



Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery

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

When the 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, mouth-watering 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:

Mary Larrick:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book eligible Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

John Lockett:

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Brittany Schafer:

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Mary Wines:

Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

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