



## Death by Chocolate

*Carol Lee*

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## **Death by Chocolate** Carol Lee

Things are brilliant for baker and recently divorced Myra Bailey. Living the typical life in her sleepy little town of Fish Creek Falls she's finally opened up her dream coffee shop bakery, Dessert First. She is excited things are going so well... until she stumbles over the body of Barbara the owner of the only other bakery in town.

Suddenly Myra finds herself in the middle of a murder investigation (her chocolate cake was found at the scene of the crime!) headed up by her hunky neighbor Detective David Bentley. With the help of her best friend Lizzie, together they are armed with their smart phones and their natural wits, Myra decides to take it upon herself to find the real murderer in order to clear her name and drive customers back to her bakery.

As things heat up on the murder trail, in the kitchen and between Myra and the Detective, it's a race against time to put the real murderer behind bars and get back to baking.

## **Death by Chocolate Details**

Date : Published April 6th 2013 by Bristlecone Books (first published January 1st 2013)

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Author : Carol Lee

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# From Reader Review Death by Chocolate for online ebook

## Jennifer Oberth says

I liked the short story despite some problems it had. The punctuation was bad throughout and there was something I couldn't quite put my finger on...I liked the characters but the story read too...too easy, maybe. We're taken from point A to B to C and then it ended with no letdown. One of the reasons I adore cozies is because there's always a bit of a decompression between the characters, after the killer is revealed and life returns to normal. We don't get that from this story. It just ends.

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## Heather Berkowitz says

kind of wish this was longer!

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## Char says

Myra Bailey lives in the little town of Fish Creek Falls. She opened a bakery there after divorcing her husband and deciding city life wasn't for her. Things are going well. That is until the owner of the only other bakery in town is found dead. Myra suddenly finds herself as suspect #1....and how was the owner murdered? It's a case of death by chocolate.

I got this free on my Nook. Yay books! It's cute but predictable. Myra is a likable character and I enjoyed the setting. The only thing that really annoyed me was the constant use of a pet name by her soon to be boyfriend. It made me wonder if the reason he kept using it is because he couldn't remember her name. The writing was a bit on the amateurish side and it wasn't hard to figure out the killer but all in all it wasn't a bad little story and definitely perfect if you are looking for something short and sweet.

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## Jo Reason says

This is a very short book, I had no idea when I first picked it up on my kindle, I only realized when I checked my progress and saw I had already got on in it quicker than normal, therefore I finished it in one sitting. This is a quick read, easy with nothing gripping or thrilling, hence the cozy mystery part. But the characters needed more development, (this way it could have been a little longer) and there wasn't much of a mystery really, I had it all figured out, but then again, I was looking for exactly this style of book to take my mind off things at the time so it wasn't as bad as it could have been. There were a few moments in the story line that weren't properly explained.

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## Lynda says

Four months in Fish Creek Falls with her newly-opened bakery on an upswing, divorced Myra Bailey felt her life was on track until the unthinkable happened, she was arrested for murder. Barbara Simpson, owner of Barbara's Brilliance (a well-established, popular bakery in town) was dead with Myra's recipe card and chocolate cake at the crime scene, all evidence pointed to an open and closed case against her. Innocent and fearing the police stopped looking for the real killer, Myra along with her best friend Lizzie Stevens searched for clues to stop the cell door from permanently closing on Myra.

A short mystery with a good introduction to the characters, a tidbit of information on each of them was quickly revealed. The friendliness and the daily routine of a small town were spot on; the folksy feel was adorable, speaking as a person who grew up in a small town. With the even pace and moments of "cuteness", the story held an upbeat vibe about it. Dropping little clues along the way and with a nicely written fight scene, "Death by Chocolate" was a light mystery to be enjoyed for an afternoon. One thing I noticed was the author's knack for pointing out colours in the story, interesting.

This review was based on the free download from Smashwords.

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## Vonnie says

Death by chocolate? That title sure grabbed my attention! I've been in the mood for reading mysteries and thrillers, and cozy mysteries have been calling out to me the most. What better way to get into the genre than by reading a mystery book that is tied with chocolate too?

This was a quick yet delightful read. The author gave enough details to give the reader a sense of the type of world this story took place in. Fish Creek Falls was a small town where everybody knew everybody. There was only one bakery shop until Myra, the main character, moved into town and opened one up of her own. The few interactions that Myra had with various characters were well done too. I was able to picture the type of person each character was. Now, the problem of the story of learning who the real murderer was could have been stronger. I only suspected two characters out all of the ones that were intended to confuse the reader. However, it was still fun reading the climax of the story.

Though I enjoyed this cozy mystery, I did have a problem with the ending. First, the true motive of the murderer was too weak. I could have seen how this "motive" could have been enough for someone to commit murder (having a Hot Fuzz movie flashback...), but it would have been better if it was further explained. It turned out to be more petty than an actual motive. Next, the ending abruptly ended. Right after learning who the killer was, the story ended. Yup, just like that without any farewells to the reader. It wasn't even a cliff-hanger type of ending. It was as if the author gave up and refused to continue. It had me yelling, "What?! That's it?!" \*sigh\* I guess I was expecting a stronger resolution.

In all, this was not that bad. I was quite entertained from beginning to end. It was not perfect, but the book was able to grab my attention. It was a great way to get my toes wet into the cozy mysteries genre.

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### **Diane Wachter says**

A baker who is new in town is accused of murdering a rival baker. She must clear her name with the help of her girlfriend, and the detective next door.

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### **Joanne Drinnan says**

An easy read, the plot was a bit thin, but entertaining.

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### **Jo says**

Cute and pleasant to read, but certainly has a very amateurish feel to it. But luckily it was kept short, 100 pages, and so I did finish it, which is more than I can say for many other books from accomplished writers even, where the text has just been boring. This was not boring, kept me entertained in a light and breezy way.

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### **Alice Harbin says**

I very short book with a simple, uncomplicated plot and a bit of romance. Girl opens bakery in small town and her competitor is murdered and she is arrested for the murder. David, a detective, is courting her. She and her girlfriend break in to the murder scene and she finds the stem from the sheriff's watch. She also notices that there is a difference between the note on the door saying that the bakery would be open later, and other reminder notes in the bakery.

Also the sheriff has told her that the poison was in the frosting and her detective boyfriend doesn't know how he would have known that, unless he did it.

The sheriff has a thing about outsiders coming in and causing other businesses to fail. Seems like a weak motive.

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### **kir says**

this book was 3 commutes long

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### **Missy Mey says**

A cute and quick read.

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### **Renea Greathouse says**

Death by chocolate is that perfect cozy book to read, if your looking for a quick fix to whet your appetite. I loved it.

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**Heather L says**

Editing could have been much improved and ending wasn't very satisfying -- we find out whodunit, but not *why*.

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**Nancy H says**

This was an ok mystery. I thought that things were just a bit too conveniently successful, such as the part where the two friends crawled into the basement of the bakery, and also the part where the policeman/potential boyfriend believed her immediately when she told him who the killer was.

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