

***Pies and Prejudice* by Ellery Adams**

This is the first book in the *Charmed Pie Shoppe Mystery* series, and let me tell you, it is a very charming read! Ella Mae's life is thrown completely upside down one day when returning to her New York City apartment. And if I were in her shoes, I too would have just turned around, walked out and booked the first flight back to my hometown. So that's how she ends up back in Havenwood, Georgia with just her dog and the clothes on her back. Ella Mae has been estranged from her mother the entire time she's been away in the big city, but they slowly begin to repair their relationship, thanks to her aunts and the longtime family housekeeper, Reba.

Ella Mae uses her baking skills to help heal her heart and her family helps her purchase a shuttered business that will be transformed into her very own pie shop. And I do mean transformed, from the day she arrives in Havenwood to the day that the pie shop opens seems to be about two weeks apart. Are her contractors some sort of magicians? We may never know. But there definitely seems to be some sort of magic in the air in Havenwood. Ella Mae's treats have magical effects on the townspeople.

But all is not magic and rainbows in town, this is a cozy mystery after all. Ella Mae is considered a suspect in the murder of her sworn enemy from childhood's fiancé. So she snoops a bit, gets herself in trouble, and does her best to figure out who the culprit actually is. I had a hunch about who the murderer was, but only because no one else really made sense. Though, honestly, the motive is ultimately a little shaky. I did really enjoy the book in any case! The rest of the story really makes up for it. I love Ellery Adams' writing style. She's very descriptive and it really helps you feel like you're in the thick of the story. I look forward to reading the other books in the series to learn more about Ella Mae's family and the mystery surrounding the powers that they seem to have.

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