



## A Cup of Jo

*Sandra Balzo*

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The new 'Maggy Thorsen' caffeine cozy - Maggy Thorsen's heart, uncharacteristically, is swelling with optimism. Sure, her original Wisconsin coffeehouse, Uncommon Grounds, was destroyed in a freak blizzard. But, with new business partner Sarah Kingston, she's found the perfect place to relocate to - a quaint railroad station that will soon be revitalized by a new commuter-rail connection. Sarah and Maggy hope that the station's 'Dedication Day' will provide great free publicity. But their dream turns into a nightmare when the event manager makes her grand appearance on the day. As a corpse . . .

## A Cup of Jo Details

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Author : Sandra Balzo

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## From Reader Review A Cup of Jo for online ebook

### Spuddie says

Another great entry in this semi-cozy series set in a Milwaukee suburb, featuring coffee shop owner Maggy Thorsen and friends. The grand opening at the new location of Uncommon Grounds in a refurbished train depot coincides with the resumption of train service into the city from the depot. When the dead body of one of the event promoters is found inside the giant inflatable coffee cup Maggy had hired out to promote the shop, Maggy is once again thrust into the midst of a murder investigation--but this time, the person whose bacon she saves may well be her boyfriend, Sheriff Jake Pavlik.

I am not much of a lover of cozy mysteries, and I think part of the reason I like this series is that it's a bit more edgy than a normal cozy with a more realistic spin on real life, relationships, and life in general. The characters also have real character faults that sometimes get them into difficult situations and fall into the various shades of gray instead of either being 'a good guy' or 'a bad guy.' They just are who they are. The language is also a bit more racy with the occasional four-letter word. I dunno--I just like Maggy and her wisecracking ways and her group of friends. Very much looking forward to the next one.

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### Nancy says

The grand opening of Maggy Thorsen's coffee shop by a train station is proceeding according to plan, until the event organizer is found dead inside an inflatable coffee cup. Suspects abound, from the woman's husband to various acquaintances, most of whom have motives. When her boyfriend's integrity is called into question, Maggy decides to do some investigating of her own. A solid mystery, a cast of quirky characters, and a savory setting make this a pleasant whodunit to add to your shelves.

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### Sandybear76 says

I got this one from the Public Library on my reserve list. I was happy to see that Maggie caught us up with her life quickly. The other book I had read Maggie's coffeehouse was destroyed in a freak blizzard. Now she is having a Grand Opening at her new location with a new owner/partner Sarah (her 3rd one!). The new place is at the train station where a new train service line is beginning. Maggie and Sarah have purchased a huge inflatable cup and saucer which floats above the podium where all the governmental bigshots will give their speeches. Until, yup, a dead boady falls onto the scene. Maggie's "boyfriend" is accused of cheating on her.

The book is a fairly quick read. Lots of quirky charaters. Maggie didn't mention her son much in this one. I need to go and read the rest of the series now.

I like the cover of the book with the sprinkly shoe but I'm not sure it depicts the book very well.

The book was a quick read but keeping

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### **Grey853 says**

Maggy has a coffee shop in the new railroad station. There's a grand opening event with speeches, a mime, and even a giant inflatable coffee cup to celebrate. Problem is that instead of cream there's a body in the oversized cup and her boyfriend might end up being the prime suspect! Oh, dear.

Maggy is likable enough, though she's a bit insecure and high strung. However, her partner Sarah is a annoying with the teasing and bad jokes. The book has several grating characters and the progression of the mystery was rather predictable in spots, but it was still entertaining.

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### **Susan says**

Maggie's coffeehouse is about to reopen, part of a depot for a new commuter train between suburban Brookhills and Milwaukee. A giant blow-up coffee cup is Maggie's contribution to the publicity. But a murder has an even bigger idea--plant a dead body in the cup. When a friend of Maggie's becomes a major suspect, she has to take steps, even if they put her into danger. Another pleasant entry in this series.

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### **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

Well, this book by far is the best yet of the series. I was captured by the plot immediately and also felt pain for the sleuth, our Maggy.

I enjoyed the change of character business partners and love the new mix. I was so concerned for Maggy as she feels so 'real' to me.

This was a believable book and also made fun with Frank and some new characters besides the comfort of our older 'friends.'

Now, I have to be patient and wait for the next book.

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### **Elisa Hordon says**

I really love Maggie and her mysteries are always great stories

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### **Beth Peninger says**

I'm always up for a mystery book. And when it involves coffee, one of my fave beverages, then I'm likely to check it out! :) This is my first Sandra Balzo book and I'll check out her other ones. She writes a good "who

dun it", it wasn't until 2/3 of the way through the book that I started to figure out small bits and pieces of who had done it! And she adds in other twists that make it all that much harder to figure out who actually done it. Well written and modern I enjoyed it!

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### \* **Jennifer says**

I thought this was a great story. The author approached a common plot line from a different angle and added a small twist, so it didn't feel like the same ole' same ole. I'm sad to be at the end of this series and having to wait for the next one to be published but I'm looking forward to the next one.

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### **Caroline says**

Okay, I'm a coffee addict. But I also enjoy the Maggy Thorsen mysteries. I've read them all and I like the way the plot moves forward. In this book they're celebrating their opening in a new location (due to blizzard-related destruction of their old location) at a train station and it's the kick-off of a new commuter train when someone is found dead in the giant inflatable coffee cup advertising their shop! I like Sandra Balzo's sense of humor and I like Maggy Thorsen. Really liked this book and am looking forward to more in this series.

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### **Jennifer Muller says**

I enjoyed this book so much, I quite literally didn't put it down. I read it all in one day. I love the main character Maggie!

I have to say, The writing was so good the author pulls you into their lives, and I was so disappointed in Pavlik at one point that I almost dismissed him completely (as if I were the one he had duped.) The only character I didn't care for was Sarah. I found her unlikeable.

Also. the title was more clever than I originally thought it was! You don't find out about it until you read a few chapters in. but I loved it!

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### **Ivonne Rovira says**

That's not a typo in the title: Jo is JoLynne Penn-Williams, the events manager for a dedication of the commuter train line that will run between Milwaukee and Brookhills, Wisconsin, a small fictional town located 15 miles west of Milwaukee.

Maggy Thorsen, co-owner of Uncommon Grounds coffee shop, is on hand at the celebration with her partner, the prickly real-estate agent Sarah Kingston, when JoLynne turns up dead, marring the celebration.

Poor Maggy deserves a break: First, in Uncommon Grounds, her marriage broke up when her dentist husband recently left her for his 24-year-old dental hygienist. Then, when Maggy begins a new life and a new business, her coffee shop was destroyed in a freak May blizzard in Brewed, Crude and Tattooed, and the re-opening nearly spoiled due to mayhem in From the Grounds Up. But Maggy's not about to catch a break

in *A Cup of Jo*, the sixth novel in the series. Turns out the pretty and petite victim JoLynne, although married, was *very* promiscuous — even bedding her sister's boyfriend and, according to rumor, Maggy's main squeeze, sexy Sheriff Jake Pavlik. When she's not waxing jealous about promiscuous JoLynne, Maggy's worried about Milwaukee County Executive Wynona Counsel, who once dated Pavlik, too. It's not a pretty picture, but, considering Maggy's history — she was oblivious of her ex's philandering — it's understandable.

So who killed JoLynne? Was it her cuckolded husband, whom police have arrested? Or could one of JoLynne's many lovers or their spurned wives or girlfriends have decided that enough was enough? You'll be rooting for Maggy to find out the truth. While most will also be rooting for Maggy to patch things up with Jake, I'm ambivalent. Maggy's a strong woman, and Jake's a bit bullying and emotionally distant. As the kitchen magnet proclaims, "It's better to have loved and lost, than to live with a psycho for the rest of your life." Jake's not a psycho, but Maggy can do better.

Still, don't let my demur put you off. *A Cup of Jo* will brew up a funny and clever page-turner you'll drink in no time flat.

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### **Linda Smatzny says**

This is the sixth book in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. This time Maggy and new business partner have reopened Uncommon Grounds in the Brookhills railroad station. At the celebration for the new train line a body is discovered in the big inflatable coffee cup. Maggy is slowly dragged into the case because of her dating the sheriff. A lot of the story is about her personal life but finally everything comes together for Maggy.

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### **Kristina says**

originally posted:[http://newborrowedused.blogspot.com/2...](http://newborrowedused.blogspot.com/2011/01/review-of-cup-of-jo.html)

My Thoughts: This is the sixth book in this series and one of the better ones. I liked how the new neighbors add an eccentric twist to the story without being the bad guys that disappear at the end of the book. Maggy was her usual naive yet endearing self. There were times when I wanted to smack her inability to stick up for herself and just kick Pavlik to the curb. Sarah is a much better character and partner, she brings some much needed levity and realism to the story.

The mystery of who killed Jo was well done and I must say had me stumped for awhile. With her evil sister Rebecca (have not liked her since meeting her in an earlier book) to the husband, various lovers, etc it was wide open. Of course I loved the mime (if you've read the books or my earlier reviews this will make sense). Overall another great read. I love the lengths of these books and can generally finish in one day. Can finally read my review copy of *Triple Shot*.

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### **Anastasia says**

A Cup of Jo by Sandra Balzo is the 6th book in the Maggie Thorsen mystery series. It is the opening of the second Uncommon Grounds cafe, after the first was previously destroyed in a blizzard, and Maggie has

commissioned a giant inflatable cup of coffee to be suspended for the grand opening. Unfortunately, the body of JoLynne Penn-Williams, the event manager, tips out during the celebrations. This series improves with each book and I think this is the best one yet. I have loved reading about Maggie's difficulties and how they have been overcome and the progression of her relationship with the sheriff. Her sleuthing doesn't seem to have improved much though and she continues to stumble onto the murderer. I love the various characters and their eccentricities, especially the old ladies with their twitter following, and look forward to catching up with them again. A light, funny and very entertaining book.

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