



Death by Espresso

Alex Erickson

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Uninvited guests are a headache--especially when one turns out to be, allegedly at least, the most important wedding planner in all the world. Though Vicki and Krissy have already made arrangements for a small, simple party, Vicki's snobby drama queen mother has her own ideas. Cathy the wedding planner is raring to go, possibly energized by the chocolate-covered espresso beans she compulsively munches. But while the caffeine keeps her awake, it doesn't keep her alive--and after Cathy chokes on an espresso bean after being hit in the head, Krissy has to find out who ended her supposedly stellar career . . .

Death by Espresso Details

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Author : Alex Erickson

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From Reader Review Death by Espresso for online ebook

Anita says

When Krissy arrives at the airport to pick up Vicki's parents and her father for Vicki's wedding, she is surprised to see other people tagging along. Vicki's parents invited their friends to the wedding without any notice. One of these guests is a wedding planner to the stars who eats chocolate covered espresso beans by the handful. Vicki's parents invited her to help change the wedding for the better, even though the wedding is all planned out. What happens when the wedding planner is found dead? Krissy will have to find the murderer before the wedding is canceled.

This was another fabulous mystery by a wonderful author. I loved Krissy and Vicki instantly, and hated how Vicki's parents didn't treat her or her feelings with any respect. I also loved how the author showed the differences between Krissy's father and Vicki's parents. This was a multi-faceted mystery with many red herrings and twists in the plot. I had no idea who the culprit was until the end, and it was a surprise. I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and am voluntarily reviewing it.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Vicki and Mason are tying the knot in a weeks time and so her parents (and Krissy's father and his girlfriend Laura) are flying in ready for the wedding. Krissy has gone to meet them all and is rather surprised that there are a few extra people that weren't expected, one of which is a wedding planner (apparently the wedding planner of all wedding planners), so Krissy lets Vicki know. Vicki and Mason had planned (and arranged) a nice simple church wedding and then back to the bookstore for the rest of the celebrations, Vicki's mother (and Cathy the wedding planner) have different and much grander ideas. At this rate the wedding will be called off (which would please Mason's father no end as he has picked some one else for Mason to marry!), but no one expects all the plans to be derailed by the death of Cathy and Mason being pointed at as the probable killer.

To save her friends wedding and sanity Krissy starts hunting for clues again ... just another day in Pine Hills!

Kirsti says

Thank you to Netgalley and the Publisher for the chance to read this book!

This is the second of Alex Erickson's books I've had the pleasure to read, and I must say they are a whole lot of fun. The best cozy mysteries give you a host of varied colorful characters that make a small town tick, and this one just does such a great job with that. Everyone is well fleshed out and believable, even when they're acting out. The mystery is a solid one, and there are many leads and trains of thought as to whodunnit. It features cats, coffee and books, as well as murder, and if that isn't a well rounded diet I don't know what is!

I can safely say these are fast becoming one of my favorite cozies, and I definitely need to go back and read the previous books! Five stars!

RO G'ma says

Death by Espresso is the sixth book in Alex Erickson's Bookstore Café Mysteries series. The writing flows smoothly at a steady pace, the characters are well developed, and the mystery is interesting. There are plenty of suspects and twists and turns to make it difficult to figure out who the killer is.

Krissy Hancock and her best friend, Vickie Patterson, are the owners of a combination coffee shop and bookstore, Death by Coffee, in the quaint town of Pine Hills, Ohio. Vickie is getting married to Mason Lawyer and, as her maid of honor, Krissy has been helping her with all the details. Krissy goes to the airport to greet wedding guests, including her dad, James Hancock, and Laura Dresden, the woman he's dating and Vickie's movie star parents, Gina and Frederick, and the guests they invited. Cathy Carr is also one of the arrivals and introduces herself as the world's most important wedding planner and, as Gina and Frederick's wedding gift, would be improving the wedding plans. When everyone meets at Death by Coffee, Vickie is overwhelmed and frustrated by the number of guests her parents brought and the wedding adjustments Gina and Cathy were planning. Vicki and Mason wanted a simple church wedding and to celebrate at the bookstore.

In an effort to try to keep the peace and give Vickie the wedding she wants, Krissy decides to talk to Gina and Frederick, who are staying at Vickie's house along with Cathy while she stays with Mason. Only one rental car is there, but all the lights are on and when she knocks, the upstairs light goes out but no one answers the door. When she knocks again, the door pops open, she goes in, and when no one responds to her calls, she ends up in the kitchen where she finds Cathy on the floor. When Gina and Frederick return, they find Krissy holding a candlestick she'd picked up to use as a weapon. Officers Paul Dalton and John Buchanan respond to the call; Frederick accuses Krissy of murder and Officer Buchanan seems to agree. It's determined that after being hit on the head, Cathy choked on one of the chocolate-covered espresso beans she was almost always chewing on. Vickie and Mason are talking about postponing their nuptials. Mason's father, Raymond Lawyer, and his girlfriend, Regina Harper, would love for the wedding to be cancelled because they have a different bride-to-be in mind for Mason. Krissy wants the wedding to go forward as planned, but things don't look promising when Mason is brought in for questioning in Cathy's demise.

Rita Jablonski, the town's resident gossip and James Hancock's biggest fan is devastated when she learns he brought his girlfriend to town with him. Rita is more than smitten with the famous author, and entertained dreams of spending her life with him. Krissy's boyfriend, Will Foster, a local physician, has accepted a job in Arizona.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

Patty says

Death by Espresso by Alex Erickson is the 6th book in the Bookstore Cafe series and another fun addition that I enjoyed. Krissy Hancock and Vicki Patterson, her best friend, own Death by Coffee which is a coffee shop and bookstore combined. Vicki and Mason are ready for their wedding when Vicki's parents arrive

bringing extra people with them. When one of them dies, the sleuthing begins. I really enjoy this fun series, and the quirky characters. There are suspects around every corner, that kept me reading page after page until I was finished with the book. The plot and characters were well developed, along with some romance. If you love humorous cozy mysteries, my favorite, I recommend this book/series.

I received this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Sara Eames says

I am a huge fan of cosy mysteries and I love this series. The characters are well-written and the plot moves at a steady pace. Yes, the amount of murders that Krissy finds herself caught up in is ridiculous but I don't read cosies for their gritty realism, I read them for escapism. So, suspend your disbelief and enjoy the story.

Carol Bisig says

This is the type of Cozy Murder Mysteries I dislike, she talks to herself constantly, mulling over the same evidence again and again! I feel like she is fifteen, too immature to be running a business, with no guy in her life, no fiancee, this is perfect for teenagers! I would recommend it for YA!

Not Impressed!

Carolintallahassee.com

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/de...>

Title: Death by Espresso

Series: Bookstore Cafe Mystery

By: Alex Erickson

ISBN: 149670889X (ISBN13: 9781496708892)

Author's Website: <http://alexericksonbooks.com/>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Andra

Summary:

Bookstore-cafe owner Krissy Hancock has plenty to keep her occupied outside business hours, like preparing for her best friend's wedding and solving a murder . . .

Krissy is meeting Vicki's parents at the Pine Hills, Ohio, airport—it's the least she can do as maid of honor, even if her relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Patterson is a bit strained. Besides, her own dad is coming in on the same flight. But there are a few additional arrivals, too. Her father's brought a date—and the Pattersons, both actors, seem to have an entire entourage trailing behind them.

Uninvited guests are a headache—especially when one turns out to be, allegedly at least, the most important wedding planner in all the world. Though Vicki and Krissy have already made arrangements for a small,

simple party, Vicki's snobby drama queen mother has her own ideas. Cathy the wedding planner is raring to go, possibly energized by the chocolate-covered espresso beans she compulsively munches. But while the caffeine keeps her awake, it doesn't keep her alive—and after Cathy chokes on an espresso bean after being hit in the head, Krissy has to find out who ended her supposedly stellar career (Goodreads)

Review:

Death by Espresso is the sixth book in the Bookstore Cafe Mystery series by Alex Erickson. I did read the first book in the series, Death by Coffee. Now having read the sixth book, I will most definitely be going back and reading books 2 through 5 as well? But make no mistake, this book can be read as a stand alone, after all – I missed all that happened to Krissy between book 1 and 6 to no detriment to my appreciation and enjoyment of Death by Espresso.

What starts off as a simple trip for Krissy to the Levington airport to greet her dad (James Hancock) and his girlfriend (Laura Dresden) and Vicki's parents (Gina and Frederick Patterson), seems to quickly turn in to a gong show. There are several more people travelling with the Patterson's (8 to be exact). And one of these guests is a wedding planner to the stars (Cathy Carr) who eats chocolate covered espresso beans constantly. The remaining additional people are "second rate" actors, all with a story to tell both with respect to their successes (and failures) in the acting business and their relationships between each other. A veritable tangled web. But the journey to untangle this web made for an engaging read.

The murder happens fairly quickly in the story. I was disappointed that our amateur sleuth tainted the crime scene – by handling the candlestick that was on the floor by the body. Okay, I do realize Krissy was scared that the killer might still be in the house and come after her, but with a number of murders behind her, I would hope she would be more aware of a crime scene.

Well there is definitely no shortage of potential suspects. It was a pleasant journey to read how each of the out of town guests knew the victim. Krissy's process to convince herself that each one was a viable suspect or not was interesting and at times made me laugh. I was more than surprised that Krissy could handle the sleuthing as well as her duties as maid of honour for Vicki's wedding... and trying to keep the peace with Vicki and her fiancé and the soon-to-be in-laws – Gina and Frederick.

One thing that was bothersome was how Gina and Frederick did not seem to have any respect or thoughtfulness towards their daughter. Or Mason's parents wanting the wedding to be cancelled so they can introduce Mason to someone they think is more suited to him.... If I had been Vicki or Mason – I would have asked all the parents to kindly and firmly but out and let them have the wedding of their dreams with the man/woman of their dreams. But we all know – everyone's relationship with their parents is complicated. So that did add drama and giggles to the read.

I really liked the name of Vicki's cat.... Trouble. All I have to say, aren't all cats trouble in their own way?

I look forward to the future books in this series as I really feel this reader needs to see more of a romantic future development between Krissy and Paul Dalton perhaps? And of course – future sleuthing with respect to the future murders that are bound to happen in Pine Hills.

If you enjoy a good cozy mystery with a colourful cast of characters and a pet or two thrown in for good measure, then you will enjoy Alex Erickson's sixth book the in Bookstore Cafe Mystery series – Death by Espresso.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here: I have often expressed my frustration at human heroines who seem determined to flaunt the law and get themselves into major pickles, often life threatening ones. Krissy is one such character but she has the self awareness to realize what she is doing and she still does it. *Rolls eyes*. Humans. Their logic does not compare to kitty logic.

Despite this major “beef”, I still like this series and Krissy, if truth be told. However, the frustration that other characters in the books express over her actions is all together understandable. She is specifically told not to do something and then she does it anyway. Is it any wonder she spends as much time in the police station as she does. It is a good thing they like her.

Her best friend and business partner is taking on a marital partner and Krissy is the maid of honour. It is not an easy task when the parents of the bride descend with an assortment of Hollywood friends and a wedding planner determined to scrap the plans for the nuptials and make it “better”. Between these three and some of the other bullies, I felt like hissing a lot. It makes Krissy’s actions seem a bit more reasonable.

Krissy manages to do everything wrong but still figures out who killed the wedding planner. It all works out in the end. While there are signs Krissy’s love life might be moving in the right direction, with her disregard for the law, there can only be more complications in future books.

I give it four purrs and two paws up.

Sandra says

Death by Espresso by Alex Erickson is the sixth installment in the Bookstore Cafe Mystery series but can be read as a standalone.

Even though this is the first book in this series that I have read I had no trouble at all getting into the book. Past happenings are nicely explained and it is easy to follow the story.

Krissy and Vicky are the main characters and they run bookstore/cafe together in the little town of Pine Hills. Vicky's wedding date is approaching and her parents show up, bringing few uninvited guests with them along with a wedding planner that Vicky doesn't want and their ideas of how the wedding should be like. To say that emotions are running high would be an understatement..

Then unwanted wedding planner gets killed and Krissy is practically caught holding a murder weapon. She has no choice but to get to the bottom of this murder. So with her father's help and support she sets out to question guests and neighbours making them even hostile than they already are.

Easy to read and entertaining enough, this book has a nice plot and is evenly paced. We get a tiny glimpse into the world of not so successful actors and their high strung lives. With a nice cast of characters and good dialogue this is a great book for cozy mystery lovers.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Death by Espresso is the sixth book in the Bookstore Cafe Mystery series by Alex Erickson. If you have not read any of the others, you can still enjoy this book as it can be read as a stand alone. Krissy Hancock, a

smart, savvy sleuth who is not afraid to laugh at herself and her mistakes is back trying to solve another murder in their small town.

Vicki, Krissy's best friend and partner in the Cafe, and Mason are getting married. Everything is planned and ready to go. Krissy heads off to the airport to pickup her dad as well greet Vicki's parents. What she does not expect is the entourage that arrive with Vicki's parents, one of them being a famous wedding planner, who pops chocolate covered espresso beans like candy. Vicki and Mason are not happy about her parent's interference. The murder happens fairly quickly in the story and of course, Krissy discovers the body. There are many suspects, some twists, a lot of clues and of course, Krissy's sometimes bumbling discoveries.

I found that there was not a lot of action in this book, and at times it was a bit slow. It is surprising that Krissy handles, her job (not mentioned of it or the cafe in this book), the sleuthing as well as her duties as maid of honour for Vicki's wedding which required her to keep the peace with Vicki and her fiancée and both sets of parents. This caused much of the drama in the story. When the reveal happened, I thought "Oh, really" as it was not climactic at all. One other thing that I liked is that the relationship between Krissy and Will seems to be over and maybe, she might try again with Paul, one can only hope.

If you enjoy a cozy mystery with a colourful cast of characters, a pet or two, and a coffee shop/bookstore setting, then give this series a try. The publisher, Kensington Publishing, provided me with a copy of this book to read. The opinions/ideas stated are my own.

Ann says

This is book 6 in the Bookstore Cafe Series and Krissy is busy meeting Vicki's family at the airport for the wedding. Her own father is arriving on the same flight and he's bringing his girlfriend to meet her. Vicki's family arrives with several extra people , one being a world famous wedding planner that ends up dead and the groom a prime candidate. As always, Krissy, Vicki and the local police solve the murder. This series is well written and fun to read. This story can stand alone but the romance between Vicki and Mason is in previous books. I received a copy of this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Mikaela says

Could not finish. Got about halfway through and then quit. Did not captivate me or interest me like the other books in this series.

Elaine says

Forget the bride being bridezilla, in this story it is her parents who deserve that title as they are determined to make this wedding memorable – often for totally the wrong reasons for the ones who are actually marrying! With unexpected guests arriving with the bride's acting parents, there are bound to be dramatic moments in this fun, cosy murder mystery story that had me laughing out loud. It has great, quirky characters, superb interactions and plenty of twists and turns along with a dash of romance. There are a plethora of suspects and secrets galore to be uncovered.

Although this is the sixth book in the series, I can vouch for the fact that it works well as a standalone as I haven't read any other books in the series, though I may well be rectifying that once my tbr pile is lower! I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys this genre or is looking for a fun read . . . now I'm just hoping that nothing similar happens when my daughter gets married!

I requested and was given a copy of this book, via NetGalley. This is my honest review of the book after choosing to read it.

Faythe Shattuck says

Krissy is meeting Vicki's parents at the airport in Pine Hills, Ohio, it's the least she can do as maid of honor. Even though her relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Patterson is a bit strained. Besides, her own dad is coming in on the same flight, but there are a few additional arrivals, too. Her father's brought his new girlfriend along, and the Pattersons who are both actors, have an entire entourage trailing behind them. The uninvited guests are a headache especially when one turns out to be, most important wedding planner in all the world. Though Vicki and her fiance Mason with Krissy's help have already made arrangements for a small, simple wedding and reception. Vicki's snobby drama queen mother has her own ideas as does her father who thinks the already made plans are not good enough for his daughter. Cathy the wedding planner is raring to go, possibly energized by the chocolate covered espresso beans she compulsively munches. While the caffeine keeps her awake, it doesn't keep her alive and after Cathy chokes on an espresso bean after being hit in the head, Krissy has to find out who ended her supposedly stellar career.

The mystery has lots of red herrings along with plenty of twists and turns, that keep the reader guessing who the murder is until the surprising conclusion. The author does a nice job of showing how different the relationship between Krissy and her father is compared to the relationship between Vicki and her parents. The author also does a nice job of getting the reader up to date with the other town residents and store employee's lives.

I didn't like how Vicki's parents gave no consideration to her already made wedding plans or to her feelings, while trying to take over her wedding. I liked how Krissy's father always made time for his daughter no matter what was going on in their lives no matter if they are in the same house or clear across the country from each other. I also liked that Krissy was open to her father's new relationship and how she made an effort to get to know his new girlfriend. I was not happy that Will Krissy's boyfriend decides to take a job in another state and breaks up with her, instead of seeing if their relationship would work out or not.

I got an ARC of this book from Netgally and Kesington Books for my honest opinion.
