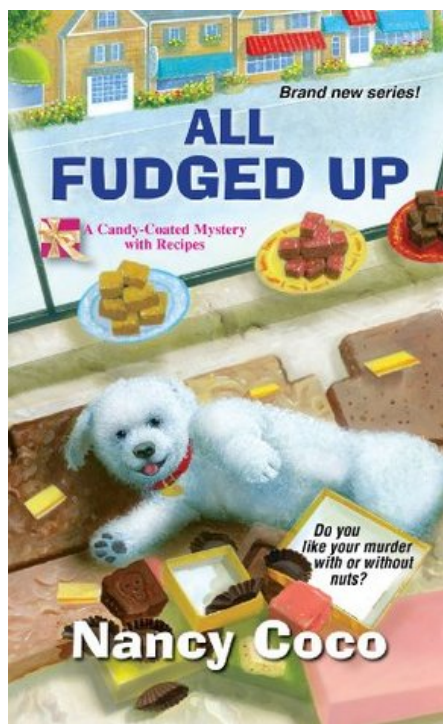




All Fudged Up

Nancy CoCo

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All Fudged Up Nancy CoCo

Welcome to the Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop--where life is sweet, revenge is sweeter, and murder is here to to stay...

You Can't Fudge An Alibi

Allie McMurphy is up to her neck in renovations at the grand old hotel that's been in her family for generations. With its quaint Victorian charm--and world-famous fudge shop--the place is one of Mackinac Island's most beloved landmarks.

Sure, every family has a skeleton or two in the closet. But Allie didn't expect to find an actual corpse inside hers, especially one Joe Jessup, who had a long-running feud with her dear departed grandfather. Which makes Allie the number-one suspect.

Can she sniff out the culprit before another victim checks in?

All Fudged Up Details

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Author : Nancy CoCo

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From Reader Review All Fudged Up for online ebook

Zoe says

I've just finished All Fudged Up a nice start to a new cozy mystery series. The characters are all likable (with Mal, the little puppy, being the true protagonist) and the end was typical of a cozy mystery, no surprises here. The writing was pleasant and flowed easily. If you want a light story to pass your free time, this book will definitely meet your purpose.

Debbie says

I think this is going to be a favorite series for me..I visited Mackinac Island many, many years ago and as a child really enjoyed it. Now I can visit again from my favorite chair, although I'm really craving some fudge now.....

Jeanie says

This is a fun first in series - I really enjoy Allie, fresh from the big city to Mackinac Island to take over the McMurphy Hotel that has been in her family for many years. Her grandfather passed away so it is too late for her to spend more time with him, so she is going to take the funds left and get the historic hotel back into an inviting, welcoming place for tourists to stay. And what else might bring them in but to re-open the fudge shop that her grandmother had run?

Allie is a breath of fresh air to the Island; she is friendly, hard-working, and determined. At least until the body of the man who had been competition to her grandfather for years, is found in a closet. A man who had not been seen going in there, and who had no business being there.

The people on the island are watching this new person in town to see what she is going to do, if she can really make a go of the business - and if she would really resort to killing off the competing enemy.

Allie's character is very well-developed, and is a delight to watch. The suspense built throughout the story, and the bad guys/ gals look as though they might win...

I highly recommend this fun first-in-fudge-series! To those who like their cozy mysteries served with both laughter and hard work, the unique setting of Mackinac Island, and a protagonist who gives taking over this business her all. Looking forward to more! For those who enjoy baking or making fudge, there are recipes and hints throughout.

Kirsten says

I'm not usually into all the food-themed cozy mysteries (especially if they litter up the text with recipes). But this one is really good. It had a good sense of suspense, some sexual tension, and some really funny scenes.

Additionally, the narrator of the book - Vanessa Johansson - is very, very good and makes the audiobook very enjoyable.

Will definitely read book #2.

QNPoohBear says

2.5 stars (The extra .5 for the fudge and cute puppy)

Allie McMurphy has always dreamed of taking over her family's historic hotel on Mackinac Island; she never dreamed the day would come so soon. Her Papa, Liam, recently died unexpectedly and left the McMurphy to Allie, along with enough money to renovate and keep in open for a year- IF Allie can open in time for the season and IF they are fully booked. Allie knows she can do it, but her plans hit a snag when she discovers her grandfather's rival and former friend dead in the utility closet. The police want to declare a crime scene and even suspect Allie as a "person of interest." She's determined to go forward with her plans, no matter what. She discovers that life in a small town is not always wonderful, especially when the townspeople take sides against her. Allie wants this case solved NOW so she can open her hotel, but when another mystery turns up, it may bring everything she's worked for to a standstill. She can't even think about the arrogant, but sexy, cop who seems to be flirting with her and tries not to think about how good Trent, the grandson of the murder victim, smells. She has a hotel to open, even if it kills her.

This is a mediocre cozy murder mystery that doesn't know where it's headed until 2/3 of the way through. The first third of the book focuses too much on renovating the McMurphy. The reason for the murder and subsequent mystery doesn't even appear until halfway and even then it's unclear what the motive is. There are some awkward attempts at romance, an out of place new heroine and plot and some improbable situations. The whole mystery seemed improbable to me but I did a little looking around online and I suppose it MAY be plausible but it doesn't sound like it should be possible. The motivation doesn't make much sense in the grand scheme of things and certain events that are not connected make the plot more complicated than it needed to be. The fudge recipes are mostly for Allie's 21+ line and it's not until towards the end of the book that normal classic fudge recipes appear. Shouldn't it be the other way around? I was very disappointed that I didn't see anything I had to try until long after the halfway point. Plus, if she's a culinary school graduate, she would know that there's not enough alcohol in a small piece of fudge to get anyone drunk but she probably can't sell it to kids.

The characters are also unappealing. Allie is stubborn to a fault. Who insists on staying home when the police tell you there may be a crazed murderer running around somewhere? Allie does. She's rude and blinded solely by her goal of opening the McMurphy in time. She does have compassion for the victim's family which is her only saving grace. That and the fact that she doesn't insist on investigating on her own to clear her name. The police and her friends urge her to investigate the hotel's secrets. Neither of the potential love interests were any better. Rex is an arrogant, alpha male jerk and Trent is a sullen, arrogant jerk. The townspeople are narrow minded and rude. Being friendly works both ways and Allie's Papa was involved in the community even if her Dad left. The townspeople take sides either for or against Allie being a murderer and show their support for their chosen one by wearing different colored ribbons. I think this author has been watching Gilmore Girls reruns because no one does that in real life! The situation in Stars Hollow was completely different.

The best main character is Allie's new puppy, Mal, short for Marshmallow, half Poodle, half Bichon. I don't know how anyone expects a toy breed to be menacing enough to protect Allie but she's super cute and plays a big role at the end. I also really liked Allie's friend Jen. She's fun and has great ideas though where she gets the money to pull off what she did and how she did it in such a short amount of time is a mystery. I also liked Frances, though she seems a little reckless at times for an old lady, and Mr. Devaney. I always love historians, of course. Their budding relationship is sweet and better than the central potential romance.

The excerpt for the second book in the series sounded intriguing so I may give the series another chance if I can get that book and see if it improves. From what I read of the summary of all the books in the series, it doesn't sound like it, but we'll see.

Robert says

If you have a mouth full of sweet teeth, then ALL FUDGED UP might just be a novel you should bump into at some point in your life. With no less than ten fudge recipes, this book could kick start any hypoglycemic heart in 30 seconds flat. Sure, you could overdose and still end up comatose in the backseat of your mom's station wagon and find yourself with a one-way ticket to the big house, but that's a chance any sugar lovin' fiend should take. If you're going to end up dead someday anyway, you might as well do it in style and enjoy the ride out of town.

Even the dog Marshmallow aka Mal enjoys her prance around the fudge station and will just as surely lick your face as she'll smile at you or bark her head off. She's tiny, but she's ferocious tiny with a big heart and a penchant for fire hydrants and spinning in circles. Despite her youth, she's trainable as well, if given the proper time and devotion.

While I've never been to Mackinac Island, I feel as though I have this small town figured out where roots run as deep as radishes and if you're not a third-generation native, you might as well have grown up in Seattle, WA or Austin, TX. The kooky-eyed locals added a level of interest to this particular tale that might not have otherwise been there.

The voice proved entertaining and quirky and even a bit starry-eyed at times, but I still found myself turning my head to the side at some of the dialogue and a few of the phrases. While I realize cozies aren't exactly known for their detective endeavors and crimes-solving expertise, I would have preferred a few more criminal elements, as the climax and ending felt a tad rushed. Instead of meandering along and enjoying the ride to the top, the train sped up and jerked me to the side as we reached the top of the hill.

With a sequel TO FUDGE OR NOT TO FUDGE already planned and slated for 2014, Allie McMurphy has more tales to tell, and if my teeth can face the onslaught, I may just come back to find out what happens next.

I received this ARC for free at Bouchercon.

Cross-posted at Robert's Reads

Ronna says

ALL FUDGED UP is a book that would be great to take along to read on a vacation, or to read for a vicarious vacation in your own back yard flower garden. The setting is the tourist town on Mackinac Island in Michigan, which has hosted tourists for over a hundred years. Allie McMurphy has spent all her summers on Island, working with her grandparents in their McMurphy Hotel. Now, after graduating from culinary school and developing "adult" alcoholic fudge recipes for their famous fudge shop, Allie is returning to run the hotel since both grandparents are gone with the recent death of her grandfather.

Trouble comes when Allie begins some much needed renovations and finds the dead body of one of her grandfather's old friends in a closet. Since the hotel had been locked up, Allie becomes the main suspect. On

this small island, everyone takes sides--green ribbons for Allie's innocence, purple ribbons for her guilt. Yep, lots of folks consider her a "fudggie" or a newcomer. So what can Allie do to prove her innocence and become one of the Islanders so her family's hotel will become a success under her ownership?

One of the best mysteries within a cozy that I've read recently. The "sides" taken by the characters seems very real. Allie is very personable, as is her new puppy, Mal (marshmallow), who is one of the best dog characters ever! Histories develop within the town and the hotel, with secrets galore. The fudge recipes are definitely "adult" and come throughout the book. Excellent start to a new series. I listened to this on Audible, which added a lot to my enjoyment.

Cat Tutt says

This one was a lot of fun! The characters were great, and the puppy in it charmed me through and through. There's lots of well placed humor to go with shocking twists and turns. All in all, highly recommended!

Kirsti says

I decided to take advantage of QBD's online sale a few weeks back, and choose four cozy mystery books online, none of which I'd read. This is the first in a series, always a scary choice, but it was entirely worth it!

I read cozies for comfort; food, themes, pets, romance and of course, murder. All of those things combined without over the top violence or crime are just my cup of tea, and this series is themed with fudge. I only rarely eat fudge, when we visit Young's sweet shop or the Lolly Shop at Molong, but these sounded amazing. I had to ferret out a packet of Freddo Frog heads to satisfy my chocolate craving during this book!

Allie is a bit of a let down for a main character, but don't worry, she is surrounded by much more interesting characters such as her best friend Jenn. Add to that a Bichon puppy, and I was completely sold.

A great start to a new Cozy mystery series for me, I'll have to read the next one now!

Tari says

I had read Oh, Fudge! already in this series so when one of the online book clubs I'm in decided on this for their April book, I was happy I was going to get to visit this series from the very beginning.

Allie McMurphy has inherited her grandfather's historic hotel on scenic Mackinac Island and it came complete with one dead body in the utility closet who turned out to be her Papa Liam's friend, Joe.

Allie of course was the main suspect due to the famous rivalry that had developed between the Jessops and the McMurphys. Even though she thought that down deep handsome policeman Rex didn't suspect her, Allie was still determined to find Joe's killer and prove her own innocence. With the help of her best friend Jenn who came to help for the season, her front desk clerk Frances and now her new handyman, Douglas, she has to figure it out.

I loved seeing how it all began! Even though book 5 was able to be read by itself, reading this book helped

so much in knowing some of the people, getting to know Frances and how Douglas came into her life. I really enjoyed the character of Jenn too. She was an awesome and faithful friend to Allie. And sweet little Mal was such a cutie--she could turn even a tough guy into well, what she was named after, a marshmallow! Frances was such a good employee, almost like a mother to Allie since hers lived on the mainland. She was willing to give up her summer's salary to help out the hotel.

I found the second book also on my iPad so I've started reading that. This is such a fun series. I would definitely love to visit Mackinac Island someday, but probably not during the winter. :)

Elaine says

I had read a book from this series a while ago and kept thinking I needed to go back to the beginning. SO I finally got the first book in the series. I really liked it! I am planning to read all of the books in this series. Allie is really trying hard to keep her family business on Mackinac Island going. She went to school for that. Her struggle with trying to keep it going on a small island with very competitive businesses is interesting. I really want to visit Mackinac Island because of this series and Duffy Brown's Cycle Path series. I also really enjoy reading the recipes in this book. I am not a fudge fan but I think I am going to have to try some of these...

Jane says

I LOVED this book! It was fun to read and the characters perfect for the story. This series is a keeper! Already have book two on hold at the library.

Carol says

The Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge shop is located on the beautiful Mackinac Island. Allie McMurphy used to spend summers here with her grandparents. She has returned to run the hotel with her grandfather. But alas, he falls over dead while playing cards so Allie must oversee the renovations being finished then open the hotel. Allie also needs to win over the tight knit residents on the Island. Allie finds one of her grandfather's rivals dead in a closet. Why was the man in the closet? What was he looking to find? Since Allie is a murder suspect she must put her fudge making on hold to catch a killer!! Murder, distrust of a " fudgie ", an inexperienced police force, a drunk handyman, secrets, the pool, ancient bottles, tunnels, all kinds of fudge, Marshmallow (Mal) the puppy plus a creative, lively cast of characters combine to make this

a good read.

There are fudge recipes after most chapters.

Linda says

Set in gorgeous Mackinac Island, Allie McMurphy has found a home in her family's hotel and fudge shoppe, since her grandpa passed away. Things are looking gloomy when she finds a dead body in a utility closet, and no one has any idea why the man was murdered. Fantastic characters, and lots of action keep this story moving quickly as a secret rumrunners tunnel is discovered in the hotel basement; Allie's attacked; threats are made; and long-kept secrets are discovered. Read this cozy mystery as it unfolds to a satisfying conclusion that will leave you anticipating book two!!

Kimberly says

Allie's grandfather has recently passed away, leaving her to be the sole proprietor of the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop. She has the degrees and training needed to run the historic landmark that has been in her family for several generations. Renovations and recipe development should be her biggest concern before tourist season hits. However, she discovers a dead body in one of the hotel's closets and quickly becomes a prime suspect that has all of the locals taking sides. Little does she know, but the hotel seems to be full of hidden passageways, a valuable collection and even long kept secrets.

I'm so glad I finally got around to reading this book. I've had it and the rest of the Candy-Coated series on my shelf for quite some time now after receiving so many recommendations on it. This was just a fun, well written cozy. The setting on Mackinac Island is great. I love how the locals all know one another and refer to everyone else as fudgies. Allie is a wonderful lead character. She's smart, yet vulnerable and has realistic reactions. She had me laughing several times as she tried to figure out how the way of life works on the island. Her over 21 fudge recipes sounded great too!! I love that she restoring the hotel that has been in her family for several generations. That will make a great setting for future books. The mystery was definitely intriguing and the twists and many mysterious characters left me guessing for quite some time. I loved the idea that she stumbled upon secret passageways and even discovered some hidden "treasure"! A love triangle is already developing. Will Allie fall for Rex or Trent?? Both seems incredibly charming and very interested. The sweet puppy Marshmallow, aka Mal, definitely wins many scenes throughout the book. I'll look forward to reading the next book in the series - To Fudge Or Not To Fudge.
