



Arsenic and Old Cake

Jacklyn Brady

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Blind man's bluff

With business going stale at Zydeco Cakes, Rita Lucero has plenty to worry about. But when the blind trumpet player Old Dog Leg Magee asks for a favor, she can't say no. His brother Monroe disappeared forty years ago, and now someone has shown up claiming to be him. Old Dog Leg needs Rita to be his eyes—and see if it's really his brother.

The Twisted Palms Bed and Breakfast is full of unsavory characters, Monroe included. Posing as newlyweds, Rita and her friend Gabriel check in, only to discover that Monroe's true identity isn't the only mystery they'll have to solve. When another guest at the Twisted Palms turns up dead, it seems the mysterious man might also be a murderer...

Arsenic and Old Cake Details

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From Reader Review Arsenic and Old Cake for online ebook

Jean Hall says

I have read several books in this series and enjoyed each one.

Jonathan says

Very good; ready for the next one!

Julie says

Kindle

* Jennifer says

The best of the series so far. Previous books have left me feeling flat, but this one held my attention once I got past the ludicrousness of the initial setup: Old Dog Leg thinks his missing-for-40-years brother is back in town but doesn't know if it's really him. The **only** solution: *Rita MUST go undercover as a newlywed at a honeymoon b&b to find out*. Really? Flimsy. Even for a cozy.

BUT once you get past that the story behind the residents of the b&b is interesting, the mystery tied to old secrets. I really enjoyed it, and the ending was unexpected - I never guessed the murderer.

The characters have improved as well, Rita's employees not quite so insolent. Although Rita is still weak as a business owner. She seems to prefer stressing out about problems over actually fixing them or even confronting them.

I was ready to give up this series before reading this book, but I'll definitely check out the next one and hope this is a sign of great books to come.

Ruth Ellen says

Rita is worried about Zydeco as business is way down. A friend asks for help and she is talked into spying on the friend's brother. See how this all turns out.

Fred says

Arsenic And Old Cake is the third book in A Piece Of Cake Mystery series by Jacklyn Brady.

With the economy being in turmoil, Zydeco Cakes is experiencing a downturn in sales for its high end cakes. Rita Lucero and her office manager, Edie, are going over the financials trying to decide on a course of action to keep the bakery afloat when a couple of friends stop by. Gabriel is bartender at the Dizzy Duke and Old Dog Leg is a member of the band that plays there. Old Dog Leg is blind and has just received a letter from someone claiming to be his brother, a brother he hasn't seen in 40 years. Old Dog would like for Rita and Gabriel to be "his eyes" and check him out. The only problem is that the brother is staying at the Love Nest B & B. and Old Dog feels the best way to find out if it is his brother is for them to pretend to be newlyweds. Against her better judgement Rita agrees to take on this undertaking. Then that evening, after the toasting to the "newlyweds", Rita hears a blood curdling scream and sees one of the proprietors standing over what appears to be a dead body. he is dead and the person who is supposedly Old Dog's brother has gone missing.

The "regulars" who live at the Love Nest are a truly hilarious bunch of folks. They all have a connection to the time 40 years ago when the brother disappeared. So Rita and Gabriel set out to find out what that connection is and help the brother prove his innocence.

A very good addition to an appetizing series.

LORI CASWELL says

The bad economy is hurting business at Zydeco Cakes. Rita is trying to come up with ideas to keep her business afloat and her employees working full time. Her attention is drawn away when a friend, Old Dog Leg Magee, a blind trumpet player, asks her to be his eyes and help him solve a mystery. She can't say no. She has juggled a variety of issues before, she can do this.

Old Dog Leg has received a letter from someone claiming to be his long lost brother and needs Rita to find out if the man is really his brother Monroe. He has set Rita up with bartender Gabriel Broussard to pose as newlyweds to check in to the same bed & breakfast where Monroe is staying. Staying in a room with the handsome bartender worries Rita plenty, but the dead body found outside their room's windows means there maybe two mysteries to solve. Could the man they are investigating be a murderer? Rita is determined to find out, even if it means putting herself in danger.

Dollycas's Thoughts

This is my favorite book in this series! The quirky characters, residents of the B & B, are fantastic and funny, and full of secrets, some deadly secrets.

Using the real state of economics right now and how it is hurting luxury type purchases like the pricey custom cakes made at Zydeco gives the story a credible and relevant feel. Businesses are tightening the belts and being innovative to add and keep customers just like Rita and her employees. Some ideas are better than others and having a well off partner makes things a little easier for the New Orleans bakery. Miss Frankie is a peach.

The romantic tension jumped up a notch in the edition as well. I loved it and I don't know who I really want to see Rita with but both Rita and I were quite drawn to the sexy Cajun bartender. It sure makes me anxious waiting for the next installment.

I highly recommend this story and this series. They are full of mystery, mayhem and way too many delectable treats. Recipes included. Yummy!!!!

Kimberly says

Rita Lucero is really starting to realize how stressful it is to be responsible and co-own your own business. Zydeco Cakes is in need of more orders, the staff is not getting along, some are harboring secrets and none of them can agree on a solution to their economical problems. To top it off, Gabriel brings Old Dog Leg Magee in who has a serious favor to ask the two of them. His brother, Monroe, has just returned to town after being gone for the past forty years. Old Dog a Leg isn't sure if it's actually him or if he can be trusted. He wants Rita and Gabriel to pose as newlyweds and check into a local B&B to spy on Monroe. What they don't expect to uncover is a new murder victim and an entire inn full of people with a very secretive past.

This book was a miss for me. I really wished there had been more scenes set in the bakery as well as more interactions with the Zydeco crew. The setting for this book was a bit odd. I didn't really connect to any of the suspects so when the culprit was finally revealed at the end I wasn't shocked. I also had a hard time believing that Rita would leave her bakery when they were dealing with financial and personal issues. Then the whole storyline with her and Gabriel frustrated me. He's suppose to be a love interest and there was absolutely no chemistry between the two. The premise was also odd on how they checked on and identified Monroe. I figured out the side story with Edie early on so it was a bit annoying to watch that drag on until the very last chapter too. I also want to slap Sparkle and her bad attitude!! Definitely disappointed and hoping book four can redeem this series for me.

Kellene says

This is my favorite of the series thus far, because it is not the typical mystery for me. So many times I read a cozy and think that I've read it all before (and not because I'm rereading the book). But this one was an original concept as far as the crime and motive. And I like that. I enjoy the characters, and Rita is becoming more endearing with each book. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Linda says

Another great entry in the series, although I may be a bit impartial since it mixes the events of 40 years ago with a current day murder and I'm always a sucker for that. I really like Rita, even if she is involved in the dreaded romantic triangle, she's such a real character. Can't wait to see what happens next with the Zydeco gang.

Jessica says

Oh Rita, Rita, Rita!!! She is back again with her scrumptious cake baking and mystery solving skills! This time she takes the role of Mrs. Broussard... to help Old Dog Leg solve a forty year old mystery! This time her shenanigans take place at "The Love Nest" a local Bed and Breakfast where she takes on the role of playing blushing bride to one sexy Cajun bartender Gabriel Broussard. While trying to unearth the old mystery that surrounds the Love Nest she also gets to know of some of its more eccentric long time residents. This time shes got to solve the mystery, find a killer, attempt to be a blushing bride, annnnnnd

keep Zydeco afloat in the beginning stages of an economical hardship. Have no fear, Rita like always, keeps all together with witty thinking and her usual persistent gumshoe tactics. This book is a little slow in the beginning but it really picks up after the first few chapters and it will really have you reeling in the end to find out what or who is actually the mastermind behind whats going on at the Love Nest! I really enjoyed the mystery the usual cast and the new cast of characters of the "Love Nest" introduced in this book. I can't wait to see what trouble... I mean mystery Rita will stumble into next. Hopefully we will get to read more about which sexy hunk she chooses as well... will it be sweet, sexy, smooth Cajun bartender Gabriel or Mr. Tall, Dark, Handsome and Strong Detective Stone? Only time and another great mystery will tell... :)

Molly Cline says

I have never read anything written by Ms Brady this series was recommended to me by the GoodReads website so I checked it out. I loved it! From the first few pages I was hooked. She didn't take her time and drag things out. She started with the reader caught your attention and didn't let go until the last page and even then you hope the next book is just as good as the first! This book also takes place within one week so you don't have to sit and wonder how much time has passed for the characters as you are reading about them. You are always wondering 'who did it' and as you read you will change your mind on who you think was the murderer; you will LOVE the ending! Never once through the story did it loose me, nor drag on repeating itself. Book 3 is in my opinion the best of the three thus far; (I just don't hand out 5 stars very often) but am now looking forward to reading book 4 to see what is next. They just continue to get better!

Book 3 can be read as a 'stand alone novel' I don't think you would be 'lost' within the story. BUT you would understand all the characters and scenes more if you had read book 1 first. You get to love them all and understand them in book 1 so it just adds to this book. Especially since one of the main characters is a minor character from book one. If you had read the first book this one will make more 'sense' to you but you won't be lost if you haven't read book 1. Once you pick it up you won't want to put it down.

If you are prof reading for your advanced reading pre teen-teenager. This book doesn't have any sex in it. It does have language at times but not 'tons all through it' and one of the main places the characters go is to a bar and the charactors drink throughout the story. Two characters have to share a motel room 'unmarried' but they don't 'do anything'... So some 'adult' activities going on through but nothing more that kids probably see on PG13 movies.

This is for certain a must to add to my purchase for my own home library! Hoping other books in the series is just as good

Holly says

A nice book about a widowed woman who owns a bakery in New Orleans. She and her bartender boyfriend whose not really her boyfriend but could be but...well it's more complicated than it should be. A little romantic tension between her the bartender and a cop. Anyway the two of them pose as newly weds at a B&B on the west-bank. They are trying to help out their blind musician friend determine if his long lost brother has truly returned to New Orleans. Author almost gets NOLA right. Aside from Broussard, there aren't many south Louisiana names. I would think Landry (easy to spell!) , Thibodeaux, Bahlinger, or Leblanc would pop up. But I nit-pick. A nice read but frustrating if you have a working knowledge of the area. I think she could have dug a little deeper and really gotten the real flavor of the area. As far as the story-line goes, it is a decent mystery that kept me guessing well into the book. This is #3 in a series.

Ed says

#3 in the A Piece of Cake mystery series. I am not usually a follower of cozy mystery series and have, for the most part, avoided series seemingly dedicated to highly specific venues, such as The White House Gardener Mysteries or The Cupcake Bakery Mysteries. This series was recommended by my wife and I have persevered through #3 because I am a completist. #1, A Sheetcake Named Desire (2011), set the premise of a top end cake bakery in New Orleans and had interesting characters and bakery trivia. #2, Cake on a Hot Tin Roof (2012), had some character development and included Mardi Gras trivia, but had little new about the bakery business. The current entry seems to be running out of steam on the bakery front. The business is in a recession and although assistant Ox suggests marketing higher volume downscale cakes, Rita's partner - her ex-MIL Miss Frankie - forbids diluting the very expensive market and wants to sell real estate to provide a cash infusion. This, of course, doesn't allow anything new about the bakery business. The mystery in this entry has to come externally. I'm concerned that the author may be baking herself into a corner.

A Piece of Cake mystery - Cake shop owner Rita Lucero agrees to help blind trumpet player Old Dog Leg Magee solve a family mystery, and, while undercover at a bed-and-breakfast with Cajun bartender Gabriel Broussard, finds more than one mystery to solve.

Moondance says

"Try to be reasonable, Rita."

Rita Lucero is half owner of Zydeco Cakes in New Orleans. She acquired the bakery after the death of her husband that she was divorcing. His untimely death left the bakery to Rita and her mother-in-law, Miss Frankie Renier. Zydeco has always been known for their high end one of a kind cakes. The bakery is in trouble financially due to the economy. However, this is not the main source of the story.

Talented musician, Old Dog Leg and local bartender, Gabriel Broussard come to Rita for help identifying Old Dog Leg's long lost brother. Monroe walked away 40 years ago without a word and has apparently turned up back in New Orleans. A plan is hatched for Rita and Gabriel to go undercover as a newlywed couple to a Honeymoon Hotel where Monroe is staying.

Although an enjoyable read, I missed the bakery. I felt it was pushed in the background. There also was not enough of Liam Sullivan for me. Gabriel and Rita get folks riled up at the Love Nest. The proprietors become suspicious of their motives as do the older gentlemen that live on site. The death of one of these men drags up a four decade old crime that still has a lingering effect on them all.

Information was given out piece meal so that it took a bit to gather the bundle and realize who the killer was. A good read although I hope the next one focuses on the bakery.
