



All You Need is Fudge

Nancy CoCo

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Fudge shop owner Allie McMurphy is making fudgie treats for the annual yacht race--but a killer's stirring up a batch of trouble. . .

Sailing Into Murder

The annual yacht race off the coast of Mackinac Island, Michigan, is a highlight of the summer season, and Allie is pulling out all the stops making chocolate centerpieces for the occasion. Unfortunately, she and her bichonpoo, Mal, also pull a dead body from the murky waters of the marina. When Allie's boyfriend's sister becomes the prime suspect, Allie dives into investigating the murder herself. Amid bitter feuds and hushed-up scandals, the courageous candymaker quickly gets in over her head. Someone is trying to fudge the facts to keep a secret worth killing for. . .

All You Need is Fudge Details

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From Reader Review All You Need is Fudge for online ebook

RO G'ma says

All You Need is Fudge is the fourth book in Nancy Coco's Candy-Coated mystery series. This is the first book I've read in this series; however, the author provided great character background and I easily understood their backgrounds and relationships and didn't feel lost jumping in this far into the series. The storyline is well plotted with a cast of relatable characters. The story has enough twists, turns, and suspects to keep the reader involved. I highly recommend this book for readers who enjoy a good clean murder mystery.

Allie McMurphy inherited the Historic McMurphy Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan from her grandfather Papa Liam. In addition to running the hotel, she has opened a Fudge Shop to the hotel's lobby. The town is preparing for the annual Yacht Race off the coast of Mackinac Island. Allie is walking Mal, her adorable Bichon-Poo puppy, through the marina early one morning when Mal leads her to the water's edge. Allie spots a girl in the lake and dives in hoping to save her life. Sadly, the girl is already dead. Officials identify the girl as Carin Moore and determine she was bludgeoned before being pushed into the water. The prime murder suspect is Paige Jessop, the younger sister of Allie's boyfriend, Trent. Paige is arrested and the family shuts Allie and Paige's boyfriend out. Allie is hurt but refuses to believe Paige is guilty of murder and begins her own investigation. She soon discovers that Carin was one of the least liked people in the Mackinac social set and that she had a volatile history with Paige. On a lighter note, Douglas Devaney (the McMurphy's handyman) wants to propose to Frances Wentworth (the McMurphy's reception manager) and Allie and her best friend, Jenn Christensen, help him plan a special and romantic evening.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review from NetGalley.

Linda says

This series takes place on Mackinac Island, Michigan. We were there when I started reading this book but home by the time I finished it. It's book #4; I've only read it and #2 but I so want the rest of the series.

Having been there, it was so easy for me to see in my mind's eye (after we left) where the places are that Allie visits every day. Allie McMurphy's Hotel is on Main Street and besides being a hotel, she has a fudge making and selling business in addition to fudge making demonstrations. The author paints the island very vividly. Her characters are dimensional and real. The island flavor, which is laid-back, is present on the pages of the book. There are no cars or motor vehicles on Mackinac. As our driver on a carriage ride pulled by horses said, "You would want to go a bit faster if you had an emergency" and so there is a regular ambulance and fire apparatus. The place is gorgeous.

Back to the book and series: It's July. Allie is rather known for her penchant for finding dead bodies. Actually, her Bichon-Poodle puppy, Mal (short for Marshmallow), is the one who usually finds the bodies. Yachts have arrived at the marina for the annual Yacht Races. This time Allie pulls the body of a woman out of the marina. She was murdered. The woman, who is Allie's age, belonged to a rich Island Society family but she had the tongue of a wasp and no one really liked her. However, Allie's boyfriend Trent, from another rich Island Society family, is shocked when his sister is arrested for the murder. Upset when Trent totally closes out Allie, she vows to find the murderer. Frankly, I don't care how handsome and rich Trent is; i don't

really like him. I think Allie would be much better matched to Rex, the Police Chief.

Complete with recipes of fudge, cakes, and other desserts, this book was a fun read.

Kelly says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review

I don't know why I didn't start reading this series sooner. It's been sitting on my TBR pile for a while, but I just kept overlooking it somehow. If you love Mackinac Island, fudge, and pets, you need to pick up this series now. Mal is awesome at sniffing out clues, Jenn is just hilarious, and those fudge recipes! I need to try those now!

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Another outing with Allie, Jenn and Mal (the Bichon pup). Yet again Allie has the misfortune to stumble across a body and this time it is hitting close to home with Trent's sister Paige (Trent being Allie's boyfriend) being the person everyone knows was the one most disliked by the victim. Was it murder, was it an accident and why is Trent not answering his phone!

Oh and why is Mr Devaney the handyman asking Allie for a favour?

Dawn says

I found this book a little slower than other, in terms of keeping my attention. The story had its ups and its downs but over all a good one. I love the characters and love the setting (not sure if its because I am Michigan or not lol). I look forward to more capers and fudge in this series. 3.5 stars but rounding up.

K.A. Davis says

I have been a fan of the Candy-coated Mystery series by Nancy Coco since her first book released a few years ago. I was delighted to find out that she was releasing a new one this summer so I made sure I secured a copy. ALL YOU NEED IS FUDGE is the fifth book in this series and it's as delectable as the recipes Nancy includes with her book.

ALL YOU NEED IS FUDGE starts off with a bang from the very first page and the mystery had enough twists and turns with several suspects for an enjoyable who-dun-it read! The undercurrent of relational subplots added to the book's appeal. I enjoyed how Allie's best friend and event planner, Jenn, seems to be making friends and fitting in with the islanders and how she nudges Allie to do the same. It creates scenes that make Allie move out of her comfort zone and gives more insight into other people living on MacKinac. Her other friends, elderly Frances Wentworth who manages the McMurphy reception desk, and Douglas Devaney, the handyman, also force Allie to see that she hasn't done her part to really get to know them. It

gives Allie a chance to grow and not be so focused on herself and her business.

While the book has some scenes of making fudge (which I thoroughly enjoyed and made me want to make candy right then and there!) it doesn't detract from the pace of the story. Nancy offers numerous delectable recipes, including several for fudge...I'll definitely be trying them out!

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Chauncey says

2..5 stars. Cute cozy mystery set on scenic Mackinac Island with a generous dose of chocolatey goodness. Allie McMurphy is our fudge making sleuth who along with her dog Marshmallow has a knack for discovering dead bodies.

The residents of Mackinac are a bunch of characters. Most are likable but besides a few closest to our sleuth Allie all are suspects. Entertaining storyline using the grown up Mean Girls that now do their bullying and damage in the society and political worlds as both victim and suspects.

Some of my favorite scenes involved the staff of the McMurphy and the ladies that hang out at the Senior Center. They brought the romance and humor to All You Need Is Fudge. Not sure what the title has to do with the story and there are some recipes included but they don't connect with the story either.

In a culinary cozy I appreciate it when the recipes connect to the character or the story in some way. An heirloom recipe that was made or eaten in the story makes sense. Pudding recipes added to a story about a fudge maker that has no connection seems forced. In the same regard, besides having Fudge in the title I'm not sure how All You Need is Fudge really fits.

The lack of knowledge about sail boats, racing/regattas and using the wrong terminology was a hit to the credibility of the story. That carries over to the cover artwork which was a cartoony and inaccurate depiction of a sailboat and overall had a juvenile feel to it.

Thank you to NetGalley, Kensington Books and the author for an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Sue E says

Disappointing...

This book was rather frustrating to get through. There were many lines that were just about repeated word for word, the word ouch was repeated way too many times, and the characters just seem rather two-dimensional and at this stage we should be getting a better feel for them. Not sure what happened with this story, but the author needs to step up her game a bit. These books aren't exactly cheap and the potential is there for this to be a good series, but the writing and depth has got to improve for that to happen.

Mary Ann says

Allie is out walking her dog, Mal when Mal pulls her to the lake and they find the body of socialite Carin Moore. Carin's murder is a puzzle for all as her boyfriend's sister is framed for Carin. Allie knows that Paige did not murder Carin and since Trent is not returning her calls, she decides she has to find out all she can so that she can try and prove that Paige is innocent, along the way she learns some of the local secrets and is threatened.

This story did have me believing it was one person and I was totally surprised at the end. Good read. Can't wait to have cooler weather so that I can try some of the fudge recipes.

QNPoohBear says

Allie and Mal discover yet another dead body-the body of a young woman presumably fell off a yacht,, drowned and washed up near the marina. Unfortunately for Allie's track record, the police say the young woman was hit on the head and then thrown in the water. Even more unfortunate, the main suspect is Paige Trent! Sure Carin and Paige hated each other in high school but is that enough hatred for a murder 10 years later? Allie refuses to believe it but Trent keeps shutting her out. What is she to do but launch an investigation of her own? Meanwhile, with Yacht Race Week in full swing, Mackinac Island is busier than ever and that means more chocolate and more fudge. Closer to home in the McMurphy, Mr. Devaney is ready to ask Frances to marry him and wants Allie and Jenn to plan a magical proposal. When Allie's loved ones are threatened, she's scared but not scared enough to stop her investigation. Can she catch the killer before one of her beloved pets - or worse- her friends- is hurt?

The plot of this mystery is OK. I thought I had figured out who did it, changed my mind and then realized my initial guess was correct. The story wasn't super engaging. I really can't stand mean girls and high school drama. No one deserves to be murdered though. The story spent way too much time on minute details like what everyone was wearing and how much the men resembled GQ models. Allie doesn't have any interest in fashion but she seems well acquainted with fashion magazines. There was also way too much mean girl drama -he said, she said, *itch, *itch, *itch. SO over that! The mystery got bogged down with all those details. I also question why Allie supposedly lives at the McMurphy 24/7 and has next to no relationship with the locals has time to go off on an investigation every afternoon? She risks her life one too many times for my comfort in this story. The reason for murder wasn't satisfactory and the red herring plot would have been better if it wasn't a red herring. I just loved the sweet secondary romance.

Allie's personality in this book is closer to the way she was in the first book. She shows that she barely notices or cares to talk to anyone other than Jenn. It's Jenn who forges connections with the locals and brings in business. It's Sandy who makes half the fudge and chocolate. Allie is the only "Fudgie" in the hotel and though she claims she's trying, she doesn't make much effort to fit in. Trent is a jerk for most of the book and if I were Allie, I'd run far away from those old much rich people who close ranks. Mal is super adorable as always.

There are a bunch of new characters in this book. Caramella (Mella), is Allie's new adopted cat. She lives mostly in Allie's apartment or on the fire escape and knows how to con Allie into giving her more kitty treats. Most of the humans are unlikable. There's Eleanor, the victim's "best friend"/minion, who is still a mean girl trying to social climb. Then there's Carin herself. The more revealed about her, the more I disliked

her. The men they associate with are no prizes either, except maybe Reggie, Paige's fiance, but I don't know if I trust him. Gail from the coffee shop is first on the scene and disappears from the story before Allie can get to know her. Janet Biggs is an older lady with a cute dog who befriends Allie. She seems nice but I don't know if she's trustworthy. The old ladies at the senior center are a hoot. I enjoyed them. Mrs. Jones, an elderly, wheelchair bound woman, sounds like she could be a good friend but I have a feeling she won't appear again. Another important character is Maggs, Florence's best friend, whom Allie is just getting to know. She could fill the void Grammy Alice left in Allie's life.

This book contains some yummy fudge recipes. I only saw one that I would try and one I would like to try but never have those ingredients on hand.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

We are back on Mackinac Island for the annual yacht race celebration. This brings tourists to the place in droves but one thing that could drive them away is a dead body. That is just what Mal, Allie's pup finds on their early morning walk. When the body is identified Trent's sister becomes the prime suspect and his family completely shuts Allie out. That is no way to keep at relationship going. She wants to be there for him and his sister. So this fudge maker extraordinaire decided to do some investigating of her own. But she also is dipping herself into trouble.

I so enjoy my trips to Mackinac Island with Allie, Jenn, Frances, Mr. Devaney, Trent, Shane, and all the rest of its residents. All the characters are very relateable and there is always something happening at the McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop. The whole gang is so dedicated in growing the business and helping the island to shine.

This time we meet several new characters from the yacht club for all the festivities. Allie also visits the Senior Citizen Center for information for not only her investigation but for another surprise.

The main plot and subplots flow as smooth a newly made fudge onto that cool slab of marble. Just like the nuts and fruit Allie adds to her fudge, Nancy Coco blends twists and surprises into her mystery. She writes in a very descriptive way that bring people, places and situations to life.

Take my word for it, you will want to have some fudge on hand while reading this story. Thankfully there are recipes included throughout the book.

I call this a perfect summer read. Sit back, relax and enjoy a literary escape to Mackinac Island.

Suzanne says

I love it when a plan comes together. Or more like when, I can read from morning to night, which was my plan for Friday.

Nancy CoCo has again taken me back to Mackinaw Island with her descriptions of the sights and smells of

the laid back place you want to be.

This time it is yachting week on the island and Allie is taking her dog, Mal for an early morning walk when Mal again finds a body, this time floating in the water. Allie jumps in to try to save her but is too late. When it is discovered that the victim is Carin Moore, daughter of one of the most powerful families on the island has been murdered and Paige Jessop Allie's boyfriend's sister is the main suspect of course Allie is going to investigate. One major problem, Trent has shut her out completely and told her not to do anything.

Along with that is that fact Allie can't just sit back and do nothing especially since it looks like Paige is being framed. It also appears that Allie's business will suffer because she has been taken off some of the approved vendors lists either because she found the body and would be a constant reminder of her finding Carin Moore's body. Or maybe because she is dating the accused brother.

Also in the mix, along with fudge making and fudge demos, is the blooming romance between Frances and Mr. Devaney. Allie and Jenn are asked by Mr. Devaney to come up with a romantic dinner for 2 to celebrate their 3 month anniversary.

The ending has a nice twist. I thought I knew who the murder was but couldn't figure out the motive. So I moved on to another character who I had a great hidden motive for. WRONG! And I do so much like dark hidden motives, oh well. This is a book, not a series, I recommend.

At the end of the book is a preview of Nancy CoCo's next book Oh Fudge coming out. After reading it as soon as I can pre-order I will.

Melissa says

Allie McMurphy is back to crime solving when she finds a dead girl's body floating in the water and pulls her out. All the evidence seems to point to her boyfriend Trent's sister Paige Jessop, but Allie won't believe she is guilty. Despite warnings from Trent and Rex, Allie decides to find the guilty party herself.

I love the characters in these novels and the friendships. Of course Mal (Allie's dog) and Mella (her recently acquired cat) are fun too. These are nice relaxing mysteries for people who want to kick back with a book. Can't wait until the next book comes out later this month!

Angela says

Awesome fudge maker Allie and her super cute pooch, Mal start the story off with the discovery of a dead body... and a hilarious phone call to 9-1-1 Dispatcher, Charlene. Its racing season on the Island and the high rollers get a double hit ~ the dead body is the wealthy daughter of one of their own and the arrested suspect

is also one of their own, Paige Jessop, the sister of Allie's boyfriend, Trent. The Jessops circle the wagons so to speak leaving Allie feeling shut out so she decides to do some sleuthing on her own. One of my favorite scenes is Allie's visit to the Senior Center (those folks are adorable and hilarious and make me wish I could be invited to craft night). Allie got some of her best clues from that visit! Those folks really do know everything going on on the island, LOL! I also enjoyed the two separate Yacht club dinner scenes and Allie's dates with Trent. I was caught completely off guard by the bear trap and I was confused by a scene near the end of the book with Eleanor. I felt like that should have been explained a little better. I loved Allie and Jenn helping Mr. Devaney plan his proposal to Francis, that turned out adorable! Overall, I just loved being back on the island with the McMurphy crew and all the wonderful characters! This is a great series!

Lisa Morin says

All You Need is Fudge is an excellent installment in the Candy-Coated series.

It's time for the annual yacht race off the coast of Mackinac Island, Michigan, and Allie is working hard preparing her mouth watering fudge. When Allie finds a body, everything takes a turn for the worse, especially when her boyfriend's sister is the prime suspect! Allie refuses to believe that Paige is guilty of murder and begins her own investigation and before long, secrets are revealed and chaos erupts.

This story was very good. The author describes Mackinac Island so vividly, it is easy to feel lost inside the story. This book had many twists and turns and also a hint of romance as well.

If you are a fan of this series, you won't want to miss this wonderful story!

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my fair and honest review.
