



Died in the Wool

Rett MacPherson

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With the Garden Club's First Annual Rose Show right around the corner and a historic house up for sale, Torie O'Shea, mother of three and president of the historical society in New Kassel, Missouri, has her hands full.

Nosy by nature, Torie can't help but poke around the old Kendall house, rumored to contain rare Civil War artifacts and even rarer quilts that would make fantastic additions to the historic Gaheimer House that Torie runs. But why stop there when the house itself would make such a wonderful addition to New Kassel's historical homes? It could even become a textile museum. Sadly, the house's history is as tragic as it is rich: In the 1920s, three twenty-something siblings committed suicide, and the more Torie uncovers, the more involved she becomes.

Her curiosity draws her into some dark places, but it's a present-day crime that sends her racing to unravel exactly what happened to those three siblings before anyone turns up dead.

The brilliant patchwork of characters and tightly stitched plots in Rett MacPherson's *Died in the Wool* will delight fans of this terrific series and win over new ones.

Died in the Wool Details

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Author : Rett MacPherson

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From Reader Review Died in the Wool for online ebook

Patty says

Torie is busy, as usual. She is helping to organize a Roses weekend, even though she knows nothing about roses. Her three kids are growing fast and the two oldest are in the "teen" years. Early in the book she admits to being a bit bored and lo and behold a new project pops up. An historical house comes up for sale and Torie wants it. The house has a terrible story attached to it, all three children of the original owner committed suicide. The daughter also happens to have been a fantastic needlework artist, especially with quilts. Torie goes from wanting the house for its historical value to wanting the house for its historical value and potential use as a textile museum specializing in women's quilting and needle arts.

Of course, she also has to investigate the family and find out why three adult children committed suicide. One is easy, the youngest son came back from WWI tormented and suffering from severe post-traumatic stress (not that they knew to call it that back then). But, why the other two.

As Tori works her way through this mystery she is also slowly redefining her relationship with step-father Colin.

A most enjoyable episode in this delightful series.

Mary says

After the new not yet released book Rebel Yell that I read, this book was a nice mystery and fast to read. It was a delight to read about something different. This is not a knitting mystery like some I have been reading. Actually it has much information about handmade quilts. It is part of a series of books by this author, Rett MacPherson. They all have one main character, Torie O'Shea. She is the president of the historical society in New Kassel, Missouri. She has fun with everything that she takes on. This book is about the Kendall house a notorious address in town since three siblings in their 20s committed suicide there in the 1920s. One of the siblings, Glory, happened to be a famous quilter and Torie immediately thinks of turning the Kendall house into a textile museum. What follows next involves many townspeople and many records that have been hidden for many years. It was well worth the time to read it and now it can go back to the library and so can I. We have a brand new library that cost over 4 million to build. It is beautiful.

Katie Hilton says

Torie O'Shea has a chance to establish a textile museum when the old home of an expert quilter goes on the market. The house has a story to tell, and Torie researches it. A good read.

Mary says

Great entry in the series. This story is a bit more laid back than others in the series with less action and more detective work. And it worked! Torie and her family provide lots of interest but it's the mystery that takes center stage. One thing I found refreshing was that the author didn't rely on diaries to solve the mystery which would have been the easy way out. Instead Torie uses her genealogy skills and is even able to track down a witness or two. Very interesting. I love this book and the quilting aspect was an interesting angle on the mystery.

Vickie says

A few years ago, I tried a book from this series. And I didn't finish it and for the life of me I can't remember why. I might not have been ready for the writing or the cozy aspect or something. Glad I gave Rett MacPherson and the people of New Kassel Missouri another chance. This is a very well written book, with me trying to make time for it as often as I could. I was rather envious of Torie's smarts and stubborn need to solve the mystery of the suicides of the three siblings in the house in less than a year.

There are the quirky characters that are necessary in all cozies, the town busybody who knows best (Eleanor), town mayor (Colin), town sheriff (Mort), main character who can't help but get involved (Torie). The mystery is old, but still compelling to the book's characters and to the reader. I wanted to know what happened to Glory Kincaid. Her story was so sad, but she had so much to live for and I wanted to know why she would commit suicide.

A wonderfully written book and I plan to look for more of the series and anything else Rett MacPherson has written.

Five past mystery compelling beans.....

Charlene Fox says

More of the terrific Torie O'Shea mysteries! Great read!

Kristen says

In the 10th installment of the Torie O'Shea series by Rett MacPherson, she'd gotten herself into a pickle this time around. She had a lot of hands, since she ran the Gaheimer House of genealogical research and handling artifacts. One of her daughters, Mary, had a rebellious streak. Plus she was in charge of the rose show, and buying the Kendall house. When Evan Merchant decided to sell his house, Torie wanted to buy it for a textile museum. From there, she decided to uncover the mystery behind the Kendall siblings "suicides" and the story behind their life. When one of her neighbors accidentally gotten "poisoned", she wanted to take a closer look behind the tragedy behind. When she finally figured it out, she would never believe the truth to shock her small town.

Grey853 says

I didn't like this one as well as most of the series. Torie was trying to figure out if the triple suicides that occurred in a local historical house were really murders or not. In the meantime, she's having a hell of a time with her daughter Mary acting like a brat, and that got old to me. Still, like all of her books, it's an easy read with some interesting facts about how one goes about investigating historical documents. Also, she does a really great job of developing entertaining secondary characters.

Samhita Argula says

Getting hooked to Torie O'Shea

BookNerdette says

My Rating : ThuMBS uP!

This is the first book I have read in a while with no exotic romantic scenes in it. So no covering the childrens eyes. Shoot some of these books have such explicit scenes – my face blushes.

My daughter was the first to read this book and she then recommended it to me. She enjoyed it so that while I was reading the book she would ask where I was in the book and what I thought so far.

I enjoyed the old house mystery in this book – it reminded me of the house mystery in “Unhallowed Ground” by “Heather Graham”. You know now that I think of it the two main characters remind me of each other.

In Unhallowed Ground, Sarah is the owner of a house with history. She is surrounded by people that she loves and they return her love with respect in a small historical town. She went away to college to become a historian.(which I think is a license for being nosy). I like that Sarah worked in a museum and spoke of the Civil War.

Now Torie, is the owner of the museum in her small historical town. She speaks of the World War I and the Civil War frequently. She too was a self proclaimed nosy historian slash detective of the town. She loves history and hates loose ends so she must find closure.

This book reminded me of a Tv show “Cold Case”. I loved it – It was a goodread!

There is an interesting story here, along the way you identify with Torie. “She wears many hats in the town” are her words at the beginning of the book. Yet women everywhere where many hats everyday – daughter, wife, mom, sister and step-daughter. This also goes with she is a business owner, and the town event coordinator.

Yes I identified with her as I am sure many of you will as well. I laughed at her talking about her kids, it struck home with me and so I could laugh. I was glad to know I am not the only over protective mom on the earth.

I will surely check out some more of Rett MacPherson’s books. She is a good author and I am blessed to have picked up this book. I also want to thank her for giving us a good clear ending.

Nancy says

A rose show shouldn't cause murder but there is a possibility that the one Tori O'Shea is in charge of did. Not to mention she is buying what many consider a haunted house of vast proportions.

Tori, her family and the town of New Kassel, Missouri were a delight to read about. This happens to be book #10 in this series, but no matter - you can jump right in and learn as you go. The house Tori wants to buy is an old Victorian in which all three siblings killed themselves. This didn't happen recently but it is a draw since one of the siblings was a very well-known quilter and left many of her quilts in the house.

Quilts. Roses. Murder. Suicide. A great way to spend a few evenings!

Kathy Duncan says

Let me start by saying that I'm a fan of Rett MacPherson's Torie O'Shea series. I've read almost all of the books because I am drawn to the genealogy angle even though in the early books Torie relied much too heavily on consulting family charts for her "research." Basically, MacPherson's tells a ripping good yarn, and Torie is quite likeable.

However, with the quilt errors in *Died in the Wool* I found it impossible to suspend my disbelief, especially in light of the fact that Torie, the museum curator, is also supposed to be a quilter. Torie lost me the minute she referred to the manner in which one of Glory Kendall's quilt's was "hemmed." Hemmed? Seriously? Quilts are not hemmed, and every quilter knows that. Lots of non-quilters know it, too. Quilts are bound. Sometimes they are finished by lapping the back over the front, a variation on binding. Or they are birthed and finished with a knife edge. Or they are finished with prairie points. They are not hemmed. Ever. Every quilter knows that. Torie O'Shea should know that.

Then MacPherson's stretches credulity to the limit when she attributes 50 quilts to 25 year old Glory Kendall, who also took a two year hiatus from quilting right before her death. Huh? Glory may have been a quilting wunderkind, but 50 quilts??? My mother-in-law, who was a master quilter, could hand quilt a full sized quilt in two months when she worked at it a minimum of eight to ten hours a day. Then, figure that it took about the same length of time to hand piece or appliqué the top, and you are looking at two more months for a total of four months per quilt. That is a yield of only three quilts a year. Maybe. In a good year. My great-grandmother who died at the age of 38 in 1918 produced a little more than two dozen quilts, which was considered a large yield for her short life. How'd she do it? In a hurry with huge toenail hooker stitches that would not put any of her quilts in a museum. Glory Kendall could have only produced 50 quilts if she had been born with a needle in one hand and started stitching while she was still in diapers.

What makes the novel totally implausible, however, are the poisoned basting pins lurking in Glory's unfinished quilt. The problem is not that the pins are poisoned, but that there are any "quilting pins" in it to begin with. Pin basting quilts in preparation for quilting is a recent development. The pins used are very strong, giant safety pins. Initially, they were used for quilts that were to be machine quilted. Now some quilters use them in hoop quilting, but many hoop quilters don't use them because they are difficult to maneuver a hoop around. Quilts going into a frame are usually basted with huge stitches. Quilts in Glory's

time were not basted before going into a quilting frame. The lining was secured to the frame. The batting and the top were stretched over it and secured. I recall my grandmother, who was ten years younger than Glory Kendall's character, being perplexed over the basting stitches in one of my quilts. It was not a concept she was familiar with. Regardless, no quilter would ever baste with straight pins, which is what Glory Kendall had evidently done. Why? Because getting jabbed by a straight pin hurts and gets blood on the quilt. Then there is the danger that a straight pin will get embedded in the quilt batting and will jab a loved one later. Glory Kendall would not have basted her quilt with straight pins for all these reasons...but mostly because she was not a moron.

It may seem like a small detail, but poisoning Glory's quilting needles would have saved the story line.

Kristin says

Spoilers Below!

This book is different from the other Torie O'Shea mysteries. There isn't a modern day murder or antagonist that parallels the historical mystery, which is both good and bad. I think that's a good thing because it gives the series depth instead of being a Scooby-Doo episode every time. It's a bad thing for suspense though. My curiosity kept me turning the pages, but in the end, the solution to the mystery was anticlimatic and depressing.

I did enjoy the WWI and quilting references. I wish Torie had spent more time in the haunted Kendall mansion- that felt a bit underdeveloped.

Patricia says

Died In The Wool
Rett MacPherson
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The old Kendall House in New Kassell is haunted. At least the current owner thinks that it is and wants to sell it as soon as possible. Torie O'Shea who already owns Gaheimer House decides that she will buy the Kendall House and set up a museum for quilts. Glory Kendall was famous for her quilts and evidently, many of the quilts remain in the residence.

When Torie finds out that all three of the Kendall children committed suicide she decided to investigate. Colin, the ex-sheriff and Torie's father-in-law, wants to get into the act. Colin was in the habit of trying to keep Torie from her investigations but now that he is mayor, he is very bored and wants to be involved.

Torie does find out what happened in the Kendall home many years ago and the answer shocks everyone.

Torie and all of her friends in New Kassell make for an interesting story. There is plenty of humor involved as well as some history of quilts. This latest book where Torie manages to solve a cold, cold case is one of

the best so far.

Linda says

This is one of my favorite adult mystery series. Torie O'Shea feels like an old friend- she's a genealogist, while I'm very interested in genealogy, and she's also very nosy and can't stop until she's found out the whole story and I'm well, nosy too! This one involves a century old mystery- about a family whose three grown children all committed suicide. The daughter of the family made exquisite quilts. When Torie's friend is poisoned after touching one of the quilts Torey wonders if the woman really did commit suicide. And what caused this family to resort to such tragedy?
