



A Talent for Murder

Teresa LaRue

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A Talent for Murder is a cozy, southern mystery filled with humor and colorful characters, with a touch of romance thrown in for added fun.

When Kate Spencer learns her aunt's fiancé is two-timing her with an old rival, she has no choice but to pass along the information to her mother. They are as shocked as the rest of the town when the rival turns up dead and the two-timing fiancé disappears.

Making matters worse, the lead investigator happens to be Kate's old boyfriend. If her aunt has any hope of being cleared, the trio must conduct their own investigation. Even if they have to alienate a few friends and tell a few lies to discover the truth.

A Talent for Murder Details

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From Reader Review A Talent for Murder for online ebook

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

REVIEW: A TALENT FOR MURDER by Teresa LaRue

If you're looking for a warm, cuddly, Southern cozy mystery with which to curl up, here it is. Teresa LaRue's lovely A TALENT FOR MURDER simply oozes Southern charm and attitude ("Does she know what sort of people he comes from?") and yes, Southern judgmentalism ("low down double-digging weasel"). You've got to chuckle, because the characters are so true to life: reading this mystery is like watching a stage play [more "Arsenic and Old Lace" than "The Mousetrap"]. And of course, there's got to be a murder, and all the wrong suspects are accused. There's amateur investigation, gardening, and romance. Get a cup of herbal tea, curl up in your favorite armchair, and just enjoy.

Virginia says

Set in the South (my favorite) and gardening, I found this to be a very, very good start to a new series, which, I hope, lasts a long, long time.

Teresa Kander says

Another new cozy mystery series, and another impressive author. This book is entertaining, and a great read. It's the epitome of a cozy Southern mystery.

The characters are very realistically Southern. Kate, her mother and her aunt make a great team, although her mother and aunt are more a comedy team than an investigating team. I loved all of their antics!

There are so many possible suspects in this case that I dare you to not back the wrong one at least once as the story progresses. But once the reveal comes, you will see that it all makes perfect sense.

If you love Southern living, gardening, mystery and romance, this is the book for you.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.

Cindy says

A Talent for Murder is the first book in brand new Flower Patch Mystery series. And I am ready for #2 since this one got off to a great start!

The three main characters are a daughter, her mother and her aunt and they make for some comic antics. They are down to earth southern people that you would want as friends. Lots of cooking and gardening to

add to your enjoyment of the story.

I lost count of how many times I changed my mind as to which person could be the killer. The author gives us many twists and turns. Just when I thought it was a certain person, she would give a hint that would change my mind. That makes for a fun read!

This was an excellent cozy that I would highly recommend!

* I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway. The review is my honest opinion.

Paula Ratcliffe says

This book follows the story of Kate Spencer who is opening planting class. When she learns about her aunt Lula Mae has a new boyfriend who just proposed. She also learns this boyfriend is two timing her with her worst enemy Camilla Davenport. When Camilla ends up dead and her fiancé winds up missing things get very weird.

This book was fun to read and see who killed Camilla and why. I loved the southern charm and the characters created in this book. This book had so many twists and turns in this book; and the relationships I can't wait to see what Ms. LaRue comes up with next in this delightful series. Definitely great for those who love southern mystery books; Definitely a blooming mystery to dive into!

Yvonne says

Kate Spencer left town many years ago after a breakup with her fiancé. She has returned and now owns the Flower Patch nursery with her mother. Her mother, Happy, still knows how to push Kate's buttons and drive her nuts. So does her Aunt Lula Mae, but they are family and that's the most important thing in the world to Kate.

That's why she's shocked when her Aunt Lula Mae announces she is getting married to Percy Moss. It's only been six months since Kate's uncle passed away and Lula Mae hardly even knows Percy. Kate is immediately suspicious but her aunt doesn't want to hear it. She's madly in love with Percy. Then, Aunt Lula Mae gets the shock of her life. She is devastated to learn that Percy has more than one fiancé, including Lula Mae's arch rival Camilla Davenport.

When Camilla is found dead and Percy vanishes, Lula Mae is the number one suspect. To make matters worse for Kate, the police detective in charge is her old boyfriend, Steven Griggs. Kate's only concern is for her aunt. Much to Steven's dismay, Kate, Happy and Lula Mae aren't going to sit back and leave the investigating to the police. The three women team up to find a killer.

This is the first book in the "Flower Patch Mystery" series and it's off to an amazing start. It oozes Southern charm and is filled with delightfully amusing characters. Kate, Happy and Lula Mae's antics had me laughing throughout the book. The story is fast-paced with many twists and turns. There are many suspects to choose from and there were times during the story when I thought each one was the killer. This is some town to live in – quirky and quaint doesn't even begin to describe it.

I enjoyed every minute of this sweet cozy which has humor, romance and mystery combined to give readers a delightful few hours of reading. I hope we get more books from this creative author.

FTC Disclosure: The author provided me with a copy of this book to review. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

A Holland Reads says

This was a cute mystery story to read and a good start to a new series. The characters are very much Southern and true to life. I really liked Kate and watching her trying to solve the murder. There are enough twists that just when you think you got the mystery figured out there comes along a new suspect. I even found myself smiling at the antics in this book. I like the author's writing style - for me the way she wrote made the story flow and the book to read that much faster. I am looking forward to seeing what happens next with Kate.

Brooke Showalter (Brooke Blogs) says

Full review coming 12/19/15 to Brooke Blogs.

Victoria Brinius says

Author Teresa A. LaRue has given us a really great novel called "A Talent For Murder" to read and enjoy. Kate Spencer has a problem, but, what should she do? Her mother has a sister and Kate is upset to learn that her aunt's boyfriend has another girlfriend besides her aunt. She decides to tell her mother and her mother quickly tells her sister what her boyfriend has been doing without her knowing. Then, just as this is all happening someone kills the boyfriend. Her aunt is being looked at as a possible suspect in the crime. Kate has to help solve the murder and prove her aunt is innocent. The person who is in charge of solving the crime is Kate's old boyfriend. Kate is having to deal with her aunt's involvement with the murdered man and now her old boyfriend. I liked this story and the characters. I give this book a 4/5. I was given this book for a review and all opinions are mine.

- See more at: <http://dealsharingaunt.blogspot.com/s...>

Cyn Mcdonald says

Reads like bad fan fic. Almost gave up several times.

Grey853 says

Kate Spencer's aunt is engaged to a scoundrel who's apparently dating and fleecing most of the single older ladies in town. When one ends up dead, her aunt becomes a prime suspect.

I had several problems with the book. First is that the main character is overshadowed by more dominant characters, mainly her mother, Happy, and her aunt. It's like Kate's just there to be pushed around and forced to engage in activities she's told to do by her elders. She really needs to grow a spine and tell her mother to back the hell off. Overbearing mothers are a pet peeve of mine in cozy mysteries.

The second problem is that a lot of the situations just aren't realistic at all.

I got through it, but it took several tries to finish.

Michaela says

An entertaining, funny cozy mystery with "colorful and unique" characters. I loved it (especially "Happy") and cannot wait to read more books in this series.

I won this book through Goodreads Giveaways.

Julie Siemek says

A well-written quirky Southern mystery that had me guessing until the end.
