

A Tangle of Knots

Lisa Graff

Reviewed by Rachel Johnson, 42

Teen Star Book reviewer of *Be the Star You Are!* Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Cady has a talent for cake baking, she has won awards in the bake-off against professionals for the last five years. She was left on the porch at Miss Mallory's Home for Lost Girls when she was a baby. Miss Mallory has a talent for matching orphans with the perfect family but over the years she had not been able to match Cady. On Adoption Day, out of the fog Toby almost hits Cady, he is invited to stay for cake that Cady has baked for the party. Miss Mallory had a feeling someone was coming; she knows Toby is Cady's perfect match, before Adoption Day is over Miss Mallory gets Toby to adopt Cady.

Cady moves to the Lost Luggage Emporium where Toby works and lives. The Lost Luggage Emporium is a store with items retrieved from lost luggage bought from the airport. Above the store are rooms for rent. Cady is preparing for the upcoming bake-off; she is hoping Miss Mallory will give the final o.k. on her adoption at that time. While at the Emporium Cady meets the Owner, who is grouchy. V, who was in a recent car accident with no identification. Marigold, Will, and Zane, who are siblings living at the emporium because their apartment was damaged, and Mrs. Asher their mother. Everyone staying at the emporium has a different story but as the bake-off draws closer, connections are made that links everyone together.

A Tangle of Knots is a mystery, with a touch of magic and an array of unique characters whose lives intertwine. The puzzle comes together as the story unfolds. Lisa Graff does an excellent job connecting all the character in the end, but some questions are left unanswered. My favorite part of the book is all the cake recipes that are included throughout the story, which could inspire some baking. I also liked that the story showed personal growth in some of the characters and brought a family together. I did not like how repetitive the author was when explaining the manners of the man in the grey suit or the features of the St. Anthony's suitcase. There is one incident with some language (one bad word used three times), where the Owner curses at Zane and Marigold. Overall, this is an enjoyable story with an interesting plot that is full of surprises. This book would make a great gift and the nine cake recipes are a bonus. Recommended for ages 10+.

Recommended Titles

When You Trap a Tiger, by Tae Keller

Aru Shah and the End of Time, by Roshani Chokshi

Furthermore, by Tahereh Mafi

