



Hummus and Homicide

Tina Kashian

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When Lucy Berberian quits her Philadelphia law firm and heads home to Ocean Crest, she knows what she's getting—the scent of funnel cake, the sight of the wooden roller coaster, and the tastes of her family's Mediterranean restaurant. But murder wasn't on the menu . . .

Things are slow in the off-season in this Jersey Shore town, but Lucy doesn't mind. She doesn't even mind waitressing at the Kebab Kitchen. Her parents have put in a new hummus bar, with every flavor from lemon to roasted red pepper. It's fun to see their calico cat again, and to catch up with her old BFF, who's married to a cop now.

She could do without Heather Banks, though. The Gucci-toting ex-cheerleader is still as nasty as she was back in high school . . . and unfortunately, she's just taken over as the local health inspector. Just minutes after eating at the Kebab Kitchen—where she's tallied up a whole list of bogus violations—she falls down dead in the street. Word on the grapevine is it's homicide, and Lucy's the number one suspect . . .

Recipes included!

Hummus and Homicide Details

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Author : Tina Kashian

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From Reader Review Hummus and Homicide for online ebook

Carol Bisig says

This is great! I absolutely loved it! I can't wait to make Hummus! Lucy, is a first generation American, from an ethnic family, Armenian. Food, boisterous family, I loved the whole family Restaurant atmosphere. I come from a large family, so, I understand loud! Lucy has quit her job at a prestigious law firm, won't tell her family, as she returns to a small Ocean town in Jersey. Once home, she wants to avoid a young college love, then runs into the nasty girl from High School, who becomes an even worse adult woman. Then, in her parents restaurant, nasty Heather dies, of poisoning no less! What damage to the business, who wanted her dead? The police believe Lucy could be the murderer! This is a great mystery, keeps you guessing the whole time! I love that, it moves quickly, all of the secondary characters are great! I want to know more about Lucy! Please do a follow-up! I have to know who she chooses! Love this great Author, by the way! This is number 3 on my Top 25 for 2018! I have a site on WordPress.
I highly recommend! Thanks! Enjoy!
carolintallahassee ?

Yvonne says

Lucy Berberian is back home to Ocean Crest, New Jersey after she quits her job at a law firm in Philadelphia. She doesn't let her family in on her current lack of job status, but offers to help the family run restaurant, Kebab Kitchen.

Unfortunately, she meets up with an old high school enemy, Heather Banks. Heather is the new health inspector and her inspection of the restaurant doesn't go very well. She presents the Kebab Kitchen with a host of costly violations. Violations Lucy is sure is just Heather's way to get under her skin. Heather stops at the restaurant for a meal and winds up dead moments later. It's not long before the restaurant suffers as people assume Heather's death is related to eating at the Kebab Kitchen.

Lucy is not going to let her parents' restaurant suffer like this. She is more than a little determined to find out what really happened to Heather. The police think she and her family's restaurant killed the inspector, but Lucy knows better and will prove it once and for all.

What a charming debut for the Kebab Kitchen Mystery series. I immediately adored Lucy and her family. They are close-knit, despite the time Lucy spend in Philadelphia. The author does a great job of drawing the reader into the story. I felt as if I was in Ocean Crest walking along the boardwalk.

There's a touch of romance mixed into the mystery, but the main focus of the story is on the mystery. It's fast-paced with a huge suspect list. It was hard for me to narrow it down to one culprit. I love a story that keeps me guessing as this one did.

I'm looking forward to the next entry into this series. I can't wait for my next visit to the Kebab Kitchen. I suddenly have a craving for hummus!

FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Lucy has been passed over at the law firm once too often, so she has quit and has headed home for a month or so to decide what to do next, she is staying with her best friend (and her husband who is a local police officer) and she will be helping out at the family restaurant. Her first day back and she and Katie have headed for a beer and a catch up when Heather Banks arrives and she promptly manages to get right in Lucy's face (mainly by saying that her parents are not legal immigrants), the problem then arises that she has taken over from her father and is now the Health Inspector and that afternoon Heather comes to inspect the Kebab Kitchen and promptly writes it up for various violations. If that isn't enough she then comes back the next day for lunch (so she isn't that bothered about the violations it seems!)

That would seem to be the end of it until Lucy stumbles across Heather's very dead body and the detective in charge of the case has a gripe against the Berberian family (thanks to Lucy's older sister Emma, who dumped his rather dramatically in high school), now it looks as though Lucy is headed to be a dish washer in Prison unless she and Katie can find out who really hated Heather enough to kill.

A nice gentle start to what will be another good cozy series, Lucy's mother is a hoot and although we don't see much of the other members of staff at the restaurant they (and other members of the town) are nicely written and are all believable characters. I am looking forward to reading more!

Tari says

Lucy Berberian had quit her job as a patent attorney in Philadelphia when she didn't make partner. She came home to Ocean Crest, NJ and her parents' Mediterranean restaurant, Kebab Kitchen and started filling in as a waitress while living with her best friend Katie and Katie's husband, Bill, who happened to be on the police force. Of course, no trip home is ever complete without a run-in with a high school nemesis. Lucy and Heather Banks had an argument, then Heather showed up as the new health inspector who promptly found numerous things in violation. Imagine Lucy's surprise when later, going out to the trash can, she found Heather's dead body out back of the restaurant. Lucy just knew that the police would suspect her since she not only had been last to see her alive, she'd done the serving of her food and drink.

Katie, being the awesome best friend she was, wasn't going to let Lucy sleuth alone, and the two of them set off to find out some very interesting things, one of which, the police didn't even know. There was a good twist towards the end, so I won't go into anything that happened, except everything worked out for the best and people were happy. Now I'm really anxious to see what comes next--good thing I've pre-ordered the next two books!

I loved this author's first cozy mystery! I'm not sure what she wrote under her other name but this book was very well written, great plot and some fun and interesting, as well as likable, characters. When I can feel right at home with characters after only a few chapters, I know the author has done their job well. If you read the acknowledgements in the back and the author's Amazon bio, you'll see that Lucy's life mirrors the author's life somewhat. Great job, Tina Kashian, I can't wait to visit Ocean Crest in the next book!

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza

Un altro buon inizio di una nuova serie. Mi piacciono sia la protagonista che molti dei vari personaggi secondari, ma ho un solo appunto: perché ogni volta che c'è un italo-americano costui deve per forza essere (o essere sospettato di essere) un mafioso?

Il mistero è ben congegnato e la soluzione è giunta inaspettata, forse perché, almeno secondo me, non c'erano abbastanza indizi.

Vado a prenotare il successivo...

Peggy R says

Tina Kashian is a new voice in the cozy mystery genre and Hummus and Homicide is a delightful debut. It hits all the marks that I look for in a cozy mystery. It is full of well written, colorful, fun characters, family, food and an engaging mystery. The story had a steady pace and it seemed like something was always happening. I liked Lucy's character. She becomes an amateur sleuth out of necessity but is not reckless or over confident in her abilities. There were plenty of suspects to choose from and at one point I had suspected the actual killer, but this author did a great job of dropping clues that directed my attention elsewhere.

This is an entertaining cozy mystery debut that at its heart is about family, food and coming home again. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

This book is scheduled for release February 27, 2018. I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher, Kensington, through Netgalley.

Kathleen Gray says

A fresh new voice in cozy! Lucy is home in Ocean Crest after quitting her job at a Philly law firm when she didn't make partner after 8 long years of hard work. She finds herself doing more than helping out at her parents restaurant- she's snooping around with her friend Katie to find out who killed the rotten health inspector, who was a mean girl in high school and a mean girl as a grown up. There's two possible love interests (great set up for the future), a lively family (love Mom), recipes (yum) and a mystery that actually had me guessing. The twist was a surprise to me, which is a real positive. The writing is spritely and the characters well drawn. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC. I'm looking forward to more from Kashian- and I'm curious if Lucy will make use of that legal background (acknowledging, as she does, that being an expert on patent law does not qualify one for criminal issues.). Try this one!

Kelly says

****I voluntarily read this ARC****

This was a fun start to a new series. I loved how there was a strong focus on family. The setting was a little "standard cozy setting," but it felt like a nice place (minus the murder of course). The mystery was well written and kept me guessing until the end.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Hummus with a side of Homicide. That is what Lucy Berberian has to deal with shortly after returning home to Ocean Crest. When she quit her job as a patent attorney in Philadelphia she hoped to come home, lick her wounds, and decide what her next career move would be. But now she is the prime suspect in the murder of Heather Banks, one of the high school in-crowd from when she and Lucy were in high school. She was now the local health inspector who had just written up a ton of violations for Lucy's parent's restaurant, The Kebab Kitchen. She also had loud words with Lucy soon after she arrived in town, in front of several witnesses. Those reasons, plus the victim happened to eat a whole lot of hummus at the family eatery right before she died means Lucy and her parents could lose everything.

The Berberian family had Lucy's life all planned for her, work at the restaurant, marry the dishwasher soon to be chef, and take over the family business when her parents were ready to retire. She had other plans, she went to college and law school and took a job with a Philadelphia firm hoping to make partner. When her law career didn't go as planned they welcomed her home with open arms. This theme is real, believable, and traditional of many families in the restaurant and other family businesses. These characters have depth and their dialogues are delightful. I was drawn into the story immediately by them as soon as they were introduced.

From the title I knew the method of death would be poison and it would be in the hummus, but beyond that, the entire investigation was a surprise. The suspect pool was pretty limited by who was in the restaurant or had access to the restaurant, most being family. I enjoyed following along with Lucy and her BFF Katie as they tried to find the actual killer. Twist after twist made this a tough mystery to solve. It was very well plotted by the author to lead this reader off the right track. I was totally blown away when the killer was revealed.

The story had a steady pace that picked up as we got closer to the big reveal.

Ms. Kashian has introduced us to some very captivating characters. I am excited to get to know them better in future stories. I love the romantic triangle that is just starting to evolve for Lucy. I also enjoyed her friendship with Katie, whose husband happens to be a police officer. Together they make a nice team and you know they have each other's back no matter what.

This is an excellent start for this series. Stabbed in the Baklava will be released August 28, 2018. I can hardly wait.

Dawn Frazier says

Loved it!! Will be a new favorite series of mine.

Lucy Burdette says

Fun cozy that reminded me of summers spent at the Jersey shore. I only wish I could really eat at the Kebab Kitchen!

Carrie says

Hummus and Homicide by Tina Kashian is the first book in the new cozy Kebab Kitchen Mystery series. This series introduces Lucy Berberian who has left her job as a lawyer to return to her hometown of Ocean Crest, New Jersey to regroup and find out where she wants her career to go.

When Lucy arrives home she immediately jumps in to helping at her parents restaurant, the Kebab Kitchen. While it was nice to come home and see her friends and family unfortunately one person Lucy could do without seeing walks back into her life. Heather Banks was a typical mean girl in high school and things certainly haven't changed a bit.

After her initial run in with Heather Lucy hopes to be done with her but Heather walks back into the Kebab Kitchen and announces she's taken over as health inspector. Of course with Heather behind the inspection the restaurant fails leaving Lucy and her parents wondering what to do but the next thing they know Heather winds up dead right outside the restaurant.

As typical of a cozy Lucy begins her own investigating by questioning everyone who knew Heather and compiling her list of suspects. She was one of those main characters that was completely realistic in not pretending she knew how to be a detective but asking the right person here and there to eventually lead her to solving the crime and clearing her name.

As likable as everyone was in this new series my one thing that I lowered my rating a bit to 3.5 stars was that I felt the characters missed that extra spark. Dare I say everyone seemed a bit too normal?? The author did a good job making this one a bit more diverse but I didn't get that humorous quirkiness that stands out to me in cozies. Otherwise though I did like the story and characters with the mystery being a nice one to try to solve.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Betty says

Lucy Barbarian stumbled over something as she left the Kebab restaurant carrying a large bag to the trash. She looks at what she tripped over and gasped in horror. It was Heather Banks, her high school nemesis. She called 911 and this begins a nightmare where she was the lead suspect in Heather's murder. The lead detective was an ex-flame of sister and was looking no further for the killer. Her family's restaurant is hurting from Heather's death as she had just eaten at the hummus bar. Its ingredients were made by her Mother. Lucy, an out of work patent attorney decided to help the restaurant reputation and clear her name by

looking for the real killer. The twists and turns in her investigation will take her on a journey that involved a well-known suspense author, greed, and jealousy of other restaurant owners, a casino, an old boyfriend, a mob boss, and a motorcycle enthusiast thoroughly enjoyed this book and looking forward to reading the next book. I learned about Armenian cooking Recipes for hummus are included.

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

Mary Brown says

Hummus And Homicide
Kebab Kitchen Mystery, Book #1
Tina Kashian
5 Stars

Synopsis:

When Lucy Berberian quits her Philadelphia law firm and heads home to Ocean Crest, she knows what she's getting--the scent of funnel cake, the sight of the wooden roller coaster, and the tastes of her family's Mediterranean restaurant. But murder wasn't on the menu . . .

Things are slow in the off-season in this Jersey Shore town, but Lucy doesn't mind. She doesn't even mind waitressing at the Kebab Kitchen. Her parents have put in a new hummus bar, with every flavor from lemon to roasted red pepper. It's fun to see their calico cat again, and to catch up with her old BFF, who's married to a cop now.

She could do without Heather Banks, though. The Gucci-toting ex-cheerleader is still as nasty as she was back in high school . . . and unfortunately, she's just taken over as the local health inspector. Just minutes after eating at the Kebab Kitchen--where she's tallied up a whole list of bogus violations--she falls down dead in the street. Word on the grapevine is it's homicide, and Lucy's the number one suspect . . .
(Goodreads)

Review:

The characters are well developed and well rounded. Lucy loves her family and she knows that family and tradition are important. It took her leaving and then coming back before she learned this lesson but she did figure it out. Lucy is smart, loyal and a hard worker and she agrees to help her family out in their restaurant. And when a body is found outside that restaurant and suspicion falls on her family, she is willing to snoop around and try to find the culprit. I liked how well Lucy and her best friend Katie got along, you can tell they would do anything for each other. And I enjoyed getting to meet and get to know Lucy's family, it was great how close knit they are.

The writing style flowed smoothly and the book is a fast easy read. The writing style allowed me to see the action through the characters eyes and that made me more engaged in the story. The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and she did an excellent job with all of the different foods. I became hungry reading this book!!!

The mystery was well plotted and carried on well throughout the book. There were enough suspects to consider and clues to sift through. Thrown in some red herrings and it was not an easy one to solve. I did not figure it out until the reveal at the end.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy. It has great characters, delicious food, a great setting and family love and loyalty. What more could you want?

I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher, Kensington Books, through Netgalley.

Cheryl says

Lucy quits her big city law firm and goes back to her hometown to help her parents run their Mediterranean restaurant. She is enjoying catching up with old friend until she runs into Heather Banks a former cheerleader who was nasty in high school and still is. Heather is the new health inspector and she make up fake violations of the restaurant. When Heather is found dead after eating at the restaurant Lucy has to find out who did it before her family is put out of business.
