

***The Secret, Book and Scone Society* by Ellery Adams**

The first book in *The Secret, Book and Scone Society* series by Ellery Adams is a different kind of cozy mystery. It isn't as lighthearted or humorous as many other cozy mystery series, but it's not nearly as dark as something in the suspense/thriller genre. I would compare it to the early books in the Aurora Teagarden book series by Charlaine Harris in terms of tone, but this book is much more character driven. The main characters are extremely well fleshed out, with realistic, yet tragic, backstories. The book's protagonist, Nora, has been through quite a bit before the start of the story, and is scarred both physically and emotionally. The mystery in the story actually ends up being almost a secondary plot to the budding friendship between Nora and the other members of the Society. The town of Miracle Springs, North Carolina seems like a quaint place at first, with Nora's bookshop, Miracle Books, and The Gingerbread House's comfort scones being tourist draws. But we quickly learn that there's something nefarious going on in regard to a new housing development. It's such an engrossing story, I found myself hesitant to put it down. I look forward to reading more of this series, but after reading a lighter mystery first!

GK