



Tastes Like Murder

Catherine Bruns

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Sally Muccio's had her crosses to bear: a cheating ex-boyfriend, crazy Italian parents, and an unfaithful husband, just to name a few. After her divorce, she returns to her hometown to start a novelty cookie shop whose specialties include original fortune cookies, served with a sprinkle of foreshadowing. But there's no warning when her ex-husband's mistress drops dead on Sal's porch, and police confirm it's a homicide. Determined to stop her life from becoming a recipe for disaster, Sal takes matters into her own hands. With two very different men vying for her affection, dead bodies piling up, and a reputation hanging by an apron string, Sal finds herself in a race against time to save both her business and life—before the last cookie crumbles.

Tastes Like Murder Details

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Author : Catherine Bruns

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From Reader Review Tastes Like Murder for online ebook

Sabine says

4.45 stars.

Why did it take me so long to start reading this series? It is serious fun!

Sally's family and Mrs. Gavelli are really "colorful" and made me chuckle more than once. I am hooked and can't wait to see how the crazyness is going on.

I wish the cookie shop that Sally owns and runs together with her best friend Josie would be just around the corner and I could go and try some of their delicious creations. Josies comments to some customers left me a few times with my mouth open in shock....what a girl!

There were a lot of twists and turns and never a dull moment in this mystery.
I will definitely read the next books in the series as well.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

This was my first book by author Catherine Bruns, but it will not be my last.

Ms. Bruns has an easy, flowing way of writing that invites the reader to get lost inside her story and stay. And stay I did, finishing the entire book in one sitting.

I immediately liked the best friend team of Sally Muccio and Josie Sullivan. Sally being a peacemaker and Josie a bit more of a hot head, they played well off each other. Besides the BFFs, Ms. Bruns has also created a diverse group of characters that really kept the story interesting. Just so many personalities.

I loved the scenes in the cookie shop, Sally's Samples. I honest to goodness smelled sweet baking cookies as I read. I was thrilled with the author's choice of victim. I did not like that woman at all! LOL There were plenty of suspects in this mystery which keep me on my toes. And the surprise reveal made the ending of this book just perfect.

And make sure to check out the great recipes at the back of the book.

Note: Character Josie is feisty and uses some mild language from time to time.

Amanda says

I am a big fan of cozy mysteries, and I volunteered to read this one in exchange for my honest review. I really enjoyed Tastes Like Murder, the first in a new series by Catherine Bruns. The protagonist in this book is Sally Muccio, or Sal, as her friends call her. Sal owns her own cookie shop that she runs with her best friend, a feisty mom of four. Sal is divorced and a little gun-shy about getting back into dating again. Things

get really turned upside down when the rich and gorgeous woman who had an affair with Sal's husband ends up dying at her cookie shop. Sal needs to clear her name to keep her customers coming in, which is how she finds herself investigating. There's a little romance thrown in too, when an old ex-boyfriend expresses interest as well as the officer who is working the case. The characters were well defined with very unique personalities, and I loved the small town setting. The teamwork between Sal and her business partner/best friend was great. Sal has a big, quirky family that added a lot of heart and comedy to the book. I'm definitely looking forward to future installments in the series and I recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good cozy mystery.

Penny Marks says

This book was great from the first page. I admit that I couldn't put it down. This book has a great story line that is not to miss. First you have Sally or Sal as her friends call her. She is a strong and determined women after her divorce. She has come back to her hometown of Colwestern to start a specialty cookie business with her best friend Josie. I loved Josie, she is a wonderfully outspoken mother of four small children. Sal and Josie have just opened her store in town when a ghost from the past blows into the store, Amanda Gregorio. Amanda is the women who by the way was the women that Sal found in bed with her ex husband, Colin. Amanda has come to the store not only for cookies but to rub Sal's face in the affair but she leaves with more than a fortune cookie. Next thing Sal knows she finds Amanda dead on the front porch of her bakery. Now Sal needs to clear her name and try and keep her business from crumbling. And she and Josie need to try and keep themselves from being the next victim's. She and Josie team up and become modern day Nancy Drew's to try and solve the murder and keep the business up and running. She doesn't want to have to live with her family which you will learn are a very unique group. She wants to be able to do everything on her own. You will love these characters. I was laughing so hard at some of the antics that her family does that I almost spewed coffee out of my nose:)

And of course on top of everything else going on for Sal she has two men vying for her attention. Will she choose the man she has loved since high school Mike or will she fall for the dashing police officer Brian??? I have a feeling this will be the next fortune cookie message:)

This is a wonderful beginning to a series that I look forward to reading. If you enjoy a cozy with a great mystery, romance, a little danger, and great recipes you will not want to pass this series up. A must read.

Sandee says

This is a typical cozy with mean girls, old boyfriends and potential new boyfriends surrounding a murder. Well written and edited with likable characters and cute laughs. There is a lot about this story that is familiar with the love triangle and the suspects with just enough uniqueness to keep it interesting.

Thomas says

Sally Muccio returns to her hometown to open a novelty cookie shop with her best friend Josie. She has to put up with her father who is fixated on all things to do with death, a mother who still thinks she's a teenager, a very wise grandmother, A lovely younger sister who is going to law school, and a crotchety elderly neighbor of her parents who still holds it against Sally for finding Sally and her grandson in the basement of her (the neighbors) basement. Oh yea, she also has two possible suitors, one is a cop, the other is her ex high

school flame who she caught in a compromising position.

Enter the ex-husband that Sally divorced when he was caught in bed with another woman. Now demanding a part of her business. Only to wind up dead outside Sally's door.

With a wacky cast of characters, and free fortune cookies that have a way of actually coming true. You have a very humorous story with well defined characters, and several unexpected turns throughout the story to keep you on your toes.

Ln Winchester says

It's Stephanie Plum lite. Extremely derivative.

I'm at 46% of this book and I can't continue (which is not as bad as it might sound because the story ends at 89% and the remaining 11% is excerpts from another book). This novel is a near parallel to the Stephanie Plum books by Janet Evanovich -- there's a wacky Italian family, her father is obsessed with funerals (like Stephanie's grandmother), heroine Sally's a nice Italian girl whose husband cheated on her with the town skank, she loves baked goods (cookies instead of donuts) and Italian food, she has colorful friends, and two hot men, one of whom is a cop, are suddenly and inexplicably smitten with her.

Where the comparison ends is that Sally is a sad little doormat. Virtually everyone in this town is horribly mean, rude and/or cruel to her, and she just takes it, then runs to the back of her cookie shop to cry. Seriously. Even her ex calls her and is extremely nasty, but did she tell him to eff off and block his number? No. She doesn't even hang up on him until she's heard enough to make her cry. Again. Why? That's not being "nice," that's being spineless.

The murder mystery is very...meh. The author makes the victim such an incredibly horrible person that no one really cares that she's dead. And the humor and wit of the Plum novels is sorely lacking here, so it's like reading a watered-down version; half the calories, half the fun.

Besides the overt, let's call it, "homage" to Stephanie Plum, the heroine Sally is fixated on things that happened back in high school nearly a decade ago. She is very easily influenced by others and cares too much what people think. If someone came into my business to gloat about sleeping with my husband and then tell me I'm ugly, they'd wake up out on the sidewalk and be banned for life, small town or not. That Sally grits her teeth and endures the abuse heaped on her by everyone made me go from feeling sorry for her to not caring if she lost her business. She's way too delicate and emotionally fragile to make it in the business world anyway.

I paid 99 cents for this book and that was a good price. It's not horribly written or full of typos and mistakes. It's just...kind of...blah. The author is not a bad writer if she would just please try a little harder to come up with original characters and storyline.

Karen says

A true treat to have read Tastes Like Murder, a book and author recommended to me by my dear friend Lisa

of Lisa K's book reviews. Such a good read and a really fun one! Best friends running a new small town bakery, what could go wrong? Loved the premise, the Italian Grandmothers, and love triangle. This book took turns and twists I did not expect and in ways I would not have imagined I loved it. Great way to end the book too, I can not wait to read the next one! Perfect twist ending.

Sandy Bartles says

I really enjoyed reading this culinary mystery. Sally (or Sal, as she is called), divorced from her cheating husband, runs a bakery with her friend Josie, a married mother of four sons. One evening Sal finds the dead body of her ex-husband's girlfriend outside the front door of the bakery. In order to save the reputation of their bakery, Sal and Josie join together to figure out who killed the young woman.

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Jessica Robbins says

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

Sheri says

A light and humorous mystery reminiscent of the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich. Right from the first few pages you can see what fun characters will be entertaining you in this cozy read. The mystery isn't difficult to figure out, the romance puts Sal in a predicament that many of us would be jealous of, and of course, all the cookie talk has you craving some too. A fast and easy read that is perfect to settle down with on a cozy afternoon. A plate of fresh baked cookies is a must to best enjoy the story!

Jeanie Jackson says

I greatly enjoyed Tastes Like Murder and look forward to more in the series. The friendship between Sally and her partner, Josie is great, and her relationship with her sister and grandmother is delightful. And then there are the two guys who are vying for her attention, pretty nice for someone who isn't ready to date.

Sally thought she was done with Ms Queen B.(itch) when she moved to Florida. You know the Queen Bee's. Rich and popular but no one knows how they came to be popular because their greatest delight is stepping on others. Alas, even living in another state does not keep Amanda from sleeping with Sally's husband. Now back home and starting a new business, Sally can only cringe with the B. walks into her cookie shop. Unfortunately, even death does not stop Amanda from almost destroying Sally's business when someone murders the darling on the steps of the shop and many people believe that it is Sally.

Carol says

Sally Muccio has returned to her home town after her divorce. Sally opens a specialty cookie shop with her best friend, Josie Sullivan as her baker. Two of the specialties cookies are chocolate fortune cookies and Genettis.

The store seems to be doing alright until the woman who was sleeping with Sally's ex-husband is found dead on the cookie shops front door step.

The reader will meet all kinds of well created, vivid, lively, quirky and colorful characters. All seem to have their own agendas so when Sally and Josie decide to do their own investigation, it turns out to be more than they expected.

There is plenty of suspense, mystery, humor and hints of romance.

RO G'ma says

Tastes Like Murder is a delightful whodunit that got my attention on the first page and held it to the very end. It is a well-written cozy mystery and, as such, contains no inappropriate language, graphic violence, or adult situations. Ms. Bruns has created likeable, well-developed characters and an intriguing storyline. This book is well thought out and written with just the right amount of mystery, hints of romance, a few quirky characters, and humor. I'm looking forward to reading more books written by Catherine Bruns.

Sally "Sal" Muccio, the main character, is recently divorced, she returns to her hometown and has opened a specialty cookie shop with her friend, Josie Sullivan. Things seem to be going well and then her ex-husband's mistress drops dead at the shop's front door. Poisoning is confirmed and Sal is forced to close her shop. While trying to prove her innocence, another person is poisoned. Sal is determined to find the person responsible, clear her name, and reopen her shop. The last thing she wants is to lose her shop and have to move in with her "unique" family. There's possible romance in the air ... an ex-boyfriend is interested and so is the officer who is assigned to the murders.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Missi Stockwell says

I LOVE a murder mystery story that throws you a curve and Tastes Like Murder has more curves than a Victoria Secrets model. Not only is there a murder in a cozy town with people you cannot help but love there is also a love story thrown in the mix and not just a love story ... a love triangle.

Sally returns home and partners with best friend, Josie, and opens up Sally's Treats. Things are going smoothly until a customer who just purchased cookies is found dead on the front porch of Sally's shop. The

entire town thinks Sally poisoned the victim so Sally has to do some investigating for herself. Even when the hot police officer tells her to stop and let him do his job she continues. And there is no stopping her when the victims mother asks for her help.

Josie who is married with 4 kids cannot afford to have the business die (no pun intended) and Sally needs the business to succeed so she doesnt have to move back home. She loves her family even if her healthy father is convinced he is dying, her mother acts and dresses like a teenager, her younger sister is always stressed studying for the Bar Exam and her grandmother's answer to everything is to load her up with food. Catherine Bruns is an author to follow and Tastes Like Murder is a definite read. Once you start you cant stop. But I will warn you the ending will leave you BEGGING for more !!!
