



# Oh, Fudge!

*Nancy CoCo*

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Life is always sweet in Allie McMurphy's delectable fudge shop. But murder can make things unpleasantly sticky . . .

### A DEADLY CONFECTION

After Allie inherited her family's McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop, cousin Tori moved off to California in a bitter huff, and the two haven't spoken since. So to have her cousin reappear on Mackinac Island without warning is a big surprise—but not as surprising as finding her standing over a dead woman impaled with a garden spade in the Mackinac Butterfly House. Butterflies may be free, but Tori won't be for much longer—unless the cousins can bury the hatchet and work together to catch a killer who's taken flight. Because when it comes to family, blood is thicker than fudge . . .

### Praise for Nancy Coco and the Candy-Coated Mysteries

"Memorable characters, a charming locale, and a satisfying mystery." —Barbara Allan

"Beautiful Mackinac Island provides the setting for a puzzling series of crimes . . . plenty of plausible suspects and mouthwatering fudge recipes." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"I know I will be counting down the days until the next mystery with Allie McMurphy." —*Cozy Mystery Book Reviews*

## Oh, Fudge! Details

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## From Reader Review Oh, Fudge! for online ebook

### Fred says

Oh, Fudge is the fifth book in the A Candy Coated Mystery series.

Monday morning begins with two shocks for Allie McMurphy. Allie was to meet with Blake Gilmore at the Butterfly House to discuss arrangements for a tour of Butterfly House, but what she sees instead is her estranged cousin, Tori, holding the handle of a garden trowel still firmly embedded in the lifeless body of Barbara Smart. Tori's story is that she was to meet Smart to go over plans for a fundraiser and when she arrived she found Smart and was about to remove the trowel and perform CPR, she claims.

The story behind the estrangement, which Allie didn't know, was that Tori felt their grandfather should have left the hotel and fudge shop to both of them. Even with Tori's major attitude about this, Allie still feels that blood is thicker than water and wants to work with Tori to prove her innocence.

Allie soon learns that Smart had a propensity for having affairs with men whether they were single or not and begins to think that maybe an affair had gone wrong. Then when Blake's home is robbed and a workshop area at the butterfly house is ransacked, that puts a new angle on the investigation. Then when Tori goes missing, and evidence shows she probably didn't leave on her own accord, Allie needs to put all her efforts into finding the true killer.

Another fun visit to the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop and the residents of Mackinac Island. Allie's manager, Francis, and Mr. Devaney agree to put off the wedding until the killer can be found. As always, Jenn, Allie's friend and event planner at the hotel is there to also help Allie. Also, there is Trent, who has been dating Allie and Rex, the police chief, who is also starting to show some interest in Allie and not only for her sleuthing skills.

I love this series and will definitely be watching for the next book.

Delicious fudge recipes are also included in the book.

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### LORI CASWELL says

#### Dollycas's Thoughts

I have never been to Mackinac Island, it is a place on my travel bucket list. As soon as I finished this book I Googled Mackinac Island Butterfly House. It sounds like a delightful place to visit and a perfect place for a fictional murder. That's where Allie finds her cousin Tori with her hand on a garden spade stuck into the chest of a woman. Allie has not seen Tori in years and was not expecting her to come to the island. Tori was not happy when Allie inherited the McMurphy but Allie knows she isn't a killer. It will take more than fudge to bring these girls together but they are going to have to put their feud aside and work together to find the real killer or Tori will be saying more than "Oh Fudge!"

Each and every character in this story just shines. From the staff at McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop to those at Gossip Central, I mean the Senior Center, they all have a part to play in clearing Tori's name and catching the real killer. At the same time plans are underway for Frances and Mr. Devaney's wedding. Allie's romance has hit a rough patch but it may be time to shake things up a bit.

There is always something happening and the main plots and subplots are blended so nicely. The author's descriptive writing style takes us right into the action. Over the course of this series I have the island so clearly pictured in my mind, if I do ever get there for a visit it will be strange for these characters not to be there. ?

The other thing the author describes well is how the fudge is made and she has included recipes in the book too. My problem is that I want fudge and lots of it while reading the story so I need to plan ahead much better by sneaking a peek at the recipes first or stock up on fudge from a closer outlet.

Nancy Coco has created wonderful characters encased in a puzzling mystery all set in a perfect place to escape. A yummy story all the way around.

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### **Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says**

Another great installment from Nancy Coco, the usual crowd are there (Allie, Jenn, Frances and so on!), this time Allie's cousin is in the wrong place at the right time and becomes a person of interest in a murder. Allie hopes that they can put the past behind them and work out who was the murderer because Allie is fairly sure that Tori isn't it. During all this Frances and Mr Devaney are hoping to get married, Trent is not around (or is he) and things seem to be going from bad to worse! Oh, Fudge seems to sum up the situation rather well.

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### **Robin Leslie Coxon says**

Oh Fudge is the sixth in a Candy Coated Mystery series by Nancy Coco. This cozy mystery is set around the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop located on Mackinac Island in Michigan. Allie McMurphy, granddaughter to Liam McMurphy past owner and operator of the McMurphy, has been left the McMurphy. Although Allie spent many summers with her grandparents on Mackinac Island, she is considered a Fudgie (one who was not raised on the island). Allie is determined to show those who have always been a resident that she is not a Fudgie and has did as much as she can to improve the McMurphy as well as trying to be a model resident. When her cousin Victoria Andrews comes back to Mackinac Island to help plan a special fund raiser for the Butterfly House and to express her displeasure with her cousin Allie in not being left a part of the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop. When Victoria aka Tori is found with blood on her hands, Allie takes on the responsibility to prove her cousin is not a killer and to also attempt to mend ways with Tori. This book held many twists and turns with such colorful characters such as the ladies at the Senior Center that I couldn't resist reading one more page, chapter. I hadn't read any of the earlier books in the series but this book stood well on its own.

I was given an advanced readers copy of this book for an unbiased opinion review.

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### **Amanda says**

Great series, great story! I'm always enchanted by the island setting of the Candy-Coated mysteries. The story definitely kept me guessing until the very end. The only thing I didn't like was how often Allie put herself in potential danger. Though characters in mysteries often make foolish mistakes while investigating, Allie seemed especially careless in this book. But I still love this series and will grab book #6 when it's released!

## **Sheri says**

I must say I really had a hard time getting into this one. The animosity between Tori and Allie was so off-putting for me, the rift seemed overdone. I felt like Tori was just whiny and negative to Allie for no reason. This is my first read in this series so maybe there is some backstory I am missing?

After I got further into the story I realized that it was refreshing to have a character that wasn't perfect and nice all the time. Yeah, she got on my nerves ( and I'm only reading about her!) but I realize that diverse characters make for a more interesting read. Once I stopped letting her distract me and focused more on the mystery itself, the reading was much easier.

I enjoyed the mystery with its unique island setting, cute pets, and fudge recipes. I look forward to the next installment to see not only what mystery falls into Allie's lap, but also what happens in her personal relationships.

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## **Amary Chapman says**

When Allie McMurphy, owner of the McMurphy Inn and Fudgeshop, comes across her cousin Tori next to a woman on the ground, one with a bloody trowel sticking out of her chest, a trowel Tori has her hand on....she makes her sit and checks the body.

Tori swears she found her and was trying to aid her..Barb was her friend.

It seems many are doubtful of Tori's innocence, Allie is not and with her friends seeks to unravel a very twisted tale. Allie has many suspects, while the police chief focuses on one...Tori.

It's an engaging tale, peppered with humor and a bit of romance. The island characters especially the seniors lend spice. It's a recommended cozy read....not only for the story, the fudge recipes rock.

I requested and received a NetGallery ARC.

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## **Anne says**

I have enjoyed every book in this series I've read. Despite being set on an island, the author does a good effort in every book to take us somewhere different on the island though a lot is set in the McMurphy.

There were a couple of things that detracted a bit from this outing and the first is the potential love triangle. I'm tired of love triangles in mysteries and I couldn't decide if Allie was acting out of character or not in her handling of the situation. I may also have missed something, but I thought someone had sworn to stay on the island, but was suddenly in Chicago. I also knew who the murder was and the motive pretty much straight from the start. Luckily, the author threw in more bad "goodness" to keep the reader interested.

I received my copy from Netgalley in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Lisa Morin says**

Oh, Fudge, is the sixth book in the fantastic series by Nancy Coco.

I love this series and this book is my favorite so far.

Allie is shocked when she finds out her cousin Tori is furious with her. When she inherited the grand hotel, she had no idea her cousin would be so bent out of shape.

When Allie finds Tori kneeling over a dead body, she knows her cousin can't be the murderer!

Trying to be loyal to her cousin, Allie begins to investigate, but unfortunately, so does her cousin.

This book will send you on a whirlwind rind of mystery, cheating, stealing and love gone wrong.

With Tori's life hanging in the balance, Allie sticks her nose in places it doesn't belong, sending her right into dangerous territory.

Will Allie prove her cousin's innocence, or while she become the next victim?

You won't want to miss this wonderful cast of characters in Oh, Fudge.

I voluntarily read an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Another sweet confection of mystery and murder from author Nancy Coco.

When I first heard about the Candy-Coated Mystery series, I was excited for two reasons. 1) I have had a long love affair with Mackinac Island since the first time I saw the movie Somewhere In Time. I'm going to get there one day. 2) Fudge. I mean, come on . . . FUDGE!

In book six of this tasty series, author Coco has outdone herself. Books one through five were all wonderful, but I simply couldn't stop reading OH, FUDGE! for even a second. She had me locked in with the first five words . . . The Mackinac Island Butterfly House. Coco brought it so to life, I honestly felt the butterflies flitting past me.

I loved being back at the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop with Allie, and the entire cast of characters. It's always like getting together with old friends. You know, if one of your old friends is always involved in murder. ;-) Other than that, it's like paradise!

Of course, I can't forget to mention the mystery. Or should I say mysteries? Hmmm . . . What I can say is, from the first chapter on, OH, FUDGE! had nothing but excitement, mayhem, laughter, confusion, and repeat, do it again, and more! The author really had me running in circles trying to figure this one out. I was quite breathless by the end of the story.

Take all of the above, and add in the fudge recipes sprinkled throughout the book, and you have a perfect cozy mystery. Seriously, you will need to set aside a day to read OH, FUDGE!, because you're going to have as hard a time as I did putting it down!

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### **Linda says**

I'm always enthused when a new addition to the Candy-Coated Mystery series releases. Allie McMurphy, owner of the historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop, is visiting the Mackinac Island Butterfly House greenhouse with her furry sidekick, Mal, when she finds her cousin, Tori, hovering over a dead female body and clutching the handle of the bloody murder weapon. Tori already has a chip on her shoulder because she didn't inherit part of the hotel from their Papa Liam, and now she's Officer Rex Manning's top murder suspect. Tori denies the accusation and she and Allie begin separately sleuthing for evidence of the real

culprit.

Author Nancy Coco hatches an appealing mystery full of suspicious incidents and a rash of colorful murderers-could-be. I love butterflies, and the Mackinac Island Butterfly House would be a place I could spend hours. As always, I had a great time re-visiting characters such as Jenn--Allie's smart and vivacious best friend; Frances--the hotel manager who's like family to Allie; and the handsome men vying for Allie's attention--Trent and Rex. The mystery wraps up nicely, and I hope more stories in this series are flitting around in the author's imagination!

An added bonus is yummy fudge recipes provided at the end of each chapter.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an Advanced Readers Copy from NetGalley.

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## **Tami says**

This is the first book I've read in this series (or from this author). "Cozy mysteries" are, like, my favorite book genre, but this book disappointed me.

It's about Allie McMurphy, owner of the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop on Mackinac Island. She finds her cousin (Tori) standing over a dead body and calls the police. Everyone on the small island starts gossiping, pointing the finger at Tori for the murder. Tori blames this on Allie for some reason, like she blames pretty much everything on Allie. And now Allie is left to prove that Tori didn't commit the murder and get back on her cousin's good side.

I really liked the idea of the plot and everything, it sounded entertaining. The author's writing just didn't do it for me. Especially when it came down to the characters; I just didn't really find them believable or all that likeable. They were sort of flat.

The main character seemed like she just wasn't too bright. I just kept wondering why she kept making such stupid decisions. And oh boy, her cousin Tori. I don't like Tori at all. She seemed like a spoiled little girl most of the time - blaming everything on Allie. She was a helpless victim, but she's constantly throwing a temper tantrum if anyone dares try to help her, even if it's something small and trivial. Most of the characters weren't likable, even though I assume they were supposed to be.

The story also seemed like it wasn't very well thought out. Things seemed too rushed at some points, with random drama awkwardly thrown in to further develop the story line. There were also so many inconsistencies and mistakes. I could look past some of it but the book in general just seemed sort of awkward to me.

This was an easy and lighthearted read and I feel like this whole series has the potential to be great. But this book gets a "no" from me. Honestly, I really don't know why it has so many 5 star ratings. Maybe I should give one of the other books in this series a try?

*I received a copy of this book from Netgalley for an honest review.*

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## **K.A. Davis says**

From the perfect title to the adorable cover with a sweet doggie that looks like one of my friend's furbaby, OH FUDGE by Nancy Coco captured my attention from the very first page which starts off with a bang. The author takes the reader on roller-coaster of a ride with Allie McMurphy, owner of McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop on Mackinac Island. The murder becomes personal when Allie's cousin, Tori, is found standing over the dead body with her fingerprints all over the weapon. To make matters worse, Allie hasn't seen her cousin for a very long time and there's angst between the two women after Tori feels slighted out of inheriting the family's McMurphy Hotel. Allie wants to believe in her cousin's innocence but Tori seems to be hiding something which prompts Allie to get involved. The delicate balance between estranged family relationships is explored and you can't help but hope a solution is found for the two young women.

In addition to a mystery full of suspects, the author includes humor to keep the reader entertained. I enjoyed the repartee between Allie and her best friend, who plans events for her hotel and shop. I was also amused when Allie comments on the accent her California aunt has when visiting Mackinac Island. Being born and raised in California, trust me, we truly believe the rest of the country has accents and we are accent free...lol! There is also some sweet romance and could there be a wedding in the mix? You need to read OH FUDGE to find out!

Be prepared to crave chocolate while reading this book – you'd better have some on hand! Nancy Coco provides many yummy fudge recipes and they're all on my list to try. I started with Salted Caramel Fudge because 1) it sounds incredibly delicious – I love dulce de leche! 2) This recipe is both quick and easy to make and 3) Apparently fool-proof, which I appreciated because I've had the unfortunate happenstance of some fudge recipes turning super grainy. And let me tell you, Salted Caramel Fudge did not disappoint... in fact, it exceeded my expectations and instead of sharing the goodies with a few friends, I kept most of it for myself! And as soon as I finished that off I contemplated making another batch...

I was provided an advanced copy with the hopes I would review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

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## **Christine says**

This is the fifth book in the candy coated series. Allie McMurphy runs the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge shop on Mackinac Island. Allie goes to meet with Blake, the owner of the Butterfly House, and comes across her cousin, Victoria (Tori), leaning over a dead body holding a gardening trowel. Allie was unaware that Tori was on the island. Naturally the police have to investigate Tori even though they don't think she killed the victim. Allie wants to help clear Tori's name while Tori wants nothing to do with Allie, because she is made that Allie inherited the McMurphy and not her. Both cousins search for the truth separately proving they have more in common than they would like to think.

I thoroughly enjoy revisited these characters. Jenn is a great friend to Allie and I love how the staff at the McMurphy is like a small family. Frances and Mr. Devaney are such a cute couple. I don't know how I feel about Allie's boyfriend in this book. He did a few things that I was a little annoyed with and I get Allie reacting the way she did. Hopefully things will be better on that front in the next book. The mystery itself was good. It kept me guessing right until the end. There were many twists in the plot that I liked. I will definitely be waiting to read the next on.

I received this book from netgalley in exchange for review.

## **Suzanne says**

### **Wedding in Mackinac**

This was a fun book to read.

We get to meet Allie's cousin Victoria and we see that when she comes to the island she is still considered a local and Allie is still a fudgie.

Between a murder, a kidnapping and seeing her cousin kissing her boyfriend Trent, Frances and Douglas finally tie the knot.

The motive for the murder and the murderer was easy to figure out. And the person committing the robberies was a no Brainer.

I did enjoy the book as always. But was a little surprised to see more editing mistakes than I have ever seen in this series.

I also hope that the story line will not start to include Allie having trouble deciding between Trent Jessop and Rex Manning.

Really don't want to see this series go the way of the Hannah Swenson series.

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