



Dying for Dinner Rolls

Lois Lavrisa

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She's been held at gunpoint, stuck in a burning dumpster, chased out of a grocery store, caught impersonating a police officer and almost run over by a wayward vehicle. How is that for a first day on the job as an amateur sleuth? Along with her friend Annie Mae, Cat investigates the brick-paved, oak-lined streets of Savannah to find their friend's murderer.

Dying for Dinner Rolls Details

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Author : Lois Lavrisa

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From Reader Review *Dying for Dinner Rolls* for online ebook

Kathy says

Cute story on my Kindle, only 156 pages long. Cat's dad has been murdered, and a crossword puzzle, done with purple ink warns of the killing. Now, one of her friends has also been murdered, and again, a purple crossword spells out a warning. Cat and a member of her Chubby Chicks Club blunder their way through an investigation, and somehow figure out who murdered their friend. In the meantime, it seems that other men who once had a connection to her dad are dying. Can Cat figure out what is going on? Although one story is closed, Cat's wanting to know what happened to her dad will apparently carry on to the second book.

Michele says

This was a fun murder mystery with just the right amount of humor. The main heroine, Cat, is still grieving over the murder of her father, a case that remains unsolved. She is also a member of the Chubby Chicks Club - a source of friends & support for her. However, tragedy strikes within this group. Cat wonders if it might be related to her father's murder. So, she and Annie Mae set out to solve the case. Annie Mae is the hilarious side-kick to Cat's more serious and sensible side. You can't help but love them both and laugh as they get themselves in situation after situation.

The mystery part of it is well done and keeps you guessing until almost the end. Plus, it leaves you wanting to read Book #2. A fast but most enjoyable read.

Shaun says

Cozies by nature are rather simplistic, light, and formulaic, which may or may not appeal to every reader. Personally, I can enjoy a cozy for what it is, particularly if it is well-written and the characters are engaging.

This particular cozy reminded me of a low-budget production I might find myself watching on Nickelodeon with my kids. The characters were cliché, the plot unsophisticated, and the writing only so-so. Too many times, the story and the characters were just downright silly. This book was also about 75% dialogue, which might not have been a bad thing if the dialogue had been better.

That said, the book had a few redeeming qualities. For one, I liked the main character Cat, mother of four, and her sidekick, Annie Mae, sassy widower with a PhD. They are fun and relatable. I also thought the parallel mysteries, Lucy's murder and Cat's father's murder, were adequately done.

It wasn't awful, but it could have been so much better. At times the writing came awfully close to sounding amateurish. Things like "I wiped tears with the back of my hand. My taste buds wretched with sour bile. I tensed with raw nerves as a chill ran down my spine. And yet, I felt numb," or "I darted my eyes around..." There was lots of looking, shrugging, and deep breathing kind of thing as well.

Overall, not impressive, though enough to make you care about the main characters, even if they do behave outrageously.

Tammy says

This started out ok. The overall banter and solidarity of the friends was charming and endearing. I liked the characters, they were fleshed out and fresh and fun. Then when one friend is murdered, well now the hunt for a killer is on! For a bit it was funny, suspenseful and highly entertaining. Then the story went downhill. The ridiculous behavior of the two armature sleuths started out as silly but fun, but dissolved into something painful to continue reading. The last quarter of this book didn't even feel like the same person was writing it. The goofy antics and total disregard for their own safety as well as the lack of concern for the JOB of a friend...well this was inconsistent with the kind of women we had originally been lead to believe they were. A major pet peeve of mine personally is a "mom character" who will put her life at stake with silly reckless abandon. Oh, its ok if the character is actually in some form of law enforcement. This nonsense though would have us believe a store clerk reeling from her own fathers murder in the recent past would even CONSIDER putting her life at stake and making her 4 children motherless.... Well no. .. As a mom I am not buying it. Sadly what started out as a promising little cozy mystery dissolved into a disaster.

Alexandra says

At first it really took me a while to get into but by the end I found myself very interested to see hoe it ended. It has a great cliff hanger and I will definitely read the next book! I loved the character of Annie Mae and hope she's in the next one!

Alan says

After the police rule Lucy Valentine's death a suicide, Cat Thompson and her friend Annie Mae Maple feel the authorities have made a mistake and decide to investigate. Of course, Lucy's flirtatious husband Bert is their first suspect. And the number two suspect is Bert's mistress. So starts this delightful amateur sleuth mystery. What follows is a quick-paced, humorous romp through the streets of Savannah. I can't count how many times I laughed at the antics of this duo.

Cat and Annie Mae are well-fleshed out, utterly charming characters with enough quirks to make them real. The Southern setting is vividly portrayed. The straight-forward storyline is captivating.

Recommended for readers of cozy mysteries and for readers of light Southern fiction.

Kylie says

Dying for Dinner Rolls was a very light, quick read. It falls into the chick lit/detective genre, but to be honest the story was a bit thin. Whilst the basic premise was okay, there was no real depth and the story moved to quickly for the reader to get any real empathy for the cast of characters, who initially seemed quite interesting and quirky.

The book ended with a good solid lead in to the next one in the series, but whether or not I would actually but it is debatable. I would, however, borrow it from the library if I was in need of something light to read one day.

Kristen says

In Lois Lavrisa's Dying for Dinner Rolls, the first installment in the Chubby Chicks Club culinary cozy series, she introduced us to a group of friends with this new cozy series debut. When Cat Thompson's friend Lucy was found murdered in her home, she didn't believe it was suicide. It was up to her and her friend Annie to figure it out for themselves. When they re-evaluated her life for clues, Cat also wondered more about who wanted to murder her father and searched for answers with a sedoku crossword puzzle. When they get closer to the truth, they figured out who it was and get caught into an embroiled mess.

Kimberly says

Good start to a series. I liked the main characters and the club seems fun. There were two mysteries that appeared to be one, but then, it turned out they were separate. It probably had to do with how personal both mysteries were to Cat. One was solved, but one wasn't. Maybe in the next one, which I would definitely read. :)

Julesy says

It is not often that I feel compelled to write a review, but I felt I needed to for this book. I listened to this on audio. The narrator was good. However, this book was so over the top with cliches. It seems like the author tried her hardest to find the most stereotyped characters possible, an Asian American as the main sleuth, an African-American "curvy" woman as her sidekick, a Hispanic man, and a Southern belle as part of the Chubby Chicks Club (yes, a man is part of this Chubby Chicks Club). In addition, there was profanity in this cozy, which I did not appreciate. The reason why I gave this cozy 2 stars was because there was absolutely no resolution to the mysterious death of the main character's father. This was the most interesting part of the book to me! Ugh. Thankfully, the audio as only 4.5 hours long. If it as any longer, I would have made it a DNF. Instead I sped up the narration to 1.5X so I could be done with it sooner. Do not waste your time reading this book.

Linda says

Interesting story. The characters were okay as well. Cat and Annie Mae were a fun detecting team and some of the situations they got themselves into were funny.

Mande says

Not going to lie - I just couldn't get into this book from the start. We are immediately thrown into two months after the main characters father dies, so it feels detached. And then she out of the blue calls up the investigating detective, who in some weird world apparently closes an open murder case after two months, and he agrees to reopen it?

And don't get me started on the racial stereotypes.

I couldn't get past a weird situations, a detached female lead and nothing that says anything about her personality.

Jason says

The Chubby Chicks Club reminds me a lot of my friends, so it was really easy to get sucked into their world. When one of their own is found dead of an apparent suicide, the rest of the Club springs into action, often with hilarious results! An intriguing start to a great series.

Nospin says

Enjoyable little cozy read through Whispersync/Immersion reading. The narrator does a great job of voicing all the different characters.

The book is populated by zany, quirky characters with the main ones being members of the Chubby Chicks Club. One of their members die and two members, Cat and Anna Mae, work together to prove it wasn't a suicide and to solve the murder. The Quirky and appealing nature of these characters makes it possible to overlook the few implausible parts of the story while some of the situations they find themselves in are truly funny.

I received a free Audible version of this book in exchange for a review but purchased the Kindle version. All opinions are my own.

Diana says

I take no pleasure in writing this review, just as I take no pleasure thinking about the money that I wasted buying this book, or the time I spent reading this disjointed mess. The plot was as thin as onion paper, and

meandered all over the place. One of the main plots lines was not even completed.

The book read like a poorly written Nancy Drew mystery. The racial stereotypes that the author perpetuates in this book are just mind-numbingly bad.

I do not know if it was the editing of the book or the writing, but in the end, I was left with the thought that the entire book was a chopped up story devoid of any heart that you need to make a book a cozy mystery.
