



Ain't She a Peach

Molly Harper

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An Atlanta ex-cop comes to sleepy Lake Sackett, Georgia, seeking peace and quiet—but he hasn't bargained on falling for Frankie, the cutest coroner he's ever met.

Frankie McCready talks to dead people. Not like a ghost whisperer or anything—but it seems rude to embalm them and not at least say hello.

Fortunately, at the McCready Family Funeral Home & Bait Shop, Frankie's eccentricities fit right in. Lake Sackett's embalmer and county coroner, Frankie's goth styling and passion for nerd culture mean she's not your typical Southern girl, but the McCreadys are hardly your typical Southern family. Led by Great-Aunt Tootie, the gambling, boozing, dog-collecting matriarch of the family, everyone looks out for one another—which usually means getting up in everyone else's business.

Maybe that's why Frankie is so fascinated by new sheriff Eric Linden...a recent transplant from Atlanta, he sees a homicide in every hunting accident or boat crash, which seems a little paranoid for this sleepy tourist town. What's he so worried about? And what kind of cop can get a job with the Atlanta PD but can't stand to look at a dead body?

Frankie has other questions that need answering first—namely, who's behind the recent break-in attempts at the funeral home, and how can she stop them? This one really does seem like a job for the sheriff—and as Frankie and Eric do their best Scooby-Doo impressions to catch their man, they get closer to spilling some secrets they thought were buried forever.

With *Ain't She a Peach*, Molly Harper proves once again that she “never lets the reader down with her delightfully entertaining stories” (*Single Titles*).

Ain't She a Peach Details

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Author : Molly Harper

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From Reader Review Ain't She a Peach for online ebook

Heidi says

Three and a half stars: A quick, simple, fun read for when you need something light and hilarious.

Frankie likes her life for the most part. She is the county coroner in the small town of Lake Sackett, Georgia. Her big problem is that at twenty eight years old, she is still treated like a child by her overprotective parents due to a bout of cancer when she was young. So when Frankie wants a good time, she heads to Atlanta. Then one day her good time lands right in her lap when she comes face to face with her former one night stand, Sheriff Eric Linden. Eric is now the sheriff of Lake Sackett. Even worse, as the coroner, Frankie must work with Eric on a regular basis. What is a girl to do?

What I Liked:

*Molly Harper is known for her humorous books that are meant to entertain. I love that you can pick up one of her books and giggle your way through. No over the top drama or angst, just down home fun.

*I love that this book is all about the family. The eclectic McCready family was first introduced in Sweet Tea and Sympathy. This latest novel delivers another heaping dose of this hilarious family. I love how quirky and funny they are. How can you not enjoy a family whose business is fishing and funerals, working out of the same building? This family is a bushel of laughs, and better yet, they all love each other and look after one another.

*Gotta love a small town setting, and Lake Sackett delivers. Yes, there are plenty of busy bodies and gossipers and of course, small town drama, but that is what makes it fun. It was easy to immerse right back into this sleepy little town.

*Frankie is a hoot. I have to admit, I was a bit disappointed in the first book in this series, mostly because I wasn't able to connect with Margot, the main character. Margot was way too uptight. Frankie on the other hand is the complete opposite. She dresses in outrageous goth clothes, dyes her hair bright colors and talks to the dead. She is full of sass and spunk. Loved her.

*The romance is simple and sweet. It starts out rocky when the one night stand comes back to bite Frankie in the butt. Over time, a friendship forms and then it roots and unfurls into something else. It was light, easy and without drama and angst.

*The other conflict involving a teenage culprit trying to vandalize the funeral home was entertaining as well. I liked when the vandal got what was coming to him. Snicker.

And The Not So Much:

*Going into this one, I was lost as events that happened such as the one night stand had already occurred. I found out there was a short novella that covered what happened. I went back and read the novella: Peachy Flipping Keen, to catch up on what I missed. The novella was only seventy two pages and it was unnecessary. There was overlap and repetition in both this book and the novella. The novella should have been done away with as it was a waste of time, other than to grasp the one night stand details.

*I didn't like that certain things kept getting glossed over. I was especially frustrated when Margot's big situation wasn't explored on scene. There was all this buildup and then the reader didn't get to witness her telling Kyle and her dad. Big miss.

*I enjoyed the whole thing with the teen vandal, but it was a little over the top and unrealistic.

Ain't She a Peach was one of those novels that didn't completely wow me, but I must admit, I had a great time with the characters. This is one of those novels you pick up when you want something quick, fun and light. There isn't much to this, which makes it perfect for when you need a palate cleanser or a pick me up. This one has a great cast of characters and it is full of laughs.

I borrowed a copy of this book from the library. All opinions are my own, and I was not compensated for this

review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

Dear Molly Harper:

If you are looking for a little break from reality that doesn't involve you spending time in either a straightjacket or a padded cell, her books might be right up your alley as well. The first in this series wasn't a big hit for me because I thought the leading lady was kind of a ~~twat~~ twit, but Harper stepped it up a notch for this one and it earns an extra star. Heck, maybe it should earn even more, because any time you give me a leading lady who pretty much is described as looking like this . . .

That somehow manages to **not** fall into the Manic Pixie Dreamgirl category, it's kind of a miracle.

In addition, the leading male was the local sheriff so no matter how he was described there was only one man he was going to be for me . . .

I loooooooooove how the romance kind of takes a backburner to getting to know the family and townsfolk in this one. Especially when said characters are from the land of cotton, old times there are not forgotten, look away look away look away Dixie Land . . . sorry, got off track for a minute there. But you know what I'm sayin' – they're all from a place where people say things like . . .

And the whole time you're reading it, you hear Shelby's voice in your head. That's a winner right there, kids.

Ian says

When Eric took the job as Lake Sackett's interim sheriff he expected things to be a little quieter. He didn't count on Frankie, Lake Sackett's coroner and funeral director, and he didn't count on small town politics.

But with Frankie on his case to hunt down and arrest the local delinquent teen who has been waging a war on mortuary for years he quickly realises his quiet life was not to be.

The *Southern Eclectic* series isn't easy to describe. It's closer to Women's Fiction than Romance but with a healthy dose of Molly Harper's trademark snark. It's good fun and close to g-rated. An entertaining and easy read.

Many thanks to Edelweiss and Gallery Books for providing me with this review copy

Brooke — brooklynennereads says

I LOVED the first book in this series titled, "Sweet Tea and Sympathy", so I went into this one somewhat critically thinking, 'it's going to be good but can't be as good'. Some would call that pessimistic but I'd rather go into it with low expectations and be surprised, you know?

Luckily, I love this one as well! In fact, I may have loved it equally to the first installment, if not more. Everything about this series speaks to my soul. It's Southern, it's humorous, it's realistic, and it's relatable. Seriously, Frankie's story is so similar to my own that it's quite eerie.

I definitely would recommend this one. My Mom even read this before me and she loved it as well. It's a quick, enjoyable read that is perfect for the summer but could also be read year round.

I'm really hoping for more in this series and wonder who could be the next main character. My Mom suspects Duffy but I don't know. I certainly will be reading more from Molly Harper in the future, whether it be a continuation of this series or beyond that.

Stacee says

I liked Frankie in the previous book I read in this series and was eager to see her get her story.

Frankie is fun. She's snarky and sarcastic and I love all of her fandom things. She's super loyal and yet yearning to break out on her own. Eric is a good man and has strong convictions. And of course there's loads of family members

Plot wise it was just okay. This book didn't seem to focus on the relationship of Frankie and Eric as much as it presented a slice of time and in some scenes, it felt like I was missing something I was expected to know. I didn't see any of the chemistry between them and would have liked to see more conversation.

Overall, it was a quick read with a fairly satisfying ending. I'm not sure if I'll be reading any more books in this series.

****Huge thanks to Gallery Books for providing the arc free of charge****

Jeri says

This book series is such fun! I have so enjoyed reading this series and getting to know the whole McCready gang along with the inhabitants of Lake Sackett.

This addition focuses mostly on the coroner and embalmer Frankie McCready. Having survived a bout of cancer when younger she has been mostly sheltered by her parents and never ventured out on her own or had a real relationship. That seems about to change when her one night stand and the new sheriff, Eric, comes to town. But something is odd with him and of course Frankie and her family can't just leave well enough alone. Not to mention someone keeps breaking into the funeral home and Frankie is bound and determined to find out who is behind it and put a stop to it.

I was given an eARC by the publisher through NetGalley.

Debra says

3.5 stars

Molly Harper's Southern Eclectic books are proving to be fast, fun and engaging books! Her characters are eclectic, fun, interesting and likable. Characters from the first book in this series (Sweet tea and Sympathy) are also in this book! This book does work very well as a standalone novel but I do encourage reading both books as they are fun, quirky and light. Perfect for when you need a change of pace, are in a reading slump or just want to read an entertaining book!

Eric Linden is an ex-Atlanta police officer who has moved to Lake Sackett, Georgia to serve as the town Sheriff. He is hoping for a slower paced life and job. He is used to high rate crime and sees murder and foul play in most of his cases. He also learns that Frankie McCready, a woman he has a sort-of past with not only lives in the town, but is employed by McCready Family Funeral Home & Bait Shop as the town coroner and embalmer. Yes, you read correctly - a bait shop and a funeral home. I did warn that this book is quirky.

Frankie McCready is an interesting person. She likes to color her hair interesting colors, has a sarcastic sense of humor and is the family baby. Due to the nature of her job, she and Eric have a lot of interactions which are a little awkward due to their sort-of history in the past. They share barbs and insults which make the dialogue fun and moves the story along.

Frankie and Eric also must work together to determine who has been trying to break into the funeral home after hours. Frankie is determined that she knows the identity of the guilty party and Eric attempts to solve the crime while keeping Frankie from getting herself into trouble as she attempts to solve the crime.

As I previously stated, Harper's books are quirky, light and fun! Perfect reads for those looking for something light and enjoyable. Her books are full of witty and fun characters such as Great-Aunt Tootie, the gambling, boozing, dog-collecting matriarch of the family! Her characters deal with real life issues but with a little dash of charisma, southern charm and sarcasm thrown into the mix. This book was well-written, and I read it in one day as I could not put it down. This is not an edge of your seat page turner, but it was so much fun and enjoyable that I could not resist and had to keep reading. I will be reading the next book in the series when it comes out!

Thank you to Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

See more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Sometimes I dare to leave my safe place of crime and thriller novels and venture into the world of feel-good and romance. I actually do it gladly if the book's setting is in the American South. I just love small town stories, where everyone knows everyone and they drink sweet tea. I was sold when AIN'T SHE A PEACH was available to read and I read the blurb about a former Atlanta cop who moves to Lake Sackett, Georgia and falls for Frankie McCready, the cute coroner who talks to the dead. She is just polite, they don't answer back or anything.

READ THE REST OF THE REVIEW OVER AT FRESH FICTION!

Jacob Proffitt says

This is second in a series and that shows, I think. A lot of the family dynamics are laid out in better detail with the first book. Worse, though, is that this is functionally the second part of a story started in Peachy Flippin' Keen and I think that each separately they leave a lot to be desired. I have no idea why the story was split this way and I kind of resent it.

This is not up to the Molly Harper standard. I really liked Frankie as a character in the first book and was looking forward to getting to know her better and see what life was like from her perspective. Sadly, it doesn't seem like she's much more than surface when all is said. And I don't mean that Harper gave a surface characterization because that's not it. It's just that Frankie only has a surface maturity and there isn't a lot of depth to her personality beyond her job.

And Eric is only a little better but he, too, has a lot of growing to do before he can make a credible romantic partner. Which is too bad because with as shallow as Frankie turned out to be the story really needed something stronger to anchor it.

So this ends up being enjoyable enough that I don't regret reading it and I'm enough of a Harper fan that I'm willing to give any/all of them a shot and that will continue to be the case. In other words, I'm disappointed that this wasn't better, but not disillusioned because it wasn't actually bad.

A note about Steamy: We get a single explicit sex scene and the narrative pulls back really quick so this is on the lowest of low ends of my steam tolerance. Which makes it yet another aspect of the story that was a bit lightweight.

Jilly says

Book two in the series and it was fun enough, but not mind-blowing. The focus was on the last girl's crazy cousin with rainbow hair. I approve heartily. I have unicorn hair myself and get comments everywhere I go. I also have a little bit of the crazy going on too. Her family's reaction when she wants to get a gun to scare off a vandal:

"No," Bob said, shaking his head.

Duffy added, "No, no. No guns. We will not arm you. No one wins in a situation where you are armed."

"Sorry, honey, the whole family voted and agreed that you don't get a gun."

Killjoys!

I feel her pain, but I also live in Texas. Everyone's armed. Everyone.

There's a reason these jokes exist.

I just don't want to be left out.

Our girl is named Frankie and she's a goth coroner. She's also quirky. I don't know, but a quirky goth coroner is a little on-the-nose for me. I would rather have a quirky, goth librarian, but okay. Her love interest is the new sheriff in town. They had previously met and had a one-night stand and he's a little bit angry that she didn't want to stay for pancakes the next morning, so he can be pretty prickly.

Her relationship with Eric had suffered several episodes of tragic dickheadery in the short time she'd known him.

And, that sentence alone is why I love the writing of Molly Harper. She always writes in ways that I can relate to. She uses the words that I think, like "dickheadery". It's like reading a book written by my snarky bestie, and I love that.

The only thing lacking in this story was a little bit of excitement. In general, I felt like their romance was just "fine" and the conflict in the story was just "okay". It needed either something bigger in at least one of those areas, or, crazier antics going on. So, even though I enjoyed the writing, I just wished for more umph, ya know?

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Such a humorous read! Love this one.

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Frankie is a wild child and in this new book she is the star of the show. Well, along with newly appointed Sheriff Eric, a real hot number.

Frankie is also a mortician, of sorts, and the county coroner AND has an eclectic lifestyle. Which makes any relationship, or non-relationship, difficult, shall we say.

But she's not the only one who has a crazy lifestyle. Many of her family members seem just a wee bit off. But that what is what makes the story so unique, humorous, and downright enjoyable.

If you want to have fun while enjoying a good book, just pick up a Molly Harper read. There's a reason why

she's a best-selling author. And there's a reason why you can get addicted to her stories with just a few turns of the page.

Witty, snarky, and a whole lot of Southern comfort is wrapped up in this sweet read. Not to be missed!

Full Review - <http://amidlifewife.com/aint-she-a-pe...>

\* copy received for review consideration

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## **Chelsea Humphrey says**

### **3.5 STARS**

Every now and then I seek out books that are lighter reads, ones that require no investment on my part but are entertaining and relaxing. Molly Harper's Southern Eclectic series feature books that fall precisely in that category. I still have to read the two novellas that fall between books #1-2, but the real reason I pick up these books is they make me laugh until I bust a gut. I was raised a Georgia peach, and I get a kick out of seeing small town southerners portrayed in mainstream fiction. While it's a little over the top, I found myself reminiscing on certain points that Harper got spot on. If you're looking for a fun, light, and humorous read, I would recommend picking this up. Frankie was my favorite side character from the first novel, which is probably why I enjoyed *Ain't She A Peach* a little more than *Sweet Tea And Sympathy*. These stories can be read as stand alone novels, but I would recommend reading both full size novels to get all the background (and extra laughs) that you can!

*\*My review copy was provided by the publisher via NetGalley.*

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## **Sophia says**

I've enjoyed the time I've spent in the Southern Eclectic series getting to know the McCready family and following along as they sort out love, life, and family in their small southern lakeside town so I was glad to get Frankie's story.

*Ain't She a Peach* is book two of the series and could work as a standalone in a pinch if the reader doesn't mind references to two of the cousins already getting their stories and getting a little follow up in the background of Frankie's story. *Ain't She a Peach* is also preceded by *Peachy Freakin' Keen* which is a shorter novella introducing Franky and the good sheriff who start off on an acrimonious foot and it continues into this book.

It's fall and Lake Sackett is winding up on the tourist trade and focusing on the Trunk or Treat, Sheriff's election, and small town gossip. Frankie McCready is losing her focus as she juggles the age-old problem of convincing her parents she's a twenty-eight year old who wants to move out and do some adulting. She also is recently discovering some wistfulness when around her cousins who are all starting to settle down in solid relationships and raise families which is odd since she holds fast to her 'hit it and quit it' program and keeps telling herself that she doesn't want all that other stuff and it's not for her. Kinda tough though when she can't go anywhere without bumping into the hottie interim sheriff who is not beguiled by her beguiling ways. In the meantime, she has to contact the sheriff and get him involved in the personal vendetta she has with a

local teen who antagonizes her and constantly tries to sabotage or break into the family mortuary.

So, I liked it and it was a easy-going, fun read, but... I didn't love it. I have ambivalent feelings about Frankie and the romance with Eric. If I treat this like a crossover women's fiction then the romance isn't so problematic because the focus is on Frankie figuring things out about herself, but if I read it as contemporary romance then I needed a bit of something more.

The broader focus on Frankie's family and life in the town, small town antics, adorable rescue dogs, PTA meetings, and more was my favorite part of the book. I love the emphasis on small town and family particularly this family who run a funeral home and bait shop out of the same property and most of the family live in cabins on the property.

In the earlier novella, I ended it with a wait and see attitude when it came to Frankie. She struck me as full of herself, but in the end, she was starting to suspect that she might be pampered by her family as a result of surviving childhood leukemia and she had bought into this herself in her words and actions. The sheriff, Eric Linden, confronted her about it when she willfully did an end around him when he was just doing his job with due diligence and her cousins told her that he had a point.

But, much of this book goes by with no change. She puts Eric in a hard place a few times with his job and had some immature moments. I don't mean to say that she's mean or can't be kind and loving because she is. It's sweet how she cares for the dead to make them look good and talks to them, determined to do the best for the grieving families.

She's content to let her parents spoil her even while complaining about it and doing nothing to change this so she doesn't hurt their feelings. It's funny, but also a little weird.

Eric challenges her, but unfortunately he has his own issues so she can ignore her issues to point out his. She is still fighting her attraction or the possibility of a regular dating relationship late in the book. So, yes, I was on the fence about her though she does manage to work things through by the end.

This is funny in ways- and its meant to be as they banter back and forth and comedic things happen when they're together, her family does crazy stuff, and the Trunk or Treat event takes on a nightmare life of its own.

So, all in all, I had a good time with the book. It's light and laugh out loud funny in spots. Frankie took a while to figure things out, but she does eventually get there. It ends on a happy for now and I suspect that it will be like the earlier stories that carry on in the background of the next book. Even though this won't be my favorite, I loved quite a bit about the book and hope the series continues. Those looking for some heartwarming family, small town antics, humor, and lightly spiced romantic comedy should give this series a go.

I rec'd this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Amy says**

Last year *Sweet Tea and Sympathy* was one of my favorite reads, it had all of the elements I need in fun women's fiction so I've been dying to read the second book in Harper's Southern Eclectic series for months. The wait was well worth it, the second installment was just as witty and charming as the first and I really hope Harper continues to write about the kooky residents of Lake Sackett for a long time.

One of my favorite things about this series is the fun cast of characters and when I saw that this book would focus on Frankie I was delighted. She's a quirky chick who doesn't take crap from anyone and she's also sarcastic, but charming when needed, a combination that always works well for me. Her budding relationship with Eric was not only adorable, it wasn't formulaic or predictable. You also get to catch up with the characters from the first book and seeing what Margot was up to was just delightful.

This was a strong follow up to a hilarious series, the ultimate pick me up that I read at just the right time. You can't read this without smiling, it's got sassy southern charm by the bucketful and a little romance that will make you swoon, what more could a girl want?!

Ain't She a Peach in three words: Humorous, Sassy, and Cheeky.

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### **Kyra Leseberg (Roots & Reads) says**

Ain't She a Peach is a lighthearted story that takes readers back to the small town of Lake Sackett, Georgia. We return to McCready Family Funeral Home and Bait Shop (how's that for convenient one stop shopping?) and follow the story of Frankie, the 28 year old goth/nerd/Southern girl who works as the funeral home embalmer and county coroner.

Frankie is trying her best to be an adult in a close knit family (read: everyone's up in each other's business) while still living at home with her parents, keeping an eye on her arch nemesis (a teenage boy set on breaking into the funeral home on Halloween), and figuring out her attraction to new sheriff Eric Linden. Those who loved the first book in the series will love to see Margot's story continue alongside Frankie's. Filled with southern charm, funny one-liners, and a cute romance this second installment in Harper's Southern Eclectic series is another cozy read.

Thanks to Gallery Books and NetGalley for providing an ARC in exchange for my honest review.

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