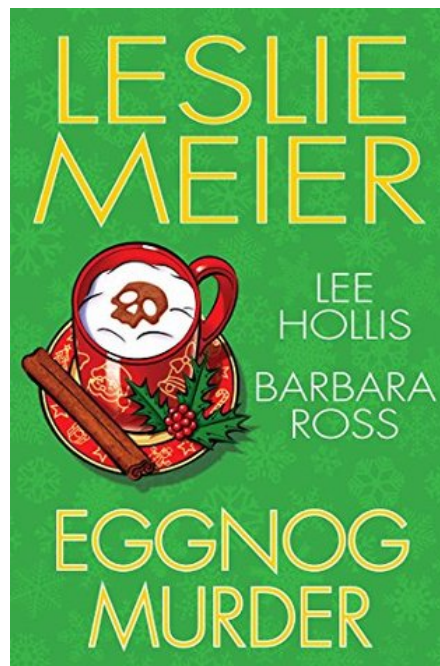




Eggnog Murder

Leslie Meier , Lee Hollis , Barbara Ross

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With the fireplace crackling, the tree twinkling, and the carols humming, few things in life are as picture perfect as Christmas in Maine—until murder dampens the holiday spirit. It must be something in the eggnog . . .

EGGNOG MURDER by LESLIE MEIER

When a gift-wrapped bottle of eggnog—allegedly from the Real Beard Santa Club—proves to be a killer concoction for a Tinker's Cove local, all Lucy Stone wants for Christmas is to find the murdering mixologist who's stirring up trouble.

DEATH BY EGGNOG by LEE HOLLIS

Food and cocktails columnist Hayley Powell has never cared much for Bar Harbor's grouchy town librarian, Agatha Farnsworth. But after the Scroogy senior has a fatal—and suspicious—allergic reaction to supposedly non-dairy eggnog, it's up to Hayley to ladle out some justice.

NOGGED OFF by BARBARA ROSS

Julia Snowden's tenant Imogen Geinkes seems to be jinxed. First, her poorly named "Killer Eggnog" gives all her co-workers food poisoning at the holiday party, then her boyfriend's body shows up in Julia's moving truck as she's headed back to Busman's Harbor. Now Julia has to get moving to catch the cold-hearted culprit.

Cozy up with a glass of eggnog and enjoy the spirit of murder and mystery in a Yuletide treat perfect for those winter holidays . . .

Eggnog Murder Details

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From Reader Review Eggnog Murder for online ebook

Karen B. says

What a great audiobook containing three cozy mysteries; each involving eggnog in some way. I have previously read books by Leslie Meir and Barbara Ross so the settings were familiar to me. This was the first time reading Lee Hollis and the book fit right in with the other two. I loved the mysteries and the sleuths as well as the additional characters. This worked out well listening to while doing other tasks as I could easily focus on both the book and the chore. Highly recommended to those who like cozies!

Dawn Frazier says

I loved all the stories, perfect Christmas read

Christopher Hicks says

I used to really love this series because of how the characters aged in real life. We've actually seen Lucy's kids grow up. Problem is. They haven't become likable people!! They are shallow, pretentious and snotty. This series has also become so "preachy" in a liberal political kind of way. I'm just Happy it was a quick read.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

"A great blend of charm, mystery, and Christmas cheer!"

Read this review in its entirety at Fresh Fiction

Jody McGrath says

This collection is three short stories all featuring eggnog. All of the stories come from current cozy series, so some of the characters and situations will be familiar to readers. I will preface my review by letting you know I have only ever read the Leslie Meier series before.

Story#1 :: Eggnog Murder by Leslie Meier

When a bottle of eggnog, supposedly from the Real Beard Santa Club poisons a woman with a nut allergy, it is shown that the eggnog was made with cashew milk instead of dairy. The Santa Club does not make a version without dairy. Was this just an accident of not labeling a bottle correctly or was it murder? Lucy is determined to find out and have a fantastic Christmas, while her entire family is home.

This was the only series I had any prior reading of and I thought that it was the weakest of the three. That really surprised me. The mystery is pretty non-existent, a certain member of her family needs to be smacked

upside the head, and the conclusion is ridiculous. I know it is suppose to be a lighthearted Christmas read, but even the scenes that were about family, made me want to smack people. This one was a big let-down.

Story #2 :: Death by Eggnog by Lee Hollis

Hayley is invited to the town's charity Christmas dinner fundraiser, where all of the restaurants in town offer up a delectable treat. Already complaining about the menu is the town cranky librarian, Agatha. She does not think eggnog should be served because she has a serious allergy to dairy. She makes a huge deal about this to one of the committee members, Fannie, who brings eggnog but has both a dairy and non-dairy version. Both pitchers are clearly labeled. After eating a spicy hot wing, Fannie rushes to give Agatha a glass of the non-dairy eggnog, only to have her drop dead from anaphylactic shock due to dairy. Was it an accident, did Fannie purposely get rid of a thorn in her side, or is something more sinister going on?

I really enjoyed this mystery. It was short, but the mystery aspect of the story was well thought out. I do not think that Hayley really "sleuthed" any clues. One just fell into her lap and she started guessing. The characters were well written and I wouldn't mind reading more of this series. Interspersed throughout the story are little "columns" Hayley has written with recipes. This confused the heck out of me, because I didn't understand that they were meant as an aside. I hope the publisher fixes this, so it is easier to read.

Story #3 :: Nogged Off by Barbara Ross

Julie Snowden is finally letting her New York apartment go and moving to Maine without a net. When the girl subletting her apartment has a crisis and cannot keep it, Julia packs up the whole apartment into a moving van, including the girl, Imogen, and heads home. The girl had served eggnog at a business function and made the entire office so sick they had to be admitted to the hospital. After arriving home, the moving van is stolen and when it is recovered they find the dead body of Imogen's ex-boyfriend in the back end. Who killed him, why, and what are they going to do with Imogen?

This was my favorite of the three. I really liked the characters. I have a few books in this series and they have definitely been moved up in my TBR pile. The mystery was good, even though the conclusion was sort of stupid. It didn't really affect my enjoyment of the story though.

I think that mysteries have a hard time being short stories, because it makes them have to be so simple or sort of stupid. I think the authors did a decent job of trying to get over this gigantic hurdle. Unfortunately, I think Leslie Meier struggled the most. Her writing is so character driven, that it just doesn't work condensed. I think this is a 2.5 star, but I will round up for Christmas.

* I voluntarily read an Advanced Reading Copy of this book and honestly reviewed it*

Judy says

Okay, in the interest of full disclosure I have to admit that I hate eggnog, I don't understand the concept of eggnog, and I will never willingly drink eggnog. However, my beloved grandmother was a different story. She was totally against drinking EXCEPT when she made her, in her mind, famous eggnog for Christmas. It had so much bourbon in it that it took on a brownish tint and was only consumed by my grandparents, some of their Eastern Star and Masonic friends, and, unfortunately, my husband who sat and just smiled for hours while helping to empty the punch bowl. So when I saw this book in my local library, my first thought was

"yes, I would gladly murder anyone who tries to make me drink eggnog." However, once I started reading and I discovered that it is a collection of three novellas themed around eggnog. I swallowed my distaste and realized that I enjoyed reading each of them.

Bea Charmed says

I love cozies and I'd read two of these authors before so this book appealed to me right off the bat. As it turned out, the stories by the authors I was already familiar with were pleasant, if not great, while the new to me author was a huge disappointment. Two of the stories were met the anthology's theme and also lived up to their story titles. The third one had a more peripheral eggnog connection but it was set at Christmas, and there was definitely a murder.

Eggnog Murder by Leslie Meier: It was a heavy-handed message story that took a while for various threads to come together. It did present a realistic look at challenges of having the adult children living under one for extended periods of time and there was a twist that in retrospect I should have seen but nicely done. Lived up to its title. A decent addition to the Lucy Stone series. 2.5 stars

Death by Eggnog by Lee Hollis: The worst story of the bunch. Boring story, uneven pacing, and some medical WTFery that killed any chance of respect for the heroine. It did fit the anthology theme and live up to its story title. This was my first, and probably last, story by this author.

The 'heroine' of the story sees a woman having an anaphylactic reaction and her first thought is that she should perform a tracheostomy because she saw it on TV. Her second thought is that she doesn't know how to do it and that she's not a doctor (she's a newspaper columnist). She decides to do it anyway. For better or worse however, the patient died before our alleged heroine found a knife.

What the ever lovin' f***?!?! WHY? Why wouldn't you check for an epi-pen? Offer an antihistamine? call 911? Okay, they were called but only after the anaphylactic woman dropped dead. Why the ****would you even seriously consider doing a medical procedure you saw once on TV that may or may not help and that you have no clue how to perform and you could do more harm than good? I lost all respect for our 'heroine' after that.

Oh, and it's a tracheotomy. A tracheostomy is the actual incision, not the procedure. Sorry author, you and your copy editor blew it.

1.5 stars

Nogged Off by Barbara Ross: This story had the least relevance to the theme of eggnog murder but there is eggnog and unrelated murder. The story had a few twists, good pacing and development, and held my interest. It was the best of the bunch. I actually liked this story better than the one full-length book that I've read so far in the series. 3 stars

Janet Robel says

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Three irresistible holiday mysteries in this anthology are a delight to read and perfect for the season. These

really hit the spot for me, maybe because it's that wonderful time of year again. A joy to read and they will certainly make you think twice before drinking the eggnog. My favorite was Nogged Off by Barbara Ross because I just adore the Maine Clambake series featuring Julia Snowden. Even if you're not familiar with any of these series, this book can be enjoyed by all looking for books for the holidays.

Sally Hannoush says

This book has three stories in it. Eggnog Murder, Death by Eggnog, and Nogged Off. I had never heard of any of these authors and was pleased I got to discover them in this book. It makes me happy to know I can visit these characters several times over in many other books.

Eggnog Murder by Leslie Meier

"The Red Beard Santa Club" was awesome because I had actually saw a convention in Tampa, FL. that had real Santas and my friend's little boy had his picture taken with all the Santas. They grew real beards and bellies and went around with special tokens of Christmas on them to give children. So I could really picture what the book was describing. I loved how involved I felt reading this book. I felt close to the characters- like I actually knew them. This story was a case of a planned murder gone wrong. Great story-telling. I don't want to say anymore and give anything away by accident. There are recipes included and a letter from the author.

Death by Eggnog by Lee Hollis

Great read! Some fun recipes are included in this book too along with an author note. I found it amusing that they mentioned Leslie Meier in this book. The food event sounds like great fun even tho it was tragic- or was it? We also get to read the food articles in the story as they would appear in the paper. I didn't see that ending coming. This was a fun read!

Nogged Off by Barbara Ross

Third story in the book. I loved the play on Imogens name. "I.M.A. Geinkes. I am a jinks." Very funny. It's an inside joke you will understand once you read this story. I wouldn't miss out on this craziness. The mystery was a real shock to me. Good one! Recipes are included in this story as well as an author letter too. I enjoyed that the holiday traditions shared in the book also were real live ones the author had.

These stories really got me into the Christmas spirit.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

I will start this review by saying I have read all of Barbara Ross's Maine Clambake Mysteries, I have read many of Leslie's Lucy Stone Mysteries and there are some screaming at me from my To-Be-Read shelf, and Lee Hollis is a new author to me. So I will start my review with Barbara's story.

NOGGED OFF focuses on Julia cleaning out her old apartment in New York since she has decided to stay in Busman's Harbor. When she meets her subletting tenant her quick trip to the city gets complicated. The author packed a whole wonderful cozy into just over 100 pages. The mystery takes us on quite a ride that at times was just plain crazy and so much fun to read. I love Julia and her big heart. It was fun to make another winter trip to Busman's Harbor.

EGGNOG MURDER is set in Tinker's Cove, Maine and within a few paragraphs I remembered all about the main characters and had no trouble jumping back into this series. I loved learning about their Real Beard Santa Club, which I now know is a real group with branches everywhere. The characters of this story drew me right in and I realized I have missed them so I know I need to get caught up on the books I have missed as soon as possible.

DEATH BY EGGNOG by LEE HOLLIS takes place in Bar Harbor, Maine. I was at a little disadvantage with this one as it was my introduction to these characters and the writer's style of Hayley's articles right in the story but I knew from the start Agatha Farnsworth, the head librarian, was definitely on Santa's naughty list and was not surprised she was our victim. What was surprising was the culprit responsible for her demise.

All three of these stories were well written with interesting characters. Great reads for the holiday season but they may have you refraining from eggnog for awhile. I say fix a cup of hot chocolate and curl up in a cozy chair. These mysteries will captivate you for a few wonderful hours.

Jason says

I was lucky enough to get an ARC of this book. Three deliciously devilish cozies in one. All three are well written Christmas shorts of popular cozy series by Leslie Meier, Lee Hollis and Barbara Ross. All feature eggnog as a deadly device, and all are full of intrigue, holiday cheer and delicious recipes. I realize that after reading 3 stories where eggnog proved very bad for your health, I can't help but crave it now! Nogged Off, Barbara Ross' contribution to the festive cozy is my favorite, but I'm biased, I've all the books in her Clambake mystery series, and I'm very fond of Julia Snowden and her clan. A must read when it comes out!

Amanda says

So I've actually only read 2/3 of this book because I haven't caught up this far in the Lucy Stone series. I did read the Maine Clambake and Hayley Powell stories because I'm up-to-date with those series. Although I'm not generally a fan of short stories - because they leave me wanting more - I did enjoy both of these. I love these series, and these shorts tie in really well to the full-length books. I'll read the remaining Lucy Stone story once I've finished #23 in the series.

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza al racconto che ho letto, quello di Barbara Ross, perché appartenente all'unica serie che sto seguendo delle tre qui presenti.

Lynn says

With the holidays coming up, this is the perfect title to add to your "to be read" pile! Three short stories written by today's hottest cozy mystery writers are included. Each story is centered around our favorite holiday beverage - eggnog! Enjoy stories featuring our favorite small town citizens, turned detectives, in

Lucy Stone, Hayley Powell and Julia Snowden! If you haven't been introduced to some of the greatest cozy mystery characters, this would be a great place to start your introduction. Pull up your drink next to a warm fireplace and imbibe in some entertaining reading this holiday season!

Linda says

I really enjoyed these 3 short stories. I've read books before by Leslie Meier and Barbara Ross but the Lee Hollis series was new to me. All 3 stories centered around eggnog and I liked that 2 out of the 3 came with recipes. All of them were series set in Maine which was fun as well to see some of the similarities due to the location.
