



## **In Deep Shitake**

*Patricia Mason*

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Take one devastatingly handsome movie star.

Add one outrageously sexy female private eye with a penchant for food-word obscenities.

Mix in a dose of mistaken identity and a handful of Russian mobsters...And they're all In Deep Shitake.

## **In Deep Shitake Details**

Date : Published April 17th 2012 by Zuzalley Books

ISBN :

Author : Patricia Mason

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Genre : Mystery, Romance, Humor, Romantic Suspense, Suspense

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# From Reader Review In Deep Shitake for online ebook

## Kate says

Two and a half stars, actually.

A perfectly serviceable action/adventure novel, with romantic elements. The most distinguishing characteristic is the altogether too twee replacement of swear words with food terms by the main character, Mo. This would've been closer to "cute" than "irritating" if not for one thing - the mushroom is actually a shiitake, not a "shitake." The misspelling, particularly for the TITLE, was grating, in the extreme, especially in an otherwise serviceable book.

It's a cute little "meet cute, get kidnapped, run around trying to unravel a blackmail mystery" story, although the characters whipsaw between insta-attraction and annoyance with each other, which gets a little old. When they're allowed to just crush on each other, there's chemistry there, and it's fairly adorable.

The mob characters, on the other hand, are simply grating. The badly faked Russian accents are irritating, and there are a lot of unexplained plot threads that could've used tying up.

But for a bit of fluff read? Not awful.

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## Shelly says

The best thing about this book was the cool twist the author did on the swearing; using food instead of swear words. Not all were as blatantly obvious as the shitake mushroom and most were funny. Good writing style and clever witicisms. I got to wondering though, in our current era of constant visual stimulation it seems as if the modern author writes as if their story will be turned into a screenplay. Simply add a few, "fade in; transition to outside building; cue sound effects" etc. and voila, screen ready! Maybe it's the modern reader? I don't know but sometimes when it's soooo obviously a movie as you're reading it loses some of the luster for me.

GREAT quote: (location 2195)

"You've heard of transsexuals. An example of that would be a guy who feels he's a woman in a man's body. The guy gets surgery to become a woman, right? Well, I'm a trans-species. I'm a cat born in a human's body. So I'm getting surgery to change species...I'm saving up for my whisker implants"

I don't think I need to say anymore than that!!!

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## Chloe says

I got this on Goodreads Firstreads.

So... Ross used to be really famous, but his time has passed and now he's a failure. His agent doesn't have his best interests at heart. Ross still thinks he's awesome. Mo works undercover to find and provide information

about other people to clients. They meet in an awkward situation(with Mo vulnerable and exposed) and get mixed up with the Russian mob, not by any fault of their own.

This was a pretty corny story. Ross and Mo work together to escape from the mob. They are romantically involved and go through misunderstandings that could be so easily avoided if they would only talk to each other about it. But that's just how these things go, of course. Mo substituted names of foods for curse words. At first this was fine and unique, but it gets old fast. And annoying. But the Russian mobsters are even more annoying. They think that Russ has something they need, and there is mistaken identity involved.

*In Deep Shitake* is pretty much all over the place with a face palm ending, but it is entertaining in a way. The press stalk and terrorize them, and everyone is out to get them. Ross's girlfriend wants to force him into marriage. Blackmail at every turn. Two against the world. There are lots of humorous themes and funny circumstances to keep things light. At the end all of the craziness took its toll on me, resulting in 2.5 stars.

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## **Rae Sontheyon says**

Holy Fritters and Meatballs! This book was a Feast of Laughs!...

This book is a hilarious Mystery RomCom that keeps you laughing and reading page after page. Now when you combine a whole lot of misunderstandings and a detective who swears in foods instead of expletives. A reader can be assured of one thing, you will laugh your asparagus off.

Imogene "Mo" Tuttle, works for Incredible Love, which is not an escort agency. Mo had higher dreams in life of being a chef, but life changed and she became a sleuth, who was instructed to stop cussing. Her solution, use her culinary background as her form of obscenities substitute. Mo's snarky and food mouthing attitude makes one man irritated yet very intrigued. His name is Stephen Dagger, aka Ross Grant, in real life, but he is only recognized by his once big role as the action hero from the past blockbuster hit. Ross wants to rid himself of Mo but she and him find themselves mixed up in a dangerous plot. Ross and Mo run from Russian mobsters, slimy reporters, ex-fiances, fans, clients and Hoochie Mama's House!

Overall, This is just one of those RomCom stories that you read and can't help but laugh the whole way through. Mo has to be one of my favorite heroines, because she's snarky and tough but totally a girl too. She's just too funny with her comebacks and sparring moments with Ross, "Thank you," she said with a bright smile. "That wasn't a compliment." "That's okay because I didn't mean it as a real thank you," she responded. "Sometimes thank you means something else entirely . . .but I'm too much of a lady to drop the f-bomb." "You're impossible," he said. "Thank you." Now if you didn't think that was funny, or you haven't said a thank you in place of an f\*\*\* you before, then perhaps this book will fly right over your head. However, if you are open to a good many laughs and are okay with two sex scenes, then give this book a try, the crazy characters will certainly brighten up your day, night or rainy day.

-----Read more of my reviews at: <http://heyitwasfree.blogspot.com/>-----

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## **Frederick Brooke says**

This book has a lot going for it -- a light, breezy style, likeable characters, a funny quirk with the main character, Mo, having decided to replace all cuss words with food terms. That's what drew me to the book -- I love anything to do with food in literature. The plot also races along, with lots of physical and verbal humor, sort of like Three Stooges meets the old Airplane movies with Lloyd Bridges.

Unfortunately the book is also riddled with typos and other errors, like "to" where "too" should have been used. These errors became so distracting for me, I started asking myself why I was reading such a light, fluffy book. I like the characters here, and they are funny, and all, but it started to feel like a sitcom with canned laughter. What seemed original at the beginning didn't develop into something deeper, and the surprises seemed plotted and cute. Maybe it's what you're looking for, but I couldn't finish it.

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## **Dan Absalonson says**

This was a really fun read. Think of an action thriller mixed with a romantic comedy and you have In Deep Shitake. The characters were awesome and you really come to love and root for them as they stumble through their many misadventures.

This novel was really funny. It had me laughing all the way through. The two main characters and their interesting relationship was a driving force pulling you further into the story as the characters constantly faced more urgent matters. There is a big mystery that gets revealed by the end of the book, and I didn't guess how it would all shake out. There are lots ingredients that come together to make In Deep Shitake great. Humor, action, mystery, romance, and the interesting characters.

I do have to give a content warning. There were a couple of scenes that were too steamy for my tastes so I skipped over them but it was easy to tell what happened in the dialog following those scenes. They had a lot of impact on the story and its characters too. These were not scenes thrown in to shock the readers and they made sense for the story.

I listened to the audiobook version of this novel and the narrator Michael Karl Orenstein did a terrific job. He was great at portraying the different characters with wonderful accents, pitch changes, and inflections. There were a lot of funny characters that showed up all over the book in small scenes and Orenstein came up with perfect voices for all of them. Many times I'm sure I was laughing a lot harder for his spot on delivery and rendering of a character's voice than if I had been reading the eBook or paperback. His acting was superb in all the dialog, and his narrator's voice was smooth and engaging. I would definitely pick up another audiobook narrated by him.

To wrap it up I would recommend this story to anyone who is looking to have a good time reading a novel. It was just what I needed after reading IT by Stephen King. A normal length novel that shows you a really great time. This book had lovable characters with interesting relationships, cool action, a great love story, and a lot of laughs.

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## **Leanna says**

This story is probably best described as action/comedy with some romance sprinkled in. Yes, it does have a love scene or two, and sexual tension, but it isn't the focus of the story. For me, this is a bonus as I haven't quite found straight up "romance" stories up my alley. Throughout this book, I couldn't help but imagine Ross as John Hamm with Clove Owen's personality, and totally envisioned Mo as Lana in the cartoon Archer. Each character is well fleshed-out and has their own flaws, which is refreshing considering the romance genre sometimes has too-perfect people as the hero/heroine. What I really enjoyed about the "romance" in this is the characters address that yes, they do move quite fast, but just when you think "oh great, high school drama is about to happen" with trust issues, the author doesn't indulge it and allows the characters to think logically- it was great! This was totally worth the more than the \$.99 I paid on Amazon.

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## **Mimi Barbour says**

I don't know how anyone can give this book anything less than 4 and realistically 5 stars on a review. It's got everything from Russian mafia, weird-crazy girlfriends and a journalist driven by vengeance. Even though it's a suspense story, it's crazy-hilarious. What I liked about it the most? It was different. A heroine called Imogene Tuttle (Mo for short) who has to control her bad habit for swearing and so uses names of vegetables to replace the cuss words you know she's aching to let loose. I fell in love with her from the start. When Ross Grant the hero first meets her, Mo is upside down, half in and half out of the sunroof of his car, her derriere waving for all the world to see what color panties she chose that day was the half sticking out of the car. Like the gentleman he thought himself to be, our movie star hero stopped and asked if she required assistance. Struggling to sound nonchalant, she answered. "No, I'm fine." How can you not want to read a story that starts like this??? Ms. Mason knows how to weave a great tale, grow her characters and keep the plot moving face-paced and the conflicts happening. Such a fun read!!!

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## **Maureen says**

Well, I found this to be laugh out loud funny. The romance was charming, too - a winning combo for me!

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## **Lori McD says**

3.5-4 stars

I really, really liked this book - LOL! And that surprises me, 'cuz it was a freebie from Ebooks... you never quite know what you're gonna get with a freebie.

But the quirky title got me. I have a friend who swears creatively, trying not to use the more common (and vulgar) words. So the title totally reminded me of something my friend would come up with. Turns out Mo (Imogene Tuttle - what a name!) works for a P.I. office and has had client complaints about her swearing; so Mo, a former culinary student, decides to employ more creative swearing methods (like my friend), using food. What a crack up!

Here are some of the better phrases:

- \* Son of a poached egg
- \* Crepe!
- \* Butt out, rump roast
- \* Cheese puffs!
- \* You have to admit your hands were all over my asparagus a short time ago. Not to mention how you groped my dairy.
- \* What the jalapeno were you thinking?
- \* Sweet maple syrup
- \* You donut hole!
- \* I'd like to thump him in the cantaloupe and take a pairing knife to his grapes
- \* For fries' sake!
- \* Mother-marshmallow fudge!

Mo teams up with Ross Grant, a 40-something movie star best known for the character Stephen Dagger in the blockbuster "SpyMatrix" from 10 years ago. Ross hasn't had a big movie hit for awhile, and he's in Savannah, GA to meet with Anderson Nicodemus, a businessman who runs an empire that includes a Christian-themed amusement park. Nicodemus has recently made a name for himself investing in movies, and Ross is trying to get his career back on track by getting funding from Nicodemus. Nicodemus is willing to fund Ross' next movie project, but he insists on a morals clause as part of the contract. Ross doesn't think that will be a problem... until he meets Mo and gets swept into a mystery involving mistaken identity, Russian mobsters, an ex-fiancee who's still planning the wedding, and an obnoxious trashy reporter who wants to dig up the worst dirt to sell on Ross. Ross has been burned by friends and even family in the past, who've sold stories to the rag mags for cash. And with this morals clause... he needs to keep his nose clean.

While at times I wondered how long this story could go on, it never got dull or boring - perhaps a bit stretched out in some areas of the story. But the author kept the funnies coming, along with a few twists - even at the end.

Thoroughly enjoyed this book!

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## **Quenya says**

This book was either meant to be "cheesy semi-good" or "a term paper written the night before its due." To explain this book is crazy and all over the place but I also found it slightly entertaining. The mystery is very convoluted and the author doesn't close up all the loose ends. The books bounces between scenes sometimes very jarringly and it was at times hard to keep up. This book also has one of my least favorite "tropes" which is throughout the whole book everything goes wrong for the main characters until it all magically works out in the end.

I did like the two main characters of Ross and Mo and most of the supporting characters. The setting of Savannah during Saint Patrick's Day week was excellent because I've actually been in Savannah for the holiday and it is truly an experience for folks to see.

I try not to comment on narrators too often because I know I couldn't do their job but I have to mention that the accents by this narrator were not the best. For one thing, Ross' accent borders between British and Australian - I couldn't really get a grasp of which one he was supposed to be. The other issue is that unless it

was a main/supporting character – all the Southern characters sounded like stereotypical “dumb hicks” and I wasn’t impressed with those accents either.

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### **Carly Kirk says**

This wasn't a bad romantic suspense story, just not quite my cup of tea. I liked the main characters well enough, but Mo's use of food words instead of curse words got quite old for me fast. Not going to be reading the rest of the series....

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### **Jill says**

I can't even finish this. There are so many errors, I seriously can't read another sentence. The one that put me over the edge was "he seen him" - seen instead of saw. omg. The writing isn't great either - the characters overreact like it's a daytime soap.

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### **Lynn says**

The food words instead of swearing wore thin after the first 10 pages. A poor attempt to imitate Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum. Neither humorous, romantic or suspenseful. Don't waste your time.

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### **Natalie Gibson says**

Sweet Pickles this was a good book!

Mo is a private investigator but mostly she just poses as the 'honey pot' for husbands suspected of cheating. One day she gets an assignment to break into a car and gets stuck in a most vulnerable position. (this is the first scene of the book and it was really funny - I read it twice) The owner of the car, Ross Grant, (a actor from a popular movie who's been out of work for a while) finds her and they somehow get tangled up in a blackmail plot involving the Russian mafia, a stripper, a Ross Grant impersonator, and an insane ex-girlfriend who doesn't accept the breakup. Oh and there is a book convention, complete with furries! All the while they have a sleazy journalist following them just close enough to show their 'shitake' to the world but not close enough to be of any help.

This book was a lot of fun. The main character's strive to keep a g rated mouth kept me giggling. The plot was well planned out and I couldn't guess the end. There was a real mystery here and no one just handed them the answers. Action packed from start to finish, the author managed to fit in plenty of funny and even a believable romance. I didn't know there was a 'humorous romantic suspense' book category out there, but now I am sure I have read the best of it. I would love to see these characters again and if I can't, if this is it for Mo and Ross, then I will settle for anything else this author has written. I can't imagine I won't love them all.

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