



As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles

Leslie Budewitz

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles

Leslie Budewitz

As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles Leslie Budewitz

In Jewel Bay, all is merry and bright. At Murphy's Mercantile, AKA the Merc, manager Erin Murphy is ringing in the holiday season with food, drink, and a new friend: Merrily Thornton. A local girl gone wrong, Merrily's turned her life around. But her parents have publicly shunned her, and they nurse a bitterness that chills Erin.

When Merrily goes missing and her boss discovers he's been robbed, fingers point to Merrily—until she's found dead, a string of lights around her neck. The clues and danger snowball from there. Can Erin nab the killer—and keep herself in one piece—in time for a special Christmas Eve?

As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles Details

Date : Published June 8th 2018 by Midnight Ink

ISBN :

Author : Leslie Budewitz

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Holiday, Christmas

 [Download As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles Leslie Budewitz

From Reader Review As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles for online ebook

Dez Nemec says

Food Lovers' Village Mystery series is on my list of favorites. I like the town, cast of characters, and all the food, which is why I requested to review this book and subsequently held my breath until I heard back.

This is the fifth installment for the series. Erin, manager of the Merc, gets involved in the investigation of the murder of Merrily Thornton. (Her parents love Christmas, can you tell? The sister's name is Holly...) After having recently returned to Jewel Bay, Merrily has been accused of embezzlement (for which she went to jail twenty years earlier) when her body is discovered. What follows is a complicated web of lies, stealing, and just about the worst family dynamic I have seen in a cozy. All the meanwhile, Erin is trying to keep the Merc afloat during the busy holiday season and plan her wedding, which is to occur on Christmas Eve.

There's a lot of different things going on here, but it's presented well and isn't confusing. I also appreciate "The Cast" listed at the beginning as it has been awhile since I read one of the books in the series and there is a large amount of characters. Also while there is a hint, it is not obvious who the guilty party is (or are...?), which I always prefer. Definitely recommended.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Leith Devine says

This the 5th book in the Food Lovers series, set in the Mercantile in Jewel Bay, Montana at Christmas time. I loved reading the other books in the series, and this book was no exception. Erin is getting the Merc ready for Christmas, and she's planning her wedding to Adam at the same time. Unfortunately, she gets involved in a murder investigation that threatens to derail all her holiday plans.

I highly recommend this book. The plot is interesting and I love the characters. Thanks to Midnight INk and NetGalley for the ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Bree says

It's the holidays in the village and not everything is sugar and spice and everything nice. The mystery is surprising and done in the manner that Leslie Budewitz can only do. I adore this book the most in this series for the holiday theme and I can picture it in Montana and feel at home.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Time to celebrate Christmas and a wedding in Jewel Bay. Adam and Erin are getting married on Christmas Eve! That is after she gets Murphy's Mercantile all ready for the holidays. The community has turned out for Decoration Day and Erin is surprised to see Merrily Thornton has returned to town. She is even more surprised about how Merrily's family is treating her. She immediately invites Merrily to her cookie swap the following Sunday,

Merrily fails to show up at Erin's house or at work the next day. Then her boss notices his bank deposit was short the cash Merrily was supposed to take to the bank. The woman is reported missing and sadly her boss is the one to find her dead eerily with a string of lights wrapped around her neck. Erin is rocked by her new friend's death and decides she must find her killer. Hopefully, she doesn't cross the killer or Adam may be left standing at the altar all by himself.

It was a lot of fun to read a story set at Christmas when the temperatures outside were climbing way past 90 degrees. Decorating Day in Jewel Bay sounds like the perfect way to get in the Christmas Spirit.

The characters in this series are some of the most realistic I have ever read. It is very easy to get invested in their lives. Even though Merrily's family wasn't the nicest they still come across as real. I don't agree with the way they handled things in their family, but we have all met people we don't agree with.

The mystery this time really kept me guessing. Truthfully at one time or another, I suspected everyone the victim had come into contact with. Red herrings, there were a bunch. Several twists too. I was right about one part of it and totally surprised about everything else. I enjoyed how Erin jumped right into her investigation even with the holidays and her wedding coming up quick. I loved her method for keeping all the facts and suspects straight.

The story has an excellent pace. Many events take place within the 288 pages, but nothing is rushed or missed. The author describes people and places so clearly that pictures formed quickly in my mind. The dialogue was wonderfully written too.

A loving family and a family pulled apart come together in this terrific cozy mystery.

The author also includes recipes in the back of the book. The one I am excited to try is the Classic Italian Lasagna. Several differences from ours but without the Murphy's sauce, it will probably be hard to duplicate.

Mary Brown says

Synopsis:

In Jewel Bay, all is merry and bright. At Murphy's Mercantile, AKA the Merc, manager Erin Murphy is ringing in the holiday season with food, drink, and a new friend: Merrily Thornton. A local girl gone wrong, Merrily's turned her life around. But her parents have publicly shunned her, and they nurse a bitterness that chills Erin.

When Merrily goes missing and her boss discovers he's been robbed, fingers point to Merrily—until she's found dead, a string of lights around her neck. The clues and danger snowball from there. Can Erin nab the killer—and keep herself in one piece—in time for a special Christmas Eve? (Goodreads)

Review:

The characters are well rounded and well developed. Erin is a smart, spunky and scrappy woman and she

does not back down from any challenge. When the murder of her friend occurs, she knows she has to solve the murder for her friend's sake. I really like her family relationships and the fact that they are so close. Their interactions were realistic and very enjoyable to read.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is a quick easy read.

The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and through much of the story I felt that I was right there watching all of the action taking place. I really liked the setting of Jewel Bay, Montana, and it would be a place I would like to visit. It has a typical small town feel and everyone knows everybody else's business.

The mystery was well plotted and it was not easy to solve. There were enough suspects to consider and plenty of clues to sift through. There were plenty of twists and turns and it made the mystery that much more difficult to solve.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy mystery. This is the first book that I have read in this series, but it will not be the last.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book provided by the publisher, Midnight Ink, and NetGalley, which I greatly appreciate.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

The town of Jewel Bay, Montana is the quintessential cozy mystery small town and is the perfect spot for a Food Lover's Village! I would love to visit the various shops, particularly the Merc that Erin owns and stocks with items (including, of course, food) from local vendors. Shops like that are right up my alley, next in line to independent bookstores, that is. Erin and her family and friends and employees are realistic characters who, in spite of the quirks that go hand-in-hand with cozy mysteries, feel like people you could easily befriend in real life.

The murder mystery in *As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles* kept me guessing all the way until the big reveal. I changed my mind umpteen times about who I thought did it, even circling back around a time or ten to characters I thought I had already eliminated as suspects. Some of my suspicions ultimately proved right but I was also way off on a couple of points – not easy for an author to surprise me like that, considering how many *Murder She Wrote*, *Perry Mason*, and *Matlock* episodes I watched as a kid – not to mention all the *Nancy Drew* books I read back then plus all the mysteries I've read since. A very nicely crafted mystery plot indeed!

Bottom Line: Cute, Christmasy and cozy, *As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles* is entertaining and heartwarming. The murder mystery is superbly plotted out, and the town full of suspects will keep readers on their toes! Great characters to befriend and local shops to sample – this series from Leslie Budewitz has it all! (While this is the 5th book in the series, it can also be read well as a stand alone.)

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

first seen at Reading Is My SuperPower

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

I know it seems a little weird to be reading a Christmas book in June but since I enjoy this author's work, I decided to give this book a shot. As expected, this book does give that holiday vibe that feels very comforting. Erin is in the holiday spirit as well befriending Merrily Thornton, a local girl who has been shunned by her family. When Merrily is found dead, Erin just find out who the killer is before more trouble comes.

I enjoyed this book, but I don't think this was one of my favorites from the author. There were quite a few slow points in the book, which I normally don't mind, but I felt like the pacing was off-beat for a lot of it.

Merrily was an interesting character to me, so it was too bad that she ended up being the one who was murdered. I would have loved to see more of her character, but that also made finding her killer that much more interesting.

So if you're looking for something with a little more tinsel and charm, then his might be a great one for you, especially around the holidays. I have no doubt that I will be picking up this book again to enjoy once Christmas rolls around again.

Colleen says

This was only the second book written by Leslie Budewitz that I have read - and it won't be the last! Her storyline was great and it kept me wanting to read more and more from the first page. Her characters are wonderfully developed. I can't wait for the next book in the series!

Karen says

As The Christmas Cookie Crumbles by Leslie Budewitz was a treat to read! This Midnight Ink Cozy Mystery comes out June 8th and is a great read. I was thrilled Net Galley approved my request to review it and even though I am anxious for summer to start, I really felt Christmas Spirit in late may with this one. A complicated mystery, with twists and turns I had not expected. I found it both disturbing and delightful, and ends with a Christmas Eve wedding, a perfect balance. A very good read and a lovely way for you to spend the summer holidays, be sure to check this one out.

Amanda says

This is probably my favorite in the Food Lovers' Village mysteries, and that's saying something! In As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles, main character Erin is a busy bee. She's running her family's Montana specialty food shop, the Merc, preparing for Christmas, getting settled into her new home, and planning her upcoming wedding. And because of her past experience with helping solve murders, she can't help investigating the

latest Jewel Bay mystery. There's a lot going on in this book, though instead of being overwhelming, it keeps the story moving at a good pace. I had a hard time putting this book down - in fact, I was up later than I should have been to finish it. The mystery to be solved is a multi-faceted, and I figured out part of it on my own, but didn't figure it all out before it was revealed. The recipes included at the end look great, especially the Shrimp Florentine!

I was thrilled to receive an advance copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Erin is trying to get the Merc ready for Christmas on Decorating Day (the day when ALL the businesses try and get gussied up for Christmas), she realises though that two boxes have got mixed up and so she (and her mother Fresca) head off to the other shop to swap them over. When they get there however they end up witnessing an altercation between Tara and her daughter Merrily, Tara has never forgiven Merrily for stealing and being sent to prison ... even though she is well and truly on the straight and narrow and obviously wishes to make amends. Erin invites Merrily back to the Merc for a warm drink and to help her relax after the upset. The two of them get on well and so Erin also invites her to take part in the cookie swap she is running and Merrily happily agrees to be part of it. The problem is on the day she doesn't turn up, and on the Monday Merrily doesn't arrive for work at the Building Supplies Store ... and then the store discovers money missing and the finger points firmly at Merrily, the problem is she can't defend herself as she is dead!

Erin takes on the task of proving that her instincts are right and that Merrily didn't steal, oh and to find out who killed her, and just in case that isn't enough she and Adam are getting married on Christmas Eve ... no pressure then!

NB - I was lucky enough to get a preview copy through NetGalley!

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

It is almost Christmas in Jewel Bay and there is so much happening. Adam and Erin are getting married on Christmas Eve, there is a town wide decorating day to bring in shoppers for this make it or break it time of year, and the cookie swap is coming up. Erin and Adam have bought her mother's house and are renovating it along with everything else. Erin is surprised to see Merrily Thornton has returned to town and offers to help her parents decorate. She is shocked when her parents shout at her and tell her to leave. When Merrily fails to show up at Erin's house for the cookie swap, or at work the next day Erin becomes concerned. When Merrily's boss finds out that his bank deposit was short and that there might have been some embezzling, they immediately suspect Merrily of the crime. Later that day, she is found dead with Christmas lights around her neck. Now there are two mysteries, who killed Merrily and who is embezzling from the Hardware Store.

The characters in this series are very realistic and ones that I would love to have as friends, in fact, I would love to live in Jewel Bay. Family issues arise in this story as they do in all lives. We actually get to meet some of Adam's family and that is kind of fun. The mystery really kept me guessing. Throughout the story, I think I suspected just about anyone who knew Merrily except Erin. There were so many twists, red herrings and clues scattered about that it was a real stumper. By the end of the story, I was surprised about some things, and relieved about others. I was worried that the wedding might not take place, but that all turned out in the end. The story has a great plotline and it was well paced. I finished this story in a few sittings, yet it

was complete, well described, but not rushed. I definitely recommend this one to any cozy mystery lover. Several of the recipes have been added to my Christmas baking section of my recipe book, they look so yummy. Thanks to the publisher for generously providing me with a copy of this book via Netgalley.

Nicole says

Erin and Adam are getting married at Christmastime in Jewel Bay, Montana, but all is not calm and bright as Erin's new friend, Merrily, is found murdered the day after the Christmas cookie exchange. Merrily's previous criminal record comes back to haunt her - even after her death, she's accused of embezzlement for the second time in her life - and Erin sets out to find the killer, but she's not sure that Merrily was guilty of pilfering the missing funds. Using her Spreadsheet of Suspicion (love this!!!), Erin seeks justice for her lost friend, and investigates both the murder and embezzlement. Leslie Budewitz' As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles is the fifth book in the Food Lover's Village Series, and it's simply one of the most enjoyable cozies I've had the pleasure of reading - small close-knit community, a loving family, delicious recipes, a little romance, and of course, murder - it has it all! Absolutely loved it!

Betty says

In the fifth book of the Food Lovers series, in Jewel Bay, Montana the Christmas holidays are coming up. Erin Murphy is planning her for Christmas Eve. The merchants depend on the sales at this time and have scheduled a community wife decorating party. At the event, a Mother disowned her daughter in an angry conflict. Later the daughter is found murder. The evidence points to her employer and Erin feels he is not guilty. In spite of everyone telling her to stay out of it, Erin investigates to find an answer to clear up the affair. I like the ending and looking forward to the next installment. I enjoy this Leslie Budewitz's writing very much and highly recommend it. Cookies recipes are included.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Midnight Ink through NetGalley for an honest review. My Thanks to them for the opportunity to review this book. The opinions expressed are my own.

Mayda says

It's almost Christmas and Erin is especially merry this year: she is about to be married. But Christmastime brings out the best and the worst in people. Merrily, a former resident and friend of Erin's, arrives back in town after a twenty-year estrangement from her parents, but they still reject her. Not even her younger sister can affect a reconciliation. When money goes missing from a local business where Merrily was working, all fingers point to her, until she is found dead. When Erin's life is threatened, she becomes even more determined to root out the bad guy. This well-written novel has it all: engaging characters, an intricate plot with clues for the reader to deduce who the killer is, cats, food (recipes included), and a bit of romance—and it's Christmas. Who could ask for anything more!
