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Rebecca Adler

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Tex-Mex waitress and part-time reporter Josie Callahan serves up more Lone Star justice in this spicy mystery from the author of *The Good, the Bad, and the Guacamole*.

It's fiesta time in Broken Boot, Texas, and tourists are pouring into town faster than free beer at a bull roping for the mouthwatering Cinco de Mayo festivities. Tex-Mex waitress Josie Callahan, her feisty abuela, and even her spunky Chihuahua Lenny are polishing their folklorico dances for Saturday's big parade, while Uncle Eddie is adding his own spicy event to the fiesta menu: Broken Boot's First Annual Charity Chili Cook-off.

But Uncle Eddie's hopes of impressing the town council go up in smoke when cantankerous chili cook Lucky Straw is found dead in his tent. And when Josie's beloved uncle is accused of fatal negligence, she, Lenny, and the steadfast Detective Lightfoot must uncover who ended the ambitious chilihead's life--before another cook kicks the bucket.

Cinco De Murder Details

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Author : Rebecca Adler

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From Reader Review Cinco De Murder for online ebook

Jeanie says

This is the best in the series, so far, as I have really enjoyed this series from the beginning. The characters are unique in this small town called Broken Boot, Texas, and the author has brought together a spicy blend of Tex-Mex culture, cooking, and crime. Josie waitresses at the family restaurant while trying to keep a foot in the door of the local paper's crime beat. She, her Chi pup Lenny, best friend, and family members are going to do folklorico dances in the Cinco de Mayo parade, even though Abuela insists that Mexico does not celebrate it.

Before the parade is a chili cook off, that her Uncle Eddie has worked hard to put together and hopes to get the approval of the town council as the newest member. It is the first cook-off sponsored by the International Chili Association in Broken Boot, and members with rule books are ready for the big day. Pity there is a bit more than a fly in the ointment, however, when Lucky Straw, the man whose chili wins throughout the Southwest, is found dead in his tent the morning of the cook off.

Fortunately, they are able to proceed based on a last-minute change in plans so the police could do their thing while all the chefs do theirs. And there is certainly an eccentric lot of cooks, most of whom disliked Lucky for more reasons than his beating them in other places. When robberies take place and the handsome, quiet Detective Lightfoot is willing to take Josie on ride-alongs for her input as a journalist, they have many, many pieces to put into a puzzle.

This is a very well-written mystery, with excellent dialog and red herrings that I was silly enough to follow due to the plot twists that delivered them into this armchair sleuth's hands. I did not, however, pick out who the bad guy really was, sorry to say. Cinco de Murder is a delightful, fast-paced novel with characters who I am looking forward to seeing again, a hope of romance, a festival atmosphere, and lots of good, Southwest cooking. I highly recommend it!

I received a copy of this from the publisher with no obligation to post a review.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

We arrive in Broken Boot just in time for their Cinco de Mayo celebration complete with a chili cook-off, parade, and fireworks. Josie Callahan, her aunt and a group of their friends will be doing a traditional dance – folklórico – during their part in the parade. Even Josie's Chihuahua Lenny is getting in on the fun. Uncle Eddie is in charge of the chili cook-off hoping to prove to the town council that it should be an annual event.

Josie shows up to help him be sure everything is all set for the participants but one cook won't be making a chili today, someone has sent Lucky Straw to the great chili cook-off in the sky. The mayor and the council are not happy with Eddie. Josie and Detective Lightfoot don't have much time. They need to catch the killer before all the cooks pack up and head off to the next cook-off. Lenny is doing his best to help too!

All the favorite characters are back and they are joined by some cook-off cooks and judges from the

International Chili Association. We meet them pretty quickly but they're a pretty unique cast of characters. The author does a great job bringing them all together in this for this fun-filled mystery.

With all those characters there are plenty of suspects. Josie had a heck of time eliminating them from her list. It was a good time following along as she continued to change her mind about whodunit and her theories about the motive. With the weekend coming to a close and this reader getting near the end of her pages I was wondering if the mystery was going to be solved. Some dangerous crazy came together in the end and I will say I was scared for Josie and totally surprised.

Rebecca Adler's penned a great story that was intriguing, entertaining and at times pretty amusing. There is a little spark of romance at the end, something I have been waiting for, so I am hoping and praying this will not be the last we see of these characters, but if it is the author left me with a huge smile on my face.

Mark Baker says

It's Cinco de Mayo weekend, and Josie Callahan has a full plate. She will be waitressing at her family's Tex-Mex restaurant as well as helping her uncle with the first annual chili cook-off and dancing in the parade. The last thing she needs is to find the body of Lucky Straw, one of the cook-off contestants. He wasn't well liked, but who would kill him?

This is a fun mystery tying into a different holiday, yet it fits the theme of this series perfectly. The mystery is good, with several elements to keep us guessing until the end. I did feel that the book needed another edit to smooth things over as Josie's changing theories constantly confused me, but not in a good way for a mystery. The series regulars are as fun as always, especially Josie's abuela.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

Marie McNary says

Smart, sassy, and full of sizzle, Cinco de Murder will leave you craving more of Josie and the residents of Broken Boot, Texas.

This is an entertaining and fun book. Josie is a relatable protagonist and I love the relationships she has with her extended family – particularly her abuela. The book ended far too quickly and I was left ready and excited for the next installment.

<https://cozyexperience.com/cinco-de-m...>

Kristina says

Cinco de Murder by Rebecca Adler is the third book in A Taste of Texas Mystery series. Josie Callahan is busy rehearsing the folklorico dances for the Cinco de Mayo parade in Broken Boot, Texas. Her dog, Lenny

(a long-haired Chihuahua) will also be participating in the dance wearing an adorable costume. Uncle Eddie is busy organizing the First Annual Broken Boot's Charity Chili Cook-Off. He needs to ensure that this event goes off without a hitch or he could lose his seat on the town council. The next day Josie finds contestant Lucky Straw dead in his tent (this does not bode well for Uncle Eddie). Lucky was not well-liked on the cook-off circuit and had managed to anger several people since his arrival. Detective Quinton Lightfoot, Josie and Lenny work to find the killer and restore Uncle Eddie's reputation.

Cinco de Murder is a fun cozy mystery with a small Texan town that is filled with unique characters. I felt the author captured the small town feel and the competitiveness of a cook-off. Cinco de Murder can be read alone. The cases from the other books are rehashed in Cinco de Murder along with Josie's background. I did feel that the novel needed some work. There were several continuity issues that needed fixing (Lenny cannot be in two places at once). The beginning of the book is disjointed and stilted (it gets better after several chapters). There is also a great deal of repetition (I lost track of how many times Josie's Prius is mentioned or that Hillary Sloan Rawlings is called a nemesis). Plus, do we really need to know every single time the dog has to use the restroom or about the horse poop in the road (not needed). The mystery felt incomplete (details are missing). Josie does ask questions (she is bad at it), but the solution lands in her lap. I was left with several unanswered questions at the end of the book. There are numerous quirky characters in Cinco de Murder along with plenty of activities (which dominate the book). It sounds like Broken Boot goes all out for Cinco de Mayo. Josie had a busy two and half days and I bet Lenny was ready for a nap (and to ditch the costume). Readers who enjoy light cozy mysteries (prefer more cozy than mystery) will delight in visiting Broken Boot for the Cinco de Mayo festival in Cinco de Murder.

Doreen says

3/28/18 Full review tk. I did like this more than the second, I must say.

James says

Many thanks to the Cozy Mystery Group, Berkley Books, and the author for providing me a ARC of Cinco De Murder, the third book in the Taste of Texas cozy mystery series, written by Rebecca Adler, and published in May 2018. I normally read a series in order, but I won this one in a contest and didn't have time to go back to the beginning.

This is your basic, good cozy mystery with several strengths and a few areas that needed some attention. The setting, characters and mystery were all interesting and built a world that has lots of potential. There were many suspects. The clues were dropped throughout the story. And the main character, Josie, really doesn't investigate anything on her own. She mentions some things to the cops, then falls into a trap near the end when she unintentionally discovers the killer. I like the introduction of the chili cook off, the restaurant backdrop, and her potential love interests. For those reasons, it's a good book.

Perhaps I was at a disadvantage by not having read the earlier two books, but I didn't feel a strong connection to any of the characters as much as I would have liked to. I also felt the ending left us with some confusion on if the killer was caught or let go. All in all, I think this may have needed one more review / edit round to

make it pop a bit more, then it would be a solid 4 rating. I would give the series a chance and read more, but I would also not rush to grab it when it first came out.

The highlights for me were a non-traditional main character / family in a setting I haven't seen before in a cozy, as well as a fun flavor and spice in the language, description, and voice given the characters run a restaurant that isn't your typical cozy setting. But I am hungry for some chili now, too!

Mary Brown says

Synopsis:

Tex-Mex waitress and part-time reporter Josie Callahan serves up more Lone Star justice in this spicy mystery from the author of *The Good, the Bad, and the Guacamole*.

It's fiesta time in Broken Boot, Texas, and tourists are pouring into town faster than free beer at a bull roping for the mouthwatering Cinco de Mayo festivities. Tex-Mex waitress Josie Callahan, her feisty abuela, and even her spunky Chihuahua Lenny are polishing their folklorico dances for Saturday's big parade, while Uncle Eddie is adding his own spicy event to the fiesta menu: Broken Boot's First Annual Charity Chili Cook-off.

But Uncle Eddie's hopes of impressing the town council go up in smoke when cantankerous chili cook Lucky Straw is found dead in his tent. And when Josie's beloved uncle is accused of fatal negligence, she, Lenny, and the steadfast Detective Lightfoot must uncover who ended the ambitious chilihead's life--before another cook kicks the bucket. (Goodreads)

Review:

The characters are well developed and well rounded. Josie is a smart caring person who has a feisty personality. She is surrounded by family and loved ones and she loves them as much as they love her. Maybe it is the reporter in her, but Josie has never met a mystery that she did not want to solve. And when her uncle is a person of interest, she becomes determined to find the real culprit. There were quite a few characters in this book and at times I had a hard time keeping them straight in my mind. This is only my opinion and others may not agree with me. Since this is the first book in the series that I have read, I would imagine it would have been easier if I had read the others. I really liked the feeling of familial love, caring and support that the author brought to all of the pages in this book. And her dog, Lenny, is just adorable.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and through much of the book I felt like I was right there, watching all of the action taking place and listening in on conversations. The mystery was carried on well throughout the book and there were enough suspects to consider and clues to sift through. There was enough action taking place that I happily kept swiping pages to see what would happen next.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy mystery. I think for optimum enjoyment you want to read the other books in this series first, but again, that is only my opinion. I plan on reading the first two soon.

I received a free copy of this book from the author and the Cozy Mystery Review Crew in exchange for an

honest review. I would like to thank both for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Siusan says

Cinco de Murder by Rebecca Adler was a wonderful, entertaining read about a journalist/waitress, Josie, her chihuahua, Lenny, her family and their restaurant, and a chili cook-off murder. The tale starts the day before the cook-off and follows our heroine through a festive Cinco de Mayo weekend that culminates in fireworks, a chase, and a kiss. Josie's character acts mainly on spunkiness with a dash of trepidation. She is surrounded by a very loving group of family and friends who are supportive and hilarious. The two main men in the story add a nice dash of romance that creates a fun side plot. Lenny is a wonderful side-kick who's tiny yips speak volumes. The story ends in a scary, thrilling trapped scene that grips the reader's attention. I thoroughly adored this book and would recommend it to anyone looking for a fun, spicy, cozy murder mystery read.

Sherry Lynn says

Maybe I am just smidgen biased but Cinco De Murder was a super great read for this Texan! I think I have found a new series that is a favorite. A Taste of Texas Mystery series promises to

be a favorite for this reader.

Admittedly I couldn't help but sneak a peek at the end to see the recipes that followed. And, this foodie was not disappointed. From Pralines to Texas Chili I couldn't help but drool!

The story/plot was fun and interesting. Meeting Josie her sweet little dog Lenny who not only dances but speaks up whenever it's necessary. His little 'yips' got my attention. It seems that the series follows a pattern of Josie stumbling into murder scenes.

And ends up having to investigate and find the real villains so that her friends and family are saved from the cell block.

In Cinco De Murder Josie is hard pressed to find the culprit this time to keep her Uncle Eddie from taking the fall.

I enjoyed my first visit to Broken Boot, Texas. I'll be planning a trip back and catching up with the previous installments in the series.

BTW our towns don't have names like Broken Boot.

But it's o.k.I loved the book anyway.

If you enjoy a little or a lot of Tex-Mex. A good 'ole cozy.

Then you'll love Cinco De Murder!

I received a complimentary copy.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Josie and Lenny are in the thick of it again, Josie's Uncle Eddie has persuaded Broken Boot to run a Chilli cook off (with some prizes but the majority of the cash raised going to charity), but Eddie is panicked as he has heard that if this doesn't work he will be off the town council. It all seems to be going well until the last couple of contestants turn up, one of them seems determined to pick a fight with almost everyone (including Josie when he doesn't get his dietary special food straight away). The next morning Josie is doing a final check of the site before the cook off starts, only to find that Lucky Straw isn't so lucky after all - and despite her best efforts he seems to be dead.

The problem then seems that the death isn't as natural as people would like and Josie, her Abuela (Senora Mari), Detective Lightfoot, and of course Lenny! need to find out what happened and why in order to save the cook off, Eddie and Broken Boot.

Deana Dick says

I enjoyed every minute of this high fa looting Texas escapade. The authentic Texas sayings had me rolling on the floor. I'm a Texan and boy did I relate to the towns and chili cook off so well. Texas loves to have chili cook offs and I remember all the fun it was when I attended them. The competition is fierce and some of the ingredients could be questionable at times. I loved Uncle Eddie right away. He is trying so hard to run the chili cook off while trying to follow the rules. Josie is downright adorable and her eye for details is impeccable. Writing for the paper keeps her busy and she is fixing to get real busy when one of the contestants is found dead in his tent. The deceased was a mean old coot who caused trouble wherever he went.

The story is funny and keeps readers involved as the investigation starts leaning toward someone close to Josie. After reading about the different people at the chili cook off I suspected everyone. I loved how the author delivers a real Texas charm of a story and has unforgettable characters. I have to say Lenny stole my heart. His little personality just makes you smile. Who doesn't like to see a cute little chihuahua dancing around? Maybe I'm a bit biased because I have three very little chihuahuas myself.

From a parade with excitement galore to authentic Tex-Mex food, there is something for everyone in this wonderful cozy mystery. The author brings out authentic dishes that made me so hungry, I had to grab some salsa and chips as I read the book. The ending is so action packed with snakes, coyotes and fireworks that I found myself reading as fast as I could. This is one book you don't want to miss. Make sure you check out the recipes at the end of the story.

I received a copy of this book from The Great Escapes Virtual Book Tour. The review is my own opinion.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

CINCO DE MURDER is seasoned with the same intelligent writing as the two previous installments of this wonderful series.

Author Rebecca Adler has reminded me why I wanted to return to Broken Boot, Texas. The wonderful characters, including longhaired Chihuahua, Lenny, the festive feel of the town, and the mouthwatering food are all just as I remembered. I swear I could smell delicious Tex-Mex the moment I opened the book.

Adler has blended together the perfect ingredients to ensure CINCO DE MURDER contains just the right amount of mystery, fun, and intrigue. With a plot full of twists and turns, this tasty murder mystery will leave you feeling sated at the satisfying conclusion but will quickly have you hungering for more of the series.

Make sure to check out the back for the book for yummy recipes!

Katrina Wiese says

I LOVED this book. But really, how can you not love a book that has a Chihuahua that wears a tiny sombrero and dances around? Oh yeah and that same little pup sure does a ton of sass and he will definitely let you know what he thinks! Yip! I think it is a definite debate on who steal the show in these books, Lenny or Josie, a fiery tex-mex waitress that is more sleuth than reporter or waitress. This book is full of twists and turns and the ending will have you sitting on the edge of your seat, or like me standing and chewing your barely there thumb nail! This book is one giant ball of Texas yumminess with amazingly written characters and settings you will want to go visit to see or yourself! Another great add to this series, I can't wait to sink my teeth into the next. I know my stomach can't wait for more recipes!

Betty says

The 3rd book in the Taste of Texas series and a new author for me. I found the characters were developed, good information on Cinco de Mayo, Texas style, the writing did not flow smoothly making it difficult at times to understand. A different method of death was used. I will read the first two books in this series.

Josie Callahan and her long-haired Chihuahua, Lenny are doing a folk dance for a feature at the Fiesta in Broken-Boot Texas. Her Uncle Eddie is hosting the first annual chili cook-off as he is hoping to impress the town council. Josie is inspecting the Chili Cook-off area when she finds an unpopular man dead. This brings the cook-off to a stop and the state police to the grounds. The twists that occur will keep you amused until the surprise ending. I recommend this book.
Texas and Mexican recipes are included.

Disclosure: Many thanks to Berkley for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own.
