



Laid Out and Candle Lit

Ann Everett

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What do Sweet Thangs, Orgasm Pie, and a murder in Brownsboro, TX all have in common? Tizzy Donovan. Tizzy is a small town girl, a widow, single mother, daughter to the best baker in town, sister to the county Sheriff, and also known as the local girl who talks to the dead. After almost five years without a man, she's pent up and hot to trot! And in small town Brownsboro, population 854, pardon 853, the roster of available men is just plain lousy.

When Tizzy discovers the body in the cemetery, she goes to prime suspect number one, and lands in a decidedly unsweetened pickle. With lead after lead placing her in the cross-hairs, her only hope and potential damnation come in the form of Texas Ranger Ridge Cooper. Cutting his teeth on his first case, Ranger Cooper and his interest in the sexy Tizzy lead them both to combine his will to solve the case with her sassy come-backs and a good helping of Better than Sex Cupcakes.

With pressure mounting on both of them, will this formidable duo, be able to find a murderer and love within the once sleepy confines of Brownsboro, TX?

Laid Out and Candle Lit Details

Date :

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Author : Ann Everett

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From Reader Review Laid Out and Candle Lit for online ebook

Ashley says

A fun and entertaining read. If you like a good mystery mixed with a little romance, southern humor and a few spirits, you'll love this book.

Mel says

A Yummy Read!

Laid Out and Candle Litis the humorous story about two people who made mistakes with love in the past discovering love again. Along the way, colorful characters provide unwanted romance advice. I loved the story and could not put it down. I finished it in one night. I cannot wait for the next book the series.

Jenny says

I enjoyed the beginning of this book. But not so much the middle or the ending.....

The author writes with a great deal of charm and humor. I was immediately taken by the book's characters, and the early chapters had me prepared for a great murder mystery.

By the middle of the book, the murder mystery wasn't getting anywhere, and the development between the two main characters carried the book into "romance novel" territory. While I can totally appreciate their lust for each other, their true love for each other was underdeveloped.

The ending was rushed. The murder mystery was solved on a hunch, and the hero was able to save the day just in time.

It was a light-hearted and enjoyable novel overall, I am happy to have read it, but it lacked a strong plot to be memorable.

Jennifer says

I received Laid Out and Candle Lit as a Goodreads win.

This book is a great mystery/romance that keeps you reading and guessing on who is the killer . Its also full of funny one liners thrown in here and there for just the right amount of humor for the story.

Can't wait to read the next one!

Ginger Snaps says

Another funny series! I love when books make me laugh.

Rebecca says

I loved this book!! It combines southern charm, juicy romance, humor & mystery. I couldn't put it down! Great, fun read!!

Nidia says

This is one of the funniest books I have ever read. Ann is a fantastic writer who is whitty and romantic. This was one of the first books I downloaded onto my Kindle and will read it again before the next one is out.

Kimmie says

This book was an excellent read! Ann is a master at combining romance, mystery and humor. It made me smile and giggle - always a plus! Laid Out and Candle Lit is highly recommended!

Nancy DeMarco says

Memorable, good-hearted characters with a twisty turny plot and tons of down-home humor along the way. This book makes me wish I'd been born in Texas. A fun read.

Jeanie Jackson says

Danger, love, family, a little sex, and many wonderful characters drive this delightful novel. I really enjoyed the humorous romantic suspense plot, but the best thing about this novel is the way she brings her characters to light with just a few thoughts and expressions that make them sooo real. Having spent many summer days in west Texas, I can relate to some of the delightful expressions in this book although I have never heard my favorite one before describing a kiss as, "an uptown route to downtown business". The story is well plotted; I could not figure out who the villain was, even though I probably should have and usually do. It is a strange word but I keep thinking this book is smoothly written. Good pacing, appropriate shifts, good editing, excellent story, and a handsome Ranger. Maybe the last one wasn't why it was smooth, just another reason I enjoyed the book. Looking forward to the next one coming out in September. Good Reading.

Cherisse says

If you like Janet Evanovitch you should read this. The author is the mother of a friend of mine, Nancy Kuykendall.

Natalee says

Ann is ever so whitty with her characters dialogue. This is a fun ride of romance and adventure, one the readers will enjoy! I'm not much for spoilers, so you'll have to read it to love it :)

DelSheree says

Anyone who says small towns are boring has obviously never been to Brownsboro, Tx. The names or the townsfolk alone are enough to get you smiling. Add in skunks, better than sex cupcakes, a Texas Ranger, a local girl who talks to the dead, and murder...well you can see this "podunk" town is anything but boring.

Right from the first chapter, Brownsboro snags your attention. When Tizzy Donovan makes her daily jog through the cemetery to talk to those who are gone, but not necessarily quiet, she finds a body that's not supposed to be there. That gives the whole town a dose of drama they weren't expecting. The Texas Ranger assigned to the murder walks in thinking it will be an open and shut case. But the first murder in Brownsboro in fifty years proves more difficult than he expected. Who knew maneuvering the secrets and lies of small town living would be so hard?

But the mystery is really only part of the story. Tizzy and Ridge are presented with a problem almost from the first moment they meet. Although attracted to each other in an almost painful way, Tizzy is the main suspect in a murder case and Ridge is there to put someone –and it's not looking good for Tizzy-in jail for the murder. Not to mention both of them have difficult pasts that make letting someone in even harder. When I first announced Laid Out and Candle Lit, I promised it would make you laugh and cry and everything in between. I hadn't actually read the book when I said that, but I have had the privilege of reading an early copy of Ann Everett's second book, You're Busting My Nuptials, which was hilarious and sexy and heartwarming all at the same time, so I knew this one was going to be good too.

And it was!

I had so much fun reading Laid Out and Candle Lit. The mystery was great. I had sneaking suspicions here and there, but Ann did a great job of never giving you too much of a clue to ruin the mystery. She threw out so many very plausible options for who murdered Marlene, that pinning one down was difficult. My only complaint about the mystery is that I would have liked to have felt a little more anxiety about how Tizzy was going to come out of the ordeal. Otherwise, I really enjoyed trying to figure out which of locals were hiding dirty little secrets. As the investigation progressed, I was right there with Bubba, saying, "This just keeps getting better and better."

The romance between Tizzy and Ridge was steamy and torturous at the same time. I think just about every reader (well at least the women) will fall in love with Ridge. Who can resist a tall dark and handsome Texas Ranger wearing a pink feather boa as he plays tea party with a four-year-old? And Tizzy is such a good, kind

person that I was just dying for her to find some happiness. Despite Tizzy's sweetheart status and Ridge's heart-melting personality, nothing about this story is easy. The second they get close to each other something pulls them apart-whether it be misunderstandings, fear, or psychos, simply enjoying each other seems impossible. Just when you think everything is gumdrops and lollipops for Tizzy and Ridge, you read on and the warm fuzzies go out the window! I loved it.

The mystery and romance were fantastic, but what really pulled everything together was the town and its inhabitants. Ann mentioned in her interview that much of Brownsboro came from real life, and obviously that's the way to do it. I loved all the little quirks and tidbits that go along with small town living. I grew up in a small town myself, so hearing that someone lives "out in the boonies" made me laugh out loud because I thought that phrase was just another one of those weird things my mom used to say. Details like the town only having one stoplight and one warning light immediately bring smalltowners like me home, and the gossip and excitement of knowing everyone else's business in a small town is definitely all too familiar. What was really great about Ann's description of the town was that it doesn't only speak to those familiar with rural living. You also get to see the town through Ridge's eyes, which helps to pull in those who've never had to experience their entire town knowing exactly who drove you home last night and whether or not they left before dawn.

Overall, the book was fabulous. I loved every word. I have a lot of respect for writers who can put humor to good use (I'm not one of those, trust me) because it adds a whole different layer to the story. But you won't just laugh as you read *Laid Out* and *Candle Lit*. You'll tear up when you think nothing is going to work out, and you'll be grabbing for tissues when it does. Your heart will melt when Ridge says the sweetest things you've ever heard, and when little Gracie steals the scene. In short, you'll love the book down to the last word, and then you'll be bugging Ann to find out when book two is coming out! Even having already read the second book I still can't wait to read it again.

Linda Ullesein says

This was a warm and wonderful book. I've never even been to a small town in Texas, but if they are truly this funny and full of delightful characters, I'm booking a trip! The murder mystery/love story is wonderfully told--great setting, great characters that I missed when I finished the book. Sequel?

Carol says

'Laid Out and Candle Lit' is one of those books that you don't want to take to the doctor's office to read while you are waiting! That is because you will get stares from the others in the waiting room because you will be laughing so hard!

I am very impressed with Ann Everett's new book. It is so loaded with humor and local flavor and hooks you on the first page through to the end. She puts just the right amount of details to make you feel that you are sweltering in Texas heat, smelling the muffins bursting with blueberries and hear the constant gossip of a very small town. All the main characters are fully developed and the pace of this book is very fast. Ann Everett makes the little town of Brownsboro come alive.

Tizzy Donovan, 25 years old, a widow with a darling daughter, Gracie, talks to the dead in the Jenkins

cemetery every morning on her jog. She is stubborn, a great cook, a loving mother and after five years without sex, ripe for cupid's arrow. On one particular morning she finds a body near her husband's grave.

Ridge Cooper is a new Texas Ranger who has previous law enforcement experience and gets assigned to this case. He wants to prove himself with this case and worries about being attracted to Tizzy as she is one of the suspects. He does see much in the way of stores when he comes to town and thinks to himself that the victim was probably "bored to death". But as the mystery unravels he finds something very tangled and a lot of the secrets of this small town are revealed.

I don't want to give away who the murder victim is or any of the mystery. Everything fell neatly in place at the end. But I really enjoyed this mystery set in north east Texas with characters such as Bubba, Sugarpie and Pattiecake. There is romance, sex done with a lot of humor and a deep appreciation for the good cooking.

There is a recipe in the back for 'Chocolate Coconut Pecan Pie' that I would love to try if I wasn't pre-diabetic.

The next book in this series is 'You're Busting My Nuptials' and I want to be sure to read it.

I recommend this book to cozy mystery readers and anyone who enjoys laughing.

I received this book as a win from GoodReads and that in no way influenced my review.
