

Check It Out Column for week of Feb. 8-14, 2009

Books for the Hungry Heart

By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

Valentine's Day is approaching and love and food just seem to magically go together. In the last few years some interesting book series have been written weaving food, mystery, and romance together. Some refer to them as "foodie fiction". They feed not only your soul but your culinary appetite as well.

A new favorite of mine is the inspirational Pot Luck Club series written by Linda Evans Shepherd and Eva Marie Anderson. Filled with the hilarious adventures of a group of female friends the books take you on a roller coaster ride of fun, danger and romance, not counting mouth-watering recipes. These are great books waiting to be devoured.

The Potluck Club. The first book in the series begins with a group of six women meeting together for prayer and potluck. The women are real, experiencing funny and heartbreaking events together. Each character has a background story that they try to keep secret from the others. Delectable recipes for dishes such as beef brisket, cinnamon rolls and broccoli casserole are included.

Trouble's Brewing. Time for seconds as juicy secrets add turmoil to the women's lives. A self-appointed matchmaker and devoted gossip, one friend is stirring up trouble among the Club members. Read as troubles boil over and someone has one too many suitors.

The Potluck Club Takes the Cake. Continued excitement as The Potluck Club returns with a third helping of friendship, heart-pounding danger and fun. Lots of twists and turns as one friend worries about tying the knot. Includes to-die-for recipes.

The Secret's in the Sauce. The women decide to start a catering business that is threatened by personal problems. Sprinkled with humor, drama and food. Recipes include Texas hash, Southern pecan pie, and pineapple muffins.

Other series that include recipes are the scrapbooking mysteries series by Laura Childs set against the backdrop of New Orleans and filled with scrapbooking tips and Southern recipes, the culinary Hannah Swensen mysteries by Joanne Fluke with helpings of murder, mayhem and yummy desserts, and Diane Mott Davidson's mysteries featuring caterer-turned-sleuth Goldie Schultz stirring up trouble.

So, whether you're looking for romance, mystery, or just have a sweet tooth to satisfy, WCPL has lots of scrumptious books with tantalizing plots and mouth-watering recipes for the "hungry heart".

For more information on the series mentioned, call us at 267-6011 or ask at the Adult Reference desk.