



# Family Skeletons

*Rett MacPherson*

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As resident genealogist, historian, tour guide, and occasional amateur snoop, Victory "Torie" O'Shea can be found anywhere in the historic German town of New Kassel, Missouri-mixing fudge, giving tours, tracing family trees, and even investigating murder...

When shopowner Norah Zumwalt asks Torie for help in piecing together her family lineage to find her missing father, Torie cheerfully agrees. But before Torie delivers her results, Norah is brutally murdered. Now Torie must use her formidable skills at prying into the past-and the human heart-to solve a case of passionate secrets and betrayal. But as the Mississippi floods, she may be in deep trouble when evidence of another killing surfaces-and Torie comes face to face with a family skeleton that will chill her to the bone.

## Family Skeletons Details

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# From Reader Review Family Skeletons for online ebook

## Dawn says

Torie (called Victory by Sylvia, an older, somewhat grouchy older woman that Torie works for/with) is a genealogist and historical guide. She's an interesting investigator, especially paired up with both a sheriff she doesn't like because he arrested her for speeding (while trying to get a pregnant woman to the hospital) and her witty, perceptive mother, a wheelchair-bound woman who gives care (cooking, esp.) more than takes it. The story was different and well-told - Torie is approached by a woman who wants her to do her family tree ... she is curious about her father, who died in the war (or did he?) and who she's never met. Then Torie finds the woman brutally murdered. And the mystery is on. The characters are interesting, there are other back stories going on at the same time and there's a brief newspaper clipping at the end of each chapter that adds a bit more information, though most of it is light-hearted, not really any clues to the mystery. An enjoyable cozy mystery.

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## Judy says

Tori is asked to locate one of the locals, Norah Zumwalt's, father. She never met him and was sure he may have died in the war. Norah is murdered and Tori does some investigating into the reasons why someone would kill Norah.

Family secrets are uncovered and at times things get a little complicated. A fun read, laugh out loud lines and a nice ending.

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## Lex says

Torie is a dedicated, plucky, and tenacious investigator. Much like you have to be when working as a genealogist. The story is a unique one, and very detailed and filled out with subplots and nuances. I did enjoy the book overall, but found that the character of Torie herself was a little lacking. We see evidence that she loves history, her town, her family, but never experience any of that passion firsthand from her point of view. there was just a flatness about her that kept me from connecting to her character.

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## Karen says

I enjoyed this mystery, it was a quick read.

I liked Victory as a character, but she did not come through as a real Mother. I was surprised she would take off with her friend for drinks, dinner and a movie without clearing the details with her husband or Mother in residence. Also surprised she drank more than was healthy for her.

The plot was nicely convoluted, with plenty of suspects and the killer tripped up by false alibi.

Chapters are interspersed with the local news. Very gossipy but of interest to the community.

I will read further in this series.

I borrowed a copy from the public library.

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### **Karyn Buchanan says**

A terrific read. A lot of fun. Torie and her family make the story fun, scary, and just laugh out loud funny. Love Torie and her clan.

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### **AnnieM says**

I'd read another one. I actually read this in paper, which is why it took so long.

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### **Charley J says**

Lots of character development and suspense in the murder investigation, but very little actual focus on genealogy research, which is what I was looking for.

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### **Katie Hilton says**

An interesting murder mystery investigated by a genealogist who lives in Missouri. This is right up my alley!

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### **Vickie says**

I love this time of year. November and December are my two months to primarily read cozies/amateur sleuth. I like finding new-to-me authors or series, meandering Mt Git'r'Read to see what I've stashed away. That's how I found this one, waaaay in the back of my closet version of Mt G'r'R. It's like my birthday sometimes when I start digging around the backstacks.

Glad I found it. A good start to a series with a cool premise. I like the idea of a genealogist with a family and a career. I always wonder how some of the authors will portray a woman who is a wife and mother with a career and likes to dig into an investigation. I've seen some where the kids are mentioned once or twice but that's about it. Who's taking care of them as the mom is out and about getting into sticky situations? That's not an issue here. Torie has a good support system with a mom who lives with them, a supportive husband who doesn't let Torie get away with too much like I think she'd like.

The mystery was good, the characters are nicely varied, a good setting. I'll look for more in the series. I can recommend this book.

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### **Alison says**

I love a good mystery, and this was a fun one. It's got a spunky main character, an old, small town full of quirky people, and a murder to solve...what's not to love?

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### **Mary says**

Generally speaking I liked this book. While the first in the series it is not the first book of the series I have read. Knowing later books are much better I was a bit disappointed until I took into consideration that this was probably the author's first book. I found it suffered from a few glaring inconsistencies such as early in the book when Torie recalls attending a friend's mother's funeral then immediately attempts to blackmail that same friend by threatening to tell his mother something. I reread the page twice thinking I had missed something. Things like this remove me from the story and make me wonder how it slipped by the editor. Also lacking was clear motivation as to why the sheriff included Torie in his investigation. I found myself asking that question over and over. All in all, a fairly good book and I do have intentions of reading the few in the series I have missed.

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### **Kristin says**

This is a book that I probably have a personal bias toward liking since the setting is a fictionalized version of Kimmswick, MO and the real surrounding towns. I enjoyed recognizing local depictions, and I also found the protagonist, Torie O'Shea, to be extremely likable. Torie, the beloved town genealogist, is like a Lorelai Gilmore meets Nancy Drew who solves mysteries in a midwestern Stars Hollow. The mystery to this book has enough twists to be interesting but is still solvable for the reader. I'll be ordering the rest of the series from Amazon soon.

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### **Kellene says**

I had read a later in the series book previously, so it was nice to go back to the beginning of this series. The story was good and the solution wasn't obvious from the beginning. Lots of red herrings and possibilities. The characters were fun for the most part, although Torie got a little too nasty with her family for me (I would have had to hit her). But her use of genealogy to solve crimes was very interesting for me. I will keep going with the series, assuming that they will get better as it progresses and I will enjoy them even more.

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### **Linda says**

I enjoyed seeing how this series started. I've read other books in it, although it's been a few years so this was perfect. I like Torie and it's fun seeing how she uses her genealogical research to help solve crimes.

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**Regina Sullivan says**

MacPherson is a good writer. She has the ability to pull you right in to the story. She is humorous and the story flows well. I have read all of the Torie O'Shea mysteries.

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