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Jessica Beck

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Donut shop owner Suzanne Hart sees customers come and go all day long. But when one of them up-and-disappears, the police start asking questions. It seems Suzanne is the last person to have seen Emily Hargraves, who runs the local newsstand. Suzanne has nothing to report about their encounter. But when Emily doesn't turn up, no news is *bad* news...

Suzanne has to admit that Emily's last request was a little odd—a blueberry donut made to order, with chocolate icing, sprinkles, stars, and a chewy sour gummy worm coiled on top. Odder still: Suzanne's ex-husband Max also appears to be missing. But what really takes the cake? The corpse Suzanne finds hanging from a tree in the park. Who knew donut-making could turn out to be such dangerous business...

Tragic Toppings Details

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Author : Jessica Beck

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From Reader Review Tragic Toppings for online ebook

Fmorlan says

Suzanne Hart owns a donut shop. She works hard. Her assistant Emma works as hard. She has a friend named Grace. In this volume of donut shop mysteries, Grace and Suzanne have to investigate two missing people. One Emily who runs a convenience store and Tim the handyman in town. George a retired policeman agreed to take Tim while the girls looked for the missing Emily. When they found Emily she was with a boyfriend and alive. The two walked home and saw a hanging - turned out to be Tim. They uncovered his dalliance with women and some disagreements with some of the townspeople. Luckily, Jake was in town to help the investigation with George. So many suspects keep coming up for Suzanne who also had her hands full with her mother going on a date with the Sheriff. I was surprised at the murderer at the end. Good book quick read.

Jeanie Harper says

This was the best mystery I have ever read. I was on the last two pages, before I FOUND OUT. who had committed the murder.

Great read. Jake is pretty high up there in ranking!!

Michelle says

This is the 5th book in the Doughnut Shop cozy mystery series. Suzanne has a couple of mysterious disappearances to deal with, with one turning out to be benign (a romantic rendezvous) while the other has more deadly consequences. Suzanne must try to help figure out why a body of their friend was found hanging from a tree. Was it a new business competitor, a jealous girlfriend, or someone from his past. To make matters worse, her recipe book disappears, leaving her to have to recreate some of her doughnuts from scratch. As usual, the book contains many delicious sounding recipes.

Amanda McGill says

I'm liking this series! Thankfully there are a lot more books in this series!

There are 2 people missing from April Springs, Tim the handyman and Emily who runs the local newsstands. One has shown up safe and sound, while the other is found dead hanging from a tree in the local park.

The summary on the back of the novel and the summary on Goodreads doesn't have much to do with the main plot of the story. Maybe it was from an earlier version?

I enjoyed the mystery and the characters are fun in this series. Excited to read more in the series!

AngryGreyCat says

Tragic Toppings is the 5th book in Jessica Beck's A Donut Shop Mystery series. I have been reading this mystery series for a while and I am really enjoying it. I like the main character Suzanne Hart and her friends and the recurring characters, George, Emma, Jake and Grace. Each of the characters is well drawn and fully fleshed out. More importantly, each has a purpose in Suzanne's life and in the plot. There are also interesting side plots going on in this book including, Suzanne's mother dating, Suzanne still seeing Jake, and Max, Suzanne's ex-husband, causing his own drama in town. The mystery is well done and the resolution is dramatic. Tragic Toppings is proof that cozy mystery series can continue and get better over time. Recommended read for cozy mystery fans.

Ann Boytim says

Always happy to read about Suzanne's donut shop as it has some u-yummy donut recipes included. A friend is missing and then the town is in an uproar but the gal is found with Suzanne's ex. Suzanne and her friend find a body hanging in a tree this is a guy who has been romancing three women at the same time, Suzanne decides to investigate and she is getting in trouble but luckily her boyfriend Jake a State investigator is helping her, Suzanne has to try and find the murderer but someone is trying to stop her and steals her recipe book from her donut shop. Suzanne is devastated when she loses all of her recipes then she finds the book burning on her porch with a warning to stop meddling but Suzanne is very determined to find the murderer and puts herself in danger.

Kim says

This is more like a 2.5 star rating than a 3. Perhaps the donut shop is becoming too sweet for my taste when it comes to fluffy relationship stuff.

This starts with the disappearance of two characters. One is found alive and the other, dead. Then it goes into a murder mystery that could have been so many things if Beck stopped harping on the relationships for the Hart women and made more of an effort on the mystery. Too much just didn't need to be there or was rather long and drawn out. I was skipping sections of conversation between Suzanne and her mother because I could predict what was being said. It's a cute story overall, but maybe too cute.

Also, I'm not a fan of how she continually says how important the shop is to her, but then drops it in the next paragraph to play clue. I was not only hoping the drama was sabotage, but also that she had to drop the mystery and go to town trying to fix it. But neither of those things happened. It just makes it hard to believe her character when she does stuff like this.

Heather says

Synopsis (from bn.com):

Donut shop owner Suzanne Hart sees customers come and go all day long. But when one of them up-and-disappears, the police start asking questions. It seems Suzanne is the last person to have seen Emily Hargraves, who runs the local newsstand. Suzanne has nothing to report about their encounter. But when Emily doesn't turn up, no news is bad news...

Suzanne has to admit that Emily's last request was a little odd—a blueberry donut made to order, with chocolate icing, sprinkles, stars, and a chewy sour gummy worm coiled on top. Odder still: Suzanne's ex-husband Max also appears to be missing. But what really takes the cake? The corpse Suzanne finds hanging from a tree in the park. Who knew donut-making could turn out to be such dangerous business...

My thoughts:

As you know already if you have read my last blog post, I am working my way through the Donut Shop Mystery series to catch up on the series. (Oh dear if this was the only cozy series I had to catch up on, how lucky that would be. . . but alas that is not the case, so many books, so little time. But I digress!)

I truly enjoy this entire series. As I have said before I find the main characters, Suzanne and her best friend Grace, really great . . . fun, charming, successful, strong-willed. Now that I am reading the books closer together, I am finding that I am really enjoying watching Suzanne grow as the series moves along. She is strong, successful, and ready to meet her amateur sleuthing responsibilities head on. Go Suzanne!

I know there are more books for me to catch up on, but I am hoping the next couple of books show me how this relationship between Jake and Suzanne is moving along . . . or not moving along? Do tell Jessica Beck, do tell!!

A great, light cozy mystery read set in a great location that will leave your mouth watering just thinking about the donuts she talks about in her shop! Yum!

Oh and by the way . . . I am not ashamed to admit that I have actually been thinking about buying a small deep fryer so I can actually try some of those delectable donut recipes the author has in the book!

Maureen ~Bitch Can Write A Book says

I've had this book since Borders closed. Since I am on a cozy kick, I dug it out. I love reading a series that no matter how long in between books...when you pick it up it's like visiting an old friend.

I enjoyed catching up with Suzanne, her momma, her best friend Grace and all the rest of the people that hang out in Suzanne's donut shop.

Suzanne finds herself in a bit of a twist thinking one person is missing, Emily. When her BFF and herself find another person hanging from the Patriot Tree by her home things get a bit crazy. Emily turns up in a comprising sitch with Max...Suzanne's ex. When Suzanne is begged to help find out who killed Tim...well trouble ensues. Between her beloved recipe book for her donuts disappears, Tim's relationship with three woman is revealed, the suspect pool is large. Jake her hot boyfriend visits and agrees to help her to keep her out of trouble, he is an investigator. But when Jake is called back to work, Grace is out of town and her momma out on a date with the chief of police...Suzanne finds another body, and things start to unravel.

If you are a fan of cozy mysteries, this is a fave of mine. Check this series out...and bonus...recipes for donuts :)

Kristen says

In Jessica Beck's Tragic Toppings, the 5th installment in the Donut Shop culinary cozy series, she delighted us with an intriguing cozy with delicious donut recipes to enjoy at home. For Suzanne Hart, she received a lot of customers come and go at her shop. But when their handyman winds up missing and turns up dead, it baffled Suzanne's mind on who wanted him dead. Besides trying to convince her mother to go out with the police chief on their dates, she's busy running her store and waiting for her boyfriend to visit her from his job. When he does, it's between the two of them on who wanted to see Tim Leander dad--they dig up his past life and his love life to question everybody as a suspect. When her recipe book went missing and up in flames, someone sent her a warning, before her business could go up in smoke. Before she knew it, her life was at stake and discovered who killed him and someone else, too.

Lorraine Shaw says

Enjoyed this book.

Jo Anne B says

Light, fun, fast read! Love Suzanne. There wasn't as much Grace and barely any George in this one because he was off trying to help Jake solve the case. I did like how Jake was helping Suzanne for once in solving the case. Jessica Beck needs to write these faster because this is the fifth book in the series and I already read the seventh that means only one more new one for me to read. I can't be without these books. They are always good go to ones that I can count on in a pinch. A pleasure to read!

Kimberly says

Once again, another cute mystery.

I've been reading these back to back because I recently discovered this series. I know. I don't know where I've been either.

As I read them one after the other, I'm finding that the mystery is taking a back seat to what's going on with the characters.

The police chief is starting to get nicer. Emma's dating another guy and still doesn't seem closer to going away to college. I sometimes forget Jake is blonde. Etc.

Seriously, Jake doesn't sound like the name for a blonde, right? I see him with black hair and aviator glasses like Ponch from CHiPs.

Ok, review over.

Mary Ann says

First, Emily disappears, leaving her precious toys alone in the shop, unlocked, after being seen at the Donut Hearts. Suzanne, goes searching for Emily and finds her with Suzanne's ex-husband. While she is searching for Emily, she hears that Tim has disappeared, too. Later that night, while walking home from supper with her friend, Grace, they find Tim hanging from the Patriot's Tree in the park across from her home. This starts her and her friends (George, Grace) and her boyfriend looking for the answers to who would murder Tim and hang him from the Patriot's (Traitor's) Tree. As they get closer to the truth, her cookbook is stolen, and then set on fire on her mother's and her porch.

Kyong-Mi says

I can see how some of the readers of the Donut Shop mysteries have gotten tired of the stories. BUT, I love it, love learning about Suzanne's and Jake's relationship, about Dorothy and Chief's growing and frustratingly slow relationship...and I like how Suzanne noses around in people's business. She's funny. Anyway, this was a great and quick read. I literally woke up in the middle of the night and would pick the book up and read myself back to sleep.
