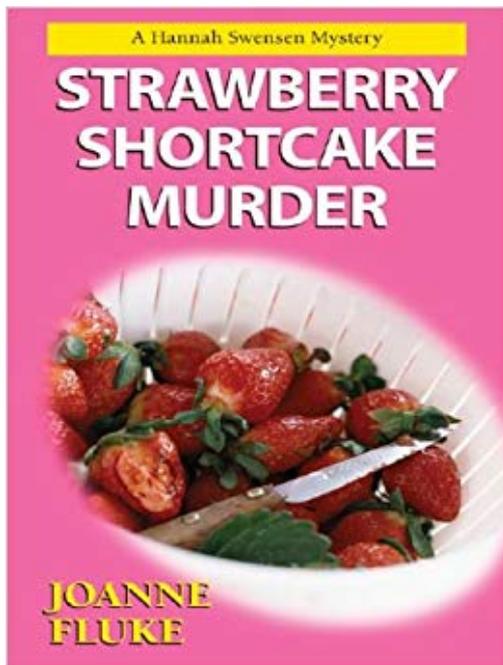


Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery by Joanne Fluke



ISBN: 1587247283

ISBN13: 978-1587247286

Author: Joanne Fluke

Book title: Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery

Pages: 415

Publisher: Wheeler Publishing; 1 edition (June 21, 2004)

Language: English

Category: Mystery

Size PDF version: 1656 kb

Size ePUB version: 1802 kb

Size FB2 version: 1208 kb

Other formats: mobi docx lrf rtf

When the president of Hartland Flour chooses cozy Lake Eden, Minnesota, as the spot for their first annual Dessert Bake-Off, Hannah is thrilled to serve as the head judge. But when a fellow judge, Coach Boyd Watson, is found stone-cold dead, facedown in Hannah's celebrated strawberry shortcake, Lake Eden's sweet ride to fame turns very sour indeed. Somebody is cooking up a recipe for murder . . .



Reviews of the **Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery** by Joanne Fluke

Dorilune

This is the second Joann Fluke mystery I have read. Her books are fun to read. More important, I appreciate Ms. Fluke's principles as the heroine in the book chooses not to sleep with her

boyfriends. These are books that I would happily recommend to anyone who enjoys a fun mystery and loves to cook (I have tried a couple of her recipes and they aren't bad). Good reading for young and old alike.

post_name

I enjoy cozy mysteries; they're light reading and entertaining. The Hannah Swensen Mysteries are considered part of this genre. Amateur sleuth, Hannah, who owns a cookie bakery, investigates murder in a small tourist town in Minnesota. Her side kick is her beautiful sister Andrea whom is married to local police detective, Bill. Hannah has two love interests: Not so handsome dentist named Norman who she enjoys as a friend and seems to respect; meanwhile, there's the handsome police detective, Mike, which she's only physically attracted to and has no respect for as a person or detective. Her mother, Delores, manipulates her personal life.

I started off with Chocolate Chip Murder and found it moderately entertaining for the first book in a series, so I ordered the next three books hoping the writing technique such as dialog and character complexity would improve. Unfortunately, there is no improvement.

The best part of this book is that I kept reading it till the end. It took me over half the book to figure out the motive for Coach Watson's murder. However, there was another murder victim whom I thought was obvious the minute this victim disappeared and the motive was immediately understood.

Hannah's disregard for the law is the worst part of the book and the series so far. Somehow she manages to tamper with evidence, withhold evidence, steal, lie, breaking and entering and not get reprimanded.

Not sure if I would recommend this series yet, I will read the next two books in the series to determine if these are worthwhile.

Kigabar

Published in 2002, THE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE MURDER is second in the so-called "murder she baked" murder mystery series by Joanne Fluke. The series features Hannah Swensen, a bakery owner who lives in small town Lake Eden, Minnesota and is thought of as a "cozy" murder mystery series—a genre in which there is little graphic violence, less graphic sex, and even naughty words are a rarity, and the books are not so much murder mysteries as they are flyweight portraits of the central characters and their community. Fluke writes in a workman like manner, but in truth her mysteries read like a mix of Lillian Braun's "The Cat Who ..." series and Fannie Flagg's FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFÉ—albeit without the light charm of the former and the depth of the latter.

STRAWBERRY finds Hannah acting as judge of a local bake-off, which is itself marred when one of the judges—a popular high school coach who is secretly a wife-beater—is found dead in his garage. Local authorities suspect his long suffering wife, but she denies the accusation, and Hannah believes her. An annoying reporter, blackmail, extortion, and a second murder round out the story. Along the way, Fluke tosses in the recipes Hannah uses at her bakery, "The Cookie Jar." Hannah's process is essentially one of elimination, so the killer becomes increasingly obvious as the novel progresses.

Fluke's novels don't rank with Braun, much less with Sayers or Christie, but they are reasonably well-written and they have the advantage of occupying your mind when you don't want give your full attention to a novel—the perfect read while waiting in a doctor's office or in an airport. Mildly entertaining and mildly recommended.

GFT, Amazon Reviewer

Posted July 2018

Olelifan

I haven't read many cozy-mysteries so I'm still a novice in this genre, but I must say that this is the best cozy-mystery series I have read so far.

Just like the previous book, *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder*, Hannah is likeable as ever, I particularly liked her quick-wittedness and how physically capable she is. The confront scene with a murderer was not only thrilling and suspenseful, but also glorious displaying her physical capability of taking on a villain armed with a shotgun (!!!) not to mention her ability of bluffing.

Even in such suspenseful scenes, the author's wicked sense of humor is evident through the omnipotent narration style, they had me giggle or laugh out loud so many times. Boy, was it hilarious!

That said though, as opposed to the first book, I found this book was a bit lengthy for a cozy-mystery. It can be said that this book is more substantial than other typical cozy-mysteries which tend to be fast-paced and shorter. Given the page count (324 pages) I think it is understandable there's a lot of buildup until it reaches the climax.

Nonetheless, with all those ideas set aside, I felt that this book takes too long to get down to the nitty-gritty of the mystery, hinting who the possible murderer is.

I did enjoy the side stories such as Lisa and Hannah's partnership, sisterhood with Andrea, and a romantic triangle with Mike and Norman, but I would have enjoyed this book better if this book was a bit shorter than it actually is. There seem to be some what I found superfluous scenes that could have been cut (in my opinion).

The latter part (especially past 70% of the book) and as we inch toward the culprit reveal, I couldn't put it down. I think I read the rest of the book in one gulp.

One of the attributes what I think is distinct to this book is making us attached to the characters even if they are flawed. The victim in this book was an abusive husband and used to beat his wife so badly to the extent she often has a black eye.

Before being murdered, Joanne Fluke presented a scene that hints the victim's humanity, a warm side of him. In fact, my heart mildly squeezed when I found he was brutally murdered, lamenting his untimely death.

I think what makes this series special to me is this humanity displayed through the interactions and dialogues between the characters, one of the backbones of the story that makes me smile and warms the cockles of my heart without fail.

Other than the aforementioned length issue, I totally enjoyed this second-installment of the series. The more I delve into the series, the more emotionally attached I am to the characters and the setting. I already downloaded the next two books in the series, and I am really anxious to know what incidents are in store for Hannah.

Related PDF to [Strawberry Shortcake Murder: A Hannah Swensen Mystery](#) by Joanne Fluke

Mystery, Thriller & Suspense

[Blackberry Pie Murder \(A Hannah Swensen Mystery with Recipes\) by Joanne Fluke](#)

Cookbooks, Food & Wine

[Joanne Fluke's Lake Eden Cookbook: Hannah Swensen's Recipes from the Cookie Jar by Joanne](#)

[Fluke](#)

Children's Books

[The Sweet Dreams Movie Storybook \(Strawberry Shortcake\) by Megan E. Bryant](#)

Children's Books

[Strawberry Shortcake Plays Soccer by SI Artists,Ruth Koeppl](#)

No category

[Berry Best Friends Book \(strawberry shortcake crafts club\) by scholastic](#)

Children's Books

[Berry Best Gardening Book \(Strawberry Shortcake\): Strawberry Shortcake: by Strawberry Shortcake,Megan E. Bryant](#)

Cookbooks, Food & Wine

[Hannah Gray's Cook Book: Recipes from the Hannah Gray Murder Mystery Books by Jordan Evora](#)

Children's Books

[Strawberry Goes Camping: Strawberry Shortcake by S. I. Artists](#)

Children's Books

[Strawberry Shortcake Dress up and Play!: Jumbo Book to Color by Dalmatian Press](#)

Children's Books

[Strawberry Shortcake Treasury by Siobhan Ciminera,Sonia Sander,Monique Z. Stephens,Megan E. Bryant,Jim Durk](#)