



Dark Chocolate Demise

Jenn McKinlay

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The *New York Times* bestselling Cupcake Bakery Mysteries bake up sweet surprises, but as the series continues, Mel and Angie are in for a fresh batch of trouble...

Scottsdale, Arizona, may not be the liveliest place on earth, but it's never been as dead as this. Hundreds of fans have gathered together for the first annual Old Town Zombie Walk, and Mel, Angie, and the Fairy Tale Cupcake crew are donning their best undead attire to sell some horror-themed desserts to the hungry hordes.

But the fun turns to fright when Mel finds a real dead body in a prop casket outside of the bakery's truck—and the corpse looks alarmingly like a zombie of their own. Knowing that Joe, Angie's brother and Mel's former flame, has been working on a dangerous mob case, Mel worries that the murder is a hit gone wrong and that someone near and dear was the real target. To keep any of her friends from winding up six feet under, Mel will do whatever it takes to find a killer—no matter how scary things get...

INCLUDES RECIPES

Dark Chocolate Demise Details

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From Reader Review Dark Chocolate Demise for online ebook

Fred says

ark Chocolate Demise is the seventh book in the A Cupcake Bakery Mystery series.

This is another delicious read in the cupcake series and wonderful sounding recipes are included with the book.

Scottsdale's Old Town is holding its first annual Zombie Walk and everybody at Fairy Tale Cupcakes is getting into the spirit by dressing up as zombies. They have baked themed cupcakes for the gathering and have also secured a prop casket that they will position by their bakery truck in hopes of drawing even more of attendees to stop and purchase a cupcake or two. Marty, an employee of the bakery, is planning to reside in casket to further entice customers to stop by the cupcake truck.

Mel and Angie are surprised to find that Roach, Angie's ex boyfriend and his band are the performers that evening. Shortly after returning from listening to the band perform the dead body of a young lady who is wearing a costume similar to Angie's is found in the coffin by the bakery truck.

Joe DeLaura, Angie's brother, and Meg's relationship is on hold as he is prosecuting a man with known mob connections and fears for Mel's and Angie's lives in retaliation. The other DeLaura brother goes into protection mode, well maybe over protection mode. It's fun to read what lengths Meg and Angie will go to in order to free to do a little investigation into who might have killed the girl.

It's always a joy to stop in The Fairy Cupcake and check in with Mel, Angie, Tate and employees Marty and Oz. Definitely looking forward to the next book to see what Mel and Angie might be up to.

Amanda says

This is more of a 2.5 book for me I'm sad to say. I just didn't care that much for this story and found myself skimming the last 50 pages. The constant "I'm not in danger when there is a possible hit man out there," got old real fast. I would believe, if you were dating a lawyer, who was trying to put a mob boss in jail, you and or possibly, the lawyer's younger sister, would most definitely be on the hit list. The two main characters, Mel and Angie, really got on my nerves in this book. Their constant trying to get away from Angie's brothers and Tate, plus the angst between Mel and Joe was the driving force for this story, the mystery was second fiddle here.

I love this writer, Jenn McKinlay, she is one of my favorite cozy writers. But, I'm not so sure if I will read the next book in the series.

Moondance says

"He looks really good in there," Angie DeLaura said.

This is the seventh book in A Cupcake Bakery Mystery. Mel, Angie, Tate and the crew from Fairy Tale Cupcakes are participating in a zombie walk. The group has rented a casket for photo opportunities beside the bakery's van. Everyone except Marty has gotten in the spirit of the day by dressing as zombies. Angie and Tate are a newly dead bride and groom while Mel and Oz are zombie bakers. The usual cupcakes have been revamped with new names and added gory effects to fit the day. Much to Tate's dismay, Angie's ex, Roach and his band the Sewers are playing at the festival. The cupcake van is left unattended during a skirmish. Mel discovers a body in the casket upon her return and fears that it is her best friend Angie. It turns out to be the wife of a law clerk in Joe's office. Everyone is immediately on the defense in fear that Joe's high profile case against a mobster has caused his sister to be a target.

Oh my goodness! I could live at the Fairy Tale Cupcake Bakery! I love the banter between Mel, Angie and Tate. Their constant need to quote movies makes me so happy. The DeLaura brothers are a hoot as they try to keep Angie and Mel safe in the bakery. There is just enough of Joe in the story to make me want more. I've forgiven him for breaking Mel's heart in the last book.

Mel is a trouble magnet. It seems she is always in the center of anything that is remotely dangerous. The fact that she is still alive is amazing in itself.

I'm glad that there was some resolution with Manny. I understand the tension of a love triangle but seriously just want Mel to focus on Joe.

There were the usual twists and turns with characters not being as they seemed. The ending of course leads into the next book that I must read soon.

I love reading the recipes although I've never tried any of them.

A most enjoyable read!

Mark Baker says

Fairy Tale Cupcakes are selling cupcakes at the end of the first annual Zombie walk in town, and Mel, Angie, and the rest of their staff are getting into the spirit of things. But the fun takes a dark turn when Mel finds a body stuffed into the coffin outside their cupcake truck – a body that hits very close to home. Who was the target and why?

This book is a little darker than others in the series based on the plot alone, but we are talking a shade darker – cozy fans will still love it. The mystery takes a back seat at times to the characters reactions to the murder, but that was the appropriate response to the plot and I was never bored while reading it. The book reaches a logical and page turning climax, and it also features some of the funniest scenes in the series. I think this is best for people already fans of the series, but they will love it.

NOTE: I was sent a copy of the book in hopes that I would review it.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

Daniell says

These have defiantly become one of my favorite series! It has all the right elements for a fabulous cozy. And this one adds the mob and zombies! Although I go to bed at night dreaming of decadent cupcakes the mystery is satisfying. The next one can't come out soon enough!

D says

Lots of surprises! Mel definitely should be a police person; she has the instincts.

Pamela says

I'm starting to get annoyed with the main characters. Their decisions are too childish and headstrong, without thinking about those who care for them. I suppose if they don't grow up soon, I'll be stopping this series.

The redeeming part is that this book is fast paced and somewhat entertaining, but it's still difficult to read a book whose main characters you can't stand.

RebeccaS says

Some serious relationship drama and near death experiences in this one. Mel is again mixed up in a confusing semi-love triangle (two men vying for her attention, but pretending they aren't). Angie and Tate are fighting and trying to figure out how to love each other without being 1) controlling or 2) rebellious. The mystery was interesting and emotions were definitely running higher than normal. I loved the comic relief provided by the brothers and Marty and Oz in this one, to break from fact the Angie and possibly Mel are in life-threatening danger 24/7. It did urk me a little that they REFUSED to be even a little extra cautious and were determined to go about their normal lives, (view spoiler) But, this series wouldn't be what it is if Mel and Angie weren't stubborn and nosy and I really enjoyed it. The ending!! (view spoiler)

Dawn Frazier says

I absolutely love this series. Each one I read is like visiting friends. Mel and Angie are enjoying the Zombie Walk, when disaster strikes. Mel of course gets involved in trying to find out what happened, especially when it concerns Angie. Fun and fast paced, this book just makes me want the next one even quicker! Looking forward to finding out what happens next.

Sarah says

My favorite cozy series. Hands down. Love it. I love the setting, the characters, everything about it. Dark

Chocolate Demise didn't disappoint! Mel, Angie and the gang keep trucking along, this time heading to the Old Town Zombie Walk, where Mel has designed several zombie-themed cupcakes. Of course Tate and Angie have drama; when do they not but their story moves along nicely. In addition, Angie's other brothers make their amusing appearances (I wonder what it was like to grow up in a house with all those brothers, each with crazy personalities?!).

There were several 'scares' for the readers, from the opening paragraph to the murder and then finally the resolution. Mel did spend a lot of time agonizing over her love life and not being with Joe, which was similar to Scarlett agonizing over her love life in the Hat Shop Mystery series that McKinlay also writes but that's ok with me. Each character can wallow a bit but I hope they move along in the next books in each series.

This one ends with a cliffhanger, as per usual and makes me super sad that the book was done and I have to wait til next year to find out what happens next!

Linda says

I love this series and it just keeps getting better. I find the characters to be likeable and relatable and the cupcakes sound great! This one continued with Joe's case from a previous book and continued on at a zombie walk. Some great scenes with the brothers doing bodyguard duty. These books are such fun and they are written in an easy to read style,

Melodie says

Jenn McKinlay has been a favorite of mine for some time, but lately this series and her Library Lovers series have not been up to par. In both, the sorry, worn out "love triangle" has been put into play. IMHO, that ploy is for lazy writers who have no idea how to deal with real relationships in good stories. Ms. McKinlay is very talented and should be SO above stooping to that. At least in the case of this series, it appears she might have resolved that. That was one good thing about this book. The other was the "zombie walk" setting at the beginning of the book. Otherwise this story just seemed to veer off into WAY too many TSTL moments for almost all the characters. I've invested a lot of time into this series and know how good Ms. McKinlay can be. For that reason I'll be on board for the next one and hope that she brings it back to its past glory. If not, this is a series that I'll have to very regretfully abandon.

*** Jennifer says**

Better than I expected it would be after being consistently disappointed with recent reads from this author, but still very average, especially compared to Ms. McKinlay's earlier books. Thankfully the stupid and worthless love triangles are over with, but the mystery was rather transparent.

Full review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/115155...>

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

If you have read my reviews you know zombies are not my thing but A Zombie Walk with Mel, Angie, Tate, Oz and Marty, I will be there in New York Minute. These characters are a blast and wherever they go you know there is going to be CUPCAKES!! and probably a murder, but CUPCAKES!! How can you not want to go along on their wild ride?

Joe is working a big case and for the moment he and Mel are on the outs, but that is just because he wants to keep her safe. The gang from Fairy Tale Cupcakes tries to keep her mind off him by trying to sell cupcakes at the First Annual Zombie Walk. They are even all dressed up as undead and have added a casket to their display for some unique selfie pics. All is going well until someone very much dead is found in the casket and their death may be connected to Joe's big case. Everyone thinks the murder may have been a mob hit and someone very, very, close to Joe was the real target. All the DeLaura brothers go on high alert to keep Mel and Angie safe but Mel is determined to dig up the clues needed to catch the killer before anyone else ends up in a casket buried six feet under.

Jenn McKinlay has baked us up a scrumptious mystery that I had me from the first page until the last. First she scared the frosting right out me when the body was discovered and I wasn't the only one. This one hits a little too close for comfort and several characters are deeply affected. We learn cupcakes and movie quotes don't lighten anyone's mood this time or at least not too much. This case needed to be solved as fast as possible.

Don't get me wrong though there was plenty of humor and romantic tension. Even Manny, the hunky detective, caused some fun moments that had Mel feeling the heat. :)

I was surprised by how fast I read this book. My reading speed has been too fast the last few weeks but before I knew it I was at the end. The story is excellent and I was sad to see it wrap up because then I realized I have to wait a year to get to the next chapter and cure my cupcake craving with the Mel and Angie.

This series makes the bestseller's list for several reasons. These are fabulous stories with fabulous characters and readers have a fabulous time reading them. I encourage you to take a huge bite out of Dark Chocolate Demise. You will thank me and definitely want more!!

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

Well I'm loving the series so far. And like that the characters have grown a little, well a lot since the first book. But in this one wow was it a bit frustrating. Especially with Joe and Mel. But Angie and Tate have their share of frustrating moments as well.

Still love those two couples anyway.

You got cupcakes, Halloween theme or well zombie theme for this particular mystery. And that ending, I was like awww then it happened and I was like, oh great, now I got to wait for the next book.

Huh, surprised I'm already caught up. Way to leave this reader impatiently waiting. And I love the series for it.

Doward Wilson says

Murder, mobsters, cupcakes and love gone wrong! What more do you want in a fast paced mystery? Scottsdale, Arizona is hosting the first ever Old Town Zombie Walk and the crew at Fairy Tale Cupcakes is participating. Meet Mel, Angie, Tate, Oz and Marty as they wade thru zombies to find a real dead body in a coffin they are using. When the body is eerily similar to Angie in costume and looks everyone goes on the alert. Angie's brother, Joe, is prosecuting a vicious mobster and it appears that he is targeting Joe's sister. Things aren't adding up for Mel and she is pulled into the middle of the investigation. With Angie's six other brothers and her boyfriend Tate taking turns guarding her, things get heated. This series has been fantastic from the beginning and this like extra frosting on the cupcake. The characters and action are well done, the cupcake descriptions will make you hungry and the murder plot is devious, with many twists and turns. For sweets lovers and mystery fans both, this is a must read.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Whenever a new book in the Cupcake Bakery Mystery series comes out, I drop everything I'm doing to read it. And with this seventh book in the series, it was once again worth it!

DARK CHOCOLATE DEMISE is a yummy addition to this delicious series. Author Jenn McKinlay knows how to draw a reader in and keep them entertained. From the first line until the very last sentence, I was transfixed.

The characters in this series continue to delight me. The way they interact with one another is so very real. I know I would feel right at home with this group of people.

I love the way in which the victim in this story was found was so unique. Already in a casket. Too fun! And I never suspected who the killer was. It was a real shock when the reveal came!

Fans of Jenn McKinlay are sure to eat up this tasty installment to a wonderful series.

Remember to check out the awesome cupcake recipes at the back of the book!

Heidi (Yup. Still here.) says

I am hoping for a return to the old Mel & Angie in the next installment because the two women in this book were just plain silly. I still have hope that this series will return to its roots because it used to be one of my

top 3 cozy series.

Suzanne says

This was 4 stars for awhile - I loved the cupcake descriptions, etc. But wow I hate the so common trope of sneaking off into dangerous situations -so dumb!

Debbie Lester says

Jenn McKinlay fans are sure to love her latest book in the Cupcake Bakery series. Do you like zombies? Are you ready for the zombie apocalypse? In Dark Chocolate Demise, the zombies get a little out of control and one ends up really, really dead. Readers who love this series will find this mystery just as tasty as the recipes in the back of the book. McKinlay never disappoints with her well rounded characters and sinister plots. This involves everything from zombies to mobsters and then some... A great addition to the series!

Jenn McKinlay is such a versatile author. She can write about just about anything and make it good. She has several different cozy mystery series' and every one of her books is so unique and different from the last. I like the fact that she doesn't rehash old plot lines and she gives her readers a fresh and original take on everything she does, even zombies as in the case of her latest book.

I will be the first to admit that I love any kind of paranormal elements in a book. The Cupcake Bakery series isn't really known for that sort of thing and the zombies in this book aren't supposed to be considered 'real' zombies. But believe it or not I don't like zombies, not in any sort of book, so I was very skeptical about whether or not I would like this one. McKinlay uses the zombie theme and it works well here. It hasn't changed my mind on the stupidity of zombies really, but I do think the people of this small town were having fun with it, until murder spoiled the party.

The mystery elements are well thought out. I couldn't put my finger on the killer until the big reveal and that tends to be fairly rare for me. I thought each clue was well placed and Mel's form of investigation was as usual pretty spot on. The one thing I did have issue with was Mel's attitude toward this particular investigation. She had a 'you can't tell me what to do' thing going on that was a bit distracting from the case. But we all get like that from time to time, why not a good heroine as well?

Bottom Line:

For a zombie type mystery, not too bad!. Certainly not my favorite paranormal character but I liked the fact that the town was getting into to it. I liked the casket prop and the ties to the mob in this mystery. I wanted Mel to be a bit more responsible and less obnoxious, but I'm sure in the next book she will have some other sort of attitude. That's one of the good things about an ongoing series! A great addition to the series.
