It was a hot July day in 1889 when Emily Person and her rather well known aunt, Lucinda Bedford, sat down in the dining room of Lucinda’s quite upscale South Vine street home. It was time for breakfast and as many of us do, they had their morning coffee. Only on this particular morning they did not find joy in those cups of liquid heaven. One of them found death! Immediately after drinking the coffee both women became violently ill. This continued until 3pm when 65 year old Emily Person died from what was later found to be arsenic poisoning. An investigation was launched as Lucinda recovered and several members of the household staff were arrested and held for questioning. Among them was Gracie Hunter and her niece Catherine Small. After detectives uncovered some “Rough on Rats” brand poison at the residence, further investigation found that eyewitnesses had seen Catherine purchasing it on Friday night, the night before the murder. After being questioned Catherine confessed to adding the poison to the coffee but also admitted that she made a grave mistake and that the death brew was actually intended for her own aunt! Her aunt Grace had taken her job as head cook so Catherine decided to cook up a little revenge. Despite missing her actual target, Catherine went away for murder while Emily lies in Nashville City Cemetery.

If this is the sort of story that interests you then let me tell you about an event that you will not want to miss. Lantern Tours, Murder and Mystery is a spooky cemetery tour that starts at dusk in mid October and is sure to give you chills. With gravesites dating back to 1822 there are certainly some ghosts wandering about the place eager to tell their tales…if you bring them a fee that is. So mark your calendars and check back with nashvillecitycemetery.org for more information and to register for the event. Oh, and while you are there, say hi to Emily for me!