, but I hope she picks Mike. They have the most amazing chemistry together and truth be told Norman is a little bit boring imo).

On to book #5!

Elle's Book Blog says

Series Hannah Swensen series #4

Genre: Cozy Mystery

This series is my guilty pleasure. Whenever I am in a book slump and get tired of reading the same old books over and over again I know I can count on a good Hannah Swensen mystery to lighten up my reading experience. This book did just that!

Hanna Swensen, amateur sleuth and bakery owner, always finds herself in the middle of a murder investigation-- whether she wants to or not. -- In many cases, one of her delicious desserts will be present at the scene, but this doesn't make her the guilty party, it's just that she is a popular baker and everyone loves her delicious treats (recipes are included in the story). So when she spots her Lemon Meringue Pie at Norman's new house -- Rhonda's aunts home that she sold -- and her mother finds a body in that very basement, things get messy and Hanna is thrown into yet another murder case in Lake Eden.

This series, while it has a lot of books, doesn't get old for me. In each book you witness character growth and some fantastic connections between the characters. I love how close knit the town of Lake Eden is, and how everyone knows everything about what's happening. Now, while I wish Hannah would make up her mind on who to settle down with (Norman the dentist, or Mike the cop) I have a feeling that she may figure it out soon...

Fans of cozy mysteries or those who are new to the genre should definitely pick up a Hannah Swensen novel. Like I said before, this series is my guilty pleasure, and I love going sleuthing with the characters. Do I recommend it? Highly! But make sure to read the series in order!

Joy says

I love lemon meringue pie and this book has no calories!
