



Death of a Country Fried Redneck

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Local food and drink writer Haley Powell thinks she's done solving murders in scenic Bar Harbor, Maine. But when a taste of the South comes to New England, Haley's following another recipe for disaster...

As a single mom, Hayley Powell already has a full plate—she's got deadlines to make and a teenage daughter with eyes for an aspiring singer-songwriter. But when country music superstar Wade Springer rolls into town, Hayley spies an irresistible side gig: personal chef to her all-American idol. After he tries her home cooking, Wade's so impressed that he hires her on the spot—and invites her to dine with him alone.

Hayley and Wade are hitting all the right notes...until a body turns up. Wade's tour bus was torched overnight and a roadie named Mickey Pritchett came out well-done. But the real cause of death isn't barbecue: Mickey was shot, his mouth stuffed with one of Hayley's trademark chicken legs. An ornery drunk, Mickey had already made plenty of enemies in town, but Wade's reputation is on the rocks. Hayley reckons it's up to her to settle this mess—a charbroiled mystery with all the fixin's.

Death of a Country Fried Redneck Details

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From Reader Review Death of a Country Fried Redneck for online ebook

Drebbles says

Single mom Hayley Powell has her hands full writing a food and drink column for the local newspaper as well as keeping an eye on her children, especially daughter Gemma who is dating an older boy. Still Hayley will do anything it takes to meet country music star Wade Springer who is in Bar Harbor, Maine to perform two charity concerts. Almost before she knows what happened, Hayley is hired to be Wade's personal chef while he is in town. Sparks fly between the two but all is not well when a body turns up and a piece of Hayley's lovingly cooked chicken is close by. Hayley quickly finds herself involved with the murder investigation but is afraid the killer might be someone she knows and cares about.

“Death of a Country Fried Redneck” is a very funny, at times over-the-top mystery. You can tell that author Lee Hollis (pen name for brother and sister writing team Rick Copp and Holly Simason) had a lot of fun writing this book. There are a lot of funny things in this book like names (Billy Ray Cyrus and Spanky McFarland appear in this book or at least their names do), good old-fashioned girl fights (one in particular was laugh out loud funny), a pesky photographer, mangled language, and so much more. This type of humor can be hard for me to swallow - too much over-the-top stuff and I'm gone - but Hollis pulls it off admirably. Mixed in with the humor are some more serious issues like an overprotective father and Hayley's ongoing struggles in raising teenagers that help keep this book grounded. The mystery itself is well plotted with plenty of suspects and Hollis does a good job of having readers solve the crime alongside Hayley. Two things kept me from giving this book five stars. First, the Bar Harbor setting didn't seem real to me. Maybe it was the title; maybe it was the country singer, but the book felt like it was set in the South not New England. And, while Hayley is a bright resourceful heroine throughout most of the book she turns into one of those Too Stupid to Live characters at the end - I literally groaned when I realized what she was about to do.

“Death of a Country Fried Redneck” isn't perfect but it sure is a lot of fun to read.

Julien-Pierre Campbell says

OH, HOW I WANTED TO HATE THIS BOOK.

I saw the title in a bookstore and snapped a picture because it made me lose my shit in public. "Death of a Country Fried Redneck." What kinda fuckery --? My mom reads these cozy mysteries with hilarious food- and other crap-themed titles. I tease her for it constantly, given her cynical disposition. It's just a shock that she reads stuff like this.

So I thought I'd check it out and read this and hopefully get a chuckle of its awfulness.

Well, I read the damn book. Oh, boy. Thin on plot, terrible dialogue, kinda hated every character. But like...if I was so adamant that it was a terrible book, why did I keep reading? Because I can't ever start and stop a book. I've never been able to leave well enough alone. I read the whole thing. I was intrigued. I laughed a lot. I was almost.....sad when it was over.

It won me over, God dammit.

Vickie says

Not one of my favorite reads this year. I didn't care very much about the characters other than the slight eye rolling at how every single hot guy was attracted to the main character. The scenes didn't flow very well and some dialogue felt a bit stilted.

I'll go back to the first in the series to see if that helps.

Under the Covers Book Blog says

DEATH OF A COUNTRY FRIED REDNECK is the second book of the Hayley Powell Food and Cocktails Mystery series. Hayley is still getting the hang of her writing column. However, there's no doubt that many people of Bar Harbor are enjoying her work. She's most surprised to find that her favorite country music singer Wade Springer is also a fan of her writing and food. He's so impressed by her that he invites her to dine with him alone.

First off, let me just say that this entire series has a much lighter tone than you see in a lot of other Cozy Mysteries. Hayley is a very bright and vibrant personality and a lot of this comes out in how she speaks, but also how she writes. I will find it hard to believe if you don't immediately fall in love with her character. There are so many good things about her. Although she is a single mother still trying her best to raise her kid, she does a good job of being a good friend to her daughter and I love seeing their interactions. In addition to that, we see Hayley in a lot of other types of relationships. For example, we see her friendships, as well as her romantic relationships and work relationships as well. For someone who seems to be struggling, she's doing remarkably well and I find her to be a well-rounded character.

The mystery of this story is fairly straightforward and easy to follow. It involves celebrities and music, which I enjoyed. I also liked how the authors were able to tie it into the food. I will say, however, that the beginning did take some easy shortcuts to set up the plot. It was incredibly easy for Hayley to meet Wade so you'll have to disregard aspects of believability to enjoy this book. Hayley is quite the charmer so I don't think it would be actually that difficult for her, but still...just keep that in mind while reading this book.

Hollis' humor is by far my favorite thing about this series. It gets it right all the time. Usually when a series is meant to be funny, it tends to be over the top or the author tries too hard. But I don't find that is the case here. The humor comes at the right place and seems to occur naturally. It makes me respect the authors more because they know when to draw out the suspense and when to lighten the mood.

This series is quickly rising to the top of my favorites lists. I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series to see what happens to Hayley next!

*Reviewed by Ann♥ ? Don't want to miss any of our posts? Subscribe to our blog by email! ? ♥

Chris says

Witting and several others do a better job with this light weight mystery genre.

Marian says

Mums had it home from the library and I ran out of books so I gave it a whirl. It starts out interestingly enough (Country star comes to town, our heroine schemes her way into becoming his personal chef while he's visiting) but the story never managed to gel for me. I didn't particularly care for anyone enough to want to keep reading after awhile, but I hate to start a book and not finish. I will say that I liked the answer to the whodunnit.

I just don't think you get to send two people to jail and then say something like, "Finally, all the pieces of the puzzle were beginning to fit." Um, no. You send your daughter's best friend straight to the police and the puzzle pieces should have been firmly soaked in superglue. (That detour/delay in the solving of the mystery was actually painfully not well thought out and fell apart the moment you looked at it.)

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

When Hayley Powell learns that her favorite singer is doing a couple of concerts in town, she manages to find a way to meet him - cook him breakfast at a local diner. When Wade Springer, country superstar, tastes her cooking, he offers her the job of personal chef while he's there. In fact, he's so taken with her, he wants to take her out to dinner, also.

Hayley, whose boyfriend Lex is away on business, doesn't think anything of it, because it's only a dinner, and she's already told Wade she's involved with someone. But when she brings him her spectacular fried chicken she's accosted by one of his employees and practically dragged off. Only the intervention of Wade and his bodyguard Curtis save her.

Later, the fired employee's body is found in a burned-out tour bus, and it also turns out that he was shot before the bus was burned. So Hayley needs to find out who killed Mickey before Wade is blamed. It doesn't help that Wade's ex-wife shows up and is hot on the trail of her ex, and a local punk is threatening her. Now Hayley's on the trail of a killer who might be closer to home than she thinks after all...

This is the second book in the series, and I really hoped it would be better than the first. And it was, a tad. But Hayley screaming like a teenager when she learns her favorite singer is in town? What grown woman would do that? She obviously spends waaaay too much time with her teenaged daughter instead of adults...speaking of which, when she does spend time with adults, it's to go out and drink. Don't they have anything else to do? There's nothing wrong with it, but seriously, meeting at a bar night after night?

Then there's her boyfriend, Lex. There's no spark at all; he's rather dull. He just seems to come in and out of her life, and honestly, I was hoping she'd go off with the singer so she'd have something going on. I just don't see how Hayley and Lex fit together. Maybe if he'd spend time with the kids once in a while to get to know

them, but there's just no connection for me. As for her friend Mona - don't get me started. Rather than go to the doctor and either her or her husband get snipped, she gets pregnant and then complains about her kids and her lazy husband. This is not a family I would like to come near in a restaurant or anywhere else. There doesn't seem to be any discipline at all; and what is supposed to be humorous makes you want to run for the hills.

While the story line was interesting - singer comes to town and one of his group is killed - there were too many distractions throughout. Why is a fifteen-year-old kid taking pictures of people and no one is telling his parents that he needs to cut it out? He's a minor, not a professional.

I really would have liked to enjoy this book better, and as I said, I did a little more than the first, but only because the ending was a surprise. I am hoping that in the next book Lex actually becomes a 'real boy' instead of the wooden model he seems to be, and that Hayley acts like the newspaper employee she is. The recipes were okay, but only if you're centered on drinking with every meal.

Julesy says

Caution: Read this book after you've eaten a hearty meal because you will be craving foods left and right. Of course, the author would have to mention all of my favorite foods ... fried chicken, BBQ ribs, macaroni and cheese. Besides the delicious foods being mentioned, this is a great book and series. I definitely love this book more than the first one so I can see how this series gets better and better. Very funny excerpts, I found myself chuckling a lot. I love the main character, her kids, the plot, everything. You also cannot go wrong with narrator Tara Ochs. She's the best of the best when it comes to audiobooks. Can't wait to get to book #3!

Mystery: 5 stars

Narration: 5 stars

Grey853 says

Haley is supposed to be an adult, a mom and a food reporter, but one sure couldn't tell it from this story. She's got a huge crush on a country singer coming to town and she acts like she's 12, gushing and acting silly. Definitely not my cuppa.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

"Hollis' humor is by far my favorite thing about this series."

Read this review in its entirety at [Under the Covers Book Blog](#)

Nora-adrienne says

How does Hayley always end up in the middle of things... I guess you'll have to wait for a few hours so I can

get some sleep. Then I'll tell you what's going on.

J Godwin says

An extremely light Saturday at the beach read, but fun and very humorous. The main character has a passion for cooking and country music, which gets her into trouble. If you're looking for any depth at all, you won't find it here, but the plot twists are pretty intricate. Lots of would be suspects and sideplots make it hard to guess whodunnit.

My biggest complaint is why the author feels the need to throw in unnecessary details specifically with regard to brand names and stores. It's almost as if she's getting kickbacks from JC Penneys, Walmart, Subaru, and more. Like instead of "I jumped out of the car and stepped into a big puddle and splashed mud on my brand new pants", she might say "I jumped out of my 2001 Subaru Forester SUV and stepped into a big puddle and splashed mud on my brand new slacks from JC Penneys." It's quite annoying after awhile!

Living in Pages says

This was fantastic! Can't wait to continue with the series.

Jonathan says

An excellent follow-up, *Death of a Country Fried Redneck* reaffirmed why I love cozy mysteries. Every part of this book was solid and well-written, from the mystery to the characters.

As always, I'll start with the characters. They were wonderful. Lee Hollis (the pseudonym of a brother and sister writing duo) did an absolutely superb job of creating realistic, less than perfect, inviting characters that will make anyone want to move to Bar Harbor and become a year long resident.

The mystery was excellent. I absolutely had no idea who the killer was until the end, and even then I was shocked, however, looking back, I realize that the clues were all there, I just didn't piece them together. The setting was also absolutely to die for (no pun intended)!

Overall a superb book! I will be reading the next one.

Xondra Day says

* Copy won through Goodreads First Reads*

I think if I could have connected with Hayley I would have liked this book. My guess is that she was supposed to come off as witty and sarcastic. I ended up finding her annoying. Also the constant reference to movies throughout the book was irritating for me.

Unfortunately this wasn't a good read for me, but I appreciate the chance given to win a copy on Goodreads.
