



Death of a Christmas Caterer

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Who better than food and cocktails columnist Hayley Powell to book a caterer for the Island Times holiday party? But Hayley's quest for a cook turns into the pursuit of a killer who caters to no one. . .

Office Christmas parties can sometimes mean career suicide--but they rarely lead to murder. Hayley thought Garth Rawlings would be the perfect caterer for this year's bash, but when the gourmet sees her budget, he goes galloping.

Unfortunately his run is short-lived. Garth is found dead on the floor of his kitchen, with his delectable creations burning in the oven. Faced with a spread of suspects, Hayley is determined to discover who would want to take out the Christmas caterer, because--no matter what the season--justice must be served. . .

Includes seven delectable recipes from Hayley's kitchen!

Praise for Death of a Coupon Clipper

"Hayley is a likable heroine that readers will cheer for as she manages to save the day and pay her bills."
--Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Death of a Christmas Caterer Details

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Author : Lee Hollis

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From Reader Review Death of a Christmas Caterer for online ebook

Vanessa says

Fun easy read

Laurie Way says

Good one! A solid cozy and some yummy recipes. Perfect for a chilly day and lazy vacation day read!

Jonathan says

Excellent, this series continues getting better.

Robin and Michael St Pierre says

Sister Brother team did it again

This duo makes you think it's an easy to figure out who did it. Aha, they tricked you again. Your interest will be kept, you think you got this one and then surprise. A can't put it down book.

Valerie says

This series is easy to read and enjoyable. Single mom Haley Powell continues to get involved solving murders while antagonizing the crime journalist who works on the same paper she does. Her two closest friends are easy to identify with and will keep a smile on your face.

Paula Ratcliffe says

In this book Hayley Powell is getting ready for Christmas when she gets roped into planning the Island Times Holiday party after bombing out with a local chef due to what she is given financially to work with Hayley sets out to cook food for the party. When local chef Garth Rawlings hears about it through twitter he hires Hayley to help out at the years bash. What Hayley didn't count on was finding Garth dead! How does a man die of homicide in a locked warehouse kitchen? Will Hayley figure it out or will this be the death that never gets resolved?

This book had a lot going with the holidays coming. Hayley's daughter Gemma in a holiday pageant. Also

this one has Hayley knee deep trying to figure out what happened with Garth, who kill him and why? Hayley isn't one to sit on the sidelines while a murderer runs around free. This book involved a cheating spouse, a sparse relationship between Hayley and the corner Sabrina, and two loves in Hayley's Christmas tree. Hayley will have to weed through the people involved to get to the bottom of it and make a decision in her personal life!

I love this series especially Hayley, Mona and Liddy they are such great friends to one another/ This book didn't disappoint with the story. They can really make you laugh along with Hayley english challenged brother in law Sergio who tries so hard with english but hasn't toally mastered it yet!

Nancy H says

I really enjoy this series. The mysteries are good and well-plotted, and the characters are really great. In this one, someone murdered a great chef, although one who had annoyed many people in town. The chef was murdered in his warehouse kitchen, with all the doors locked, no windows, solid walls, and no way for anyone to get in to do the deed. Of course, Hayley and her friends find a way to solve the mystery and take care of some other problems as well. It is a good read!

Kathie says

Great mystery and lots of chuckles and laughs thrown into the story.

Dawn Frazier says

Great book! I love this series, this was a great Christmas read, Looking forward to the next book!

Pearl says

I enjoy Christmas books. Even light-hearted murder mystery books centered around Christmas. However, I just couldn't stand how the characters were portrayed as idiots. And the main character was not a woman that I would ever consider to be a credible role model. At one point a co-worker forces himself on her while inebriated at their holiday work party. She later says, "we all do things we didn't mean when under the influence. No one will even remember this in two weeks." This is shocking and appalling and not an appropriate message under any circumstances.

Janet says

This one is lighter and goes a different way in how did the murder happen. Not obvious so that was fun. My favorite part was the church nativity play. Hysterical version had me laughing out loud. Great fun.

Nicole says

I'm currently making my way through the entire Hayley Powell Food and Cocktails Mystery Series, and this 5th book is just as fun and cozy as the previous 4! Nicely done, Lee Hollis! On to book 6 for this gal! A+

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Hayley Powell, food and drink writer for the Island Times in Bar Harbor, Maine, has just barely begun a new relationship with the handsome vet when she hears that her old boyfriend, Lex Banfield has had an accident and is in the hospital. So Hayley, feeling sorry for him, brings him food so he won't have to eat hospital fare. She's still complaining about her lack of money but never even thinks of bailing to go to the other newspaper which might actually give her a living wage (didn't they have an opening after book #1?). It's hard to feel sorry for someone who's already wallowing in their penury but won't do anything about it.

She also has been given the dubious duty of planning the office Christmas party with one days' notice. When she gets a caterer - Garth Rawlings - he hangs up on her once he finds out what the budget is going to be, and Hayley winds up making all the food herself. But when Garth learns people are raving about her menu, he hires her to help him for a couple of days and promises her \$1500 to do so. How can she turn it down? But when she arrives at Garth's kitchen, there's a problem - a fire, and Garth is found dead on the floor. County coroner Sabrina Merriwether rules it death by beating - but how did it happen when Garth was found in a locked room with no windows?

No, Hayley knows there's more to the story, and she's determined to find the truth. What she does discover is that Garth had plenty of enemies, his marriage wasn't everything it was cracked up to be, and there are people who don't want her to know the truth, regardless if it means she'll have to be put away in a deep freeze forever...

Well, I guess I shouldn't go so far as to say I had high hopes for this book. Hayley is Too Stupid To Live. Her new boyfriend Aaron asks her to a romantic dinner, and Lex calls her begging her to bring him food. So what does she do? She agrees - in front of Aaron, KNOWING. Just knowing. What. A. Stupid. Woman. Seriously, what is wrong with her? Someone needs to show her a picture of a doormat and tape her name to it. Then Hayley needs to photocopy it and put it in her home, at work, in her car, etc. She should have just told Lex no, and that she'd see him tomorrow. What a bleeding heart she is.

She also learns that her ex-husband is going to Bermuda instead of buying his kids Christmas gifts, or paying for half of their tickets to visit him. Why not tell the kids what their dad is doing? I would. She owes him nothing, and should probably rethink her custody agreement. What good is a father who puts his new girlfriend ahead of his children? No, thank you. She learns this at the beginning of the book, but then the subject is...dropped. Throughout the rest of the book...

Anyway, now she's sort of on the outs with Aaron, and things just keep going from bad to worse. At the office Christmas party, her coworker Bruce corners her and then after she barely escapes he tries to deny it the next day until Sal (her boss) lets Bruce know he saw everything. So Hayley just wants to forget it, because you know, sexual assault by a drunk coworker is no big deal, right? Even when it's brought up time

and again, we should just go with it and say, 'Hey, the guy was just drunk' and shrug our shoulders about the whole situation.

So her relationship problems notwithstanding, she starts to investigate another murder. Let's just say Hayley isn't known for being subtle. And of course, it gets her in trouble and in real danger a couple of times. But then she does something so totally stupid that I realizes this must be the dumbest woman on the face of the earth. Here it is - and it's an ending spoiler, so if you don't want to know, don't read it:

(view spoiler)

What I have decided is that the characters in this book aren't the brightest bulbs on the Christmas tree. Sabrina is a coroner but repeatedly makes mistakes - big ones. Mistakes no coroner would miss. Hayley is getting close to being a moron. Her intelligence seems to go down in each succeeding book, which is pretty hard to do. And of course, she still has no problem drinking and driving. What people need to realize is that when you have even one drink and get behind the wheel of a car, you're not only taking your own life in your hands, you're also taking everyone else's who happens to be out on the road that night. And it's winter, icy and cold. Not a good idea.

I really do hope that any more books in this series will have Hayley wising up to life and getting a new job and stop allowing people to walk all over her. A light, fluffy read.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Before I start my review, I have to say I have been remiss in writing a review for this book. I should have done it last year (2014) when I read it, and indeed thought I had, only to find I hadn't when I went to refer to my review for this title while writing one for the newest book in the series, DEATH OF A CUPCAKE QUEEN. It's very important to post reviews ASAP, especially if you read the book when it first comes out. It helps the authors by letting the publisher see how well a book is liked, and it lets other readers see if they would also like to read it. Those numbers on the first week after release really help decide rather or not a series will continue. And I for one want all of my favorite series to continue, don't you? Thanks. And now my review.

I loved DEATH IF A CHRISTMAS CATERER as much as every book in this series, and I'll tell you . . . that is a lot! This is one of my favorite series and I always look forward to a new one. With this fifth book in the series, author Lee Hollis has penned another wonderfully thrilling well plotted, funny mystery. Honestly, it was one of the best so far.

Hayley Powell is one of the most imperfect protagonists in a cozy mystery I have ever read, and I have to say, I love that about her! She makes mistakes, gets caught way too much when she's being nosey, and pretty much feels her way through every mystery she tries to solve. It's great! She is the everyday woman that we can relate to. But I will give her credit, she always manages to save the day. ? Hayley, her friends Libby and Mona, her brother Andy and his partner Sergio, and Hayley's kids are among my favorite cast of characters.

I think you can start this series with any book and not be lost. But I would suggest reading them all because you will be treating yourself to one of the best cozy mystery series you've ever read. Trust me, you'll find yourself laughing out loud.

There are also delicious recipes throughout the book, and a recipe index in the back to help you find each one easily. And check out the back of the book for an excerpt of DEATH OF A CUPCAKE QUEEN!

Kate says

Parts of the ending were annoying but this book had everything I love all in one Christmas cozy and was therefore a very festive read. Christmas shopping, a Christmas pageant, an office holiday party, festive recipes and more. A fun holiday read!
