



Witch Cake Murders

Zoe Arden

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Witches and humans have always existed peacefully in Sweetland Cove... until now.

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Someone is killing humans and drawing unwanted attention to the supernatural residents of Sweetland Cove.

Ava Rose just turned twenty-one, and with her birthday came a few surprises.

One: she's a witch.

Two: she's part owner of a magical bakery she never knew existed.

Three: Someone wants her dead.

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The day Ava arrives in Sweetland Cove, *murders begin occurring...*

Witches and wizards are quick to blame her, but Ava's aunts won't let the town they love turn against her.

But murders follow Ava everywhere.

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Soon, she finds herself on the receiving end of the killer's mad spree. With a crazy wizarding sheriff who wants to lock her up, and an even crazier wizarding detective who wants to lock her whole family up, *Ava must solve this case alone.*

But as the days pass and the only clues point to her, Ava starts to wonder if maybe the sheriff is right.

Maybe she really is the killer.

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The only thing Ava knows for sure is that the witches of Sweetland are not happy with her. Especially those witches who have something to hide.

And they *all* have something to hide.

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Can Ava stop the killer before they strike again... even if that killer is her?

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Witch Cake Murders Details

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From Reader Review Witch Cake Murders for online ebook

Caitlin Copp says

It's Ava's 21st birthday, to Ava just another day of working at the restaurant and coming home to a quiet evening with her dad. Things take a turn when her aunts, who she didn't know existed, show up to tell her that she is a witch! They whisk her back to Sweetland Cove to work in their magical bakery and follow in her mother's footsteps. As soon as Ava sets foot on the island things start going horribly wrong. She loses her wand (a big witchy no-no), almost kills one of her aunts by mixing up the wrong recipe and humans around her start dying. The whole island is convinced she is a human-killer as it was a human who killed her mother. Ava is so new to magic she is starting to question if she is the killer or not. The writing was a little choppy but I really love the characters and the story line and I will continue reading the series!

Dora says

Witch Cake Murders

Imagine that one day you are approached by two eccentric women claiming to be your aunts when you have grown up thinking that your father is your only living relative. Next, imagine that your name is not your name and the aunts want to take you back to your birth place. Now, for the ultimate surprise, the aunts are witches and so are you. This is what happens to Ava Fortune on her 21st birthday.

When she returns to Heavenly Haven, the first thing that happens is that she loses her magic wand. Then murders start happening and she is the suspect. She figures that the only way to clear herself of charges is to investigate the murders herself. Much mayhem ensues.

I liked this book but I do think that the amount of screeching done by the protagonist is unseemly in a 21 year old. The character seemed more of a young teenager in her actions than someone who is old enough to drive a car, have a job, and start thinking about living on her own or starting a family of her own. My other quibble with the book is that it needed better editing

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

Witch Cake Murders is the first book in the *Sweetland Witch* series by Zoe Arden. It's a cute, fun, and magical mystery.

Oh my what a prologue... It's impactful for the reader and characters setting the stage.

Ava doesn't know about her heritage until two zany people arrive in her life, claiming to be her aunts and wanting to take her home to Heavenly Haven.

At first it's fun being part owner of a magical bakery and learning about her magical nature, but soon the fun is over when people start dying and all eyes turn to Ava. I enjoyed the characters, the adventure and the mystery. I didn't have any clue as to who the killer was until it's revealed. I also liked learning about Ava's

heritage.

The secondary characters are quirky and interesting. I liked meeting them. I can't wait to see more of Heavenly Haven and it's mysterious and humorous witches and humans who live on this beautiful little island together.

Witch Cake Murders is a fast-paced read, with many chuckles, and no clear clue as to who the killer is. It's a good start to the Sweetland Witch series and I can't wait to read on.

Rated: 3.5 Stars

Luci says

A really cute cozy mystery. Ava Rose is a young woman who just turned 21. She finds out that she's a witch and that she and her aunts co-own a bakery. And she finds out that someone is killing people in her new hometown. I really enjoyed this book and read it in one sitting.

books are love says

I felt for Ava's dad. he did so much to protect Ava and now she is in danger. He even risks everything to go to her.

Ava is a fun sweet character. Watching her grow into a witch and crush on a boy is adorable as she tries to figure out her life and who is framing her for murder or murders. she is a character that you will definitely fall for as are her aunts. those two will crack you up. there isn't a lot of character building it's more like a meet and greet and learn your neighbors in a small town feel which is good because this book is taking place in a small town where everyone knows everyone and what they are up to. Well not everything when murders start to occur we see some hackles raised and secrets come out.

Damian is a character that is broody at first but when you get to know him you understand why. Poor guy so glad he and Ava got to know one another and see they aren't as they are made out to be.

The story is lighthearted and fun. I love the cakes and desserts and how they play a role in this book. Watching the quirky aunts and the odd town and how they interact with one another was fun as was the story of a girl finding out she is a witch and in danger. Seeing her play Jessica Lansbury and not a good one either was entertaining as she explores her town, the people and snoops to find a killer. She goes through a lot and finds a crush and familiar to boot.

A truly fun sweet cozy mystery that has you smile at the hometown feel and adorable characters and story where magic is seen everywhere and we have kooky aunts to make you feel right at home.

Karin Corneau says

I'm still undecided as to whether I actually liked this or not, so I am giving it 3 stars.

The premise of the book is pretty straightforward. On her 21st birthday, Ava finds out that she comes from a family of witches. She moves back to her family's hometown of Heavenly Haven, where humans and supernaturals co-exist, somewhat peacefully. When people start dying after she arrives, the main suspect is Ava herself. What follows is absolutely a cozy mystery, and I have to admit that I did not see the "twist" coming. So kudos to the author for that.

I think the biggest problem i had with the book is the characters. I know this is book 1 of a series, so I am hoping that there will be some good character development as it goes on, but for most of the book, I didn't really care to much for Ava. I was more interested in the familiars; Tootsie, Rocky and Snowball. There was just something about her that bugged me and I can't quite put my finger on it. I would have to spoil the story if I went into details, but just sometimes I found her a little contradicting. If I had to pick a favorite character? I would probably say Lucy. The side characters seemed a bit more interesting than Ava, but I will admit that towards the end she did grow on me. The Detective from CHOMA drove me absolutely insane and i did not like him even a little bit. I can't even remember his name. He was just an annoying character that I hope never returns. But I'm pretty sure he will and if I decide to continue with the series, i hope his character gets better.

Another small thing that bugged me was the name of some of the characters. I get that she was trying to be cute, but Polly Peacock? What a terrible name. Seemed like something out of Clue. I could never take anyone seriously if there name was Polly Peacock. But that's just my humble opinion, I can't think of the other names at the moment (Really should learn to take notes when i'm reading)

I did however enjoy the author's writing. It flowed quite nicely, and she set up scenes very well, making it easy for me to picture what was going on. I love anything paranormal and combining it with a cozy mystery was a great idea. I love stories about humans and supernaturals openly getting along instead of always being kept in the dark. It was a very easy read.

So, I'm still undecided if I will continue with the series or not. I may give it another go and hope that the characters improve and gain a little more depth as we go, but i'm not itching to delve into it.

This is by no means a terrible book, I did enjoy it.

Mara says

This is my first book by Zoe Arden and it was a fun, cozy, paranormal mystery involving witches and humans. Ava Stone lives with her dad, Eli, in NYC--they both work at a diner where he's a line cook and she's a waitress. It's kind of a boring life because her dad is a homebody. When Ava turns 21 two odd looking ladies come into the diner and ask for her--she finds out 1) they're her aunts, Trixie and Eleanor Rose 2) her real name is Ava Fortune and 3) they're witches like her mom, and herself!! After an argument with her dad, Ava leaves home and meets up with her aunts to go to Sweetland Cove in Heavenly Haven.

Ava's in for more shocks once she arrives in Sweetland Cove. Her aunts have a bakery, The Mystic Cupcake,

and Ava starts learning about plants and extracts. Soon though problems arise because humans are being killed, and Ava's being looked at as the prime suspect.

Her father comes to Sweetland Cove to take her back to NYC, but ends up in trouble himself. Because Ava's Sherriff Knoxx's prime suspect and Detective Colt Hudson seems to want to arrest all of Ava's family she decides to find the real killer on her own, with some help from Lucy, who seems to be her only friend on the island.

I found this an enjoyable cozy mystery. I liked Ava and found her aunts Trixie and Eleanor amusing. Her dad was way overprotective but it was understandable considering the circumstances surrounding her mother's death and why they left Sweetland Cove all those years before. He risked going to jail when he stayed in Sweetland Cove to help Ava. This is the first in the Sweetland Witch series and the author has other books featuring Ava Fortune. I would read more of these books.

Margaret Appel says

Wonderful New Cozy Mystery Series

Witch Cake Murders

This is the second book in a new cozy mystery series by Zoe Arden, and follows Cake Spell Disaster. They are stand-alone books with no cliff hangers! I love these books and am looking forward to the next one!

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Synopsis:

The day Eli returned home from his wife's funeral he finds his wife's killer on his doorstep. In a case of self defense & to protect his child, Eli kills the man, packs a couple bags, takes his child Ava, and runs far far away from the island Heavenly Haven.

Ava grows up in New York City, and on her 21st birthday, two women show up who claim to be her aunts. They want her to return with them to Sweetland Cove on Heavenly Haven & help run the bakery they owned with her mother.

Eli forbids Ava to go, they have a fight, and off Ava runs to Heavenly Haven with her aunts. They begin teaching her about the bakery and making cupcakes. Her first batch of cupcakes and shortly thereafter someone dies. Suspicion falls on Ava, and so begins a great cozy mystery complete with murder, revenge, and oh, can't forget the best part ~ WITCHES!

Maggie says

Fluff. Reads as though target audience is young adult. Cute little cozy witch story but the author slaps an unnecessary and tacky cliff hanger to the end of her almost complete story. Unfortunately, I do expect less of most Kindle Unlimited - so if you like cozy style witch (mystery seems too strong a word, I'll stick with

stories) and can stomach cliff hanger endings - go for it.

♥ Joy Joy ♥ says

Overall, the book was decent and I do plan on giving the next in the series a chance.

I found the prologue intriguing and it definitely reeled me in. The premise of the story is pretty much what the description says and the author builds on that rather well. The writing flowed smoothly and I really liked the series concept and setting.

In regards to the characters - because it's Book 1 of a series, I tend to give a lot of leniency that I won't bond with many of what might be series regulars and I expect to be "bombarded" with info and the # of people introduced. But I felt that the author rushed those "introductions" and the overall story not so much in an effort to keep it face paced, but more to hide the real villain. For me - this affected the immersive quality of the story.

The dialogue was also a problem at times, especially when all the characters seemed to all say the same swear words and at times adopt the same speech patterns/nuances. Not totally unbelievable or unusual if the residences have all known each other for a long time, but Ava was just introduced to the story yet...hmm.

Speaking of Ava....I think my big connect problem was due to the main character. She's 21 and although granted still young, the idea she'd just take off on her dad as she did really left a bitterness that stuck with me through the book. I completely understand that she felt he'd stop her, but the idea she quit without her dad getting wind right away and leaving her enough time to pack some stuff just didn't seem that believable. But even if that was the case, she left her dad with all the rent, bills and all the rest of her stuff she couldn't take after the author portrays the relationship between the two as tight and respectful. Maybe a teen would do this but a 21 year old? Maybe I'm expecting too much.

She also lacked basic common sense which annoyed me to no end and her overall immaturity just bothers me. At times I almost felt as if this was more YA read. The saving grace was the supporting characters.

I really hope the MC grows up and fast because I think the supporting characters will only be able to do so much before even they won't be enough to encourage me to continue with the series.

Ann Croce says

I enjoyed this book and the characters. It's the second book in the Sweetland Witch Series by Zoe Arden. I'm looking forward to Book #3.

Sapphyria says

Ava is 21-years old living in New York with her dad. When two women visit her at work and claim to be her aunts, Ava's world as she knows it crumbles and fades away. Ava's past is not exactly as her father has been

describing it to her. In an effort to come to learn more about her witch lineage, Ava returns to her place of birth, Sweetland Cove, and island off the coast of Florida. Except, as she soon learns, her lineage has some skeletons in its closet.

She no more than steps off the boat when calamity strikes. Things really heat up when it appears that Ava is leaving dead bodies in her wake - unintentionally, of course. In order to protect her aunts livelihood as bakery owners, Ava tries to figure out who is responsible, even though it seems everyone has fingers pointed at her or her family.

Witch Cake Murders is a cute paranormal cozy mystery by Zoe Arden. Ava is pretty much left in the dark about her heritage, but accepts the knowledge almost without question. Her abruptness at leaving the only life she knows was a bit unbelievable since she had too much information tossed at her all at one but it didn't detract from the story.

When not dealing with the untimely deaths of certain Sweetland Cove residents, Witch Cake Murders is a fun romp in the paranormal world created by the author. The book is fast-paced and doesn't have a heavy or dark plot. The author did a good job mixing up the potential suspects and providing clues that turn the suspicion onto various secondary characters.

Witch Cake Murders is engaging and nice, relaxing read. I enjoyed the characters, the setting, the mystery, and how the author wrapped everything up. The character development, world building, and event creation that leads up to the divulgence of the suspect is done well. If you enjoy paranormal cozy mysteries, I recommend this book.

I voluntarily reviewed a copy of the book provided to me at no cost. I was not compensated for this review and all opinions are my own.

Gayle Pace says

MY THOUGHTS

This is a fun cozy read with witches and humans, a little good, a little not so good with emotions galore. This is the second book in the mystery series. The first was Cake Spell Disaster. You can read them alone or in series.

Eli takes Ava, his little girl and flees to New York City. He has to take care of Ava after his wife's murder. He changes their names, finds jobs for him and her as a short order cook and a waitress. Heavenly Haven island is in their past, or so they think.

Ava's two doting and loving aunts are witches on Heavenly Haven. They go to bring Ava back home and let her know what her past is really like. Ava is a witch but doesn't know it. The Heavenly Haven island was split, according to legend years ago, into two separate parts, because of broken relationships and broken hearts. One is Sweetland Cove and it is witch haven. The other is Mistmoor Point. When the aunts want to bring Ava home, her father protests but to no avail.

This cozy is filled with a little bit for everyone, suspense, mystery, murder, Ava losing her magic wand and don't forget the witchery! Oh the witchery, charms, potions, spells, a little dark magic, graveyards and a little

lighter side, of course, the romance. Will Ava finding out about her being a witch be a good thing or will it be BAD! If you like witches, cozy mystery murders and all that goes with them, cozy up, and READ!

I received a copy of this book from the author and PUYB and voluntarily decided to review it.

Alice Bye says

5/5?

This was sooo good! I loved the setting and the plot and the characters. the setting reminded me a bit of Stars Hollow from Gilmore Girls.

Michelle Randall says

Ava has been raised hidden in the middle of New York, never attracting any attention, never doing anything fun or exciting and now she is turning twenty-one and the only thing different is the necklace her father gave her for her birthday. Then there are the two ladies that seem to know her name and look sorta like her. Oh the secrets her fathers has been hiding!

Guess what, Ava is a witch and she actually has family, two aunts, her mom's sisters and they run a witch bakery on an island where humans and witches live together in harmony. Even as her father forbids her to go, she is on her way to meet her aunts and take off, she has so much to learn and she will.

Trouble soon shows up on Sweetland and she is the first suspect, new girl in town, doesn't know anything about magic, easily taken advantage of and mislead, Ava is in for a battle, but with a couple good friends, her Aunts, and lastly her father, the truth will win out.

This is a cute, fun book that is a pleasure to read. It is defintly clean, no sex and alternative cursing, such as "oh my roses" which I loved!
