

***A Deadly Endeavor* by Jenny Adams**

If you like historical mysteries, check out *A Deadly Endeavor*. It is the first book in a new series featuring 1920s Philadelphia. Edie Shippen is from a well-to-do Philadelphia family. She returns to Philadelphia after three years recovering from the Spanish Influenza in California with her aunt. Things changed while she was gone – her former boyfriend (a WWI vet and doctor) is now engaged to her twin sister. She's valiantly trying to not be bitter about that!

As she sets about finding her footing as an adult, a serial killer lurks in her midst. All of the killings relate in some way to the Shippen family. First, one of their maids goes missing, then a family member. Then a second maid, Lizzie, who is close to Edie, goes missing. Edie teams up with Dr. Gilbert Lawless (Lizzie's brother; works in the coroner's office) to find Lizzie, figure out the connection between all of the females being murdered, and find the killer.

I found the setting and time period to be fascinating. It's definitely the roaring twenties with speakeasy's, jazz, and gambling. The author also shines a light on the trauma that people are still suffering from – the Spanish Influenza (and the lingering symptoms similar to long COVID) and World War 1 "shell shock." Anyone familiar with Philadelphia will likely recognize some of the landmarks and family names the author incorporates. I'm not familiar, but it feels well researched. A good mystery! A sequel will be published in Spring 2025.