



Tippy Toe Murder

Leslie Meier

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With three kids underfoot, a fourth on the way, and an oppressive heat wave bearing down, homemaker Lucy Stone is hardly enjoying an idyllic summer. But her preoccupation with swelling ankles, Bavarian creme doughnut cravings, and sewing endless sequins on ballet recital tutus gives way to dread when Lucy learns that her waistline isn't the only thing that's recently vanished from Tinker's Cove. . .

The strange disappearance of a retired dance instructor has the tiny coastal town in a tizzy that turns to terror when a notoriously cantankerous shopkeeper is slain right on Main Street. Now Lucy's up to her bulging belly in local suspects and red herrings. Eluded by a cold-blooded killer, with her due-date looming and the thermometer soaring, Lucy figures something has to break soon. With any luck, it won't be her water. . .

"A solid mystery."--*San Francisco Chronicle*

"A surprising and intelligently constructed plot."--*Cape Cod Times*

"Lucy Stone is an endearing sleuth." -Dorothy Cannell

Tippy Toe Murder Details

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Luffy says

I'm glad to have found this series. And I'm confident the rest of the books will be just as good as this one. There was a double mystery here. The disappearance and the murder - both of them solved almost together. The murderer came out of the blue to confess, and that took one star away. But I was impressed with the timing of the entire book. I'm always responsive towards a deft manipulation of characters' whereabouts and their role in the story. The author did a sterling job moving her characters and she made me care and she immersed me in her world. The atmosphere is unique, and like I said, I'm looking forward to reading the rest of these juicy books.

Rebecca says

This is my second Lucy Stone novel.. I had a hard time with this one.. I chose this because I am a dance mom and the title caught my eye. However I had a really hard time with the subject content..Had this been my first Lucy Stone I dont know If I would have picked up another.. although it was well written I couldnt get over the spousal and child abuse, it was much to dark for a cozy murder mystery in my opinion. That being said I did finish and was happy with the way things were resolved

Luffy says

On rereading this book, I was more than impressed with its content. I loved the little bits and pieces that make up the book. I loved the narrative. I liked the various instances of tension present here.

Little things which may form an ordinary person's life occur and they support the basic plot of the book. Leslie Meier was brimming with new ideas and the resulting book is quite separate from the crowd of cozy mysteries that has been vying for my attention.

Sensitive, grim, and saliently negative things lead to the climax. Lucy Stone puts her life on the line just as countless heroines have done in the past. But I was sufficiently entertained by what preceded the necessary climax. I gave this book 4 stars on the first read, and have added one more star to this reread.

Robin Taylor says

Please see all of my reviews on my blog at www.robinlovesreading.blogspot.com.

When retired dance instructor Caroline Hutton disappears, the search is intense for just a short period of time. But then the search fizzles and comes to an end as no clues turned up. Her disappearance is especially suspect because her beloved dog was left behind. With three young children and pregnant with her third, and during an agonizing heat wave, Lucy hardly has time to play amateur sleuth again as she did during the holidays, but, as before, she just cannot help herself.

The scene changes with the cantankerous owner of the local hardware store is found dead in his office. Just

as with the missing woman, Lucy becomes embroiled in this case as well. When her friend Franny is arrested as a suspect in the murder, Lucy steps in to save her. Franny became the primary suspect because she was fired by her boss shortly before his murder. Meanwhile, Lucy is as busy as can be between family life and all of its connected activities.

Tippy-toe Murder was a rather intense read as it dealt with more serious topics other than the typical initial murder we see in these cozy mysteries. As with the first book in this series, Mistletoe Murder, it was a quick and engaging read. I am rating this book a four instead of the four and a half I would have liked to give it. I must say that the reason why is that there is a particularly disturbing scene, albeit brief, that I feel could have been left out of the book that I had to gloss over. Other than that, this is a solid read.

In this book we see the Lucy we've already come to love, her growing family, and other characters that we met and more we will no doubt see again in future installment of this series. Although the first few titles in this series may have been written in the early 90s, the stories seen quite relevant to me. The only problem that I have is not with the author, Leslie Meier, but with my busy schedule. I have an overfull review queue and only just heard about this series just yesterday. I hope to sneak a book a day until I finish all of the titles.

Christine says

This is the second book in the Lucy Stone series. Lucy is pregnant with her fourth child. When she goes to pick up her video camera back before her daughters ballet recital, she discovers the the owner of slacks store, dead at his desk.

This book reminded why i love this series so much. It was so fun to go back to the beginning and see how far the characters have come.

Tonya Smith says

This is the first time I read the author Leslie Meier this is the second book named Tippy Toe Murder. This is a real page turner. I could not put it down. I will be reading the rest of this series.

Connie N. says

#2 in the Lucy Stone cozy mystery series

I'm really liking this series. Lucy Stone is a mother of 4, a housewife, and an intelligent woman. She happens across dead bodies, which is unusual, but hey, the story has to start somewhere. Otherwise, it's all so domestic and ordinary. She doesn't do anything crazy to find the killer, she just asks questions, chats with people, and does a lot of investigative thinking. There are actually two mysteries in this book--a missing woman as well as a murder. Lucy is actually more interested in the missing person case and spends more time figuring that out than the other, although the fact that she came across the body gets her involved in that one too. On top of that, the major family story lines are that her daughters are rehearsing for a dance recital, and her son plays Little League--badly--with her husband as the coach. There's some danger as a result of Lucy's involvement in both cases, and I was a little uncomfortable with her decision regarding the domestic abuse aspect of the story, but it didn't really detract from the story. Meier ties it all together in a simple and

enjoyable way by putting sentences from the information sheet regarding the dance recital at the top of each chapter. Although some are a stretch, most of them refer to something coming up in the chapter and give you a bit of an inkling about what's to come. I'm looking forward to continuing with this series sooner rather than later.

Aaron says

Domestic abuse takes center stage with this second book in the Lucy Stone Mystery series. What is really interesting is that there are actually two mysteries in this tale, which is uncommon for a cozy. The first one starts when a local senior citizen goes missing. This is quite the surprise since she has left behind her golden retriever, which is something no one would have expected. As a result, most people believe that something happened to her ... whether it is abduction or murder. The police struggle with turning up any clues to try and sort out the details and end up having to put it on the back burner when no clues up.

This probably makes it easier to start investigating when the crotchety old owner of the local hardware store is found dead in his office by our hero. She is quite pregnant with her fourth child, but that doesn't prevent our amateur detective from finding herself right in the middle of another case. She was actually stopping in to get back her camcorder, which she had lent to a friend. That friend was an employee being accused of stealing money and product from the store after years of working there. All evidence pointed to the thefts being done by the owner's grandson, but he was less than willing so Lucy's friend was going to provide him with some video. Plans didn't go as expected, and the result was Lucy's friend being fired, the camcorder being confiscated, and Lucy stopping by to find a battered corpse in the store.

All of this is happening while Lucy is struggling with the domestic side of her life. She and her husband have been fighting. This is likely due to their being a little overwhelmed with three kids and being on the cusp of having their fourth. The kids keep their parents on their toes, running them to baseball practice and ballet rehearsals. After work and everything else, they are pretty much always tired and tend to bicker quite a bit. Of course, Bill is also bothered by Lucy being involved in the murder case from the previous book and worries that she is putting herself and their baby in danger, particularly if she gets involved with the cases in this book while she is so close to term.

The book reads pretty quickly, and we are definitely starting to see some further character development for those who seem like they might be becoming the main recurring cast. It is different having a mom at the center of a cozy since most of them tend to star single women who are flirting with romance from some of the men in their lives. It is interesting to see Lucy really having to deal with the fact that she has so many domestic connections at home.

This is not my favorite of the cozy series that I have started, but I do enjoy them. I am looking forward to reading more since I assume the books continue to get stronger because there are quite a few books in the series.

Cindi (cheesygiraffe) says

A little bit too disturbing for a cozy mystery.

Gary E says

This book is a little different than book 1 in the series. I enjoyed it about the same but I think I liked book 1 a little better. This book was a lot more serious because it dealt with more serious issues. Of course there is nothing wrong with that I was just expecting something a little more light hearted.

It is a very quick read which I always enjoy. I got through this in three nights finishing about 60% of the book in the last night. This might be a little serious for reading while at the beach or poolside or beside the campfire or whatever but it is quick enough that it would fit the bill if the more serious subject matter is not a problem for you!

Nicole says

The second book in the Lucy Stone series and another gem! Lucy Stone has 3 small children and is expecting her fourth, retired dance teacher Caro has disappeared, and there's been a murder in downtown Tinker's Cove. Lucy fights for her life in this one, and it's a real nail biter. Perfect Maine cozy! :-)

Jonathan says

I enjoyed the last two books I read in the series (numbers 1 and 22), however I did not enjoy this book. It was NOT a cozy and I found myself skipping and skimming about 1/4 of the book because of it.

Lucy was great, her family was great, her town was great. Her husband, Bill, however was not great. He can be so kind and was in the first book, however in parts of this book and in Candy Corn Murder he was rude.

The mystery was horrible. I'm honestly surprised that this book was marketed as a cozy because the mystery dealt with very dark, non-cozy topics. I read cozies because they're light, and usually don't deal with dark, complex topics.

Really a great setting and great characters, but this was absolutely not a cozy and I didn't enjoy it because of that. I do NOT recommend this if you are looking for a cozy.

(NOTE: Since this is in a cozy series, I am putting this in my cozy shelves, however, I do not consider this a cozy mystery)

Lindsay says

If this had been the first book that I had read in this series, I probably wouldn't have continued. It was a little dark and disturbing. I still love the main character, Lucy, and the writing makes me want to move to Maine and have a family. But this book was a little bit twisted, women getting beating up, children being molested. It's just not right. So, unless you are okay with reading about those things, I say skip this one and go read the Christmas Cookie Murder. That is so far my favorite in this series.

Estella says

I have enjoyed reading other books in the Lucy Stone mystery series, so I'm happy I didn't start with this one. If I had, I would never have picked up another one.. I like to read cozy mysteries because they're...well, COZY. Tippy Toe Murder, although billed as a cozy, doesn't remotely fit that description. The storyline was WAY too dark, graphic and violent. If you like COZY mysteries, and have some Lucy Stone books on your to-be-read shelf, skip this one. You'll be glad you did.

Paula says

I thought this was a little more detailed than a regular cozy. There was one section on the abuse of a child that I found upsetting but having said that, the book was good.

Lucy is pregnant with her 4th child and when a beloved old woman disappears, she wants to get to the end of it. The police have seemed to forget about it.

A young woman has worked in the small town's hardware store for a long time, never asking for above minimum wage. Ben, the proprietors grandson starts working there and merchandise and money start disappearing. Morrill blames Franny, the longtime employee. She thinks it's the grandson and sets out to prove it. She borrows Lucy's video camera and gets footage but Lucy finds Morrill dead in his office, killed with the video camera and the tape missing. Franny is arrested for the murder. Lucy sets out to find the truth in both of these crimes.
