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Goldy Schulz is thrilled to be catering a holiday breakfast feast for the staff of the Aspen Meadow Library. But little does she know that on the menu, alongside the Great Expectations Grapefruit, Chuzzlewit Cheese Pie, and Bleak House Bars, is a large helping of murder.

Sweet Revenge Details

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Author : Diane Mott Davidson

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From Reader Review Sweet Revenge for online ebook

Elena Santangelo says

This was an audiobook, so I'll begin with the reader. Barbara Rosenblat is one of my favorite readers, though I have to admit, I don't think this was her best work. A lot of her male voices sounded so similar, I sometimes had trouble telling them apart. They all sounded adolescent, which was fine for the adolescent character, but not for the adults. And more than once, when she read an attribution followed by an adverb ("she said hesitantly"), I didn't think the tone of her voice matched the adverb. It was enough to pull me from the story while I wondered why she'd said it the way she had. Still, her reading may have been what got me all the way through the story.

I had trouble caring about the characters and I'm not sure why. It's not that they were all unpleasant or even uninteresting. I did have a bit of trouble keeping the suspects/victims/other players straight. They almost all seemed to be cut from the same mold~ that is, all the same type of people (mega-wealthy, white, entitled, and not much else). The main character, Goldy, is a caterer, and this was set in December, so it was her busy season, yet I really got tired of her cooking constantly and describing her cooking in great detail as she did it. I didn't need that much detail (I do like to cook, but perhaps not so much as I thought). There were plenty of nice red herrings in the mystery plot, fairly well laid out, and the solution worked, but somehow, I was unsatisfied.

But I'll give the novel the benefit of the doubt~ it was a library book and some of the CD tracks skipped so I missed bits of the story. Maybe I missed something important.

Margaret says

Wherever Goldy Schultz goes, there will eventually be a dead body or two. Now free of "the Jerk", her ex-husband, she is free to become attacked by others who wish her ill. Fortunately her big handsome police officer husband is often nearby, and there she is, sticking her nose into yet another of his cases that he tells her to keep away from and stick to cooking. But no, Goldy (who thrives on 3 or 4 hours of sleep) will not rest until she's nearly killed herself several times, wrecked her best friend's sports car or gotten herself in any number situations. Meanwhile, she's catering events with culinary delights (recipes at the end of the book), ferrying Arch and his buddies back and forth to the ski slope, and feeding whoever comes into her kitchen with mouth-watering treats. She's also always surrounded by multi-millionaires it seems. This book went on and on and on, and by the end, I didn't care WHO had done the dirty deed.

Terrie Shortsleeve says

I used to really love the Goldy Bear mysteries. The way she would wax rhapsodic about the food she was preparing or tasting was always a fun read. Unfortunately, this book was the worst of the entire series so far. Honestly, how many times can one person endure life-threatening injuries in one day? In Goldy's case, the answer is apparently 3. I also found her constant questioning of the facts for pages and pages at multiple points in the story to be tedious. This is not a 1000 page novel!! I'm sure your average reader can remember everything that happened in the previous 25-30 pages without the author needing to go over it ad nauseum.

And, frankly, I'm with Arch: let the boy grow up already and stop being such a freakishly over-protective mom!!! I don't know if I'll read any of the further mysteries in this series or if I'll just start back over with *Catering to Nobody* and stop before I get to this stinker.

Kate says

Overly longgggg and wordy. I actually like the food/cooking descriptions, but I can't stand the repetition and tangents. Plus, I was bummed that even though this book takes place at Christmas there is virtually no discussion of the holiday season. Goldy doesn't even cater any holiday parties or make any seasonal recipes, it might as well have taken place in March :(

Ashley says

Sweet Revenge is a solid **2.5 star** novel, that unfortunately doesn't work well as a stand alone novel or else it would be closer to a 3 or 3.5 star. I got this book and a few others by Diane Mott Davidson at a used book sale, without realizing this was the 14th installment in a series.

The bulk of this story involves elements from a previous story (apparently in book 12) and the summaries given in this book are not sufficient for someone who hasn't read that story. The basic gist can be understood but **I wouldn't recommend reading this book without reading *Double Shot* first.**

That being said the rest of the story is enjoyable. While setting up a catering event at the local library, Goldy is the second on scene when a dead body is found in the reading room. Drew Wellington, the former district attorney, was involved in dealing in high end antique maps and meeting clients at the library was his well known routine. His girlfriend, Patricia Ingersoll, a former client and acquaintance of Goldy asks for her help in clearing her name and finding out what really happened to Drew. With her husband Tom, a sheriff's department investigator, Goldy risks life and limb to get to the bottom of things; all while preparing and serving fabulous catered meals.

(view spoiler)

Overall the story was decent but unremarkable and without the context of the previous book the Sandee Brisbane elements weren't strong.

Lorraine says

Skip to the last chapter. Read that. It's faster and less painful.

I can suspend reality and accept the coincidences of all those involved in the murders are in Goldy's life right now, that she's super-sleuth compared to the cops, and similar quirks associated with the murder-mystery genre. But Super Goldy, as she is in this book, is just too much. What human can set up for a catering event, and deal with cops after finding a body one evening, then the next day cater three events, plus run around town, deal with visitors dropping by, and taxi her son and his friends from snowboarding, and the next day get up early for church, crash a car, fall down a ravine (hitting treeS and rocks), run around town again, visit

the ski slope and be knocked out, go to the hospital, get up the next morning for a quickie with her husband before catering another event...and solve a mystery. Did I mention that it was snowing the whole time? Caffeine is great, but please. That's 72 hours. No way.

My other big beef with the book is that the plot, at least for the first half of the book, only moves along by people TELLING Goldy information. What a boring way to develop a mystery. And then once a chapter (at least) Goldy reviews the information and events (I swear she narrates the main murder three or four times within 50 pages of it happening). She throws in speculation/question after speculation/question that are already obvious to a reader only half paying attention. "Why is Sandee here? How did she not die in the fire? Who murdered Drew Wellington?" Duh. We realize those are questions to be answered: you don't have to spell them out for us OVER AND OVER.

The characters are all pretty flat and unimaginative, and in this audio version, the men all sound impatient, angry, and rude; the women are self-centred and weepy; and the kids are whiners. Or maybe that's just the writing.

If you like to read a chapter a week, this book is for you. If you want to be treated like an intelligent reader, try PD James. I think I'm done with Goldy Bear and her stupid catering business "Where everything is just ~~right~~ boring".

Ingrid says

Wow, this is the worst one yet. Why do I keep reading this series? I sort of want to finish them all so I can cross it off my reading to do list, and at some point I did enjoy these books and I keep waiting for the good writing to return. Enough is enough. Not suffering through another of these books ever again! How many times did you count that Goldie should have called the police? I stopped counting at 10. Now she's blatantly breaking laws and truly obsessed with finding out something, ANYTHING. I would just sigh out of frustration each time she recklessly endangered other people.

And if you know where a fugitive is, report it to the police. Don't be a dummy and try to deal with that person yourself. Goldie wasn't even trying to apprehend them! And how many injuries/accidents will it take for her to stay down? I am disgusted by the behavior of this character and can't believe I've wasted so much time on this series.

Penny Evenson says

Goldy Schulz is thrilled to be catering a holiday breakfast feast for the staff of the Aspen Meadow Library. But little does she know that on the menu, alongside the Great Expectations Grapefruit, Chuzzlewit Cheese Pie, and Bleak House Bars, is a large helping of murder.

While setting up at the library, Goldy spots a woman lurking in the stacks who bears a striking resemblance to Sandee Brisbane—the Sandee Brisbane who killed Goldy's ex-husband, the Jerk. But Sandee is supposed to be dead. Or so everyone believes.

Goldy's suspicions mount when the body of Drew Wellington, a former district attorney, is found in a corner

of the library with a map worth thousands of dollars stashed in his clothing. She's convinced that Sandee is involved.

Great plot with a little humor!

Megan says

I usually favor Goldy over Hannah and Lucy when it comes to the most popular three cozy heroines. Towards the end of the 14th book I was ready to throw in the towel and dub Goldy a moron. But hey I've read all of Flukes dragged out mysteries and many Meier's lackluster mysteries. I don't give up easily. Besides the fact the book was much longer than usual and the end felt very rushed and that the killer's motive was weak and not thought out I felt like Goldy was a total idiot. This time around I started questioning why cozy heroines end up in the clutches of a killer in every book? Why these women who are able to figure out what the cops can't cannot prevent their own abduction and attempted murder? This time around it was pretty blatant Goldy was acting recklessly and asking for trouble. What normal person who has been brutally attacked twice in once day decides to go towards where they think a killer is hiding? An idiot. Usually I felt bad for Goldy and wondered why Davidson made her the victim all of the time. Now I am just starting to think Goldy's choices make it easier for her to be the victim. No one's luck is that good she should be dead by now. With 2 books left to go in the series I'm hoping Davidson will wither start to wrap it up or get with the program and Goldy will start to behave more rationally. Either way this tripe is getting old.

James says

Book Review

3 of 5 stars for Sweet Revenge, the 14th book in the "Goldy Bear Schultz Culinary" cozy mystery series, written in 2007 by Diane Mott Davidson. I enjoyed this book and have been rather fond of the series, but it was not without its issues. What's great about this edition is not only do you have the normal delicious and fun recipes, but you've got a mystery about old maps and books. Goldy's catering at the library and serves up some fun themes between what she's preparing and the murder she needs to solve. And on top of the normal fun, the woman who killed Goldy's ex, thought to be dead, has popped back up. Is it her our a look-a-like? And if it's her, does she want revenge on Goldy, or are they on the same side? Lots of open questions, but given this deals with stuff that happened in a prior book, you need to have read the first one. But you also feel it's a bit repetitive. That said, Goldy is a great character and I love all the shenanigans.

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.

Kerry says

I grabbed this audio book as an antidote to a long 8 hour drive this summer. I wanted something entertaining and engaging enough to keep boredom at bay and my eyes wide awake. I broke my own rule with this story and deviated from starting a series at the very beginning. As everyone always says about most series, "you don't need to read them from the beginning." This is one of the places I exhibit a little OCD in my life, let me have it. But, that statement does apply in this case. A little long (10 disks) but enjoyable and I'm happy to report that it kept me awake and engaged the whole way...and then some. My only criticism is the author's habit of having her character review everything that has happened up to that point on numerous occasions. She must encounter a lot of readers with short term memory. A minor inconvenience for a fun little murder mystery with recipes to boot. I'm afraid I can't remember the name of the woman who read the novel for the CD but she was very good. She had an amazing ability to alter her voice just slightly for a different character that was easily discernible. Not the easiest thing to do when asked to do voices for more than 5 women and 6 men, a few of which were teenage boys. Well done!

Dawn says

The Goldy Bear mysteries are brain candy. Fun characters, good recipes at the end.

Lain says

This could very well be the worst Goldy mystery yet. Not only are the characters mere two-dimensional puppets, Goldy has turned into a narcissistic busy-body who I found myself rooting against. The supporting characters are merely that -- props that allow Goldy to do whatever the heck she wants and then pull her out of trouble when she finds herself stuck.

How many times can one person put themselves in harrowing circumstances with no clear reason? How often can Goldy tromp over her friends and lie to everyone under the sun to stick her nose where it doesn't belong? How many map dealers could there possibly be in one small town? And how often can DMD use the phrases "white stuff," "two-step," and "quickstep?" The mystery itself doesn't make much sense, and Goldy vacillates from feeling sorry for Sandy to quaking in her boots at the mere mention of her name.

I used to love this series, but I'm afraid it just went onto my "don't waste your time list."

Colleen says

Another good mystery by this author. Good recipes included also. I always get hungry when reading her books! I recommend this book and others from her series for a nice read.

Syd Perry says

It was refreshing to read a gentle mystery. There were murders, crazy people, mean people, skulduggery but all without the graphic details. This is an example of the only sex scene in the book, "We made love in the shower." I don't need to know any more than that.

There are plenty of humorous antics and recipes at the end (Goldie, the main character, is a caterer).

Kitty Tomlinson says

Goldy deals with map dealing and murder.

Helen E Baker says

Good book

It amazes me how well the author knows how teenage boys act and feel. Having one of my own, I can attest to the eye rolls.

All of the books in this series make me think about the duality of humans; how people can be generous and dangerous, good and evil. It is in everyone to be either way...it is up to the person to choose the right path.

Auntie says

My friend Gretchen shared this author with me. Diane Mott Davidson has a series of Culinary Mysteries that are, in Gretchen's words, "potato chips for the mind". No deep, dark insights here...but wonderfully commentary on the foibles and peculiarities of the mountain community people of Colorado..some of whom are Episcopalians. Yes, the main character espouses faith. So delightful!

Best bonus is that the main sleuth is a Caterer and proceeds to solve crimes while on the various jobs she takes on. All the recipes mentioned are collected in the back of the book. Yum!!!

Melanie says

Murder and mayhem set against the backdrop of stealing maps from rare book libraries...Although if we had referred to said libraries as "what's called Special Collections" one more time, I was going to go crazy.

Jan says

I like this series of books. They are quick read books that are fun. Goldie Schultz is always getting into some

kind of trouble. She is funny.
