



## The Body in the Bonfire

*Katherine Hall Page*

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Caterer and small-town minister's wife Faith Fairchild might never have accepted the job teaching a course on Cooking for Idiots at Mansfield Academy had it not been for Daryl Martin. An African-American student at the prestigious prep school, Daryl has lately become the target of a series of vicious and anonymous racial attacks -- and Faith is determined to put an end to the injustice. But Mansfield, she finds, is a seething cauldron of secrets, academic in-fighting, and unspoken rules that complicate her task. When someone tampers with her classroom cooking ingredients -- and then the remains of her prime suspect are discovered smoldering in a campus bonfire -- she realizes that a monstrous evil is stalking both Daryl and the school. And suddenly Faith's own life is in serious jeopardy as well!

## **The Body in the Bonfire Details**

Date : Published January 28th 2003 by Avon (first published February 19th 2002)

ISBN : 9780380813858

Author : Katherine Hall Page

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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## From Reader Review The Body in the Bonfire for online ebook

### **Louise Laba says**

This book was just another in Katherine Hall Page wonderful mysteries. I wasn't disappointed and neither will anyone else. She always keeps you guessing.

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### **Jenny says**

Good, quick read. I really like Faith! The mystery was good and I'm glad the culprit wasn't a kid - I would not have believed that.

However - no 16-year-old boy would have talked like Daryl - or Zach for that matter.

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### **Joan Colby says**

I've read other books in this series which were not too bad, but this one is dull and slow, not a happy circumstance for a mystery. Further, the protagonist, a minister's wife comes off as an insufferable label dropping snob.

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### **Kristen says**

This book was a quick and easy read with most culinary-themed cozies. For the 12th installment in the Faith Fairchild series, The Body in the Belfry dealt with suspense and drama. Faith Fairchild, a caterer and minister's wife, had accepted a position to teach a cooking class at a private school for boys. Racism, death threats and two murders were added to the pot. We watched how Faith figured out the culprit, when she'd gotten closer to the truth behind the prejudices in the academy, someone sabotaged her kitchen. She discovered about the lurking evil presence in the school, when it was centered in Massachusetts with cooking tips for this enjoyable mystery.

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### **Sherry says**

#12 Finds Faith being talked into going undercover and teaching Cooking for Idiots for as a Term Project course between semesters at a private boys' school, Mansfield Academy, In Aleford to discover who is perpetrating such nasty and bigoted attacks upon a fine young, black scholarship student. This is one of the best in the series yet, filled with teaching cooking to adolescent boys, bigotry, neo-Nazi, eccentric professors, the headmaster's dramatic Russian wife, a tough woman state cop taking over for John Dunne and warns Faith to stop playing Nancy Drew, and to not interfere in her investigation faces off with tough black lawyer Patsy Benson. Faith takes idiotic chances snooping in private rooms at the school, bringing her closer and closer to harm. Cooking sessions are fun.

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## **Lizzie Hayes says**

‘The Body In The Bonfire’ by Katherine Hall Page

Published by Robert Hale & Co. September 2008. ISBN 978-0-7090-8591-1

When Faith Fairchild’s friend Patsy asks her to run a course of ‘Cooking For Idiots’ for the Projects Term at the nearby school, Faith’s question is why? Patsy comes clean: Daryl Martin is the target of anonymous racist attacks that are escalating and looking to turn very nasty.

Faith volunteers, and is accepted with alacrity. Invited to meet the staff at an informal drinks gathering by the headmaster Robert Harcourt, she meets the other members of the faculty and Robert’s wife, the exotic Zoe.

Faith’s cooking lessons sound great – wish she’d taught at my school. However, she is quickly aware of the unpleasant undertones and conducts systematic searches of the students’ quarters in an attempt to identify just who it is that is responsible for the persecution of Darryl. But before she can reach any conclusion things take a sinister turn when there is a murder. As always a good mystery. Recommended.

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Lizzie Hayes

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## **Kathy Davie says**

Eleventh chronologically and twelfth in the publication order in the Faith Fairchild cooking mystery series set in the small town of Aleford, Massachusetts.

In 2002, *The Body in the Bonfire* was nominated for an Agatha Award for Best Novel.

### **My Take**

Daryl was amazing, he is so mature and insightful for his age with a wicked sense of humor; I hope he'll appear in future Faith Fairchild installments.

The whole concept of a cooking class for high school students is a good one. I should think that such a course could be tailored to account for college-bound students who would be cooking in a dorm or a very restricted space. I like that Faith included table manners as part of the course.

Faith learns both about the characters of the individual students as well as gaining some reassurance as to when Ben hits the teen barrier.

My peeve in this story is that I didn't feel she had much in the way of evidence when she leapt to her conclusion of who was behind the racial attacks. Yes, he seemed the most obvious, but there was no evidence for it. In fact, Faith seemed to leap to conclusions quite a bit; it would certainly make me leery of partnering up with her.

Patsy Avery is the driving force in this story. Pix is having her own particular crisis with her son,

Danny...oops, I mean *Dan*, in this issue. To top it off, Lorraine Kennedy is *so* not a Faith fan!

Still, it is a quick and easy read with a very homey feel to it.

### **The Story**

Patsy Avery has asked Faith to conduct a two-and-a-half week cooking class at the local prep school as a cover to investigate racial attacks on a young black student.

### **The Characters**

**Faith Fairchild** is a caterer, wife, mother, and much-too-interested amateur sleuth. **The Revered Tom Fairchild** is her husband. The kids, **Ben** and **Amy**, add their small complications. **Pix** is a neighbor and good friend — as well as a sounding board for all things family. **Dan** is one of Pix's kids.

*Mansfield Academy* is...

...a prep school in Massachusetts. **Daryl Martin** is a young black student there.

**Patsy Avery** is a lawyer and Daryl's main champion. Her husband, **Will**, is also a lawyer; he makes a brief appearance.

**Lorraine Kennedy** is a colleague of John Dunne's.

### **The Title**

The title is of *The Body in the Bonfire* that underscores the seething cauldron of the school.

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### **Melissa says**

Not the most exciting installment of the series.

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### **Gail says**

I'm always excited to read one of Katherine Hall Page's Faith Fairchild series. This book did not disappoint. All the new characters at the boys school were well developed. This book had one of the best plots of the series.

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### **Margaret says**

Leaping straight from the first book in the series to the 12th, I find the author's work still very very good, this time tackling the difficult subject of white male privilege and race relationships.

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### **Lain says**

Such a sophisticated book for a cozy mystery! Page tackles race issues with real tact and honesty. A great

addition to the Faith Fairchild series.

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### **Judy Goodnight says**

Another solid entry in the series.

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### **Ellen Moore says**

This was an interesting book set at a prep school with Faith teaching a cooking class to male students while secretly investigating racial insults and threats made to a minority student at the school. The book had several deaths and a number of twists and turns to keep it interesting.

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### **L.E. Fidler says**

is it just me or this something insulting about a 30+ year-old pampered white woman trying to solve the mystery of racism at a preppy milton academy-ripoff (mansfield academy!)? i don't know. i could tell hall page was trying to be sensitive but it just didnt work for me.

i feel like this one was the most predictable thus far (which is sayin' something).

also, at one point, faith snoops into the dean's office and reads someone's recommendation letter. according to her, the addition of "please call me if you'd like to discuss this further" is code for "i'll give you the real deal on what an ass this kid this"...is that true? because i always end my letters with "don't hesitate to call if you need any additional info" and now i'm starting to panic.

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### **Clare says**

This book wasn't as good as some of the Faith Fairchild books I have read but it was enjoyable and there are a couple good recipes at the end.

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