



Potions and Pastries

Bailey Cates

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In this *New York Times* bestselling mystery series, witch Katie Lightfoot bakes enchanted treats—and faces more than her fair share of toil and trouble....

It's been exactly two years since Katie and her aunt and uncle opened the Honeybee Bakery, where they serve delicious—and bespelled—treats to the good people of Savannah. After a dinner celebrating the bakery's anniversary, they all take a stroll along the waterfront and meet Aunt Lucy's friend Orla, a colorful character who has been telling the fortunes of locals and tourists alike for years.

The next day, Orla meets with what seems like a terrible accident, but Katie's witchy intuition tells her it was something more sinister. Together with her trustworthy coven and her firefighter boyfriend, she'll race to find out what happened to the unfortunate fortune-teller before the piping hot trail goes cold....

Potions and Pastries Details

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From Reader Review Potions and Pastries for online ebook

Christine says

This is the seventh book in the magical bakery series. Katie Lightfoot owns the Honeybee Bakery with her aunt and uncle. After the bakery's anniversary dinner, Katie, along with her boyfriend, Declan, and her aunt and uncle decide to take a walk by the waterfront, and run into Lucy's friend Orla who is a tarot card reader. The next day Orla walks in front of a car in an apparent suicide. But Katie's lightwitch aura is telling her something is off. Katie along with the members of the spellbook club set to find out what really happened.

I really like this series. I loved how the characters have progressed since the first book. This was a great addition to the series. I can't wait to see what happens with Katie and Declan, and even with Cookie

Stacie Amelotte says

This is a series that I have enjoyed since book one. Here we are on book 7 and the storyline just keeps getting better and better. Everything from the setting, the characters, the magical element and the delicious bakery items keep evolving and drawing you in for more. In my opinion, Potions and Pastries would be best enjoyed if you have read the other books in A Magical Bakery Mystery series. It can be a little confusing (especially in the beginning) when all the various spell book club members are introduced. Plus seeing the growth of the characters gives you an additional layer of understanding that will enrich your reading experience. The characters have habits and personalities that make them endearing and unforgettable. Katie is still coming to terms with her magic. She is fearful at times that it will get out of her control as she did once before. She is cautious but able to overcome her apprehensions at just the right time.

While the mystery is simplified in comparison to others, it is well worth the journey. The red herrings make for an interesting chase interspersed with several doses of humor. All in all, this is a great light hearted read that will leave you wanting more. By the final pages the residents of Savannah's magical community will have you hooked. I can't wait to see what the future holds for Katie and Declan!

I would like to say a huge thank you to the author, Berkley, and Net Galley for the opportunity to voluntarily read and review an advance readers copy. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

QNPoohBear says

3.5 stars

Katie Lightfoot is so happy she made the move to Savannah to open The Honeybee bakery with her Aunt Lucy. She has a lot to celebrate. In 2 years she has opened a successful bakery, absolved her uncle of murder charges, learned she's a witch and is engaged to the greatest man (in her opinion) on the planet. As Lucy, Ben, Katie and Declan celebrate the 2-year anniversary of The Honeybee, they stroll along the riverfront of downtown Savannah, watching the street performers. Aunt Lucy recognizes one of their regular customers,

Orla Black, telling fortunes. Someone is NOT happy with their fortune but Katie is so happy, she figures why not? Her fortune is mysterious and she makes an appointment with Orla to learn more, but before that can happen, there's a tragic accident and Orla is killed. Katie is very shaken up by the accident that happened in front of her. She heard Mungo and Nonna trying to get her attention but the accident happened too fast to save Orla. Was it an accident? The police think it was but Katie isn't so sure. She decides to befriend the close-knit Black family to find out more.

I really liked the background of the story about the Irish travelers. I don't know anything about them so it added to my pleasure of reading this book. The mystery seemed fairly obvious but still managed to surprise me. The romantic subplot is advancing with Katie and Declan getting ready to move in together and get married. I could relate to their house hunting woes but felt Katie wasn't open to compromise. The ending made a nice conclusion to the series even if there are more. I add some bonus points because of a reference to some of my favorite books and characters. I do have to nit-pick a bit again with Mungo.

THIS is a Cairn Terrier

By Wotapalaver (Own work) [CC BY 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/b...>)], via Wikimedia Commons

NOT this

By Ingunn Axelsen (Kennel Imrun) [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>) or CC BY 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/b...>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Their ears can not flop in the breeze unless they have a medical condition that caused their ears to crumple or not stand up. The cover artist gets it right but the author again shows her ignorance.

The new characters are the Black family. They are a close-knit family of Irish Travelers (or Gypsies). John Black, the head of the family is scary in a Godfather way. Katie didn't like him and neither will the reader. He's rude and mean and his business practices leave a lot to be desired. Orla's daughter Fern seems kind and sweet. Why she married a whiner and a bully like Taber, I don't know, but she seems to love him. I don't think Orla liked him much. Their daughter Nuala is sweet like her mother and a little shy because her family is wary of outsiders. I feel bad for the little girl growing up in that environment. Her grandmother loved her very much as does her aunt Ginnie. Ginnie seems like a fun teacher. She could be a friend for Katie. Since she married into the clan, she is not as secretive, or is she? It was truly a tragedy that Orla died. Her death was shocking. She was a kind and loving mother/grandmother and used her gift to try to help others. I'm sure she had a lot of irate people misinterpreting her readings but she seemed cheerful enough.

Another new character is Vera Smythe. She is the irate customer who didn't like Orla's fortune. I found her to be the stereotypical mean lady at first but the author manages to make her three-dimensional. Could she have killed Orla? Randy Post is a young man from the firehouse. He seems very immature and almost everything we know about him is second hand information. I think I would be obligated to go out with him though. I loved Colette. She's so precocious and ten at the same time. The author knows her 10-year-old girls and has them down pat.

The ladies of the Coven don't have much to do here. Cookie has turned her attention to real estate and her marriage. She acts only in a professional civilian capacity here and not as a witch. I feel she has lost some of her vibrant personality. Jaida adds some law advice and Bianca gets a subplot. As always Aunt Lucy lends

her love and support.

This is a fun series but I'm not super crazy about the whole witch thing. I think I'm done reading this series, especially as Mungo does not appear to be a Cairn Terrier.

Content:

engaged couple "practically" living together

His hand starts to creep up under her shirt

Mild violence

Alex says

You know what, I love these books. The mysteries are intriguing, the characters are like an old group of friends you jump right back into, and the romance is heart warming.

Each mystery has been new and I believe this one included the most magic and the most show of Katie performing the magic which was interesting.

The romance has been a draw with these because I've always loved the two of them together and it just keeps getting better.

I'm going to keep reading them and no one can stop me from my magical baking mysteries.

Kristina says

Potions and Pastries by Bailey Cates is the seventh story in A Magical Bakery Mystery series. Katie Lightfoot along with her Aunt Lucy and Uncle Ben own the Honeybee Bakery in Savannah, Georgia. They provide baked goods that have a magical boost. Ben, Lucy, Katie, and her fiancé, Declan are out walking along the riverfront and see friend Orla Black telling fortunes. Orla has a message for Katie that she takes as a warning--sacrifice. What will Katie have to sacrifice? The next day Katie sees Orla nearby and wishes to get more information from her. Unfortunately, Orla walks in front of a car and is struck dead before Katie can speak with her. It looks like an accident, but Katie's magical awareness tells her something sinister is afoot. Katie, Declan and the spellbook club work together to find out what happened to Orla. But what happens when Katie gets close to uncovering the truth?

Potions and Pastries is best enjoyed if you have read the other books in A Magical Bakery Mystery series. It can be a little confusing (especially in the beginning) when all the various spellbook club members are introduced. I found this story to be well-written and engaging. I was drawn into the story and I liked the magical elements. Potions and Pastries has great characters that you will enjoy visiting in each new installment in the series. The only downfall for me was the mystery. I identified the guilty party before the Orla was struck by the car. I did appreciate the author use of misdirection to lead readers on a merry chase. Potions and Pastries is a light cozy mystery with magic, humor, family, friends, pets and luscious baked goods. I am giving Potions and Pastries 4 out of 5 stars. I look forward to reading the next novel in A Magical Bakery Mystery series.

*I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy from Kensington via NetGalley. The opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Karen says

I have been a longtime fan of the Magical Bakery Series by Bailey Cates and Potions and Pastries was one of the best in the series. I enjoy the supporting characters as much as main character Katie, and at times more. The Spell Book Club members have come to feel like old friends so for me it was hard to believe that it was only the second anniversary in the book of the bakery's opening. It felt like more connections were made in this book than ever before and the story came together magnetically if not magically. I loved the story line. The mystery and romance that Potions and Pastries was all about. Great read!

Rachel says

I liked this book better than the last one; in the last one, there was just too much cheese. That being said, while I really loved this series in the beginning, I'm starting to find our heroine obnoxious and on the edge of too-stupid-to-live (TSTL). She's incredibly ham-fisted in her "investigating techniques," which are, essentially, asking the subject incredibly obvious and intrusive questions, like "so what's up with all those insurance policies?" I know a cozy is supposed to be a little fluffy, but if you're going to investigate a murder, a little subtlety should be in order.

Now I'm wondering if all the books have been this way, and I was just in a zone where I could accept it, or if this is a new development. Either way, this may be the last book I read in the series.

Taryn says

The two year anniversary of the opening of the Honeybee Bakery has arrived. After having a celebratory meal everyone decides to take a walk by the waterfront to relax and just enjoy the day. When they come upon Orla, Aunt Lucy's friend, she inadvertently gives Katie a reading that was truly unexpected. Katie is taken aback by what she is told and begins to worry about just what the fortune means for her future. She is supposed to meet Orla the next day so she can finish the reading but Orla is killed in what seems to be an accident. Katie witnessed part of the accident and isn't quite so sure it really was one. With the help of her fiancée and the coven she starts looking into what could have really happened that day. As she investigates things get weird with Orla's family, they had several insurance policies out on Orla, and their way of living has Katie worried that she won't be able to find the answers that she is so desperately looking for. Could one of Orla's family have killed her for the money? Did she give out a fortune that someone couldn't deal with? She was taking up a major spot on the waterfront, could that have gotten her killed? Will Katie be able to answer these questions and more before she ends up just like Orla? Follow along and find out. This is such a fun and original series and I love that everyone in the Coven has a different type of familiar, there are quite a few originals that even I wouldn't have picked for my own. So take a few moments and you will be transported to a wonderful southern town full of fun happenings, and there is always a great mystery to be had.

I received an ARC of this book, all thoughts and opinions are my own.

Peggy R says

I've enjoyed this series from the very beginning and with each new book I find myself entertained all over again. This series is set in Savannah and is not only filled with southern charm but a bit of the paranormal as well. By now Katie is growing into her own, both with her powers and her personal life. I like that even with seven books in the series now, Bailey Cates writes these characters who continue to grow and evolve in various aspects of their lives. This is not only true of Katie and Declan, but the cast of secondary characters as well. The book had a steady pace and I kept turning pages to see how Katie would solve this mystery. There was a nice twist in terms of how the murder was committed and even though there was a small pool of suspect, the author did a good job of keeping me guessing.

All in all, I think this is a fun series, set in a great location, with good characters and mysteries. I enjoy the paranormal aspect of this series and find that it doesn't overpower the mystery or the characters. I will be back to what Bailey Cates has in store for Katie, Declan and the rest of the characters.

Nurse Lisa In Ohio (PRN Book Reviews) says

4.5/5 magical stars. Such a pleasant, solid series...I truly enjoy it!

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/po...>

Potions and Pastries

Magical Bakery Series, Book #7

By Bailey Cates

ISBN#9780399586996

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Brought to you by OBS Reviewer Daniele

Synopsis:

It's been exactly two years since Katie and her aunt and uncle opened the Honeybee Bakery, where they serve delicious—and bespelled—treats to the good people of Savannah. After a dinner celebrating the bakery's anniversary, they all take a stroll along the waterfront and meet Aunt Lucy's friend Orla, a colorful character who has been telling the fortunes of locals and tourists alike for years.

The next day, Orla meets with what seems like a terrible accident, but Katie's witchy intuition tells her it was something more sinister. Together with her trustworthy coven and her firefighter boyfriend, she'll race to find out what happened to the unfortunate fortune-teller before the piping hot trail goes cold.... (Goodreads)

Review:

Cozy mystery readers are in for a treat with Potions and Pasties, the seventh book in the Magical Bakery Series. I liked this light-hearted murder mystery that has a bit of romance and magic sprinkled throughout.

When Aunt Lucy's friend Orla, a local fortune teller, meets an untimely end, Katie's magical sixth sense tells her Orla's death was no accident. Detective Quinn is unconvinced by Katie's insistence so Katie investigate on her own. Her questions lead her straight to Orla's family, a tightly knit group of Irish Traveler heritage who do not want to have anything to do with Katie. Even after Katie finds herself in danger, she does not stop until the guilty party is revealed.

Cates has created a fun world with magical influences set in Savannah, Georgia. Savannah makes a beautiful backdrop, but I never really get a good sense of place from the writing. The action could take place in any charming Southern town, real or imaginary though there are some landmark references. I wish I could visit the Honeybee Bakery and partake of the delicious offerings. The descriptions of the baked goods make my mouth water. The characters are what keep me coming back for more with the Magical Bakery series. I particularly enjoy Aunt Lucy and Uncle Ben. They set the bar for relationship goals. Declan, Katie's fiancé, is an honorable and nice guy (Is it bad that I sometimes think he is too good for Katie?) The members of Katie's coven add variety and interest to the series though we do not see much of them in this installment. Of course, I enjoy the animals and wish Katie's familiar Mungo could talk.

The mystery here is intriguing, and I spent most of the book vacillating between the suspects trying to figure out whodunit. The killer's identity is not exactly a surprise when it is revealed, but it makes sense with the mystery. Katie is a bit too obvious in her investigating for my taste, and she does teeter on the edge of having "too stupid to live" moments, but, overall, she makes a fine amateur sleuth. I appreciate the balance of magical and mundane in her life.

I enjoyed Potions and Pastries and recommend it to readers who appreciate magic with their murders.

Sue Em says

I always look forward to the next installment of this cozy series and I have never been disappointed. Visit the Honeybee Cafe in Savannah where the pastries are not just delicious, they often have just what you need. The cast of regulars is back, plus a family of Irish Travelers to liven it all up.

Gaele says

The seventh book in this series opens after dinner in downtown Savannah, where Katie and Declan have just been out for a meal with Ben and Lucy to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Honeybee Bakery. Continuing the evening before Lucy and Katie return to the bakery to get their familiars, they walk along the waterfront where various street shows, merchants and entertainers are making the most of the setting and weather. Witnessing an odd conversation and scene at the Fortune Teller's stall, Katie recognizes Orla, a friend of her Aunt Lucy and a customer. But, Orla is so much more – she has a prediction for Katie and a family that is nothing if not secretive and insular. The very next day, Orla walks in front of a car and is killed, shortly after a conversation with Katie and Lucy. Of course, nothing about Orla's death feels right, and with a touch of interference from her grandmother's gardenia scent, her familiar Mungo's frantic barking and Declan's long past (and thought to be banished) Leprechaun ancestor all pointing to murder, Katie's curiosity is piqued.

Not having read the earlier titles in this series (and a situation I intend to remedy immediately) Cates does manage to introduce the many characters with enough information about their background and history of interactions, including Katie's draw and need to investigate the deaths that have a connection to magic. It's been, by her own estimation, a very busy couple of years with plenty of revelations: her understanding of her own hedgewitch heritage, learning about magic and understanding her own task to help the magical in need, finding a fiancé in Declan, and now her search for a new house for the two of them as the carriage house that she has customized and crafted into her home. She's got plenty going on – and the questions about Orla, the Black family and their unfamiliar customs born of their Irish Traveler history all come into play in this story.

While the mystery grows as the Black family curls in upon itself against outsiders, and the dangers from hypnotic suggestions, fire and her own uncertain thoughts about her future, her choices and her options all unveil themselves, the story is both easy to read and engaging - keeping me intrigued with every page. A quiet community existing in the midst of tourist-rich Savannah – support, friendship and plenty of gossipy history is all there for the asking – and will have you wanting to find your own bakery with more.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Review first appeared at I am, Indeed

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

After a celebratory meal (2 years of the Honeybee Bakery/Cafe being open) Katie, Declan, Lucy and Ben are strolling along the waterfront when they see and overhear a disagreement over a Tarot reading. The next day the Tarot Reader walks in front of a car, the Police believe she committed a rather bizarre suicide Katie, Lucy and the Spellbook Club are not so sure - they believe she was murdered by magic. So Katie needs to gather her Lightwitch aura and find out the truth, oh and find a new house for her and Declan at the same time!

Sue Ross says

Another great read

Bailey Cates did it again. She brought magic, romance and murder to life with this book. Witches and familiars abound as does trouble and danger. It's a wonderful book in a great series and I can't wait to read the next one.
