



## Red Delicious Death

*Sheila Connolly*

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**Red Delicious Death** Sheila Connolly

**In this latest Orchard mystery, amateur sleuth Meg Corey takes a bite out of crime...**

Some baby-faced chefs, fresh out of cooking school, are looking to open a restaurant in Granford. They plan on using local foods-great news for city girl banker-turned orchard owner Meg Corey. Yet when one of the chefs is found dead, face-down in a farmer's pig wallow, plans come to a screeching halt. And Meg soon discovers they may have a locally grown killer on their hands.

## Red Delicious Death Details

Date : Published March 2nd 2010 by Berkley (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9780425233436

Author : Sheila Connolly

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Red Delicious Death for online ebook

### Dez Nemec says

The whole story and mystery were fairly interesting, but the reveal was a bit anti-climatic. I hate that. I will say that after reading the first of the series, I wasn't sure if I wanted to read the other 2 on my shelf. Despite the ending, I plan on reading the remaining Orchard series book on my shelf. It really drew me in and I didn't want to put it down!

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### Jody Hamilton says

Just okay, nothing special. The annoying part of this book: Bree tries to keep Meg focused on planning for her first harvest but she spends more time helping the two chefs with their problems in opening their restaurant.

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### Grey853 says

This should really be a one and a half star, but they don't have to select. I didn't hate it, but I didn't really like it much, either.

I find the books in this series to be harder and harder to read as they go along. There's so much repetition and padding. Plus, Meg isn't really easy to warm up to. There's just something missing in the mix and it's hard to describe what that is. It should all work, nice setting, small town, an orchard, but it doesn't at least not for me.

Disappointing.

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### Obsidian says

Red Delicious Death is book three in the "An Orchard Mystery" novels starring Meg Corey.

For those we are deciding to pick up this novel, I suggest they read "One Bad Apple" and "Rotten to the Core" since they will help lay the groundwork for the series.

Meg is now preparing for her first harvest of the orchard in Granford, Massachusetts. Though Meg is busy from sun-up to sundown with the orchard she still manages to help three chefs from Boston pick a site for a new restaurant in Granford. Though Granford needs restaurants, stores, and some new blood, some residents are not happy about the chefs coming to Granford and destroying what they consider to be a perfect place. Meg once again investigates when someone is found murdered and it leads back to the restaurant.

I marked the novel down one star due to two of the characters and also the relationship between Meg and Seth.

Though I do like Meg as a character I am I have to say getting a bit tired of her woe is me attitude. She

seems kind of jerky on one hand complaining about the chefs needing her help but then chastises her orchard manager Bree for being standoffish about the newest residents. Also I don't know if Sheila Connolly is afraid to write a love scene or what in these novels but she tends to just not write what is going on between Seth and Meg when they are kissing or being intimate. It just fades to black so to speak. I don't think anyone wants excruciating details but some details about them being together would be great.

Also I am starting to get annoyed by Bree and the constant chip on her shoulder. It be different if we see that she is being treated differently since she is Jamaican and a woman but she is not. Her constant attitude to anyone asking her a question is getting old. I hope Ms. Connolly manages to fix that in the next novel starring Meg.

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### **Andrea says**

I can certainly say that this book is where the author is beginning to hit her stride as far as the characters developing. I do find that it doesn't draw me in as much as other series that I have read in the past. The stories are well-written, just maybe I would like to feel that a bit more humor was injected into them. Sometimes it is hard to put one's finger on what is lacking and for me I think it is that the characters are though better developed are still uptight and maybe that would be okay if they were a secondary character. I think that Sheila Connolly is a good writer, maybe this series is just not my cup of tea. Although, I am going to read the next one as this one leaves a cliff-hanger ending. Which was welcome! Maybe it will turn out to be a series that I enjoy after all. As I say the writing is solid.

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### **Rage says**

this didn't really feel like a mystery. a majority of the story is about Meg helping a young couple start a business or explaining to others why she is helping the young couple. there's also quite a bit of puttering around in an orchard and a romantic subplot without much chemistry. I would have just enjoyed this more if there were more elements of mystery and less interpersonal drama.

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### **Penny McGill says**

Ooooh. This one was so good. The romance is heating up and they begin to provide support to two very naive chefs who want to open a Whole Foods inspired-restaurant in a town where it might be a tough sell. The tension and pacing of this book is perfect and it just makes me want to read more about these characters. Very near the perfect cozy mystery.

Oh, I read some other reviews of this book after I posted mine and I think that there is something wrong with those people. Not able to warm up to Meg? What? If she was my neighbour I'd feel lucky and if she were my co-worker I'd feel even more blessed. Maybe someone like that can only exist in a book? I'm glad Sheila Connolly created her.

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### **Amanda says**

Great cozy mystery with a few yummy recipes at the end. I generally like the characters in this book, though a few seem a bit prickly for no apparent reason. The mystery is a slow builder, because though there's a crime fairly early on, there aren't any suspects until much later in the book. That doesn't mean the book itself is slow or boring. There is plenty going on aside from the mystery, some of which may or may not be connected to the mystery. I didn't guess the culprit until the very end, and I was fairly surprised by the outcome. And there's a bit of a cliffhanger at the tail end, whetting my appetite for the next book in the series!

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### **Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says**

Meg's friend Lauren asks Meg what are the prospects for a young trio wanting to open a restaurant (the Head Chef and the front of house/admin are married with a close friend being the third member and the sous chef). Meg puts them in contact with the local Realtor and before long they have secured a house and with Seth's help are turning it into a restaurant where they plan to serve as much local food as possible. The bump in the road occurs when the sous chef is found dead in a pig wallow and it appears that again it appears to be someone local who has done the deed. Meg ends up balancing her orchard work (the first fruits are getting close to picking so that needs organizing), the local bees seem to be dying off and Nicky and Brian need her help sorting out suppliers!

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### **Christine Jensen says**

A fun cozy series. If you are a cozy mystery lover, then you are likely the Orchard Mystery series. The main character is a bit of a fish out of water in small town New England (having spent most of her life in the city). Her attempts at running an apple orchard with the help of a few locals are enjoyable to read and sets a great background for a mystery.

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### **Ian says**

*"They're all dead."*

*"What?" Meg Corey dragged her gaze from the orderly rows of apple trees that marched over the hill. Almost all were in bloom now, and some of them had what even a novice farmer like Meg could identify as apples. Small, maybe, but it was a start. She turned her attention to Carl Fredrickson, her beekeeper. Until this morning, Meg hadn't even known she had a beekeeper, but it seemed like every day since she'd inherited the orchard, something - or someone - new she hadn't known about turned up. "Who's dead?"*

*"The entire hive."*

So begins *Red Delicious Death*.

I'm thinking to myself, awesome! This book is going to deal with the problem of bee colony collapse disorder which when you consider that much of the food we eat relies on honey bees as pollinators is quite a serious threat to our food security. I have to admit I was a little giddy that an author had finally decided to go into bat for the humble honey bee.

Sad to say after the first few paragraphs bees hardly get a mention. What is left is a fairly conventional cozy mystery. It's pretty good, quite entertaining, but I wanted bees!

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### **Natalia says**

This series just keeps getting better and better!

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### **Amanda says**

I'm a third of the way through this book, and I see another reviewer pretty much summed up what I'm running into with this series:

"I find the books in this series to be harder and harder to read as they go along. There's so much repetition and padding. Plus, Meg isn't really easy to warm up to. There's just something missing in the mix and it's hard to describe what that is. It should all work, nice setting, small town, an orchard, but it doesn't at least not for me."

Agree. This will likely be the last of the books for me. Which is a bummer, because the premise is so appealing, but the dialog and character development are falling flat for me. Plus, a third of the way through, and no real suspects presented? And way too much infodumping going on. Not good.

OK, what an anti-climactic finish. That was one of the more boring whodunits I think I've ever read. As much as I really really like all the possibility in these books, the character development and storytelling is not developing, in my opinion, well at all. Methinks I be done with this series.

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### **Trish says**

Enjoyable, and an improvement on the second one in the series. Less about a murder, and more about the pitfalls of setting up a restaurant, as well as how to maintain an orchard.

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### **Kellene says**

I'm beginning to think that maybe I'm not fond of this series after all. Maybe it's just that I really like the author's other series and was reading these in light of that. The main character, Meg, is becoming a bit tiresome to me, with all of her worrying and general lack of positivity. Seth, on the other hand, I still love and I'm glad Meg is finally not being dense where he is concerned. The other characters are okay, although Bree lost some of her luster for me in this one. But my main issue with the book is that the murder doesn't seem at all important to the story, like it's a side issue that exists only so the book can be called a mystery. The main subjects of the book are the opening of the restaurant and the coming harvest of the orchard. Not really the topics of a book that I would knowingly choose to read. I will continue with the next book in the series, primarily because I own it and can't stand to not read a book I own, but I will have to see what happens after that.

