



# A Cookie Before Dying

*Virginia Lowell*

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On a stormy night, Olivia Greyson and her Yorkie discover the body of a man stabbed to death-which looks suspiciously like the intruder seen fleeing the local health food store The Vegetable Plate. Charlene Critch, owner of The Vegetable Plate, has a grudge against Olivia's cookie cutter shop, but could Charlene be hiding a secret serious enough to kill for?

## A Cookie Before Dying Details

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Author : Virginia Lowell

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# From Reader Review A Cookie Before Dying for online ebook

## Janet Robel says

Delightful! Olivia and her best friend Maddie really make the story special. At times, the mystery doesn't seem to be the main focus but it works with this series. Cozy mystery fans will warm up to this one.

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## Dawn says

Loving this series!! This book is just as good as the first. Now on to the next!

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## QNPoohBear says

Livie is annoyed to wake up on a sultry morning to find her lawn littered with pamphlets proclaiming the evils of sugar. She's certain the culprit is her neighbor, Charlene Critch, who runs a health food store. When Livie goes over to complain, she sees the store has been trashed and man running away. Charlene claims to know nothing about the pamphlet litter but she does seem to know something about the man. Who could he be and what is he doing in The Vegetable Patch? Local gossip claims Charlene has an ex-husband though the police can't find a record of the match. When the man is found dead, Livie's brother Jason turns himself in. Livie knows her brother is being an idiot and trying to protect Charlene. Jason won't talk and though Livie doesn't care for Charlene, she knows her baby brother is innocent and is determined to prove it. The case doesn't look good for Jason, but Livie is determined to solve the mystery and save her brother before it's too late. She's also set on solving the mystery of what is making Maddie and Lucas so miserable. There's also a mystery about Del's feelings for her and what she should do about that.

This story gets off to a slow start. There's a lot of information dumped on the reader that seems trivial and unimportant. A lot happened in the few months between books and has to be explained. There are new characters to introduce before the murder happens. The mystery of the pamphlets and mysterious break-in at the Vegetable Patch are enough of a mystery but the murder complicates things. It's obvious Jason is innocent and I didn't figure out who did it until just before Livie did. Then there was a surprising twist at the end. The romantic plots still barely get off the ground and are pretty much pointless.

My favorite character is Spunky. He drives much of the action in the mystery. His friend Buddy is also delightful and I hope we hear more from him in the future. I liked Livie a little less in this book than the first one. She does some stupid things in this book that cozy mystery heroines usually do. I hate it when they do that and she was so intelligent in the first book. I did like how she deals with her ex. Maddie annoyed the heck out of me. She's so crazy and lives in her owl world. She doesn't seem to like any of her peers except Livie for no good reason. She apparently has issues related to her parents' deaths which is completely randomly tossed in to the story but it doesn't make me like her more. I don't like Livie's mother Ellie all that much. She's more charming than Maddie though but I hate nosy gossips.

New characters are Charlene Critch who is way too uptight. She's crazy! Actually she's misinformed and it's made her crazy. She needs to go hang out with Ellie and do some yoga or something. She's also extremely secretive and when all is revealed, it made me like her even less because she withheld information from the

police both in her past and present. She could have eliminated the entire mystery by revealing the truth earlier. Raoul, the sexy dance instructor, seems pointless. He's good looking but other than that he doesn't have much personality. Ida, a waitress, is a cooky character but I kind of liked her, at first, until she revealed she withheld information from the police. There are a few other new characters who seem to overpopulate the story but all comes together at the end. There's only one who is memorable and I found her touching and my heart went out to her.

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### **Stefanie says**

3.5 but I rounded up

I felt the plot dragged a bit, up until they mentioned the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, so I rounded up simply for that because go Canada.

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### **Carly McEathron says**

It's possible that I had such a hard time enjoying this book because I did not read the first in the series; maybe all the intrigue and character development was in that title. As it was, I thought the characters were shallow and cliché, and I couldn't come to terms with a store devoted entirely to cookie cutters - just doesn't seem financially sound. The murder itself was uninteresting - there seemed to be no good reason for Olivia to want to solve this murder, her personal connection to the case didn't seem to be enough for any sane person to become so invested.

Also, the continual complaint about the heat was obnoxious. It's a hot place, we get it. Suck it up or get Central Air already.

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### **Jessica says**

Loved this book, everything a cozy should be! Only downfall? No cookie recipe :(

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### **Kristen says**

In Virginia Lowell's *A Cookie Before Dying*, the second installment in the *Cookie Cutter Shop Mystery* series, this would leave you bewildered for a twisted tale. It all started for Olivia Greyson and Maddie Briggs, that someone littered newspapers on their lawn, and had broken into the Vegetable Plate store next door. When Livie wanted to find out what they found out what it was all about, she eavesdropped into the conversation between Charlene Critch and an unknown man arguing out loud. During the storm, that same man had wound up dead by a knife wound of some sort. And Livie's brother, Jason, was the prime suspect, who confessed for the murder. But Livie didn't believe him and did some snooping around to clear his name. It seemed that everyone in Chatterley Heights had a bone to pick with him. Also during the same storm, they saw someone dancing like a ballerina. As Maddie and Olivia tried to pick up the pieces between stolen cookie cutters and what's Charlene's big secret. In attempts to smoke out the killer after hours at her store,

things get heated when she connects the dots to solve the mystery on whodunit and why.

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### **Jonathan says**

A very good second book, *A Cookie Before Dying* was a very strong book with very minor problems. In this book Livie's dog, Spunky, becomes extremely agitated one night and wants to go out. When he won't take no for an answer, Livie takes him outside and, much to her surprise, she finds a dead man. With the help of Maddie, Livie's best friend, and, of course, Spunky Livie must find the killer before the killer puts one of her loved ones behind bars forever.

I love the characters in this book. Livie, Del, Maddie, and all of their friends and family are well thought out, possibly a little bit eccentric, yet wonderful. In the first book I found Maddie slightly annoying, but, I'm pleased to say that I didn't find her annoying at all in this book. However, the one major character that annoyed me was Livie's brother, Jason. He was seriously ignorant and I feel like the entire book would have improved without him.

The mystery was very good, a lot of false clues and valid suspects were present and the ending wasn't extremely shocking, but yet it was a pleasant surprise.

Overall a very good book with only one bad character. *A Cookie Before Dying* gets 4/5 stars. I'll read the next one!

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### **Dharia Scarab says**

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

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### **Tamara Temple says**

Second offering from V. Lowell of her cozy mystery series about Olyvia Grayson, owner of the Gingerbread

House, a cookie cutter shop. Filled with the typical characters, relationships, and so on, as well as a bonafide mystery to solve! Some more twists and turns in this novel than the first, a wholly delightful read.

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### **Deb Sharp says**

#### **A fun new series to read**

This is the second book in this series, I really enjoyed it, I'm looking forward to reading more of this series. The characters are interesting , I loved the ending :)

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### **Mary Ann says**

Love this series it made me start a cookie cutter collection. And the bantering between the sisters is true to life. Waiting for the next book!

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### **Laura Watts says**

Another great book from Virginia Lowell. Every time I read a book in this series I want a sugar cookie!

Olivia , how does she keep finding bodies. But she does, and this time it hits close to her business and her family. Can she help her brother out of some trouble with a girl? Will her brother and this girl get together in the next book?

Del, poor Del, he is always coming to the rescue of Olivia. I wonder what he needs to talk to her about? Is it their relationship or his past relationship?

Are we going to see more of Cody? I hope so, all we see him is just here and there.

Who knew that cookie cutters would be valuable item? If a cookie cutter is made of tin, why couldn't they pull finger prints off of it?

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### **Kim says**

Second book, and still not grabbing me. The characters are flat and I have no sympathy with them or desire to see them do well. Will not be wasting any more time with this series.

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### **Grey853 says**

In the second book of the series, there's a lot more going on than the first book. Unfortunately, a lot of that

activity is a bit disjointed and flat. The rivalry between Olivia's cookie and cookie cutter store and the local vegetarian restaurant could've been interesting, but several of the characters were just too extreme. The mystery itself and how she goes about "helping" to solve it while breaking several laws, well, it was totally unbelievable.

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