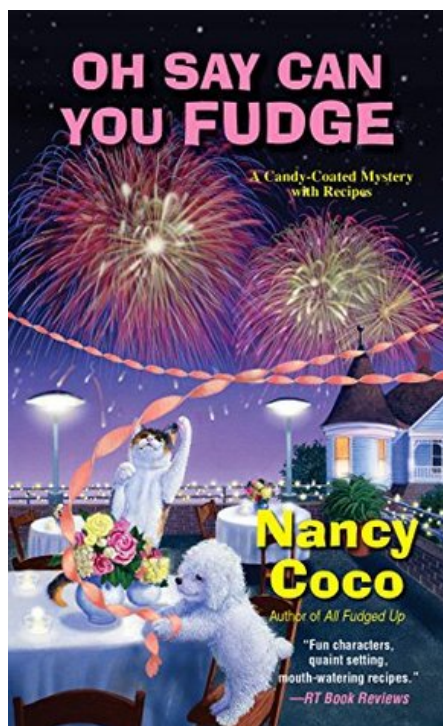




Oh Say Can You Fudge

Nancy CoCo

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Oh Say Can You Fudge Nancy CoCo

Allie McMurphy is busy making yummy fudge for the summer holiday--until murder gives her something else to chew on. . .

Red, White, And Boom

It's not Fourth of July on Mackinac Island without fireworks and fudge. The Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop is supplying the treats--and Allie has hired Rodney Rivers, the biggest name in aerial displays, to create an unforgettable spectacle. Unfortunately, Allie finds him dead, covered with screaming chicken fireworks, just before the entire warehouse of pyrotechnics goes up in smoke. Is it arson or is it murder? Allie and her bichonpoo, Mal, must sift through the suspects until the killer is caught and the island can enjoy a star-spangled celebration.

Oh Say Can You Fudge Details

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From Reader Review Oh Say Can You Fudge for online ebook

Kristina says

Oh Say Can You Fudge by Nancy Coco is the third book in A Candy-Coated Mystery series. The residents of Mackinac Island are getting ready for their Star Spangled Fourth celebration. Allie McMurphy, who runs the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shoppe, wants to offer a red, white, and blue fudge so she is experimenting in the kitchen and ignores the ringing of her phone. When Allie finally checks her messages, she finds that Rodney Rivers has been trying to reach her. Rodney is the pyrotechnic expert for their fireworks display. Allie joined the committee responsible for fireworks and had them change from the company they have used previously. Rodney left a voice mail stating that someone had sabotaged the fireworks and wanted Allie to come to the warehouse where they are being stored right away.

When Allie arrives at the warehouse she finds a dead body. Allie immediately calls the police (Charlene, the dispatcher, cannot believe she found another dead body) who tell her to get out of the warehouse (since the fireworks have been tampered with). Officer Rex Manning arrives quickly (he wanted to date Allie but she is seeing Trent Jessop) and the bomb squad is airlifted in. Unfortunately, the warehouse blows up and the body along with it! Who would kill Rodney Rivers and sabotage the islands fireworks?

Thankfully, no one was injured from the explosion. Allie finds out that there is a firebug on the island. There have been five fires on the island in the past few months. Allie and the gang set out to solve the string of fires as well as Rodney's murder (they even set up a murder board in the lobby of the inn). Allie also has to get more fireworks (the chairman of the committee is breathing down her neck), work out the red, white, and blue fudge, find a licensed pyrotechnic expert to set off the fireworks (and it is just a few days before July 4), figure out who sets the fires, and who killed Rodney Rivers-easy peasy! And, her parents have come to check on her (they heard about the explosion) and decided to stay a few days!

Poor Allie! But I think with the help of her friends and family, she will be able to handle everything! I give Oh Say Can You Fudge 4.5 out of 5 stars. I enjoyed the story, but the mystery was very easy to solve (it can be solved in the first 50 pages). I like the characters that Nancy Coco has created and there are some wonderful fudge recipes in the book.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley (and the book Publisher) in exchange for an honest review.

Betty says

A series of fires are occurring on the Mackinac Island and the last one explodes the fireworks for the 3 Fourth July nights killing the technician. Allie is in charge of the hows so must find replacements while she is making special fudge for the holiday. Mal,her dog leads her to more fires and stray cat is around. Allie needs to find an answer for what occurring before she looses all that is dear to her.

Full Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through Netgalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review this book. The opinions are my own.

Crittermom says

Welcome to idyllic Mackinac island, known for its natural beauty, slower pace, and delicious fudge. The annual Mackinac Fourth of July celebration draws Fudgies (tourists) from far and wide to watch fireworks and eat fudge.

As part of the celebration committee, Allie McMurphy is in charge of coordinating the fireworks display. Eager to impress, she hires Rodney Rivers, a well respected pyrotech to create the displays. Just days before the event, Rodney calls, leaving messages indicating that the fireworks have been tampered with. When she arrives at the warehouse, Allie discovers what appears to be Rodney's body covered in fireworks. Minutes later, the warehouse explodes.

Was the explosion set in order to cover up the murder, or did Rodney catch an arsonist in the act? Who is behind the ever escalating fires being set on the island threatening lives and damaging property? Allie has a tough job ahead of her finding new fireworks and a pyrotech for the celebration, but if she doesn't uncover the truth fast she may lose a lot more than her position on the celebration committee.

This entertaining cozy mystery combines a picturesque setting with mouth-watering descriptions of the fudge making process, not to mention delicious sounding recipes at the beginning of each chapter. As I read, I bookmarked several recipes that I am eager to try. I was also enchanted by Marshmallow (Mal), Allie's bichonpoo whose nose saves the day several times in the book.

While it doesn't have the most complex plot, Oh Say Can You Fudge is a solid, well written cozy with likeable characters and a beautiful setting. The unique fudge recipes are a definite bonus for the reader.

Oh Say Can You Fudge is the third book in Nancy Coco's Candy Coated mystery series featuring fudge shop owner Allie McMurphy and her delightful bichonpoo Mal.

I received a copy of Oh Say Can You Fudge from the publisher and Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

Jenni Schell says

I received an uncorrected proof of this book in exchange for an honest review. WOW. This is a great book. I loved the series from the beginning and this book just makes me love it even more. No one can make me feel like I am in Mackinac Island better than Nancy Coco. She draws the reader in and makes you feel like you are part of the story. I cannot wait to read more. FANTASTIC is the only thing I can say further about this book. Keep it up.

Jo-Anne says

Mackinac Island is the fudge capital of the world, so being a fudge maker, Allie was working on making a special fudge for Independence Day. She is also in charge of arranging the fireworks shows for the Mackinac Island Star Spangled Fourth celebration which is a VERY big event for the island. Wanting this to be the

best fireworks display ever, she hires a new pyrotechnics technician who stores the fireworks in a warehouse on the island. Allie has been finding dead bodies lately (actually her dog Mal does) so it's not a surprise when she finds another one. This time it's the pyrotechnics guy she hired. She no sooner finds him when the whole warehouse explodes but she gets away with minor injuries. Allie wants to find out who killed Rodney and why. His death creates another problem for her in finding another pyrotechnics technician very quickly.

Nancy CoCo's writing flowed well making this an easy read. The description of the quaint old fashioned town was very detailed and entertaining. The twists and turns of the mystery kept me interested. I had no idea who did it or why and liked the surprise when I found out. Having the fudge recipes throughout the book was fun. Some I wanted to try out but resisted.

Even though I liked this book, there were a few things that bothered me. First was that I didn't like Allie. Especially when she was so engrossed in fudge making that she didn't answer her phone, then the caller was murdered. Also, I never saw why Allie's boyfriend was interested in her. Is that because I didn't like her much but he was gorgeous and terrific in every other way? Finally, the extreme details on what everyone was wearing was irritating. So much so that I started to skip those parts.

Please note I won this book in a giveaway.

Mary Brown says

Mackinac Island is an idyllic place to live or vacation. There are numerous motels and bed and breakfast places to stay while you visit the shops and soak in the history of the area. There are no cars allowed on the island, except for emergency vehicles. There are fudge shops everywhere, so many that Willy Wonka would be impressed. As in most small towns, everyone knows everyone else and most times that is a great thing. The island is quiet, calm and peaceful. That is until an explosion occurs at a factory full of fireworks. The very same fireworks that Allie McMurphy had arranged to entertain the small town with for the Fourth of July celebration. Will she be able to deliver the goods for the event or will it turn out to be a dud?

Besides the explosion of the fireworks, there are a series of fires occurring on the island. At first it is believed that these fires are just random happenings, but soon arson is suspected. Allie and her friends are perplexed at what is happening to their tranquil island and are determined to figure out the mystery.

Characters introduced in the first two books in the series return and there are a couple of new people we meet. It appears as though Allie has made her decision as to who she is more attracted to (she has two possible suitors in the first two books) and we see the relationship begin to grow and develop. All of the characters are realistic and well rounded and I enjoy reading about all their antics. Mal, Allie's puppy, is again very active, nosing out trouble on the island. And dancing around everyone hoping for dog treats. She is adorable and has quite the personality. I just wish people would hold on tighter to her leash when they take her for walks!

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The author is descriptive with her writing and I felt like I was right there on the Island watching all the action going on. It seemed like I could smell the smoke and hear the explosions when I was reading about them. The mystery is well plotted and there are enough twists and turns to keep the reader guessing. I had an idea who the culprit was and this time I was right. But that is alright because I did not know the why.

At the end of some chapters there are recipes for fudge. Who knew there are so many things you can do to

fudge to create exotic flavors. I enjoyed reading about all the different flavors that Allie made and with the recipes included in the book, anyone can try to make them for themselves.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy. I usually do not read the same author consecutively, but I read all three books in this series within a week. That should tell you how much I enjoyed them all. Now I have to read for the fourth book to be written and released.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review. I would like to thank NetGalley and Kensington Books for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Dawn says

A solid 3.5 star read but will round up since I cannot give half stars. I really enjoy this series. This one was a little slow to start for me and was afraid it never was going to pick up but I am glad I was wrong. I really enjoyed this story and look forward to more books in this series.

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Allie McMurphy runs the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop, as well as makes the fudge. She's preparing for a riotous Fourth of July with the help of her employees, and is also responsible for coordinating the fireworks this year. When she receives several strange calls from her pyrotechnist, Rodney Rivers, and sets out to find him at the warehouse, she arrives and finds that the warehouse is booby-trapped and barely makes it out before everything explodes. When her dog, Mal, finds another suspicious fire soon after, she begins to believe that the warehouse wasn't an accident.

As the set fires begin to escalate, and Allie herself is eventually injured in the process, she has more to worry about. She needs to find replacement fireworks, someone to detonate them, and wonders who is setting them off and why, even as she is warned to stay out of the investigation.

For the most part, I liked the book and thought it was light, even enjoyable, reading. Then why the lack of a star? Well, it quickly began to grate on my nerves that Allie was describing every single thing everyone in the book was wearing, every single time we encountered them, right down to their bedclothes. Really? I need to know what type of pajamas her father wears? I expect to encounter this in say, a Regency novel, where clothes were extremely important, but not in a mystery.

The second was that she took Mal everywhere. Yes, I understand that Mal was a big part of the book, but it appears she is the only dog on the island. Nowhere is it mentioned that anyone else has a pet, and the only other animal mentioned in the book is the new-found cat. I also didn't agree with the idea of bringing animals to fireworks displays. They are frightening for animals, and Allie needs to learn that sometimes it is kinder if you leave your pets home. She also isn't able to control Mal. She either needs a stronger leash or Allie herself needs some serious wrist-training. This is a bishonpoo, not a Great Dane. She should be able to hang onto the leash of one very small dog, but for some reason, she can't. Mal escapes constantly. (I owned a Cocker Spaniel, and she never escaped from me one time.) But, to be fair, if Mal didn't escape, Allie might not find herself in some of the positions she got herself in - all the more reason for a stronger leash (ha). And the last thing that bothered me is the fact that every single (younger) woman is gorgeous, and all the men are hot. At

least to Allie.

Aside from these three things, the book has a comfortable feel to it. It's one of those books you can read on a lazy afternoon without thinking too hard about whodunit and know that in the end, everything will come out alright. And it does. Recommended.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review but this in no way influenced my decision.

Shelley Giusti says

review on the 28th

Suzanne says

Love triangles are stupid. I liked everything else though. The island setting without motorized vehicles sounds SO nice, and all of the fudge sounds delicious. I like the main character and her friends too - they sure work hard for each other.

Happy fourth of July!

Linda says

Allie McMurphy owns the Historic Hotel and Fudge Shop on gorgeous Mackinac Island. It's almost the 4th of July with tourists enjoying the hotel and island amenities, when disaster strikes-- the fireworks warehouse blows up, leaving the pyro tech dead in what looks like sabotage. Who would want to ruin the 4th of July festivities? Readers will need to look sharp for clues to the villain in this cozy mystery! With a strong leading lady, a handsome, wealthy boyfriend; and many loyal friends, plus Allie's adorable dog, Mal--who performs tricks for treats, and has a nose for finding trouble, Oh Say Can You Fudge is an exciting cozy mystery for readers to enjoy!

Net Galley and Kensington Publishing provided me a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

I love big fireworks celebrations because the 4th of July is just 3 days after my birthday. We usually take in 3 or more shows around that time. Of course attending 3 on Mackinac Island with FUDGE would be perfect

sans the dead bodies of course.

This time Nancy Coco has really given protagon Allie McMurphy a lot to do. She is not only running the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop and trying to come up with the perfect Red, White and Blue fudge recipe, but she is also in charge of making the 3 fireworks shows go off without a hitch. Her plan goes horribly awry when the pyro – technician she hired is found dead and the whole batch of fireworks explodes in the warehouse. Of course, the celebration committee hold her responsible and expects her to find more fireworks and someone to set them off with only a few days until the 4th. She also is hot on trail trying to catch the person that blew up her whole part of the celebration. Independence Day takes on a whole new meaning as everything she loves could be in danger due to her sticking her nose into the investigation.

I really enjoy my virtual trips to Mackinac Island and visiting Allie, Jenn, Frances, Mr. Devaney, Trent and all the rest of its residents. Allie's puppy Mal always makes me smile. Coco puts several of them in danger this time and that made my heart beat just a little faster. There is also a dash of humor and bit of romance to round of this entertaining story.

This series and the Fudge Shop Mysteries by Christine DeSmet are very similar with fudge shops located in tourist attraction spots. They both have great characters and fine mysteries. If you like one be sure to try the other.

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

Reviewed by Kim
for Read Your Writes Book Reviews

If you are a fan of cozy mysteries and fudge and have always wanted to try your hand at making some of your own, Oh Say Can You Fudge is a great book to read. It's filled with delicious sounding recipes. I love and admire the fact that Nancy Coco just put it out there that protagonist Allie McMurphy has the unlucky ability of stumbling upon dead bodies. "That's one a month since you got there. I don't like that kind of trend." I know as a reader I always wondered how one person could find dead body after dead body all the time.

In this installment of the Candy-Coated Series, Allie is trying to come up with fudge recipes to celebrate Independence Day and she is excited about being in charge of putting together the fireworks shows for the Mackinac Island Star Spangled Fourth celebration. Going against tradition, she hires someone new, who doesn't store the fireworks off the island. Allie ultimately finds the technician she hired dead in the warehouse storing the fireworks. Within minutes, the whole warehouse explodes, almost taking Allie with it. Now Allie is faced with wondering who would want to kill Rodney Rivers and why. Plus, she has to find someone to replace him and the fireworks in less than a week. But things aren't going to be easy for Allie. It seems the fireworks explosion wasn't an accident and there just may be an arsonist on the island, one who wants to make Allie and those close to her their next target.

Told in first person, Oh Say Can You Fudge is a fun and enjoyable story. It's the third book in the series, but is easily a standalone read. I will say it was easy to figure out who the murder was, but I was surprised when it came time for the arrest to be made. While I can't say this was my favorite cozy mystery ever, I can say that I enjoyed the book and would read more from this author and series.

****Received a copy from Kensington Publishing in exchange for an honest unbiased opinion.****

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Allie McMurphy and her adorable Bichon-Poo pup, Mal (short for Marshmallow), are back in this third installment of the Candy-Coated Mystery series, and author Nancy Coco starts this book off with a bang . . . literally. A dead body and fireworks!

I really had a great time reading OH SAY CAN YOU FUDGE. As I mentioned above, Ms. Coco started this story off with action and it just kept getting better. Very fast paced with lots of clues to keep the reader guessing. I was eager to turn each page to see what happened next. The reveal brought with it a total surprise.

For those mystery lovers with a sweet tooth, author Coco includes tantalizing fudge recipes. Yum!

This explosively sweet mystery is a perfectly delightful read. Treat yourself to this one.

QNPoohBear says

Summer season is in full swing and Allie has her hands full. In addition to running the hotel and fudge shop, she has volunteered to organize the island fireworks shows. When she discovers her pyro guy dead and the warehouse burned down, Allie knows her status on the island is about to become less than 0 if she can't come up with something ASAP. Then Mal discovers a series of fires believed to be arson and Allie is terrified the villain is coming after her next. With her loved ones around her and her super pup Mal, can she wait for the police to figure it out or should she help them before it's too late?

The mystery here is pretty lame. It's obvious who the arsonist is and the police really should have known that. The mystery is really whether the arsonist and the murderer are one in the same and what the motive was. The answer may surprise you. It surprised me and I wasn't thrilled with the outcome. It was weird. (view spoiler) The dialogue is completely insane. After "listening" to Allie's voicemail (we ALL know what the instructions are... no need to write "you have three new messages" etc. I wanted to scream! I was also incredibly annoyed with the room numbers constantly referred to as 3-oh-2. We can read it like that in our heads, thank you.

Allie's romance is heating up but in a sweet way. Trent is a swoony boyfriend even though he's Emily and Richard Gilmore rich. (Did I mention how the author keeps borrowing from Gilmore Girls?) Frances's romance is also super sweet.

We get to know Sandy better in this story and I think she would make a great main character. I find her more interesting than Allie, who is a bit single-minded in her fudge obsession. I liked seeing Allie with her parents and getting to know them better. I disliked Liz. She's always in the right place at the right time to spot a crime and she is responsible for nearly getting Allie killed. Her grandfather isn't in the book enough. He's so funny.

There are some quirky new characters here: Sophie, the island pilot. I don't know if I trust her entirely. She's an off-islander like Allie but without the family ties. There's also house painter Luke and his son, described as "good" frequently; Allie's neighbor at the photo studio and her son Oliver. They seem like a nice mother-son duo but the son probably has issues stemming from the nasty divorce. Finally, there's a new animal

companion! Allie and friends find a pretty calico cat wandering around the hotel. Her story is just beginning but she already knows how to deal with Mal. I'm not a cat person so I could care less but she should add some funny animal antics to the story.

I want to keep reading the series just for Mal! She's so adorable and she knows it. I'm curious to see what crime she sniffs out next!
