

rita mae brown sneaky pie

Rita Mae Brown Sneaky Pie: A Charming Blend of Mystery and Wit

rita mae brown sneaky pie is a phrase that immediately captures the attention of fans of cozy mysteries and witty storytelling. Rita Mae Brown, an acclaimed author known for her clever narratives and engaging characters, has created a special place in the world of mystery fiction with her "Sneaky Pie Brown" series. This blend of humor, suspense, and a little bit of Southern charm has made the series a favorite among readers looking for a lighthearted yet intriguing read.

In this article, we'll explore the delightful world of Rita Mae Brown's Sneaky Pie books, delve into what makes them unique, and share insights into the themes and characters that keep readers coming back for more. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Brown's work, there's plenty to discover about this captivating series.

Who Is Rita Mae Brown?

Before diving into the Sneaky Pie series, it's worth taking a moment to appreciate the author behind the books. Rita Mae Brown is an American writer whose career spans several decades. Known initially for her groundbreaking novel "Rubyfruit Jungle," Brown has since become a prolific author, penning numerous novels, essays, and memoirs. Her writing often features strong, independent characters and a sharp sense of humor, qualities that shine brightly in the Sneaky Pie series.

Rita Mae Brown's unique voice blends feminist themes, social commentary, and a playful narrative style that appeals to a broad audience. This combination is evident in the Sneaky Pie Brown mysteries, where she crafts stories that are as much about character development and community as they are about solving crimes.

The Charm of the Sneaky Pie Brown Series

The Sneaky Pie Brown series revolves around the titular character, Sneaky Pie, a cat with a knack for uncovering secrets and helping her owner solve mysteries. These cozy mysteries combine the allure of small-town life with intriguing whodunits, often sprinkled with humor and a touch of Southern hospitality.

What Makes Sneaky Pie Special?

Sneaky Pie isn't just any feline protagonist. Brown's portrayal of the cat as a clever, somewhat mischievous companion adds a fresh twist to the traditional mystery formula. Sneaky Pie's antics and intuition often lead the human characters to clues they might otherwise miss. This unique perspective adds layers of entertainment and engagement to each story.

Moreover, the series is notable for its warm and vivid depiction of community life. Readers get to know a cast of recurring characters whose relationships and interactions enrich the narrative. The setting often feels like a character itself, offering a cozy backdrop that contrasts with the darker mysteries at hand.

Popular Titles in the Series

Some standout books in the Sneaky Pie Brown series include:

- **Sneaky Pie for President**: This novel introduces readers to the charming world of Sneaky Pie and her owner, combining political satire with mystery.
- **Sneaky Pie and the Big Bad Mayor**: A story that weaves local politics, intrigue, and feline cleverness into a compelling narrative.
- **Sneaky Pie's Christmas**: A festive mystery that highlights the warmth and quirks of small-town holiday traditions.

Each book offers a self-contained mystery, making it easy for new readers to jump in at any point while rewarding loyal fans with ongoing character development.

The Appeal of Cozy Mysteries Featuring Animals

Cozy mysteries have long been a beloved subgenre, characterized by their lighthearted tone, amateur sleuths, and often charming settings. When animals like Sneaky Pie take center stage, these stories gain an extra layer of appeal.

Why Readers Love Feline Detectives

Cats, with their curious and independent nature, make perfect mystery companions. They embody a sense of intelligence and unpredictability that keeps readers guessing. In the case of Rita Mae Brown's Sneaky Pie, the cat's personality is central to the narrative, providing both comic relief and critical clues.

Animal detectives often soften the tension typical of mystery stories, making the genre accessible to readers who prefer less graphic or intense content. This approach broadens the audience, attracting readers who enjoy charming tales with a dash of suspense.

How Sneaky Pie Stands Out

While many cozy mysteries feature animal sidekicks, Rita Mae Brown's series stands out because of its witty writing style and the author's ability to weave deeper social themes into the narrative. Sneaky Pie is not just a cute pet; she is a pivotal character whose observations push the story forward and challenge human assumptions.

Brown's personal affection for animals and deep understanding of their behaviors lend authenticity to the series. The cat's actions feel natural and believable, enhancing the reader's immersion in the story.

Exploring Themes in Rita Mae Brown's Sneaky Pie Books

Beyond the mysteries themselves, the Sneaky Pie series explores several meaningful themes that add depth to the entertainment.

Community and Connection

One recurring theme is the importance of community bonds. Brown paints a picture of small-town life where everyone knows each other's business, but there is also a strong sense of support and belonging. The characters' interactions reveal the complexities of friendship, loyalty, and sometimes rivalry, all of which enrich the mystery.

Justice and Morality

While the stories are lighthearted, they often touch on questions of justice and morality. The mysteries usually involve uncovering wrongdoing, but Brown approaches these issues with nuance, exploring motives and consequences. This adds layers to what might otherwise be straightforward whodunits.

Empowerment and Independence

Sneaky Pie's owner, and many other characters in the series, embody themes of

empowerment and self-reliance. Brown often highlights the strength of her female characters, reflecting her broader feminist perspective. These elements resonate with readers who appreciate stories about personal growth and resilience.

Tips for New Readers of Rita Mae Brown Sneaky Pie

If you're considering diving into the Sneaky Pie series, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

1. **Start with any book:** Each novel stands on its own, so you don't need to read them in order.
2. **Pay attention to character relationships:** The interactions among the townspeople add layers of meaning and humor.
3. **Enjoy the humor:** Brown's witty writing is a highlight; savor the playful dialogue and clever observations.
4. **Notice the setting:** The depiction of small-town life is almost a character itself and adds to the cozy atmosphere.
5. **Appreciate the feline perspective:** Sneaky Pie's unique point of view often provides subtle clues and comic moments.

By keeping these tips in mind, new readers can fully appreciate the charm and cleverness that define the series.

Where to Find Rita Mae Brown Sneaky Pie Books

The popularity of the Sneaky Pie series means that these books are widely available. You can find them in most bookstores, both physical and online, as well as libraries. Many titles are available in paperback, ebook, and audiobook formats, making it easy to enjoy the stories in your preferred way.

For those who enjoy book clubs or discussion groups, the Sneaky Pie books provide plenty of material for engaging conversations, from character motivations to the social themes woven into the mysteries.

Rita Mae Brown's Sneaky Pie series offers a delightful mix of mystery, humor,

and heartwarming moments. The clever cat at its center and the richly drawn community around her create stories that entertain and resonate. Whether you're a seasoned mystery reader or someone looking for a cozy escape, diving into the world of Sneaky Pie Brown is sure to be a rewarding experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Rita Mae Brown in relation to 'Sneaky Pie'?

Rita Mae Brown is the author of the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' mystery series, which features an amateur sleuth and her clever cat.

What is the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series about?

The 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series follows a former lawyer and her intelligent cat, Sneaky Pie, as they solve mysteries in a small town setting.

How many books are there in the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series by Rita Mae Brown?

As of now, there are over 20 books in the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series by Rita Mae Brown.

What genre does the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series belong to?

The 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series is primarily a cozy mystery series with elements of humor and crime-solving.

Is 'Sneaky Pie Brown' based on a real cat or real events?

While Rita Mae Brown is an animal lover and draws inspiration from her experiences, 'Sneaky Pie Brown' is a fictional character in a fictional mystery series.

Where is the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series set?

The series is set in a fictional small town in Maryland, which adds charm and local color to the mysteries.

Can new readers start the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series with the latest book?

Yes, each book in the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series tends to have a standalone

mystery, so new readers can start with the latest book.

Are the 'Sneaky Pie Brown' books suitable for young adult readers?

The 'Sneaky Pie Brown' series is generally aimed at adult readers but can be enjoyed by mature young adults who like cozy mysteries.

What makes Sneaky Pie Brown unique among mystery series protagonists?

Sneaky Pie Brown features a cat as a key character who helps solve mysteries, adding a unique and charming angle to the series.

Where can I purchase or read Rita Mae Brown's 'Sneaky Pie Brown' books?

Rita Mae Brown's 'Sneaky Pie Brown' books are available at major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and local libraries.

Additional Resources

Rita Mae Brown Sneaky Pie: A Closer Look at the Iconic Mystery Novel

rita mae brown sneaky pie has become a notable phrase in the realm of mystery and cozy detective fiction, primarily due to the popularity of the book "Sneaky Pie Brown" by Rita Mae Brown. This novel, part of Brown's acclaimed mystery series, has garnered attention for its witty storytelling, engaging characters, and unique blend of humor and suspense. As an investigative review, this article delves into the literary significance, thematic elements, and overall impact of Rita Mae Brown's Sneaky Pie, exploring why it remains a compelling read within the mystery genre.

Understanding Rita Mae Brown and the Significance of Sneaky Pie

Rita Mae Brown is a celebrated author known for her sharp wit, distinctive voice, and ability to weave complex narratives with a lighthearted touch. Her Sneaky Pie Brown series stands out as a refreshing take on the cozy mystery genre, featuring a feline detective protagonist that adds an unconventional charm to the stories. Sneaky Pie, the cat, isn't merely a pet but an integral character who helps unravel mysteries alongside human counterparts.

The Sneaky Pie Brown book not only highlights Rita Mae Brown's storytelling prowess but also reflects her skill in character development. The series

balances suspense with humor, making it accessible to a broad audience while maintaining depth and intrigue. This unique combination has contributed to the series' enduring popularity and critical acclaim.

The Narrative Style and Character Dynamics

One of the distinguishing features of Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* is the narrative style. The story often unfolds through a combination of first-person narration and glimpses into the feline perspective, which adds a layer of novelty and engagement. Sneaky Pie, as a character, exhibits traits of curiosity, intelligence, and independence, effectively turning the cat into an active participant in the mystery rather than a passive observer.

This anthropomorphic portrayal enriches the narrative by creating a dynamic interplay between human and animal characters. The relationships between Sneaky Pie and the humans she assists are nuanced, reflecting themes of trust, loyalty, and companionship. Such dynamics contribute to the emotional resonance of the story and deepen reader investment.

Key Themes and Literary Elements in *Sneaky Pie*

Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* is rich with thematic undercurrents that elevate it beyond a simple whodunit. The novel explores themes such as:

- **Community and Belonging:** The story often centers around small-town settings where community ties are strong, highlighting the importance of social connections and collective well-being.
- **Justice and Morality:** Through the mysteries that Sneaky Pie helps solve, the novel delves into questions of right and wrong, ethics, and the pursuit of truth.
- **Humor in Adversity:** Despite dealing with crime and conflict, the tone remains light, with humor serving as a coping mechanism and a means to engage readers.

In addition to themes, Brown's use of vivid descriptions and sharp dialogues adds texture to the narrative. The pacing is deliberate, allowing suspense to build without overwhelming the reader. This balance is crucial in maintaining reader interest throughout the novel.

Comparative Analysis with Other Cozy Mysteries

When placed alongside other popular cozy mysteries, Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* stands out for its inclusion of an animal detective protagonist, a feature shared by some but not all in the genre. Series such as those featuring feline or canine sleuths (e.g., Diane Kelly's "Cat in the Stacks" or Spencer Quinn's "Chet and Bernie" series) similarly leverage the appeal of animal characters to attract readers.

However, *Sneaky Pie* distinguishes itself through Brown's literary background and her nuanced approach to character development and thematic exploration. The prose often carries a poetic quality, and the humor is more subtle compared to the slapstick or overt comedic tones found in other cozy mysteries.

Critical Reception and Reader Perspectives

Since its release, Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* has received mixed to positive reviews from critics and readers alike. Many praise the novel for its originality, engaging plot, and charming protagonist. The interplay between human and feline perspectives is frequently cited as a highlight that adds depth and uniqueness to the story.

On the other hand, some readers find the pacing slower than expected for a mystery novel, noting that the focus on character interactions and setting occasionally overshadows the central mystery. Nevertheless, this aspect is often appreciated by those who prefer character-driven stories over purely plot-centric narratives.

Pros and Cons of Sneaky Pie Brown

- **Pros:**

- Engaging and unique protagonist in *Sneaky Pie* the cat
- Witty and humorous writing style
- Richly developed characters and setting
- Balance of suspense and lightheartedness
- Appeals to both mystery lovers and animal enthusiasts

- **Cons:**

- Pacing may feel slow for readers expecting fast action
- Some plotlines can be predictable
- Limited appeal for readers who favor dark or gritty mysteries

The Role of Rita Mae Brown Sneaky Pie in Contemporary Mystery Literature

In the context of contemporary mystery literature, Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* is a notable contribution that exemplifies the cozy mystery subgenre's enduring appeal. It blends traditional elements—such as a small-town setting and amateur sleuth—with innovative features like an animal protagonist and a sophisticated narrative voice.

Its success also underscores the market's openness to diverse storytelling techniques and characters, expanding the boundaries of what mystery fiction can encompass. Brown's work encourages other authors to experiment with perspective and tone, fostering greater creativity within the genre.

Moreover, Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* has helped maintain interest in mysteries that prioritize character development and community over graphic violence or intense psychological suspense. This aligns with a growing segment of readers who seek comfort and entertainment through literature that combines intrigue with warmth.

In sum, the ongoing relevance of Rita Mae Brown's *Sneaky Pie* lies in its ability to offer a multifaceted reading experience—one that entertains, provokes thought, and invites readers into a world where mystery can be approached with curiosity and humor alike.

Rita Mae Brown Sneaky Pie

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Sneaky Pie's Cookbook for Mystery Lovers Rita Mae Brown, 2009-12-30 Favorite recipes and anecdotes from the co-author of the *Mrs. Murphy Mysteries*. *Sneaky Pie* Brown, co-author of such irresistible *Mrs. Murphy* mysteries as *Murder on the Prowl*, dishes up delectable fare for cats and humans alike in this unique collection of recipes spiced with witty personal anecdotes, including glimpses of life with co-author Rita Mae Brown. What do you serve when a kitty is bored with all the old standbys? Since cookbooks are written by humans for humans, *Sneaky Pie* Brown has produced a cookbook with appeal for fastidious felines, including

such treats as Veal Kidney and Salmon Pie. Ever the thoughtful hostess, Miss Pie has also included plenty of recipes to accommodate the visiting human or finicky dog. There's Mother's Fried Chicken, Christmas Goose, Big Dog's Delight, and, of course, Mrs. Hogendobber's Orange Buns, the very thought of which makes Mrs. Murphy fans' mouths water. Throughout there are also delightfully illustrated anecdotes for those Sneaky Pie fans eager to learn more about the dashing author. She even spills the beans about what happened to Rita Mae's brand-new pickup when a neighbor came calling with his goat. For cats and cat lovers, this book combines real and tasty recipes with the same droll humor that made one reviewer declare, As feline collaborators go, you couldn't ask for better than Sneaky Pie Brown, the canny tiger cat (The New York Times Book Review).

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Sneaky Pie for President Rita Mae Brown, 2012 This election year, Brown has thrown her cat into the ring. Her intrepid feline co-author, Sneaky Pie Brown, is taking time off from her busy schedule writing bestselling mysteries to run for President of the United States.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: A Hiss Before Dying Rita Mae Brown, Sneaky Pie Brown, 2017 When Mary Minor Harry Haristeen--together with her feline companions--investigates two seemingly unrelated deaths in her Blue Ridge Mountain community, she discovers a trail of clues connected to Virginia's post-revolutionary past.--

rita mae brown sneaky pie: *Hiss of Death* Rita Mae Brown, 2011-04-12 BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Rita Mae Brown's *The Big Cat Nap*. Ah, spring! The brighter days and singing birds have a way of lifting people's spirits, as well as those of their animal companions. But the season can also bring out the first blossoms of murder. As the redbuds open in Crozet, Virginia, Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen is especially excited--until a health crisis sends her reeling into the forbidding world of hospitals and doctors, treatments and procedures. Surviving this journey will be tough, but Harry has her animal friends--and her ever-helpful husband, Fair--to support her. Others are considerably less fortunate: A promising nurse's lifeless body is discovered without a mark on her. Then another hospital employee, who had seemed in perfect health, is also found dead. There's a mystery afoot--and that's one thing Harry and her menagerie can't keep their noses out of.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Cat on the Scent: Rita Mae Brown & Sneaky Pie Brown Rita Mae Brown, 1999

rita mae brown sneaky pie: **Catch as Cat Can** Rita Mae Brown, 2003-02-04 Spring fever comes to the small town of Crozet, Virginia. As the annual Dogwood Festival approaches, postmistress Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen feels her own mating instincts stir. As for tiger cat Mrs. Murphy, feline intuition tells her there's more in the air than just pheromones. It begins with a case of stolen hubcaps and proceeds to the mysterious death of a dissolute young mechanic over a sobering cup of coffee. Then another death and a shooting lead to the discovery of a half-million crisp, clean dollar bills that look to be very dirty. Now Harry is on the trail of a cold-blooded murderer. Mrs. Murphy already knows who it is--and who's next in line. She also knows that Harry, curious as a cat, does not have nine lives. And the one she does have is hanging by the thinnest of threads.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: *Feline Fatale* Rita Mae Brown, 2024-04-16 Politicians fight like cats and dogs, but when things take a deadly turn at the Virginia House of Delegates, Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen calls on her beloved pets to help her crack the case and stop the fur from flying in this latest mystery from Rita Mae Brown and her feline co-author Sneaky Pie Brown. Spring flowers may be about to bloom in Crozet, Virginia, but Harry is thinking about snow. Her dear friend Ned Tucker is in the House of Delegates, advocating for a bill to improve road clearing during bad weather, and Harry and Ned's wife, Susan, have gone down to the statehouse to support him. Tensions are high between political parties, and no one can agree on anything for long enough to get something done. The bill's chief detractor is the glamorous Amanda Fields, a former newscaster turned delegate whose flair for the dramatic has earned her a formidable reputation--and made her more than a few enemies. Amanda's claws-out approach to politics might have some of her colleagues wishing she was dead, but the statehouse is rocked when one of the young pages who

assists the delegates dies under mysterious circumstances. Could his death be related to the political infighting? Or is something even more sinister threatening the lives of Virginia's finest representatives? With help from her feline sidekicks, Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, as well as Tee Tucker the corgi and Irish Greyhound Pirate, Harry is determined to find the answers and restore order once more to the Capitol.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Santa Clawed Rita Mae Brown, 2008-11-04 Bestselling authors Rita Mae Brown and her feline partner, Sneaky Pie Brown, are back for the holidays in a mystery featuring Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen, the sleuthing cats Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, and corgi Tee Tucker. Can they save the season from a killjoy who's decided to gift the festive little town . . . with murder? As Harry well knows, there's hardly a place on earth cozier than Crozet, Virginia, at Christmastime. The snowflakes drifting lazily down, the soft glow of the winter light, the sound of old carols in the streets...even cats Mrs. Murphy and Pewter get into the spirit batting ornaments and climbing the holiday tree. In fact, it's this year's tree that Harry and her husband, Fair, have gone to fetch when they find the one they've chosen grimly decorated with a dead body. The tree farm is run by The Brothers of Love, a semimonastic organization that tends to AIDS patients. The brothers live in a monastery atop the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains. Harry is surprised to find an old high-school friend associated with The Brothers of Love. Christopher Hewitt wasn't a bad man, but good works weren't exactly one of his priorities. But then, if even Scrooge could turn over a new leaf, certainly Chris could. And after the scandal that all but destroyed his life, there were probably few in Crozet who needed the gift of a second chance more. Harry knows she shouldn't take it personally, but it was her tree that someone left the corpse under. Now, as the season grows merrier, a murderer is growing bolder. One by one, prominent men of Crozet are being crossed off Christmas shopping lists and added to the morgue. And if Harry and her four-legged helpers aren't very good—and very careful—this Christmas may be her last.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Tall Tail Rita Mae Brown, Sneaky Pie Brown, 2016 Returning to Virginia's post-revolutionary history and to characters introduced in Tail Gait, the story follows the Garth sisters and their husbands, neighbors to a brutal slaveholder whose murder at the hands of one of his slaves is neither unexpected nor unwarranted, especially when the impetus was an attack on that slave's wife. The sisters manage to smuggle the fugitive to safety in York, Pennsylvania, while ensuring that the circumstances underlying the entire ordeal stay long buried. Until now. Harry and her animal companions come closer to drawing a link between the past and the present. And in this centuries-spanning caper, they will discover that hiding who you really are may have mortal consequences ... As the questions surrounding--

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Furmidable Foes Rita Mae Brown, Sneaky Pie Brown, 2020 Mary Minor 'Harry' Haristeen and her pet sleuths uncover a rotten scam to dupe consumers when they discover that substandard produce is being passed off for organic, upmarket groceries. As always, Harry's crime-solving cats Mrs. Murphy and Pewter and Tee Tucker the Corgi share her determination to sniff out the foes among friends, the spoiled among the fresh--

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Sealed with a Hiss Rita Mae Brown, 2025-04-22 When a decades-forgotten car bobs to the surface of a local creek, with a body still in the driver's seat, it's up to Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen and her beloved cats and dogs to save the day, in this latest mystery from Rita Mae Brown and her feline co-author, Sneaky Pie Brown. Spring is in full bloom, and everything is blossoming just right for Harry in Crozet, Virginia. Restorations to the long-shuttered local segregated school are nearly complete, and the school will be renamed to commemorate an important community member. To honor the former students, Harry and her friends are hard at work planning a reunion. It's a big affair, and the crew spends their days hanging plaques at the gym, arranging food, and writing speeches. But the fifteen acres behind the school are enticing for more than just a school reunion. One realtor soon reveals plans to buy the land and build over it—unless the crew can find a way to stop the sale. In their search to prevent the purchase, they come across something unexpected: a dead body, which might not be the first to show up this season. With a little aid from Tee Tucker the corgi and Irish Wolfhound Pirate, as well

as feline sleuths Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, Harry just might have a chance at solving this mystery and preventing the land purchase once and for all.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: The Tail of the Tip-Off Rita Mae Brown, 2003-03-04 The Tail of the Tip-Off When winter hits Crozet, Virginia, it hits hard--and hangs on for months. That's nothing new to postmistress Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen and her friends, who keep warm with hard work, hot toddies, and rabid rooting for the University of Virginia's women's basketball team at the old stadium affectionately dubbed "The Clam." But the usual postgame high spirits are laid low when contractor H. H. Donaldson drops dead in the parking lot. And pretty soon word has spread that it wasn't a heart attack that did him in. It just doesn't sit right with Harry that one of her fellow fans--perhaps even an acquaintance or neighbor sitting close by in the stands--is a murderer. And as tiger cat Mrs. Murphy is all too aware, things that don't sit right with Harry make her restless, curious, and prone to poking her not-very-sensitive human nose into dangerous places. So the animals start paying closer attention to what the people around them are doing--and they're the first ones to realize when the next murder occurs. It seems obvious to Harry that the deaths are connected--and she intends to find out exactly how. There's no shortage of suspects, considering that H.H. was a ladies' man who'd left a trail of broken hearts all over town--the most recent belonging to his wife-- and that the second murder victim was not very popular in Crozet. As the police launch their investigation, Harry picks up clues through savvy questioning of everyone she knows. But it's the critters who are most attuned to trouble--they scent something wicked wafting Harry's way on the tail of the next snowstorm. And as Harry draws closer to the truth about a brutal killer, Mrs. Murphy and her friends realize it's up to them to make sure their intrepid mom lands on her feet.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Claws and Effect Rita Mae Brown, 2004-03-30 CLAWS AND EFFECT Winter puts tiny Crozet, Virginia, in a deep freeze and everyone seems to be suffering from the winter blahs, including postmistress Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen. So all are ripe for the juicy gossip coming out of Crozet Hospital--until the main source of that gossip turns up dead. It's not like Harry to resist a mystery, and she soon finds the hospital a hotbed of ego, jealousy, and illicit love. But it's tiger cat Mrs. Murphy, roaming the netherworld of Crozet Hospital, who sniffs out a secret that dates back to the Underground Railroad. Then Harry is attacked and a doctor is executed in cold blood. Soon only a quick-witted cat and her animal pals feline Pewter and corgi Tee Tucker stand between Harry and a coldly calculating killer with a prescription for murder.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: Hiss & Tell Rita Mae Brown, 2023-03-28 When a series of mysterious deaths spoil the Christmas season in Crozet, Virginia, Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen and her beloved cats and dogs lend the police a helping paw in this exciting holiday mystery from Rita Mae Brown and her feline co-author Sneaky Pie Brown. "As feline collaborators go, you couldn't ask for better than Sneaky Pie Brown."--The New York Times Book Review Christmas is coming and Harry's to-do list is a mile long. The days are filled with delivering holiday baskets to neighbors in need, chopping down the perfect tree with her best friend, Susan Tucker, and hunting for that elusive special gift for her beloved husband, Pharamond "Fair" Haristeen. Harry also decides to try her hand at dog showing, enrolling her handsome Irish Wolfhound puppy Pirate in classes to prepare for a future exhibition. Through it all, holiday cheer--and plenty of treats for Pirate--keep spirits high. But the holidays aren't cheerful for everyone. Harry's friend on the police force, Cynthia Cooper, warns that the season can bring an uptick in crime. Her words prove tragically prescient when Harry and Susan discover the dead body of a man by the side of the road, without any clues to his identity. One suspicious death is bad enough, but when Cooper reports that two more bodies have been found, also unidentified, Harry knows trouble is afoot. The autopsies for all three bodies reveal the presence of a deadly drug. Could their deaths have been accidental, or is a devious killer on the prowl? With help from her feline sidekicks, Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, as well as Tee Tucker the corgi and Pirate, Harry vows to find the answers and stop the spate of deaths so that all of Crozet can have a very merry Christmas.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: The Litter of the Law Rita Mae Brown, 2014-08-26 Rita Mae

Brown collaborates with feline co-author Sneaky Pie Brown in a mystery starring Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen, the curious cat detectives Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, and Tee Tucker, the valiant crime-solving corgi. Halloween arrives early this year to rural central Virginia, when a twisted killer will stop at nothing to protect a multimillion-dollar scheme. *THE LITTER OF THE LAW* Autumn has descended and crops are being harvested all over Crozet, Virginia, ideal conditions for a scenic drive for Harry and husband Fair. Bucolic views are all well and good, but Harry's nose for trouble leads her straight to a cornfield's macabre scarecrow—an all too real murder victim that frightens all but the noisy crows. This accountant's gruesome death is only the first of many disturbing events in this normally pastoral corner of the world. While Harry tends her beloved grapes and sunflowers, a killer edges closer—as does Harry's protective menagerie of animals. Halloween's approach brings with it bona fide terror and a beloved local tradition that threatens to become fatal. Rooting out the guilty in the treacherous center of a lucrative conspiracy requires Harry's farmer's wisdom—along with the quick wits and extraordinary senses of Sneaky Pie, Pewter, and Tucker. A vicious murderer may know the lay of the land far better than Harry does, but that's about to change. It's up to her vigilant four-footed companions to make sure that the unearthing of this plot is not Harry's last act. Praise for *The Litter of the Law* and the Mrs. Murphy mysteries "As feline collaborators go, you couldn't ask for better than Sneaky Pie Brown."—*The New York Times Book Review* "Enchanting . . . Brown demonstrates once again why she's the queen of the talking animal cozy subgenre."—*Publishers Weekly* "As usual, the smart animals provide clues without getting in the way of the human interactions and plot. This is a strong addition to the popular series."—*Booklist*

rita mae brown sneaky pie: *The Big Cat Nap* Rita Mae Brown, 2012-04-03 *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* "As feline collaborators go, you couldn't ask for better than Sneaky Pie Brown."—*The New York Times Book Review* It's mid-May and murder is once again in full bloom in Crozet, Virginia—or so it seems to Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen. The trouble begins when Harry's dear friend Miranda Hogendobber takes her on a leisurely drive that ends in a narrow drainage ditch. The chaos continues when the Very Reverend Herbert Jones's Chevy pickup also abruptly goes kaput. But these vehicular mishaps are nothing compared to the much more distressing state of a mechanic discovered by Harry in a local repair shop: His head's been bashed in. Despite numerous warnings from her much-loved coterie of friends, human and otherwise, Harry quickly surmises that the time has come to pop the hood and conduct her own investigation. Her animal companions see disaster fast approaching but can do little except try their best to protect their foolishly intrepid human. Harry's race to the truth leads straight to powerful forces determined to avoid scrutiny at any cost—even if it means running Harry Haristeen off the road for good. Includes a preview of Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown's next Mrs. Murphy mystery, *The Litter of the Law*. "Harry and her pals are on the case. . . . [Brown] fills the series with rich central Virginia color, and readers will greet the recurring characters with fondness."—*Richmond Times-Dispatch* "[A] delightful book."—*Huntington News*

rita mae brown sneaky pie: *Pawing Through the Past* Rita Mae Brown, 2004-03-30 You'll never get old. Each member of the class of 1980 has received the letter. Mary Minor Harry Haristeen, who is on the organizing committee for Crozet High's twentieth reunion, decides to take it as a compliment. Others think it's a joke. But Mrs. Murphy senses trouble. And the sly tiger cat is soon proven right ... when the class womanizer turns up dead with a bullet between his eyes. Then another note followed by another murder makes it clear that someone has waited twenty years to take revenge. While Harry tries to piece together the puzzle, it's up to Mrs. Murphy and her animal pals to sniff out the truth. And there isn't much time. Mrs. Murphy is the first to realize that Harry has been chosen Most Likely to Die, and if she doesn't hurry, Crozet High's twentieth reunion could be Harry's last.

rita mae brown sneaky pie: *Puss 'n Cahoots* Rita Mae Brown, 2007-02-27 Instead of a proper second honeymoon, the newly remarried Harry and Fair Haristeen leave cozy Crozet, Virginia, for Shelbyville, Kentucky, site of the famous saddlebred horse show. There they'll visit dear friends Joan Hamilton and Larry Hodge and enjoy a week among some of the finest horses, trainers, and riders in

the country. But soon after they arrive, events veer mysteriously--and murderously--off course. First, Joan's ruby and sapphire horsehead heirloom pin is stolen from her private box at the fairgrounds. Next, a young film star's prize three-gaited mare disappears into thin air. There is no lack of suspects, from hotheaded trainers and jealous rivals to vicious ex-spouses. Then a body is found flagrantly murdered and it's obvious to Harry that someone at Shelbyville is sending a strong message: winning is only secondary--first prize is survival. As Harry searches for clues, rediscovers life as a married woman, and deals with her upcoming fortieth birthday, her four-legged detective friends are already on the case. But is animal instinct any match for human depravity? Especially with two humans to protect and a killer on the prowl?

rita mae brown sneaky pie: ,

rita mae brown sneaky pie: *Whisker of Evil* Rita Mae Brown, 2004 A mysterious death in a Virginia farm town has the locals scratching their heads--while frisky feline Mrs. Murphy and her friends, fat-cat Pewter and corgi Tee Tucker, uncover clues as they curl their way around a cold-blooded killer. This balmy summer in Crozet, Virginia, postmistress Mary Minor Harry Haristeen has a lot to think about. Things have been pretty cozy between her and her ex-husband, Fair and her beloved old post office is in danger of being replaced with a modern building--and modern rules. Harry's thoughtful contemplation is shattered the day she stumbles over a dead body near Potlicker Creek. Barry Monteith, the handsome local horse breeder, has been savagely murdered. A true ladies' man, Barry was known to have left a string of broken hearts behind him. But could a spurned lover be responsible for his untimely demise? The plot only thickens when an autopsy reveals that Barry was infected with rabies weeks before he was killed. As usual, Harry can't resist doing a little digging--with Mrs. Murphy close by to warn of approaching danger. Harry makes a remarkable discovery in the creek--the class ring of Mary Pat Reines, a local woman who disappeared thirty years earlier along with her prized Thoroughbred stallion. Like Barry, Mary Pat was a successful horse breeder--and now all of Crozet is wondering if the two cases are linked. As the police struggle with the evidence, the pressure gets hotter than a June afternoon--especially when another person is found dead of less-than-natural causes. As usual, Mrs. Murphy and her crew are the first to sniff out the truth. But if they don't find a way to help Harry piece together the puzzle, she could become the killer's next target--and even Mrs. Murphy's slinkiest moves won't be able to save her. From the Hardcover edition.

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