

Strawberry Shortcake Murder (Hannah Swensen series Book 2)

By Joanne Fluke



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In her debut mystery, *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder*, intrepid amateur sleuth and bakery owner Hannah Swensen proved that when it comes to crime, nothing is sweeter than a woman who knows how to really mix it up. Now, the flame-haired, tart-talking (and baking) heroine is back, judging a contest where the competition is really murder.

Strawberry Shortcake Murder

Whenthe president of Hartland Flour chooses cozy Lake Eden, Minnesota, as the spot for their first annual Dessert Bake-Off, Hannah is thrilled to serve as the head judge. But when a fellow judge, Coach Boyd Watson, is found stone-cold dead, facedown in Hannah's celebrated strawberry shortcake, Lake Eden's sweet ride to fame turns very sour indeed.

Between perfecting her Cheddar Cheese Apple Pie and Chocolate Crunchies, Hannah's snooping into the coach's private life and not coming up short on suspects. And could Watson's harsh criticism during the judging have given one of the contestants a license to kill? The stakes are rising faster than dough, and Hannah will have to be very careful, because somebody is cooking up a recipe for murder. . .with Hannah landing on the "necessary ingredients" list.

"Another delicious adventure. . .a superior cozy sure to leave readers satisfied. .but hungry for more." -- *Publishers Weekly*

Includes seven delicious recipes!



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Following her successful debut, 2000's Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder, Fluke brings back amateur sleuth and Lake Eden, Minn., bakery owner Hannah Swensen for another delicious adventure. Hannah has the honor of serving as head judge of the first annual Hartland Flour Dessert Bake-off, which she anticipates will be good advertising for her already popular bakery, The Cookie Jar. Then one of the judges, high school basketball coach Boyd Watson, is found dead, face down in Hannah's strawberry shortcake, and suspicion falls on Watson's abused wife, Danielle. Determined to prove Danielle's innocence, Hannah ignores the warnings of romantic interest Mike Kingston, the supervisor of detectives at the Winnetka County sheriff's station, not to get involved. Tempting descriptions of meals served at the local establishments, mouthwatering recipes and a warm family of characters ward off the vividly depicted bitter chill of a Minnesota winter. While the other characters tend to be stereotypical, Hannah is a believable, down-to-earth protagonist who can't function without her morning coffee, justifies her passion for chocolate as a biological need for endorphins and deals with a matchmaking mother and a needy sister with understanding and humor. Add the ingredients of a cleverly crafted mystery and a realistic portrayal of smalltown life, and you have a superior cozy sure to leave readers satisfied... but hungry for more.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Cookie entrepreneur Hannah Swensen is recruited to judge a bake-off but gets embroiled in a bittersweet murder. The victims are not Lake Eden's finest; one is a wife abuser and the other is a snippety blackmailer, but the town is small, concern is rampant, and Hannah is curious. She and her sister Andrea begin sleuthing to prevent their friend (the wife of the first victim) from being accused of a crime she did not commit. The story is at times dense with detail, but the relationships among family and neighbors are pleasingly homespun-and occasionally sophomoric. Spanning the time of the bake-off, this whodunit is appropriately interspersed with mouthwatering dessert recipes. Readers who don't like guts or gore will enjoy this mystery and stick with the amateur detectives as they reach an action-packed conclusion.

Karen Sokol, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

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From Library Journal

After a last-minute replacement judge for Lake Eden, MN's, first annual dessert bake-off alienates several contestants with his snide comments, he winds up dead. Did one of them kill him in retaliation, or did his physically abused wife finally get up enough gumption to do the deed? Cookie-store owner/sleuth Hannah Swensen (Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder) aims to find out. Hannah somehow finds time, while tending her shop, baking desserts, delivering cookies, and judging the bake-off, to milk her would-be boyfriend/detective for details and do her own sleuthing. A comfortable, cozy read, with a few recipes thrown in for later enjoyment. For fans of culinary mysteries.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Celia Norton:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Strawberry Shortcake Murder (Hannah Swensen series Book 2).

Mary Perez:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Strawberry Shortcake Murder (Hannah Swensen series Book 2) is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Willie Dreher:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information these days can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Strawberry Shortcake Murder (Hannah Swensen series Book 2) as the daily resource information.

Micheal Goggin:

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