



## The Battered Body

*J.B. Stanley , Ellery Adams*

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There's trouble on the rise when the "Diva of Dough" arrives in Quincy's Gap to make the wedding cake for Milla and Jackson's Christmas Eve nuptials. The famous chef and television personality is Milla's sister, but while her confections are sweet and beautiful, the Diva herself makes enemies faster than you can say "praline pecan bundt cake." When the Diva is done in, her body found covered in cake batter, James and the other supper club members find themselves up to their elbows in suspects.

A cozy "village" mystery, The Battered Body is the fifth book in the warm and wonderful Supper Club Mystery series.

This high-calorie caper includes delicious recipes! Praise for the Supper Club Mystery series "Heavy on fun, light on gore, this savory mystery comes complete with yummy recipes."--Publishers Weekly "Foodies will love the recipes and fans the new adventures of the five friends."--Kirkus Reviews "Sprinkled with delightful characters and topped off with a dash of suspense."--Romantic Times Book Reviews

## **The Battered Body Details**

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Author : J.B. Stanley , Ellery Adams

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## From Reader Review The Battered Body for online ebook

### Susan says

This is by far the strongest of the Supper Club Mystery series, as librarian James helps arrange the wedding of his artist father to gentle Milla, a cooking school teacher. James tries to rekindle his romance with policewoman Lucy after they both sought greener pastures, and also tries to find a house for himself. Meanwhile, mailman Bennett finally gets his chance to appear on Jeopardy, the goal he has long set for himself. When Milla's sister, a famous television chef, appears to bake the wedding cake, the tiny Shendoah mountain community finds her as abrasive as she is famous. Her death is called an unfortunate accident, but James and Lucy are not convinced. Then someone from James' past appears, with a life-changing announcement.

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### Taryn says

In this fifth book of the series Jame's dad is getting married and he agrees to help with any of the arrangements that he can. When his dads soon to be wife asks him to pick up her sister from the airport he readily agrees but he soon learns she is nothing like her sister. You see the woman in question is the famous Diva of Dough and she may be an awesome baker she isn't a nice person. She is there to prepare the wedding cake and other desserts that will be served up at the wedding. When the Diva is found dead in the kitchen there are suspects abound who hated her but the police rule her death an accident. Even though it was ruled an accident Lucy has a feeling that it wasn't so her and the other members of the Supper Club decide to look into things. Follow along as they turn over every rock to find out if the Diva was murdered or if it was truly an accidental death. Along the way you'll meet some family members who each had a reason to wish her ill, an assistant that she walked all over, and strangers that she managed to anger in just one meeting. Along the way another body turns up and things get even more exciting. James is handed some shocking news and looks for a house so his dad and soon to be wife can have privacy. Bennett finally gets his chance on jeopardy, does he win? or does he tank? Lets not forget that Murphy's book is coming out, what will the groups reaction to that be? This is such a fun series filled with well rounded characters that share in their differences and join together in the struggle of weight loss. I look forward to seeing what they get into next.

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### Carla Johnson-Hicks says

I really love this series and the main characters in this stories are more than just people in a book. I have come to think of them as friends. They got together to try and lose weight, but have become best friends, who are there for each other not matter what and an amateur sleuth team that even has a book written about their first solved crime, even though the author has taken a lot of literary licence with the story.

In this book, James' dad, Jackson, and cooking teacher name Mila (Camilla) are getting married on Christmas Eve. Camilla's younger sister, Paulette Martine, is a celebrity baker and has come to town to make the cake for the wedding. It turns out that Paulette is obnoxious, rude and haughty and it doesn't take long for her to alienate most of the townsfolk in Quincey's Gap. When Paulette was found dead, with cake batter all over her face, it is deemed to be an accident, salmonella poisoning from raw eggs. Lucy, doesn't feel right with the accidental ruling so she and her supper club friends start to investigate. When there is another dead body, things heat up big time.

It seems like all of the friends had some sort of epiphany in this book that was really enjoyable to read about. There is a huge reveal of information in this book that will shake up the friends and family and I look forward to seeing where this leads. What I really enjoy about this series is that the lives of the characters are just as important as the mystery. James loves that not only is his father happy, but he now has a new mother in his life. The twins find some love interests as well as some of the Flab Five. Things are looking up for our friends and I am looking forward to the next book in this series. Once again, this is a re-release of an updated version of this book.

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### **FangirlNation says**

In *The Battered Body* by Ellery Adams, book five in the *Supper Club* series, Jackson Henry, father of the series' protagonist, and Milla, a teacher of cooking classes, are finally about to have their wedding on Christmas Eve. Milla, the middle of three daughters is happy to learn that her estranged younger sister, Paulette, is not only going to come to Quincy's Gap in Virginia to attend the wedding but is going to craft the wedding cake. After all, she is known to the country as the Diva of Dough from the cooking television show she hosts. Paulette soon proves to have a toxic personality, alienating everyone who comes into contact with her and abusing her personal assistant, Willow, whom she hints at keeping by holding something over Willow's head. She even makes fun of James's nutritionist, Dr. Ruth, working to humiliate Ruth's emphasis on eating in moderation when the pair appears on *Good Morning Virginia*. So when James gets a call from Lucy, a member of the Flab Five who now works as a deputy for the sheriff's department, that the Diva of Dough has died, he rushes over to the scene of the death.

Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at [Fangirl Nation](#)

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### **Patricia Romero says**

Back to Quincy Gap! This time with a celebrity chef who definitely is not as sweet as her cakes!

It's no surprise when she turns up dead and quite a few people aren't too sad about that. But James and his friends, The Flab Five, are determined to find out who cut the cake lady out of the picture. With not a lot of clues or suspects, the members of the group are really having to work this one.

And when another body turns up, well, they may be running out of time!

The friendships among this group are so well done. All of the characters are well drawn and are just lovable. Add in some recipes and you have one sweet cozy mystery.

One of my favorites.

[Netgalley/Beyond The Page](#)

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### **Sue Ross says**

Have you ever read a book and hoped one of the characters wasn't the murderer? How about cried out loud when something wonderful happens to the main character? That's what happened to me as I read this

installment of the Supper Club Mysteries.

In this installment, James dad and his fiancé are planning on getting married. All Milla's family will be there to help them celebrate. One of her sisters is a famous cook book author and an excellent pastry chef who offers to make the wedding cake.

When this same sister is murdered, the suspects begin to mount up. She wasn't a very nice person off camera and any number of people could have killed her.

In between trying to figure out who the murderer is, you will find out some of James' past and meet a couple of new characters. You will cry with joy for him and hope one of the characters isn't the murderer.

I love Ellery Adams' books and hope she writes for many years to come. She has a way about her writing that brings out emotion in the reader and involves them in the plot and story line. As long as she writes, I will read her books.

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### **Amy says**

Mills and Jackson are getting married! Milla's younger sister is coming to make the cake, one little problem she turns up dead before she is able to bake it. Covered in cake batter was it murder or an accident?!

Again the Flab Five are there to help.

Once again Ellery Adams has written a terrific story in this fifth book of The Supper Club Mystery series.

A lot of surprises and you will have to read to find out what they are.

I was laughing and teary eyed while reading.

Ready for more Supper Club fun!!

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### **Fred says**

This is the fifth book in the Supper Club series featuring the Flab Five. Lucy, Gillian, Lindy, Bennett and James all have weight issues to a degree and felt that they should form a support group. They seem better at solving murders in Quincy Gap, rather than getting a grip on their weight issues.

The Battered Body begins with James busy with last minute plans for his father's, Jackson and Milla wedding. Milla's sister, The Diva Of Dough has agreed to come to Quincy's Gap and prepare some food and bake the wedding cake. But before the happy event can take place The Diva Of Dough is found dead in the kitchen of the B&B where she is staying, covered in cake batter. Since the Diva wasn't one to win friends and influence people, there is a rather lengthy list of possible murderers. So the Supper Club members decide to work behind the scenes to help Lucy solve the mystery.

I really enjoy reading this series. The characters and locale seem so real to me. When I can envision the characters and some of the scenes, that just adds so much to my reading pleasure.

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### **Fred says**

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form a support group and decided to call themselves The Flab Five. But they seem better at solving murders in their community of Quincy Gap, rather than getting a grip on their weight issues.

The Battered Body begins with James busy with last minute plans for his father's, Jackson and Milla's wedding. Milla sister, Paulette Martine-The Diva Of Dough, has agreed to come to Quincy's Gap and bake the couple's wedding cake. But before the happy event can take place The Diva Of Dough is found dead in the kitchen of the B&B where she is staying, face down in a cake batter. From the time that the Diva arrived in town, she started alienating the residents of Quincy Gap and add to that she was not on speaking terms with her sister, Louise, or her daughter, Chole.

The members of The Flab Five agree that they need to start their own investigation so that Milla and Jackson can go ahead and get married. They have so many possible suspects that they are not sure whether they will be able they begin to wonder if they will ever be able to find the killer.

Also going on in Quincy Gap, James has found what he considers the perfect house and the Flab Five help him get the house ready to move into. James is also hoping to win back Lucy's affection. But that might be easier said than done as Murphy Alistair's "fictional book", about the private lives of the residents of a small community. Bennett is about to put Quincy Gap on the map when he appears on Jeopardy. Plus there are a couple of romances that begin to blossom.

Once again Adams provides the reader with a well-plotted and told story with well-developed characters that you would want to be friends with.

I'm hoping that there will be more books in this series in the near future.

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## **Tari says**

I really love this series and these wonderful friends who originally got together to lose weight but have become more than just sleuths. They're true best friends that have each others' backs no matter what.

In this book, James' dad and a cooking teacher name Milla (Camilla) were getting married on Christmas Eve. Since Milla's younger sister was a celebrity baker, she had agreed to make the cake and other items for the wedding. When Paulette was found with her cake batter all over her face, it appeared to be an accident but Lucy who was now a deputy, didn't feel right with the accidental ruling so she and her supper club friends set out to do one of the things they did best together...investigate!

It seems like all of the friends had some sort of epiphany in this book that was really enjoyable to read about. What's cool about this series is that it's not just a mystery story. Each story is one that's also about friendships. I'm not sure why I wanted to read this book out of order (it wasn't a problem at all, I'm just particular that way). It didn't ruin anything for me. There are a couple of fun surprises that happen to some of our favorites. I love that James now has a mom in his life again and that his dad is living grouchy happily ever after! I think I will go back and get caught up before reading the sixth book though.

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## **RO G'ma says**

The Battered Body is the fifth book in Ellery Adams' Supper Club Mysteries series and is an enjoyable read. The storyline is well thought out and the well-developed characters are affable. As their friendship grows,

the members of the Flab Five have developed an enviable camaraderie as they continue to support each other in their quest to lose weight and work together to solve mysteries. There isn't any graphic violence or gratuitous adult situations, but there is some adult language. I'm looking forward to reading the next installment in this series.

James is looking for a house to purchase because his dad, Jackson, is marrying Milla on Christmas Eve and he wants to give them an unforgettable honeymoon as a wedding gift. Once they are married, Milla wants to shut down her cooking class business and open Quincy's Whimsies, a specialty/gourmet shop in Quincy's Gap. James is also hopeful that Lucy and he can start over fresh and plans to ask her out on a real date. James' former girlfriend, Murphy Alistair, the editor/reporter of the Shenandoah Star Ledger, has written a book about the "fictional" account about Quincy's Gap, the lives of the Flab Five, and their crime solving endeavors and he knows the entire group is going to be upset. Milla is hopeful the wedding will bring her estranged sisters and her together again. Milla's younger sister, Paulette Martine, known as the "Diva of Dough," has agreed to bake the wedding cake, dinner rolls, and create a dessert bar. She's self-centered, with an acerbic tongue, and quickly makes enemies wherever she goes. Paulette and her abused assistant, Willow Singletary, are staying at the local B&B, where Paulette rented all the rooms and demanded unlimited and undisturbed time in the kitchen. When her body is found in the B&B's locked kitchen and poisoning may be the cause of death, everyone, including her children, sisters, assistant, and many others she offended become suspects. With Lucy officially investigating the murder, James is forced to accept that he might always take second chair to her oath to uphold the law. Bennett is still reading all the trivia books he can get his hands on and his friends are helping him by asking trivia questions every chance they get so he'll be prepared for his upcoming trip to Philadelphia to be a contestant on Jeopardy! The authorities are looking hard at Paulette's family and the supper club members find that clues and suspects few and far between. In the midst of activity and investigating the murder, James receives a life changing surprise.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

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### **Lisa Morin says**

I just finished *The Battered Body* and it is fabulous!  
James Henry is the greatest character and this story was no exception.  
The mystery was engaging and the stories revolving around it were just as captivating.  
I recommend this book to any cozy mystery reader.

I volunteered to read and review an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

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### **Angela Brocato-Skaggs says**

Hint: A surprise that will take your breath away!

Life is amping up for James and his dad in the fifth book of the Supper Club Mysteries. It is Christmas time and James' dad is getting married to Milla and James is looking to buy his first house. Milla's sister is coming to Quincy's Gap to bake the wedding cake. Her sister is known as the "Diva of Dough" and can be quite the handful. Unfortunately while visiting the "Diva" finds herself with a mouthful of batter and dead. Can the Supper Club figure out who the murder is and keep the wedding on for Christmas Eve?

I have to start off with THE CHEESE DOODLES make their appearance again. YAY! No matter how much James changes and grows if the cheese doodles are around I know he is still the librarian I have come to love. This series has become a true joy to read. It may be because I can relate to the yo-yo dieting and frustration of wanting to enjoy food and eat healthy all at the same time.

There is a surprise in this book that will make your jaw drop and tears come to your eyes. It is so precious and Ellery Adams handled it with such loving care that you will fall in love with James if you haven't already.

I also found myself wanting to hug Ellery for how she handled Milla and James' relationship. He may be an adult but he graciously accepts her as his stepmom and openly calls his dad and her his parents. I am a stepmom and sometimes that little acceptance goes such a long way. Beautiful.

If you like to read cozy mysteries and read about food this is a series you should seriously think about picking up on your eReader.

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### **Nancy H says**

I really enjoy this gentle mystery series. I like the characters of the friends, the plots, and the setting in a small town in Virginia. For those who have been reading this series, there is a definite surprise in this one that I did not see coming. It is a very enjoyable and satisfying read.

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### **Aira Karina says**

3.5 stars for this book.

The Battered Body is the fifth book in The Supper Club series, and my first book from the author. It was a fun reading but it wasn't quick read for me. I used to spend one day to finished a cozy mystery, but this book took me 3 days. I got distracted a lot of time and after almost half of the book then it started to hook me.

The supper club is 5 people who lives in the small town called Quincy Gap and used to gather together and solves a few crimes that happens in their town. One of them, James Henry, who is a librarian are preparing for his father's wedding with Milla. Due to the wedding, James eventually meets with Milla's sisters and nephew, and one of them is some kind of celebrity called "Diva of Dough", Paullete. Unfortunately, Paullete behaviour clashed with litterally every single person she meets, because of her arrogancy. While she was on the town helping to bake wedding cake, she manages herself to make a few enemies. Until one day, she was found dead in the kitchen with her face covered in cake batter. A few days after her funeral, her son who is also in town for the wedding, was also murdered. James and his friends, The Supper Club is now trying to gathers clues to find the killer .

You dont have to read the entire series to understand the case, but if you'd like to know more about the characters, you should definitely read all of them. For me, the character was very likable and interesting. A group filled with a librarian, deputy, mail man, vegan hippies and town nerds is actually very entertaining with their own problems. Do i like the book ? It was okay and enjoyable. Maybe i'd like it more if i read the entire series. would i read the other series ? You bet i am.

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