

BOOK CLUB KIT



SPOONFUL OF MURDER



USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR
TONYA KAPPES

Recipes Included!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Roxanne Bloom Cane is the owner of the Bean Hive Coffeehouse in downtown Honey Springs. Roxy is excited about the events taking place in her little town this holiday. She is especially excited about the Progressive Dinner that night. This was a fundraiser for the local animal shelter spear-headed by Roxy's Aunt Maxi. The dinner is giving a few local businesses an opportunity to feature their shops. The dinner will start with drinks, followed by appetizers, dinner, with dessert and coffee ending at the Bean Hive. Progressive Dinners seem like a fun idea among friends.

Have you ever been to a Progressive Dinner? Would you be willing to host one? If so, which course?

2. Roxy is preparing the Bean Hive for opening, her employee, Bunny Bowowski comes in to help. Roxy wasn't expecting Bunny, but was thankful for the help. Then, Bunny's real reason for being there early came to light. She informed Roxy, that Babette had broken her ankle and would be unable to host the appetizers. Roxy suggested she could provide the appetizers.

Then Low-retta Bebe came into the shop, letting them know she was there to save the day and would be providing appetizers!

First thoughts on Loretta's announcement?

3. We also meet Loretta's newest helper, Lana. Loretta seems to go through helpers quickly and no one was really surprised. Lana mentions the reason they are out so early was to meet up with Beverly at the Wild Whimsy Antique Store, to pick up a Christmas platter that was missing from the original box. I thought it was interesting that Loretta just had to have that platter. Being the cozy reader I am, I knew there had to be a story there.

Did you give it much thought? She was insistent that she needed the platter that day!

4. As expected, Aunt Maxi was fit to be tied when she heard the news about Loretta! Immediately she comes up with a plan to switch out Loretta's cheese balls with her own. Since Roxy couldn't get ahold of Birdie at the Bean Hive and Aunt Maxi didn't show up for drinks at the Watershed. Roxy decided to check on them. Roxy had an uneasy feeling as she went back to the Bean Hive. Birdie was there but Aunt Maxi and her cheese balls were already gone.

How did you feel about Aunt Maxi changing out the cheese balls? What about Roxy's feeling of unease?

5. Roxy finds Aunt Maxi at the Cocoon Hotel, already changing out the cheese balls for her own. Loretta and Chrissy show up in the hospitality room and Chrissy complements Loretta on her chipped beef cheese ball. Loretta takes a closer look. The Christmas platter she had her heart set on, was holding cheese balls alright but not hers! That's all she needed to set her off.

What were your feelings for Loretta at this point?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. Aunt Maxi and Roxy skedaddled out of there and noticed activity down by Lake Honey Springs. Brushing it off, Roxy texts Birdie to take more whoopie pies out of the freezer. Birdie texts back they wouldn't be needed. The sheriff canceled the dinner, there was a body found down by the lake!

Who was the body down by Lake Honey Springs? What were your suspicions?

7. Roxy and Aunt Maxi find out the body was that of Lana, Loretta's assistant. The one piece of information that had been left out was, Aunt Maxi had given Cammy, the hotel owner, a piece of her mind, insisting Loretta wouldn't ruin her and Lana was a twit and would, "get her due." That was all the sheriff needed to pull Aunt Maxi in for questioning.

In your opinion, would you have considered Lana the body, and why?

8. Lana had been poisoned! The murder brings the frenemies together in a united front. Each knows the other isn't guilty. Then an anonymous phone call sends the sheriff to Bean Hive with a search warrant. Sure enough, the bottle of poison is found and Roxy is taken in and Aunt Maxi has gone missing!

Kirk, Roxy's ex, and a fellow lawyer, shows up as her legal defense. Patrick called him knowing Roxy would need an attorney.

I was completely thrown off by this turn of events. Roxy had wanted nothing to do with Kirk.

Do you think Patrick overstepped his bounds?

9. Birdie has made a friend with the new waitress, Alva, at the diner. They seemed to have a few things in common, also giving Birdie someone to talk to about Loretta and her parents. Both wanted her to go home for Christmas.

As part of their Christmas exchange, Alva, gives Birdie her ring. Alva was an interesting new character in Honey Springs and seemed to have her eyes and ears everywhere working in the diner. She was privy to a lot of information.

Was this a good friendship for Birdie. or was Alva too eager to have a friend?

10. Did you figure out who was the killer, or was it a complete surprise?

ROXY BLOOM'S LEMON BLUEBERRY LASAGNA



Prep Time: 1 hour Dessert Method: no-bake

Ingredients

FOR OREO CRUST:

36 Golden Oreo cookies

1/2 cup unsalted butter-melted

BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE LAYER:

2 1/4 cups frozen blueberries (thawed)

1/4 cup Greek yogurt (blueberry or plain)

5 teaspoons gelatine powder (2x7g envelopes)

1/3 cup cold water

16 oz. cream cheese-softened

1 1/2 cup powdered sugar

1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

2 cups Cool Whip

LEMON PUDDING LAYER:

2 (3.4 oz.) packages lemon instant pudding

2 1/2 cups cold milk

1 cup Cool Whip

TOPPING:

2 1/2 –3 cups Cool Whip

6 oz. white chocolate bar or block-for curls

Instructions

OREO CRUST

To make the crust, ground whole Oreo cookies with the filling in a food processor to make fine crumbs.

In a bowl stir together 1/2 cup melted butter with Oreo crumbs until evenly moistened, then press the mixture in the bottom of 9 x 13 -inch deep dish, set in the freezer to firm while making next layer.

BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE LAYER:

Dissolve gelatine in 1/3 cup cold water and set aside to bloom.

In a food processor place thawed blueberries (do not drain excess of the liquid) and Greek yogurt and pulse, set aside.

In a large mixing bowl beat softened cream cheese until smooth and creamy. Beat in vanilla extract and powdered sugar.

Add blueberry mixture and mix to combine.

Microwave gelatine and stir to dissolve completely. Slowly pour into the cream cheese mixture while mixing on medium speed.

Finally add Cool Whip and mix to combine. Scrape down the bottom of the bowl to combine everything evenly.

Spread over chilled Oreo crust and place in the freezer for 15-20 minutes.

LEMON PUDDING LAYER:

In a mixing bowl combine instant pudding mix with 2 ½ cups milk and whisk. Add 1 cup Cool Whip and whisk until everything is evenly combined. Spread over blueberry Layer, and place in the freezer to set for about 5-10 minutes.

TOPPING:

Spread 2-3 cups Cool Whip over pudding layer and place in the fridge for at least 4 hours or preferably overnight.

To make the curls, carefully draw a vegetable peeler across the broad surface of a bar of white chocolate at room temperature. Sprinkle curls on top.

Store covered in the fridge up to 5-6 days.

Notes

You can use thawed whipped topping like Cool Whip (you'll need about 6 cups) or make homemade whipped cream. Beat 3 cups chilled heavy cream with 2 teaspoon vanilla until soft peaks form. Add powdered sugar to taste and continue mixing on high speed until STIFF PEAKS form.

This recipe uses frozen blueberries to get the nice purple colour of cheesecake layer. If you use fresh blueberries you will get light grayish colour.

ABOUT TONYA KAPPES



AMAZON ALL STAR AUTHOR TONYA KAPPES HAS WRITTEN MORE THAN 175 SOUTHERN COZY MYSTERIES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE GRACED NUMEROUS BESTSELLER LISTS, INCLUDING USA TODAY AND WOMAN'S WORLD BOOK CLUB PICK TWICE .

BEST KNOWN FOR STORIES CHARGED WITH SOUTHERN CHARM, EMOTION AND HUMOR AND FILLED WITH FLAWED CHARACTERS, HER NOVELS HAVE GARNERED READER PRAISE AND GLOWING CRITICAL REVIEWS. SHE LIVES WITH HER HUSBAND IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY.

TONYAKAPPES.COM