



Scoop to Kill

Wendy Lyn Watson

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A sleuth sure to melt readers' hearts-from the author of *I Scream, You Scream*

During the local college's annual Honor's Day festivities, a graduate student is killed. When the English professor suspected of his murder also meets an untimely end, Tallulah Jones steps out from behind the counter of Remember the a-la-Mode to clear the professor's name-before anyone else gets put on ice...

Scoop to Kill Details

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Author : Wendy Lyn Watson

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Stewie's Mom says

I sure do like the characters in this series. Somehow, I think Tally is supposed to get back together with Finn, although Cal, the town police officer, currently looks like a maybe candidate for romance. So, at the books' finish, I still don't know who Tally's love interest is going to be. I sure hope this doesn't turn into a Joanne Fluke style "boy-girl-boy" triangle. That got old really fast in that series and I would hate to see it pop up here, as well. However, it seems like that's the road Tally is headed down. I'll wait until June 2011 to read book three and see what happens.

Susan says

Although I was feeling kind of burned out on series about spunky women business owners who snoop into small-town crimes, Tally Jones and her ice-cream shop cooled me right down. Alice, the precocious daughter of divorced Tally's housemate and cousin Bree, is attending the prestigious local college and finds a body in the copier room. Tally's old boyfriend, recently moved back to town, has a history with Alice's favorite professor, who is suspected of the killing. There's another man who is interested in Tally, too, but she's trying to run her business and protect Alice.

Chris says

I honestly love Wendy's books. I've read them all. This mystery will delight you, just like the others.

Tally's voice - a small town, wrong side of the tracks in high school kind of girl - mixed with Wendy's wicked commentary on academia are a fantastic mix for anyone who has spent any time prostrate to the higher minds and also likes ice cream.

Add in a possible love triangle and several dead bodies - and you have the recipe for a really fun read.

Get comfy, find yourself something to snack on - the ice cream talk will have you poking in the fridge - and enjoy!!!

Laudys says

Just like the first book. The mystery is intriguing enough to keep you reading, but most of the so called plot twists can be deduced wayyyy before Tally figures them out. And once again, the Dalliance Police department is managed by a bunch of morons who have no idea what actual police work should entail. It never takes Tally and Co. more than a bit of snooping to know that things are not what they seem, taking actions that the police, who are allegedly "investigating" the murders, should take by procedure.

But then again, if the police would have been doing their job right then Tally wouldn't have to meddle and we would have no book. Other than that, it's a nice quick read, perfect for when you're without the motivation to indulge in a more taxing book.

✳ **Jennifer says**

I liked this second book in the series - but probably not as much as the first one. I might just not have been relaxed enough to enjoy the book, but it didn't seem to hold my attention as much. The plot was good, although I guessed the final crime and whodunit about midway through. I found all the secondary characters very vivid and felt their backgrounds were expanded from the first book, but I didn't feel the same way about the main character, Tully. Perhaps that was why this one didn't get 4 stars from me. Still, I will look for the next book and see what happens.

Monica Gearhart says

I never would have thought the killer was who it was. I hope Tally decides who she wants to be with. Geez.

Chaitra says

I didn't care for the first book in the Mystery a la Mode series at all, and wouldn't have read this one had it not been for a challenge. But this was, while not being the best ever, quite ok.

We see ice cream parlor owner Tally Jones, a year after her adventures in the first book. She has resolved not to meddle in anything, but when a graduate student is killed and his body discovered by her niece Alice, she becomes embroiled in the mystery of his murder. The main suspect is an English professor, who Tally can't think straight about, because she happens to be an ex-flame of Tally's ex-boyfriend Finn Harper. But she turns up dead also, and Alice might be next. So, Tally Jones to the rescue. With ice creams.

Honestly, it's not much of a plot. The twists can be seen coming from a mile away, and I figured out who the killer was faster than you can say Tiramisu. But, I do like Alice and Bree as characters, and I also liked Cal - the cop. We've seen him before, we get to know him better in this book. Tally was also not as obnoxious as she was in the first book, she actually engaged in some sort of detective work which didn't comprise entirely of wrongly confronting random passersby with the crime. And, it was a fast read. Yes, my bar is that low.

This book was better than I expected it to be, considering how horrendous I thought the first one was. Will I read the third book? Maybe, for a challenge, but again, I'm in no great hurry to do so.

(view spoiler)

Ashley Carmichael says

I cute story, and a little more developed than the first. The love triangle is a little trite and I found the ending too predictable, but it was still a fun read and I do truly enjoy the easy read.

Lisa says

A small university and an ice cream shop are connected in a series of murders in a small Texas town. The book was a little hard to get into at first but in the end it was a fun read. The murderer was someone you'd least expect (isn't it always?).

Nanya Srivastava says

ScoopToKill by #WendyLynWatson is second book in Mystery A La Mode. Tally, the protagonist, runs an ice cream shop (A La Mode) in Texas, and her sister, Bree helps her out and so does her niece Alice, a college student. When Alice gets caught in a murder case, Tally puts on her detective shoes and goes snooping. The story is really juvenile and so is the writing. Pretty much everyone is good looking and blonde. This was published in 2010, and yet the characters are baffled by technology that was quite prevalent by then- pendrives and WiFi. I love mysteries, but I wouldn't recommend this one. I give it 2??.

Tina says

Yet another book that I picked up when Borders went out of business. Now I wish that I would have picked up a few more books by Watson.

I enjoyed getting to know the characters in the series. I believe that this is the second book in the series. I could tell that I was missing pieces of the backstory at several points in the book. Nonetheless, I found it to be a very enjoyable book. It reminded me of the series of books by JoAnne Fluke that follows Hannah Swenson, only with ice cream instead of cookies.

Kiera Healy says

This is a frivolous bit of chicklit about an ice-cream parlour owner who "solves" a murder mystery. Tally Jones is an allegedly frumpy (though caught in the middle of a love triangle with two gorgeous men, natch) Texan divorcee propelled into the centre of a mystery when her cousin's daughter's professor's student is found dead. It's a small town, apparently.

Hercule Poirot she ain't - Ms Jones spends most of the novel stumbling aimlessly while the killer jumps up and down in front of her writing I DID IT in blood on the walls. Nancy Drew was smarter than this! It's a frivolous read, but not hugely fun. The ice-cream bit is overplayed: every single person in the novel is described in terms of dessert imagery. This often doesn't work - who has "caramel lips"? There's also a load

of down-home good ol' boy Texan lingo, which reads rather twee. In truth, Texas seems like a horrible place filled with nasty, close-minded, conservative people after reading this. I'm sure it isn't, though. People of Texas, please don't shoot me with your plentiful guns.

Naturally it comes to a fiery head, with Tally only figuring out the truth when the killer is threatening her at gunpoint. Will she survive, or will the murderer feel the need to explain his plan in such mind-numbing detail that she has time to get away?! I wouldn't want to spoil it for you, so I shan't reveal that secret here.

Barbara says

I've been getting tired of the overly snoopy heroines in many cozy mysteries. Tally does end up snooping and solving the mystery, but she is not obnoxious or reckless about it. I hate those heroines that feel they have the right and duty to question people they barely know or don't even know, because they think they can do a better job than the professionals (especially cops) in solving the mystery.

The plot isn't simplistic, either. I think I'll continue with this series.

StillReadingBooks says

Again... I love the cover. I started with Scoop to Kill because I did not have enough time to find I Scream, You Scream (#1 in the series) at the library. I have to tell you I am glad I did. I really enjoyed this book. It is a perfect summer read. Fast-paced plot, likable characters, and just enough twists to keep you reading. The main character (Tally) runs a local ice cream shop and as the story opens she is attending the Honor's Day activities at the local university where her roommate's daughter (Alice) attends. Of course, a murder takes place... Everyone thinks it is Alice's favorite professor, Emily Clowper, that committed the crime. Naturally it is not that easy, but as Tally gets to know Emily and tries to save her life... she finds herself more and more involved in solving the real mystery of who is responsible for the deaths of Brian and Emily.

Like most cozy mysteries, the sub plots also help engage the reader, and the book ends on a little cliff-hanger regarding Tally's love life. That might make me read more.

The only thing that bothered me was the inconstant attempt at the... shall we say... dialect... of Texans. When one of the characters would use a idioms, I found in jarring. To the point, where I had to stop and re-read it. But it wouldn't stop me from reading another, just a weird quirk that I had to get use too. If I had read my copy and not the library's, I would have underlined them.

Vickie says

Ice cream and a mystery? A fun series that I was absolutely delighted to return for a visit. Fun colorful characters in a small Texas town setting with a non-contrived death or two and a amateur sleuth getting involved in a seamless manner. My kind of fun. The story moves quickly and I found myself laughing out loud often enough to have the surrounding people looking my way.

Fair warning, there is a mild sprinkle of colorful language. I didn't mind, but I don't often see it in a cozy. I thought it was kind of nifty and non-gratuitous, but some might choose to not read this one because of

that....you'd be missing a out on a terrific story, fab mystery, many intriguing characters and a cool premise.
Definite recommend.
