



The Candy Cane Cupcake Killer

Livia J. Washburn

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In the latest from the national bestselling author of *Trick or Deadly Treat*, Phyllis Newsom returns with a festive Christmas recipe that's to die for...

‘Tis the season in Weatherford, Texas, and everyone in town is gearing up for the annual holiday parade and tree-lighting ceremony in the town square, where Phyllis Newsom will be serving her much-anticipated candy cane cupcakes. Local rancher Barney McCrory manages to charm one away from her before the ceremony begins. But unfortunately, when the minty confection is finished, so is he.

This isn’t the first time someone has dropped dead after eating one of Phyllis’s treats. But when the paramedics determine the rancher was shot, suspicion swiftly falls on McCrory’s daughter and her husband—who both stand to reap some sweet rewards from his death. Though Phyllis doesn’t want to get mixed up in another murder investigation, something about this case doesn’t sit right with her. With a little help from a tabloid TV news crew, Phyllis must unwrap the truth and restore good cheer to Weatherford before it’s too late...

Includes recipes!

The Candy Cane Cupcake Killer Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2015 by NAL (first published October 6th 2015)

ISBN : 9780451416711

Author : Livia J. Washburn

Format : Paperback 277 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Holiday, Christmas

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From Reader Review The Candy Cane Cupcake Killer for online ebook

Jeannie and Louis Rigid says

It's Christmas time and Phyllis and Sam carry freshly baked-Candy Cane Cupcakes (recipe included at the ending,) to the Weatherford Christmas Parade...then there is a stampede with Sam's buddy crumpled at the horse's leads and we are treated to quite the Western styled chase!

Phyllis and Sam have to aid the children of his, now deceased, friend and we are off to find a killer.

Now this book has a twist to the normal murder chase that will interest you. I was pleasantly surprised by the new murder team.

Also, quiet housemate, Eve has a splendid surprise up her laptop...

This is a great read.

Joan says

A pleasant read but not exceptional. We were hit over the head with the key to the mystery early on, but Phyllis did not seem to put any thought into it until the end.

Joy says

Fun, fast, light weight mystery...a fun Christmas read I missed in Dec!!

JuJu (Julie) says

3.5 ??'s. A cozy mystery that will put you in the Christmas spirit! Another choice I made for a reading challenge. It was a cute read for the holiday season and a little more upbeat than my usual reads!

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

It's Christmastime in Weatherford and it starts with the annual holiday parade. The crowd has turned out but a Grinch destroys the day. Barney McCrory, a local rancher, whose horse team is pulling Santa's sleigh

drops dead after the parade just gets started and Phyllis panics, Barney has just eaten one of her cupcakes. When the chaos clears it is determined Barney was shot. Who would benefit with the rancher out of the picture? His daughter and her husband seem to gain the most landing them in the hot seat. Phyllis soon finds herself in the middle of another investigation. This time she gets help from a very surprising group but can they save Christmas and save Barney's family?

I purposely saved this book to read closer to Christmas because a trip to Weatherford always puts a smile on my face.

After 10 stories these characters feel like old friends. Phyllis, Eve, Carolyn and Sam live together in a good size home and it seems the door is always open. Not only do visitors get a nice meal or a cupcake, they also get a shoulder to cry on, or a hug, but they also get an amateur sleuth in Phyllis or as the tabloids call her "Texas's Elderly Angel of Death". But calling her that will get the door slammed in your face, as Felicity Prosper from Inside Beat quickly found out. I would love to visit them myself without anyone having to be dead. They may be retired but they definitely aren't tired. They are always on the go doing something.

This story started out with a bang that no one heard and continued its quick pace right up to the last page. I thought I had the who of the whodunit figured out a time or two, but I was completely wrong. That is the way it is supposed to be, right. Phyllis had her own way of investigating and sometimes she has all the clues she just needs to think things through a few times to get them to all fall together. Sam makes a great sounding board and sometimes even goes off on his own to chase down a clue.

This author tells a great story with dialogue that rings true and the characters' wit comes shining through. Weatherford is the perfect setting too for this wonderful mystery. This was an exciting story and so much fun to read.

We are given just a hint of what is in store for this cast of characters and I am excited to see it play out.

Now I think I need to bake some Candy Cake Cupcakes. Our family truly believes in the saying "Eat Dessert First" and these cupcakes will do nicely.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Every time I read a new book in the Fresh Baked Mystery series, I come away from it completely entertained, and hungry!

In THE CANDY CANE CUPCAKE KILLER, it's Christmas in Weatherford, Texas and protagonist, Phyllis Newsom is back and baking up goodies. However, author Livia J. Washburn is cooking up murder.

The action and intrigue start off in chapter one and continues to build through the entire book, all the way to the surprising reveal. I had a suspect all picked out, I just knew I was right, but I was way off. I love it when that happens, even if I do want to solve one once in a while. ;-)

It's easy to see in this story just how much Ms. Washburn loves writing her series. With every new book, her characters grow and develop new layers. Her writing, which has been wonderful since book one, A PEACH OF A MURDER, continues to capture the imagination and hold the reader transfixed.

If you're looking for a fast paced, enjoyable book, one that will draw you in, look no further because you've found it!

Make sure to check out the back of the book for amazing recipes, and an excerpt from book one in this series, **A PEACH OF A MURDER**.

Marsha Campbell says

Another fun read from Livia J. Washburn. I look forward to reading about the next adventure of Phyllis Newsom, retired teacher and amateur sleuth, along with her friends. This Texas town has some very interesting characters.

In addition, the recipes are mouth watering.

Luffy says

There's a big bang at the start of the book; someone gets murdered. And there's a big event near the end - the murderer shows up. Between these two events the padding is of shear quality.

What I like most of this series is that with each passing book, the notoriety of the resident amateur detective, Phyllis Newsome, grows exponentially. So by the time this book came around, Mrs Newsome was a kind of mini celebrity.

This food-oriented cozy has a nice end, where Eve, Phyllis's friend and housemate, reveals she's been writing a novel heavily based on Phyllis's adventures. During the inquiry of the murder case, we see quite less of Phyllis's beau, Sam. But that's okay, because the rest of the gang gets enough screen time. I read this book now, since it's part of my Christmas themed list. It was worth the wait.

Karina says

My first cozy mystery!! 3.5 stars. It was a cute and corny read. Very light after finishing an in depth classic.

Set in Texas, Phyllis is a retired school teacher that lives in a house with several other elderly friends. There was supposed to be a Christmas parade until Barney McCrory gets shot. She has to find the real killer while the suspect is his son-in-law.

The writing isn't great and the plots are kind of obvious but it was delightful and comes with recipes in the back of the book which I might use.

Grey853 says

Phyllis and Sam are off to the Christmas parade with a batch of her candy cane cupcakes when one of Sam's

friends is killed by sniper.

When the man's son in law is arrested for the murder, they're convinced he's innocent. Of course Phyllis and Sam have to investigate. The whole notion of the pesky reporter ending up actually helping seemed completely unlikely. The solution didn't ring true, either.

It was okay, but just okay. I didn't think it was as good as some of the earlier books in the series because a lot of what happened seemed too far fetched.

Deb Sharp says

Yum, Yum, Yum!

I just love all the main characters in this book! I love trying to solve the crimes, in this series.

Lindsay says

Reading Challenge: A Mystery or Thriller

It wasn't very Christmasy and I thought the storyline was kind of boring. Not the best one in the series.

Meher Avinash says

*The difference between a lawyer and a detective is that the former is satisfied with an acquittal.

*The antidote to frustration is action.

Natasha says

Not the best one in the series but the end twist.

Linda Smatzny says

This time Phyllis Newsom is by the person who is murdered at the start of the parade featuring Santa. Phyllis and Sam go into detective mode immediately since Sam knew the deceased. Also the man the police believe did it is a former student of Sam's. They ask questions but can't seem to find the link to solve the puzzle until Phyllis decides to team up with a TV reporter. The book also includes recipes. It was a quick easy read.
