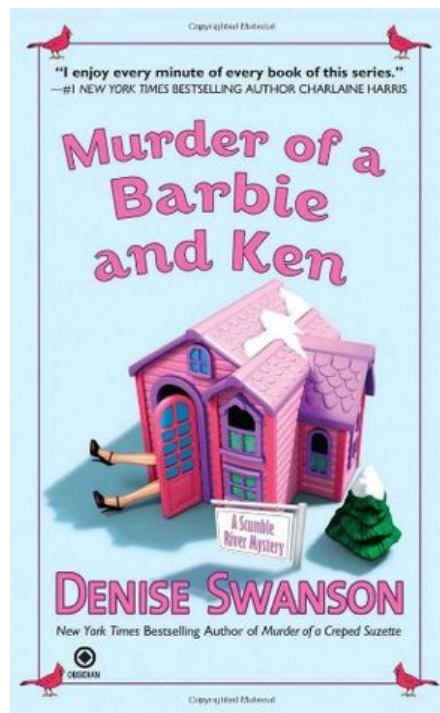




Murder of a Barbie and Ken

Denise Swanson

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It all began innocently enough, when Skye in search of a social life in Scumble River, recently joined the GUMBettes-the ladies auxiliary of the men's Grand Union of the Mighty Bulls, Scumble River's premier social club. But then Skye ended up wrapped in wallpaper, and the club leaders, Barbie and Ken Addison, ended up dead.

Barbie and Ken appeared to be living a dream life, but then who would want to kill such living dolls?

Murder of a Barbie and Ken Details

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Author : Denise Swanson

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From Reader Review Murder of a Barbie and Ken for online ebook

Sarah says

Love the relationship developments that are beginning to occur in this series! A fun mystery with good sleuthing adventures!

N says

I was expecting a black comedy, but this is just straightforward small-town chick lit with a murder mystery thrown in.

Main character Skye, the world's worst psychologist, tries to solve the mystery while:

- telling her boyfriend to be nice to his abusive mother
- settling for a tiny office in which her clients can't even sit properly
- signing up for a multi-level marketing scam
- stopping herself from crying after finding two mutilated bodies, because her tears might upset her dad
- voluntarily attending family dinners where the women are made slaves to the men (and not in a cute way either)
- letting some teenagers convince her to spy on her friends having sex
- asking the police to let her boyfriend look at evidence, instead of their team of experts
- using a calculator from her purse when there's a computer right in front of her
- freeing herself from society's expectations about weight, becoming fat on purpose, then incessantly judging other women for not dressing and behaving exactly like her

I really wish the killer would have gone the extra mile and offed Skye as well.

Also, just how many murder mysteries are there in this series? And every single death takes place in that same tiny village? It's a miracle Scumble River is still inhabited.

Laura Nelson says

Well, this was...a thing. A lot of interesting juxtapositions in this novel, my favorite being page 11 when Skye notes "nothing exciting happen here" in reference to Scumble River, the town she lives in. Except for you know ...the 18 million murders that have taken place in the last little bit that she is Nancy Drewing the shit out of. I get the Chief of Police has a thing for Skye, but why isn't she number one suspect as he discovers all of these bodies in this old-fashioned small town? The icing on the cake of this incredibly unbelievable plotline was the Eyes Wide Shut party where the secrets of the town are...ahem...exposed. super easy read, but probably not visiting Scumble River anytime soon.

Sheri says

Murder of a Barbie and Ken (Scumble River Mystery #5) Denise Swanson
murder/mystery. I have to admit I do love Denise Swanson and the Scumble River Mystery books. Funny,

fast paced, good clean read. Some may say a bit cheesy, but I find it is just what I need when I want a break from my daily routine.

Skye Dennison is the local school psychologist, self proclaimed investigator of crime in her home town of Scumble River Illinois. She is dating Simon the local coroner/funeral director. Skye finds herself along with her beau Simon, joining the local elite social group. Once in this club she ends up ordering home food products from Barbie Addison. She goes to Barbie's house to pick up her food, and finds both Barbie and her husband dead, with bows tied around their throats.

As Skye begins her investigation she finds that half the town had a problem with Ken, a prominent doctor. So many people with a motive for murder. Add to this she has an uninvited house guest, and severe Midwest winter. Her life is in danger, as she digs deep into the lives of her fellow citizens to find the killer.

Belva Shelor says

Such a fun series. Makes me laugh out loud. Main character is a school psychologist, oh the predicaments she gets in.

Lacey says

Series books can become redundant. This is not true for the Scumble River Mysteries. I also break up the series with other books to change the speed. The main characters, mainly Skye Deninson, school psychologist in a small ends up investigation murders. Usually because she stumbles upon a dead body. Denise Swanson has a way of providing details at the beginning of the back that the main character went back to at the end. I didn't notice it in the previous books but something I am going to pay closer attention to in the next book. As always Denise Swanson sends Skye on some interesting adventures in the search for the truth.

I am also slightly biased to cozy mysteries anyway. Mostly life can very stressful and humorless sometimes. Cozy mysteries are a nice distraction. Where as if you get into a intense murder mystery, which also good books to read, after a while I start missing the humor. So if you looking for a laugh and want some adventure in a small town. This has been a good series for me.

Nina says

Very interesting

Lindsey says

I think that I really am done this time. The "charm" is wearing thing and Skye, as a main character, has become intolerable for many reasons.

First and foremost, most of what she does during the course of the story is complain. About her family, about her town, about her boyfriend's mother. (And then, inexplicably, includes said mother in EVERYTHING she does because she feels sorry for her). If she's not complaining, she's meddling or planning on meddling or manipulating people to do what she wants or thinks is necessary. Not that that's always a bad thing or uninteresting. She's just so conceited about everything she has an opinion on that you want to slap her. Repeatedly.

The story makes even less sense than before. She's "dragged into" solving this mystery but then doesn't want to do anything she'd need to do. Really, the two teenagers in the story make most of the discoveries.

Almost everything that's said in the book is a cliché, and then Swanson feels the need to explain all the jokes, even when they are blaringly obvious. It's really stupid.

ALSO! (And I said this in my previous review) Skye is supposed to be 31. The year is supposed to be 2002. Skye is consistently doing and saying things where she does not act her age. In the last book, she wore a fanny pack (and thought nothing of it). In this book she played 2 CDs, Patsy Cline and Tony Bennett. While I will admit there are some 31 year olds that have this taste, it is neither likely nor believable. Then her boyfriend says something about wanting his mother to be like June Cleaver. So, I'm 33, and while I was kind of exposed to *Leave it To Beaver* when I was young, it was way on reruns and not easy to find at that time. Why not make her older, like in her 40s? It changes literally nothing in the story and would make so much more sense.

I had a rough, stressful day yesterday, and I contemplated the next one in the series. But even the \$6 price tag doesn't seem worth it anymore.

Tanner says

Most people would probably say that I am not the target audience for Denise Swanson's Scumble River Mystery series. It is a cozy mystery series about a 30-something school psychologist in a small town in rural Illinois. This doesn't seem to be a book series that should fit into the preferred genre zone of a 38 year old heterosexual dude who loves professional wrestling, noir novels, and comic books. Yet, here I am, 5 books into the series, and fully committed.

Honestly, a good portion of my love of these novels is that they are full of stealth feminism. The protagonist, Skye Denison, is often making comments about her town's sexist attitudes towards her gender. And, as somebody who was born in a town that is about the size of Scumble River, I feel her pain every step of the way. The fact that this novel also addresses the evil that are multi-level marketing schemes makes me even happier.

Seriously, this series is one of my favorite things I've discovered in the past year, along with Chelsea Cain's Archie Sheridan/Susan Ward novels, and I owe the recommendations for both of them to my amazing partner, Liz.

anonymae anonymae says

I read this series to learn how certain writing errors effect a readers experience of a story's narrative. I also read this series to learn about creative similes.

Jenn says

I like this series as a whole pretty well, but a few things bugged me in this one. One, a teenager says, (paraphrasing) "Have you seen what they do in those popular music videos?" Is she 80? Two, the information from a computer sure sounded like it was saved on floppy disc. Really? This book was written in 2003! Three, Sky dated Simon for 8 or 9 months. They broke up. Then they dated for 5 or so more months. (I haven't read the books that this happened in, but they summed it up.) They just recently had sex for the first time. For reals? Is SHE 80?

Sara Smith says

I don't like reading these out of order, but I had to request it from a farther away library. It did clear up a few of the things that were mentioned in later books.

Sheila says

A fun read although I wasn't fond of some of the characters!

Kyates718 says

Enjoyable cozy mystery. The main characters are likeable and believable. The story moves along nicely and the murderer is not obvious. Looking forward to reading more in the series.

Patty says

I forgot how enjoyable this series is. Another good read.
