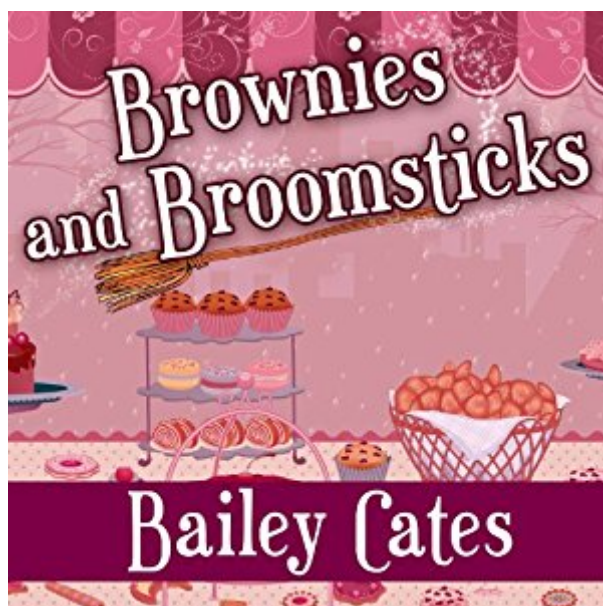


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Brownies And Broomsticks: A Magical Bakery Mystery, Book 1



Synopsis

Katie Lightfoot's tired of loafing around as the assistant manager of an Ohio bakery. So when her aunt Lucy and uncle Ben open a bakery in Savannah's quaint downtown district and ask Katie to join them, she enthusiastically agrees. While working at the Honeybee Bakery - named after Lucy's cat - Katie notices that her aunt is adding mysterious herbs to her recipes. Turns out these herbal enhancements aren't just tasty - Aunt Lucy is a witch and her recipes are actually spells! When a curmudgeonly customer is murdered outside the Honeybee Bakery, Uncle Ben becomes the prime suspect. With the help of handsome journalist Steve Dawes, charming firefighter Declan McCarthy, and a few spells, Katie and Aunt Lucy stir up some toil and trouble to clear Ben's name and find the real killer....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a pretty fair niche mystery. I don't know that it adds too much to the genre, and it's not the most original story I've ever read. But it was a quick, easy read, and it had its moments where it was rather fun. This was one of those strange books that I enjoyed while I was reading it (for the most part), but the second I put it down, I was struck by its flaws. (Literally. I opened the computer, ready to give this a better review, but the second I started to type, I thought, "Wait...") The characters are well-written - at least overall. The material pertaining to Wicca seemed pretty accurate. And the mystery wasn't terribly obvious (though the real core of the book isn't really the mystery but the relationship between the characters and the heroine's journey of self-discovery). However, there

were a few little things (and one or two big things) that bothered me about the novel. I don't think these are spoilerish, but I suppose they might be. For example...why the strange focus on the fact that the main character needs only one hour of sleep a night? To make the readers jealous? I suppose it could be the author's attempt to demonstrate how "powerful" she is - after all, there's a good deal of focus on how much energy she has, and that she has always turned to other non-magical ways to get it out. Only it doesn't seem like the other witches have a similar issue, so it's just Katie. She's so incredibly powerful, you see. Don't get me wrong; I expected her to be a powerful witch. You don't pick up these books to read "The Adventures of Mediocre Katie and Her Much More Awesome Friends." That said, she shows up in town, everyone loves her - or comes to respect her (except a couple of bad guys, perhaps).

Brownies and Broomsticks is the first book in the A Magical Bakery Mystery series. And what an enjoyable story it is, too. Katie Lightfoot heads for Savannah to put her culinary skills to work in her aunt and uncle's Honeybee Bakery. Katie, her Aunt Lucy and Uncle, and few close friends are busy putting the final touches in the Honeybee Bakery, with opening just a week away. Mavis Templeton of the Downtown Business Association stops in to see if the Honeybee Bakery will be able to handle the group's business brunch in a few days. Aunt Lucy speaks up and says no problem. A menu is agreed upon and a price. The day of the brunch comes and the staff is on pins and needles. Most seem to be enjoying the brunch. As the meeting is breaking up Ms. Templeton gives Ben a check for the brunch, but the check is less than the agreed upon amount. They have a somewhat heated discussion about the check. Mavis heads to her car that is parked out front, while Ben heads for the alley behind the bakery to cool off and relax. Within minutes it is reported that a woman is slumped over the wheel of her car, after having been shot. The woman is Mavis and of course Uncle Ben becomes the prime suspect. Next Katie learns that her aunt and the ladies that have been helping to get the bakery ready are in fact "good" witches. Katie learns that she also has the makings of being a witch, with the help of her aunt, Katie is learning to hone these skills. Throw in that two men, Declan a fireman and friend of Ben's and Steve Dawes a news reporter are eager to help Katie investigate who might have killed Templeton. The problem is that these men can't stand the sight of each other. But soon everyone is on track and using their own skills to determine the killer.

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