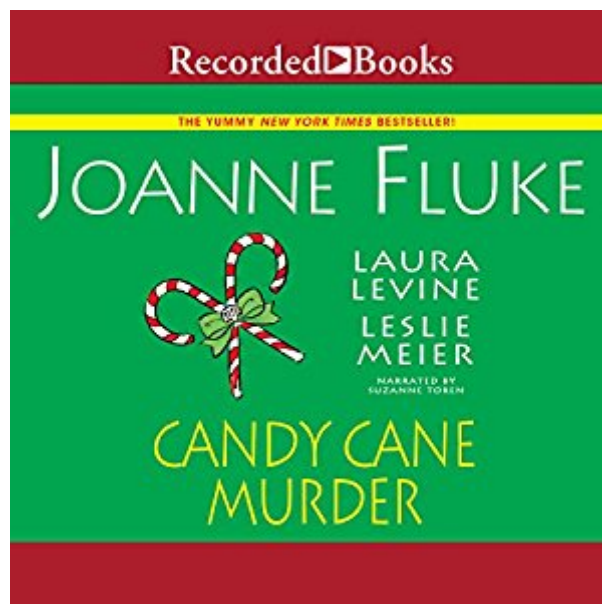


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Candy Cane Murder



Synopsis

Tis the season for trimming the tree, caroling, baking cookies, and curling up by the Yuletide waiting for Santa to drop down the chimney. But in this festive collection of holiday whodunits, murder is also paying a visit. "Candy Cane Murder" by Joanne Fluke. When a trail of candy canes leads to a corpse outfitted in a Santa suit on a snowy bank, Hannah Swensen sets out to discover who killed Kris Kringle. "The Dangers of Candy Canes" by Laura Levine. A wealthy suburbanite takes a lethal tumble off his roof while installing a giant candy cane. Now it's up to Jaine Austen to sift through a long list of scheming neighbors with dirty secrets in their stockings to expose a murderer. "Candy Canes of Christmas Past" by Leslie Meier. Lucy Stone must learn the mystery of a glass candy cane that was found smashed to bits by a corpse's body to unlock the doors of Christmas past - and find a killer who got away with murder.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a collection of three Christmas mystery novellas written by three great cozy writers. Starring their series sleuths, they stand alone well enough to be entertaining for any cozy fan looking for some light reading in December. Up first is the title story. "Candy Cane Murder" by Joanne Fluke finds Hannah Swenson playing Santa's helper, literally, at the Lake Eden Inn. Wayne Bergstrom, owner of a local department store, is doing his annual good deed playing Santa for the underprivileged kids in the area. But when leaving the party a little while later, she follows a trail of candy canes to find Wayne's body in a snow bank. Who would want Wayne dead? For a novella

mystery, this one is fairly complex. Any of Hannah's numerous fans will love this story. It's a cozy Christmas offering and includes 8 cookie recipes, 2 drink recipes, and 2 quiche recipes. Next comes "The Dangers of Candy Canes" by Laura Levine. I'm a fan of Laura's books so was thrilled to find another story starring freelance writer Jaine Austen. When one of Jaine's clients, Seymour Fiedler of Fiedler on the Roof Roofers, is sued for wrongful death, he hires Jaine to put down her pen and solve the crime. Seems that Garth Jankin fell off his recently reroofed house while decorating for his neighborhood's annual Christmas decorating contest. Since Garth had numerous enemies, Jaine quickly decides that the tiles were loosened. But who would do something like that? As with the books, this story is very funny. A sub-plot about Jaine volunteering with a group that mentors underprivileged girls almost slows the story down at times. But in the end this is a fun read. Even though she's a staple of the cozy sub-genre, I have never read Leslie Meier before.

This is one of the most wonderful, charming, interesting, and fun books that I have ever read. I was very satisfied when I finished it. This book is three books in one, by three different authors. All three books are fun, very well-written, clever, and entertaining. "Candy Cane Murder" by Joanne Fluke: The first book is by Joanne Fluke. Anybody who reads my reviews knows how crazy I am over the Hannah Swensen series, and this book is no exception. This book starts out with Hannah at the Christmas party, dressed up as an elf. They are having a dinner and invited the children at the children's home. Hannah has a bucket of miniature candy canes for the children, and is looking forward to making candy cane cookies with the leftovers. When leaving the party, Hannah and her sisters find a miniature candy cane. . . Hannah also finds a body. I will not say more about the candy cane because I do not want to ruin the book. There are lots of clever clues and fun adventures. The final solving of the mystery is very interesting and clever. And the recipes really look good. On a scale of 1 to 5, a hundred stars would not be enough for Joanne Fluke's part. "The Dangers of Candy Canes" by Laura Levine: While putting a huge, decorative neon candy cane on a roof, the person falls off because a shingle is loose. Was the roofer negligent in making sure the shingle was in place, or did someone deliberately loosen the shingle? Jaine is determined to find out. She goes on some interesting investigative adventures until she finds out who did it. The mystery solving was interesting. This book was fun and funny. I had never read anything by this author before. By itself, this book would definitely have been 5 stars. Actually, a lot more than that.

The holidays are upon us once again; and with them come a large array of holiday stories that will assist us in finding the holiday spirit within. None, however, may do the job as well as Joanne Fluke,

Laura Levine, and Leslie Meier's CANDY CANE MURDER. Bringing their trademark mystery, humor, and yummy recipes to the table, this is one collection you'd be crazy to pass up. CANDY CANE MURDER - By: Joanne Fluke - Hannah Swensen, owner and proprietor of Lake Eden, Minnesota's popular business, The Cookie Jar, is looking for a quiet holiday at home, curled up with her badly behaved kitty, Moishe, and a plate or two of her famous Chocolate Candy Cane Cookies. But when she's roped into playing an elf for Lake Eden's annual holiday gala, which includes a visit from Wayne Bergstrom - the owner of Bergstrom's Department Store - in the role of Santa, she realizes that her holiday dreams may be dashed. Bad enough that she's forced to squeeze into a tunic and tights that make her look hippy, but when she discovers a trail of miniature candy canes leading to Wayne's lifeless body at the bottom of a snow bank, Hannah is positive that her holiday shopping, and baking, will certainly be taking a backseat to an impromptu holiday investigation. One that could leave her in the midst of a very silent night. 5 stars. THE DANGERS OF CANDY CANES - By: Laura Levine - Freelance writer, Jaine Austen, would give anything to simply go to sleep and wake up when the holidays are over, but her fish gut-loving kitty, Prozac, and her mounting bills are determined to keep her from indulging in such a luxury. Not to mention her dreaded Christmas trip to Florida to lounge around the pool with her parent's and her size two, bikini-clad cousin - along with her obnoxious family.

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