



Beaches, Bungalows, and Burglaries

Tonya Kappes

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Time is running out for Mae to prove that she's innocent and nothing like her husband. If only she could get someone to believe her and talk Detective Sharp into looking at other residents who've lost all their savings to Paul's Ponzie scheme before the curtain is closed on this Hollywood namesake.

Beaches, Bungalows, and Burglaries Details

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Author : Tonya Kappes

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From Reader Review Beaches, Bungalows, and Burglaries for online ebook

Cyndie Miller says

Atrocious Grammar

Love the wit and quirky antics. Storyline is pretty good too. I can even forgive the one-sided DNA results. But, oh, the grammar. If you paid for editing, you need to get your money back. You're for your? Up most for utmost? List is too long to name all: subject-verb disagreement, misleading modifiers, conditional phrases without a main clause . . I couldn't concentrate on the story for the want of a red pen.

Elle's Book Blog says

Release Date: May 25, 2018

Genre: Cozy Mystery

Actual Rating: 5 stars

Highly Recommended

After reading a couple of Tonya Kappes cozy mysteries I can officially say that she is now a TOP FAVORITE author. I need to buy all the books! Seriously though, Tonya brings these characters to life. She makes them become a part of you and makes you miss them when the book is finished. The way she describes the setting, in vivid detail, makes you feel like you are actually a part of the scenery. I now want to buy a camper and go to Happy Trails. Finally, the way she describes the people of this small town? Absolutely PERFECT. I not only want to visit Happy Trails in Kentucky myself (so sad it's only a fictional world), but I also want to make friends with people like Dottie and the others. Simply put, I adored this book and am so excited to get further into the series. If you are a cozy mystery lover, this is a must have book! You can read it for free if you are a kindle unlimited subscriber like myself.

A little bit about this endearing cozy mystery: Mae has gone from riches to rags. After her home is raided by the FBI because her husband was a part of some ponzi schemes, she is left divorced and poor. She has no home, no money, and no family to fall back to. Thankfully, her lawyer gives her some news about a place that she owns in Kentucky called Happy Trails RV park. Though she had never heard of the place, she decides to take the "vacation" and go see what this place is all about. She may even be able to sell because she has nothing else.

When Mae gets to Happy Trails, her thoughts on a glorious vacation turn into a nightmare. This is not the place she pictured and it's certainly not what the brochure shows. But she meets some fabulous people, some who had even been affected by her (ex)husbands money schemes, and decides to turn the park around. She feels guilty about everything her ex did and wants to give back to those who had been wronged.

Unfortunately, not to long into her stay, her husband is found dead in the lake! And she needs to find out who the killer is before she is hauled off to jail by sheriff Hank! Will Mae be able to turn this run down park into something bright and beautiful again? Or will she find herself behind bars for murder? You'll have to read to find out!

Overall, I am so excited about this book and the series as a whole because I loved this one so much! I think any fan of cozies is going to want to pick up a copy. If you are new to the genre but want to try it out, Tanya's book are an excellent place to start!

Highly Recommended

Sabine says

My first book by Tonya Kappes and a brand new series. I loved it. Camping and murder! - One of my most favourite combinations.

Mae West loses almost everything she has when her husband Paul is arrested for scamming people out of their savings. Her lawyer is able to prove that she is innocent but she has to leave her house in New York, give up her fancy sports car and all luxuries she has been used to in the past years. The only thing that is left is an old RV and a run down campground in Kentucky.

When her husband escapes prison and is found dead on the campground she becomes the main suspect. She is going to clear her name and rebuild the campground to its old glory.

The lovely inhabitants of Normal, Kentucky and the Happy Grounds campground make this a very cozy and lovely mystery that leaves me wanting more.

I can't wait for the next book in the series to be released....so much fun!!!

Tari says

This was such a fun start to a brand new series! I honestly couldn't put it down and pretty much read it straight through. I knew that a book by Tonya Kappes would be awesome since I've read others of hers and this book did not disappoint!

Mae West, a 30-year-old wife to a 61-year-old businessman thought life was pretty good until he was found running a Ponzi scheme and the FBI took everything away that she owned, lived in or drove. The only thing she now owned was a camper and a campground which was in Normal, KY. Telling that to a girl who may have been born in KY but spent the last 12 years in the lap of luxury in NY was sort of like a death sentence. Mae was still determined to make a go of her new life at the campground. She quickly made friends but soon after she arrived, her ex-husband's body was found floating in the campgrounds lake.

I loved how a former fairly spoiled princess of a person was able to transform into a very caring person who only wanted to make things right with the people that her ex had wronged. Mae made the transition pretty well and while clueless at times, she was still smart and determined to get that campground back on its feet and make it popular again.

I really liked all her new friends, especially Dottie, who might be a little rough around the edges but she was really an ol' softie. I thought the ladies were all so nice to welcome her, a total stranger, and help her get back on her feet by giving her food, cleaning supplies, a job and even a temporary car donated by the local church.

There were plenty of possible suspects but only a few made sense although I did guess who did it. But I'm pretty sure I picked up on some clues along the way to help me. The take down was epic and now it appeared that Mae's only dilemma was two handsome guys who have started to like her. It'll be interesting to see who the lucky man is as the series progresses. I have the next book pre-ordered and can't wait till it releases!

Debbie says

I think this new series by Ms. Kappes is quickly become one of my favorites.

When Mae ends up going from riches to rags almost overnight, finding most people are hating her husband for leaving them in the same condition, she feels like she is left in a whirlwind. When her ex shows up dead Mae feels that she needs to help find the killer as their main suspect is someone that she has grown close to. What I love about Mae is although she is at a loss, she has a small pity party then sucks it up and does what needs to be done.

The other characters in this book are just as likable, some have a few quirks but none of them over the top. A group of them take in Mae as one of their own, which shines through with a strong sense of community that glows through the whole book.

The mystery was excellent, I really didn't want it to be anyone that I met because I liked them all, and with a twist at the end it was not who I thought it to be. I eagerly await the next in this series as this is off to a great start.

*I was lucky enough to have received a copy of this and this is my honest opinion.

Taryn says

In this new series we are introduced to Mae West whose life goes from lavish to lacking over night. You see Mae's husband, now ex, had a huge Ponzi scheme going on until he got caught. Not only did he bilk a bunch of their friends but he also took Mae for everything. When Mae meets with their lawyer she soon learns that the only thing she has left is an RV and a Campground located in Normal, Kentucky. She decides to go to the campground and reevaluate her life before deciding on what she is going to do. When she gets there and learns that it's nothing like the brochure that her lawyer gave her she realizes she'll have to put some work in it to sell it. Along the way she finds out that her ex-husband took money from most of the people in the town of Normal too. Mae wants to do her best to help everyone because of all the pain and suffering that her husband caused. When he escapes from prison and is then found dead in Normal there is no shortage of suspects to be had. Follow along as Mae tries to make a go of it in Normal and figure out who wanted her ex dead the most. This was such a fun and endearing read. If you've never been to the south you'll get a huge dose of it from this book and it's truly worth the time to read. I loved the characters and the feeling that you got from the town of Normal, it just felt like home. I look forward to seeing what happens with Mae and her campground next.

Karen says

I bought Beaches, Bungalows & Burglaries by Tonya Kappes, actually I pre ordered it from Amazon.ca and I was so excited for it to show up on my ipad to read this past weekend. A great first in what I am excitedly anticipating being a long running series. Based in Normal, Kentucky with a wonderful bunch of down to earth characters and a setting that was not seemingly to cozy to begin with but then as the story transforms so

does the setting. I loved the grit, the comedy, the personalities and the predicaments that main character Mae West, finds herself in throughout this mystery and story. Loved everything about this one and especially the cover! I have even preorder the next one from Amazon.ca!

Vanessa says

I am really surprised by all the four- and five-star reviews of this book. I wanted to like this SO much. It started with such promise and humor and I loved the premise but I just could not get past the poor grammar. I should have flown through this quick read, but I found myself constantly rereading passages, trying to decipher run-on sentences, dangling modifiers, incorrect verb tense, and subject-verb disagreements. Then I started highlighting them all on my Kindle! For as prolific as Tonya Kappes is, I would hope not all her books suffer in this way. The grammar got worse as the book went on, as if she was in a hurry to get it finished.

In addition, this really wasn't much of a mystery. Just the MC constantly telling herself and others how she is going to 'make things right.' Not sure if she is trying to convince herself or the reader.

Becky says

I love the idea of this camping series! Can't wait to see what happens next.

Kristina says

Beaches, Bungalows and Burglaries by Tonya Kappes is the first tale in A Camper & Criminals Cozy Mystery series. Mae West's (not the actress) life has been turned upside down. Her husband, Paul duped people into investing in his Ponzi scheme and Mae did not know until the FBI showed up at their house. She has lost her home, car and possessions. Her attorney, after he takes her car keys, states that there are two items that she owns and one of them could help her earn a living. For some reason, Paul put an RV and the Happy Trails Campground in Normal, Kentucky in Mae's name. With no other options, Mae hops into her new home on wheels and heads for Normal. The brochure shows a beautiful campground on a lake and Mae could use a vacation before making plans for her future. Mae arrives at Happy Trails and discovers that the brochure was printed twenty years ago. Mae is surprised to find out that the residents of Happy Trails and Normal were also victims of Paul's nefarious schemes. Mae does not think life can get worse, but then she is approached by Detective Hank Sharp (local FBI agent and park ranger). Paul has escaped from prison and his body has been found floating in Happy Trails gunky lake (covered in green slime). Mae, of course, is at the top of the suspect list, but there is a town full of alternatives. She sets out to find the Paul's killer as well as revitalize Happy Trails. She will need help and the ladies of The Laundry Club are happy to assist. Come along to Normal, Kentucky where life is happily never normal.

Beaches, Bungalows and Burglaries was a delight to read. I found it well-written and entertaining. It has a nice steady pace throughout the whole book. Mae West is an interesting and likeable main character. She would rather wallow in her new home, but she is lacking in clean laundry. That is how Mae meets the Laundry Club ladies whose stories make Mae wants to help those taken advantage of by Paul. Mae, though,

is lacking in the life skills department (laundry, cleaning, cooking, how to use a Keurig). It is a good thing she met Dottie and the other ladies of The Laundry Club are willing to help Mae. The ladies warm up to Mae and set out to help her fix up Happy Trails. The town has a group of diverse characters and shops. I loved Happy Trails and the residents. I like how they come together for dinner and I had not heard of iron skillet smores before this book. There is a hint of romance in the story (a little flirting or interest expressed). I am happy the author did not rush Mae into a relationship. The mystery was straightforward, and I thought the killer stood out like a dog sitting in the middle of a group of cats. Beaches, Bungalows and Burglaries is an amusing story and I am keen to read Deserts, Driving, and Derelicts.

NicoleG says

A brand new series from Tonya Kappes! New quirky characters to get to know but lots of the same Southern charm her books are known for!

Mae West has always believed that if life gives you lemons, you should make lemonade! The only problem is that she's left without even a lemon to her name once all of her assets are seized due to her (ex)husband's scheming misdeeds! The only bright side is that she eventually finds out that she is the (not so)proud owner of a dilapidated campground. Not only is she not welcome in Normal, Kentucky but her ex husband is found murdered after a mysterious escape from prison. Paul had more enemies than friends so there are lots of suspects and Mae takes upon herself to stick her nose in the investigation. Although she seems to warm up to the residents, she might not want to stick around where she's not wanted even if she solves the case. You will definitely end up rooting for Mae to find some new great friends (and maybe a love interest)!

I enjoyed getting to know the characters in this new series and liked that it was a lighthearted cozy with some humor but also great twists and turns that really had me guessing until the very end!

I am looking forward to reading more books in this series.

JoAn says

Beaches, Bungalows and Burglaries by Tonya Kappes was one of those books that as soon I started it I was hooked.

Mae West is plucky, quirky and stubborn. All of which she will need now that she is living in Normal, KY. I absolutely loved the Laundry Club Girls and want to join as soon as I can find Normal, KY.

Mae seems to find her feet with the "girls" help and she's determined to find out who killed her husband after he escaped from prison. A plot that raced, plenty of twists, red herrings and a reveal that I totally did not see coming made this a great cozy mystery. Ms. Kappes' descriptive writing always makes me feel like I've been lucky enough to find a new "home town" to enjoy - even for just a short while. I can't wait to come back to visit again.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. All of the above opinions are my own.

Wulfwyn says

Summer Fun

What an interesting start to a new series by one of my favorite authors. I love the down home feelings I get reading her books. This book did not disappoint me. I can't wait to read the next book in the series. In my opinion there isn't any reason why this book couldn't be read by teen readers or those who prefer not to read strong language.

Betty says

The cover is attractive and invites you to read the book but it is more about Mae West and the wrongs her ex-husband did. I got tired of reading Mae's feeling guilty about the actions of her ex-husband. Tonya Kappes quirky characters are present and the town of Normal is friendly and heartwarming. It needs a good editor. There seems to be a love triangle forming. I do plan on reading the next two books.

Mae West has been living a life of pleasure. The bubble burst when a FBI raid and size everything because her husband was running a Ponzi scene. She has only a campground and an RV left. Arriving at the campground she finds it is rundown and her ex-husband floats up in the lake. She meets with some friendly folks and others that are not so friendly. The ending has a great twist. Will Mae succeed do the restoration of the RV park? I will recommend this book. Recipes and a couple of camping tips are included.

Mary Brown says

Beaches, Bungalows, and Burglaries

A Camper and Criminals Cozy Mystery, Book #1

Tonya Kappes

5 Stars

Synopsis:

Welcome to Normal, Kentucky~ where nothing is normal. A Campers and Criminal Mystery Series is another brainchild of USA Today Bestselling Author Tonya Kappes. If you love her quirky southern characters and small town charm with a mystery to solve, you're going to love her new cozy mystery series!

Mae West, a far cry from the Hollywood actress, has been thrown for a loop. Her plush lifestyle in the big city of New York comes to a screeching halt after the FBI raids her mansion and arrests her husband, Paul West, for a Ponzi scheme that rips people out of millions of dollars.

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take a couple weeks vacation with her toes dipped in the lake. Things aren't always as they appear. The Kentucky Bluegrass is nothing but dirt and the crystal blue lake is murky with green slime on top.

Mae quickly finds out that Happy Trails and the citizens of Normal were also victims of Paul's schemes, making her lower than the lake scum in the residents' eyes. Mae doesn't think things could get much worse, but as luck would have it, Paul West has escaped from prison and is found dead, murdered, floating in the Happy Trails mucky green lake.

Mae is the number one suspect on Detective Hank Sharp's short list. After all, Mae has the perfect motive as a kept wife who has been scorned to ashes, embarrassed to death, and seeking revenge.

Time is running out for Mae to prove that she's innocent and nothing like her husband. If only she could get someone to believe her and talk Detective Sharp into looking at other residents who've lost all their savings to Paul's Ponzi scheme before the curtain is closed on this Hollywood namesake. (Goodreads)

Review:

The characters are well rounded, well developed and three dimensional. Although Mae led a pampered life before her husband's crimes came to light, she is made of strong stuff. She may be down but she is not out. She is willing to do whatever it takes to make things right with the people that her husband scammed. I really enjoyed getting to know the Laundry Club girls, especially Queenie. They were all quirky characters and were very funny. And there is even a potential romantic interest for Mae.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is a quick easy read. The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and while I was reading I could picture in my mind the campground in all of its disrepair. Her descriptions and characters pulled me in right from the beginning and took me on a great ride.

The mystery was well plotted and moved along at a steady pace. There were enough suspects to consider and clues to sift through and I was surprised at who the culprit was. I like when that happens.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy mystery. In fact, all of the series that I have read by this author I have greatly enjoyed. I am looking forward to reading the next book when it is published.
