



Brownies and Broomsticks

Bailey Cates

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Katie Lightfoot's tired of loafing around as the assistant manager of an Ohio bakery. So when her Aunt Lucy and Uncle Ben open a bakery in Savannah's quaint downtown district and ask Katie to join them, she enthusiastically agrees.

In the Honeybee Bakery—named after Lucy's cat—Katie notices that her aunt is adding mysterious herbs to her recipes. Turns out these herbal enhancements aren't just tasty—Aunt Lucy is a witch and her recipes are actually spells!

But when a curmudgeonly customer is murdered outside the Honeybee Bakery, Uncle Ben becomes the prime suspect. With the help of handsome journalist Steve Dawes, charming firefighter Declan McCarthy, and a few spells, Katie and Aunt Lucy will stir up some toil and trouble to clear Ben's name and find the real killer...

Brownies and Broomsticks Details

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From Reader Review Brownies and Broomsticks for online ebook

Jackie Lane says

I thought this was a cute cozy mystery.

Katie Lightfoot's started out as an assistant manager of an Ohio bakery.

Her aunt Lucy and uncle Ben are opening a bakery, Honeybee Bakery, in Savannah's and she jumps ship and goes to work for them. She purchases a quaint little cottage house and gets set to start work.

From the start, there are some things that just don't add up to Katie. Her aunt has herbs that she adds to her baking. As they prepare for the grand opening, they are asked to host a DBA meeting. At the end, one of the guests is murdered and Katie's uncle Ben is the prime suspect.

Katie works with Steve Dawes and Declan McCarthy to help solve the mystery.

I know there is a story between Steve and Declan and we heard half of it, but I didn't care for the interaction between them. I liked Declan, but found Steve to be odd, so I'm thinking there is more to the story then we were told.

3.5 STARS

BJ Rose says

More like 3.5*, but the author enticed me to get the next book, so we'll call it 4*

Kevin says

[I knew as soon as the elevator accident victim was mentioned that, that would be the motive behind the murder. But it took a long time for who the boyfriend was to actually come up with the killer. (hide spoiler)]

Berit??? says

This was a good start to what looks like a fun paranormal cozy mystery series...

I truly think if I had to pick a paranormal being to be I would definitely pick a witch.... this book made me feel even more strongly about this, Katie was just so likable... i'd love to spend time hanging out with her and the bookclub, Not to mention all those yummy baked goods.... The mystery in this book was good, it definitely kept me guessing until the very end... at first I wasn't thrilled that there might be a possible love triangle, but then I thought to myself I lived through 23 books of Stephanie Plum without her making any kind of choice, why not? Definitely will be continuing with the series...

Amber says

Not the best cozy mystery that I've read, but baking and witches is fun.

Story_girl says

As my friend Suranjana knows only too well...cozy mysteries are not really my go-to genre. But her fondness for them coupled with my love for food (even when present in book titles or book covers) made me take the plunge.

Katie Lightfoot is a pastry chef who shifts to Savannah when her elderly aunt and uncle decide to open a bakery and offers her the position of the chef. However things go awry when right before the grand opening of their cute little bakery a woman gets murdered just after leaving the bakery. All suspicion falls on Katie's uncle and in order to put things right, Katie sets out to solve the mystery and free her uncle from blame.

The mystery is a good one..it actually keeps you guessing. But although Katie does actually figure out the murderer at the end, I personally didn't think she has the makings of a good detective. I'd say it's all good luck coupled with witchery.

There's a lot of magic use and witchcraft in this book which really isn't much of a spoiler since it's pretty obvious from the series title.

There's also a lot of tasty food described or being cooked throughout the book and the author even included a few recipes right at the end of the book which I thought was a fabulous idea!

Also there's a love triangle in here, though the book doesn't really have much in the way of romance. I'd say it appears to be more of a beginning to a love triangle that shall be continued in succeeding books.

I thought the author made Mavis Templeton to be this all-powerful lady. The one who can ruin people's lives with the snap of a finger. Yet it isn't really clear how she's so powerful.
(view spoiler)

All in all...it was a light and rather hunger-inducing read ;)

Darcy says

I thought I would like this one better than I did, but it ended up being just ok for me.

I liked Katie and Lucy, loved how things started with them opened a bakery, loved how Katie learned of magic and that she was a witch. I even liked how Katie seemed to embrace this new side of herself.

What didn't work as well for me was the whole who killed the evil witch! By the time we learned who the bad guy was and how he changed his appearance I wanted to scream. How did no one else not be aware that his appearance changed, they couldn't all be that stupid.

I also didn't really like the whole Steve/Declan enemy thing. Steve seemed off to me, Declan nice, but the two of them together were like toddlers.

Yodamom says

Audiobook-narration excellent

Katie Lightfoot is a witch but even better than, she's a baker. New to her witch side she explores the possibilities while she bakes delights in her aunts new bakery. Everything was going well till an old mean woman came in and threatened the bakery, family and anything else she could think of while stealing money owed to the bakery. The old bat wasn't done there no she went and got her neck broken, complicating matters and leaving some serious accusations on her uncle's shoulders. Katie who just can't stop snooping hunts to true killer using her two hunky new male friends, her aunts coven/book club and her new magical techniques.

I really liked this light southern cozy mystery. The characters were fun, interesting and complimented each other well. The nasties were truly nasty, delightfully so. Katie Lightfoot makes scones that had my mouth watering luckily she included her recipe. Yes, I made them, and enjoyed them with some rosemary tea. Great recipe, great reading snack. Double the pleasure, double the fun. I ordered the second book, and I see Biscotti in the title. I'll be baking up some of those very soon.

Zomick's Bakery says

Well I have a bake shop, Zomick's Bakery and working there isn't much like it's explained in this book. Well I'll have to live with it I guess... Fun thing aside, the book was interesting thing to read, and I was hooked to it from the first page. A variety of characters, both male and female who mix up in the bakery with all that flour and other baking ingredients :) Not kosher at all. - Zomick's Bakery

Penny Raspenny says

It was enjoyable enough.

I liked the idea of the magical bakery and I could almost smell the goodies Katie baked! The mystery was well planned and nice paced through the book. The characters were interesting and well presented in the story.

BUT...

My main reason for not giving it more than 3* is that I didn't feel the magic. I liked the concept the author adopted but I just didn't get that much excited and compelled by the magic-doing. Truthfully, there were not many scenes with characters practicing magic, but even those were somewhat lacking.

I won't get my hopes down though, since our Katie only just discovered her talents in this book. I will continue with the series with fingers crossed.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

“I've seen some pretty strange things in my life, and more of them make me think magic is possible than not.”

Brownies and Broomsticks was just what I was looking for - finally a paranormal themed cozy mystery that isn't all fault fluff and unrealistic rigidity.

The main character has returned to a small town to escape her current life and start a anew in a bakery business with her aunt and uncle. Once there she finds out that she is in a long line of "hedgewitchery" and that the local book club is actually a type of coven of unique witches.

Besides being charmed by the series detailed deserts (and the generous recipes at the back), it's a interesting with the magic. The book keeps it simple since she's an amateur trying the magic on for size, but I love how the aunt puts in herbs and various spells into the baked goods in terms of what a customer needs or wants.

The club is comprised of witches from different backgrounds, some more on the light side than others, which makes it interesting and not too generic. Being a cozy, it's definitely a feel good story that doesn't break too many rules, but it's a cut above most of the paranormal themed I've read.

Not too sugar sweet and a nice blend of characters. Unfortunately there's a small love triangle brewing - I'm definitely team Steve! Have to love the dog too.

Aira Karina says

Katie Lightfoot left her life in Akron, Ohio and choose to be with her aunt and uncle in Savannah, Georgia. After her engagement called off , she prefer to get away and when she had a chance to help her aunt Lucy in her bakery, she jumps right on. She was starting to enjoy her life in Savannah while running the Honeybee Bakery when bad things happens.

It is all started with an agreement with Mavis Templeton, a bitter old lady who wants to hold a business meeting in Honeybee Bakery in a short notice. The deal gone bad when Mavis decide to pay her less than they agreed the first time. Her uncle, Ben, defends Katie and get into a bad argument that led to Mavis threaten to close the Honeybee Bakery. Just a few minutes after she left the bakery, she was found dead in her car with a broken neck. Due to their argument later, uncle Ben become a suspect and Lucy try her best to prove that her uncle is innocent. Little did she know, thats not all the problem she have to deal with. She

discovers her family secret that shake her world while dealing with two men who fights for her affection.

I AM IN LOVE WITH THIS SERIES !! It was a fast paced , fun reading for me. This is exactly how a cozy mystery should be. The book focused on the main character for a few chapter, and it makes me relate to her story. One thing i love, this book didnt throw a lot of characters in the first few chapters to make a point that a lot of people have motives to be the murderer. Instead , all the characters are slowly introduced right after the murder happens. I will definitely read another books in this series and from the author.

Tracey says

What kind of chef "doesn't like knives"? Not the greatest character flaw.

Chelsey Welford says

As a Southern Belle myself, it was a pleasure to pick up this book and follow Katie Lightfoot as she travels from Ohio to a quaint little community in Savannah, Georgia. She is moving to help her Aunt and Uncle open up a bakery called the Honeybee Bakery. What made this book the most enjoyable for me is that Katie was unaware that she was a witch before coming to stay with her Aunt and Uncle. Watching Katie open up to the craft and fully accept it was awesome. As the reader I was starting to get hints early on that her Aunt was a witch before her Aunt had let her on to her that she was. Her Aunt was such a quirky and fun character and she was always up to some mischief!

I loved the little coven of witches that Katie's Aunt introduces her to! They claim that they are a book club, how hilarious! And in reality they all get together and practice witchcraft. I was impressed that this was a first in a series and I was really pleased at how much I found myself snickering and smiling as I read. The little old women who made up this "club" constantly kept Katie on her toes. They all wanted a part in teaching her to embrace her new witchy skills. I would love to be surrounded by a group of women like these. It was so nice to be right alongside Katie as she learned how to be a witch and it felt like I was learning with her! Her familiar (animal who helps to guide the witch) is so sweet and cute too! We all know how much I love animals!

I am looking so forward to reading more about this magical bakery! I cannot wait until the next installment is released and I highly suggest that if my readers have some downtime or a few hours to spare that they pick up a copy of this book and immerse themselves in a mystery that I did not solve until the murderer was revealed!

Thank you to the publishers and Bailey Cates for providing me with a copy of this book in return for my unbiased review

Darth J says

A cozy mystery about witches and baked goods with some recipes in the back?

And then add in a love triangle...

Sorry, while the rest is my jam, a love triangle definitely isn't. I seriously don't know what it is with writers who think people love to read about these sorts of things. Between that and the few spelling errors, those were the things I didn't like about this book.

For the most part, I liked this book though. The baked goods sounded tasty and there are even recipes in the back for Peanut Butter Swirl Brownies and Cheddar-Sage Scones. I also thought the women of the spell book club were quirky, though the magic in this novel is more New Age-y than Hocus Pocus-focused.

All in all, it was more or less what I was looking for. I already ordered the next three books to have on hand.
