



## Grilling the Subject

*Daryl Wood Gerber*

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**Things heat up for bookstore owner Jenna Hart in the latest Cookbook Nook mystery from the Agatha Award-winning author of *Fudging the Books*.**

As the Wild West Extravaganza rides into Crystal Cove, California, Cookbook Nook store owner Jenna Hart is ready to indulge her appetite for grilled and barbecued treats and maybe even try the Texas skip. But when the body of one of her father's neighbors is found the next morning smoldering in a bonfire, the rodeo revelry is extinguished.

Sylvia Gump had acquired plenty of enemies with her practice of illegally encroaching on her neighbors' properties—including Jenna's dad, who was off fishing by himself and has no alibi for the murder. Now it's up to Cary Hart's dutiful daughter to clear his name before the real killer turns up the heat and rakes someone else over the coals...

## Grilling the Subject Details

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Author : Daryl Wood Gerber

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## From Reader Review Grilling the Subject for online ebook

### Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says

I must be honest and admit that the Wild West theme in Grilling the Subject did not excite me, but the Cookbook Book Nook Mysteries being one of my favorite series, I had to read it. All the barbecue and ranch style food that chef Katie was cooking up in the The Nook Cafe kitchen had my mouth watering not to mention the the Grilling themed cookbook titles mentioned that were on display in the Cookbook Nook Shop, had me salivating

Jenna Hart helps her aunt Vera run a culinary cookbook shop in Crystal Cove California, The Cookbook Nook. Everyone is excited for the Wild West Extravaganza complete with horse races, rope jumping and more.

Shane Maverick used to work with Jenna in advertising before she came to Crystal Cove. He is now a promoter for the Wild West Extravaganza. He is in a property dispute with a local named Sylvia after Shane had moved across the street from her from the local land owner.

Sylvia is murdered after her house caught on fire and she was stabbed with a implement sold at her shop. Sylvia was not well liked among the locals in the area including Jenna's father, Cary after he complained about loud noise from one of Sylvia's many parties. When Cary is accused of the murder Jenna stops at nothing to try to rope in the killer even with a chilling secret coming back to haunt her that could possibly jeopardize her relationship with her current boyfriend, Rhett.

I always anticipate the themes in every Cookbook Nook mystery although this one didn't thrill me the BBQ dishes and the murder never failed to keep me interested. The unbelievable drama in Jenna's life along with the murder made Grilling the Subject a page turner, Shane was a new down right arrogant character that you love to hate. I look forward to reading and reviewing the next book in this series.

FTC Disclosure: Thank you to the publisher and/or author or Net Galley for providing us with a copy of this book for review. This did not influence our thoughts in any way. All the opinions of the book are our own.

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### Linda says

In the fifth book in this mouthwatering cozy series, Jenna, owner of The Cookbook Nook, has stocked the shelves with books themed for the local Wild West Extravaganza and they're selling like hotcakes. Barbecue, grilling, smoking--any kind of cowboy recipe is available. Jenna's father, Cary, retired FBI man; is on the outs with a neighbor, Sylvia Gump, who insists on throwing frequent outdoor cookouts with loud music despite the protests of himself and several other close neighbors. After Cary and Sylvia have a heated argument, Sylvia's body is found skewered and smoking in her own backyard, and her husband insists he saw Cary running from the scene.

Author Daryl Wood Gerber knows how to pen a lively and engaging plot from page one. The foods sampled by the characters throughout the story will make your tummy growl and recipes at the end of the book are an added bonus just for you. Lasso your copy of this book for several hours of reading entertainment!

FTC Disclosure – The publisher sent me a digital ARC provided through NetGalley, in the hopes I would review it.

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### **Christine says**

: The theme of this book was the wild west and all things barbecued. Jenna's father is accused of murder when a witness swears they saw him running away from a fire where a body was found. Jenna investigates to try and prove her father's innocence. She also deals with her former advertising coworker who had a dispute with the victim. This wasn't one of my favorites from the cookbook nook series. I had a hard time getting into it and the mystery aspect didn't really hold my attention. I was more interested in what was going on with Jenna's personal life.

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### **OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/gr...>

Grilling the Subject

Cookbook Nook Mystery, Book #5

By Daryl Wood Gerber

ISBN13: 9780425279410

Author website: <http://www.darylwoodgerber.com>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Kayt

Synopsis:

Things heat up for bookstore owner Jenna Hart in the latest Cookbook Nook mystery from the Agatha Award-winning author of *Fudging the Books*.

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Sylvia Gump had acquired plenty of enemies with her practice of illegally encroaching on her neighbors' properties—including Jenna's dad, who was off fishing by himself and has no alibi for the murder. Now it's up to Cary Hart's dutiful daughter to clear his name before the real killer turns up the heat and rakes someone else over the coals...

Review:

Daryl Wood Gerber has another hit on her hands. *Grilling the Subject* is jam packed with suspects, shocking surprises and loads of cowboy fun. Crystal Cove, California is hosting the Wild West Extravaganza and things are about to get wild. Jenna Hart and her friends are ready to put on their spurs, practice their yeehaws and enjoy some serious grilled and barbecued treats. Before the festival starts though, it seems there is some trouble brewing in Jenna's dad's picturesque neighborhood. Sylvia Gump's encroaching on Cary (Jenna's

dad) and the others and that is not even the half of it. Realtor Ava is trying to rally the troops to put a stop to it and Cary is all for it. Someone however puts a stop to Sylvia all together with. Unfortunately, Cary is a suspect and he does not have any witnesses to his alibi.

Even though Jenna has no desire to get involved in the murder investigation, she does not see much progress from Cinnamon and the Crystal Cove police force. What's a daughter to do? Sylvia was not well liked so there are suspects aplenty. Add in affairs, possible blackmail and more and Jenna is faced with more questions than answers. Jenna also thinks someone is following her. Is she just imagining things? Fires are not limited to the grills either Things get scary and heated and the suspect list is still full. Sylvia's personality definitely did not make her any friends, at least not any female ones.

Aunt Vera does a tarot card reading on Jenna, whether she wanted it or not. Let me just say, Vera is good. A real shocker comes in play and turns Jenna's life on end. No spoilers here, but hang on to your cowboy hats. That just complicates matters for Jenna in her hunt to prove her dad's innocence. The suspect list seems to grow instead of getting shorter the more she learns about the deceased and her life.

I was well and truly shocked by some things in the latest installment of "Cookbook Nook Mysteries". Grilling the Subject is as enjoyable as a deliciously marinated and well grilled steak. Hot off the grill, this read is fun, fast paced and full to the brim with enjoyment. I love the characters and the friendships. The story is exceptionally well written and the mystery kept me guessing. I do not think you have to read the others in this series to enjoy this one, but read them too. They are all wonderful. I would recommend this cozy to any foodies and lovers of a fun mystery. Jenna is a great protagonist and her family and friends are always entertaining. Sink your teeth into Grilling the Subject and be ready for a spicy treat!

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review as part of their ongoing blog tour\*

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### **Clare O'Beara says**

Jenna Hart left her advertising work to help her aunt run a cookbook store in a small town. The business seems to pay just enough and she is settled in with a gentleman friend, good neighbours and hearty recipes to learn.

The town is staging a rodeo with a nice touch - animal friendly performances. As this will attract tourists the Santa Cruz-area town is going all out to grab passing trade including trail cooking and barbecues which are called grills. I've been noticing a trend in light crime to throw in a colourful spectacle but make it just background, unrelated to the murder. A murder occurs, sure enough related to town issues rather than running a rodeo. The wealthy owner of the jewellery store has been angering some locals with her plan to buy up all the empty houses in town. This does occur and on a much bigger scale, so it's quite topical.

Jenna also has someone walk back into her life whom she never thought to see again. This major issue distracts her for a lot of the book so her smart aunt has to do some of the sleuthing. The atmosphere and

location are well described and all characters feel very real. Enjoy the rodeo and the recipes. An ARC copy was sent to me for an unbiased review.

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### **Lisa says**

Another winner in the Cookbook Nook series! There are no spoilers in this review but it's a doozy of a book.

Some of the things I loved...

- \* Jenna knows food but doesn't cook.
- \* The real life cookbook titles peppered throughout.
- \* Food is a constant all the way through the book.
- \* Recipes!
- \* All the suspects and the way Jenna herself flip flopped during the journey to the truth.

A couple of minor irritants (I'm grasping here, there isn't really much to dislike) ...

- \* The way Jenna doesn't share her uneasy feeling of being watched.
- \* How nobody seems to hear her when she calls to them on the street.

I usually try to pace myself during good books, I don't like to speed through it and miss some of the nuances. This book kept me coming back to read "just a little bit more" more times than I care to admit. There were a couple of times that I had to turn the dryer back on to un-wrinkle forgotten laundry. I had to heat up cold coffee more times than I care to admit. I may have even forgotten that the dogs were out in the rain.

If you like cozies, cats, food, and recipes please give this book a try...I don't think you'll be disappointed.

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### **Amy says**

Grilling The Subject by Daryl Wood Gerber is the 5th book in this wonderful series.

Crystal Cove is celebrating a Wild West Extravaganza with lots of contests, activities, food tasting, stagecoach races and delicious recipes.

A murder has occurred, Sylvia is found dead and this one becomes more personal to Jenna as her dad is a suspect.

Jenna also has to think about her relationship with Rhett and her dead husband David in order to move forward.

This story had twists and turns, plenty of suspects to keep you guessing.

Love Jenna's cat Tigger and his personality and being back in Crystal Cove with her friends and family. This is a great cozy that I would recommend.

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

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### **Lisa says**

I gorged myself on this latest installment in the Cookbook Nook series by Daryl Wood Gerber. But it didn't fill me up; I want more!

Our heroine Jenna Hart is hard at work getting her specialty bookstore ready for the Wild West Extravaganza in the charming Californian town of Crystal Cove. Quickly things turn deadly, and with no alibi AND an ax to grind against the victim, Jenna's father is the prime suspect. It's up to Jenna to clear her father's name and find out who really did the dirty deed.

I love cozy mysteries like this: lots of subtle clues that keep you guessing, interesting and quirky characters, just the right amount of romance, and lots of yummy food! Rich and witty and light on the fluff, Grilling the Subject checks all my cozy boxes. It's full of detail and charm and suspense. This is my first trip to the charming Crystal Cove but it won't be my last. I usually read cozy series in order but I made an exception since I was lucky to win a copy of this book from the author (\*Thank you, Daryl! Truly wonderful read!\*) I'm glad I jumped head first into this series and now I want all the back story! In fact I've already ordered up the first book in the series, Final Sentence. I highly recommend this one to all cozy mystery fans or anyone looking for a good, tasty, satisfying read!

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### **Taryn says**

#### **A Wild Ride**

Ride along with Jenna Hart while she delights in the Wild West Extravaganza, tries to solve a murder, and works through some relationship issues. This 5th book in Gerber's Cookbook Nook series is a definite page turner that keeps you on your toes the whole way through. Jenna is such a down to earth character you will treasure getting to know her and through her, some fantastic friends and family. This lovely series is filled with a huge variety of cookbooks, eccentric characters, tasty recipes, plus an awesome cat named Tigger. Gerber has yet to disappoint and I always look forward to her next story!!!

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### **Dawn Frazier says**

Jenna and the gang are back, in this fifth installment of the series, getting ready for the Wild West Extravaganza. This book is great, I loved every page. Full of yummy new recipes, descriptions of mouth watering food, and of course it takes place in Crystal Cove, CA, one of my favorite fictional cozy towns. I love Jennas bookstore, it would definitely be a place I would visit often! Her Aunt Vera is a hoot, always lots of fun to catch up with her, and I love how so many cookbooks and cozy mysteries are mentioned throughout the book, makes me want to go buy them all.

Jennas dad gets himself into some hot water, after an argument with a neighbor, who turns up dead! There are so many suspects in the book, Jenna has her hands full trying to clear her dads name. Throw in some twists and turns, and some romance too!

There is a huge surprise in the book, I was shocked to say the least. I went through many emotions reading

this, parts where I was happy, sad, even a little angry, then happy again! I think this is one of my favorites in the series so far. Such a great read, don't miss it!

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### **Carmen Slaughter says**

I received a copy of this release in exchange for a book review. I had not read any of the previous titles in the series so I was intrigued by the premise but anxious about diving in at book five. The author does a great job of including enough backstory to make the characters familiar without spoiling the potential to revisit the earlier books. In this outing, the residents of Crystal Cove are participating in the Wild West Extravaganza. Jenna is looking forward to the festivities and the food but can't shake a feeling of menace in the air. Her father is one of several neighbors at odds with Sylvia Gump because of her obnoxious behavior and unscrupulous business dealings. When she is murdered Jenna's dad is one of the suspects and she is determined to prove his innocence. There is also a subplot regarding Jenna's past and her current romance which kept me engaged. This was a fun read with just the right blend of humor and suspense. The relationships between the characters is believable and I got hungry several times with the great culinary descriptions. I really enjoyed GRILLING THE SUBJECT and I am thrilled there are four other titles for me to read while I wait for another entry into this fun series!

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### **Lisa Morin says**

This is a wonderful addition to a great series. Jenna Hart is a strong character and reading about her daily adventures is sure to put a smile on any reader's face.

In Grilling the Subject, it's time for the Wild West Extravaganza in Crystal Cove and the delectable barbecued treats are bringing in the tourists.

Local resident Sylvia Gump is a force to be reckoned with and has made plenty of enemies with her rude attitude and arrogant ways.

When Sylvia's body is found in the remains of a fire, the suspect list is long, but heading the list is none other than Jenna's dad, Cary Hart.

This story was so good, I couldn't believe all the twists and turns that were going on.

The author really hit it out of the park with this whirlwind story.

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### **AngryGreyCat says**

This is book number 5 in the Cookbook Nook Mystery Series, Grilling the Subject. The sleuth, Jenna Hart, finds herself investigating the death of an obnoxious neighbor to clear her father. Along with the murder investigation, a Wild West Extravaganza is in town adding to the drama, Bailey is in the midst of wedding planning, Jenna and Rhett's own relationship is heating up, and finally, is someone following Jenna? If so, why?

The murder plot is well done and has plenty of suspects and clues to keep you guessing, but Jenna's personal

life is equally important in this outing in this series. Jenna Hart has shown a great deal of character growth since this series began, as have some of the other recurring characters. It has been a lovely series to read and get to know the characters over the course of time. Highly recommended cozy mystery read!

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### **Celia says**

I enjoyed this book immensely -- from the Wild West Extravaganza, the wonderful barbecue recipes with cookbook references and cozy book recommendations, to, of course, a murder. The victim was disliked by many residents in the town of Crystal Cove, so there is no shortage of suspects. There are also some very unexpected twists and turns in the story as Jenna tries to exonerate her father of the crime and find the real killer. I really enjoyed my journey back to Crystal Cove and reconnecting with the characters who really have become like family to me. Jenna has really come into her own in this book and is a strong and vibrant protagonist. I highly recommend this book, and cannot wait for the next book to come out in Daryl Wood Gerber's wonderful Cookbook Nook series.

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

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### **Mark Baker says**

Crystal Cove is celebrating all things western, and Jenna and the Cookbook Nook are joining in by promoting BBQ. However, things take a tragic turn when one of Jenna's father's neighbors turns up dead in a bonfire. With her father a prime suspect, Jenna must find a way to clear his name.

I truly love the different themes we get in this series, each one adds a unique flavor to the story. The characters are fabulous as well, and they definitely feel like old friends here. Toss in a plots with plenty of suspects and twists and you've got the recipe for another winner.

NOTE: I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

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