



To Fudge or Not to Fudge

Nancy CoCo

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"Fun characters, quaint setting, mouth-watering recipes." --*RT Book Reviews*

Life is sweet for Allie McMurphy, proud owner of Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop on Mackinac Island--until murder and deception leave a bitter taste. . .

Mulch Ado About Murder

With summer in bloom and tourists afoot, Allie is out walking her pup, Mal, when the curious canine digs up a bone from under a flowering lilac bush. The bone leads to a toe that's missing a body. For the successful confectionaire it's only the first in a series of sour events in the middle of the island's Lilac Fest. When her stint on a cooking reality show swirls up a trail of foul play, Allie will have to outwit a cunning killer if she wants to continue living la dolce vida. . .

Praise for All Fudged Up

"Fun, lively." --JoAnna Carl

"A sweet treat with memorable characters, a charming locale, and satisfying mystery." --Barbara Allan

"A sweet confection of a book." --Joanna Campbell Slan

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To Fudge or Not to Fudge Details

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Author : Nancy CoCo

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From Reader Review To Fudge or Not to Fudge for online ebook

Christina says

4.5 stars

This is shaping up to be a solid series. It gets an extra half star for being a mystery that left me with no clue as to what was going on until the author revealed the killer.

What did I like? I liked the writing. It was engaging and easy. I liked Allie, she's a humorous, family oriented MC who loves her dog Mal. I absolutely loved Mal! He is an adorable character who kept the mystery plot moving with his digging discoveries. I also enjoyed the feel of Mackinac Island. It is a fictional place I will enjoy returning to in future installments. And this book had me craving fudge something fierce.

My one ding is that the story had a love triangle and the romantic scenes, which I assumed are supposed to have me rooting for one guy or the other, are written with about as much emotion as reading paint cans.

But other than that... this was an enjoyable read.

Sandy says

The MC is the new owner and proprietor of a hotel and fudge shop on the fudge capital of the world. While walking her little puppy Marshmallow (Mal), the dog digs up a bone that turns out to be human. Along with that mystery, Allie is asked to participate on a reality cooking show for fudge makers by her old mentor and professor from culinary school.

When one of the competitors ends up dead, Allie is accused and must help bring the killer out in the open.

This was a well written book except that for someone that owns a hotel, there are very few hotel guests in the book, although plenty of reservations.

Ending was a big surprise but fairly believable. Will read on...

Lindsay says

I love this series. I can't believe I didn't want to read it in the beginning. I love the characters, I love the setting and I love the mystery. This series is getting better. I know its full of silliness and you have to really suspend your reality when you read it, however its still fun and light. I really liked the idea of a reality show, but there were alot of dead folks in this book. If the author doesn't slow down with the killing there might not be any one left.

Bridgett Strawbrich says

Another fantastic mystery from cozy maven Coco! So many twists and turns and fun adventures that I can't wait to read what's up next for heroine Allie McMurphy! If only Coco could star in a reality tv show about cozy writers...

Alissa Kowalski says

This series should be renamed Geriatric Murder Club of Mackinac Island, and I mean that in the best possible way. The old people in these books are fantastic. In what other series can a body casually be disposed of in a wood chipper and NOT be the strangest discovery? Coco delivers again with more mystery, more romance, and more murder than ever before! But wait... who won the fudge competition?!

Ronna says

This is the second Allie McMurphy fudge shop and McMurphy Hotel mystery? The setting of Mackinaw Island adds a lot to these mysteries along with the numerous scrumptious fudge recipes. In this book, the pup, Mal, finds some unwanted bones in mulch around the island, while Allie gets involved in a "scripted" cooking show so reminiscent of many shown on TV these days. The body count grows but the "why" and "who" is difficult to figure out, Allie keeps charging forth with her little pup, Mal, as her defender.

This is a fun series. I love the descriptions of Island events, Mal's antics, and Allie's two suitors. The mystery was interesting but difficult to actually figure out by following the story. Not as good as book one, but definitely good enough to anticipate reading further in this series! I listened to the book on audio and enjoyed the narration.

Melodie says

This series takes place in one of my VERY favorite places. Mackinac Island is an almost magical place, even if it is in Michigan! Add great characters, an adorable dog, and an excellent mystery to that and you've got a real winner! The first in this series was good, but this one improved on it immensely. I hate "reality" TV shows, but even that plot point played well in this story. RECOMMEND!

Heidi (Yup. Still here.) says

This one gets a little too cutsey for me but overall this was a good cozy and I will read book three.

Elaine says

I really enjoy these little visits to Mackinac Island! I haven't actually been there in person but until I do get there, I will just have to visit The McMurphy and imagine the tastes of Allie's fudge with this series.

Allie is working hard to be considered a local and not be considered a Fudgie. She gets very involved with the Lilac Festival but a few dead bodies kind of put a hamper on things.

I really enjoy this series!

*** Jennifer says**

Overlook the dumb title - this is a really good cozy mystery with intelligent characters and a great island setting. The mystery was excellently plotted too - didn't see that coming at all! My only story complaint: a love triangle. Why anyone thinks these things are a good idea escapes me. Otherwise, it's a very well written book.

Full Review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/104652...>

Debbie says

I have to say that this is one fun series. I really enjoyed this book and it never slows down. The characters are all likeable and the description of Mackinac Island makes me want to visit. The mystery starts with Allie's puppy Mal digging up human bones and from there it doesn't stop, a cooking show, Allie trying to run her business, murder mystery that keeps you guessing. My only drawback is that although the mystery is explained and makes perfect sense, I'm not sure the reader will be able to figure it out, unless I missed something. I will definitely continue on with this series.

RebeccaS says

I really want to like this series. I love the hotel / fudge shop setting on a small, but dramatic island. I love the characters and even the murders are so interesting and always throw me for a loop. Fudge recipes are an delicious and nice touch. But the way these novels (I have read only the first 2) are put together really bugs me for some reason. Every scene seems to be chopped off before they are fully developed. Even little things that are just for story building and not necessary "important" are nice to have...and they are usually there but kind of thrown in as an afterthought and again not really finished. I think the writing is good, but I wish the chapters were more rounded and complete. I'm all for cliff hangers, but sometimes I felt like I was really getting into the scene and then bam, end of chapter. I'm not sure I can continue with this series, which is a shame because in general I really like the story.

Kristina says

To Fudge or Not to Fudge by Nancy Coco is the second book in the Candy Coated Mystery series. Allie McMurphy is running the Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shoppe on Mackinac Island. Allie went to

culinary school and is now making delicious fudge for the shop. She has some great help who is teaching her how to run the hotel (since her grandfather passed away unexpectedly). Chef Peter Thomas is visiting the island. He is Allie's former instructor and mentor from culinary school. Chef Thomas is the judge of a reality television show featuring fudge. They are short a contestant and he wants Allie to audition for the show. When Allie hears the salary, she agrees to audition (reluctantly). Unfortunately for Allie, she does great and is now a contestant on the show (the salary will come in handy for renovations she wants to make to the hotel). Tammy Gooseworthy (that is really her name) is the new pastry chef at the new Grand Hotel. She wants on the show and is being very persistent.

Allie and the staff are also getting ready for the Lilac Festival. Jenn (Jennifer Christensen) is Allie's best friend and is an event planner. Jenn is helping out at the McMurphy during Allie's first season. Allie is going to make a lilac fudge, and Jenn suggests that they old lilac teas. While Allie is on her way to the newspaper to place an ad (while walking her adorable dog, Marshmallow-Mal for short) he starts digging under a lilac tree next to the newspaper. He comes out with a bone between his teeth. Before Allie can react, Mal dives back under the tree. When the police arrive (Office Rex Manning), they agree that they are human bones. Mal is not the only dog who found bones. Daisy, the St. Bernard, is running around the island and has found bones. But Daisy does not want to give them up. Daisy ends up getting put in jail after swallowing a bone. Her owner, Mrs. Finch, keeps Daisy company.

Allie is busy recording the fudge contest reality show (all of the contestants are actors) at night and then up early making fudge. It seems every time Allie takes Mal out for a walk, Mal is finding more bones. Who do these bones belong to and why were they killed? Then one of the contestants in the show turns up dead. Unfortunately, Allie was the last person (before the killer) to see her alive. Then Chef Peter Thomas is hurt and has to be flown out to a mainland hospital. Jenn (Jennifer Christensen), is Allie's best friend and an event planner. Jenn finds herself attracted to crime scene tech, Shane Carpenter. With all the bones being found, there are plenty of crime scenes and chances to Jenn to see Shane.

Allie and the gang will have their work cut out for them trying to find the killer. To Fudge or Not to Fudge is a cute and fun cozy mystery. It even includes some fudge recipes that sound delightful (especially the peanut butter fudge). I give To Fudge or Not to Fudge 4.25 out of 5 stars. The book needed an epilogue to wrap up some of the storylines. It was never announced who won the contest on the reality show. There also was not a conclusion with Chef Thomas. We know he got better, but I think Chef Thomas should have come back to the island, stayed at McMurphy, we find out how he is doing and they watch the finale of the bogus fudge making show. The mystery was very easy to solve. I do like the characters in the book (especially the adorable little puppy) and the mystery had some twists and turns (always love that).

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

This was quite a book. A reality cooking show has come to Mackinac Island and it bring Allie's former mentor Chef Peter Thomas to town. He even talks her into appearing on the show! Mal also finds an interesting item while out for a walk. A bone buried in a bit of mulch, wait is that nail polish, OMG, that's a toe bone!!

Nancy Coco has written a magnificent mystery! I was engaged from the first page until the last. She has created fun and entertaining characters and there are quite a few suspects. I also loved that there were 2 dogs involved in the story. One very well behaved and one not so much. I was laughing as the police were chasing the one who refused to drop his sensational find. Again Allie is under suspicion but she is hot on the trail to clear her name.

I love the setting too. It has been many years since I visited Mackinaw Island but I remember the great time we had. It is a truly a unique place and if you are in the area one you should definitely visit. Because of its location it is a great place to have a mystery or two or more.

This cozy has it all – a well plotted mystery, fantastic characters, the perfect amount of humor, all set in a beautiful place.

Oh and don't forget the recipes and the fudge making knowledge we gain by reading about Allie's daily demonstrations!! There's a Dark Chocolate Peppermint Fudge I can't wait to try for the upcoming holidays.

Homerun2 says

The characters and setting are fun in this cozy, but I couldn't help but think that with a little more attention paid to editing, it could have been a much better book. There was a lot of annoying repetition - Allie's constant, "Right?" and the description of Rex's "pretty blue eyes" to name a couple. The plotting inconsistencies concerning Rex and Trent were confusing. Who wants to date who? Allie tells one love interest she is not seeing anyone then accepts a date with his rival. The mystery and killer were implausible and not very well explained. I want to like this series but this had a slapped together feel and was just ok.
