



## Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes

*Karen Rose Smith*

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## **Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes** Karen Rose Smith

*In an old Victorian in the heart of Pennsylvania's Amish country, Daisy Swanson and her aunt Iris serve soups, scones, and soothing teas to tourists and locals—but a murder in their garden has them in hot water . . .*

Daisy, a widowed mom of two teenagers, is used to feeling protective—so when Iris started dating the wealthy and not-quite-divorced Harvey Fitz, she worried . . . especially after his bitter ex stormed in and caused a scene at the party Daisy's Tea Garden was catering. Then there was the gossip she overheard about Harvey's grown children being cut out of his will. Daisy didn't want her aunt to wind up with a broken heart—but she never expected Iris to wind up a suspect in Harvey's murder.

Now the apple bread and orange pekoe is on the back burner while the cops treat the shop like a crime scene—and Daisy hopes that Jonas Groft, a former detective from Philadelphia, can help her clear her aunt's name and bag the real killer before things boil over . . .

**Includes delicious recipes for Iris's Lemon Tea Cakes and more!**

## **Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes Details**

Date : Published December 26th 2017 by Kensington

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Author : Karen Rose Smith

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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## **From Reader Review Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes for online ebook**

### **Patty says**

Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes by Karen Rose Smith is the 1st book in the Daisy's Tea Garden Mystery series, and a great book. Daisy Swanson, a widowed mother of two daughters, along with her Aunt Iris open the tea garden. Iris is dating a not quite divorced man, when he is found murdered, and Iris becomes a suspect. Daisy can not let anything happen to Iris, and is determined to find the real murderer.

Once I started this book I could not stop reading it. It was a quick read that kept me guessing. I look forward to the next book in the series. I strongly recommend this book for all cozy mystery book lovers, you will not be disappointed.

I received this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Janet Robel says**

I thought this was super cute. This is the first in a new series. The tea shop is just darling and makes me wish I could visit. Daisy is great! I love how she looks out for her Aunt Iris. Cozy mystery readers will enjoy this and getting to know Daisy. Just love these type of books!

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

This is the first book in a new series by Karen Rose Smith and I enjoyed it. It takes place in a small town with Daisy as the main character. Daisy has returned to her hometown after the death of her husband. She and her two daughters are living in a renovated barn and she and her Aunt Ivy have started a business. Purchasing an old Victorian home, they have opened The Tea Garden. All is going well until Harvey, Ivy's boyfriend, is found dead, bludgeoned in their back garden. Of course, Ivy is a suspect and Daisy is determined to do what she can to get her aunt off the suspect list.

I really enjoyed the characters in this book. Daisy is a strong, loving person who is dedicated to her family and business. She is smart and is beginning to open up to the idea of having a man in her life once again. Daisy is not the typical sleuth I have come to expect in a cozy. She does not outright investigate, but does ask poignant questions and meet people who might have information about the crime. Her family plays an important role in the story with both background, filling out her character and the main plot of the story. There are a couple of men in the story that look like romantic interests and I am looking forward to seeing where this leads in upcoming books in this series. The police detective is a crochety guy who reminds me of the television detectives who latch onto someone and will not let it go. I always enjoy a cozy mystery that has food and family as part of the story. The mystery was solid and clues were spread out through the story. There were some red herrings and I did not figure out who the killer was until it was obvious at the end of the story. throughout the story. I think fans of cozy mysteries will enjoy this series. I have read other books written by Karen Rose Smith and this one did not disappoint. The publisher generously provided me with a copy of this book via Netgalley.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

### Dollycas's Thoughts

I was captivated by this cozy from the first chapter.

Daisy Swanson's husband Ryan, passed away about 3 years ago. She and her daughters have moved to Willow Creek so Daisy can partner with her Aunt Iris owning and operating Daisy's Tea Garden. Daisy also purchased and renovated an old barn into an extraordinary home. Iris is dating Harvey Fitz, owner of the men's clothing store down the street, a very wealthy man. The problem is that while he is separated he is not yet divorced making people a little uncomfortable with the arrangement. Plus his wife appears to not be giving in without a fight. Harvey may have changed his will cutting off his adult children too.

Before the divorce is final Iris finds Harvey dead on the tea garden patio and she and Daisy become the police's prime suspects. Daisy is going to need a little help but she is going to try to find the real killer.

I love the strong family bonds in this story. They are very believable. Daisy has a very strong bond with her aunt. Iris and her sister, Daisy's mom, have a lifelike sisterly bond on well. They have no trouble telling each other what they think. Daisy is a great mom but her daughters, Violet and Jasmine are dealing with being separated since Vi is now in college and there is something else bothering Jazzi. Daisy also has a sister Camellia. As you can see, flower names are a family tradition.

The author has set the story in the beautiful Amish Lancaster County. Iris and Daisy use fruits and vegetables from the farmers at the restaurant and the town has places for buggies as well as cars and trucks. Daisy's home has me wishing for something just like it. The tea garden seems like a place I would want to visit every day.

The mystery was harder to solve than I initially thought it would be. I had my suspects down to two when more suspects were brought forward for consideration. A shocking twist turned my thinking completely inside out.

An inviting setting, engaging characters, and a well-plotted mystery made this a story I didn't want to put down. Ms. Smith really intrigued with this book. I want to get to know these characters better and visit Willow Creek again soon and often.

This series is off to an excellent start.

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## **Tari says**

This was an awesome start for a brand new series. I thought it was really well-written, descriptions were just right as in not over the top descriptive and I could totally picture this little town in Pennsylvania near Amish country with all its fun shops. There were a lot of characters but I never felt overwhelmed since each one was dealt with in such a way that I felt like I knew them, even if it was someone the reader isn't really supposed to like.

Daisy and her aunt Iris had opened Daisy's Tea Garden in Willow Creek, PA a couple years ago after Daisy's husband Ryan had passed. She and her girls, Jazzi and Vi, had moved back home from FL. The tea room and garden were doing pretty well until Aunt Iris's almost-fiance was murdered in the garden. Since the police had it in their minds that Iris was guilty, Daisy knew she had to investigate and get it solved before her aunt ended up in jail.

Daisy's old friend Cade who had been her high school crush was cautious and didn't want her to investigate but her new friend Jonas who owned a nearby furniture store had been a detective in Pittsburgh and while he knew the dangers of investigating, he understood Daisy's need to do that. With two guys in her life now, each one of them being super nice, Daisy had her share of confusion although she admitted to herself that Jonas sparked a little something in her when he was around. It'll be interesting to see which one she ends up with. At this point, I don't even know which one I prefer--I like them both! Jonas did seem more attentive but he was also helping with a little side story of helping Jazzi, Daisy's adopted daughter, find out who her birth mom was.

The many fun characters weren't hard to keep separate. They were distinctive and some were quirky. Aunt Iris was very sweet and could be feisty when riled so I really enjoyed reading about her. I was sad about her fiance but knowing her, she may find someone else. I also really liked Sean, Daisy's dad who seemed to be the voice of calm and collected in the family when his wife Rose and her sister Iris didn't agree on things. It wasn't daytime drama disagreements or anything though. They were still a very close family and realized that family did indeed come first. I liked the addition of college age Foster helping in the tea room--Daisy's daughter Vi was really eyeing him up!

I had a feeling and was right about the killer but there were lots of clues sprinkled throughout early enough that even though I got distracted thinking someone else could have done it, I kept coming back to the same person. It was a great take down, equally acted on by all parties and pretty exciting. The ending was pretty sweet too!

There were some of the tea room's recipes in the back, definitely the one for the lemon tea cakes along with a little teaser excerpt for the next book which I know I've probably pre-ordered or will be getting. I am sold on this series and its delightful characters!

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### **Julie says**

Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes by Karen Rose Smith is a 2017 Kensington publication.

A fantastic start to a new and refreshing cozy mystery series!

When Daisy's Aunt Iris finds herself under investigation for the death of her boyfriend, Harvey Fitz, who was murdered right there in the garden of their lovely tea shop, Daisy must rise to the occasion and find the real killer before her aunt is arrested.

Meanwhile, Daisy is dealing with her adopted teenage daughter's desire to meet her birth mother, and wrestling with the possibility of dating again after the death of her husband.

Although this is the first book in a new series, I felt as though Daisy and I were old friends. I immediately bonded with her and really enjoyed the tea shop setting. The tea servings and all the various flavors of tea

were described so beautifully, and the shop seemed truly delightful, even if it was a crime scene- and oh my- I could almost taste those lemon tea cakes! Having all the female characters named after flowers is a nice touch, as well.

The town square is picturesque, featuring other small businesses, and the characters are all very interesting and maybe a bit quirky at times. All these elements are very important with a cozy mystery of this nature and is part of the charm. The author did a very good job setting the stage for future installments.

The murder mystery is also connected to a coin collection that Aunt Iris has inadvertently found herself involved in and is not quite sure how she should proceed, which complicates an already tense situation. The mystery was cleverly planned out, with plenty of viable suspects, which kept me guessing from start to finish.

I am very much looking forward to more adventures with Daisy and am curious to see how her love life develops, as well.

I picked this book out on a cold, wet day and it was the perfect cure for a gray, dreary day. I love the bright yellow cover, too!

This is a very solid introduction to this new series, which also includes a few of the yummy recipes featured in the book!

4 stars

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### **Barb says**

I was lucky enough to win an ARC of *Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes* from Kensington. I literally devoured this book, almost in one sitting! Karen Rose Smith has created a delightful setting - a quaint tea garden in the middle of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, as well as truly believable characters. The family dynamics at one memorable meal were absolutely spot-on. The heroine, Daisy Swanson, is a widow with two teen aged daughters, who has come to Willow Creek, PA, to help her Aunt Iris with the tea shop. When Iris's significant other is murdered right in the tea shop's garden, Iris is a prime suspect. In the face of a stubborn police officer, Daisy must fight to clear her aunt's name.

I loved this book and can't wait to read more in the series.

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### **Carrie says**

*Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes* by Karen Rose Smith is the first book in the new cozy Daisy's Tea Garden Mystery series. Daisy Swanson runs Daisy's Tea Garden with her aunt Iris where they serve specialty teas and desserts along with catering to events.

Daisy is a young widowed mother who since the passing of her husband has come to realize just how important family is to her so she can't help but worry when her aunt Iris starts seeing Harvey Fitz. What Daisy never expected was for her aunt to find Harvey murdered just outside in the garden and then become a suspect herself in the murder.

Daisy refuses to let the police point the finger at her elderly aunt and is determined to find out just who else would want Harvey dead. The more she questions people the longer her suspect list grows but then she and her aunt find themselves in danger as they are looking for answers.

The only thing really that kept me from rating this one at a full five stars was I'd would have liked the characters to have a bit more quirkiness about them to make them stand out a bit more. My favorites cozies are the ones that the characters just pop out of the story and make themselves known and while likable enough Daisy seemed a bit too normal mom/business woman. The murder mystery within the book was one that was a good solid start to the series though so I would be interested in continuing on with these characters in the future.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

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### **Betty says**

A light and relaxing read, the first book, in a new series. The characters are developed and will hold your attention

Daisy Swanson, a widow, and her Aunt Iris have open a tea shop. Daisy set into her hometown after the death of her husband and open the tea shop to order to support herself and her daughters. Aunt Iris is dating a wealthy gentleman who is not yet divorced. Aunt Iris finds her gentleman friend dead in the garden of the tea shop. Aunt Iris is the leading suspect in the murder. Daisy begins to explore the circumstances surrounding the death. Meanwhile, her youngest daughter, who was adopted is looking for her birth Mother. Will Daisy find the answers to both questions? I recommend this book. Recipes are included.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kennington Books through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review this book. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Peggy R says**

This is the first book in a new series by Karen Rose Smith and the first work that I have read by this author. I thought it was a very pleasant read. I enjoyed the setting of the tea room and thought the characters were charming. Daisy is a widow raising her youngest daughter at home and trying to make a go of the tea room with her aunt. I think reader will connect with Daisy and find her to be a main character that is likable. I also enjoyed that family played an important role in this story. I always enjoy a cozy mystery that has food and family at its center. The mystery was solid and the author wove her clues throughout the story. I think fans of this author's other series will certainly be drawn to this one as well.

I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher through Netgalley.

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### **Lori says**

Daisy and her aunt Iris co-own a tea shop with delightful teas and pastries in Willow Creek, somewhere in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area. It's a good start to a series. When the owner of a men's clothing store who has been dating Iris while divorcing his wife turns up dead on the shop's patio, suspicion turns to Iris. Daisy is determined to see her aunt's name cleared. She does that with the help of Jonas, a retired policeman who owns a nearby shop, and to whom Daisy is attracted. In another story line, Jonas helps Daisy's adopted daughter Jazzi find her birth mother. The main characters are developed pretty well and enjoyable. I figured out the guilty party fairly early, but that's not all that unusual. It did not hold my attention quite as much as some mysteries, and I'm not sure if it was because of how busy my life was or because of a flaw in the writing. I do plan to continue with the next installment, although not immediately.

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### **Jeanie says**

Karen Rose Smith has hit a grand slam homer with her fabulous first in a new series, *Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes!* I thoroughly enjoyed it and am eagerly looking forward to the next one. The author has the perfect elements – very likable characters, a lovely Tea Garden with scrumptious-sounding food, and a mystery that will stump some of the most diligent readers.

Daisy Swanson wears many hats – widowed mother to teen girls Violet and Jazzi, as well as daughter, sister, niece, and business owner/ manager. Her beloved Ryan passed away three years earlier, and she packed up and returned to Willow Creek, Pennsylvania. She and Aunt Iris found the perfect location for a tea shop that also sells pastries baked in-house and serves proper afternoon tea. Tessa, her best friend since high school, is her chef, who also rents the second floor of the Victorian home housing Daisy's Tea Garden.

Iris is dating a man who treats her as she deserves to be in every way except one. Harvey is still married, although is only weeks away from the divorce being final. While Daisy wished he was already divorced, she is not as outspoken about it as her mother, Iris' sister. Harvey is a wealthy man, owning a specialty store called Men's Trends for twenty-five years.

Harvey rented the tearoom for a full Sunday for an invitation-only celebration of the stores's anniversary. His adult son and daughter attend and have a mild spat, and Harvey's soon to be ex-wife crashes the party but is quickly led out by another attendee. Based on things that Harvey tells Iris, she knows he wants to discuss their future as soon as his divorce is final.

Iris is excited to meet Harvey one evening after work. It begins no different from others in that Harvey will meet Iris in the garden at the Tea Garden. When Iris sees Harvey, however, he is dead, having clearly been murdered. The detective in charge of the case believes Iris killed Harvey, perhaps in collusion with Daisy.

I find the relationships between family members and loved ones fascinating. I learn the most about the ladies in Daisy's family from the challenges between sisters and how one's mother can help them grow closer or farther apart. Daisy helps each daughter see her strengths as equal to her sister's, and she shows Vi and Jazzi that they are equally her beloved daughters, whether by birth or adoption. I really like Daisy and Iris, and Daisy's new acquaintance, Jonas, and his helpfulness in her family's needs .

There are unique elements to the plot, including twists that change the course of the investigation or how dangerous the bad guy/ gal is. Determining who might be the killer is a challenge, as there is little evidence. I had a tiny suspicion at one point, yet also considered red herrings when they looked better than my guess. The solution was surprising as I had so readily discarded the person.

I appreciate seeing that there is more in Daisy's life than work and finding a killer. The author demonstrates sensitivity through Daisy's familial relationships and the needs of her daughters. There is a depth to Daisy and Iris that makes them fully three-dimensional, and I am looking forward to getting to know them better in upcoming mysteries. I highly recommend *Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes*; it is one of my favorite new series in 2017!

From a grateful heart: I received a copy of this from the publisher a Goodreads First Read contest, and NetGalley, and here is my honest review.

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### **Amanda A says**

3.5 stars

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### **Jessica Robbins says**

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

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### **Sheri says**

I really enjoyed this delightful mystery. Every time I picked the book up to read more I found myself wanting tea and lemon tea cakes. I've never had a tea cake, but all the raving over them has me convinced they must be delicious! (There is a recipe included for Lemon Tea Cakes that I hope to make soon.)

The first half primarily describes Daisy's Tea Garden and introduces the characters. The second half of the book focuses more on the potential suspects and provides more information on their possible motives. This formula worked really well for me; the scene was set, the characters were introduced, and now it was time to get down to solving the crime. Plus after reading all about the charming Tea Garden, I must admit I had forgotten all about some of the lesser characters. I was soon back on track, making my own prediction, and of course, totally guessing wrong.

A great start to a new series and I can see many possible storylines to be explored in future books. I'm looking forward to the next book and more delicious recipes!

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