



# Lord of the Pies

*Nell Hampton*

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**When Carrie Ann Cole bakes a lemon meringue pie to die for that actually kills someone, she must find out who the real killer is before her time at the Kensington Palace expires.**

The elegant Orangery at Kensington Palace is the perfect setting for the bridal shower of Carrie Ann Cole's best friend's sister. Personal chef to the royal family, Carrie Ann's pie theme is naturally winning. But a waiter later keels over dead into the lemon meringue pie she leaves as a thank-you to the staff and Carrie Ann realizes that somebody slipped a mickey into that meringue.

Her floury fingerprints are all over that pie and the authorities suspect her distress is a cover-up for murder. Carrie Ann must set out to clear her name if she wants to stay at her dream job any longer. But all too soon, another body drops in the Orangery. This time, it's the Orangery chef.

Murder won't crimp her style, and as bodies pile up, Carrie Ann uncovers palace intrigue, London nightlife, and British pies scouring for the killer in *Lord of the Pies*, the witty follow-up to Nell Hampton's *Kale to the Queen*.

## Lord of the Pies Details

Date : Published April 10th 2018 by Crooked Lane Books

ISBN :

Author : Nell Hampton

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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# From Reader Review Lord of the Pies for online ebook

## Kathy Martin says

Chef Carrie Ann Cole fears losing her job as a personal chef to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when a waiter at a wedding shower she catered is found face down in her lemon meringue pie - a victim of poisoning. She needs to clear her name and prove that she is not a murderer.

When Chef Butterbottom, a rival who doesn't think Carrie Ann is worthy of working for royalty, is poisoned at a pie cook-off for charity where Carrie Ann is also a contestant, suspicions rise again. And when another Kensington Palace chef - Chef Wright - is found stabbed to death in the walk-in freezer of his kitchen, Carrie Ann becomes even more determined to clear her name.

As she investigates, she discovers a lot she didn't know about the denizens of Kensington Palace. Married Chef Wright seems to have made a habit of having affairs with the various personal assistants who work there and seems to be targeting Carrie Ann as his next conquest which makes two of his earlier conquests jealous of her. Another personal assistant, who may or may not have had an affair with Chef Wright, is caught selling recipes to a visitor who has a contract to write a cookbook showing the famous dishes he's eaten at Kensington Palace. And it turns out that the waiter may have been planning a second career as a blackmailer.

Between investigations, Carrie Ann is also juggling her friendships with a handsome gardener and the head of palace security. Oh, and she is cooking for her employers too. The story does end with a couple of recipes for pies that sound tempting but a little above my skill level.

This was a lovely cozy with a great setting and interesting characters. I can't wait for Carrie Ann's next adventure.

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## Bridget Vollmer says

I really love this series! I'm not sure who I'm rooting for, Ian or Jasper, but I'm liking this triangle.

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## Linda says

As an American Chef in a Royal British household, Carrie Ann Cole faces bias every day, especially from the other chefs at the palace. Carrie is undeniably an excellent chef and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge love her cooking.

As the book begins, a Peeping Tom is caught taking photos of Carrie as she works late making pies in her kitchen. When he falls victim to a killer, some of the photos hint at suspicious exchanges taking place near another kitchen on the palace grounds.

Secrets, jealous lover's, and scandals all play a part in the mix of ingredients that make this cozy mystery one to indulge in. There's a plethora of juicy suspects and gossip to delight and entertain, plus a romance begins

for Carrie. The author does a great job of concealing the murdering foe until the reveal. I truly enjoy this yummy series which includes recipes.

I reviewed an ARC from NetGalley and the publisher.

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### **Kristen says**

In Nell Hampton's Lord of the Pies, the second installment in the Kensington Palace Chef Cozy Mystery, this caper was a bit warped and twisted in every sense of the word. For Chef Carrie Ann Cole, her new life brimmed with new mysteries on her full plate. When she received a new assistant chef named Agnes, she appeared to fit right in and work with Carrie Ann to serve meals to the duchess and the prince at the place. First she had to contend with a Peeping Tom who took her photo. And when she discovered it was, she reported it in to Security Chief Gordon. And when she had the opportunity to serve a bridal shower at the Orangery, she had to contend with Chef Wright, someone who has the way with the ladies. But besides all that, she found out who spied on her and how he was poisoned with one of her pies. And that leaves her as the prime suspect once again. Then, she competed on a reality cooking show for charity, and things turn up awry, when her arch-nemesis ended up poisoned somehow. Carrie Ann believes something was fishy with the production crew, since she's been the main focus with the British tabloids. Lastly, while she skated on thin ice, she came across the slain body of Chef Wright. Now it was up to her to deal with the possibilities of one or two killers who wanted to do her in as she fought for her own life.

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### **Karen says**

Late last night I finished Lord of the Pies the second in the Kensington Place Chef Mystery series. This was a very fun read. I have long been a fan of the Royal Family and while I love that this is centered around their palace home, it actually has nothing to do with the Royals really themselves and is an absolutely brilliant concept. As much as I love the Royals, I often wonder about those who dedicate their lives to working for the family and to those who work in such a proximity to them. Even though I know this book is fiction it is still fun to imagine and picture everything author Nell Hampton describes so well to us in the books. This is a great read and a fun cozy mystery. I really look forward to reading the next one and many more to come! This book is out April 10th and is published by Crooked Lane Books.

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### **James says**

When I read the first book in the Kensington Palace Chef mystery series, I was immediately hooked by author Nell Hampton's style and characters. In this second book, Lord of the Pies, I've found another fantastic winner. American transplant Carrie Ann Cole is chef for the Duke and Duchess of York in Kensington Palace. Everything points to them being Will and Kate, but you're never 100% certain. It's really not important who they are as much as the fact that readers know it's English royalty.

Carrie Ann runs one of the 4 separate palace kitchens and finds herself often in competition both in and out of the kitchen with her colleagues. In this caper, someone spying on her is found dead after apparently eating one of her pies. When she's tossed into a televised competition for charity purposes, another mishap occurs

leading to someone's eventual death down the line. Carrie's just trying to keep her job, but someone seems to want her gone from the palace. Luckily, the sexy chief of security and the hunky head of gardening protect her in the background as she tries to decide which ones she really wants. Unfortunately one has a serious girlfriend, but something's about to change there soon. Throw in some affairs, rogue reporters and crazy colleagues looking to get ahead in the game, Hampton's got another fine story for us to devour.

The two dicey concerns... I absolutely need to make a pie right now as there were too many references throughout the book. (I'll get you for that, Hampton!) The other -- the ending was too quick. The story was driving closely to reaching 5 stars because it was just so intricate and well-paced, but then there was a rush in the last 20 pages to push through finding the culprit(s) and backstory. It was good, but it could have been a bit more evenly covered, as well as a total wrap-up on what happened with a character who seemed in the midst of things and then disappeared. That said, I adore the main character. She may be in my top 5 of cozy sleuths. The background and setting are well-developed and I like the intrigue behind her boss and the royalty she rarely interacts with... you know one day they will beg Carrie Ann to help them solve a crime for someone close. And I can't wait to read about it... many thanks to the publisher, Crooked Lane, for sending me a copy of this book, as they know I love my cozy mysteries!

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## **Monnie says**

4.5 stars, actually.

Although I've never been a huge fan of cozy mysteries, they're perfect for when I've grown weary of blood, gore, shoot-'em-ups and books with "girl" in the title. But usually, by the 50 percent mark - sometimes even sooner - the heroine has annoyed me so much by poking her nose (and the rest of her body) where it doesn't belong that I'm more inclined to smack her upside the head than finish the book. What a joy it was, then, to read about the delightful, entertaining and very capable Carrie Ann Cole, an American chef who works for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (think: William and Kate) at Kensington Palace.

It is, I must add, not the first in the series; but I had no problem whatsoever following this one despite not having read the other. In fact, Chef Cole isn't a stranger to murder - she once found an assistant dead under a bed of kale. Here, though, everything seems to be going smoothly, at least until she sees a man peeking into her kitchen window. Not long thereafter, that man is found not only dead, but apparently from an unusual cause: Poisoning by eating one of Carrie Ann's delicious pies. He was found in the Orangery at Kensington Palace following a bridal shower that Carrie Ann had been called in to cater.

Readers, of course, know Carrie Ann is innocent; still, with her fingerprints on the pie pan, she's got to find a way to prove she's not a murderer lest the Royal Family sends her packing. For the moment, she's got support from a couple of hunky guys (oh, did I mention Carrie Ann is beautiful and single?), namely the palace head of security, Ian Gordon, and Jasper Feldman, the kitchen gardener. But following a pie-making contest that generates jealousy from her chef peers, her primary rival and a few of his staff become ill (another suspected poisoning). And when yet another chef is iced, guess who becomes a prime suspect once again?

Through it all, Carrie Ann's behavior never once insulted her intelligence (or mine), nor did the story challenge credibility (though I do wish the characters could find another way to react to situations besides wincing - roll their eyes once in a while, perhaps?) And if I must nitpick, I'd say there was an overabundance of the characters' speculating about whodunit and why. But the twists, turns and kneads were plentiful and

fun (no, I didn't guess the ending), to the point that unquestionably, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Many thanks to the publisher, via NetGalley, for the opportunity to read it in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Amy says**

I enjoyed the first book in the series, *Kale to the Queen*, and this installment did not disappoint. American Chef Carrie Ann is finally settling into her duties of preparing nutritious meals for Prince William, Duchess Kate and their children. But when one of her pies kills a peeping Tom lurking about the grounds, she is suspected of poisoning him. After one chef become ill and another murdered, there are more questions than answers and Carrie Ann is determined to find the killer's identity. But will she be on the next plane back to America or be the killer's next victim?

The mystery itself was fairly well-paced; there were a few slow spots for me. Carrie Ann's friendly character continues to develop as well as a romantic angle. I've never been to London but like anything associated with the Royal Family. The author's great attention to detailing life in the palace and descriptions of the city also made the book shine. And what great timing to read this book--just a few days before Prince Harry's wedding!

\*\*Thanks to the author and Crooked Lane books for a complimentary copy of this book. My review is voluntary.

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### **Dawn Frazier says**

Loved it!!

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### **Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says**

Review coming soon

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### **Kristina says**

*Lord of the Pies* by Nell Hampton is the second tale in *A Kensington Palace Chef Mystery* series. Carrie Ann Cole is the personal chef to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in Kensington Palace. Carrie Ann is busy preparing for a pie themed bridal shower being hosted by the Duchess for Penny Nethercott's sister on Saturday. The gathering gets moved to the Orangery and Carrie Ann will be using Chef Wright's kitchen. After the event, Carrie Ann leaves a lemon meringue pie as a thank you to the chef and his staff. Early the next morning, Penny awakens Carrie Ann because there are police at the Orangery. A waiter was found face down in Carrie Ann's pie. The pie was poisoned, and Carrie Ann is the prime suspect in the man's death. Carrie Ann sets out to clear her name and reputation before she loses the job she loves. After competing in a pie competition, Chef Butterbottom and his staff end up severely ill. Carrie Ann is the runner up, and she is once again under suspicion and in the tabloids. While at the Orangery talking to the sous chef, Carrie Ann

learns that Chef Wright has disappeared. They find the flirtation chef dead in the walk-in freezer. The bodies are piling up and the common denominator is Carrie Ann. Can Carrie Ann find the person responsible before she ends up in the tower?

While Lord of the Pies is the second book in the series, it can be read alone. Lord of the Pies is a busy book. What I mentioned above in my summary is just a drop in the bucket. There is a stalker, clubbing, baking, another new assistant for Carrie Ann, pie competition, tabloid photographs, Carrie Ann goes out for drinks with Jasper, cooking, chatting, eating and gallons of tea. I thought Lord of the Pies contained good writing, has a steady pace and a great theme (working for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at Kensington). The author has a conversational writing style that engages the reader and soon has them engrossed in the story. I like Carrie Ann as the main character. She is well-developed and has excellent cooking skills. She does, though, need to wise up to the ways of the world and proper etiquette (rules) when working in a royal household. I am not so enamored with Penny. I am amazed she can get out of bed for work after a night of drinking and dancing (returning home in the wee hours). The mystery is intriguing. You never knew who the next victim would be (I kept hoping Chef Butterbottom would not recover). Many readers will be surprised when the solution is revealed. There was, though, too much supposition. Carrie Ann with Agnes (her latest assistant) and Penny speculating on the crimes. Some of the same details kept getting repeated. I could have done with less romance between Carrie Ann and Jasper. Her falling into his arms after a harrowing ordeal did not seem believable since the pair have yet to go on a real date (only went out for drinks once). I did not feel any spark between them. Now Carrie Ann and Ian are another story. I am giving Lord of the Pies 4 out of 5 stars (I liked it). The mouthwatering descriptions of pies along with the recipes at the end of the book will have you digging out your pie pans. If you are looking for an entertaining cozy mystery to read, then look no further than Lord of the Pies.

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### **Vicki says**

Chef Carrie Ann Cole is the private chef for Prince William's Family. Unfortunately since arriving at the palace, poor Chef Cole seems to have Murder follow her around. Someone has been poisoned and found face down in her Lemon Merangue pie. The tabloids are smearing her. Somehow, somehow she needs to find out who is killing the people that work in the Orangery.

The book is well written and a fun read. You really don't know who did it until the end. I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it highly to all of my Cozy Mystery reading friends and there are a lot of us!

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### **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

The first Kensington Palace Chef Mystery, Kale to the Queen, established newcomer Private Chef Carrie Ann Cole into the kitchen for the Royal Family at Kensington Palace. In that book characters were introduced and setting established, but even though I recommend usually reading sequels in order, this one will serve fine to read out of sync if you only have the follow-up book.

Carrie is no longer a newbie to the kitchen but she's still making waves and battling the lead head chef, this time through a cooking contest that's filmed for charity on TV. When murder takes place and fingers start pointing toward Carrie's pie, she has to solve the crime not only to clear up her reputation, but to prevent the

body count from climbing. There's multiple murders in this one, which pushes the mystery and the clues out through action rather than just introspective dialogue and detective skills. Carrie has clearly become a better detective since her first crime, but she still depends on the interesting and somewhat colorful staff in the Royal Palace.

As with most cozies, the violence isn't graphic and there is humor. For the foodie fans, this is among the best since it digs into detail on various recipes, emphasizes all sorts of dishes and types, and gives a generous portion of recipes at the end of the book.

Must try that pie!

As with the first novel, while the mystery is interesting enough to dig into, it's the setting and the characters who really bring out the novel's memorable flavor. The budding romance isn't cheesy but it's certainly plausible, Carrie is likable as a heroine, and the staff she employs shows realistic hardships when it comes to finding dependable chefs who put up with difficult situations.

Fortunately this one didn't let the reader sit too long either, dishing out more action than I figured it would. I didn't guess the villains exactly, but the twists weren't a huge surprise – although there were some things that made me raise my eyebrows and layered the motive behind the poisonings more than I expected.

If you're a fan of cozies that retain cute humor but that avoid going overboard on being too cutesy, that keep some realism and seriousness mixed into the story – you'll like this one. Top it off with recipes and a genuine enthusiasm for cooking, and you'll see why Carrie is so cherished among the Royal Palace staff.

Received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

Pies! Pies! Pies! Carrie Ann Cole is baking pies for a bridal shower to be held in the Orangery at the palace. She has one pie left over and leaves it for the chef usually in charge of the Orangery. When a waiter is found dead with his face in her pie she knows someone tampered with it. All the evidence points to Carrie Anne and when another chef is murdered she realizes it is up to her to find the real killer before she loses her dream of being the chef for the Duke and Duchess and their wonderful family.

Carrie Ann Cole is an American chef in charge of one of the palace's four kitchens. Her kitchen prepares meals and teas for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. She also is asked to do the food for events her royals host like the bridal shower in this story. In addition to her normal duties, she has been asked to participate in a televised cooking competition for charity. After that event concludes several people on one of the other teams get sick and again Carrie Ann is a suspect. She does have two men watching out of her, the kitchen gardener and the palace's chief of security. She also has a new assistant that is determined to help her clear her name.

All of Ms. Hampton's characters leap off the pages. Carrie Ann is getting comfortable in her new position but is worried about being terminated with all these dead bodies that just seem to pile up around her. She is starting a romantic relationship with Jasper, the gardener but there is also romantic vibes between Carrie and



Ian, the security chief. I also liked the way she and her new assistant got along and her friend that tries to show Carrie Ann some of the area's nightlife.

There is never a dull moment at the palace or in Carrie Ann's life. The story has a fast pace, the pages on my Kindle were flying. Twists and turns, peeping Tom's, a cheating chef, a cranky chef, murders, secrets and lies and so many pies held my attention from word one. Cleverly written, Nell Hampton gives readers a mystery we can sink our teeth into. An inside look at palace life is just the meringue on the top of the pie.

Readers of Julie Hyzy's White House Chef Mysteries will love these characters and their story. I recommend this book/series to all cozy mystery fans!

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### **Sherwood Smith says**

With a title like that, there was no way I was passing it up.

Glad I gave in to instinct, too.

This turned out to be the second in a series, in which an American chef has been hired by the Duke and Duchess of Kensington. She's trying to live down the sensational events early in her new position, a prospect made a lot more difficult because of the fishbowl nature of royal lives, and the relentless and insatiable craving for any sort of clue on which to hang a (usually preposterous) story by the paparazzi.

Cranky cooks abound--one who resents a Yankee interloper, another who is a married player--in and around a mystery that starts off with someone peering in the kitchen window at Carrie, and ends up with a couple of murders. The twists and turns lead the reader in a maze, accelerating gradually to a whole lot more action than I'd expected.

Between times we get descriptions of luscious food, a chef contest for charity, notes on presentation, and a host of colorful characters as well as a couple of handsome chaps among the staff.

All in all it was a real page turner, thoroughly enjoyable.

Copy provided by NetGalley

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