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Patricia V. Davis

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Patricia V. Davis : Cooking for Ghostsquot; Book I quot;The Secret Spice Cafe Trilogyquot; before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cooking for Ghostsquot; Book I quot;The Secret Spice Cafe Trilogyquot;;

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I did enjoy this bookBy jessica smithThis is a novel about four women that met on a cooking blog and decide to seize an opportunity of a lifetime to buy a restaurant on a historic ship, one that also happens to be haunted hence the title "Cooking with Ghosts". I did enjoy this book, but I do have some issues with this book that keep me from being able to say I loved it.First I want to start with the things I really enjoyed about this novel. First, I have to commend the author in her prologue, it grabbed my attention and got me super excited about what would lie ahead in the novel. Second, I love the authors treatment of the ghost characters, she did not leave them one-sided like I have seen in many other books. I really enjoyed how complex they were, they were not just pawns set in the book to scare, but they had feeling and some even had humor, they even helped protect the women and their families. A third item I will say I am really glad was added, it was not needed per say, but it did add a lot to the story and that was the end note. In this end note the author gave information of the people and events in the novel and how many were based on true events, people and places. It gives trivia and the answers which to many, including myself, is always fun.Now to talk about the negatives, the things that prevented me from fully loving this book. The first really to me is the biggest, and it is the fact that the prologue built up this great murder mystery that the novel itself did not live up to. The novel is technically a murder mystery, but for me not so much it really is just a chick lit book, since the murders are solved somewhat, like it is resolved that the child did not just accidentally drowned and the Nanny did not run off, but the killer is never really fully exposed like you would see in other mystery novels, and even the resolutions are rushed like a after thought of the author to just tie up all the loose ends at the very end, like the last 10-20 pages. Second major one would be it had too many happy endings, as a reader you do want the characters to live happily ever after, but when everything works out even things that were never really explained it becomes hard to believe and to me I felt it took away from the book. Third is minor and it is the story line had a lot of lulls in it, making it not the easy fun read I wanted it to be.So in conclusion I would have to say I would give the overall novel a 3 out of 5 stars. But I am looking forward to reading the others in this trilogy to see if anything improves.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Hauntingly Delicious NovelBy teachlzMY REVIEW OF ldquo;COOKING FOR GHOSTSrdquo; by Patricia V. DavisWOW! WOW! WOW! ldquo;COOKING FOR GHOSTSrdquo; BY Patricia V. Davis is a hauntingly delicious and entertaining novel!! I love the way that Patricia V.

Davis has done the historical research and how she weaves her story, characters, and timeline together. The story takes place on the RMS Queen Mary, the beautiful ocean liner which is now a floating hotel in Long Beach, California. The RMS Queen Mary has much historical detail, and is rumored to hold secrets, and spirits and ghosts, para normal activity. During World War Two, the ocean liner was painted steel gray and transported soldiers, and was involved in the war. The timeline of the story goes back in history and forward to the present, I love the way the author describes the luxury ship in such artistic detail. The Genres for this story are Fiction, Para-Normal, Mystery, and references to Historical fiction. The author uses Poetic License in combining the history and the fiction. The author describes her characters: "The main characters are diverse in birthplace, socio-economic status and life experience." Four women meet on a food blogging site and decide to open "The Secret Spice Cafe. The characters are complex and complicated and each have secrets, and something tragic in their past. The Chef also is temperamental at times and has secrets. The characters seem dysfunctional in many ways, and their strengths and weaknesses make them work together. Most of the crew is familiar with para normal activity. Many strange and questionable sounds and sights are seen. At times the ship seems possessed, and certain things have a mind of its own. The mysteries to past murders and deaths causes an intense edge, and the past characters and present are pieces of a puzzle that have to fit. I love that the author deals with many relevant topics: the importance, independence and power of women. Each of the characters is held back by their past. The author discusses how some women are oppressed in certain cultures, and not given respect. In addition, some of the characters' rigid upbringing conflicts with their growth. Patricia V. Davis also brings up the topics of forgiveness and redemption. I appreciate that the author mentions the importance of family, hope, faith and love. I would highly recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a lighthearted story with para-normal activities. I received a copy of this book for my honest review. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Utterly masterful and delicious! By Lindsey Kay What makes this book unique is that it crosses into so many different genres with a deft hand, denying being pigeonholed but without any feeling of contrivance or having tried too hard. Davis as an author weaves an incredible tapestry together, bringing out the best elements of each genre she courts without getting dragged down into hackneyed stereotypes. Is this a coming-of-age story? Absolutely. Is this about mumble-something aged ladies trying to find their way through the darkness of their past through the power of friendship and good food? Sure it is. Is it a ghost story? A mystery? At times, a pulse-pounding crime drama thriller? It's that, too, and it's also more. Each of these masterful stories are melded together into a delicious whole, much like the various ingredients that Rohini uses in her secret spice dishes. Like a four star meal, the story is plated beautifully in the setting of the RMS Queen Mary, and like great meal it is garnished with delightful descriptions of the food and drink that the characters make in their cafe. The best of these can be found on recipe cards online, which I can't wait to try out myself- like Shrimp Rohini and chocolate hazelnut cupcakes- plus, I'm going to adapt my own favorite cheesecake recipe to try my hand on that devilish sounding ricotta limoncello cheesecake. Delicious all around!

Do hearts broken long ago forever leave a tangible trace? A Vegas cocktail waitress. An Indian herbalist. A British chemistry professor. An Italian-American widow. Four unique women with one thing in common: each is haunted by a tragedy from her past. Cynthia, Rohini, Jane, and Angela meet on a food blogging site and bond over recipes. They decide on impulse to open The Secret Spice, an elegant cafe; on the magnificent ocean liner, the RMS Queen Mary, currently a floating hotel in Long Beach, California. Rich in history and tales of supernatural occurrences, the ship hides her own dark secrets. The women are surrounded by ghosts long before they step aboard, but once they do, nothing is quite what it seems. Not the people they meet, not their brooding chef's mystic recipes, and not the Queen Mary herself. Yet the spirits they encounter help them discover that there's always a chance to live, as long as one is alive. Nominated for the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, COOKING FOR GHOSTS is an unforgettable tale of love, redemption, and divine female power.

"In *Cooking for Ghosts*, Patricia V. Davis manages to combine an exuberant lust for the good things in life with an eerie sense of foreboding. This is an exceptional, uniquely gratifying novel. Make yourself something tasty to eat, put your feet up. You're going to be reading for a while." ~David Corbett, award-winning author of *The Mercy of the Night* "An exquisitely written story about four dynamic women who confront the ghosts from their past, with vivid imagery that shines a light on the majestic legacy of the RMS Queen Mary." ?Mary Rohrer, Executive Director, QMI Foundation "...A complex, rich, and satisfying read... Especially recommended for mystery enthusiasts looking for something different in the way of setting, feisty and strong female characters...and a story line brimming with revelations and intrigue that aren't easily predictable. " -- Midwest Book

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