



# Spiced and Iced

*Jenny Kales*

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### **Spiced and Iced** Jenny Kales

The holidays can be murder! Greek-American restaurateur Callie Costas finds herself on thin ice when a colleague is killed. Recipes included!

The season is bright when Calliope “Callie” Costas agrees to contribute her Greek snowball cookies to a December bridal shower at The English Country Inn in the scenic waterfront town of Crystal Bay, WI. But when Callie finds a colleague dead, she's sucked into another murder investigation -- all while juggling her growing business and staggering holiday workload.

As she reluctantly agrees to help the Inn’s owner track the killer, Callie is soon up to her spiced Greek biscotti in difficulties. For one thing, the hotel staff is freezing her out as she tries to uncover information, helped by her feisty Grandma Viv and her sweet but nosy aunt who’s visiting from Greece. And then there’s her deepening relationship with the suave and mysterious Detective Sands, a British expat now living in Wisconsin, who seems to have a few secrets of his own.

The icing on the cake is a host of simultaneous family mayhem including her father's surprising fixation on a real estate agent and her ex’s plans to move back to Crystal Bay. As the Inn’s annual Christmas Tea approaches, things are heating up in Callie’s Kitchen, but she’s on thin ice! Will Christmas be a festive celebration this year – or will it be murder?

Turn to the end of the book for six delicious recipes, including Greek cookies and savories, plus traditional Midwestern holiday favorites!

### **Spiced and Iced Details**

Date : Published December 5th 2016

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Author : Jenny Kales

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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## From Reader Review Spiced and Iced for online ebook

### Debra Dill says

#### Loved this second book as much as the first

I was almost in tears with the incident with Callie and Sands. I'm not normally into the romance side of books but for some reason I'm rooting for this one.

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### Rosemary says

I am so happy that I got to "meet" Callie. She has a fun crazy family..and she bakes.Lol this is a very good story with lots of mystery surrounding the murder of Callies friend, Natalie. It just goes to show people might not be who you thought they were. I like the love story between Callow and det. Ian Sands...I hope they get much closer as the series continues. I know I will be reading the next books in this series. Definitely recommend this book. I am certainly going to try the recipes that are in the back of the book,from the story.

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### Tari says

I loved this Christmas themed mystery, maybe even more since where I live it's warm and sunny today and looking outside, I don't have to see snow lol. I enjoy Christmas themes anyway and reading about it in this awesome Greek family was just a lot of fun. The first book was set a few months before this one and since then, Callie had started seeing the police detective, Ian Sands. Her dad got a new love interest in this story which was interesting and comical at times.

Callie was supplying the cookies for a bridal shower held at the local English Country Inn. The events planner had arranged for her to do that but Callie didn't have to worry about staying and serving. Later when Callie found that her colleague had been murdered, of course her dad and Ian were worried for her safety and she was actually worried too. It didn't stop her from wanting to get to the bottom of things. During her investigation, she found a couple of secrets about other inn employees as well. It was pretty funny reading how her Grandma Viv and her cousin/aunt from Greece known as Sweetie had tried to snoop into the case as well. Callie worried about their safety, but as Max said, Viv could probably give Jessica Fletcher some pointers.

Callie's ex-husband and his new wife, Hugh and Raine are a small part of this book. I like that Callie has been able to deal with their marriage but she was having some issues with them coming to Crystal Bay to live even though she realized that Olivia would love having her dad live close by. Everything worked out in the end, which by the way, was pretty epic since Callie got to chase someone down with a snowplow. I can somehow picture that happening in a mystery on TV.

I still just love the character of Grandma Viv. She's just everything a family would want in a grandma. She's got their best interests and safety at heart without thinking about her own. And Sweetie was a hoot too! She enjoyed coming to Wisconsin for a real white Christmas but was glad to be returning to Greece by New Year's since she missed the warm weather. It would be fun if she turned up in another book. I can see her with Viv doing more investigating for Callie lol.

I'll be moving on to the third book soon! I really enjoy this series and also the yummy recipes found at the end of the book!

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### **Peggy R says**

Spiced and Iced is the second book in the Callie's Kitchen Mystery series by Jenny Kales. I have been fortunate to have been asked to read both books by the author and have loved each one of them. This is the perfect holiday themed cozy and has everything that a reader looks for in this genre. Callie is a single mother who is trying to make a go of it with her business Callie's Kitchen. She is a wonderful character with a lot of warmth that jumps right off the page. As a reader, I instantly fell for Callie and her wonderful Greek family. In this book we get to meet some new secondary characters including Sweetie, a cousin who is visiting from Greece. What draws me to this series is that not only is it well written, but the author has captured a Midwest feel in terms of the people and the places that feel comfortable to me as a Midwesterner myself.

The mystery is just as good as the characters. Once again, Callie has the bad luck to stumble across another dead body and is drawn into helping try to determine the culprit. There are plenty of suspects and Ms. Kales certainly keeps the reader guessing with the real identity of the killer. There are some clues and plenty of twists and turns. The killer is revealed in a climatic conclusion that will have the reader holding their breath.

I can't wait to return to Crystal Bay Wisconsin for the next installment of this series.

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### **Amanda says**

Another fun read in the Callie's Kitchen series! I love that this book is set at Christmastime, and I'd love to get a bite to eat at Callie's. This book has a great plot, and I was completely surprised by the ending. Callie makes some foolish mistakes that put her in risky situations, but isn't that what helps make a mystery so intriguing? Can't wait to get started on book #3!

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### **Patrizia says**

Decisamente questa autrice si legge proprio bene... In questo secondo libro la storia gialla mi ha preso di meno, mentre apprezzo l'evolversi della vita personale della protagonista. Proprio in quest'ultima ottica aspetto quasi con ansia il prossimo libro, sperando che ci sia: con questi chiari di luna riguardo al genere "cozy mystery" non si sa mai, purtroppo...

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### **Mary Brown says**

Spiced And Iced  
A Callie's Kitchen Mystery, Book #2  
Jenny Kales  
5 Stars

Synopsis:

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The season is bright when Calliope "Callie" Costas agrees to contribute her Greek snowball cookies to a December bridal shower at The English Country Inn in the scenic waterfront town of Crystal Bay, WI. But when Callie finds a colleague dead, she's sucked into another murder investigation -- all while juggling her growing business and staggering holiday workload.

As she reluctantly agrees to help the Inn's owner track the killer, Callie is soon up to her spiced Greek biscotti in difficulties. For one thing, the hotel staff is freezing her out as she tries to uncover information, helped by her feisty Grandma Viv and her sweet but nosy aunt who's visiting from Greece. And then there's her deepening relationship with the suave and mysterious Detective Sands, a British expat now living in Wisconsin, who seems to have a few secrets of his own.

The icing on the cake is a host of simultaneous family mayhem including her father's surprising fixation on a real estate agent and her ex's plans to move back to Crystal Bay. As the Inn's annual Christmas Tea approaches, things are heating up in Callie's Kitchen, but she's on thin ice! Will Christmas be a festive celebration this year - or will it be murder?

Turn to the end of the book for six delicious recipes, including Greek cookies and savories, plus traditional Midwestern favorites! (Goodreads)

Review:

The characters are well developed and well rounded. Callie is one tough lady and she is not afraid of hard work. I enjoyed getting to spend more time with her, her best friend Samantha, and her family. I especially liked reading about what her grandmother and her Aunt Sweetie were up too and what kind of trouble they were going to get into.

The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and through much of the book, I felt like I was right there, watching all the action take place around me. I could smell all the food from Callie Kitchen and it made me hungry while I was reading.

The mystery was carried on well throughout the entire book. There were enough suspects to keep this reader guessing until the end. That, combined with many twists and turns and a few red herrings thrown in, and I did not figure out the killer until it was revealed at the end. I like that when I am reading a mystery.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy mystery. Both of the books in the series are really great and I would suggest you read them both.

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## **Karen says**

I finished *Spiced and Iced* by Jenny Kales, the second in her Callie's Kitchen Mystery Series. This book is out on Amazon December 5th! I so enjoyed this mystery! Holiday themed, exciting small town murder and a twist of romance. Perfect for a holiday evening in and I would love to see this on the small screen! Main character Callie is a strong willed, single mom who has a knack for cooking and baking with a Greek flair and some amazing sleuthing skills too. A quirky family and a bit of bad news don't slow her down. Callie is definitely someone who keeps getting knocked down but always gets up on her own two feet. I did not have it

figured out until the reveal and I never saw it coming. Lots of fun in this mystery too. I particularly enjoyed a new character in the book as well, but won't spoil it for you! The food mentions and the recipes included had my attention for sure, I can not wait to make each of them.

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### **K.A. Davis says**

Ever since Jenny Kales debuted her first cozy mystery, *ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK*, earlier this year I've been looking forward to the second installment in her Callie's Kitchen Mystery series! Fortunately, Jenny didn't disappoint and is celebrating the holidays with her new release *SPICED AND ICED*! First off, the cover is whimsically festive and invites a reader in for some Christmas cheer, cookies, and murder. Callie is an enjoyable protagonist and I would dearly love to spend some time with her in her kitchen baking up some of the delectable treats she serves at her restaurant. In addition to being a wonderful cook, Callie has a caring personality. She treats her employees, friends, and family with equal respect and love and is a good role model to her ten-year-old daughter. I so enjoy her relationship with her Greek father and especially her "Aunt" Sweetie, visiting from Greece. It provides an opportunity to learn some bits and pieces of Greek words, culture, and customs which adds character to a terrific story.

The murder mystery provided suspense and kept me turning pages wanting to find out what happens next, while there were plenty of suspects to keep me guessing. Callie's Grandma Viv and Aunt Sweetie also join in the sleuthing with humorous results as does the scenes where Callie finds out about the woman her father may or may not be dating. Callie is dating Detective Sands, who is in charge of the investigation. They are in the early stages of their romance but the author gives them room to grow, to learn to trust each other. I look forward to what is in store for them in future books.

And then there are the recipes the author includes with her book...so many yummy ones! I tried the recipe for her Paximathia, Spiced Greek Biscotti. My friends and family were impressed with how wonderful it was and I loved the fact that it's the author's family recipe passed down through the generations!

I provided a review after receiving an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### **Nicole says**

*Spiced and Iced* is the second book in Jenny Kales' Callie's Kitchen Mystery series, and was quite fun to read. It's Christmas, and Callie's engrossed in the running of her shop, Callie's Kitchen, and also with her outside catering events, but she's not too busy to investigate the murder of Natalie Underwood, head of events at the English Country Inn in Crystal Bay, Wisconsin. Throw in her ex-husband's impending move to Crystal Bay, Aunt Sweetie's visit from Greece, and her continuing relationship with Detective Ian Sands, and Callie has her hands full. Nice story with lots of twists and turns, and I highly recommend it. A+

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### **Julie Wozniak says**

#### **Good book.**

I really like the characters. This author writes books that I can NOT put down. I read each in one night.

## **Laura Lewis says**

### **Not the best**

This book got 5 stars on amazon so I figured it would be great. Right? But unfortunately I didn't connect with the characters. I felt the story was too long. Too many side tracks and the use of superfluous adjectives was bothersome. It was an average story that I wouldn't really recommend.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

### Dollycas's Thoughts

It's December in Crystal Bay, Wisconsin. The snow is falling, frigid temps are setting in and Callie's Kitchen is busy baking and making delicious things for the holiday season. She has agreed to provide her Greek snowball cookies for a bridal shower at The English Country Inn but before the shower begins Callie finds the party planner dead in the water. Her relationship with Detective Sands may hit the skids because she just can't help investigating the death. Her aunt and grandma even get involved. As if she doesn't have enough on her plate, her ex may be moving back to Crystal Bay and her father appears to be dating. Christmas may be drawing near but Callie is determined to ice the killer just like he iced his victim.

I started reading this story and it felt like home. The author really describes everything about Wisconsin perfectly. The weather, the people, the food, the little language quirks, it warmed my heart.

Callie is a lovable character, she has a huge heart and is a hard worker determined to make her business a success. Her friendship with Samantha struggled a bit in this installment and their interactions were spot on. Her relationship with Detective Sands struggles as well but we learn more about this character as they work to turn things around. Max and Callie work together in the kitchen like a well oiled machine and he is a great friend to her. Callie's aunt, "Sweetie" is visiting from Greece and she teams up with Grandma Viv for some laugh out loud moments. Her father's life is in a period of change too. Callie is unsure if it is the situation or the woman that he is seeing that gives her concern. All these characters are well crafted, engaging and true to life.

The murder mystery itself was complicated. There were more suspects that I imagined at first and I was totally wrong about the murderer. Things got really exciting as Callie thought she too had it all figured out. We were both surprised, she actually found herself in what could have been a life or death situation. She was livid by the time she was able to literally track the culprit down. Wow Callie! You Go Girl!

I can't finish this review without talking about the food. Good gracious, I was practically drooling every time Callie or Max were in the kitchen. I could almost smell the food cooking. I can't wait to try the recipes in the back of the book.

Christmas in Wisconsin is delightful, (sans murders, of course), the temperatures may be dropping and the snow may be falling, but the food and friendships will warm you right up. Thank you Jenny Kales for this wonderful story.

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## Debbie says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it constantly kept moving. Between Callie's business growing, Det. Sands acting standoffish, her father dating her ex's aunt, her ex moving to town and of course finding the body of a colleague Callie is kept busy. I love the interaction of the characters, it is kept real and not over the top. Her Granny and aunt together was so fun, I loved when they were around. The mystery was good and kept me guessing, I didn't figure it out, I might have missed some clues. I will definitely continue on with this series. There is the added bonus of some yummy sounding Greek recipes in the back.

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## Kathleen says

“Spiced and Iced” earns 5/5 Kourabiethes, Greek Snowball Cookies!

Calliope ‘Callie’ Costas, owner of Callie’s Kitchen in Crystal Bay, Wisconsin, is delighted to be asked to furnish her delicious Greek Snowball cookies, aka kourabiethes, for the Dalton/Hawkins wedding shower. Natalie Underwood, the event planner for The English Country Inn, is a bit frazzled by the affair. The first shower ended in a disastrous family squabble, so this ‘redux’ must be a hit or Bridezilla will have her job... But, squabbles, are the least of the worries. How about the body floating in the freezing waters?

Shaken by having found the body face down in the waters, Callie still agrees to be an ‘unofficial spy’ for Emma Cayden, the owner of The Inn. However, she finds herself preoccupied by the prospect of her ex-husband and his new wife moving to Crystal Bay, her father’s interest in a woman connected to her ex-husband, and juggling a relationship with the very handsome ex-Pat Detective Sands. Aunt “Sweetie” arrives from the ‘old country’ for a visit, and with Callie’s Grandmother Viv, they also try to help undercover important evidence. All of this and a major winter storm could derail Callie’s sanity, as well as put her in jeopardy.

Opa! Jenny Kales has written another delicious mystery for the second book in the Callie’s Kitchen series. She had me drooling each time Callie tried to clear her head by making avgolemono (delicate egg-lemon and chicken soup) or brought spiced paxemathia (Greek biscotti) to a friendly interrogation. Jenny used realistic descriptions to tickle all of my senses from the honey and fragrant spices to the icy-cold snowstorm. The mystery was not too quick to be revealed offering a few plausible conclusions to ponder, turning each page until the final “Oh my!” Several of the delicious Greek recipes from Callie’s Kitchen are offered including the Spiced Greek Biscotti, Snowball Cookies, Sweetie’s Lazy Spanakopita, and the Spiced and Iced Gingerbread. All perfect for a Sunday afternoon tea!

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