



Just Desserts

Mary Calmes

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Boone Walton has tried hard to create some distance between himself and his past. He's invested in his new life, his New Orleans art gallery, and his friendship with Scott Wren. Things finally seem to be settling down to normal, and Boone couldn't be happier.

Chef Scott Wren wants much more than normal with Boone. He wants to raise things to the next level, but Boone is terrified—and not because of the ghost in Scott's apartment or Scott's relatives. No, Boone's past is about to pay him a visit, and the only thing that can get between Boone, Scott, and a hinky recipe for chocolate mousse found in a curious cookbook is the river of pain Boone had to swim across to get to this side of The Big Easy. There's a secret behind the ingredients, though—one that might reveal the trust and love that have been missing from Boone's life.

Just Desserts Details

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From Reader Review Just Desserts for online ebook

Susan says

4.5 stars

Those who know me in the reading world know that I heart me some Mary Calmes. Now, saying that, I'm not someone who blindly loves all her books. I just know what to expect, and know when I need that, and more often than not, she delivers. So, though "Just Desserts" never had been on my radar, I was still happy to read it.

Brace yourselves...

Other than the fact that I love **Jory and Sam** with all my heart, and other than the fact that I've read **Frog** 3 times and just finished the audiobook, and other than the fact that **Rand** is my one of my TOP TWO book boyfriends...this book...randomly...may just be...

MY FAVORITE MARY CALMES TO DATE.

Now, I feel nervous saying this. But I just...loved it. Maybe because I didn't really know it existed and it was a nice surprise. And maybe because I was in just the right mood. But, mostly because, though not the highest rated nor the most talked about nor the most obvious of her books, it was just a GREAT story! All the best parts of Mary Calmes in a tidy package that had me reading straight through and then going right back and reading it again...and I NEVER do that.

Looking through other ratings, I noticed it's not a slam dunk among her fans. But here's why I loved it:

Boone & Scott are best friends. Like codependent type of friendship (which I love...see " **Take My Picture** "). Like know-each-other-better-than-anyone-else type friendship. Like need-you-to-breathe type friendship. *Love.*

Scott is a chef. *Love.*

Boone is a man with a mysterious past. *Love.*

There's some unintentional jealousy that leads to revelation of feelings. *Love.*

There's some funny bits. *Love.*

There's some sexy bits. *Love.*

Then there's this whole unfolding of Boone's past...*really REALLY love.*

There's a bit of supernatural what-the-heck'ery with a dessert in a mystery cookbook...*didn't think I would but I did love.*

And there you have it...a book that made me suuuuuper happy.

LOVED IT.

~☆~Danni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Hot damn, this is my favorite Calmes book since *Frog*.

The theme of MAGIC in cooking is perfectly executed. One of the MCs is a chef, and the story takes place in New Orleans, that place of spirits and haunts.

There is a (bitchy except to those she likes) ghost named Florence, traditional Japanese irezumi (a method of tattooing the body by hand), yakuza on the prowl, and two best friends missing the moment.

Boone, an art gallery owner, has loved and lost. Raised in Japan, Boone is a big, burly man, a little scary looking until he smiles.

Boone is the first-person narrator of the story, and it isn't until halfway through that we realize he's not a particularly reliable one.

Scott, the chef, is the light to Boone's growliness. Scott flits from man to man, filling his time.

His latest conquest is Daniel, a rather stuffy doctor, but the chocolate mousse for sorting (recipe courtesy of Granny B, of course!) that Scott prepares has something to say about that.

This story is sweet and very sexy.

Both Scott and Boone get rather possessive. The scene in the kitchen where Boone strips and Scott is all, *Back off, bitches*, is hilarious.

Boone's past with his first love is heartbreaking (grab a hankie or two), and I was glad to see he found closure.

And the ending, oh yes, the ending is a FOREVER kind of HEA.

What a lovely conclusion to an all-around awesome series. I liked four out of the five stories.

You can't go wrong with the Curious Cookbook!

BWT (Belen) says

[

See, I look at the Haru situation as Boone being a kid when he fell in love with him, in that sort all encompassing Romeo and Juliet "I'm an idiot who'd rather die than live with

Ami says

DNF at 42%

I guess there is a reason why I stopped reading Mary Calmes. Taste and preference change over time, right? Her stories just don't *do* it for me anymore. So this one became another 'failure-to-connect' story with me.

Too many characters going in and out aside from our main characters (let's see Eiyad, Sergio, Elaine, Danie, Tate, Phillip, Justin ... eh, I lost track). And what could be a very good best-friends to lovers tale (one of my favorite themes!) was filled with meandering discussions that went nowhere. And from what I saw from other reviews, there would be, what, ghost and (view spoiler)?? Not exactly a treat to look forward to.

I *could* try skimming to the end (as I did with Amber Kell's Cookies for Courting) ... but you know what, I didn't have enough patience. And maybe my mood was all wrong. But hey, on the good side, since this is a DNF, I leave it unrated.

PS: On that note, nope, not going to read another Kell or Calmes for the future.

Renée says

I finally go out on a limb and call Calmes out for her typical Calmes-ness, and she goes and mixes it up! I bow to the greatness that she is. But this was actually one of her better shorts! I really, really liked it.

Best friends to lovers - hell yeah!

And it takes place in my hometown - check!

Calmes wrote it - check!

Really, there was virtually no chance this was NOT gonna rock my socks.

Regarding the drinking game the girls below had lined up - well the coordination and drinking didn't go quite as planned. But we still loved it, and I will list below the Calmes formula that DID happen here:

1. First person POV of one of the MCs (I never mind this, but it is typical Calmes)
2. Gun mentioned at 11%
3. "It was not lost on me" at 30%
4. "Forgive me" at 36% (Calmes always uses this in dialogue instead of "I'm sorry")

5. "Make no mistake" at 80%
6. "It was not lost on me" at 91%

This was a really great short story. I loved the lady ghost that haunted the apartment, too! And can I just give a shout out to the crawfish and gumbo that were mentioned - because I really couldn't live without either in my diet. And it is now crawfish season, and we've already had 3 family/friend crawfish boils in the past month. There is nothing quite like Louisiana cuisine.

Check this one out. If you're a Calmes addict like me, you'll LOVE it. And if you're not, I still think you will enjoy this one.

Drinking game BR with Dani, Eleftheria, Catherine, and anyone else who wants to join us! Because we either love or love-to-roll-eyes-at the typical Calmes formula, you must drink each time you see one of the following in this book:

To start us off - single shot and a loud scream of CHEERS right off the bat if the story is told in the first-person POV of one of the MCs

- 1. The quote "Make no mistake"**
 - 2. The quote "It is not lost on me...."**
 - 3. The quote "You're so tight and hot" (or "hot and tight")**
 - 4. Each time a gun appears or is mentioned**
 - 5. Each time a peacoat appears or is mentioned**
 - 6. If one MC is loved and adored by everyone**
 - 7. If the other MC is only likable when the other MC is around**
 - 8. Crazy jealous and possessive MC**
 - 9. The word "mine" during sex (even though it's pretty hot)**
 - 10. "Forgive me" instead of "I'm sorry"**
-

Tara♥ says

"This is the beginning of my dream; you want to take a ride with me?"

A Mary Calmes 'friends to lovers' that made me cry like a big sap. It's the first time she's made me cry.

It's also a growly alpha POV so I for one LOVED it. Boone and Scott are all kinds of adorable and yummy. It's got all the Mary Calmes markers that I've come to expect. Twas rather lovely. I think I want a Boone now.

"Knowledge fixed nothing, but it granted some measure of peace."

Also New Orleans is the backdrop for this story and that just made me incredibly happy.

Any excuse to post a holiday snap!! :D

Gigi says

I really should have read the other books in this series because it took me awhile to figure out the paranormal part of the cookbook, but I enjoyed this tale of friend-to-lovers and their angst in getting there. Sweet and romantic.

Valerie ❀M/M Romance Junkie❀ says

Mary Calmes + Greg Tremblay = crack on steroids

3/21/2018 continuing my low angst, nothing but happy rereads

5/9/2018 Month of Mary reread

Catherine says

Calmes is usually more miss than hit for me, but I'll shout it from the rooftops: I absolutely loved this one! It was a sweet and sexy friends-to-lovers story that makes me believe in soulmates and second chances and just a touch of magic.

I highly recommend this to friends.

Jessie Potts says

I didn't know what this book was going to be (I mean it's a Mary book so it'll be good!), but I really liked the paranormal 'dollop' Mary added to the story.

I read this in just under two hours, couldn't put it down, and now have to read the other books in the series. Boone and Scott were cute. Yes a bit dense with the whole falling for each other, but adorable. I also really

liked how the Japanese dark past added depth to the otherwise light story. The paranormal element also made everything make sense when ghosts of Boone's past showed up.

All in all if you are in the mood for some fun, if you like hot steamy bedroom scenes, and of course chocolate pick up Just Desserts.... now i'm off to read Food for Thought by Amy Lane from this series.

****I love the audio version and I still say that this needs to be expanded and Mary needs to write some yakuza!****

Emma Sea says

I finished it. I kinda of hated myself for reading each page. I have some feelings towards Mary Calmes I need to work through. These feelings include annoyance and exasperation. I have read 33 Mary Calmes books. The MC is "gold all over" in every one of them.

I gotta stop reading these because it's not doing it for me any more, and clearly it is working for 95% of readers out there still. Calmes is going on the shelf with Sean Michael (unless the drinking game is involved.)

Bitchie says

I don't think this was really your typical Mary Calmes? There wasn't really a "Jory" here, although there was a bit of "Sam" in Boone. The cookbook itself didn't play as prominent a part in this story as it did in the others I read. Instead of the POV MC getting the book and doing the cooking, with love interest, Scott, finding the book, which meant we didn't get to see as much of the recipes as we have before. I loved the New Orleans setting, and the ghost in Scott's house, even the side characters were good.

Elsbeth says

[his ex-boyfr

Kat ? says

Look, this was ridiculous. I mean, it had insta-shacking up, one MC who was like a man-child, another who liked to growl and boasted of having an enormous cockhead, a magical mousse pudding, a ghost that was rather opinionated and a yakuza subplot (wtf?).

BUT.

I still kinda loved it.

Someone stage an intervention.

SheReadsALot says

[At this point it's an auto purchase for me. Calmes could write about a pizza slice falling in love with a crayon - I'm reading it. OMG if she writes this, I'm ALL OVER that sucker! (hide spoiler)]
