



## Just Desserts

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Detective Sergeant Savannah Reid is in her element cruising for crime in Southern California. But when she's told she's too fat to stay on the force, Savannah opens up her own detective agency and soon finds herself investigating a murder. With suspects abounding, Savannah finds herself sifting through the nasty mess of sex, adultery and down-and-dirty politics.

## Just Desserts Details

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Author : G.A. McKeve

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## From Reader Review Just Desserts for online ebook

### Meg says

I'd been wanting to read this for quite a while, and am so glad that I finally got to do so. A well written suspense/mystery with likeable and intelligent main characters; great setting of a small, seaside Southern California town. There were a couple of gruesome crime scenes, and straight talk about child predators (a separate incident from the main crime), that may prevent this from being classified as a cozy, and yet it wasn't a horror fest. A very good read.

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### Connie N. says

What a delightfully brash and enjoyable main character. Savannah is fresh, fun, tells it like it is, and her heart is in the right place. She became a cop for all the right reasons--because she wanted to serve the community and help people. But she gets involved in a political situation and ends up making some changes in her life. She's full of confidence yet isn't afraid to show her vulnerabilities. She has good friends and strong family ties. The mystery was fairly interesting but secondary to the character development. Additional characters of partner Dirk and investigators Ryan and Gibson also added fun to the book.

My only disappointment was that the book seemed to end rather abruptly. I was enjoying the development of the story and the characters, then suddenly it was solved and over. And I didn't get the ending bit about the tree and wishes. That couple of paragraphs didn't seem to go with the rest of the book at all.

Favorite quote on friendship: "Good ol' Dirk; he had always appreciated the value of a comfortable silence and didn't seem to need to sully it with worthless chitchat."

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### Mary Beth Phelps says

I was at the library the other day and one of the adult section librarians asked me if I had read any of McKeve's books. I had no idea who she was talking about and said no. So she ran into the stacks, grabbed the first Savannah Reid mystery, stuck it with my stack of books on the counter and told the librarian who was scanning my books, "She wants this one too!"

Sigh.

I really didn't want to read it but in my experience it is better to stay on excellent terms with your local librarians. And I can't lie. And I know the next time I go into the library she's going to pounce on me and ask how I liked this book. While I have a *really* hard time lying I can stretch the truth, so as far as my local library is concerned, "I did read it and it was okay, though I'm not sure when I'm going to have time to read another one."

As far as you are concerned, dear Goodreads community, the most I can give this book is 1.5 stars. It was not

terribly imaginative, the plot was ridiculously lacking in sophistication, and I just didn't care about the characters. There was a lot of language thrown around that was annoying and Savannah's "southern drawl" was awful, as was most of the vernacular the author employed. Atlanta (Savannah's sister younger by about 26 years) was an idiot, their mother was an even bigger idiot, and there is no way Savannah had grown up taking care of her 8 younger siblings (seriously, you can't have that much experience at child-care and *still* be as helpless as her). There were weird plot tangents and cliches abounded. Anyway, I'm pretty sure you get the idea.

The only reason this book doesn't get 1 star is because that is reserved for books I really hated, and this one? I just don't care enough to hate it. So the only good things that have come out of my reading this book are a) I can tell the librarian I did, in fact, read it and not have to blatantly lie, and b) I have been able to warn my fellow Goodreaders to not waste their precious reading hours on Southern Belle Savannah Reid (who lives in SoCal- wait, what the...?)

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### **Marcia says**

This is the first Savannah Reid mystery. The author refers to the action in this novel in every other Savannah Reid story. This book gives the full background on why and how Savannah Reid was fired. The characters are not as fully drawn, as would be expected, in this first book, but the seeds are definitely there. This is a real "must" read for Savannah Reid fans!

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### **carol. says**

Two and a half stars. Unusual for series books, part of the plot line leads to our heroine being fired by the police department, which leads to subsequent start of being a private detective. Most books seem to start out with the private detective and then fill in the back story as they go.

The mystery was partly credible. Her skills as a professional police detective were not, however; most of her leads seem to depend upon other people's random suggestions (such as a mysterious phone call) rather than her own investigation into the victim's life. Why did it take so long to learn he had two ex-wives, for instance? Why didn't she access financial records immediately, rather than being pointed to it later by others? She delayed talking to the chief suspect at her own chief's request, so that should have given her plenty of time to be digging into the victim's paper background. It made her less likeable as a main character; although she is supposed to be self-confident and determined, her lack of investigating made her seem incompetent to me.

The author's special twist on the female detective seems to be the focus on food and Savannah's self-appreciation of her womanly curves. That fails when the police use her weight as an excuse to fire her from the department. It also became an evident writing flaw when Savannah declined to pursue the matter through her union or her own legal representative. It gradually became clear to me that this was a device leading to the opening of her own detective agency, but it felt hollow for a character that was supposed to be determined and full of moxy. It also felt hollow to be celebrating food and curves, and then to walk away from a fight where said curves are punished.

The characters were detailed but seemed to acquire caricature status more than humanity as they interacted. I

liked her partner; he became one of the most real to me, with unspoken loves, descriptions of daily interaction and special ones (going out to eat with a sandwich) that gave him humanity. Her sister seems blatantly a cross between the stereotypically dumb blonde and the self-absorbed teen, and a further excuse for Savannah to hate her curves. A stereotypical handsome gay man shows up, with a partner who has a million useful connections, as well as a computer whiz/secretarial whistle-blowing who seems destined to become the perky assistant.

In fact, now that I analyze the book in greater detail, I feel less satisfied. Clearly a Snickers-level book; good for a fast bite in between something more satisfying.

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### **Sandy Betley says**

Savannah Reid is one of my all time favorite female detectives! She's a sassy southern gal who doesn't pussy foot around and always gets her perp! Savannah is surrounded by a huge passel of siblings, a loving granny, a dashing partner, and many other loyal friends who enjoy many crazy cases with her. This is one series you shouldn't miss!! WARNING: Once you pick these books up they're hard to put down!! May be habit forming.

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### **Victoria says**

Fluff but not really empty calories. This is the first of the series, which seems to be MANY volumes long now, and it reads like a long introduction to the characters that form their own PI agency. Might read another if I had time. But there are a lot of more worthy books in my to-read queue.

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### **Ashley FL says**

Yet another potentially cute cozy mystery wrecked by an author's insistence on obsessing about the fact that the female protagonist is Fat/Heavy/Zaftig/whatever BUT STILL BEAUTIFUL. OK, I get it already.

I wish there was a way to identify this sub-genre before reading the books -- it is profoundly annoying.

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### **Gail says**

Savannah Reid is a southern raised woman of size and substance. She's a cop in a small California coastal town. She fields the murder of the husband of a prominent politician and as the story of corruption unfolds, it's clear the victim richly deserved to be dead. She uncovers facts that make the cop bureaucracy uncomfortable and gets fired for her troubles. The widow hires her to investigate the murder and that's when the fun begins.

Told with great humor, glamour, and obsession with chocolate (nothing wrong with that) Savannah Reid uncovers the murderer and discovers her new vocation.

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## **Barbara says**

I've read several of the Savannah Reid series before and it's usually mentioned that she once was a police officer on the San Carmelita police force. You know she was fired and it worked out well in the end. (Obviously – this series is about her and her private investigative agency.)

I never knew about the details regarding her termination from the police force. You learn all about that here in this first book of the series. It's also interesting that she meets the rest of her extended family in this book. The author must have envisioned her characters well before this first book and had a good idea of her development plan as well.

Savannah is a very likable character. Though I have classified this as a cozy (since it's a relatively light, easy read); she is what a cozy heroine used to be, before they have evolved into these shallow, foolhardy, TOO STUPID TO LIVE heroines that seem to dominate the genre today. Savannah is smart and savvy. She does take risks that could seem to classify her as TSTL. But, she's a professional and the risks she takes are based on her experience – not her overwhelming ego and overconfidence in her abilities.

I was enjoyed this book and look forward to catching up on the other I've missed. I think stumbled upon this series maybe midway and look forward to going back and learning about Savannah as she grows.

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## **Jonathan says**

Not really a cozy, but at the same time, not really not a cozy; it's one of those in between books that floats just on the edge of the cozy world. Needless to say, I was expecting a cozy. However, this was a fast paced book that I thoroughly enjoyed. I'm on board for the next one.

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## **Pam says**

I like Savannah and her brassy attitude. That she didn't let her police chief boss get in her way of investigating and that he had to use her being overweight to get her fired. How typical. But it was a great plot twist that I didn't see coming.

The secondary characters are interesting, especially her partner and I enjoyed all the little pieces of her southern personality that got thrown in.

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## **Cathy Daniel says**

I read this in one day. Quick enjoyable reading. Looks like a cozy, really not a cozy. Too much language , adult situations (not sex but sex type talk and masturbation...that's really tmi) I like savannah and I really love Dirk. The tension and relationship between them is wonderful! I would read more just for that. I found

myself caring less about the mystery at the end and more about the relationships. I'm not running out to buy more of these books but if I run across one, I'll grab it!

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### **L8blmr says**

I read about 3 books in this series a long time ago, then stopped for some reason. To be honest, I don't remember which of the stories I read (I don't think I started with book #1, either, which is typical of me), but I believe I enjoyed them. The two details I retained were: (1) the titles were all a play on words using foods, and (2) the heroine and her many siblings were all named after cities in Georgia. So, this time around I decided to do it right. I enjoyed this one, book #1, enough to continue at least with the three others I acquired. The pace was good, the mystery was decent and not too predictable, the language wasn't straight out of the gutter, the main characters were at least interesting, and a couple were downright entertaining. You can't ask for much more than that from a quick, easy read when you're in the mood for a relatively light mystery. A solid 3.5 stars, rounding up because, you know.

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### **Jan says**

A fun "who-done-it" with a woman protagonist (Savannah Reid) and several quirky characters in the mix. The bookcover doesn't even hint at the storyline and I will check to see if McKeve wrote any more.

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