



With Friends Like These...

Gillian Roberts

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Well-known Broadway playwright and TV producer Lyle Zacharias is throwing himself a lavish birthday party in his hometown of Philadelphia. Guests include his current wife, ex-wives, friends, former partners -- not to mention Amanda Pepper and her own irrepressible mother, Bea. Yet when Lyle drops dead in the middle of a speech, it appears the likely perpetrator is none other than Bea, whose gift was fifty delicious, but apparently poisoned, tarts!

It's up to Amanda to clear her mother's name and find the real murderer . . . before he or she strikes again! But Amanda herself may be the next target! Who says teaching isn't exciting? With any more excitement, Amanda will have to retire before she hits thirty-one . . . if she lives that long!

With Friends Like These... Details

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Author : Gillian Roberts

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Jean Perry says

As usual, i liked Roberts use of Philadelphia as a "character" in the book. Entertaining. As a former high school teacher, i could identify with the little segment of a boy having a crush on his teacher. I will read more f hers.

Muriel says

An Amanda Pepper mystery. Lots of funny sarcasm.

Ellen says

Amanda Pepper # 4

Julie says

Comfortable, engaging read with only a little of Mandy's eternal second-guessing and self-destructive relationship drama. Very enjoyable.

Jenn says

Another stunning mystery novel by one of my top novelists, Gillian Roberts. The fourth installment of the Amanda Pepper series does not disappoint. As the books traverse on, I find myself more intrigued by Mandy's relationship with Mackenzie. What the heck is his first name? Has she tried the name Cole? I'm thinking he'd be pretty cool as a Cole, or a Christian or even a Corey. For the life of me I could not come up with a name that reminded me of Louisiana that started with a C. Except maybe Creole, and I'm not convinced even the cool Mackenzie dude could pull off that one.

Mandy is growing to become a wonderful civilian sleuth. And I think this is mostly because she doesn't even try, it's all so natural to her. She's not pretentious. She doesn't pull clues and answers out of her behind. She's just 100% pure lovable. If only I had a teacher like her back in high school!

I like the fact that you could also pick up this series at any point. You don't have to have read any of the previous mysteries to enjoy this one. And there is none of that annoying repetitive information you can sometimes find in series (like when an author feels the need to rehash prior plot lines to make you understand what is happening in the present book.) once again, Gillian gets two thumbs up and an A++ from me for her amazing Amanda Pepper.

Jim says

This was a good, solid mystery. The story and the characters are interesting and the author tells her tale with a lot of humor. I did not figure out whodunit but the info I needed to was in the story, which is how I think a mystery should be written.

I'm not totally enamored with the author's writing style. It lacks suspense, excitement and I'm marking the story down a bit for that.

Peggi Warner-lalonde says

A fun read, and the solution was a surprise to me. I'm looking forward to reading more by the same author.

Linda Rowland says

Enjoyable characters, and quick read. Will look for more of this series.

Ravenia says

The book is filled with wordplay mystery and comedy. The storyline is being narrated by your average schoolteacher. In the beginning of the book, many events take place that are incorrectly interpreted. At the conclusion of this book, you realize it's best to hear the whole story before drawing any conclusions. In easy-going read for a relaxing day

Cws says

M Rob

Kathy says

This series was recommended by Nancy Pearl ("Book Lust"), and I'm glad I found it. Amanda Pepper is the main character, an English teacher in a private school, turned amateur sleuth, with likeable ancillary characters. I'm glad I found this series. I'll try more. Definitely fits my "cozy mystery" tastes.

Marla says

I like this series but figured out a key element about 20 pages in. I am also ready for McKenzie and Mandy's relationship to head to the next level.

Stephanie says

Loved the book, the wit, the case, but Amanda did just too many unlikely, stupid things in this book.

Partridge Public says

Roberts, Gillian

Fmorlan says

Amanda Pepper is a school teacher in Philadelphia. She is socializing with her parents from Fla. when her father takes a tumble and is laid up with a bad leg. Unfortunately, they were here for a party and now her mother needs someone to go with her. Step in Amanda - they attend a party of a old friend/relative who ends up dead. Enter Mackenzie (no first name yet) cop and boyfriend. While investigating the crime to keep her mother from jail, she gets spooked at school with odd mail and a thrilling ride around downtown Philly.
