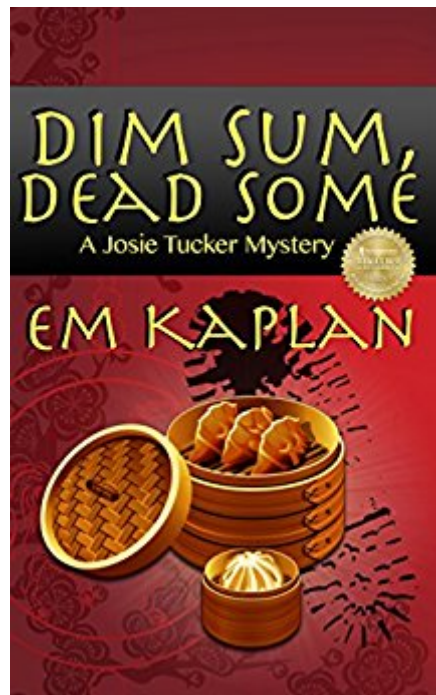


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Dim Sum, Dead Some: An Un-Cozy Un-Culinary Josie Tucker Mystery (Josie Tucker Mysteries Book 2)



Synopsis

Ivan Sorokin is missing. Who wants him out of the picture—his wife, his business partner, or the stripper who holds his heart? Josie Tucker stands on Beach Street with her back to the San Francisco wharf. Above her, the Ghirardelli sign winks in the dusky twilight, seducing her. The ice cream parlor lights beckon like a lactose Lothario, a casein Casanova, trying hard to woo her. But her heart longs for dumplings, for dim sum. Dim sum means a heart's delight. • Imagine nibbling at a savory golden pouch stuffed with delicately seasoned meat. If a lover offers the morsel on the tips of exquisitely lacquered chopsticks late in the morning while reclining on silken cushions—that's food for the heart. Chinatown. Dim sum. Murder. Josie's perfect ingredients for adventure.

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Customer Reviews

Josie Tucker, EM Kaplan's diminutive (and delightful) food-critic-with-a-bad-stomach heroine, is in San Francisco trying to find out if Bostonian Greta Williams is investing wisely now that she's pouring money into a start-up, high-tech company. That's more than a little challenging for Josie,

who knows next to nothing about computers and even has a hard time understanding all the functions her cell phone is capable of, but she's agreed to do a little discreet snooping for two reasons. First: Greta, a blue-blooded if apparently cold-hearted woman, is footing the bill and they have an "arrangement." Second: Josie's BFF Susan is also going to the City by the Bay to meet with her online boyfriend, James Yu. Things go wrong almost from the time the two women land in San Francisco. They discover, for example, that James lives in a tiny apartment accessible by a none-too-safe, seemingly makeshift and very wobbly fire escape that gives Josie the willies every time she uses it. On top of that he turns out to be a self-involved nerd with no taste whatsoever when it comes to interior decoration and, lastly, his business partner who is supposed to meet them for breakfast has gone AWOL. Oh, and while out wandering around Josie and her not-so-stable stomach somehow find themselves face-to-face with the famous Ghirardelli ice-cream-and-chocolate shop, which is not a good place to be for someone with weak impulse control and what is probably lactose intolerance. Kaplan's second installment in the Josie Tucker mystery series is every bit as much fun as her first book and is, I think, even stronger in terms of its plot and characters.

Actually the second book in her Josie Tucker series, Kaplan's sequel can be read without spoiling the first outing of her "snarky" but likeable character in, "The Bride Wore Dead" (which this reviewer fully intends to read). Designed by Kaplan herself, the attractive cover could easily find a home on the front of any theater district Playbill in New York. Sounding more like a delectable culinary play set in five Acts (The Recipe, The Ingredients, The Proof, The Heat, and The Plate), the online food-critic-turned-amateur-sleuth, Josie Tucker, opens each Act (part) with a snippet from her online column, "Will Blog for Food." But what makes them crucial is the subtle meaning infused within Josie's "blog" that directly correlates with the theme of each Act and its constituent scenes (chapters). The comedic, original use of pop-culture analogies and inventive, metaphor-filled prose adds dimension to Josie's serious investigation into the disappearance of Ivan Sorokin. Kaplan's disarmingly playful approach is almost like an aside to the audience--injecting supplemental commentary that perfectly dovetails into the story. Kaplan's sense of humor shines brilliantly; so much so, the reader will actually catch themselves laughing out loud (I certainly did). The author's deft use of plot devices, colorful characters from all walks of life, and detailed locales that cover the San Francisco Bay area, Boston, and western Massachusetts, creates a plausible sense of reality. One Godfather-styled character in particular, Greta Williams, seems to have her hands in more pies than Josie Tucker's ability to review in her food blog.

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