



Blood Orange Brewing

Laura Childs

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The new mystery in the bestselling series that's growing by leaps and bounds-and serves up "just the right blend of cozy fun and clever plotting."*

Social darling Delaine Dish is throwing a lavish Candlelight Concert to raise funds to restore a run-down Victorian home-and Theodosia Browning is more than happy to help out with tea and tasty treats from the Indigo Tea Shop.

Unfortunately, the unveiling of Theo's opulent spread proves to be far from grand after retired CEO and beloved politico Duke Wilkes falls to the floor with a jagged piece of metal protruding from his neck. When the Widow Wilkes begs Theo to apply her sleuthing skills, she can't refuse. But her investigation opens up a simmering pot of shady politics and personal payback, and Theo soon finds herself in a situation stickier than any jam she's ever served.

Blood Orange Brewing Details

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Author : Laura Childs

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From Reader Review Blood Orange Brewing for online ebook

Judee. Fong. says

Blood Orange Brewing is another fun read by Laura Childs, who also does the Scrapbooking Mysteries and the Cackleberry mysteries. Theodosia Browning, owner of Charleston's "Indigo Tea Shop" is once again embroiled in her seventh tea shop murder mystery--this time, the untimely demise of beloved politico and retired CEO, Duke Wilkes. At a benefit concert for the restoration of an 18th century mansion, Delaine Dish dramatically flings open the parlour doors to a lavish high tea, only to discover Duke's crumbled body for all of Charleston's well-heeled society to see. Supported by her loyal friends and Duke's widow, Theodosia's hunch that all is not as it seems, impels her to charge forth to prove her theory. Armed with her curiosity, exotic teas and Haley's decadent offerings from her kitchen, Theo discovers shady politics and personal payback, arriving at a dangerous and deadly conclusion. Laura Childs knows how to draw her Readers in and blows their minds with her fun and delicious cosies. The recipes included at the end of the book are a delicious bonus. And yes, "Blood Orange" really is a special tea.

Guera25 says

For reasons known only to my dogged subconscious, I keep reading these monuments to idiocy. Theodosia is a smug, condescending, self-righteous prig with a vast overestimation of her own importance and her skills as a recreational snoop, Delaine Dish exists only to make the other characters look fabulous by comparison, and the "mystery" and its resolution are so half-arsed they bear the distinct whiff of being farted out after Childs has finished watching the latest episode of A Current Affair. The text is riddled with basic SPAG errors that writers shouldn't make and even marginally-competent editors shouldn't miss, and the plot itself strains credulity from the dognapping on.

A total waste of time written solely for the chance to moralize for the last twenty pages. Avoid, avoid, avoid.

Mimi 'Pans' Herondale says

3.5 stars

an ok read

Linda says

Another fun tea shop adventure. This story twisted and turned and then the layers peeled back to reveal something totally different. I don't drink tea but I do like the descriptions and the teas that are put on at the Indigo Tea Shop always sound so fun!

Kirsti says

I'm kind of feeling a little bogged down by the same story line approach this series is taking. Theodosia and crew are catering an exciting new event, someone illustrious and/or important to the town is murdered in front of a crowd, and then Theo and crew commence solving the mystery. How can so many people get murdered at Tea Parties? Most of the other cozy series I read the murder changes, or the location. Is this series written into a corner?

I also really didn't like the ending to this one, but for spoiler reasons I won't say why. I was really enjoying this series when I first discovered them but now they're starting to grind on me. Maybe I should have a break and read something completely different? Three stars.

Kathy says

Theodosia Browning and the Indigo Tea Shop gang are enjoying a candlelight concert at the Augustus Chait House, thrown by their friend Delaine Dish in an effort to raise money for the home's restoration, when tragedy strikes. They're friend, octogenarian Duke Wilkes, is murdered, stabbed in the throat. Everyone is stunned, no one more so than Duke's widow, Pookie, who enlists Theo to help uncover Duke's killer and bring him or her to justice. Will Theo be able to keep her promise to Pookie, or will the killer claim another victim first?

Once again, Ms. Child's puts out a classic cozy mystery. Unfortunately, in this book, Ms. Child seems to get bogged down in tangential facts and details even more so than normal. It greatly disrupts the flow of the book and sometimes keeps the reader from being connected to the plot and the characters. What otherwise would have been a thoroughly enjoyable read becomes tedious at times because of this.

Lorilee says

Good story, but the end came out of nowhere...Wildlife Org? No clues for that at all.

Marty says

This seemed to be a typical quick read cozy mystery until the end. ... Theodosia Browning owns and manages a tea shop in Charleston. Her two friends help create the wonderful food and ambiance of the shop. Haley is a chef especially in baking wonderful treats to go with tea. Drayton was raised on tea plantations in China and is a master in mixing new blends and matching teas with foods. As the story opens they are doing the food service at a benefit musical in a historic home in need of repair. Unfortunately, a murder occurs just as the music ends. From there it is the typical "smart woman deals with crusty policeman who grudgingly appreciates some of her help." (typical of cozy mysteries) All is OK until the end when a totally new scene opens and quickly brings everything to conclusion. It was as if the ending to a totally different story was accidentally attached to the manuscript. I was left with the feeling of "What happened and Why??" Confusing.

Susan Ferguson says

Absolutely love this series. I love the tips on teas and discussion of the teas and the stories are wonderful. The end of this mystery caught me by surprise - never saw it coming, altho I had a twinge or two I disregarded because it seemed so unlikely for the train of events. Theo, as usual, is very busy and it is at an event that she is catering that Duke Wilkes is killed. Pookie, Duke's widow, asks Theo to help in finding who killed him. Detective Tidwell keeps prompting her to butt out and quit helping, altho she does find the handle of the knife that broke off when Duke was killed. Then Theo gets talking to Sydney Chastain, who is trying to start a new television network in the area with a focus on women in business, etc. She also has several programs that focus on investigative journalism. Sydney and Theo pick each other's brains when they discover each is a demographic junkie. Theo goes by to see Sydney about some ideas before she takes Earl Grey to the senior citizen's home for his therapy dog visit. hen she gets there she finds Sydney dead - shot. Then Earl Grey is stolen at the Kennel Club show where they are to do a service dog demonstration. Theo is absolutely furious and desperate. Drayton suggests he was kidnapped to stop Theo asking questions. But it doesn't - only makes her more determined.

Judine Brey says

The mystery story moved right along, and I felt like the criminals were foreshadowed enough without being too obvious. That said, I don't understand why Theodosia feels the need to put herself in danger - usually needlessly. There is no shame in waiting for the police to arrive after you call them - and while it might not be as exciting, the books tend to have enough excitement without placing their heroine in danger. . . again. All my favorite characters are still true to life, but I was troubled by the end of the book. I understand that Theo's heart was in the right place when she arranged to release the exotic birds, but my perfunctory knowledge of the dangers of invasive species makes the ending far less heart-warming than it was intended to be. . . Andy Griffith reference and all.

Dharia Scarab says

Didn't have the right killer for this book, it was more obscure than most. The killer only appeared in the story twice at the very beginning. On the upside, Theo actually figured out who the killer was without a trap or accidentally stumbling onto evidence.

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the

author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza, solo perché la parte gialla non mi ha "preso" molto. Adoro quando Theodosia e i suoi colleghi parlano dei vari tipi di tè (per me è arabo...) e delle varie prelibatezze che servono per accompagnarli. Alla fine di ogni libro ci sono varie ricette: prima o poi devo farmi coraggio, viste le mie scarse capacità culinarie, e proverne qualcuna...

Clare O'Beara says

The first half of the book is all about tea parties, dainty food, pretty settings and buying linen. A gentleman of means who was a war re-enactor is stabbed by an unknown assailant, and Thea who runs the tea-shop investigates a slightly spooky house where it occurred.

Apart from some poking around in a few directions, there is no more drama until the last few chapters, which are a direct copy of *Zero At The Bone* by Mary Willis Walker; only the original is far better and more convincing. I got the distinct impression that this was fitted in at the end and had not been present in the author's head at the start, though she is entitled to switch leads of course.

I would not stop anyone reading these books who likes the fussy expensive nature of the setting around a tea shop and historic homes but with the ongoing recession it seems ever less important. Some of the recipes and flavours do sound very nice. Another worry is that it really is not safe for anyone to go exploring on their own, which Thea does although we don't see her do any fitness training or sports, as they are bound to get into trouble and need help to get out of it. The heroine of *Zero At The Bone* was wise enough to pick a suitable guy to help her explore.

Mainly if you like the series, read it, but if you want a good crime to solve by getting your hands dirty, read *Zero At The Bone*.

Laurie says

The ending was way too abrupt with barely any explanation of what had been going on. This one felt pretty clumsy.

Amy says

I'm getting slightly annoyed with Theo. She has this attitude that she's the only one who can solve the crimes, and she does things like talk to suspects and contaminate crime scenes. She deserves to get shot and beat up for taking these stupid risks. If I were Tidwell, I'd put her in jail for obstruction.
