



The Cereal Murders

Diane Mott Davidson

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Thanks to her recent adventures in *Dying for Chocolate*, Goldy Bear, the premier caterer of Aspen Meadow, Colorado, is no stranger to violence--or sudden death. But when she agrees to cater the first College Advisory Dinner for Seniors and Parents at the exclusive Elk Park Preparatory School, the last thing she expects to find at the end of the evening is the battered body of the school valedictorian.

Who could have killed Keith Andrews, and why? Goldy's hungry for some answers--and not just because she found the corpse. Her young son, Arch, a student at Elk Park Prep, has become a target for some not-so-funny pranks, while her eighteen-year-old live-in helper, Julian, has become a prime suspect in the Andrews boy's murder.

As her investigation intensifies, Goldy's anxiety level rises faster than homemade doughnuts. . .as she turns up evidence that suggests that Keith knew more than enough to blow the lid off some very unscholarly secrets. And then, as her search rattles one skeleton too many, Goldy learns a crucial fact: a little knowledge about a killer can be a deadly thing.

The Cereal Murders Details

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Author : Diane Mott Davidson

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From Reader Review The Cereal Murders for online ebook

Mom says

This book is not my usual genre so I didn't expect to like it at all. I must tell you that the cover and title drew me to read it. I thought it would be cute and funny having mysteries wrapped around food. How inventive! I didn't enjoy the first chapter but I think it was because I didn't know what to expect and I'm not used to reading fiction. However, I stuck with it, and for the most part I really enjoyed it. I love the way recipes are sprinkled throughout the book! Very clever! It made me want to read more and kept me going if the story got in a lull. I must tell you that I do not like suspense and it drives me crazy, so it should come as no surprise that I didn't like the climax of the book and I couldn't wait for that part to get over and find out who the culprit was. The ending was anti-climactic and it didn't make a lot of sense. The characters were not believable given the situation. I couldn't understand why a book that was pretty much well written would fall at the end. This book is one in a long series of books and I have yet to decide if I will try another. I must ponder it.

Jonathan says

Though this book suffered from a slow start, it soon sped up and became an entertaining read that I couldn't wait to finish,

I had read the last book in this series in December of last year, so it took me a while to get reacquainted with the characters, but after I warmed up to them they were fun! Goldy is blunt, funny, and fiercely protective of those around her, but yet Ms. Davidson shows that Goldy isn't perfect in multiple instances throughout the book. I especially loved reading more about the school Julian and Arch go to and I thought the author portrayed the cut-throat way academics are in some schools wonderfully.

The mystery was good, there was a couple of abstract clues through the book that you don't pick up on until the end and the killer took me by surprise.

Overall a very enjoyable read. *The Cereal Murders* gets 4/5 stars!

Karen says

I have read most of this series, so was glad to see on my list that I have a few I have missed and can still read for the first time. Goldy Bear, caterer extraordinaire, never fails to entertain.....in so many ways! This is a very good series, a favorite of mine, with great characters and plots that you have to work hard at to figure out before the "bad guy" is revealed. That is not always easy, which is a plus to me!

Connie N. says

#3 in the Goldy Bear Culinary Mystery series

This series is getting better and better. I'd rate this 4.5 stars if I could. This was my favorite so far, probably because it was more than a cozy mystery. It also included some romance (with Tom Schultz), some chick lit (with Julian's and Arch's school issues), as well as foodie fiction. I love hearing about Goldy's menus and catering jobs--Davidson makes it seem so fun and casual while still being very professional. This time Goldy is involved with a murder of a student at the school, with everyone getting intense about SAT's and college applications. Julian is a senior so is in the middle of all of the action. Barbara Rosenblatt really does an excellent job voicing Goldy, and Schulz has a nice low sexy drawl too. I particularly enjoy her emphasis and enthusiastic narration style. She really adds to my enjoyment.

Andrea Kelly says

Engaging mysteries, and fun recipes! The only thing I don't like about these books are her relationship with her son, and the fact that characters who are considered "good friends" seem to appear and disappear at random! Otherwise I recommend them, they definitely suck you in.

Yvonne Mendez says

I've read several of Goldy's murder-mystery books and though I always try to figure out who-did-it, the end is a surprise to me! I've been close in guessing, one day I might get it! Thanks to these books I know I would never be in catering, seems like way too much work.

Erin says

Enjoyed it. Can't wait to try a few of the recipes.

Was horribly annoyed by most of the parents, but then that could be because I didn't experience them at all in my own final years of High School.

The character of Audrey Coopersmith was the most annoying character in the entire book. If she had been my parent, I would have disowned her.

Actually none of the secondary characters were likable in any regard. I felt no sympathy or empathy for any of them.

I do look forward to reading the next one.

Shelly says

Book #45 for 2011 - another delicious murder mystery starring Goldy the caterer!

innae says

a little paragraph that just made me so happy!! from page 38

"He reached into the front pocket of his sweatshirt and pulled the rock out. So much for fingerprints. But the rock was tennis-ball-size and jagged. It probably wouldn't have held a print anyway."

As a real life CSI, it gets old when books/movies/tv shows all indicate that prints CAN and ARE pulled off everything from glass to oranges to rocks. In real life, it just doesn't happen. Nice to see it in a book :-)

Another win for the Goldy series. Just a good little mystery, and I didn't see the ending coming. After it got spelled out, I was like -- well of course -- but I didn't see it before that.

Kate says

Not a bad series mystery, and the recipes are pretty good for the recipe-mystery publishing craze, but even Barbara Rosenblat couldn't make me appreciate a book with characters so sharply Good or Evil. A relic of its time, with a topic (the tyranny of grades and testing) that has only gotten worse since its publication.

Shelby Bagby says

reread

Ragan says

Thses books are usually clean, but this one does have some swearing in it. I guess because the plot revolves around teenagers.

Rosemary says

I have read some of the later books in this series and decided to start at the beginning to have a better understanding of how things have evolved over time. This is book 3. The narrator is Goldie, a caterer. These are light mysteries filled with wonderful descriptions of food. A cozy listen.

Lisa B. says

I listened to the audiobook. The story is well written and the narrator for this audio version makes it very entertaining.

Cheryl Gatling says

I think it was the cover of the audiobook that attracted my attention: a skull made out of Cheerios. It was creepy, yet kind of cute. I think that was a good summary of the story. There are actual serious murders, and actual real danger, but the narration is almost funny. The story takes place at a private prep school. The valedictorian is found murdered on the night of the first college advisory meeting, which Goldy caters. It becomes clear that stress about getting into the right college is consuming the lives of these students and their parents. Goldy goes among them, as she caters all their events, but she is not quite of them, which gives her the opportunity to observe and critique. And she does. Goldy is a warm-hearted, approachable woman, but she harbors a dry wit, and she skewers the pretensions of her rich, snobby neighbors in spot-on descriptions. She shows them up to be silly and selfish, and I enjoyed that wry voice more than the action of the murder mystery. But still, would one of these people, even a silly and selfish person, actually kill to get into a top college? That is the question. And while we are solving it, Goldy, who is self-supporting, has to go on working, and that means whipping up new menus of tasty food, recipes included.

James says

Book Review

3 of 5 stars to The Cereal Murders, the third book in the "Goldy Bear Culinary" mystery series, published in 1993 and written by Diane Mott Davidson. I'm a fan of this series, enjoying the charming antics of the cozy little town, the delicious-sounding recipes and the mystery fun each book includes. Another good installment in the series, it falls somewhere in the middle range of best and worst, nothing to extraordinary but nothing much of fault.

Focused on the intensity of college preparation, the students at Elk Prep, where Goldy's son, Arch, goes to school, are preparing for college. Goldy's sort of adopted son, Julian, is a senior there and is suddenly suspected when the school valedictorian is found murdered at a dinner. He wasn't well liked, but Goldy discovers a web of secrets he was hiding. Then a teacher is murdered and Goldy's starting to fear for her own life, especially when she's uncovering more and more unexpected dirt. Her relationship with Tom Schultz moves forward as they investigate the case. The highlight: Julian. He's always been my favorite character, and I admit, I might have a small crush on him. Ha!

Usual cozy fun. A few red herrings. A town connected underneath the surface. Marla looks out for Julian at some point. Even Arch is glad to be part of the process. Plus, who doesn't love some cereal for a meal?

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. *Note:* All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

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Sherry says

Nice audio narration. I like the down to earth personality of Goldie. 3.5 stars. I could have done without her love life. Did she have to keep telling us that it had been awhile since she had sex and she liked it? She's engaged now so in the next book maybe she'll lay off on it. I like her though

Candace says

I especially love this author's cozy mysteries because they're set up in our mountains where I like to pretend I live, but don't, due to my terror of mountainous snow-driving. This one was extra fun because parts of it took place here in Denver at The Tattered Cover bookstore, a beloved institution. In fact, I enjoyed that aspect so much that I had to go back there and buy books.

Cyndi says

There is a fine line between sarcasm and bitchy, Goldie crosses the line too often. It was hard to get into the mystery when I was weary of all her griping. None of the characters grabbed me, but the story was still interesting.

We have an exclusive school of rich children with parents ready to do whatever it takes to get their offspring into the best colleges. From bribes to murder and everything in between.

So even though I didn't like the heroine and felt that the side characters never fleshed out, the story was interesting.

Genie says

When Denver caterer Goldy Bear takes on a catering job at her son's school she has no idea what's in store for her. It comes as a surprise to discover how worried the Seniors at Elk Park Prep School are about their grade point averages. It's an even bigger surprise to discover the extremes some of the parents are going to in order to get their offspring into ivy league schools. The evening came to a disruptive end when several parents got into arguments with each other. Unfortunately the parental spats weren't the worse part of the evening. As Goldy was taking out the trash, she literally stumbled into the body of the class valedictorian.

Goldy decides to do some investigating on her own after she happens on to the body of a murdered teacher during another catering job at the school. She soon discovers that not only are spats breaking out among the parents but some have been bribing teachers and college admissions representatives.

To further complicate matters, someone is playing dangerous pranks on her family. At first it's difficult to pinpoint the target of these pranks. It could be Goldy herself, her son (a 7th-grader at the school) or her catering helper / live-in student (and a senior) at the school.

This light, enjoyable mystery is topped off with the recipes for the foods that play a major role in the story.
