



Apple Turnover Murder

Joanne Fluke

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The Luscious *Los Angeles Times* And *USA Today* Bestseller!

Early summer brings plenty of work for baker Hannah Swensen, even before Mayor Bascomb's wife drops by The Cookie Jar to place an order for her charity event. . .for eleven-hundred cookies! And Hannah almost flips when her business partner, Lisa, suggests setting up an apple turnover stand. But she places her faith in Lisa and agrees to be a magician's assistant in the fundraiser's talent show. . .

The only snag is the show's host, college professor Bradford Ramsey. Hannah and her sister, Michelle, each had unfortunate romances with Ramsey, and when the cad comes sniffing around between acts, Hannah tells him off. But when the curtain doesn't go up, she discovers Ramsey backstage--dead, with a turnover in his hand. Now Hannah must find a killer who's flakier than puff pastry--and far more dangerous. . .

Includes Over Ten Cookie and Dessert Recipes From The Cookie Jar, Including Chocolate Sugar Cookies and Breakfast in a Muffin!

"The ever popular Fluke writes engaging cozies with one part great characters, one part gentle story, and three parts the best recipes in the genre." *—Library Journal*

"Catch up with the gang in this delightful, thoroughly entertaining series that keeps readers coming back for more." *—Romantic Times*

Apple Turnover Murder Details

Date : Published February 1st 2011 by Kensington Books (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Joanne Fluke

Format : Kindle Edition 350 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Apple Turnover Murder for online ebook

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

This book is what you expect from a Hannah Swenson Mystery. Hannah and her partner Lisa are busy as always at The Cookie Jar. They are catering desserts at a wedding when the story begins and Hannah spies Professor Bradford Ramsey. It seems Hannah has a past. She had an affair with Professor Ramsey when she went to College, that is until she found out he was engaged and he unceremoniously dumped her. There is a huge fundraiser going on in town and the mayor's wife Stephanie Bascomb somehow gets Hannah and Lisa to commit to making hundreds of Apple Turnovers for various events over the weekend. At the talent show, the MC Bradford Ramsey ends up dead, stabbed to death eating one of Hannah's turnovers. This time, Mike, one of her boyfriends and a Police Detective, actively seeks out Hannah's help.

This is a typical cozy mystery served with some food and gallons of coffee. I could never live in this town as it seems all they do is eat, a large majority of it cookies or some type of baked goods. I figured out the mystery shortly after it occurred, but it was still fun to see how it was investigated. Hannah is still dating two men who both want to marry her, although Mike seems to be pushing her in Norman's direction. This is a fun, easy read with some wonderful recipes that I will try. Love to read these by the pool as I do not need to think too hard.

James says

I'm a committed Joanne Fluke & Hannah Swensen fan. I love the cozy mystery and these novels just have such a calming and positive effect on me. I'm giving 3.5 stars to Apple Turnover Murder, the 13th in this series. It was good and hit all the right spots, but left room for growth and more complexity. With 20+ books in the series, I can't give them all a 5, and even a 4 is sometimes too high. It doesn't mean I don't adore them. I just think it wasn't one of the top ones in the series. I like re-visiting all the characters and seeing the wonderful relationships between Hannah, her sisters, and her mothers. And I was even excited that there's quite an interesting turn-of-events in Hannah's relationships with her two suitors, Mike and Norman. Perhaps it's finally moving in the right direction. That said... not enough time was spent exploring the possible culprits or the depth of the victim who was murdered. I think there was more history to be told... I've already got books 14 and 15 from the series in my queue, and I was awarded the most current (22?) on NetGalley, so I have to catch up soon!

Amber Hahn says

I have to say first off, that I love this series. I have read every book (except the newly released Devil's Food Cake Mystery) and have thoroughly enjoyed all of them.... except this one.

I don't know if it's Hannah's fickleness in choosing Norman or Mike, if it's the way she is constantly correcting everyone's grammar (ok, yes, that is definitely part of it), the same old tired phrases through 13 books (Swedish plasma? Ok... we get it), the fact that every recipe is the same with just a slight variant in what's added to it (chocolate chips instead of white chocolate chips & it's a whole new cookie!)..... The arguments she had with herself (actually "talking" to herself in this one?) aren't helping things either. This book was predictable and hard to finish. I know that I will read the next book because I am the type of

person that wants to finish out a series (when it eventually ends) but I am hoping for less of the same. This book made it seem like the writer had grown tired of the series & was slogging through a storyline to make a buck off a series that has been hugely popular. I hope that isn't the case, because up until this one, I thought it was a great series. Here's hoping that the Devil's Food Cake does not disappoint!

Valerie says

A silly book that happens to have a murder in it, and some killer recipes.

Donna in Southern Maryland says

As always, I enjoyed reading this Hannah book. It is written by a formula, which isn't so bad really. Hannah always gets by with too little sleep.....when is the poor girl going to get a vacation or some time to catch up on her sleep? She also never goes to the grocery store, but always seems to have what she needs in the pantry or refrigerator at home when she starts a new recipe!

She bakes some cookies, talks to the people at the Cookie Shop, takes on an extra load of work or job, finds a dead body, comes home and bakes and makes coffee, gives her statement to Mike, gets too little sleep, and starts her days all over again! Along the way, she bakes something new in each chapter, investigates the murder, tries to help people, has dinner with Norman, tries to evade her mother, falls asleep on the work table at the Cookie Jar, helps out her sisters, and eventually finds herself face to face with the murderer. She's rescued in the nick of time. All in good clean fun, with some very interesting recipes along the way.

I'm getting a little tired with the 'should I marry Mike or Norman' thing, but I guess she will resolve that eventually. I'll continue to read each new episode; great fun light reading in the middle of some of the other darker mystery/thrillers I read.

Sara says

Could Hannah drink anymore cups of coffee in this book?? I swear, on every page she was dying to drink up a cup of coffee before pouring herself another...or Michelle had made the coffee and was pouring a cup for Hannah...or Hannah was making coffee for late night visitors...or people were having coffee in her cookie shop...or Hannah was pouring coffee for Andrea...I could go on FOREVER! Usually, this doesn't bother me, but DANG! If I read about another cup of coffee, I'll go nuts!

Deep breath

Well, I was cheering for Norman up to this point, but now I'm not so sure. He has suddenly changed and now Hannah has to deal with his big news. Regardless of this, overall, this was one of the better stories that has come out of this series. I enjoyed hearing more about Hannah's past, but I do have to make a slight complaint. Hannah is still quite young and she has some of the most prudish ideas about sex- normally I don't complain about his because I am able to just enjoy the story without the sex, but I felt this plot needed to discuss it a little more. She hinted that she made bad decisions in her past, but when you look at her current views on sex, she is unrecognizable to her college self (and she isn't that much older). She went from

someone who had made bad decisions in high school to someone that can barely even say the word "sex". I understand trying to show how Hannah has grown as a person and is wiser than her college self, but there was too much of an extreme here. Now, I'm not asking Hannah to start having sex with her two boyfriends, but I just wish she didn't struggle so much with it. She needs to stop being such a scary cat lady for a little bit and embrace her youth (and all that goes with it).

So, having ranted about Hannah's sex life, I can continue the rest of the review. Overall, this was a good book in the series, but I'm afraid it might be the last book that I like Norman in. I've already dived into the next book to find out what is going to happen with her and Norman, but I am worried. I really hope things don't get too fuddled up. However, I will probably see this series to the end because I am enjoying them and they make for a good break between other bigger books.

Curious Squid says

My friend said that this was the worst book she ever read. I am not going to try to dissuade her. At first I thought the book was written for children as the writing was so simplified, but alas it seems to be written for adults after all.

If that was not distracting enough, the book includes recipes in almost every chapter. So a typical chapter is structured like this: She walked into the room. It was a good room. It made her happy. She decided to bake in the room that brought her so much happiness. She preheated the oven to 400 degrees and got out the flour...

It then will then go through each step of making whatever she is baking and somewhere in there add a paragraph or two of storyline. Then at the end of the chapter is the actual recipe.

Goodreads says the book is 292 pgs if you take out all the baking and recipes I doubt its much more than 50 pages. I think I would encourage a friend to skip reading even that version of the book.

QNPoohBear says

It's a hot, muggy summer in Lake Eden and The Cookie Jar is swamped. The mayor's wife asks Hannah and Lisa to bake something for her new charity weekend event. Hannah isn't sure about baking cookies on such short notice but Lisa volunteers them to bake 1000 apple turnovers. Hannah has a big problem. She's never made apple turnovers and neither has Lisa. Lisa's mother-in-law, Marge and Aunt Patsy step in to help bake. Then Lisa's husband Herb begs Hannah to be his assistant for the talent show and she's faced with purple dress demons. Her love life is getting complicated: Norman is off to Minneapolis to a dental convention and comes back withdrawn and different while Mike behaves like a perfect gentleman. Then, her old professor and lover, Bradford Ramsey, turns up in Lake Eden. He also knew her sister Michelle very well and Hannah fears her secret will be exposed and she will be shamed in front of the whole community. When Bradford turns up dead, Hannah is not too sad. Mike asks Hannah for her help in solving the case since she knew the victim.

This has to be the worst entry of the series so far. I skipped it in chronological order - it was checked out of the library I guess. I had wondered why the issue of Michelle's friend coming for dinner was never addresses

and here I have my answer. The who and why was so painfully obvious, I think even Hannah should have figured it out right away. Her sisters probably would have, especially Andrea. Hannah is a little slow and tends to confront murder suspects innocently even when it's obvious they are the murderer. I also figured out what trouble Hannah would get into and how she would be rescued. (That was way too convenient). The rest of the plot takes a backseat to the mystery. Her love life plot is tired. Norman cares more about his cat than Hannah and Mike is always the ever vigilant cop. Bill's plot is somewhat interesting but the reader is left hanging at the end.

Hannah annoyed me in this book. She becomes the grammar police and still acts like a much older lady. I find it hard to believe she's supposed to be around my age. Lisa didn't get enough time to tell her story. Her stories are always the funny highlight of the novel, along with Dolores and her antics. Dolores was conspicuously absent for most of the novel. There are only 3 new characters: Bradford Ramsey and a pair of orphaned teenage twin dancing sensations. Bradford was the classic sleazy predatory. He preyed on his students and made them believe he loved them. He took advantage of his research assistant, consistently lied and cheated. Why did no one report him to the Dean? The twins have little to do in the story. One is a naive young girl and the other is a hardened young man, bitter from his childhood spent in the Home. Stephanie Bascomb, the Mayor's wife, is smug and too wealthy but she deserves her happiness where she can get it. My favorite character is Dillon the Lab/terrier mix. He's so cute and funny.

As always, the best part of the book is the recipes. I need to try Chocolate Crack!

RivkaBelle says

Very quick read - the story seemed faster paced than some others in the series. I figured out whodunit by chapter 10, but it was interesting enough watching the story play out to find out I was right.

Laura de Leon says

Nothing happened that hasn't happened in previous books. The primary problematic turn of events was easily predicted.

If you've followed the series at all, you know that there's almost always some character acting strangely, and the reason is resolved at the end.

This time, it's nice, steady Norman. Six months after the events of the last book, where he's going nuts over his mother's secretive antics, he's doing many of the same things. Sorry, but this is out of character, and he's a major enough character for that to matter.

I know, the balance between Mike and Norman must be maintained. But really, why? It's gotten old.

If there was anything else going for this book, I might be able to shrug it off. But Hannah's old college professor that enjoys seducing young students was just creepy, and not in a good way. The mystery didn't draw me in. I didn't feel connected to the characters. Even the recipes seemed meh at best.

I wish I'd skipped this one.

Lori McD says

First let me begin by saying that when I started reading the Hannah Swensen series, I truly enjoyed the books -- they were light, fluffy confections that were easy to read. I enjoyed getting to know the small town folk & family and more about the town, itself. It's a shame that I've been soured on these books because of the ridiculous love-triangle of Mike/Hannah/Norman. Hannah is becoming more and more unlikeable - whiny, self-centered, prude, and sarcastic. I find it difficult to relate or to feel pity for her at all.

She whines when Mike tells her that she'd be better off with Norman. She's obviously been leaning towards Norman for some time now. At least Hannah and Norman spend time together on true dates. They get each others' jokes and can complete each others' sentences. Norman doesn't care if Hannah is a bit plump; Norman doesn't want to change Hannah. Mike sees Hannah as a never-ending supply of cookies, coffee, and home-cooked meals; someone he can relate to as a detective, not a man.

In this book, something is troubling Norman. For the first time, Hannah considers that she might lose both men she's been playing with, as her cat, Moishe, plays with duck feet, mice, and his Kitty Condo. But it doesn't stop her from feeling sorry for herself, while others around her get on with the business of life and love.

Hannah can't even say the word "sex" - what? The murder victim is a professor that Hannah fell in love with as a grad student, and obviously had an affair with, not knowing that he was married at the time. Are we supposed to believe that this lothario has stunted Hannah's ability to love again -- after now many years? And now, Hannah finds out her sister, Michelle, is one of a long string of women that the professor is involved with, including the town mayor's wife -- probably paying the roving mayor back for his own dalliances.

Hannah admits the truth or most of it to both Mike & Norman. I'm surprised that they didn't ask more questions, such as, "If you slept with this jerk, why can't you even get to second base with me?" But instead, they try to protect her. Wow.

If you're a fan of the series or the characters or even the love triangle, my apologies. I feel like a masochist continuing to read the series, but... what else can I do?

Denise says

There has been much discussion over Joanne Fluke's Hannah Swensen series. Many have decided to stop reading it because of Joanne's refusal to listen to reader's frustration over the Hannah, Mike, Norman triangle. I feel that Joanne has listened to us, the reader, as I found much more discussion and Hannah giving thought to her relationship with the two men. It appears that Norman may be going to have another "love interest" being introduced into the story line. I actually look forward to reading the next book and seeing where this goes.

As for the mystery, many have commented that it was boring. I did not find it so. I felt that we got insight into Hannah's past and the reason she may not be able to make a commitment with either Mike or Norman due to her past relationship with Bradford Ramsey. It seems that Hannah was truly hurt many years ago and

her indecision over her love triangle seems to come from her feelings regarding that episode in her life.

I'm still going to continue with Hannah and see what happens in the future.

Mary: Harry Dresden's Love Slave says

OK I'm done with this series. I'm so tired of the love triangle thing. Pick one already and get back to the murder mysteries. Now I like having the characters personal lives included in my cozies. But this is like the same book over and over again: Hannah can't make up her mind between Norman and Mike but gets ticked off when Mike shows an interest in another woman. Well maybe he's tired of taking cold showers. They drink lots of coffee, she has stupid dreams, she doesn't get enough sleep and she can't fit into this or that dress. I'm filing this with Stephanie Plum into the only get it free from the library if I happen to see it while I'm there.

Michael says

I really didn't like this book. I've read every one in the series but I doubt I will read anymore. The murder didn't take place until more than 100 pages in but I had already figured out who was going to be murdered, who was going to do it, and why. It could not have been more predictable.

I am not fond of love triangles to begin with but the one in this series is incredibly obnoxious and makes the lead character completely unlikable. The last few books made it seem like she was leaning towards Norman because she didn't like that Mike was seeing other women- what a hypocrite! She expects 2 men to be faithful to her but she doesn't have to be faithful to either one of them?! How ridiculous (and obnoxious) is that? And up until this book Norman has been a bit of a spineless lap dog and suddenly he starts acting shady? How out of character is that?

Furthermore, she is a condescending, know-it-all, who apparently thinks she's a detective because she bumbles around "investigating" until she figures out who the murderer is about 3 seconds before they try to kill her after she has gone somewhere secluded with them or gone somewhere secluded to meet with them- you'd think she'd learn not to do that after the first few murders she "investigated."

So annoying.

Heather says

2.5 stars. This one didn't annoy me nearly as much as the last couple have but I'm still only reading this series out of habit at this point. This was one of those books that suited my needs of "something quick I can read on vacation that doesn't have a plot that requires my full attention." Same old, same old. Hannah finds a dead body next to one of her baked goodies and local law enforcement steps aside so she can solve the case, which of course she does.

The dead body in this case is the professor both Hannah and her sister had flings with while students at the college where he taught. Michelle is pretty forthcoming about this but Hannah is horrified her secret past with him will be exposed because Hannah is clearly the most chaste 30-something to ever live. It's really no wonder sometime boyfriend Mike hooks up with other women every chance he gets. And her other boyfriend Norman must have the patience of a saint. (Again I wonder why she's torn between them though this book did at least say she just doesn't want to settle down yet).

This is a quick read if you page through all the recipes which take up a good portion of the book. I did find reading it more enjoyable when I was trapped on a plane hopped up on Melatonin than when I was back in the real world. For one thing, I was reading it on my Kindle/Kindle app on my phone, and the editing for this version was horrible, mainly due to words being randomly hyphenated in the middle of the sentences and the recipes not starting on their own page like they do in printed format. My other gripe is after finding the body, Hannah admitted she wanted the professor dead, was overheard threatening him but was never a suspect in his murder. Um, okay. I also wonder when these people sleep as everyone always seems to be calling and popping over at all hours of the night. I would think by now, caffeine would have lost it's effect on Hannah given how much coffee she drinks.

Still, it wasn't a bad read. I could relate to Andrea's dilemma of her husband looking at a job offer that would take them to Florida and away from their families. Her anguish of wanting to be a supportive wife because she knew this was a good opportunity vs not wanting to leave the only home she's ever known was done quite well. And some of Michelle's breakfast recipes are intriguing-perhaps she'll open her own restaurant some day as well?
