



## Time Out

*Suzanne M. Trauth*

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**Time Out** Suzanne M. Trauth

## **KNISH OF DEATH**

The amateur actors at the Etonville Little Theatre may be known for chewing the scenery, but restaurant manager Dodie O'Dell has something more appetizing for them to sink their teeth into. She's been taking bows in her small New Jersey town for her theme menus, designed to complement the local productions. This fall, the community theatre is staging *Arsenic and Old Lace*, set in 1940s Brooklyn, so Dodie is serving up hot dogs, Italian ices, egg creams, and knishes at the weekend food festival.

All is going well until Antonio Digenza, the ex-Off-Off-Broadway director of the show, dies dramatically while noshing on a knish. As rumors of food poisoning quickly spread, Dodie scrambles to rescue the Windjammer restaurant's reputation. But when clues point to foul play, she's faced with a cast of suspects all auditioning for the part of DiGenza's murderer. She'll need to act fast to shine a spotlight on the killer—before it's curtains for another victim . . .

## **Time Out Details**

Date : Published January 17th 2017 by Lyrical Underground

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Author : Suzanne M. Trauth

Format : Kindle Edition 240 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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## **From Reader Review Time Out for online ebook**

### **Rebecca Douglass says**

Time Out is a solid mystery with a few issues that kept me from truly loving it. The main characters are interesting and fairly well developed (I did feel I was maybe missing some things because this is the second in a series, and I have not read the first). The town felt real, and there is a nice touch of humor in the writing.

I did, however, get off to a poor start with a dump of too much information about the town, the theater, and the people in the first few pages. Once I got that straightened out, the story moved along well. My deeper criticism is a common one for cozy mysteries: I didn't feel that Dodie's motivation for running her own investigation was adequate. At first it was justifiable--she needed to clear the restaurant of any culpability in Digenza's death, and the police chief was a little too willing to accept the man's death at face value--but later, I felt that the effort to make Dodie's failure to share information with the police was a bit contrived.

I also fully expected the worst, as she kept insisting on doing things like searching the theater on her own, even after she'd been attacked twice. That was a bit too much like the horror movies where the heroine insists on entering the dark room alone...

With all that out of my system, I have to say that the mystery was well-constructed. I didn't figure it all out, and yet didn't feel that I'd been cheated of information that I should have been given. In the end, despite my frustrations, I have to say I generally enjoyed the book, and it was certainly no chore to read it. In fact, once past the first few pages, where I did have to do some flipping back and forth (most annoying with an e-book), I zipped through it quickly.

If you enjoy cozies with a decent touch of romance, and especially if you have any interest in theater (I've done just enough to get a kick out of the theater group's antics), you'll probably enjoy this.

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### **Karen says**

I highly recommend this second book in the series. I enjoyed the small town amateur theatre, the Windjammer restaurant, along with the interesting and well written characters. The whodunit was well paced and kept me guessing.

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### **Katreader says**

TIME OUT by Suzanne Trauth  
The Second Dodie O'Dell Mystery

With a continued partnership with the Etonville Little Theatre Dodie O'Dell's latest idea is an outdoor food festival with a 1940s Brooklyn theme to correspond with the play, Arsenic and Old Lace. As usual, the theatre is having its own issues, especially with guest director, Antonio Digenza, and his young wife, Tiffany. Dodie is having issues of her own between Henry's niece, Honey "helping" at the restaurant and wondering if she has a relationship with the Chief of Police or not. But when Antonio drops dead after eating

a plateful of festival food, both restaurant and theatrical production may be kaput, even if it wasn't the knishes that did him in!

When the hairs on the back of her neck stand up Dodie O'Dell knows that something's wrong. Those hairs stood up a few times in this second Dodie O'Dell Mystery. *TIME OUT* is a story and a mystery about relationships. Dodie's new relationship with Henry's niece, Honey, is one frustrating affiliation as is the confusing relationship she has with Etonville's busy Chief of Police. There's also the relationship between the Windjammer restaurant and the Etonville Little Theatre (ELT), Dodie's relationship with the theatre members, and their relationships with each other. Trauth brings in new blood to the ELT in the form of guest director, Antonio Digenza, and his young wife. Antonio's relationships are key to the mystery itself!

*TIME OUT* provides a satisfying second act to the Dodie O'Dell Mystery series. Well rounded characters, plenty of humor, and an intimate look at community theatre and family restaurants enhance the mystery. So grab a black and white cookie, but perhaps pass on the elderberry wine, and take your own time out to enjoy this delightful mystery.

FTC Disclosure – The publisher sent me a digital ARC provided through NetGalley, in the hopes I would review it.

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### **Bree says**

Dodie, oh my new dear friend. You got yourself in a humdinger this time. She is seriously one of the best cozy characters I have come across. She has a sass and at the same time charm that will make the readers fall in love with her. Her friends, and the secondary characters add to her charm, I love when I read a book that gives such support to the primary sleuth in the book. Suzanne, you wrote her well. I think that theater mysteries are the crimes for 2017. And I am not complaining, the scene and the crime were delightful, I really enjoyed it. This book was fun, and so enjoyable that I can't wait to read Suzanne's next book. And I can't wait to be partner in crime with Dodie.

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### **Lynne says**

I enjoyed this mystery. It didn't grab my attention like other books. Part of this may have been the format (pdf). I did confuse characters, Lola, Carol, who did Pauli belong to, etc. The characters are fun, but nothing memorable. Could be because I haven't read the first book. Maybe each book in the series will reveal more about the people of the town. When the murder was revealed I was surprised. Perhaps the "clues" weren't obvious like in other books. It was fun and enjoyable and I would read another by this author.

I received this book from Netgalley for an honest review.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Another entertaining installment in the Dodie O'Dell Mysteries!

Once again, author Suzanne Trauth shows small towns, rather they be in the deep south or New Jersey, are hot beds of gossip, and murder (Okay, not all are full of murder, but in cozies they are!).

TIME OUT was a good mystery, with enough suspects to keep me guessing until the end. Some of the main characters have been a bit more fleshed out. I enjoy seeing characters grown through a series.

If you're looking for a new cozy mystery, take some time out and read TIME OUT!

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### **Lisa Morin says**

This is an interesting series. The main character is likeable and the story is well written. There isn't one specific part of the story that I enjoy, I think it's more of the book as a whole. It weaves a fun story about life in a small town, a comical cast of amateur sleuths and of course, Murder!

Dodie is the manager of a local restaurant and she seems to always find herself in the thick of things.

When a guest director drops dead, Dodie is in fear of the restaurant's reputation being damaged. She investigates and finds herself in some wild predicaments.

I think most cozy fans will enjoy this series. It is fast paced and the characters make this an entertaining story.

I read an ARC of this book voluntarily. I was provided a copy of the book by the publisher via NetGalley.

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### **Jessica Robbins says**

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

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### **Nancy says**

"Time Out" was my first book by Suzanne Trauth.

This cozy murder mystery is about restaurant manager and amateur detective Dodie O'Dell. Dodie's character is likable enough for you to keep reading, she's funny and inquisitive. Most of her escapades are questionable but you keep reading to see where she is heading even when little reality checks click in your head telling you that no one would do some of the things she does.

Maybe because I didn't read the first book, I don't have a true feel for all of the towns cast of characters, from Dodie's best friend Lola to her love interest, Bill, the chief of police. I sometimes felt that there might be some background I'm missing that might have been introduced in the first book.

I can't say that this was a cozy mystery that I just couldn't put down, but it was enjoyable enough for me to keep picking it up throughout my week to find out how things in Etonville turned out. I am sure I'll pick up another Dodie O'Dell Mystery to see where Dodie and Bill find themselves next.

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## **Kelly says**

**\*\*I voluntarily reviewed this ARC\*\***

Overall this was a decent book, but it didn't hold my attention the entire time. I had part of it figured out by a third of the way through, which made parts of the book a bit tedious. One of the main reasons I wanted to read this book is because I love the movie version of Arsenic and Old Lace, so I was a little disappointed when it didn't play much of a part in the plot.

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## **Andrea Guy says**

Time Out is the second book in a new series. I absolutely loved it. Dodie is a wonderful cozy mystery heroine and her other cast of characters make the book a super fun read.

I read a lot of cozy mysteries, and I always look for something new and different when it comes to our amateur sleuths and Dodie is really different. She's a restaurant manager for her uncle's restaurant the Windjammer.

The death in this book doesn't really totally affect Dodie either, though at the beginning it looked like the victim might have suffered from food poisoning. What really surprised me was that it wasn't until the book was all but over that Bill, the police chief learns that there was more to Antonio's death than just a heart attack.

Antonio's the director of the community theater that is putting on Arsenic and Old Lace. He also has enough people that might want him dead and includes a couple of ex wives. His death has the whole community theater in an uproar to the point where they might not put the show on.

It was a fun story, and Dodie is one of the smarter cozy heroines that I've encountered, though I had a hard time figuring out why she involved herself so much in mystery, that wasn't a mystery, to the point where she was leaving her job at all times. Unlike most cozies, she doesn't own the Windjammer, her uncle does and he's the cook, and for someone that is crabby most of the time, I couldn't figure out why he didn't get on her case at all.

Honey was another strange character. She's another niece of Henry's and she sometimes seems to be muscling in on Dodie's job, but then she wants to go back to school too. She's an odd young woman.

When Dodie starts uncovering things in Antonio's past, that's when the story really gets interesting. Antonio definitely isn't a guy that you could like.

I definitely want to go back and read the first book in the series, because I'd like learn more about some of the secondary characters, and I definitely want to see what happens to Dodie and Bill.

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## **Sally Hannoush says**

From reading this story I noticed lots of mentions to a previous case and other things so I'm guessing it's not the first in the series. But enough information is given that it makes this story work without reading anything more than this book as a stand alone. The cast of characters are real characters! I don't know which one was my favorite quirky character. But that's a good thing. It keeps things entertaining. There was enough going on that it kept you guessing.

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## **Barb says**

Restaurant manager Dodie wants to put The Windjammer on the map with her themed menus, designed to coordinate with the plays put on by the Etonville Little Theatre. When the director of the show dies while at the food festival launching this season's production, however, The Windjammer may be closing its doors for good. When foul play is suspected, Dodie is determined to find the cause -- and the reason -- for his death to save the restaurant's reputation.

Once again, I was disappointed to learn that this is \*not the first book in the series, as I am a read-in-order person, and nothing was posted to indicate that this is the second in a series. There were a lot of references to what I suspect are events from the first book in the series, which were confusing and left holes in the story.

That said, once I filled in the gaps with my own backstory, I liked the book, despite the presence of several of my pet peeves. How often can Dodie disappear from the restaurant she's supposed to be managing before it starts to affect her work? Why does she jump to so many conclusions about so many things? And how long will this series last if she continues to exhibit so many TSTL characteristics? I will probably read the next book in the series, but unless Dodie starts to behave more sensibly and responsibly, I will most likely not continue beyond that.

*Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read and review this book.*

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## **RO G'ma says**

Time Out is the second book in Suzanne Trauth's Dodie O'Dell Mystery series. This book is fast paced and the characters are well developed. Ms. Trauth has succeeded in writing a wonderfully crafted whodunit that became a page-turner. The writing style flows smoothly and the book is a quick, easy read. This is a clean cozy mystery featuring no gratuitous sex, violence, or foul language. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well-crafted cozy mystery.

Dodie O'Dell lives in the quaint community of Etonville and is the manager of Windjammer, a local restaurant, and helps her friends at the Etonville Little Theater. Dodie has created theme menus that complement the plays that are performed at the community theater. The theater has hired a guest director, Antonio Digenza, and the cast will be performing Arsenic and Old Lace. On the first day of the weekend food festival, Antonio drops dead and rumors start flying that he died from food poisoning from Windjammer's food. Dodie knows their food wasn't tainted but fears the restaurant's reputation will be irreparably damaged and, much to Police Chief, Bill Thompson's displeasure she starts asking questions and investigating on her own. Dodie discovers secrets and uncovers a lot of clues.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

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## **DelAnne Frazee says**

Title: Time Out - Dodie O'Dell Mystery Book 2

Author: Suzanne Trauth

Publisher: Kensington Books

Published: 1-17-2017

Pages: 242

Genre: Mystery & Thriller

Sub-Genre: Suspense, Women's Fiction, Cozy Mystery, Women's Fiction, Amateur Sleuths, Culinary Mystery

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ASIN: B01DDEQ2N1W6

Reviewed For NetGalley and Kensington Books

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.25 Stars

The amateur actors at the Etonville Little Theatre may be known for chewing the scenery, but restaurant manager Dodie O'Dell has something more appetizing for them to sink their teeth into. She's been taking bows in her small New Jersey town for her theme menus, designed to complement the local productions. This fall, the community theatre is staging *Arsenic and Old Lace*, set in 1940s Brooklyn, so Dodie is serving up hot dogs, Italian ices, egg creams, and knishes at the weekend food festival.

All is going well until Antonio DiGenza, the ex-Off-Off-Broadway director of the show, dies dramatically while noshing on a knish. As rumors of food poisoning quickly spread, Dodie scrambles to rescue the Windjammer restaurant's reputation. But when clues point to foul play, she's faced with a cast of suspects all auditioning for the part of DiGenza's murderer. She'll need to act fast to shine a spotlight on the killer—before it's curtains for another victim . .

Once Again Dodie is on the case showing her wit, intelligence and humor. The director's death while eating Dodie's food put a shadow on her and her restaurant gets her dander up. Checking out suspects place her in sights of a killer. The race is on to identify the killer before the final curtain is called on Dodie.

Well written story, that moves quickly and smoothly. Characters that multidimensional and interesting. A great way to spend an lazy afternoon.

My rating of "Time Out - Dodie O'Dell Mystery Book 2" is 4.25 out of 5 stars.

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