



Murder and Marinara

Rosie Genova

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Hit whodunit writer Victoria Rienzi is getting back to her roots by working at her family's Italian restaurant. But now in between plating pasta and pouring vino, she'll have to find the secret ingredient in a murder....

When Victoria takes a break from penning her popular mystery series and moves back to the Jersey shore, she imagines sun, sand, and scents of fresh basil and simmering marinara sauce at the family restaurant, the Casa Lido. But her nonna's recipes aren't the only things getting stirred up in this Italian kitchen.

Their small town is up in arms over plans to film a new reality TV show, and when Victoria serves the show's pushy producer his last meal, the Casa Lido staff finds itself embroiled in a murder investigation. Victoria wants to find the real killer, but there are as many suspects as tomatoes in her nonna's garden. Now she'll have to heat up her sleuthing skills quickly...before someone else gets a plateful of murder.

Murder and Marinara Details

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Author : Rosie Genova

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From Reader Review Murder and Marinara for online ebook

Sarah says

Loved it! I only wish I could have read it while sitting on a boardwalk somewhere drinking espresso. This book made me laugh so many times--Nonna is a hoot, and every one of Vic's reactions to her made me smile. And I think I have a little crush on the sous chef, Tim. I hope we see him again in book 2.

Downside: now I'm craving pastries made with almond paste.

Yvonne says

This is the first book in the "An Italian Kitchen Mystery" series and what an excellent start. The book is filled with humor, mystery, adventure and a strong cast of characters. I especially enjoyed the dynamics between Victoria and her Nonna...two headstrong, tough women going head to head but usually Nonna wins out. Still, it's fun to be a spectator to their battles.

The storyline is an intriguing one and could have went in several different directions. Figuring it all out kept me thinking and interested. I really want to learn more about the Rienzi family as they seem like a close-knit group.

I think this might be one of the series that is ending, but I still have a couple of good books to read and I'm looking forward to it.

Betty says

This is the first book of a new cozy series and new author for me. Vicky Reed, a successful mystery writer has return home to write the her dream book and learned about the Casa Lido, a family restaurant. Just after her arrival a TVReality Producer is murdered in the restaurant. Only members of the family are around.

Vicky is charged by her "Nonna"

to solve the case so the restaurant will stay open. Vicky and SIL, Sofia explored all the leads to the killing. The must find an answer before they loose their lives.

Heather says

I forgot how much fun it is to read really great mysteries. But Rosie Genova's Jersey Shore murder mystery had me at "marinara." The book quickly absorbed me into the family, the mystery and the sleuthing sisters-in-law. The descriptions are vibrant, and the plot twists kept me guessing. I can't wait to read the second one this summer. It promises to be the perfect book to read in my beach chair at Wildwood, NJ! Congratulations Rosie on a wonderful mystery. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

LORI CASWELL says

Rosie Genova writes what she knows, she is a Jersey Girl, an author, and she loves good food! Wonder if these characters are based on her family...

Victoria did the unexpected when she left the family business behind, moved to New York and became a very successful mystery author. Now she is back to do a little research to write a non-fiction book about her heritage but she is barely unpacked before she is wrapped up in a murder investigation. Everyone thinks because she writes mysteries she can solve this one. The man died in her family's restaurant so she feels obligated to do what she can but putting herself in danger was never on the menu.

Victoria is a strong protagonist and with her sister-in-law (SIL) as her sidekick what could go wrong....

The entire family dynamic is what makes me love this story. Her Nonna is quite a woman and she is not letting Victoria off easy when she returns. Victoria wants to learn to cook the family recipes and she finds herself planting tomatoes and working as a waitress. Her parents are involved with the restaurant but leave all the decisions to Nonna. Victoria's brother, Danny, does not work at the restaurant either, but he is a police officer and Nonna finds that a reputable profession unlike that of being an author. I think she hates her family being separated more than anything.

In addition to the family there is sous chef Tim who just happens to be Victoria's old boyfriend and is an honorary family member. Victoria thinks her Nonna loves him more than her own grandchildren. :) And there is Cal, a carpenter doing work at Casa Lido. He is not from Jersey and he is very secretive about his past but there is nothing secret about his feelings for Victoria.

Genova takes these characters and places them on the beautiful Jersey shore and stirs them all together in a very tasty story. The mystery is complex and keeps the reader engaged with each twist and turn. But I can't forget the food. I swear I could smell the marinara sauce emanating from the pages and I was so hungry by the time I finished. Thankfully she includes recipes!

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

This is what happens when a mystery writer goes home to learn how to cook the family way and runs across a murder...they solve it of course. Of all the cozies I have ever read, I don't think I have read one where the main character was a mystery writer. And then you throw in some good ol' Italian food (with recipes at the end), well it is a good combo.

There was a good cast of characters and I have to admit I probably missed most of the clues. I truly did not expect the murder to be who it was...definitely a surprise for me.

ready to see what book 2 has to bring!

Loraine says

When Victoria takes a break from penning her popular mystery series and moves back to the Jersey shore, she imagines sun, sand, and scents of fresh basil and simmering marinara sauce at the family restaurant, the Casa Lido. But her nonna's recipes aren't the only things getting stirred up in this Italian kitchen.

This reminded me a lot of the Murder She Wrote series as it is another mystery writer who ends up involved in solving a murder. Victoria, the main character, mystery writer, and sleuth, is a "saucy" Italian girl with a stereotypical Italian family all involved in the family business (in this case an Italian restaurant). I loved the fact that along with her sister in law, Sophia, she finds that solving real life mysteries isn't quite as easy especially when you throw in lots of could be killers with a variety of motives and a victim with heart problems. Enough twists and turns to keep my attention from start to finish and filled with mouth watering Italian dishes and some recipes at the end. This is book two in the Italian Kitchen mystery series and I have enjoyed them both. If you like cozy mysteries, I definitely recommend this series.

Stacie Haden says

I have to give this a three because the entire middle section was just repetitive filler. It was ok, enough that I'll read at least one more in the series.

P.s. It did give me a real hankering for Italian food :)

Ruth Hill says

I believe I may have found the perfect modern cozy mystery! When I think of mysteries, I think of the way they used to be prior to gore and other garbage, I think of stories just like this one. Rosie Genova has added everything into this story to make it enchanting and extremely smart. There is some romance, incredible mystery, and a delicious humor. From the opening page of the book, I was hooked. I found very little that bothered me within the book. There is some profanity, but it didn't really bother me. I am so grateful there were no bedroom scenes!

Each one of the characters in this book are developed well, but Victoria was my favorite (I'm not even sure why). The author has set the scene in an expert fashion, and her logic comes across in an amazing way. I never found myself lost, bored, or horrified. I halfway figured out "who done it" (My ego is always bolstered when I do this!), but I have to admit that I wasn't certain I was correct as I devoured the pages of the story!

I look forward to the next installment of this book. Victoria has quickly become a favorite character of mine. In some ways, she reminds me of "Jessica Fletcher" ("Murder She Wrote"), but this character still has a fresh, modern outlook that keeps her from being mundane. If you delight in mysteries, this book should migrate to the top of your list!

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Sabine says

Being a big fan of everything Italy: the country, the people, the food and the language I loved this book. One of my favourites was the nonna even though I wished she would have voiced her opinions a lot more. The setting with the boardwalk, the cottage and the beach made me wish I could read my book in that little Italian restaurant with the deliciously described food and a cappuccino. Great start to a new series.

Donna says

Author Victoria Rienzi decides to take a break from her successful mystery series by writing a book based on her family history. She leases her New York City apartment and goes back to her birth home in Oceanside Park. Victoria's family owns Italian restaurant the Casa Lido and she returns to waitressing. The family is against the reality TV show The Jersey Side filming their series locally. When the show's producer eats in the restaurant, Victoria must serve him lunch and then she goes outside to find him dead. Obviously, this puts a damper on the restaurant's business. Victoria and her sister-in-law Sofia use their skills to find out who might have wanted the producer dead.

I thought this cozy mystery was interesting and well written. The reality show characters and antics in the book sound very much like the real series on TV, the Jersey Shore.

I received this book for free in an author giveaway. My opinion is my own and not influenced by anyone.

Tracy Weber says

I loved it, especially the cranky yet somehow loveable grandmother. I liked the characters, didn't guess who the killer was, and am hoping that the romance aspect is resolved in the next book. I'm, looking forward to the next in the series!

Lorrie Thomson says

Victoria Rienzi thinks she's taking a break from writing mystery novels and returning home to write the novel of her heart. In reality, she's returning to her heart--the family she adores that drives her crazy, and the childhood sweetheart she's never quite forgotten. But when a TV producer her family was at odds with dies at her family's restaurant, even the childhood sweetheart is a suspect. I adored the cast of characters, and may have a special place in my heart for Victoria's Nonna. Either that or I'm simply afraid of her!

Beautifully written and fast-paced. Kept me guessing, incorrectly, until the end. Well played, Ms. Genova! You try to figure out who done it. I dare you!

Ivy says

This was a pretty smart cozy mystery. The premise of a mystery author solving a mystery was fun. The whole Jersey Shore plot was ironic. I think I will definitely give the next book a try, see how some of the relationships build.

Angie Carpenter says

I won this book on Goodreads in the First Reads contest. This book was amazing! All the characters and the setting made me want to go be a part of their kitchen!! Recipes included too that I have on my menu for this week. What a great idea to incorporate them into the book! It kept me hanging until the very end and didn't disappoint! I can't wait for the next in the series to be released!
