



## **Murder on the Hoof**

*Kathryn O'Sullivan*

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It's mid-August in the Outer Banks village of Corolla in North Carolina and Fire Chief Colleen McCabe is conducting rookie training and spending increasingly more time with her best friend, Sheriff Bill Dorman. The wild horses have been relocated to the sanctuary, and the town is occupied with the upcoming local theatre production. All is right with the world. But when a member of the acting troupe is found dead in the dunes after an emergency training exercise and Bill's ex-fiancée arrives in town, Colleen knows trouble is back with a vengeance.

A second member of the theatre company is discovered dead at the Whalehead Club, and Colleen is forced to put aside her feelings about her relationship with Bill and work with him to uncover who is murdering the thespians and why. She discovers as much drama offstage as on and quickly finds herself swept up in the intrigue of the community theatre group, and struggling to keep her men at the firehouse focused. As the danger mounts and the killer's identity becomes clearer, Bill warns her off the investigation. But despite his warning, Colleen is determined to stop the killer before he or she strikes again, to her own peril.

In *Murder on the Hoof*, her sequel to *Foal Play*, Kathryn O'Sullivan delivers more laughs and mayhem with charming characters mystery readers will love getting to know.

## **Murder on the Hoof Details**

Date : Published May 6th 2014 by Minotaur Books

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Author : Kathryn O'Sullivan

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## From Reader Review *Murder on the Hoof* for online ebook

### Michael says

I will definately read more of this author's work. Very enjoyable story. Good characters.

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### Massanutten Regional Library says

#### Bonnie, Elkton patron, June 2015, 4 stars:

Two murders leave the town of Corolla, NC, wondering who "did it." Anyone familiar (or not) with Whalehead Beach and the old Whalehead Hunt Club will enjoy this clever mystery and the characters. Fire Chief Colleen McCabe struggles with a bit of jealousy when ex-girlfriend of Sheriff Bill Dorman comes to town. Mystery grows as acting troupe rehearses (amid cast squabbles) for a benefit play. A quick and light summer read.

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### Aditi says

*Murder on the Hoof: A Mystery* by Kathryn O'Sullivan is the second book in the Colleen McCabe series.

#### I would like to take a moment to thank the author for this review copy of her book.

Well wondering who this Colleen McCabe is?

Colleen McCabe works as the fire chief in Corolla, North Carolina, and in her first book, she solves the mystery surrounding a burnt body fished up by the bay. But in *Murder on the Hoof: A Mystery* book, we see a lot of horses, theater actors and an emergency drill in the Fire department. Colleen McCabe finds herself yet again amidst of another nerve-racking mystery.

This time a theater production has come to the beach town, where the fire-fighters jump to help to keep their townspeople safe, secure and away from fires! Well, the town might sound quite uninteresting to you, but think again, it is no such sleepy town. This town is fun, happy, small, and content and mysteries crop up almost all the time. This charity play is to raise money for the wild horses of this town. In the middle of an emergency drill in the beach, an actor ends up dead who was acting as a victim for the fire-fighters. Colleen, like as usual, jumps into the scene, along with her colleague, Billy, to find that victim's killer. Soon, the theater production's lead actress started snooping around a lot, who happen to be Billy's ex, and eventually another actor turns up dead. Colleen must solve the mystery as soon as possible, before...

Well, I know, you're dying to know who the killer is. But for that, you need to read this intriguing book, which will keep you hooked from its very first chapter. Well, to be honest, even with a good brain, I couldn't put the pieces of the puzzle together, Damn! Kathryn O'Sullivan is really a smart and clever author. She had even given us the hints, but still the hints were too tight to understand the identity of the killer. Yeah this book is filled with packed twists and turns, which always kept me on my edge. Loved it! This cozy mystery genre sounds really cool!! Wow, and I must say that Colleen McCabe is a pretty amazing sleuth and I so wanted her friendship with Billy to mean more than that!! Yes, Colleen like all women in the world faces

those boy dramas and love issues!! But she is a solid woman, daring and confident and self-less. And the author has done a pretty amazing job by crafting out a tale in an amazing and beautiful town filled with wild horses, which is quite blissful, if you try to imagine it. So grab this book now, and devour yourself in this captivating cozy mystery!!

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### **Amy says**

This is only #2, but I am thoroughly enjoying this series. This is one of those rare stories that is so well written and flows so well that you don't want it to end.

It's mid-August in the Outer Banks village of Corolla in North Carolina and Fire Chief Colleen McCabe is conducting rookie training (I am beyond amazed at the amount of respect her guys have for her) and spending increasingly more time with her best friend (developing love interest), Sheriff Bill Dorman. The wild horses have been relocated to the sanctuary, and the town is occupied with an upcoming local theatre production. All is right with the world. But when a member of the acting troupe is found dead in the dunes after an emergency training exercise and Bill's ex-fiancée arrives in town, Colleen knows trouble is back with a vengeance.

A second member of the theatre company is discovered dead at the Whalehead Club, and Colleen is forced to put aside her feelings about her relationship with Bill and work with him to uncover who is murdering the thespians and why. She discovers as much drama offstage as on and quickly finds herself swept up in the intrigue of the community theatre group, and struggling to keep her men at the firehouse focused. As the danger mounts and the killer's identity becomes clearer, Bill warns her off the investigation. But despite his warning, Colleen is determined to stop the killer before he or she strikes again, to her own peril.

O'Sullivan writes in a way that makes you care about ALL of her characters, even Bill's ex-fiance. Also, none of her characters are flat. They each have unique personalities, which make them memorable. This is one of those series that I hope is never developed into a film because I have a distinct impression in my mind for how each of these characters should look and talk. LOL!

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### **Jessica Sinn (Books and Trouble) says**

This is a fun jigsaw-puzzle of a mystery that will keep you guessing until the climactic town theater production. What really makes this mystery series special is the protagonist. I love that she's defying gender roles by heading up a fire department. She's strong, fearless, and respected by all her employees. Yet she's also dealing with insecurities and boy troubles that resonate with women readers. I should also mention that her sleuthing sidekick, Myrtle Crepe, is a real kick in the pants. Her antics are amusing, yet she doesn't go over the top with the trash talking and zany shenanigans...that can get old really fast. I'm excited to see what lies in store for their next adventure. And I'm really looking forward to seeing how Bill and Colleen's romance develops. It looks as though a dark horse named Pinky might be waiting in the wings—and I can't wait to see how this fledgling love triangle collides!

Go to Chick Lit Café to read the full review! <http://loonachicklit.wordpress.com/20...>

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## **Teresa says**

Since not many cozies involve wild horses, this is a rare book. I enjoyed the novelty of it.

The main character, Colleen, is a likable character. Even though she is the fire chief, she is not too bossy and is respectful of her men. She is strong and courageous while also remaining feminine.

The story does have a little romance in it, which I liked. And there is some humor tied in.

Overall I really like this series. I've read the the first and I will be reading the last.

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## **Stitchywoman says**

As with the first book in the series, I enjoyed the familiar background of Corolla, NC. This plot was an improvement over the first book in the series with a more interesting mystery. There was consistent character development and the heroine is a nice combination of independence, maturity, and sensitivity. As with the first book in the series, it was a quick, easy, and entertaining read. I believe the next book in the series is due out this summer and I plan to pick up a copy while I'm in Corolla and read it while I'm sitting on the beach.

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## **William Mosteller says**

Wonderful story in which Colleen and Bill solve a nasty murder mystery and sort out their relationship, hooray. I was a little puzzled, early on that Doris' death was handled so casually by the fire department -- I would have expected an unattended death to get more police attention than it did. And in the event it really was a crime scene. But no matter, the book was great!

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## **Ann says**

One of my favorite things is to have a new book in my hands (or on my Kindle). Considering how terribly cold and snowy it has been, I was more than excited when I received an advanced reading copy (ARC) of Kathryn O'Sullivan's sequel to FOAL PLAY. After all, the setting is once again a picturesque North Carolina beach village and it's August!

Using the Wild Horses of Corolla as a center piece, both stories feature Colleen McCabe, the Fire Chief and her budding relationship with Sheriff Bill Dorman. Throw in a host of eccentric locals (this time involved with putting on a community theater production to raise money for the horses), a famous actress in town to film a movie, a couple of unexpected deaths, and you have a delightful beach read. (The book goes on sale May 6, 2014.)

Much like the popular television program MURDER SHE WROTE, O'Sullivan's storytelling is on solving the puzzle. But while Cabot's Cove doesn't actually exist, Corolla and its horses are real. Road trip anyone?

You can read either book as a stand alone, but I suggest starting with FOAL PLAY, which was published as a result of winning the Malice Domestic Best First Traditional Mystery Novel Competition last year. These are quick reads and we're all going to be waiting to see what the author comes up with next!

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### **Kammie says**

Books set in the Carolinas are something especially enticing to me, so I was thrilled to get this book through the First Reads program. *Murder on the Hoof* begins on a late summer day on the beach in Corolla, on the Outer Banks off North Carolina. Fire Chief Colleen McCabe is conducting what should be a routine training drill with volunteers from the local theater company playing victims in the drill. When one of the volunteers ends up dead the story swings into action.

A little romance complications the finding of the killer and makes the story a delight. Loved this book!

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### **Ann says**

I thoroughly enjoyed the first book in this series and was not disappointed in the sequel. It was fun catching back up with the characters from the first novel and this was another mystery that kept me guessing until the final pages. I read it in one afternoon because I didn't want to put it down. Thanks Kathryn for another fun read and i will be looking forward to your next book.

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### **Mysteryfan says**

I enjoyed this book very much. It's one of the better cozies I've read. The heroine has a different job (fire chief) that gives her good reasons to be at crime scenes. She's focused on one relationship. The secondary characters are well-drawn and the plot was interesting. I'll look for more by this author.

I thought at first it was a fictionalized version of Chincoteague but the wild horses of Corolla are real.

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### **Grey853 says**

Fire chief Colleen McCabe has a stroke of bad luck when a person dies during an emergency test of her fire and EMT crew. Was it a heart attack or something more sinister?

Then a movie crew comes to town and the lead actress apparently has a history with her might-be boyfriend Bill. There's a lot of jealousy going on with Colleen for someone who's not officially involved with the man.

When another person from the acting troupe involved in the emergency test dies, it becomes a full investigation as to why people are dropping like flies.

The backdrop of all this is a charity production of a play to help save the wild horses near Corona, thus the title.

It's a solid mystery with an interesting plot and characters. I could've done without the side order of would be romance, but otherwise, it's worth reading.

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**Kelly says**

I am so happy that the mystery in Corolla continued on in this book! After reading the first book, I wanted to learn more about the characters and this book accomplished just that. This book also had many roads that you could have gone down and Kathryn keep you guessing. Same people but a different crime which kept it interesting! I can't wait to read the last book in the trilogy!

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**Gretchen says**

This is the second book of this series about Colleen, the fire chief of a town in the Outer Banks. This one involves a play being put on to raise money for the Lighthouse Wild Horse Preservation Society. Of course, there are a couple of murders and danger. I like this series. I hope she hurries up and writes the next one quickly.

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