

(Ebook free) Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery (A Home Crafting Mystery)

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Cricket McRae

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Cricket McRae : Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery (A Home Crafting Mystery) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery (A Home Crafting Mystery):

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Nice Solid ReadBy Beverly L. Archer Heaven Preserve Us by

Cricket McCrae What I liked about the book: This is just a good solid series. Though I've only read the first two, I enjoyed both of them. I love Sophie Mae. She's a very well developed, strong female character. True, like most cozy mystery detectives she does make some unwise choices that tend to put her in danger, but that is often the nature of the cozy sleuth. I also like that this is a "clean" series. Yes, there's a dead body - it's a mystery. But it's not gory and there is no graphic language. The home crafting tips are an added bonus. What I didn't like about the book: Can't think of anything. It's a good solid read for cozy mystery lovers.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. murder by botulism

By mychellem I'm on a huge cozy mystery kick lately, and the idea of murder by botulism was just too intriguing to pass up. Botulism scares me, probably more than any of the other lurking household dangers. (Carbon Monoxide might be a close second. At least they make detectors for Carbon Monoxide.) When I took a food preservation class about a decade ago, they had us listen to a taped interview with a woman who had survived a series case of botulism that she got from a baked potato at a buffet in Winnemucca. She didn't even eat the whole thing, just poked at it with her fork and took a little bit to determine that it was cold and nasty. Listening to her talk about her experience spooked me like nothing else.

The victim in Heaven Preserve Us isn't that lucky -- he dies shortly after being rushed to the hospital, but not before telling Sophie Mae Reynolds about the threats against him. Unfortunately there were a lot of people who had good reasons to wish the man dead. After the recent preserves exchange at Heaven House, there's no shortage of sources for the deadly canned beets. Barr Ambrose, Sophie's boyfriend shared the deadly salad. He was lucky and only contracted a mild case of botulism, but he's not able to help Sophie -- or to keep her out of trouble. And Sophie has a stalker, a caller from the Heaven House help line. Poor Sophie Mae! In the first book, she found her handyman in her workroom, dead after drinking lye. The victims in this series don't die peaceful deaths.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Today's Working Woman reviews Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery by Cricket McCrae

By Today's Writing Woman For anyone that knows me, I'm not much for mysteries. However, I am trying to expand my horizons and branch out into other styles of writing. I saw this on a free booklist and decided to give it a whirl. I figured since it had somewhat to do with food, how bad could it be? I was pleasantly surprised with the entire read. The characters were well developed, the story was easy to read, and frankly, not lame. In fact, I was quite taken by the whole thing and really enjoyed myself throughout the whole book. Even trying to solve the mystery before it was over. Ms. McCrae did a great job keeping that tidbit to the end.

In Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery we see Sophie May Reynolds trying to live her entrepreneurial life as soap maker and canning preserves during the and answering the helpline at a local crisis center at night. One night she takes a call from a mysterious suicidal guy who ends up stalking her via phone. Worse yet, the crisis center is in financial trouble, Sophie Mae's boss mysteriously dies of food poisoning and everyone becomes suspect, including the crisis center secretary! What a mess but oh what fun to watch Sophie sleuth her way through the maize of clues until she finds the culprit. With the help of her roommates, friends in the preserve exchange and the townsfolk of Cadyville (including Sophie's boyfriend, Detective Ambrose) Sophie stumbles upon a few more things than she bargains for.

I must say that I really enjoyed Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery by Cricket McCrae. It was a fun, quick read and easy to follow. I actually thought this was the first book in the series, but just recently found out that it's the second. I am definitely going back to read the first one before continuing on. What I liked the most was the recipes and other ideas that Ms. McCrae shared with her readers. This one is definitely a keeper!

Wine jelly. Watermelon pickles. And a suicidal stalker? Great. Thirty-something crafter extraordinaire Sophie Mae Reynolds makes preserves by day and answers a crisis center help referral line by night. What better way to help people while still keeping a low profile? But on her very first night, she gets a call from a man who is threatening suicide . . . and her. Angrily deeming the caller a crank, her boss, Philip Heaven, disconnects the line. Days later, Philip dies from a nasty case of botulism. Now, as a stalker singles out Sophie Mae, Philip's eerie last words keep coming back to haunt her: Threat. Meant it. Stirring up the town with talk of murder by preserves, can Sophie Mae and her handsome boyfriend Detective Barr Ambrose spoil a mad murderer's poisonous plans? This dangerously delicious second book in the Home Crafting Mystery series also includes recipes for preserves and beauty products! Praise: "McCrae writes about characters that we really care about, and her plot is thoroughly credible. Sophie Mae and her friends deserve many more adventures." Booklist "There's something special about Ms. McCrae as her strong characters and unique plot are definitely spellbinding." Sydney Star Observer "Murder by preserves promises your enjoyment of McCrae's humor." The Coloradoan "Sophie Mae is a confident woman with an appetite for mystery and Heaven Preserve Us is a good one. The characters are engaging, the story intriguing, and the book a pleasure to read." Mysterious Reviews McCrae delivers another satisfying and clever novel with an intriguing plot murder by botulism." Fresh Fiction "Nicely paced without any time wasted, Heaven Preserve Us does a fine job of leading the readers through the investigation with no false starts or cheap side trips...solid and entertaining." Reviewing the Evidence "McCrae ably navigates the waters of small-town crime, establishing believable characters and capturing the charm and camaraderie of the denizens of Cadyville. This town might well be worth visiting frequently." Gumshoe Review Sophie Mae is a top-notch cozy heroine." Cozy Library

From Booklist This is the second outing for Sophie Mae Reynolds in McRae's Home Crafting series, set in small-town Washington State. After helping to solve the murder of her handyman in *Lye in Wait* (2007), Sophie Mae assumes she can go back to her normal occupation of making soap, bath salts, lip-balm lotion bars, salteabags, air fresheners, wine jelly, pickles, and preserves and perhaps even find time to volunteer at a crisis center. The next thing she knows, her boss at Heaven House is dead from food poisoning, and Sophie Mae is being stalked. To make matters worse, her boyfriend, detective Barr Ambrose, is also a victim of the food poisoning, fortunately not fatal in his case. McRae writes about characters that we really care about, and her plot is thoroughly credible. Like many popular cooking mystery series, the books also include recipes. Sophie Mae and her friends deserve many more adventures. --Judy Coon "McRae writes about characters that we really care about, and her plot is thoroughly credible. Like many popular cooking mystery series, the books also include recipes. Sophie Mae and her friends deserve many more adventures." --Judy Coon "Booklist" "Nicely paced without any time wasted, *Heaven Preserve Us* does a fine job of leading the readers through the investigation with no false starts or cheap side trips...solid and entertaining."