



# Just Plain Murder

*Laura Bradford*

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## **Just Plain Murder** Laura Bradford

Claire Weatherly loves her charming adopted hometown but is shocked when the murder of a former town dignitary proves that evil can hide in plain sight in this all new Amish mystery in the national bestselling series.

Jakob and Claire have been enjoying spending more time together in lovely Heavenly, PA. With Claire's help, the detective is making slow progress reconnecting with members of his Amish family who shunned him when he left to pursue a career in law enforcement. Jakob's mentor, Russ Granger, the long retired police chief who inspired him to become a cop is back in town. Claire's always wanted to meet the man who changed the course of Jakob's life. But not long after he arrives in Heavenly, Russ is murdered.

Jakob is shocked and can only imagine that his old friend must have been killed by someone outside of the Amish community. Claire and Jakob soon find that things are not as they seem and Jakob's old boss may have stumbled into something sinister before he was killed. The answers they uncover are closer to home and more shocking than they ever expected.

## **Just Plain Murder Details**

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Author : Laura Bradford

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## **From Reader Review Just Plain Murder for online ebook**

### **Peggy R says**

It's been over a year and a half since we last had a full length story in this series and I couldn't wait to get this one in my hands. It is one of my favorite cozy mystery series. I love the way that Laura Bradford has written this series. Her descriptive writing style allows the reader to picture the town of Heavenly and the Amish way of life. This town has such a peaceful, community feeling that when I sit down and read a book in the series it is like going home to visit old friends. The characters are all so wonderfully written and we've gotten to see so much growth in their lives. Since the series began there have been marriages, babies and new relationships in the Amish community not to mention that Claire and Jakob's relationship has blossomed. This time around, Jakob must solve the murder of the former Chief of Heavenly and his mentor. This is a man that meant the world to Jakob and was the reason he became a policeman. There were plenty of twists and at times I was not sure if the murder was random or for a reason. There is a great twist that involves a Amish teen on a rumspringa straight out of reality T.V. and how the case is eventually solved.

As I said, this series is one of my favorites because it has everything I look for in a cozy mystery series. The author's writing style puts you right in the town of Heavenly and as a reader you feel like you are getting a glimpse into Amish life. The characters are engaging and welcoming and the mysteries are solid. I am looking forward to more to come and highly recommend this series.

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### **Debbie says**

"Just Plain Murder" is a cozy mystery. It's the sixth book in a series. You don't need to read the previous novels to understand this one, and this novel didn't spoil the whodunits in the previous novels.

The author wove in details about living near the Amish and what it's like for people to be or leave the Amish. The characters were engaging, complex, and reacted realistically. The mystery was clue-based, but it's more of a police procedural than a puzzle mystery. Claire helped the detective by doing some things with him. Because the victim was a friend of the detective, he was too close to see things that another detective might've spotted sooner. Once Claire came along to view things with fresh eyes, she spotted the clues and the detective immediately followed up on the new lead.

There was no sex or bad language. Overall, I'd recommend this mystery.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.

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### **Janilyn Kocher says**

First, I loved the cover for this mystery. Laura Bradford revisits the tranquil town of Heavenly, an Amish community, but the serenity is destroyed with the death of retired cop Russ. The death hits Jakob hard as Russ was his mentor. With the aid of girlfriend Claire, the two investigate all possibilities and with the help of an errant Amish teen, they crack the case. Bradford always paints a delightful Amish community picture with her stories. Thanks to Penguin First Read for the ARC?

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## **Shekenah says**

**\*\* I was able to read this as part of the Penguin First to Read program\*\***

**\*\*2.5 Stars\*\***

I love me a cozy mystery and I was intrigued by the premise. I'm going to state the obvious and say with this series it will be beneficial to have read the previous books. Other cozy mysteries you can jump into a few books in, but the reader would do well to read the previous books. Generally speaking, I liked the characters and the town seemed charming, but I found the story lacking. The ineptitude of the police work was frustrating and the plot was very slow-paced so I found my interest waning. There were a few sections where I skimmed since I was getting bored with the story. I wish I had liked this more and it seems it is a popular series, but it wasn't my cup of tea.

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## **Taryn says**

This was my first time reading a book from this series and I truly enjoyed it. I was pulled in from the beginning and didn't put it down until the end. The characters and setting captured my attention right away and the mystery kept me going from there. After the first few chapters I was able to get a sense of who the characters were, I felt like I knew who Claire and Jakob were by the end. I liked the way they worked together as a team and their relationship felt like a true connection. Claire was truly the anchor that Jakob needed in this read after the murder of the man who changed his young life. After reading this book I will definitely be going back and reading the previous books. I liked learning about the Amish way of life and this book was a great source of information. You could tell the author did quite a bit of research that led the book to its authentic feel when it came to all things Amish. I look forward to seeing where the author takes these characters next!

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## **Sherry Brown says**

I have read all the books in the An Amish mystery series by Laura Bradford. Just Plain Murder continues with the relationship of Jacob Fisher and Claire Weatherly. Jacobs mentor Russ Granger who is back in town is murdered. Jacob and Claire work together to found out who Murdered Jacobs friend. It had me reading it first thing in the morning and staying up reading late at night! Lots of twist and turns! Loved it!!!

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## **Mark Baker says**

In the time that shop owner Claire Weatherly has been dating detective Jakob Fisher, she has never met Russ Granger, the man Jakob counts as a mentor and father figure. Of course, it makes sense since Russ has retired and moved to Florida. He is back in Heavenly, Pennsylvania, for a visit, but before Jakob and Russ can reconnect, Russ is murdered. Distraught over the man's death, Jakob throws himself into solving the crime. Can Claire help him come up with any leads?

It's been two and a half years since we've been able to visit this community, and I hadn't realized just how much I missed it until I was reading the first page. I was immediately swept back into the peaceful state I find while reading this series. In keeping with a town next to an Amish community, the pace in this series has always been a bit on the slow side, but I did feel this book's pacing was slower than normal. Still, when the pace does pick up, we get a well-done plot. The real star has always been the characters, and I was thrilled to be able to visit them again. They are as wonderful as ever, and I enjoyed some of the developments happening in their lives.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

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### **Mary says**

Just love this series. In this book, Jakob is getting ready to introduce Claire to his mentor Russ Granger and former police chief of Heavenly. It is Russ who helped Jakob become a police officer and help him over the years. When Claire and Jakob are out on a picnic, he receives a call that Russ has died. It is learned that Russ was murdered, however, there appears to be no motive or any suspects. Claire tries to help Jakob as best she can by supporting him thru his grief and passing along comment and offers of help from others. In the Amish community, a new bishop has been elected and they are dealing with a rather wild teen on his Rumspringa. He is the neighbor of Eli and Esther and has been causing lots of issues in the neighborhood. The mystery to solve Russ's murder is filled with lots of red herrings and initially going thru old case files to see if anyone had a grudge. This was a fast read and am glad to see the growth in Jakob and Claire's relationship along with the return of Bill perhaps a new long term character and love interest of Aunt Diane will stay in town. Benjamin even has a new love interest and we should be seeing more weddings in the future. Looking forward to the next installment. Highly recommend.

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### **Melissa Castor says**

This was a great book! I had read some of the series before, but not all of the books. Claire helps Jakob solve the murder of his mentor, who is murdered when he comes for a visit. The characters in this series are delightful, and I love reading about the Amish culture. I highly recommend this book! I can't wait to go back and read the books in this series that I've missed and see what happens in the future both with Claire and Jakob and Aunt Diane and Bill!!!

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### **Colleen says**

This is the 6th book in Laura Bradford's Amish Mystery Series.

Laura had done a great job of creating her characters and the setting, so much so, that I want to go there on my next vacation to meet Claire, Jakob, and all of the others from Heavenly, PA. I have to keep reminding myself that this is a story, not real life.

This particular series seems to suck you into its storyline and makes you want to keep reading and to find out

more and more about the characters.

In this particular book, Detective Jakob's mentor has been murdered. Throughout the book, it is so easy to get involved in the story and to want to help the characters out. I will say, however, that the person I thought had done it wasn't the criminal and I was totally surprised to see how the book ended.

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### **Lori Bonkoski says**

Loved the return to this series. Jakob and Claire find themselves embroiled in the murder of Jakob's mentor, Russ. The story features lots of angst for Jakob and Claire working hard to provide support and understanding. Claire has some angst of her own, when their friend Benjamin seems to have found a woman to share his life. This is a nice continuation of the stories in this series and it was like visiting old friends to read this installment!

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### **Barb says**

During his younger years, Jakob was greatly influenced by then-police chief Russ Granger. Even when Granger retired and moved away, Jakob often used him as a sounding board on difficult cases, so when Russ returns to Heavenly for a visit, Jakob is excited to see him again and to introduce him to Claire. When Russ is murdered, though, Jakob is devastated, and Claire does what she can to help him through this dark time by helping to solve the case.

This is the sixth book in the Amish Mystery series, which I've enjoyed since the first book. I live not far from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, so the books' setting in Heavenly, PA, brings to mind the Amish buggies, farms and places of business that I've encountered over the years. I also like the way the Amish and the English in these books have learned to peacefully co-exist (for the most part), which seems especially rare these days. Besides the setting, I have had fun getting to know the regular characters, watching as they have grown and their relationships have changed over the course of the series. That was especially true in this book, and I can't wait to read the next one... but I hope we don't have to wait another two years for the next book!

*Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read and review this book.*

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

Now as you see the title of this book it is the sixth in a series, but the first that I have read, and it didn't take much to be caught up and involved in the lives of these English and Amish in Heavenly.

The author offers us a story with a bit of romance, family love and comradery, with a glimpse into Amish life, and unfortunately a murder.

Right to the end of the book you really don't know how things are going to turn out, and I never saw the ending coming.

Now I want more, I want to move on with Claire and Jakob, and more of Diane and Bill, and now I am looking forward to another read in this series!

I received this book through First Reads, and was not required to give a positive review.

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## **Fred says**

Just Plain Murder is the sixth book in the An Amish Mystery series.

This is a wonderful series centering around the lives of Claire Weatherly, a shop owner, and her police detective, Jakob Fisher and the Amish community of Heavenly, PA. Jakob had been baptized in the Amish but had decided to leave the Amish church and become a policeman. Growing up he had been in awe of the police chief of Heavenly, Russ Granger, who ended up being Jakob's mentor. A few years ago Granger retired and moved to Florida, but had always kept in touch with Jakob often reviewing cases with each other. Granger liked to review "cold cases" thinking he might see something that would be the clue needed to solve the case.

Jakob is excited when he gets a phone call from Russ saying he is in town to visit with his daughter and grandchildren and would like to meet with Jakob that evening. Jakob puts off the meeting as he would probably have a late night and he and Claire have planned a picnic for the next morning. Unfortunately, while on their picnic Jakob gets a phone informing him the Russ Granger's lifeless body has been found in the backyard of his daughter's home.

Granger's murder hits Jakob particularly hard, not only was he Jakob's good friend and mentor, but Jakob feels that if he had met with him he wouldn't have been killed. Jakob sets out to solve Granger's murder and will do so with Claire's valuable assistance.

Also happening in and around Heavenly. Claire's Aunt Diane might have a romantic interest. Billy, who we met in book five has come back for another visit and just might become a regular character. Ben, an Amish friend of Claire's, and who had wanted to leave the church for Claire, might see romance heading his way.

This is another well-plotted and told story from Ms. Bradford. The residents of Heavenly are wonderful and well developed and the interaction with the Amish community is well done.

I am looking forward to the next book in this delightful series.

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## **Lesia says**

Whatever you do, don't enter Laura Bradford's Amish world in Pennsylvania expecting it to be the same as Linda Castillo's world in Ohio's Amish country. Just Plain Murder, the sixth in Bradford's Amish mystery series, is a cozy set in a community that usually resembles its name, Heavenly. Then, there are the troubles that disrupt any community, murder.

Romantic moments between Claire Weatherly and Jakob Fisher are infrequent because of his job as a police

detective. So, they steal the chance to have a picnic, but that peaceful time is one that Jakob comes to regret. He had ignored a phone call from the man who once mentored him, retired police chief Russ Granger. Granger is in town visiting his widowed daughter. Jakob knew he'd catch up with him later. But, he never had the chance because someone killed Russ outside his daughter's home.

Jakob beats himself up because he wasn't there for the man who watched over him, the man Jakob admired enough to follow into the police field, despite the loss of Fisher's Amish family. All of Claire's friends know it's important to be there for Jakob while he struggles through the murder investigation. It's sometimes her thoughts that set him on the right track in the case.

Laura Bradford's cozy mystery succeeds in doing what cozies attempt to do. It shows how violence and murder can tear a community apart. Make no mistake about it. Bradford has built a community in Heavenly. The characters in this series become important to returning readers. We care about Claire and Jakob. And, like Claire, we want to see good things happen for her friends and family members. We can root for her aunt, Diane, to find a late-life romance. We're happy for the widower, Benjamin Miller, to have a chance at love. Each time Jakob's family members make a move to show their acceptance of him, we're happy for him. He understands why he's shunned for leaving after he was baptized. Readers, along with Claire, have a harder time watching family rejection of a good man.

Bradford has built her world in this atmospheric homespun series. Just Plain Murder is an intricately plotted, character-driven story that welcomes readers back. It's time to catch up with the beloved characters of Heavenly. As in all good cozy mysteries, we want good to triumph over evil, and justice for the victim. That's just right.

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