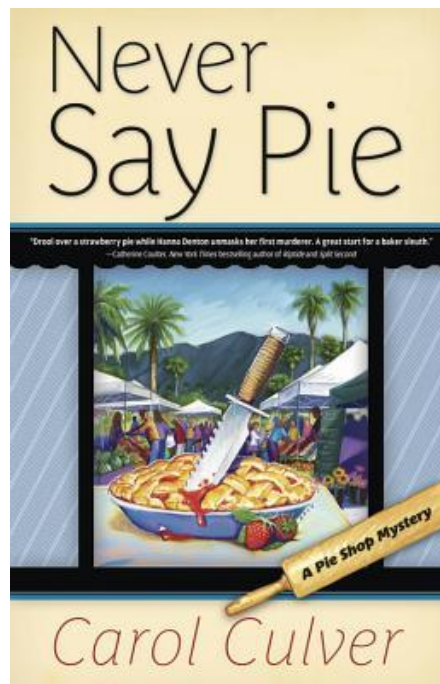




Never Say Pie

Carol Culver

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Book two in the popular (and delicious!) Pie Shop Mystery series

It's summertime in Crystal Cove, California, and sales are brisk at the outdoor Food Fair. There's fresh bread, artisan cheese, gourmet cupcakes, plus Hanna's delicious pies. When despised local food critic Heath Barr is found stabbed to death, no one is sorry to hear the news—except perhaps Hanna, the main suspect. It doesn't help that Hanna's high school crush is the police chief. Hanna must track down a killer while up to her elbows in pie dough.

Featuring scrumptious recipes, including Double Chocolate Cream Pie and Butterscotch Pecan Pie

Never Say Pie Details

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From Reader Review Never Say Pie for online ebook

Nancy says

This is the second book in the “Pie Shop Mystery” series (following “A Good Day to Pie”). Hanna Denton, who had returned to her hometown of Crystal Cove, California and took ownership of The Upper Crust pie shop from her recently-retired grandmother, is a participant in the summer Food Fair along with other vendors such as a cheese maker, cupcake baker, free-range chicken farmer, and caramel maker. When Heath Barr, food critic for the local newspaper, writes a rather scathing review of Hanna’s pies (as well as some of the other vendors’ goods) the vendors are up in arms and vow to take action. Only thing is: someone is a step ahead of them—Heath was found stabbed to death in his newspaper office.

Hanna has her ideas about “whodunit” but her old high-school flame Sam Genovese (who also returned to Crystal Cove to become the town’s police chief) brushes off her attempts to help. Tenacious Hanna, however, won’t give up that easily!

Nice light, fun read that someone can cozy up to with a cup of coffee and a piece of, well, pie! Folks already reading food-oriented mysteries such as those by Diane Mott Davidson and Joanne Fluke will like this one. Hanna sometimes gets frustrated that Sam appears to be “all work, no play,” yet Sam might have a little more heart than she thinks! I am looking forward to the next Pie Shop Mystery and hope to see more develop with Hanna and Sam!

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

Our want to be deputy, Hanna Denton, is back to baking her incredible pies and in the middle of a murder investigation, even though she has never met the victim.

Crystal Cove is running its first Food Fair. Naturally, The Upper Crust pie shop has a booth. Hanna is thrilled with the success of her pies and truly is fond of several other vendors and their products. In fact Hanna is absolutely happy for the first time in years.

Then, disaster strikes in the form of an anonymous food critic for the local small newspaper. This critic decides to lampoon several vendors, yup, our Hanna is among them. Hanna, being a woman of impulse, organizes a meeting of the vendors concerned and while they meet, the Police Chief, Sam comes to deliver the news that the food critic is dead! All are suspect!

Hanna tries, really tries to stay out of the investigation, but, as a woman of impulse just has to help Sam out.

There were laughs, yummy recipes, interesting characters, and I was surprised by the culprit and the reasoning behind the murder. This book is getting better and I'm looking forward to the next volume.

Beth Mills says

Business is brisk at Crystal Cove's outdoor Food Fair until supercilious critic Heath Barr's scathing review casts doubt on most of the exhibitors, including pie shop owner Hanna. When Barr is murdered shortly after

publishing his review in the local paper they all come under suspicion. Hanna, anxious to clear her name, immediately starts snooping around, much to the distress of the town's police chief, on whom Hanna had a huge crush in high school and with whom she now has a somewhat tenuous relationship. While the town and its various foodies are nicely developed and the puzzle is well worked out in this cozy mystery, Hanna will need a better reason than pure nosiness for most of her snooping if she's not to become more irritating than interesting and a more rational approach to risk-taking if this is to become a successful series.

Andrea Guy says

I have to admit, I'm a sucker for cozy mysteries that involve food and this one is full of all kinds of yummy things. The main character and pie shop owner is Hanna who may remind some of you of Hannah Swensen and Sam a little like Mike.

This story is a quick read, as you meet all the people from Crystal Cove's Food Fair. Oh will the descriptions make you hungry! Cheeses! Sausage! Cupcakes! Yum!

When a food critic that was particularly unkind is found murdered, most everyone at the fair is suspect! Since Hanna was a recipient of one of the bad reviews and had tiff with Heath, she's a suspect and is working to clear her name.

Unlike the other "Hannah" The Upper Crust owner is more ditzy, which is why it is easy to understand Sam trying to keep her out of the investigation. I wish there was more of a spark between these two. Sam was Hanna's high school crush and they seem to have a past that's more than just a crush. Sam seems clueless to Hanna's feelings. He's got secrets, but why keep them from someone who has been a friend for many years.

I hope things change between them, because Hanna needs someone in her life. This is a fairly new series, so maybe as it goes on, we'll see more friendships, etc, but right now it is just Hanna and her gram, who lives in a retirement village. I like their closeness, but again, Hanna needs to have a friend to kind of tone her down. Her sleuthing is a bit crazy.

I look forward to seeing where Carol takes this series and I also can't wait to try one of the pie recipes!

Chuck says

I am sorry but Hannah is rather annoying with her need to always be in everyone's business for no reason, and for a while there I thought she was going to start stalking Sam, she's a bit obsessed with the guy

Melodie says

Not a bad book, but Hanna does way too many stupid things and gets away with them. This kind of thing would never fly in the real world. Think I may give this series a pass in the future.

Kathy says

Well written, light read perfect for an afternoon read. I enjoy cozy mysteries that are centered around food and Never Say Pie is centered around Hanna's Pie Shop in the seaside town of Crystal Cove in California. The action happens at a Food Fair or what I would call a weekly farmer's market. A newspaper critic who has criticized all the tradespeople's wares is found murdered. They are all suspects.

The police chief is an old friend of Hanna's who is not too happy with Hanna sticking her nose into everything. But she does anyway! And of course she stumbles across the murderer after a number of false starts and misadventures.

Great cozy read! Yummy sounding pies!

Amy Lignor says

Hanna Denton is now a baker thanks to her grandmother who owned The Upper Crust Pie Shop in Crystal Cove, California. When Grandma retired to an upscale retirement home, Hanna took over and has kept the shop successful. Now she's on her way to set up at the first annual Crystal Cove Food Fair to bring her pies to the masses, make new contacts, and improve customer relations. In addition, Hanna is very interested to meet and greet the local merchants, including Bill and Dave, who claim to make the best sausage in town; Jacques, a cheese salesperson; and Nina, an old schoolmate of Hanna's who is now creating candy.

Things go well for Hanna until she gets a glimpse at the local paper featuring a column by food critic, Heath Barr. Heath has panned Hanna's pies along with some of the other wares at the fair, but unfortunately for him, knifing Hanna and her friends in the back is his very last review. The murder weapon was a knife that'd been given out to most of the vendors at the Fair for publicity reasons, which means all the vendors become suspects.

Hanna and her cooking cohorts were outraged by the comments of the reviewer, but certainly never wished him dead...or did they? And to top it all off, the lawman in the small town just happens to be Hanna's old flame from high school that she still has her eye on. To save themselves, Hanna and her friends do a little investigating, angering the Chief who doesn't like them intruding on his territory. So, readers have to wonder if Hanna will eventually have to do her baking from a small, frightening jail cell.

This is the second cozy from this author featuring Hanna Denton, and is just as much fun as the first...perhaps even better. Not to mention, the mouthwatering recipes that are offered will soon be served up in homes across the nation. So enjoy!

Until Next Time, Everybody,
Amy

Dobber says

Have to agree with Sonja that the protagonist is annoying; she's also nosy and shallow; very high school. Why do grown women let an author get away with that? And some sloppy editing in evidence. The author

doesn't seem to think much of her police chief either (Hana's apartment is ransacked and he doesn't take an official report? He allows Hanna to come along to a domestic violence call? He should be fired.) Not well thought out, poor character development, and a pie shop owner who makes a living but bakes only a few pies a day?! Grannie may be the only likeable character.

Eunira says

Kindly downloaded by netgalley.com. March 5, 2012

This was an easy, fun read. Hanna is the owner of a pieshop, which she inherited from her grandma, along with all the great recipes and secrets needed to make the shop a success. She take part in the summer Food Fair, and gets involved in the murder of the newspaper food critic - which had just published a very damaging review of her pies!

I would certainly enjoy reading the next one in this series.

Vicky says

Blurb: It's summertime in Crystal Cove, California, and sales are brisk at the outdoor Food Fair. There's fresh bread, artisan cheese, gourmet cupcakes, plus Hanna's delicious pies. When despised local food critic Heath Barr is found stabbed to death, no one is sorry to hear the news—except perhaps Hanna, the main suspect. It doesn't help that Hanna's high school crush is the police chief. Hanna must track down a killer while up to her elbows in pie dough.

Hanna is the owner of a pie shop given to her by her grandmother who went to live at the senior's home – where she is still busy. Hanna also inherited all the wonderful recipes from her grandmother, which she adds to with a few new ones of her own. She takes the pie store on the road of sorts when she joins other town foodies at the new Food Fair. Everything is going great until the new food critic slams Hanna and some of the other vendors – and then ends up dead.

Hanna's crush on the strong, silent chief of police doesn't get in her way when she decides to help investigate the murder. Unfortunately, Sam (the chief), doesn't much appreciate her help and tries to get her to stay out of it – which of course, like any good amateur sleuth, she doesn't.

Things I liked about the story: It's a decent cozy mystery, a fast read and not too predictable. The characters are fun and the premise believable. I loved Hanna's grandmother – such a wonderful character. And the recipes at the end are pretty good too.

Things I didn't like: Sam was a little too taciturn, especially after Hanna's place was broken into and ransacked. He didn't bother to offer her comfort, or even offer to help clean up the mess. All he did was tell her to put a padlock on her door. Okay, he did set a deputy to watch her place, but his character just didn't come across well for me. I realize this is part of a series and the characters are still being developed, but I just didn't connect with him at all.

Recommendation: If you like quick, easy, doesn't take a lot of brain cells cozy mysteries, this is a decent one. Though you don't need to have read the first one in the series to know what's going on, I recommend it just to get some of the background. Still, overall, not a bad read.

Judy says

This seems to be the sort of cozy I like, with food and recipes, but somehow I found the main character annoying. She is determined to be a "deputy" to the police chief, who is an old high school love of hers, and can't seem to keep from going where she shouldn't, and asking nosy questions which either annoy people or put her in danger. The mystery isn't bad, I just wish I liked the pie baker better!

Brenda says

The second in the Pie Shoppe series finds Hanna running her pie booth at the weekly Food Fair. When a food critic for the Daily Gazette gives a harsh review of her pies along with the goods being offered by Bill & Dave, local pork farmers, Meredith, organic chicken farmer and a few of the other vendors Hanna goes on the offensive to protect her reputation as a pie baker. It's no surprise when the food critic is found dead in his office, murdered by a serrated knife that was given as a sample to all of fair vendors by the cutlery man. So, who in the group really took offense to the critical column?

Hanna sets out to clear her name and the names of her new fair friends. Going against the wishes of the Local Police Chief and ex high school crush Sam, Hanna starts sticking her nose where it doesn't belong.

Grannie and her friends at Heavenly Acres make brief appearances throughout the book when they volunteer to cover the fair booth while Hanna investigates. There were references made throughout that Hanna wanted to fix Grannie up with the handsome knife man, but unfortunately the author never made that happen. It was a little disappointing to have that storyline left hanging.

It appears that this was the last book in the series published in 2012 - it would have been nice had the author found a resolution to the relationship between Hanna and Sam. Overall a good series that I wish hadn't come to such an abrupt end.

Paula Ratcliffe says

This book picked up real quick when local pie maker Hanna and a bunch of local of folks of different abilities, a cupcake maker, a chicken grower, meat grower and cheese maker to say the least are all ripped apart by Heath Barr a local food critic, there are so many suspects and finding out who did it will take a lot of detective work. Many people were hurt by the local critic's opinion of their work. Was it the local merchants who were insulted? Or someone who paid off the food critic? Many possibilities. Add to the mix Hanna's relationship with the local chief of police. Hanna finds herself in hot water everything from a toss into a pool, to breaking and entering, what's a girl to do? This was a great new mystery series that I definitely will be following. Can't wait to see what Ms. Culver bakes up next!

Sallee says

This is the second book in The Pie Shop Mystery. I enjoyed Hanna Denton and her pie shop. When there is a

food fair at which she has a booth with her pies and meets other local food providers, it starts out great until the Gazette's food critic gives Hanna and a few of her food fair vendors a nasty review. When he turns up dead, all are suspects. Police chief, Sam Genovese, Hanna's highschool crush, works on solving the murder and Hanna is there to help him. Of course, this is a cosy mystery so the Police chief tolerates her interventions something that would not happen in real life especially when it involves breaking and entering and taking evidence. Thus said, this was a quick enjoyable read and leaves you wondering if Sam and Hanna will move their romance forward.
