



## A Catered Christmas

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## **A Catered Christmas** Isis Crawford

As picturesque Longley, New York, gets ready to ring in the holiday season, caterers Bernadette and Libby Simmons are coping with their busiest time of year. If that's not enough to make them run around like crazed elves, they're recruited for a cooking show contest that pits celebrity chefs against each other--and gives rise to murder. . .

Visions of sugar plums are most decidedly not dancing in Libby's head--especially since she and her sister are set to appear on the Hortense Calabash Cooking Show. The premise is to give six professional caterers random ingredients and have them whip up a holiday meal. The icing on the fruitcake is that Hortense Calabash is a grinch of year-round proportions. And the other contestants are some of the most demanding--and difficult--chefs in the business.

Bernie and Libby are thrown into the mix as arguments and accusations simmer on the set. Holiday spirit has left the building--and leaves a body--when Hortense, all dressed up as Santa Claus for the opening sequence, is killed by an exploding oven.

With the holiday rush in full swing and a killer still on the loose, Bernie and Libby have no choice but to wrap up the mystery before their geese are well and fully cooked. . .

**Includes Scrumptious Holiday Recipes for You to Try!**

## **A Catered Christmas Details**

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Author : Isis Crawford

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## **From Reader Review A Catered Christmas for online ebook**

### **Laurie Way says**

Good mystery, so-so writing. The on-going witty banter between our sister sleuths was less than enjoyable and did nothing to move the plot along.

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### **sarah imhof says**

#### **It's ok.**

It isn't a real pull you in murder mystery. But I liked it! Going to read the whole series. By season

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### **Elaine says**

I really like stories that take place at Christmas time. This one got a little busy with the cooking show contest taking place just before the holidays. But the cooking contest was rather interesting. I don't watch those shows so I found it interesting how the contestants had to come up with recipes with the food items chosen. And the recipes sounded interesting. I would have liked to have seen the recipes for more of the foods talked about.

I like the characters in this series. There are a few of them and it takes a little time to get to know them. I will have to look for another book in this series.

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### **Jodi says**

I read this entry rather than listen to it but it still solidified my feeling that this series is not for me. The mystery - who murdered a well-known television host - wasn't bad - a little stupid but not bad. The problem is that the characters - the two sisters, Libby and Bernie, are very unappealing. Libby is an excellent baker. It is her sole contribution to the "Catered" concept in the title. Bernie is smart but she doesn't know when to hold her tongue and after a while that gets to be annoying. So Libby is weak and Bernie is obnoxious. They are saved from being complete caricatures by their father who is a former police chief. He loves his daughters but they drive him batty and they constantly get into trouble. Unfortunately, both sisters fall under the "too stupid to live" moniker even if they are occasionally smart. I think I have one more of these in my TBR pile and then I am done with the series.

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### **Phair says**

Each year our Mystery f2f group reads a holiday themed book in December - something light and easy for a

busy month. This is the first time that not a single member of the group had a good word to say about a book, going so far as to call it a waste of time (if they were even able to finish it!) We had such fun tearing it apart from the general premise of a live cooking contest series just before Christmas (unbelievable) to the characters (again too many unlikely and unlikeable), the humor was strained and the 'banter' confusing and often downright mean. I found the author's habit of introducing information but keeping the reader in the dark about the contents of the letter or phone call until later in the story to be annoying. Even the recipes at the end were awful and had no relationship to the book itself. This group seldom reads a "cozy" mystery and this one certainly gave the sub-genre a bad name.

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### **Leah says**

This was a pleasant diversion. I enjoyed the cooking show portion of the story and that this story took place around Christmas. I was surprised by the ending; I wasn't expecting who the killer was or their reason for killing.

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### **Pea says**

This is not your typical mystery book. It does not hold me captivated that I cannot put it down. There are days I haven't picked it up to continue reading. It's light reading. I like mystery books with recipes but so far there hasn't been a recipe in the last 3 books I want to try. Sorry. Maybe the next one?

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### **Marie Buccellato says**

Not too bad. A little slow getting to the storyline.

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### **Fiona Forthe says**

Good character development, with an interesting plot. The climax didn't make a lot of sense, but the story getting there was amusing.

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### **??Hannah?? says**

I still enjoy this series. I adore the sisters. It's nice that even though they are so different that they are still close. I liked how we got to see more of their dad in this one. The mystery was good. I thought the reason for it was kind of dumb. However, I watch a lot of crime shows so there is nothing that someone won't kill over.

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## **M.L.D. says**

For the love of all that's holy, "frig" is not how you shorten "refrigerator."

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## **Bridget says**

Here is another installment of the adventures of the Simmons sisters and their bakery/catering company, A Little Taste of Heaven. In this one, they are busy getting ready for the Christmas season, and also participating in a local reality cooking show, with a hostess who is disliked by nearly everyone. Not surprisingly, before they start the first episode, Hortense (the disliked hostess) is found murdered in the TV studio's prep kitchen. There are plenty of suspects, including the other contestants, all of whom have secrets that would ruin their businesses if revealed.

The primary suspect in Hortense's murder then turns up dead. So Bernie and Libby must change tactics and find the person who has now committed a double murder.

This book was enjoyable, and perfect for my brain at the time when I was reading it. The mystery and writing is entertaining enough to keep me reading, and of course I loved the references to Christmas foods and decorations. There are some recipes at the end for some of the dishes and cookies mentioned. I would recommend it to anyone who - like me - enjoys seasonal books and the occasional read that is strictly for entertainment.

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## **Debbie says**

I enjoyed this book. It was an easy read. Bernie and Libby are sisters who have a shop selling delicious foods. They get talked into doing a cooking contest show. While they are doing the show with other chefs the feuding and difference of opinions start. That leads to murders and now the girls have the job of finding who the murderer is while trying to do the show along with all the other holidays jobs they have.

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## **Christine Van says**

enjoyable enough. predictable. similar to the Joanna Fluke books.

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## **quinnster says**

It took me forever to read this book! I still don't love the Simmons sisters. I can't put my finger on why, but I get easily frustrated with the things they do!

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