

### ***Death by Bubble Tea* by Jennifer J. Chow**

This is the first book in the LA Night Market cozy mystery series and a solid series opener. Since the majority of cozies are set in small towns, it's always fun and interesting when I come across one set in such a big city. It adds a different dynamic.

Our protagonists are Yale Yee and her cousin Celine. Celine is a social media influencer visiting from Hong Kong and Yale is tasked with showing her around Los Angeles. They are basically complete and total opposites, since Celine is permanently attached to her smartphone and Yale doesn't even own a computer or cell phone. I wasn't sure I liked either one of them early on, but both characters grew on me over the course of the book.

After Yale loses her bookstore job, she's a little bit lost. So her father asks her to run the family's food stall at the new neighborhood night market with Celine so the two can bond. With her influencer skills, Celine is able to drum up a good amount of business through some clever marketing. Unfortunately, one of their customers winds up dead after drinking some of their fancy bubble tea, and Celine and Yale are the prime suspects. The cousins work together to try to figure out who the real killer is so that they can clear their names.

There are lots of potential suspects with different motives, so they have their work cut out for them. Their sleuthing takes them around the food scene in LA, so they try different dishes that are described deliciously. (Don't worry...there are recipes included at the end!) I did figure out the culprit pretty early on, but it was still a very satisfying conclusion. I definitely look forward to reading more of this series!

GK