

# Romance BANDITS

ONE BLOG. 17 AUTHORS. ONE OUT-OF-CONTROL ROOSTER.



[HOME](#) [BLOG](#) [BANDITA GALLERY](#) [WRITING CAVES](#) [NEWS](#) [LIBRARY](#) [MAILROOM](#) [BOOTY CHEST](#) [MEMBERS DEN](#)

## THE BLOG

### Special Guest: Avery Aames, aka Daryl Wood Gerber

Posted by [Kate Carlisle](#) Feb 5 2013, 12:05 am

I'm thrilled to welcome my good friend Avery Aames to the Lair today! Avery is the author of the delicious Cheese Shop Mysteries and will soon introduce the Cookbook Nook Mystery series under her own name, Daryl Wood Gerber. Her latest book, *To Brie or Not to Brie*, is out... TODAY! And to celebrate, Avery has brought oh-so-delicious Chocolate Goat Cheese Truffles. Keep reading for the recipe!



And now, here's Avery – er, Daryl – no, Avery...

### HOW DO YOU KEEP ROMANCE ALIVE WHEN A DEAD BODY GETS IN THE WAY?



I started writing screenplays way back when I was an actress. I focused on romantic comedies. I loved those kinds of movies – like the fabulous ones by Nora Ephron, *Sleepless in Seattle* or *While You Were Sleeping*. One of my favorite all-time movies is *It Happened One Night*. [Granted, the latter might be a little dated and Clark Gable does play a dolt for most of the movie. Luckily, he matures.] Anyway, I wanted to write these kinds of movies. I wanted to star in them. [Didn't happen. Oh, well.] But it stands to reason that, even though I've moved into the realm of mysteries and thrillers (I loved these kinds of movies and books all my life, too), I wanted to instill romance in my stories.

In A CHEESE SHOP MYSTERY series, the protagonist, Charlotte Bessette (The Cheese Shop owner) is in love with a mysterious cheese farmer. The chief of police shows interest in Charlotte, too. A little conflict never hurt in a romance. In the books I write under my real name, A COOKBOOK NOOK MYSTERY series (which debuts July 2013), cookbook store owner Jenna Hart, who still pines for



## WHAT'S NEW?



Feb 11 2015

**New Exclusive Excerpt – A Perfect Catch!**



Feb 3 2015

**February exclusive interview (members only): Donna MacMeans**



Jan 15 2015

**New Exclusive Excerpt!**

[More "What's New?"](#)

## ARCHIVES

- [August 2015](#)
- [July 2015](#)
- [June 2015](#)
- [May 2015](#)
- [April 2015](#)
- [March 2015](#)
- [February 2015](#)
- [January 2015](#)
- [December 2014](#)
- [November 2014](#)
- [October 2014](#)
- [September 2014](#)
- [August 2014](#)
- [July 2014](#)
- [June 2014](#)
- [May 2014](#)
- [April 2014](#)
- [March 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)

her deceased husband—the love of her life—meets the handsome owner of a local sports store and suddenly finds herself feeling tingly all over. Could he become her next special someone?

One of the problems for mystery authors, however, is allowing a romance to blossom while there is murder afoot. Both Charlotte and Jenna are curious souls. As amateur sleuths, each, due to the nature of the genre, confronts a murderer or two. The men in their lives worry about them. Should either woman back off? I don't think so. I, as a confident, independent female, want to see these women follow their instincts. I want them to catch a culprit and bring that culprit to justice. I certainly don't want my protagonists to rely on men to save them. This could get prickly if it weren't for the fact that I have crafted strong men who appreciate independent females.

[Oh, hooray.] The men I write might be considered Renaissance men in the fact that they like to romance a woman right down to her toes, perhaps even sweep a woman off her feet, but they know and appreciate the fact that the women they choose are smart, strong, and resourceful.

***And so, I ask you, would Mr. Darcy have minded if Elizabeth investigated a crime? I don't think so. How do you feel about romance in a mystery?***

\*\*\*

Just because it's nearly Valentine's Day, here's a fabulous recipe for delicious chocolate goat cheese truffles. Charlotte could cook them with her eyes closed. Jenna is a work in progress. Though she's a true foodie, she is just learning how to cook. I think she could figure this one out, don't you?

#### CHOCOLATE GOAT CHEESE TRUFFLES

Ingredients:

3/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips  
4 ounces fresh goat cheese, at room temperature  
3 tablespoons brown sugar  
2 teaspoons Triple Sec  
1/3 cup cocoa powder, for dusting

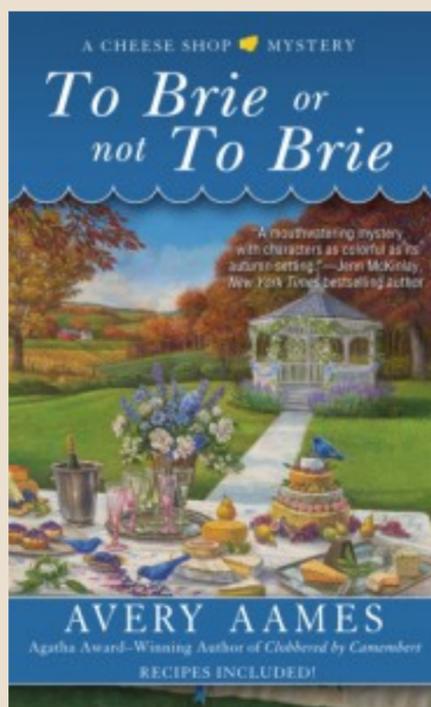
Directions:

Melt the chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl on medium-low heat for about 2 minutes. Stir. Heat again at medium-low for another 2 minutes. Stir. Remove from microwave. It should be smooth when melted.

Blend the goat cheese and brown sugar in a medium-sized bowl. Stir in the melted chocolate and mix until smooth. Add Triple Sec to the mix.

Refrigerate the mixture (from an hour to overnight).

When you are ready to make the truffles, roll mixture into walnut-sized balls, between the palms of your hands and set on waxed paper. When all the balls



- March 2013
- February 2013
- January 2013
- December 2012
- November 2012
- October 2012
- September 2012
- August 2012
- July 2012
- June 2012
- May 2012
- April 2012
- March 2012
- February 2012
- January 2012
- December 2011
- November 2011
- October 2011
- September 2011
- August 2011
- July 2011
- June 2011
- May 2011
- April 2011
- March 2011
- February 2011
- January 2011
- December 2010
- November 2010
- October 2010
- September 2010
- August 2010
- July 2010
- June 2010
- May 2010
- April 2010
- March 2010
- February 2010
- January 2010
- December 2009
- November 2009
- October 2009
- September 2009
- August 2009
- July 2009
- June 2009
- May 2009
- April 2009
- March 2009
- February 2009
- January 2009
- December 2008
- November 2008
- October 2008
- September 2008
- August 2008
- July 2008
- June 2008
- May 2008
- April 2008
- March 2008
- February 2008
- January 2008
- December 2007
- November 2007
- October 2007
- September 2007
- August 2007
- July 2007
- June 2007

are formed, spread the cocoa powder in a flat container (like a pie tin). Roll the balls in the cocoa powder. Set the candies in pretty paper candy cups; they are ready to eat.

If you prefer to save them, put in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator. They will keep for 4-5 days in the refrigerator. (The cheese is perishable.)



Posted in [cheese shop mystery](#), [cookbook nook mystery](#), [guest blogger](#)

38 Comments

## Comments

### 38 thoughts on “Special Guest: Avery Aames, aka Daryl Wood Gerber”

1



*Helen Sibbritt* says:

February 5, 2013 at 3:16 am

Is he coming to my place?

Have Fun

Helen

1.1



*Anna Sugden* says:

February 5, 2013 at 6:53 am

Congrats, Helen – or should that be commiserations?!

1.2



*Caren Crane* says:

February 5, 2013 at 7:41 am

Helen, you snagged him from Jane! She'll be enjoying the peace and quiet. Will you and the GR be making goat cheese truffles? 😊

1.2.1



*Avery Aames* says:

February 5, 2013 at 8:13 am

Helen, you got him? Enjoy! He should love truffles!  
LOL

~Avery

## RECENT COMMENTS

## POST TAGS

12 Bandita Days of Christmas Anna Campbell Anna Sugden Annie West Aunty Cindy explains it all for YOU Australian Authors Bandita Booty Bandit Booty Beth Andrews Caren Crane Cassandra's blogs Cassandra Murray Christie Kelley Christina Brooke Christine Wells Christmas coming attractions contemporary romance contest winner Donna MacMeans guest blogger historical romance interviews Jeanne Adams Joan Kayse Jo Beverley JO Robertson Kate Carlisle Launch Party prizes prize winner quick five Regency romance Romance romance bandits Sons of Sin Susan Sey Suzanne Ferrell Suzanne Welsh T-shirts Tawny Weber travel Uncategorized writer's life writing life

## RSS FEEDS

- Post Feed
- Comment Feed

## THE CALENDAR



2



Helen Sibbritt says:

February 5, 2013 at 3:18 am

Hi Avery ( Daryl) and Kate

Congrats on the release I do so love the sound of these books I really need to get them. The truffles sound so yummy as well, I love some romance in my mysteries seeing as how most of the books I read are romance I have to have some LOL

Have Fun

Helen

2.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 8:16 am

Helen, I hope you enjoy the mysteries There's lots of romance in him. Never enough time in a blog, but Charlotte is dating a handsome, mysterious cheese farmer.

~Avery / Daryl

3



Amy says:

February 5, 2013 at 5:14 am

Chocolate and cheese, two of my favorite things, unless it's cheesecake. Yes, I'm a cheesecake hater. Weird I know. If I can find goat cheese around here someplace, this recipe looks easy enough for even me to make without setting anything on fire!

On to strong women and strong, SMART men. I think if a man wants to be able to do his job without his significant other butting in, it is only fair it be the same way for a woman and her job/curiosity. And we all know women are much more curious about things than men, so when we get on a track about something, leave us alone. If we need/want your help, we will ask. We like knowing you are there to help us if needed, but we'd really like to be able to take care of things ourselves. Yes, that goes for Darcy too!

3.1



Caren Crane says:

February 5, 2013 at 7:42 am

Amy, I'm giving you an "Amen!" and a hanky wave! 😊

3.1.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 8:19 am

Amy, I agree (obviously). Strong women, love them. Strong men who GET strong women, love them, too! A lot. 😊 Ah-men.

4



*Anna Sugden* says:  
February 5, 2013 at 6:50 am

Hey Avery – welcome back to the Lair! And thanks for the yummy recipe!

Personally, I like a little romance with my cosies! Heck, I like it with my thrillers too!

Actually, one of my favourite series is the Mr and Mrs Darcy mysteries by Carrie Bebris. I don't like most P&P follow-ons, but this series is great as she's really captured the voice and she links them books to other Jane Austen books.

4.1



*Caren Crane* says:  
February 5, 2013 at 7:48 am

Anna, the Carrie Bebris books sound really fun. I am going to check those out!

4.1.1



*Anna Sugden* says:  
February 5, 2013 at 8:21 am

They really are great fun! Start with *Pride and Prejudice*.

4.1.2



*Avery Aames* says:  
February 5, 2013 at 8:25 am

Anna, I haven't heard of the Mr. and Mrs. Darcy books. Interesting. A lot of redux going on lately, using old themes and making them current characters. It's hard to find time to read everything, which is why word-of-mouth really makes a difference, don't you think? I'll read something at a friend's urging. 😊

Re: Cheesecake, really? Oh, one of my favorite things. Have you had chocolate caramel cheesecake? TO DIE FOR! Or is it the texture you don't like? At least there's cheese and there's cake and you can have both separately. Like romance and mystery...good when together... also good separately. I'm rattling on. Enjoy the day!

4.2



*Donna MacMeans* says:

February 5, 2013 at 1:30 pm

Hey – I know Carrie! We've taught workshops together. In fact, the last time I saw her, we went out to lunch and had... Cheese! LOL. It was a little country restaurant here in Ohio that specialized in fried cheese curds.

I know – that doesn't sound all that appetizing, but they taste like fried mozzarella sticks. Very tasty.

4.2.1



*Avery Aames* says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:22 pm

Donna, there are people who swear by cheese curds. I have yet to try them, but will soon!

Avery

5



*Caren Crane* says:

February 5, 2013 at 7:48 am

Daryl, welcome to the Lair! I have to say, everytime I even hear "A Cheese Shop Mystery" it makes me hungry. I adore cheese! I haven't read any of these as of yet, but have one on my Kindle waiting for me to cycle back to mysteries.

I tend to read in genres and was stuck for the longest time on Christmas romances. I just finished one two days ago! Now I'm reading a YA, so I may go through a couple of those. But I have a load of mysteries waiting for me (thrillers, too, but it may be a while before I get over that way), so I'm really looking forward to reading yours.

Of course, reading about cheese (even tangentially) will make me crave cheese, so I might gain 5 pounds reading the book. And I am **definitely** making the truffles. My BFF will adore them, too!

I think Darcy would have been mortified that Lizzie wanted to investigate any sort of mystery, much less murder. Of course, she would have done it anyway, but only after realizing it was the only way for things to get resolved. It would be a test to their marriage, but I am sure the bonds of their affection would carry them through. After all, they do ardently love each other. 😊

5.1



*Avery Aames* says:

February 5, 2013 at 8:29 am

Caren, that's the thing. Elizabeth would have done it

because it was the right thing to do and the only way to resolve things. This is key (for me). A test of their marriage, perhaps, but true love engenders good communication, I think.

Enjoy the mysteries when you get back to that genre. I understand reading in a genre for a while. But sometimes, one needs cheese with their chocolate. 😊 If you hadn't guessed, I like to mix things up. 😊

Say cheese!

Avery / Daryl

6



Connie Fischer says:

February 5, 2013 at 8:40 am

Hi, Avery/Daryl!

I have so enjoyed reading your books and I enjoy all of the yummy cheese recipes you share with your readers. Since I was a mouse in a former life, I can never get enough of cheese and cheese mysteries!

All the best to you and wishing you continued success.

6.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:23 pm

Connie, thank you so much for your sweet thoughts.

Avery

7



Kate Carlisle says:

February 5, 2013 at 10:35 am

Good morning, everybody! It's early here on the West Coast so I'm just getting my coffee. But reading all the comments and looking at the chocolate/cheese truffle recipe is making me HUNGRY!

Thanks so much for welcoming Daryl to the Lair. You're going to love her books! Read one and you'll be hungry for more.

Heh heh. I'm so funny. 😊

7.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:24 pm

Kate, you are funny! Hungry for more. Love it.

Avery

7.2



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:24 pm

Kate, you are funny. Hungry for more. Cute.

Avery

8



catslady says:

February 5, 2013 at 1:10 pm

I do like variety and I don't think I've read this type of story in a while. They sound like a perfect mixture and I'm happy with a little romance with my mystery or a little mystery with my romance 😊 And what a great title!

8.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:25 pm

Catslady, so glad you like the title. My editor thought it was clever. I love to toy with words (puns, etc.). Enjoy the mystery/romance/mystery.

Avery

9



Donna MacMeans says:

February 5, 2013 at 1:25 pm

Yum! I do love guests that come with recipes. 😊

As a romance writer, I definitely enjoy a little romance in the cozies that I read. I'd like MORE romance than what is typical in a cozy – but that's because I'm a romance writer. 😊

I think it must be difficult to restrain oneself as a cozy author. As the same heroine will be in multiple books, you can only give a little bit of the romantic aspect in each book – it can't overshadow the mystery. So I salute you for walking the tightrope. If it were me doing the writing, the couple would tumble off into the sheets. LOL.

9.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:27 pm

Donna, that is the challenge in a mystery that is ongoing. You could have up to 12 books in a series. It's hard to let the romance go too fast. On the other hand, I do love a yummy romance as it brews. Romantic comedies are still some of my favorite movies, too.

Avery

10



Minna says:

February 5, 2013 at 3:00 pm

Congrats on the release! Speaking of food, today was Runeberg's Day, so of course I had to eat Runeberg's muffins!

<http://finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?contentid=160145&nodeid=41801&culture=en-US>

<http://finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?contentid=160065&nodeid=41801&culture=en-US>

10.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:27 pm

Enjoy the meal! 😊

Avery

10.2



Donna MacMeans says:

February 5, 2013 at 6:11 pm

Happy Runeburg Day, Minna!

I found a little pastry shop – Tuula's that makes Runeday Day muffins. I have you to thank for knowing the history behind them.

11



Suzanne Ferrell says:

February 5, 2013 at 3:22 pm

Hey Avery/Daryl!

I like a little mystery or suspense or action adventure with my romance! 😊 So, yes, I think these women should have romance with their mysteries.

As to Mr. Darcy **ALLOWING** Miss Bennet to investigate a murder or a crime? I doubt he'd truly be able to stop her. He would, however, go along to see that she didn't get into too much trouble or danger. He's just that kind of man.

11.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:28 pm

Suzanne, do you think he would go "along" or would he watch from afar? 😊

Avery / Daryl

11.1.1



*Suzanne Ferrell* says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:51 pm

I would like to think he'd "go along", but probably armed. I suspect there's a bit of a dashing pirate under all that pride and formality, just waiting to defend his lady. You did see the scene where he was fencing to try to forget her, right?

12



*Beth Andrews* says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:13 pm

Welcome back to the lair, Avery! I'm all for a little romance with my mystery – or a little mystery with my romance \*g\* I'm easy that way 😊

Love the sound of your series! Can't wait to check them out.

12.1



*Avery Aames* says:

February 5, 2013 at 4:30 pm

Beth, thanks.

I have to admit that I really enjoy a romantic suspense book. But it's so important to me that the woman "saves herself" and isn't always rescued. I think that's what I like about writing my mysteries. I always have Charlotte being the clever one. Yes, she could be in jeopardy, but she will figure a way out...hopefully!

Avery

13



*Pissenlit* says:

February 5, 2013 at 6:36 pm

Woo! Congrats on the new book and the new soon-to-be series!

Naw, Mr. Darcy wouldn't have minded if Elizabeth investigated a crime...or he wouldn't if he knew what was good for him! \*grin\* I love some romance in my mysteries! Then again, I love some romance in all my genres. Hee!

Omigosh! \*DROOL\* Chocolate! And goat's cheese! Together!!  
Omnomnom!

13.1



Avery Aames says:

February 5, 2013 at 10:02 pm

Pissenlit, I love how educated everyone is to Mr. Darcy's needs and wants! LOL Ah, women. Oh, wait, I mean, ah, men! 😊

Best,

Avery

14



Lianne says:

February 5, 2013 at 8:41 pm

Hi Avery / Daryl ... congrats on the new book, it's definitely going on my list of books to read. The recipe looks yummy.

A bit of romance and mystery seem to fit really well together!

15



Nancy Northcott says:

February 5, 2013 at 11:47 pm

Avery/Daryl, welcome! I'm sorry to be so late to the party. I love romance in a mystery, and in pretty much anything I read. Of course, it takes a back seat in other genres.

## RECENT POSTS

- It's A Fine Day for Capitol Danger!
- It's AUGUST! Coming Attractions....
- Bandita Booty – No Comfort for the Lost and Fly Swatters
- Road Trip to Missouri!
- Writing the Mystery Series with a dash of Romance

## SEARCH THE LAIR

Get Results

## THE LATEST VIDEO