



Catering to Nobody

Diane Mott Davidson

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MEET THE CATERER WHO WHIPPED UP THE
MULTIMILLION-COPY MYSTERY SERIES—
AS GOLDY SOLVES HER FIRST MURDER!

Diane Mott Davidson's winning recipe of first-class suspense and five-star fare has won her and caterer Goldy critical raves and a regular place on major bestseller lists across the country. In Goldy's tantalizing debut, she serves up a savory dish of secrets, suspicions, and murder....

Catering a wake is not Goldy's idea of fun. Yet the Colorado caterer throws herself into preparing a savory feast including Poached Salmon and Strawberry Shortcake Buffet designed to soothe forty mourners. And her culinary efforts seem to be exactly what the doctor ordered...until her ex-father-in-law gynecologist Fritz Korman is struck down and Goldy is accused of adding poison to the menu. Now, with the Department of Health impounding her leftovers, her ex-husband proclaiming her guilt, and her business about to be shut down, Goldy knows she can't wait for the police to serve up the answers. She'll soon uncover more than one family skeleton and a veritable stew of unpalatable secrets—the kind that could make Goldy the main course in an unsavory killer's next murder!

Catering to Nobody Details

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From Reader Review Catering to Nobody for online ebook

Angela says

Ok, so books like this are the reason I'm not a huge fan of commercial fiction. It was well written, had a nice marketable plot, and was cleverly done with the recipes in the middle and all--I mean, on those characteristics alone it seems like the perfect book, but I got kind of bored with it and fast.

We'll start with Goldie, the main character, who's a recovering love addict and has battled to put her life together after an abusive marriage. Doesn't that just sound like a wonderful thing to read about? I mean really, what more heroic struggle could a person go through than that? Think of all the potential with a character like that: inner-reflection, angst, a struggle to change inside perhaps . . . but Goldie doesn't have many inward demons as far as I can tell. At least, not any she works to overcome in this particular novel. In fairness, she fears dating and giving men another chance, which makes her cranky with men -- especially the detective she works with her on this case, but it all seems very surfacy.

Next we'll move on to the detective. I just finished reading this and am having a hard time recalling his name. Ah, Tom Schultz. You basically know nothing about him AT ALL. Granted, it is hard to develop characters thoroughly when you write in first person, but really, I have read an entire book where this guy is supposed to be the protagonist's love interest and I know NOTHING about him, and I mean NOTHING--except of course that he's good looking and has green eyes.

The other guy in the book, who you know a lot more about, is the Honey Bee distributor. He's memorable because the author puts a lot more time and effort into developing his character. He's a closed off, introspective type which I had a hard time trusting.

Not Goldie though, Goldie trusted him in a heartbeat. A recovering love addict who won't even trust a detective to take her on a few dates is going on a car ride with an introspective man whose motives she knows nothing about--her son in the car with her--with out even batting an eyelash. Yeah, that's realistic (I think not!) I would have screamed at the stupid protagonist for being so well . . . stupid, except I had a hard time identifying with her at this point and didn't really care whether she lived or died.

I'm by no means an exceptionally smart person, but I'd figured out pretty much the whole of the mystery well before the ending. I think that's probably the main reason I got bored with it. A young, attractive, woman in her 20's has to go to the Gyno twice a week for a special treatment . . . I had that one figured out at the end of the first chapter. And how naive can a 20-year-old girl possibly be?! I had a very hard time buying that Patty Sue was a victim. Bebe yes, Patty Sue no! Bebe, a minor, stuck in a house with her parents and a mother who knew what was happening but refused to do anything about it vs. a 20-year-old girl who lived away from home and could at the very least have called her parents and said, "get me out of this situation!"

End of rant. Not a bad book, I got to the end and the plot was well crafted. It just didn't invoke much feeling in me, no tears, laughter, extreme joy -- anything really. I have a new appreciation for Libba Bray, I may have cried my eyes out at the end of her "Great and Terrible Beauty" series, but at least I felt something.

Cyndi says

I have a great love of book series'. I love to get plenty of time to get to know all the characters and immerse myself in their world. So I'm glad to get a start with this one.

So Goldy is a divorced mom trying to make ends meet while pursuing her dream of running a catering company. But after a person gets poisoned at her affair she is forced to shut down. When you barely make ends meet, being without one paycheck can sink your ship.

This leads Goldy to find the real culprit. I can understand how a caterer got involved in solving crime this time. It will be interesting to see what justifies it in future books.

Jennifer says

Listened to the Recorded Books cassette edition. Now I've previously read this book several years ago and went on to read more in the series, but why sort of escapes me. I didn't like the people in this book. I found Goldy annoying and repetitive and Tom Schulz unprofessional, pushy, and patronizing. I might try the second one at least because I know I kept going with the series previously but if I don't like that one better then I'm gone. I think this may be just one example of the problem I have with amateur detectives - I like my detectives to be competent and often I don't think the conflict with traditional authority, such as the police, has enough reason for existing besides giving the amateur a reason to detect at all. Particularly in this case since Tom Schulz is, I believe, intended to be a sympathetic character and doing his best on the case. I thought the narrator did a fine job with the material she had to work with.

Tammy says

The writing structure is good. The content I didn't care for.

First, Goldy's ex husband was abusive, not only to her but to the next wife. Yet he's still in the picture with a thriving medical practice, since apparently the abuse wasn't "bad enough" to have his butt thrown in jail. She's afraid of him but it's all cool, because at least they aren't married anymore. And her 11 year old son knows that sometimes dad threw things at mom, but that's just how he is. So this is acceptable behavior??

Vonette knew what Fritz was up to with BeBe, and understood that she probably drank herself to death as a direct result of it, but, well, what can you do? Become a drunk and just live with it? Sure, sounds like a plan. Fritz screws around? eh, more of the same. Well suddenly I see why John Richard is such a winner - what a thing.

Goldy makes a cruddy detective. She pushes forward gathering clues without having any idea of what to do with them. Instead of giving the info to Tom Schultz (the investigator from the sheriff's department) she starts confronting people. If you find half a newspaper article, with the date, article name and part of the content, you call your local library and have them teach you how to find the whole article, you don't go around confronting people without knowing what you are talking about. Bluffing is a bad choice for the most part when dealing with murder.

Goldy is hot and cold, asking questions without understanding answers and not putting together pieces that all but blink in neon - these things are related. She doesn't tell Tom things that she really ought to, but this doesn't surprise me since she doesn't seem to make the leap that abuse done within the confines of the family is still ABUSE and subject to LAWS. Goldy doesn't see what is in front of her face, lets her kid yell at her

and generally treat her poorly because she doesn't want to upset him. Which makes me wonder if her ex married her because Goldy reminded him of his mother, who just let things go and didn't see what was in front of her.

If Goldy doesn't want to date Tom, that's cool, she could just tell him no. If she wants to date Pomeroy she should ask him. But all she does is make a huge mess of it all. Same with the mystery.

I will not read more by this author since I literally had to put the book to the side several times because it bothered me that much. I finished it just in case it turned out different in the end. It didn't.

Petula Darling says

I made it to the end, but I probably shouldn't have since bad books make me cranky.

The book should have been titled "Catering to Everybody: The Story of a Doormat in a Village of Idiots".

Dorottya says

I really wanted to like this book more - I mean, I am by no means an opposer of light literature and chick lit and light crime novels at all. It seemed to have a really interesting premise...

But...

The only redeeming qualities for me were the whodunnit kind of guessing game and that it was exciting. Other than that... ugh. I don't know if it was only the translation, but I felt it was badly written. Too many unnecessary details and filler sentences... and also, there were some sentences and structures where I was just thinking... now that is not good writing, that is how a 14-year-old writer wannabe would write.

Oh, some quotes were good, too... like the description about which places women tend to go to on a fitness class, that is SO true. And I also liked the portrayal of everyone knowing more about the case than Goldy, but no one talking, and letting her be the main suspect, when they know about her situation, just because that's easier for anyone.

The characters were not real enough... none of them. Also, I was SO annoyed by some of the characters... bad thing: I was most annoyed by the most central characters, whom the writer really wanted to show as good and of desirable morals and traits. Hell no! Goldy... she drove me crazy. She was the most selfish person in the story. She was all about "how unlucky I am, my business is ruined, blah-blah-blah", and I hated how she wanted to seem like someone chasing justice and be so sad about Laura, when she was ONLY doing it for herself. She wasn't even a good mother, she really didn't wanna get to know until a point what his son was doing or getting to know about it. She also didn't accept any advice or requests of other people. She was pointlessly odious to the people wanting to talk to her, yet was somewhat furious about it when Trixie did the same. Not to talk about that her accounts of having been a person in an abusive relationship was not real for me. It wasn't credible. It was like Goldy mentioned some of the things his ex did to her as shock factor mostly, sometimes even in a joking manner... I mean, if someone gets enough of a relationship like this, and feels bad about it, wouldn't go over it in a half, kind-of-joking manner.

I was annoyed by Schulz, either. He was described as the nice guy... what I saw from him, well... He is unprofessional as hell, as a police officer. And rude and jerky, and of a bad sense of humour, and sometimes too aggressive in his ways, like dating. Talking degradingly to people who he doesn't agree with... and, of

course... dating a suspect? (especially when he was telling Goldy off when she mentioned it) eating in her house on the first interrogation? Acting too informal and intrusive? I would be really nervous if the police worked the way he did in the novel, in my city... I would feel UNSAFE!

Also, some other minor(?) problems:

- A professional sounding caterer buying some of her stuff off of the nearby bakery? For real? Also for buying stuff in the supermarket...
- This whole kind of sudden character showing/changing at the end wasn't that credible for me
- Did she have to make Patty Sue THIS dumb? This is so stereotypical and not real at all
- Why are all the pretty and shallower-described characters blonde? Again, stereotypes much...
- Arch's mood swings are not real, either... (and I am saying this as a teen who had mood swings... but I've never had mood swings this dramatic, and happen this frequently... or if it happens, most of the times, the certain teen is either really mentally unstable or totally depressed, but Arch is not either)

Nicole says

It was alright. Little to religious for my tastes

Rebecca McNutt says

This murder mystery is at times funny and at times very suspenseful. It's definitely an entertaining book and well worth reading.

Poonam says

1.5 stars

Buddy Read with Nameeta as part of Mystery Book week.

I really wanted to read a good mystery book as part of the Mystery week and what better to pick up than a cozy mystery.

We decided to pick this up as this was featured in the top books of cozy mystery list on GR. Unfortunately it did not work out as planned.

The thing is after reading a lot of Christie novels, my standard in the cozy mystery genre is set and to say the least this story did not even reach close.

The main character- Goldy is a divorced woman taking care of her 11 yr old son and trying to make her business work. There is a funeral she is catering where her ex-father-in-law is poisoned and rushed to the hospital. All good till here. But then the story just goes down-hill.

The 'investigation' by Goldy if you want to even call it that, does not stick to any one trail. She decides to find something out and then is easily distracted. **People around her have secrets that if she asks strongly enough, she may find answers too. But she does not even try.**

And the detective who has a romantic inclination towards Goldy (who by the way is a suspect), his investigation was an absolute joke.

The secondary set of characters were uninteresting and the overall story did not keep me interested or even seem realistic AT ALL. The ending was abrupt exactly out of a B grade movie and full of cliché. The mystery at the end was not a big surprise at all.

I know that cozy mysteries are not supposed to be convincing or emotionally disturbing but they are at least supposed to have that atmosphere. This story did not have that atmosphere that goes hand in hand with a cozy mystery.

Nidofito says

DNF @ 43%

I just can't work up the motivation to listen to an audiobook that has done nothing but frustrate me. I don't understand why a) the protagonist gets shit from everyone around her (particularly the men) - from her ex-husband, to her new LI, to the little 11 y/o shit she calls her son, b) or why the entire town is filled with idiots.

The writing seems odd and the protagonist is annoyingly repetitive and as subtle as a slap on the face with her 'interrogations.' It's also disappointing that the one interesting thing about her: formerly being in an abusive marriage, has left no visible, major scars: physical, emotional or mental on her. I was hoping for a little more depth in her personality. Yes, time heals wounds and she might've decided to find joy in the present rather than think about her past, but as often as she comes in contact with her ex, I was hoping for more (serious) insight of her mental state during her marriage, rather than jokes about having cooking utensils thrown at her.

Colleen says

I really enjoyed this book. It was neat to "meet" all of the characters for the first time, as I have read many of other books from the series. Quick and fun read.

James says

Diane Mott Davidson's "Goldy Bear/Schultz" series was one of the first cozy books I began reading. I started with Lilian Jackson Braun's "Cat Who" series and found myself intrigued by the genre. As I began doing background research, I realized it all stemmed from my early love of Agatha Christie back in school days.

The Goldy series was a fun read that created a world of characters I enjoyed learning about. Understanding the relationship between the protagonist sleuth and the local police detectives, I quickly fell in line with loving this series. In this first book, the author draws you in and leaves you wanting more providing just enough quirky settings. I think it's a good approach to have two best friends both recently divorced from the same man -- the conflict setup is perfect. As the series continues, more characters appear and the stories get

stronger.

Cozy readers will like this series!

Sherri F. says

Audio: This is the 1st in the series, but the 3rd that I've read or listened to, and I still pretty much the same, it's just overall o.k. with some good moments, some installments have more than others. Of the 3, this is 2nd I listened to and both have same narrator who is just ok but something dull about the narrating--I don't know if it's voice, tone, lack of inflections or whatever, it's just tolerable. The plot and characters weren't too bad in this one, but glad because of how things turned out, won't cry over some of those that can't be coming back. However, for foodies or people that love listening to detailed cooking and ingredients of everything catered along with your mystery, you will probably love this more than me. So unless it's a BOTM, Buddy Read or for a challenge, I won't be reading more in this series until I finish numerous other ones first. It's not bad, I just don't love or even really like.

BonLivre says

After reading one of Diane Mott Davidson's later Goldy Bear mysteries in a book club, I knew I wanted to start at the beginning of the series and I am so glad I did. I really enjoy Goldy's demeanor and attitude, and find great charm in all of the Colorado references. While the majority of the female characters were stupidly...well, stupid, in this book, I look forward to following Goldy on future capers (food pun intended). Barbara Rosenblat was a fantastic reader, as her seemingly unpolished presentation and raspy vocals added a dramatic reading feel to the audiobook.

Shelby Bagby says

reread

Tabby Kat says

"Catering to Nobody" is the first delectable book in this culinary mystery series full of crazy, different characters.

Lightly entertaining, and a good murder mystery Davidson's witty writing and clever clues combine with some yummy recipes along the way to solving this short, fun mystery.

Goldy is a former battered wife who has finally divorced her abusive doctor husband and strikes out to support herself and her pre-teen son by starting an upscale catering company.

Handsome police officer Tom Schultz adds another delicious dimension to the story. If you enjoy Grafton, Evanovich, and Tamar Myers (my other favorite mystery authors who write about 'real' people) you'll enjoy Goldy's sleuthing attempts to determine 1) who keeps trying to poison her lovable (?) ex-father-in-law, 2) who murdered her son's lovely, yet peculiar prior elementary school teacher and (deep breath) 3) WHY does everyone seem to know more about the entire mystery than Goldy

Les says

This is one of my guilty pleasures. I love light mysteries. I want to see a body in the first 20 pages, lots of clues in the middle, and the solution in the last 20 pages. I never try to figure it out. I just skim the surface, suspend disbelief (how many dead bodies is a caterer likely to find, really?), and enjoy the ride.

Di says

Read as part of #Book1CoziesClub.

Of all the Cozies I've read recently, this one took me the longest, I think. I started out listening to this on audiobook, but the narrator wasn't clicking for me. Goldy as a character turned out to be really whiny when I listened to her, so I ended up abandoning the audiobook.

Since I owned a physical copy, I stuck to that for the rest of the book. Goldy still got on my nerves as I felt she was really pushy and more nosy than any other amateur sleuth I've encountered. I also did not agree with her parenting choices or the way she handled situations with her ex-husband. Some of the choices the author made in regards to describing Marla's stature got to me and there was a comment made about Japanese people that also bothered me.

I am glad that I finally got to this book, as I own several of the installments in this series. Though this installment wasn't super enjoyable, I will give the series another shot before I decide for sure if I will be continuing on or not. This did come with three recipes which do sound delicious and I have jotted those down to try later.

Barbara says

This is the first book in the 'Goldilocks Catering' cozy mystery series.

Divorcée Gertrude (Goldy) Bear works hard at her business 'Goldilocks Catering' in Aspen Meadows, Colorado. Goldy needs the money to support herself and her 11-year-old son Arch, since child support from her ex-husband, gynecologist John Richard Korman, is sporadic and inadequate. Korman was a serial philanderer and wife-beater, and Goldy is still wary of his vicious temper.

Goldy's best friend is Marla Korman, John Richard's second ex-wife. The two women call their mutual former spouse 'The Jerk', and delight in trash-talking him over coffee and pastries.

As the story opens, Goldy is preparing to cater the funeral food for Arch's former teacher, Laura Smiley, who purportedly committed suicide. A large crowd is expected at the post-burial gathering, including John Richard and his new girlfriend. As if that's not awkward enough, Arch's grandparents - gynecologist Fritz Korman and his wife Vonette Korman - are also expected to attend.

Goldy prepares delicious food for the gathering, and asks Arch and Patty Sue - a 20-year-old girl who's boarding with Goldy temporarily - to help serve. The guests are enjoying the refreshments when Dr. Fritz Korman falls to the floor, writhing in pain. An ambulance is called, and John Richard shrieks at Goldy, claiming she tried to poison HIM and it backfired on his father.

The police are summoned, and discover Fritz WAS poisoned, by rat killer in his coffee. Luckily, the physician gets back on his feet and back to work in a few days. In the meantime, Detective Tom Schulz - a big handsome bear of a man - closes down Goldilocks Catering pending an investigation into the poisoning. Goldy is desperate to re-open her business, so she decides to help Detective Schulz with his inquiries. Schulz isn't crazy about the idea, but he's attracted to Goldy, so he lets her (unofficially) assist.

Once Goldy gets the sleuthing bit between her teeth she pokes around everywhere, and makes some important discoveries. It turns out the deceased teacher, Laura Smiley, babysat for the Kormans 20 years ago, when they all lived in Illinois. Around that time Dr. Fritz Korman was accused of inappropriate behavior, and moved his family to Aspen Meadows for a new start. Laura also moved to Colorado and took a teaching job.

Goldy finds out other things as well, and her compulsive snooping puts her life in danger.

In the course of the story Arch plays Dungeons and Dragons with his best friend Todd - and gets over-involved with the game's magic and violence; Goldy's boarder Patty Sue gets driving lessons - which don't go as planned; Goldy (secretly) caters a couple of gatherings; the townsfolk don costumes for a Halloween party; Fritz is poisoned AGAIN; someone dies; Goldy and Schulz start a relationship; lots of pastries are consumed; and more. To add to the fun, the recipes for Goldy's culinary creations are included.....both savory and sweet treats.

The story is set in the early 1990s, so people aren't running around with cellphones and 'feminists' supposedly aren't shaving their legs. (Was this EVER a widespread thing?)

Colorado is a wonderful setting for the novel and I enjoyed the story. I recommend the book to fans of cozy mysteries.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarsaffer.blogspot....>

Adelle says

Before you think I'm judging this book on its entirety, I'll admit I'm not. I chose not to finish reading it. My choice was because of the feeling of watching an 80's video that was just entertaining enough to watch to the end while being annoyed at the swearing and the innuendos. (Think The Goonies or Harry & the Hendersons.) It was written in the 80's, & I was just a little girl then, so some of the stereotyping and understanding of the lingo & times - I just didn't understand well enough. Also, the swearing. Mild swearing is sometimes easier to look past, but this book passed the mild for me. However, I'm highly interested in finding out who poisoned Fritz, the truth of Ms. Laura's death, & how Goldy claims back her innocence. I'm all ears for anyone willing to spill the beans & put my curiosity to rest!
