



French Pastry Murder

Leslie Meier

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Lucy Stone is saying "Au revoir!" to Tinker's Cove, Maine, and "Bonjour!" to Paris to take in the sights, learn how to bake authentic French pastries, and experience some joie de vivre. But her dreams of la vie en rose are put on hold when the City of Lights turns deadly...

Lucy always dreamed of visiting Paris, but when renowned pastry chef Larry Bruneau is discovered on death's doorstep and Lucy and her friends are detained for questioning, she's worried she'll be trading in her luxury accommodations for a sojourn in the Bastille. Now, if she's going to enjoy her vacation, she'll have to unpack her sleuthing skills and clear her name...

French Pastry Murder Details

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From Reader Review French Pastry Murder for online ebook

Mayda says

Americans are so accustomed to the freedom and rights that we have in the USA that sometimes we fail to realize that those rights are ours only as long as we remain on US soil. When traveling to other countries, these rights do not travel with us. This fact is made abundantly clear to Lucy Stone and her traveling companions when they are linked to an attempted murder in France. They are shocked to discover that they really have no rights and even the US consulate cannot help them. Their passports are taken and they are forbidden to leave the country. Lucy decides to help move matters along by doing some sleuthing of her own. But things take a turn for the worse, and Lucy finds herself in more trouble with the local police. Author Leslie Meier does not disappoint with this newest book in this charming series. Delightful continuing characters in an intricate plot will keep you reading until the very end, and then leave you wishing to read the next not-yet-published novel.

Lynn says

Two and a Half Stars.

Love the idea of Lucy being in Paris . Perfect setting but too hard to buy that these small town folks who have never been to Europe, win a trip of a lifetime and then have absolutely no trouble at all finding their way around or communicating, even in high school French. They win an all-expenses paid vacation to Paris and they eat most of their meals in their apartment? There are 4 couples and only 3 bedrooms and one couple has to sleep in the general pathway the entire time? So, despite the fun of a Parisian sojourn, it's just too far to suspend my disbelief.

Kim j says

I have been keeping up with the series even though I am not a big fan. Why you ask? Because I like to have something different to read in between really great books. I was being kind with the 2star rating because no investigating was done and it was notbelievable. Sorry but it just seemed to down the French, which is OK I guess but why? Plus I would have thought if they were in Paris they would see the Eifel tower and all these other major places but flea markets? It was ridiculous and all of Lucys self loathing is sad. It puts women down and back into the dark ages. My mom at 80 is more self confident than Lucy at what late forties to early 50's, my age and I cannot relate to her. Fast read but not good!

Suzanne says

I'm a huge fan of Leslie Meier's Lucy Stone mysteries, but this one was not a favorite. I thought I would enjoy the setting, as I love Paris and it is one of my favorite cities. The writing, though on this was not smooth, especially the dialogue. If Bill and Lucy had travelled alone the Paris, that would have been fine, but adding the three couples made the book a little clunky, and there just were not enough ways to keep

everyone involved in the main plot.

Sarah Adamson says

This is a good mystery starring Lucy Stone, her husband, daughter and her friends transported to Paris for a different adventure. The mystery itself is fun although with some interesting twists. The story itself is racist, anti-every part of the world apart from America. This book is a clear example of an American feeling superior and showing off that superiority and bigotry. I was incredibly disappointed. I hoped that she was just trying to express some beliefs via some characters but she continued to criticize every aspect of French life apart from the food and every aspect of "Arabian" life whilst being very racist. I am sad that this is what she feels and has chosen to share in this book.

Luffy says

So this is how it's like to read a book by an author so unconnected with the rules of fiction writing that she begins to remind us of the Agatha Christie of *The Postern Of Fate* fame. That's quite ironic as Leslie Meier here tipped her hat to the Great Dame and before has lifted an entire plot for her convenience.

My jaw dropped when reading the hodgepodge that was part of the ending of this book. It was, bar, none, the worst finale to a book that I've ever read. Ever. Easily. But it was fun as well. I could have rated the book 1 or 2 stars, but instead went for 4 because the start was strong and because my favorite character of the series, Bill, appears the most of any of the books in this one. But the weirdness that permeated the book was impossible to dismiss. There were little things at first, here and there, that the author let get printed. There was a lot of rubbish about French society and culture. There was Bill being decidedly thick at times, and given rotten dialog to spout. There was Lucy Stone counting down to one IN FRENCH, at a time under stress. The entire plan of the American group, their destination choices and shopping concerns were weird. There were amazing coincidences.

I could go on and trust me I will to some extent. There's Lucy thinking Gainsbourg as sexy, and being very much anti French and pro American over no brainer benefits like extended holidays, which France has, and the USA don't. I can't even picture Serge, the guy that bones Elizabeth, realistically as 'ridiculously handsome' because there's no accounting for what's going on in Lucy's brain, and by projection, the mind of the writer. The one thing that rivals all the conveniences, and the unbelievable ending was the fact that Lucy Stone never got close to solving the murders. The two murders are almost unrelated. Good. We're on firm ground. Laurence gets stabbed, stabilizes in the hospital, then is murdered successfully this time. But there's no explanation over what subterfuge the murderer used to escape notice and forge an alibi. I could go on and on. The ending doesn't even give us the closure of the group returning to America. There's just a footnote about Elizabeth as she finds herself at the apex of a love triangle. I never thought a book could rival movies like *Plan 9* and *Manos* as the best worst work I've ever experienced. That's because book editors have tremendous say in the final cut than their movie counterparts. I'm giving the book 4 stars, but all of the bad things I've said about it, if viewed in a given mood, can pass for a funny read. Unintentional, inept but still stunningly eccentric.

Kelly Miller says

I see some reviewers think Lucy should just stay home. I don't think that is the case. I gave it a 4 as I thought some of the ending was just thrown in at the reader out of the blue, but it was still a good book for Leslie Meier.

Judy says

I've read all the books in this series and this one was a disappointment. Should have never left Tinker Cover, Maine. Visiting Paris with friends just didn't cut it for a Lucy Stone story.

Susan says

Lucy Stone, her three best friends and all four husbands win a trip to Paris, which Lucy has always wanted to visit. Now her daughter is working there, so they can visit when not enjoying a cooking class set up especially for them. But when Lucy finds the chef/teacher dead, the police confiscate all eight passports and the group worries about getting home on time. Okay, this is the probable part of the plot. Not only does the story get seriously strange, but Lucy--who has solved crimes in her little Maine home town--acts recklessly and stupidly, not once but repeatedly. I hate to say this about a character I've followed for years, but maybe everything that can be written about Lucy has already been written.

Renee says

Maybe I need to stay away from cozy mysteries for a while.

This is the latest (or almost latest) book in Meier's Lucy Stone series. Unlike most of the other books in the series, though, very little of the action takes place in Tinker's Cove; it's set in Paris! It still includes Lucy finding herself in the middle of murder, though, and doing some sleuthing despite being in a foreign country. What's not to like, right?

Perhaps I was experiencing the reader's version of what I'd be feeling if I were one of 4 couples staying in a 3-bedroom Paris apartment for 2 weeks -- and not knowing if I could return home as planned. Not cabin fever, precisely, but an increasing dislike of having to live and socialize with 6 friends I've never shared living space with. Then again, perhaps some of the other characters were, in fact, objectively annoying in how they faced the situation. Luckily this wasn't enough to make me actively dislike the book.

So is it a favorite? No, definitely not. But it was passable and I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Amy says

I love Lucy Stone and this book was excellent. I just missed her adventures in Tinker's Cove and her family wasn't all in this book which was no fun because I love her family. Still a definite must read, I just hope her next book she is back home!!!

Eva says

Lucy Stone and the gang head for Paris in this installment of the Lucy Stone mysteries. Recognized on the Norah Show for their charity work through the Hat and Mitten Club they organize for the needy children of Tinker's Cove, Lucy and her friends are rewarded with a trip to Paris, complete with cooking classes. Unfortunately, Paris isn't at all what they had hoped for, especially when Lucy finds Chef Larry has been attacked. Through one stressful interview with the Paris authorities after another, the group of Americans just want their passports back so they can go home on time. This series has been a favorite for quite a while, but this book was a disappointment. The French police were portrayed as bumbling and incompetent. The French people were stereotypically rude and unpleasant, and the American visitors were portrayed as arrogant and self-absorbed. Travel abroad was not a good idea for this novel.

Chris Curtis says

When I read a cozy mystery I want to relax and enjoy great characters and a nice location with a mystery thrown in to make things interesting. If the characters travel I want to read about the great place they are visiting that I am not able to visit other than through the book. This book had none of that.

Lucy and her friends get a free trip to Paris which should be exciting. But all they do is complain. Paris is nothing but grey boring buildings, rude people, navigating the city is difficult, the class they take doesn't teach what they wanted, the place they stay isn't good enough, Lucy can't get a good night's sleep, and their feet hurt from walking. They go out of their way to avoid the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre or anyplace you would expect to enjoy visiting with them. Lucy's daughter hates Paris, her apartment and her roommate. Oh, and there are evil Egyptians, the French legal system is not the same as the USA (Which is mentioned constantly.) and it would stink to be a French woman who can't dress comfortably. And all the great things you would want to buy to display in your home to show off that you went to Paris cost too much. To deal with all of this negativity the group drinks a lot of red wine. According to this book France is the last place you would want to visit.

If there was ever an example of why you should not mix the elements from a gritty crime novel with a cozy this is it.

Julie Barrett says

French Pastry Murder by Leslie Meier

Wanted to read this book in hopes it'd have tips on how I can make my husband his favorite apple turnovers-healthy style.

Have read many of the author's other works and have enjoyed the books.

Have been to Paris once and can't wait to see the characters view. Book starts out where Lucy Stone and her husband along with other couples have won a trip to Paris for 2 weeks and participate in a cooking class because of their charity work with the hat and mitten fund.

Her daughter, Elizabeth is in Paris studying under a world famous chef and is excited about the visit. The accommodations are a let down but they are in the city of lights! Glad when Bill and Lucy strike out on their own to discover new things. When the chef is found stabbed their passports are all held from leaving the country.

The place they are staying is ransacked from the police-they think the chef might have been laundering money or some other black market schemes and now they are all drawn into the investigation. Lucy gets help from the others as the clues come in and they start to make sense of it all.

Murders and more investigations and help from their reporter friend Richard. Book wasn't really what I thought it would be, because I read the prior books. Mentions a lot of locations but doesn't describe what they saw and did at the locations.

I received this book from The Kennsington Books in exchange for my honest review

Sue Scheve Zerjal says

This book had a rather weak plot. On top of that,it was painfully obvious that Leslie Meier hates France. She made the same few points again and again. On top of that, she wrote rather stereotypical characters that seemed to be defined by her prejudices. This was not a good read
