



Avalanche

Patrick F. McManus

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SHERIFF BO TULLY OF BLIGHT COUNTY, IDAHO, IS BACK. When the call comes in that Mike Wilson, the unlikable owner of West Branch Lodge, has gone missing, Sheriff Tully is delighted. This is an excellent opportunity for Tully, his tracker pal Dave, and his retired sheriff father, Pap, to enjoy a few evenings of hot tubs and single-malt scotch at the luxurious lodge while working the case. However, visions of R & R vanish in a flash on the drive up, when Tully and Pap suddenly realize an avalanche is thundering down the mountain, straight toward them.

Tully manages to outrun the crush of snow, but the road behind is blocked, and there's no telling for how long. Tully's stranded at the lodge with a motley group of vacationers and locals: a sassy co-ed, a group of rambunctious fraternity boys, a shadowy group of what looks like ex-cons, the missing owner's wife, a suspiciously good-looking bartender, and worst (or perhaps best) of all, Tully's old flame, who shows up with her dogsled and naughty intentions.

Both vacationers and locals start to look like suspects when Tully discovers startling evidence proving that the avalanche was no accident of nature. But why would anybody want him dead? And then the missing persons case turns into a murder case when Mike Wilson's body turns up in the river a couple of days later. But who killed him, and how? Furthermore, when another murder in Blight City is reported that week, the only suspect who makes sense...is the dead guy, Mike Wilson. But how could that have happened? It's up to Tully to figure it all out in this comic romp through the wilds of Blight County, from bestselling author Patrick McManus.

Avalanche Details

Date : Published March 27th 2007 by Simon & Schuster (first published 2007)

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Author : Patrick F. McManus

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Genre : Mystery, Humor, Fiction

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From Reader Review Avalanche for online ebook

Don says

If you have never read any of Patrick F. McManus' short stories you are missing out on a great laugh. You are actually missing out on a great many, because the more you read the more you realize how many situations in life have a McManus parallel.

Avalanche is the second Bo Tully mystery novel written by McManus. As a long time fan of Patrick McManus I am impressed with his switch to novels (though I still subscribe to "Outdoor Life" just to read his short stories every month). Avalanche was a great mystery with enough of his humor to please his fans. The story was very engaging and I could not put the book down until I had finished it. My dad called me after he read Avalanche and was laughing so loud about Bo Tully's date near the river, that I thought some whooping drunk had dialed a wrong number. It isn't the first time someone has mistakenly blamed my father's behavior on some mind altering substance.

If you have not yet perused McManus' books you are missing a truly gifted writer. He is the Hemingway of humor!

M. says

I had never heard of Patrick J. McManus prior to reading **Avalanche**, but now I have an idea of what his columns in *Outdoor Life* and *Field & Stream* must be like: comical but with a purpose.

That is how **Avalanche** was to me...a book with many funny (even silly) moments, but with a fine mystery plot underneath it all. Sheriff Bo Tully is instantly likeable to the reader (even moreso to nearly every female character in this book, including the married and the senior citizens), but not superficial by any means. There is a sense of deep sadness about Bo, given tragedy earlier in his life. The reader gets the sense that this is a man trying to figure out how to get his life back in order, but is always distracted by his eccentric family and dysfunctional staff...not to mention the rest of the motley residents of Blight County! The last pages of the book really say it all about Bo and where he is in life...great stuff.

Make no mistake: while there is a murder mystery here, it is a backdrop to the lighthearted interactions of Bo Tully and the rest of the characters. The mystery is competent (although the revelations at the end do seem a bit rushed and Bo does rely a lot on guesswork), but it is only part of the overall package.

I have the next two Bo Tully mysteries on my shelf for future reading...can't wait!

Tommy Jacobs says

I like Bo Tully.

Camrynn Crayton says

This book kinda bored me a little. Don't get me wrong it was a great adventure & I enjoyed some of it, but I didn't like the fact that he made such little progress day by day. All this book is, is he's stuck in a snow grave,

and he's debating on killing himself or not. I also found the ending very cliché. It's the exact kind of ending I'd expect from a book of this type.

Katie says

Having grown up reading Patrick McManus's books, this took me right back into that world of northern Idaho. It was a great read for a road trip, light but with the mystery to keep pulling me along. And Clarence - I love Clarence and couldn't wait for him to keep showing up.

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Sheriff Bo Tully

SETTING: Blight County, Idaho

SERIES: #2 of 2

RATING: 3.0

You wouldn't think that being a law enforcement official in Blight County, Idaho, would keep you very busy. Surprisingly, Sheriff Bo Tully and the folks in his department usually find themselves very involved in strange goings-on in the area. This time, Bo receives a call from the owner of a local ski lodge that her husband, Mike Wilson, has disappeared. Nobody is crying about him being gone, but it is strange that he would vanish without a trace. Together with his father (and former sheriff) Pop Tully, Bo goes to the lodge to investigate. Along the way, he and Pop are almost killed by an avalanche, which Bo later decides was deliberately set. Although they managed to escape death, the avalanche served to block passage to the lodge and isolate its current residents.

Forced to stay at the resort lodge—what a hardship—Bo and Pop find that there's quite an interesting group of folks vacationing there, including a group of college kids, several suspicious looking men and one of Bo's former loves, who is preparing for a dog sled race. I found it odd that Bo relied on several of these amateurs to help with the investigation, which didn't seem very procedurally sound to me. In particular, there is an attractive college female who performs various sleuthing activities.

As it turns out, Wilson was murdered. It appears that the "victim" may have been involved in a homicide of his own. Most puzzling to Bo are the logistics of the case. The situation is almost like a closed-room murder, with the weather situation allowing for no one to leave or enter the area.

The blurbs on the book would lead you to believe that AVALANCHE is laugh-out-loud funny, which I didn't find to be the case until the very last page. Certainly, it has its amusing moments but I didn't find it especially comic. It was enjoyable to spend time with the various series characters, my favorites being Bryon "Lurch" Proctor who is also known as "CSI Unit", and Dave Perkins, Indian tracker who is not an Indian. AVALANCHE is entertaining but not particularly memorable.

Renée Mee says

McManus is not an incredible writer but an entertainer he is. He writes with great humour and I thoroughly enjoyed this book from beginning to end. I hope he keeps writing his sheriff Tully series with its real characters who are all too human. Going to hunt down the few other books in this series. Nice to have a mystery and a smile on your face.

Dj says

When someone recommends that I read a book, I generally check out the other books they have wrote. In this case I didn't have to, I have read some of the other books that Patrick F. McManus has written. Such wonderful wonders of comic relief like 'The Grasshopper Trap' 'They Shoot Canoes Don't They?' and of course...'Real Ponies Don't go Onik.' with such a line up how bad could one of his serious mysteries be? Well for one thing I would think it would depend a lot on your definition of serious. In comparison to his comedy work, it is serious, compared to serious mystery writes, well not so much. Something along the lines of Bloch's Burglar series. The humor is surprisingly low key, but amazingly well timed. If you want a mystery that is a little light and on the fun side than this is the book for you. I am going to check out some more of his books in the Sheriff Bo Tully series since they are pretty fun and sometimes a little humor is just what the day needs.

Michelle says

We've listened to a lot of the Patrick McManus books on tape about outdoorsmen and hunting and growing up in Idaho and got a lot of laughs. This was different than those, but still his dry humorous style that we like.

It was an unusual mystery because of the "women" and sheriff who thinks everyone loves him, etc. but goes right along with McManus' style, and it was a nice read, and not a bad mystery either.

Ralph Carlson says

Love this series. Time to take this one back to the library and get the third one.

William says

There are times that McManus draws upon earlier life experiences that are collected in his articles. However, it never feels stilted, and the way he presents them in these mysteries evokes a feeling of a favorite place revisited. Always a pleasure to read, once you start this series it is difficult to put down!

Jaeger Matthias says

very good. i like Patrick McManus because it is so funny!

Kayeb says

SHERIFF BO TULLY OF BLIGHT COUNTY, IDAHO, IS BACK.

Just plain and simple, a fun read, quirky conversation and perspectives at times, and a few twists and turns in the story line.

When the call comes in that Mike Wilson, the unlikable owner of West Branch Lodge, has gone missing, Sheriff Tully is delighted. This is an excellent opportunity for Tully, his tracker pal Dave, and his retired sheriff father, Pap, to enjoy a few evenings of hot tubs and single-malt scotch at the luxurious lodge while working the case. However, visions of R & R vanish in a flash on the drive up, when Tully and Pap suddenly realize an avalanche is thundering down the mountain, straight toward them.

Tully manages to outrun the crush of snow, but the road behind is blocked, and there's no telling for how long. Tully's stranded at the lodge with a motley group of vacationers and locals: a sassy co-ed, a group of rambunctious fraternity boys, a shadowy group of what looks like ex-cons, the missing owner's wife, a suspiciously good-looking bartender, and worst (or perhaps best) of all, Tully's old flame, who shows up with her dogsled and naughty intentions.

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Justin Regenscheid says

The beginning of this book started off slow. once it got going it started to get faster and way much more interesting, it just makes you not wanna stop reading. so far i think this book is very exelent and is very thrilling.

this book is an excelent book it was a mystery throught out the whole book so it caught my eye to where i didnt want to put the book down, i always wanted to know what was going to happen next. so it is a very good book to read.

Maria says

Sheriff Bo Tully is called up the mountain to find the missing owner of West Branch Lodge outside of Blight, Idaho. Mike Wilson is the kind of person, that not many people miss, so there are plenty of suspects

to keep him and Pap busy when an avalanche traps them and all the guests at the lodge.

Why I started it: Couldn't decide what book to finish in my books that I was reading, so I picked up this one and finished it first.

Why I finished it: I liked this book better than the first, mostly because I started noticing the sly, understated humor of Sheriff Bo Tully. He plays dumb but he finds the clues and amuses himself along the way.

Disparlure Nagle says

This book was just like his childhood stories, but with a little bit of Sam Spade mixed in. I would definitely recommend this more to someone who appreciated McManus's earlier works rather than someone who is a big fan of the mystery genre. I did note that there was this persistent high level, somewhat-over-the-top swagger by the lead character. I wasn't sure whether McManus was making fun of the "hard-boiled detective" archetype or if this was just the way he thought a detective story should read.

Eric_W says

This is the second Bo Tully story I have read and it's even more enjoyable than the first. The interplay between the characters, Bo father and ex-sheriff who made a fortune as a corrupt sheriff, Lurch, his CSI, Daisy, the secretary, and Herb, the under-sheriff, is charming and humorous.

Bo is called to a resort in the mountains to investigate the disappearance of the co-owner. On the way they are barely missed by an avalanche which we soon learn was deliberately aimed at his vehicle. No more spoilers. The series is a lot of fun and I intend to read all of them. Reminiscent of the delightful "liturgical" mysteries by Mark Schweitzer that are often laugh-out-loud funny.

Kay says

This is McManus's second "Sheriff Bo Tully" book and my second McManus book. What can you say about a story that includes an avalanche purposely set to kill Bo, a retired sheriff (Bo's father) who's greatest desire is to shoot someone -- anyone, a group of extreme-living fraternity boys, a suspicious bartender and one of Bo's old flame -- who'd like to re-kindle that flame?

Becky says

I needed a fiction book set in Idaho for a reading challenge, so I chose this one. Now I will be adding Patrick McManus to my readable authors list in both fiction and nonfiction. Bo Tully and his supporting cast are quite interesting and clever. The book reminded me of Agatha Christie--good mystery, no gore or explicit crud, touches of humor-- so I am a happy reader.

LJ says

AVALANCHE (Police Proc-Sheriff Bo Tully-Idaho-Cont) – Poor
McManus, Patrick F. – 2nd in series

Simon & Schuster, 2007, US Hardcover – ISBN: 9781416532651

First Sentence: He stood at window studiously watching the large fluffy snowflakes fill up his mother's backyard.

*** Sheriff Bo Tully and his father, Pap, head to West Branch Lodge to investigate the disappearance of lodge owner Mike Wilson. They barely escape being caught in an avalanche but are now cut off and must proceed with their investigation, now of a murder.

*** While I very much enjoyed the first book in this series, this entry left me, pardon the expression, cold. Even the character of Tully came across as unpleasant and the dialogue felt awkward. There was an appalling grammatical error that may have been done for humor, but it didn't come across that way. The setting of being cut off by an avalanche was interesting, but didn't really add any suspense as the weather never posed a particular threat to the characters. In fact, I found very little suspense in the story. I wasn't surprised by the killer, but was by the motive and I did enjoy the very ending. However, I'm not certain that was enough for me to continue which this series.
