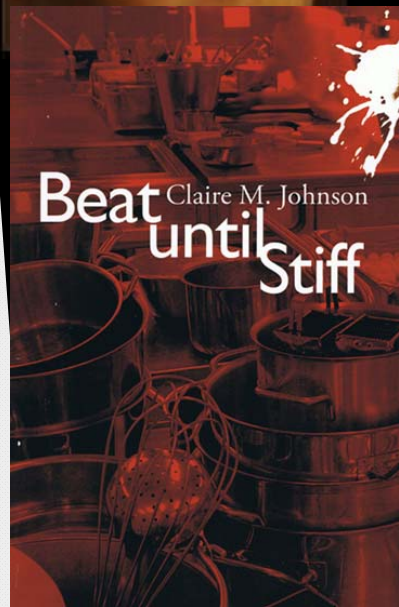


Mystery in the Valley

Claire M. Johnson

Friday June 12 at 6pm
Bookwagon on Ashland St.



***“Sexual tension,
cooking tips and a
neatly packaged
mystery. All in all,
a tasty tale”***

Kirkus

Mystery author Claire M. Johnson, author of BEAT UNTIL STIFF and ROUX MORGUE will speak and sign at Bookwagon New and Used Books in Ashland on Friday June 12 at 6pm..

If you're wanting yet another culinary cozy replete with recipes and cute, don't read Johnson's works. Instead, think Anthony Bourdain in *Kitchen Confidential* and Gordon Ramsay's angry tirades and you'll be spot on.

Mary Ryan is Johnson's protagonist, a pastry chef who's gone through the school of hard knocks and been tested in the kitchens of San Francisco. "I'd done time in too many kitchens to count where I'd had to adopt this bitchy, balls-the-size-of-grapefruits-attitude to get any respect. I was called Senora Co-jones behind my back. I didn't care."

In BEAT UNTIL STIFF (Poisoned Pen Press, 2002) Ryan finds a dead body in the laundry bag of soiled aprons and table linens, uncovering dirty secrets at American Fare, the tony San Francisco restaurant where she works. ROUX MORGUE (Poisoned Pen Press, 2008) finds Mary teaching at her alma mater, Ecole d'Epicure, where classical cooking battles to the death with California's nouvelle cuisine.

Claire M. Johnson completed the California Culinary Academy's program for professional chefs and writes about kitchens and cooking with an insider's knowledge of detail and authenticity. BEATEN UNTIL STIFF won the 1999 Malice Domestic Writer's Grant.