



A Season for Killing Blondes

Joanne Guidoccio

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Hours before the opening of her career counseling practice, Gilda Greco discovers the body of golden girl, Carrie Ann Godfrey, neatly arranged in the dumpster outside Gilda's office. Gilda's life and budding career are stalled as Detective Carlo Fantin, her former high school crush, conducts the investigation. When three more dead blondes turn up, all brutally strangled and deposited near Gilda's favorite haunts, she is pegged as a prime suspect for the murders.

Frustrated by Carlo's chilly detective persona and the mean girl antics of Carrie Ann's meddling relatives, Gilda decides to launch her own investigation. She discovers a gaggle of suspects, among them a yoga instructor in need of anger management training, a lecherous photographer, and fourteen ex-boyfriends.

As the puzzle pieces fall into place, shocking revelations emerge, forcing Gilda to confront the envy and deceit she has long overlooked.

A Season for Killing Blondes Details

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From Reader Review A Season for Killing Blondes for online ebook

Marian Thorpe says

An extended Italian family, lots of food, and four murders are at the heart of Joanne Guidoccio's A Season for Killing Blondes, a cozy mystery set in Sudbury, Ontario. While followers of my blog and reviews on Amazon and Goodreads know that this is not my usual genre to review, every so often, I like to read something different, just as while my preference in cinema is for small, independent, international films, once in a while I watch with complete enjoyment a rom-com, or a Hollywood blockbuster.

And enjoyment is what A Season for Killing Blondes gave me. It's a fairly quick read, at 264 pages on my iPad Kindle app, perfect for a lazy Sunday or as a beach book. Competently written and plotted, it gained points for me by not only being set in my home province, but by its protagonist being middle-aged. Gilda Greco is fifty-ish, setting up a new business as a career counsellor after winning a major lottery, when a body is found in the Dumpster behind her office. The investigation reunites her with police detective Carlo Fantin, a high-school crush of Gilda's. Family secrets, rivalries and jealousies factor into the escalating crimes. Can Gilda clear her name while helping to find who is responsible?

There are sufficient clues dropped, along with a few red herrings, to keep the reader engaged in the mystery and at the same time guessing. I had a minor niggles with a plot point which I felt rang untrue, and characters tend to be a little two-dimensional, but no more so than they are in an Agatha Christie mystery, so that's not really a criticism. A nice addition to the book is the inclusion of several recipes at the end. Overall, 4 stars.

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

Carol Balawyder says

A Season for Killing Blondes is the kind of quick paced light mystery novel that you want to pack with you to read on your holidays.

The main character, Gilda, in her early fifties, is a delightful character. Not only does the author, Joanne Guidoccio, provide the reader with an intriguing mystery to solve but she throws in an entertaining romance between Gilda and Detective Carlo Fantin, a man whom years ago she'd spent fantasizing over.

The intergenerational interaction between the characters, especially Gilda's busybody Italian family members adds spark to the novel. Here, and throughout the novel, the author shines in her ability to use dialogue.

I did find that I had difficulty keeping track of the numerous characters especially towards the end where the murders are explained but so many characters also increased the possibility of so many suspects to consider. One of the intriguing parts of the novel was how the murder got caught.

Because of the culinary connection at the beginning of the novel, the author ends with a half dozen dessert recipes. The pineapple cheesecake sounds really yummy!

Philip says

I took a little break from my Xmas reading list and read this 1st book in this series by Joanne Guidoccio, a

Canadian author who is new to me, and I really liked this story. I thought this was a well written and fairly character driven mystery with Gilda and Carlo being pretty good and definitely likeable characters and Gilda's close and extended family all a bit quirky. There's lots of murders and lots of suspects and, with the Italian connection, of course lots of good food especially those Sicilian pastries! This story has a bit of a unique take on the amateur sleuth angle in that Gilda doesn't run an investigation avoiding the police and jumping into all sorts of dangerous scenarios where she needs a rescue but just kind of asks the normal kind of curiosity questions and hires, or at least tries to hire, a PI to do the heavy lifting. There is also a fairly elaborate plan leading to the arrest of the culprit that actually works! At first I was slightly reminded of Melodie Campbell's Gina Gallo Goddaughter series but the only thing these series have in common is the Italian connection as this story is actually a mainly serious murder mystery and Melodie Campbell's series is a hilarious parody of the Godfather stories. Anyway I enjoyed this read and I'll sure read the rest in the series.

Oh, BTW, I do have one comment on a slight disagreement I had with this story and here is a quote - "Uncle Paolo who is still complaining about the ten cents he has to pay for a shopping bag at No Frills." I have never paid more than 5 cents for a plastic bag at No Frills!

Georgianna Simpson says

A Season for Killing Blondes is a murder mystery with a touch of light romance. This is a delightful read if you like mystery/murder stories with a feel of community people. This takes place in October of 2011 in Sudbury, Canada, so for me, who has never been there, it's already excitingly located.

The story begins as Gilda tells the story of why Carlo a detective is in the back alley of her newly opened re-careering office (I'm leaving out last names on purpose). On the day that was to be her grand opening, the body of a local blonde woman, Carrie Ann Godfrey was found posed in the dumpster in the alley behind her office. The dead woman is a town icon and had been the prom queen when Gilda and Carlo had been in high school, and the mystery begins.

The murder is investigated and Gilda is questioned, as is her cousin Sofia. When a second blonde is found murdered, after an altercation with our heroine Gilda, it becomes apparent to her that someone is trying to frame her for the murders. The handsome blue eyed detective goes above and beyond to secure her alibi, when our heroine could not prove her whereabouts and also promising a dinner date after the investigation is over. There are many suspects, some are more subtle while some are the usual. Then another cousin ends up murdered along with a Russian step-sister (not a blonde).

Okay, that's the setup and all the murders...I don't do spoilers. This is a story you must read to enjoy and I believe you will enjoy it. I certainly did and look forward to more from this author.

The writing is wonderfully descriptive but not overbearing. Characters are well described and events are discussed like imported pastries for her grand opening...giving you the feel you're standing there with people you've known your whole life. Some you like, some you don't. The location is also well described with points of interest, letting you pretty much picture where you are. However, the descriptions are done in small doses, totally enhancing the story without boring the reader.

The story builds slowly, letting you know many of the characters and leading you on a merry chase. It's good entertainment and thoroughly enjoyable.

If you like a good mystery and a little murder, a possible blossoming romance...give it a read!

Author supplied copy for an honest review.

Jo-Ann Carson says

It's a warm, sweet cozy with a distinct Italian and foodie flavor. Vivid characters immediately make you not only like them, but feel like you've known them all your life. The writing is tight and well paced. Guidoccio's gentle humor laces every page.

"When I agreed to import the pastries, I had no idea I would be subsidizing the failing Italian economy and helping Silvio Berlusconi stay in power for a few weeks longer."

The book made me hungry. Good Italian food is always on the table, "...amaretto cookies, stuffed figs, biscotti... capicola, mortadella, prosciutto, provalone..." Need I say more?

And then there's the suspense. As the body count rises, the list of suspects grows and terror festers. It has to be someone she knows. But who?

If you like books by Cleo Coyle and Diane Mott Davidson, you'll love Joanne Guidoccio's, A Season for Killing Blondes.

My Favorite Line:

"Even with a dead body in the Dumpster, thousands of euros of pastries wasting away, and policemen swarming about, my mother and aunt could still indulge in their favorite hobby - trying to find me another husband."

Judy Sheluk says

I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery debut by Joanne Guidoccio. At times it made me laugh out loud (I was reminded of Melodie Campbell's Goddaughter series) as Joanne writes about a large Italian family with love and humor. If you're looking for a light, fast-paced mystery with humor and a well thought out plot, this book is for you!

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

This is an exceptional debut!

Winning the lottery has changed Gilda's life and she has helped quite a few people too. Gilda has decided to open a career counseling office to help others desiring to make a job change or find the first job in their field. A big open house is planned with a huge Italian theme, Gilda has a big Italian family. It is almost time for the doors to open when someone starts screaming in the back alley. Everyone rushes out and sees a beautiful blonde woman lying in the dumpster and it is not hard to tell she is no longer breathing. Gilda recognizes the woman immediately. They attended high school together and she stopped to visit Gilda at the office the day before. Gilda could have been the last one to see her alive. She knows this doesn't look good and knows she is going to have to find the real killer to save herself.

I dove right into this book and couldn't put it down. Joanne Guidoccio tells one heck of a story. More than

one blonde ends up dead and there is a surplus of suspects.

We also meet Detective Carlo Fantin, who Gilda wouldn't mind getting to know better. Her family fully supports this and they could have a wedding planned before the killer is caught :) Gilda begs them to please let them at least have a date or two first.

I love Gilda and her family. They are tightly knit and always come bearing food and advice whether needed or not. Gilda's cousin Sofia handles the elders better than Gilda but she is learning how to handle them.

I have not read many books set in Canada. Guidoccio describes the area beautifully and Gilda's trip to a cabin had me wishing for my own quiet place to escape to. I hope we get to visit there again soon.

This was a very quick read for me with just the right level of suspense, humor, and romance. There is also yummy Italian food and the author has included recipes!

Debra Doggett says

Good Read

I was caught up in Gilda's life from the start. There were enough twists and turns to keep me guessing. My only wish was to see more contact between Gilda and Carlo.

Bikram says

I had requested and received audiobook version of this book for free from the author, in exchange for an unbiased review.

I would say this "cozy mystery" novel is just an okay read. The characters are mostly forgettable. There isn't too much suspense or thrill, which is fine for a cozy read on a beach etc. The culprit was kinda predictable halfway through, so the "whodoneit" quotient wasn't there for me. Still, it kept me interested to keep listening and finish the book.

The narration was the weak link in this book. It sounded off and didn't quite match with the picture of the protagonist I had in mind.

Jane Reads says

I read a really good book, y'all — A Season for Killing Blondes by Joanne Guidoccio. Let me tell you a little about it.

A Season for Killing Blondes is a cozy mystery starring Gilda Greco, a former school teacher, who is changing careers four months after winning a \$19 million lottery jackpot. As the book opens, Gilda is about to have an Open House to kick off her new career counseling office in Sudbury, Ontario, to help other Baby Boomers re-evaluate or change careers. Her mother, Aunt Amelia, Uncle Paolo, and cousin Sofia are all

quite involved in the planning stage of the Open House; in fact, at times they're taking over!

Reading about how involved Gilda's rather pushy Italian family is in her new office was one of my favorite things about A Season for Killing Blondes. Here is one example:

But my mother and Aunt Amelia were adamant. The open house for my new career counseling office needed a proper launch, one that could only be achieved with pastries from a Sicilian bakery.

Oh, speaking of bakery.... This is a culinary cozy, so there are eight dessert recipes included, for Pineapple Cheesecake, Blueberry Cheesecake, Blueberry Muffins, Banana Muffins, Sponge Cake, Zucchini Cake, Ice Cream Roll, and Tiramisù. I haven't tried any yet, but they all sound scrumptious!

Here's another favorite quote about Gilda's family (and those pastries again):

Even with a dead body in a Dumpster, thousands of euros of pastries wasting away, and policemen swarming about, my mother and aunt could still indulge in their favorite hobby — trying to find me another husband.

I liked A Season for Killing Blondes, and I think you will also. You'll learn the answers to these burning questions:

When Gilda was advised to get legal representation, after being framed for murder, why did she decide to conduct her own investigation?

What other amateur sleuth helps her with the investigation?

After Gilda won the lottery, who are the others whose lives were changed, plus how and why?

What does Carlo have in mind for himself and Gilda, after all of this is over? Hmm??

And what's with all the double names????

I am looking forward to reading more of Author Joanne Guidoccio's books in the series — #2, Too Many Women in the Room, and #3, A Different Kind of Reunion. I really enjoyed A Season for Killing Blondes, and hereby award it Four Kitties!

Note: I received a complimentary copy of A Season for Killing Blondes in exchange for my honest review. All opinions shared are 100% my own.

Elizabeth Horbaczek says

this book was given to me for an honest review

4 stars

I thoroughly enjoyed this murder mystery. It was such a great book, it had so much intensity and mystery and all the food that was going through this book made me giggle at the same time. I loved how the Italians always brought food into everything that was going on. It was pretty awesome and not only that they play matchmaker as they are all involved in a murder case. It was pretty amazing how they were able to bring all

of that in and it didn't seem stupid as you are reading about all the drama that happens throughout the book. This book also give you subtle clues through the book that keeps you on the edge of your seat during each chapter. I just wanted more and more as each chapter went by. The characters are so likable and the bad ones are bad, but you tend to see why the book needs them. The family that is in this book was so close knit that it at times in comical to see. In addition to that there are so many busy bodies in this book so most of the time you hear a lot of hearsay in this book, but some of it seems to be true. the last thing I want to say I love that the romance wasn't at the beginning at this book and it doesn't even happen in the middle it takes longer and with that you get to enjoy the whole mystery of the book.

I can tell you how much you will love Gilda and Carlo and how strong they are and how perfect they are, but I won't. I'm going to tell you to read the book. See how much the interactions in this book with all the characters are amazing. They pull you in and they make you think about what you think you know about the book. It is absolutely amazing what the author did with this book and how everything just interloped throughout. You will get to the end of the book and say how could I have missed that.

I hope that you enjoy reading this book as much as I did. How everything you thought was true ends up not being twisted in a way, but you never stop looking to find the right answer. I loved this book and how the author wrote this book. I hope to read more from this author.

Michelle Stanley says

Reviewed by Michelle Stanley for Readers' Favorite

A Season for Killing Blondes is a mystery/sleuth by Joanne Guidoccio. Lottery winner Gilda Greco's grand opening of her counselling practice gets off to a bad start when the body of Carrie Ann Godfrey is found in a nearby dumpster. The victim's family, especially temperamental Anna May, accuses her of murdering their relative and vows revenge. Detective Carlo Fantin, whom Gilda has admired for years, investigates the case, but she soon becomes the main suspect when another body is discovered.

In an effort to clear her name, Gilda decides to play detective and stumbles upon more than she expected. Most people in her small hometown know everyone and almost everything personal about each other, including her, and that bothers Gilda. She also begins to realize that some people aren't too happy about her lottery success.

I was constantly reminded of the movie My Big Fat Greek Wedding while reading A Season for Killing Blondes. Gilda's Italian family is just as entertaining with their love of gossip, passion for cooking, protectiveness and bossy attitudes. Gilda is very mild mannered and extremely laid back, which irritated me at times because it made her appear weak.

However, Joanne Guidoccio developed her characters with care and that worked well for the charming plot. She also included a few of her family recipes for the mouthwatering dishes that were often mentioned in the story. The book's cover illustration is eye-catching and the author's writing is moderately paced. A Season for Killing Blondes is a recommended cozy mystery.

Susan James says

I received a copy of a Season for Killing Blondes in return for an honest review.

This is from the blurb:

Hours before the opening of her career counseling practice, Gilda Greco discovers the body of golden girl, Carrie Ann Godfrey, neatly arranged in the dumpster outside Gilda's office. Gilda's life and budding career are stalled as Detective Carlo Fantin, her former high school crush, conducts the investigation. When three more dead blondes turn up, all brutally strangled and deposited near Gilda's favorite haunts, she is pegged as a prime suspect for the murders.

Frustrated by Carlo's chilly detective persona and the mean girl antics of Carrie Ann's meddling relatives, Gilda decides to launch her own investigation.

Great opening scene!!!

I read without stopping because I found the mystery intriguing. It takes place in Sudbury, a medium size town in Ontario. I love seeing the differences between life in the US and Canada. Gilda Greco is an independent woman of a certain age surrounded by her Italian American relatives, all of whom are way too interested in her wellbeing. The dead woman's sisters are convinced Gilda is the murderer and set out to make her life a misery. The cast of characters includes a series of suspects you love to hate. And the bodies keep coming.

The mystery has a satisfying end. This is the second book I've read by Joanne Guidoccio. I look forward to a third.

Misslill says

Once I started reading this murder mystery with a touch of romance

I could not put it down. The characters were believable, likable, and their gentle humor engaging. The story was exciting and had enough twists and turns to keep me guessing until the very end. The sense of community was inviting and the foodie/recipe angle enticing! All these characters NEED to appear in another book simply because I really want to know what happens next. Great job on a story that I believe could become a much loved series.

Steph says

Sometimes suspense stories are so over the top that you either guess who the villain is within the first 5 minutes, or the plot twists are too numerous to easily follow. Not so in A SEASON FOR KILLING BLONDES, an excellent mystery that's easy to read but still leaves you guessing.

Lottery winner Gilda Greco is excited to open her career counseling center for boomers...until the dead body of an old friend turns up in the alley behind her office. Gilda's high school crush, detective Carlo Fantin, is on the case, and even though she's 51 now, Gilda still stammers in his presence. But now that Gilda is a suspect and the bodies keep piling up, she'll need to investigate on her own if she's got any chance of clearing her name.

Good chick-lit/suspense stories are tough to find, but Ms. Guidoccio does an exceptional job in A SEASON

FOR KILLING BLONDES. This book is like sitting around the table with your Italian relatives and hearing them tell a good story from the old country...you know, except that this is set in modern Canada and is told in Gilda's first person perspective. The entire cast of characters were just sketchy enough that any one of them could be a viable suspect, from jealous cousin Sophia to the dramatic Sicilian mamas, the not so zen yoga instructor or the "mean girl" family of blondes.

I liked that this wasn't your typical story about a woman taking matters into her own hands to investigate a case, especially since Gilda really just bounced ideas off of people and hired someone to do the undercover work. She also wasn't your typical 26-35 year old MC, and at 51 her life experience and thoughtfulness toward others set her apart. Although this book can't be considered a "romance" by any stretch of the imagination, it was a well-written, character-driven murder mystery that genuinely had me scratching my head until the very end wondering who dun' it!?

Bottom Line: Fun and lighthearted murder mystery with an MC you can relate to. - See more at: <http://erotic.theromancereviews.com/v...>

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