



Decaffeinated Corpse

Cleo Coyle

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When an old friend of her ex-husband develops the world's first botanically decaffeinated coffee bean and smuggles it into the country, Clare Cosi, manager of Village Blend, believes it's a business opportunity she needs to investigate...at least until the first dead body shows up.

Decaffeinated Corpse Details

Date : Published July 3rd 2007 by Berkley (first published July 2007)

ISBN : 9780425216385

Author : Cleo Coyle

Format : Mass Market Paperback 262 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Decaffeinated Corpse for online ebook

Kathy says

The fifth of the series, it was a pretty good mystery. A friend of Matt and Clare's has found a coffee plant that will produce naturally decaffeinated beans. He wants to bring in the Village Blend to help sell them. Too bad other people want the plant for themselves. Several murders occur, as usual Clare has to investigate.

Anne Bradley says

The mystery is fine and the supporting characters have their charm, but the heroine is officially insufferable. I think I am about done with this series.

Mary Ann says

Claire and her husband are going to be among the first to use a new coffee bean...a decaffeinated coffee bean, grown that way. So that it tastes better. But when Rick is attacked outside the cafe and then Claire is attacked, she wants answers. Then when an old friend is found dead in a room her husband lets, so that they can hide Rick, she really feels that she has to get involved and find out answers.

The story was interesting and is an earlier part of the series. It is good that the books can be read out of order.

Tomi says

Too much about coffee and not enough mystery...

Sara says

This is one of the best in the Village Blend series--murder, coffee, and sleuthing...fabulous! Clare can't resist snooping and detecting when her ex husband becomes a person of interest in a murder case. And, for the reader and for Claire--this book contains more of Detective Mike Quinn, a definite plus.

KyBunnies says

I really enjoyed this book. It was a very fast read. Wish the author had made the story a little longer.

I have really connected with Clare. A female in her early to mid 40's, divorced, and looking for someone to enjoy life with. I do feel she is going a little overboard in trying to control her daughter, Joy. No mother wants to see their child hurt, however every parent needs to allow their child to spread their wings, to grow, to make mistakes and learn from them. Clare is doing everything in her power to stop her daughter from

experiencing this.

I like Matteo and I also hate him. He is a womanizer. He sees women as nothing more useful than someone to ease his sexual urges. He is out for himself and no one else.

Madame reminds me of a dear friend who was a librarian. Someone very elegant and graceful, friendly and knows about life, experienced life but keeps moving no matter what.

This book is part of my BookBunny reading Challenge.

Tiffany says

These books are terrible. Poorly plotted, bad dialogue, overbearing and clumsy in describing both coffee culture and NYC. I had read one a while ago and thought it was terrible but it was free so who cares. I had this second one (also free) on my e-reader when I got stuck on a long distance bus through rural Morocco and finished my other two books. It was as bad as the last one. Free+stuck somewhere without anything else to read is the only combination of circumstances that would lead me to recommend this series.

Ronna says

Everything you every wanted to know about decaffeinated coffee told in a most exciting way, plus more and more information about New York, makes up this fifth Village Blend Coffee House cozy mystery. Sometimes lots of extraneous information overwhelms, but these mysteries seem to blossom with every piece of information. In this mystery, the development of a coffee plant that actually produces coffee beans with less caffeine than processed decaffeinated regular beans, becomes a boon that brings out the money developers, and those who will kill for this product.

Clare and her octogenarian mother-in-law parole the streets of New York while seeking stalkers and murderers. Clare and her co-coffee shop owner and ex husband remain friends and loving parents to their 20 something daughter. Everyone is developing other love lives of their own, which cause intriguing conflicts and problems within this book. I loved the car chase scenes, even the left turn on red that nearly put a couple of them in jail.

If you're a coffee lover, New York lover, cozy lover, or just a plain book lover, you will definitely enjoy this decaffeinated joy ride of a mystery!

Toni (T.C.) LoTempio says

best so far but i still have a lot to go LOL. Maybe a tad too much on the coffee facts but the character development and mystery plotting are top notch. Can I be Cleo Coyle when i grow up?

Leah says

This one involves a naturally decaffeinated coffee plant and murder. I liked the coffee parts the best, which was true for the previous books too. The crimes and mystery were interesting, but I preferred reading about the different relationships. The characters are typically more interesting.

Cindi Leiter says

Another coffee house mystery that was full of twists and turns. I enjoy these books because they give me a break from reality without being complete fluff. I work to solve the mystery with the main character throughout the book so I am able to relax. The authors extra bits of information ranges from geography to coffee and is not too much.

Shelly says

I have about a dozen favorite cozy mystery authors and Cleo Coyle is one of them. I love how the writing flows. I enjoy the very real cast of characters. I like the scrumptious descriptions of coffee and the settings that come to life. I enjoy carving out 20 minutes a day in my reading nook with a nice cup of tea or Swiss Water Processed Decaf coffee and a captivating and relaxing read by Cleo Coyle. Having said all that, I will say that this one dragged a bit for the first quarter of the book. It took me a while to get into it. I wanted more suspense and less coffee talk. Eventually, the book got back around to an engaging mystery and I became hooked. I thought the premise was clever. The world's first botanically decaffeinated coffee bean is being unveiled at the International Federation of Coffee Growers meeting in New York by one of Matt's long-time pals. Mugging, mayhem, and murder ensue. I would give it 3.5 stars, but since I can't, I'll round up to 4.

Karen says

I absolutely love this series and this installment didn't disappoint. A great mystery and good information about my favorite beverage the science and business behind the coffee bean and the different regions where they are grown.

Janece says

Enjoyed this book as much as I do any of them. Traditional cozy mystery in a modern coffee shop setting. Hunky guys, smart female lead, interesting cast of characters and worthwhile mysteries. Cool coffee recipes at the end. Some are FABulous, others not to my taste. Too much school prep going on right now, I found myself a little bored while reading this one. I don't think it was the book (or writer's!) fault, I think that I have too much on my mind and couldn't give it the attention it deserved. Maybe I am also getting a little done with Matteo's "possible" womanizing. Either get back with him or kick him to the curb, honey! =)

Sandie Herron says

Part owner and manager of New York's The Village Blend coffee house in Greenwich Village, Clare Cosi has called a special meeting of her best baristas. Her ex-husband Matt Allegro and his friend Rick have a new coffee they want them to taste. When she tells them that demand for decaffeinated coffee has risen to 20 percent of their customers, they can't believe so many want the "neutered" blend. After all, there are only a couple ways to decaffeinate coffee, and they both strip away some of the essence of the bean, leaving it flat. Now Rick is making the Village Blend the exclusive distributor of his new naturally decaffeinated coffee. His coffee hybrids grow decaffeinated beans, so no further processing is required, leaving the flavor fully intact. This premier group of baristas and Clare can't believe it when they actually taste how good the coffee really is.

Clare puts clues together to determine that Rick has smuggled a cutting from his hybrid coffee plant into the US from Brazil to make it available for inspection during a press conference announcing the bean's existence and celebrating its distribution exclusively through The Village Blend and its free standing kiosks worldwide. When the time for the reception is upon them, Matt spends the night with his ear attached to his cell phone, which worries Clare; what is Matt paying such close attention to while his buddy Rick is picking fights with a foreign diplomat in town for a special meeting of the United Nations? Clare steps outside the building to talk to Matt when a body falls from their reception 20 stories up and lands right in front of her. Things have gotten much worse.

It wouldn't be a coffee house mystery unless Madame duBois is involved at some point. Matt's octogenarian mother is the owner of The Village Blend. She is quite lively and will do almost anything to protect The Blend, often with hilarity following. In this book, Madame gets the three of them – Madame, Matt, and Clare – into a diplomat's smash Halloween Party with terrific costumes. Circumstances are not intentionally funny but turn out that way. Matt and Rick and a third man all have the same costume! More clues are uncovered under all those masks.

The inevitable coffee "lesson" was much better suited for the novel in this fourth book in the series. Cleo Coyle gives information and a sort of history lesson about coffee along with the mystery, but it is all pertinent and interesting, too. These mini-lessons are some of the funniest points of the books as well, since she often makes the coffee making process quite sensual and full of double entendres.

Narrator Rebecca Gibel had quite a character list for DECAFFEINATED CORPSE. We had New York accents for Clare, Matt, and their daughter Joy as well as octogenarian Madame, a few foreign diplomats, a pawnbroker, a Caribbean born man, and so on. All the voices were distinct. Stars go to Rebecca Gibel for her hard work.

Even though I found this entry in the Coffeehouse mystery series a tiny bit bland and predictable, I still enjoyed it very much. This is a great mystery for coffee lovers and drinkers, decaf or leaded!