



# Buried in Buttercream

*G.A. McKeve*

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After a recent brush with death, plus-sized P.I. and bride-to-be Savannah Reid has decided to stop sweating the small stuff. But when an event planner comes in to arrange her wedding, she discovers that murder can ruin even the best laid plans.

## **Buried in Buttercream Details**

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Author : G.A. McKeve

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# From Reader Review Buried in Buttercream for online ebook

## Cara says

Savannah's family was over-the-top annoying in this one, and the mystery solving was a little mushy with all the loving glances.

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## Darlene says

This cozy mystery was a fast read for me. With a likeable protagonist and interesting secondary characters, I intend to go back and start this series from the beginning!

Savannah Reid is a retired police officer, now working as a Private Investigator. Her long-time partner on the force, Detective Sergeant Dirk Coulter, is now her fiancé. She's the oldest of nine kids, raised by their God-fearing grandmother.

After an arsonist torches the community centre where Savannah and Dirk were to exchange their wedding vows, two of Savannah's dear friends (Ryan Stone and John Gibson) offer to pay for a top-notch wedding planner who is also an acquaintance of theirs. Savannah really doesn't need one, as she knows exactly what she wants and how she wants it done, but she hasn't the heart to turn down the kind offer. Savannah's meeting with the wedding planner, Madeline Aberson, doesn't go over too well. In her tell-it-like-it-is attitude, Savannah clues Madeline in that she's only agreeing to her assistance out of courtesy to her friends. Madeline is irritated by the snub, but the two of them manage to work something out. Savannah agrees to allow Madeline to make the arrangements for the wedding to take place at the local country club. Everything is a go and Savannah is about to walk down the aisle when she finds out that one of her dimwitted sisters left her dearly-departed grandfather's wedding ring that she was going to give to Dirk in a trash bag with Savannah's things in the bridal suite. Savannah goes back to her suite and locates the precious ring, but she also finds Madeline's body face-down in the suite's private pool. Poor Savannah! Her wedding is on hold yet again.

I don't normally jump into a long-standing series at the tail end of it, but this book can certainly be read as a standalone. It is mentioned several times throughout the book that Savannah nearly died three months earlier, and the good that came out of that horrific incident is that Savannah and Dirk realized their love for each other and wanted to be together. It was so refreshing to see Savannah and Dirk decide to wait until their wedding night to consummate their relationship! There was no mention as to whether these two remained virgins until their 40s or whether they just decided to wait in terms of their relationship with each other. I like how Dirk is very protective of Savannah, yet knows to stand out of her way! She's a feisty woman, but she's also been traumatized by the incident that left her with five bullet holes. I'm very intrigued by this life-changing event, and I plan to go back to the beginning of the series to watch how Savannah's and Dirk's relationship unfolds. Savannah was forced by an alcoholic mother to take responsibility for raising her siblings, so most of them have been coddled far too much and are too self-centred and self-absorbed. They need to grow up! I really like Savannah's brother, Waycross, and his budding romance with Savannah's assistant, Tammy, is sweet.

Memorable quote:

*“He bent his head, softly kissed the scar, and said, “Every time I see that, I’m going to think how strong my wife is, that she could survive something like that. And I’m going to think how lucky I am that I didn’t lose her that day. I’m the luckiest man in this world.”*

Awwww, every woman should have a man like Dirk! He's definitely a keeper.

*I received a complimentary copy of this book for voluntary review consideration.*

This review was posted on my book blog:

<http://darlenesbooknook.blogspot.ca/2...>

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## **Nora-adrienne says**

Buried in Buttercream

By G.A. McKeve

Copyright April 2012

Publisher: Kensington Books

After a recent brush with death, plus-sized P.I. and bride-to-be Savannah Reid has decided to stop sweating the small stuff. But when an event planner comes in to arrange her wedding, Savannah discovers that murder can ruin even the best laid plans...

Hailed as the wedding planner to the stars, Madeline Aberson has orchestrated some of the most exclusive soirees in Hollywood. But when Madeline becomes embroiled in a nasty divorce, her life falls apart, and rumors swirl that her parties have become total duds. Desperate for work, Madeline finds herself planning far less glamorous affairs, including none other than Savannah Reid’s wedding to Dirk Coulter.

It doesn’t take long for the opinionated Madeline to get on Savannah’s last nerve, and when the big day finally arrives, Savannah can’t wait to send Madeline packing. But when the bride finds Madeline’s body face down in the pool, floating among an elegant array of rose petals, it’s clear that someone has already hastened the diva’s departure. For better or for worse Savannah and Dirk put their wedding on hold, vowing instead to find out who killed Madeline and why...

If it weren't for bad luck, Savannah and Dirk would have no luck at all. As Savannah and Dirk stand in shock, watching the building where they were to be married burning to the ground, with her wedding gown and the bridal party’s dresses burned to cinders. The unhappy couple are discussing the fact that Dirk should not have hit the fireman (a friend of Dirk’s) who stopped him from running back into the building to try and save Savannah’s and the Bridal Party’s dresses.

Jim’s phone rings and he turns away from the unhappy couple to answer it and find out that the fire was a case of arson and that it appeared to be the work of a serial arsonist who they were looking for. Dirk and Savannah decide to help look for a suspect since their training gave them the knowledge that most arsonists stick around to watch their work and get some sick pleasure out of it. They split up and start looking carefully through the crowd. Savannah notices a lone watcher on a high point over the parking lot and slowly approaches from a tangent.

She calls Dirk and tells him she thinks she’s got their guy. She quietly approaches and finds a young man so fixated on the fire below that he is unaware of Savannah’s approach. Noticing a reversed Pentacle on a chain around the suspect’s neck she calls Dirk with her location and that she is sure this is the guy. Long story

short, they collar the guy and he's off to jail.

Dirk and Savannah are now at a loss with how to proceed with their wedding plans. They've spent a bundle and can't afford to be this extravagant a second time. Thankfully they have wonderful friends in John and Ryan. These wonderful guys have decided to gift Savannah with a Wedding Planner to help them find a new venue for their wedding at a price they can manage to squeeze out of their savings.

While everyone has heard of Bridezillas, Madeline is the Planzilla of the worst sort. After Van gets her to actually listen, they manage to find a sort of happy medium on venues and costs. The wedding is back on. Of course while all this is going on, Van's family is ensconced in her small house rubbing on her last nerve and eating her out of house and home while turning the place into a veritable pigsty.

Finally the happy day again arrives, and as Savannah gets ready to walk down the aisle she asks her sister Marietta and asks her if she has Granpa's ring. Marietta looks at her blankly for a second and thinks. Oh, I stuffed it in that big white garbage bag with all your other stuff. Savannah takes off for the Bridal Room praying that the bag is still there, along with the ring she was going to give Dirk.

Entering the room she finds the ring and looking out the French Doors to a patio attached to the Bridal Room. There she sees Madeline face down in the pool DEAD! Calling her sister Marietta to go and get Dirk, she verbally chastises her for arguing. She tells Dirk that he might as well bring Dr. Liu along since she's the Coroner and can begin processing the scene. Another wedding day ruined and a probable murder to solve.

I love this series. I've been a fan since "Just Desserts" came out so many years ago. I am sure that this series will be around for many more years.

FTC Full Disclosure: I received this book from the publisher who only requested a fair and impartial review.

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## **Robert says**

This book deserves 3.5 stars, and for the purposes of Goodreads, I'll round down my overall rating to 3 stars, since it's hard for me to say I really liked this book. Sure, it was an entertainingly light, quick read, that didn't require extensive amounts of brain power. I enjoyed Savannah and Dirk, and the rest of the clan, and it certainly had comic appeal with two wedding misfires, a rambunctious bunch of extended family, and many of the cities in Georgia were represented via character names. I'm sure I missed a few, but Atlanta, Savannah, Marietta, and Macon come to mind. All we needed were Augusta and Athens to round out the clan. Having spent some time in Georgia, and having visited or passed through those four cities, I certainly found it amusing.

What I didn't find nearly amusing, though, were all of the exclamation points. I'll defer to the great Elmore Leonard on this one who said, "Keep your exclamation points under control. You are allowed no more than two or three per 100,000 words of prose." The author went a bit overboard in this case. I admit that I lost count, but I'd say there were probably forty or so in the entire novel, and the prose didn't even reach 100,000 words. Now, these folks are from the south, and having lived in southeastern Virginia, I can honestly say folks enunciate their words a bit more clearly, and are a bit more animated in their speech patterns, but it's probably a few too many when a reader starts counting exclamation points as he's zooming through the prose.

Overall, though, if you enjoy the series, and have read all the Savannah Reid mysteries up to this point, you'll certainly want to add this one to your collection. If you're brand new to the series like me, you may want to start with an earlier Savannah Reid mystery.

While the following in no way influences my rating, I do feel it's worth mentioning that it took nearly four months to receive my First Reads' book, and I would like to share the following experience with you. To give you a bit of perspective, Goodreads suggests it may take as long as six to eight weeks to receive your First Reads wins, but in many cases I've received them in about half that time, and out of thirteen total first reads wins this one certainly takes the cake, as I've been buried in buttercream. I'd also like to mention that I sent the publisher's representative two messages through Goodreads, after waiting what I considered to be an appropriate amount of time, and I never received a response to either one. If it wasn't for the good folks at Goodreads, I'd probably still be without my book. Now, I do realize I received this book for free, but I was more than willing to do my part with an honest review. I suppose, in the end, I should be neither surprised, nor shocked, by what, in some cases, passes for customer service in the publishing industry. To be fair to Kensington, those folks might have decided my message didn't warrant a response, but as I always appreciate good customer service, and don't mind paying a bit more to receive it, I guess I expected more.

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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### **Judy says**

I've read others in this series, but apparently not the one before this one, so Savannah's bullet scars were a surprise to me. The book is all about her attempt to marry her long-time partner and now fiancé Dirk, with the wedding being stopped by a fire at the first venue, and a murder planner of their wedding at the second. After lots of family time with Savannah's overwhelming family visiting from her hometown in the South makes getting the murder solved so the wedding can go on imperative. A good reliable cozy with a bit of a twist at the end (although I did suspect it).

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### **Sheri says**

Reading these books from the latest to the ones that come before answers a lot of questions about the characters and what led them to the events that are happening in the newer versions and now I can't wait to have new ones to read. I love the Savannah Reid mysteries and her group of friends who are part of her private detective agency. But this one where it takes her 3 tries to get married and on the 2nd the wedding planner is killed makes things even worse. To solve that mystery and then finally be wed is a problem. And a house full of brothers, sisters, and family members is very stressful for anyone even Savannah. I recommend this series to mystery lovers of series and one main character with a host of friends.

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### **Stacey Pagan says**

There are several other novels to this series; however, this is my first read by GA McKeveit and what a read it was! I loved it from the first page to the last! Alas, I'm off to the library to start reading from the beginning!

Savannah, a plus-sized P.I., and Dirk have attempted to get married twice, with flops before both weddings were to start (fire at one and mudslide at second). Alas, it's her third attempt (however, "third times the charm" doesn't bode well in this novel) for the happy couple to tie the knot, yet it still doesn't happen! As Savannah is preparing in the bridal suite she finds the wedding planner face down in the garden pond . . .

which leads Dirk and Savannah on a wild goose chase all over the county and her Georgia family keeping camp at her house.

I loved the interaction between Savannah and Dirk, along with her Granny and the rest of the clan from her hometown. When I can place myself into the setting I know the author has done a terrific job! I was sad that they were not able to get hitched, and I honestly was hoping that they would just go to a 24 hour chapel in Vegas. . . Alas, maybe next time?

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### **Luna Raven says**

In the preceding book 'A Decadent Way to Die', the ending was both sad and shocking. Buried in Buttercream picks up three months later into a moment where things are better but disaster seems to following Savannah Reid, PI extraordinaire and her long time best friend who finally tying the knot.

One wedding results in the venue being burned down and the second ends with a murder, leaving Savannah, sadly unwed, forced to put up with her spoiled siblings and their bratty kids in her tiny house much longer than anticipated.

Who killed the wedding plan is the name of the game and unfortunately the suspect list is growing by the minute. Will Savannah ever get to say 'I do' to her man? Will Dirk be able to weed through the suspect and find the killer? Will Granny be forced to smack someone down with a skillet? Will Tammy forgive herself for the past and find a new love?

Get ready for a fun ride to the alter!\*

\*If you haven't read the previous book, you will want to. There are many allusions to it, though none of the characters really talk about it. If you haven't read it, do so!

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### **Laurie Allin says**

Hadn't read a book from this series in a while and I quickly remembered why I like it so much. A quick little mystery with characters that I love! Savannah Reid is part of my personality I wish I could bring more to the surface. Still can't believe she and Dirk tied the knot. Should make for some interesting reading going forward.

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### **Annie says**

[Tammy and Waycross (hide spoiler)]

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## **Brenda says**

Imagine if you will it's your wedding day, and shortly before the nuptials the building that you intend to use burns to the ground, everything gone, well that's what happened to PI Savannah Reid and her beau Dirk Coulter. They decide to try again, and use the services of wedding planner Madeline Aberson, and while she seems to know what she is doing Savannah really doesn't like her. When the big day arrives things seem to be going off without a hitch, well that is until someone finds Madeline's body floating in a pool, right before the bride and groom get to say their I do's. Putting the wedding on hold to try and find the killer, they quickly learn that there is a string of suspects a half a mile long. Can they solve the crime, and perhaps prove that the third time's the charm where weddings are concerned?

I really enjoyed this book! A great little murder mystery that kept wondering who the perp was right up until the end, I actually never figured out who the killer was. I loved the character of Savannah. Her southern dialect and phrases made this book a joy to read, and her quirky family kept the book interesting. She was also struggling with some issues because of some scarring on her body that made her seem very down to earth and real. The author's choice of words easily brought the story to life, allowing me to visualize not only the characters but interactions between the characters not to mention the different settings in the story. The brothel scene really stood out for me! I enjoyed the secondary story that developed between Tammy and Waycross and look forward to seeing where that leads.

I hadn't heard of this series until I picked up this book, not sure how I missed it, but you can bet that I intend to go back and read the series from the beginning! Since it is a series book, I felt like there were things that I was missing, making me wonder what had happened in previous books. A great mystery with a southern flair that kept me turning the pages to see what would happen. I also enjoyed the fact that it was a clean read, no adult language or overly descriptive details of the murder. Just a fun read that will keep you guessing who-dun- it while wondering if Savannah and Dirk will ever get married!

Highly recommended!

Reviewed for [Readersfavorite.com](http://Readersfavorite.com)

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## **Megan says**

This book was okay. I really had to fight myself to finish it, because about a quarter of the way in, I was just really sick of Savannah's cliché Southern speak. Obviously, people love this series as this book seems to have 4 stars, but once again, I disagree with the majority. It was okay, could have been more involved of a plot, and could have been less cliché. Maybe I should have started at book #1 though!

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## **Annette says**

Another excellent addition to a very good series. The author continues to give us a truly well developed characters and plot, with a twist in the mystery. I can't wait to read the next installment. I love Savannah, Dirk, Tammy and Waycross.

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## **Katharine Coggeshall says**

Another fun book by McKeve! Savannah and Dirk's relationship is always so fun and sweet, highlighting what really matters in love. Her characters are so well-developed and detailed. Another good murder mystery.

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## **Donna says**

Another delightful installment in the ever hilarious Savannah Reid series. This one finds all of her relatives gathered for her wedding. She hires a down on her luck wedding planner who ends up murdered. Savannah proceeds to investigate. The ending is pure magic.

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