



Southern Fried

Tonya Kappes

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In the South, it's better when the food is fried and the secrets kept buried...

After the dead body of a beloved Cottonwood resident is found tangled up in an electric fence, Sheriff Kenni Lowry has a hunch that somethin' ain't right. Her investigation heats up with a fierce cook-off competition, a euchre game where the intel is sweeter than the brownies, and a decades old family recipe that may just be the proof in the pudding.

The icing on the cake: Kenni is fighting an attraction to her recently sworn-in deputy sheriff, and election season is hot on her tail. When the killer comes after who she holds most dear, even her poppa's ghostly guidance might not be enough to keep her and her own out of the frying pan.

Southern Fried Details

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From Reader Review Southern Fried for online ebook

Kathleen says

I received this ARC from netgalley and am voluntarily posting a review. This is the first I have read in the Kenni Lowry series. It is number 2 in the series. It is a rather fast read and doesn't drag. I did not anticipate the twist and turns this book would take on the crime but kind of guessed the situation between Finn & Kenni. I would read more in this series. There is humor, insight into small town living and the murder was done in an intriguing fashion.

Mary says

Another great read in the Kenni Lowry Mystery series. Kenni is the sheriff of Cottonwood KY. You are hit with the murder right away in the story. Kenni and Finn receive a call from Myrna about a dead body in her greenhouse. The body is that of Owen and it all seems suspicious to Kenni. She is right and there is a murder to be solved. She is assisted along the way from the former sheriff who happens to be dead and her Grandfather - Poppy! Fun and fast paced read. Can't wait for the next installment.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

I love this series from Tonya Kappes for many reasons. For one thing, it makes me laugh. Kappes has got a small Kentucky town – and all its quirks – down pat. From lines like, “I wasn’t sure, but I think she just blessed my heart without saying it” to the Sweet Adelines (a Baptist Women’s church group), I spend a good deal of time chuckling between the pages of this series.

But I also love these books because Kenni is such an endearing character. She’s tough – sometimes not really as tough as everyone sees her and other times a lot tougher than she thinks she is. But she’s also a little quirky and a little insecure, and she is the only one who can see her Poppa’s ghost (the former sheriff) who pops in and out to help her solve the murder mysteries she encounters. Her budding relationship with her Deputy Sheriff Finn makes me smile and I’m looking forward to seeing where it goes from here.

And lastly? I love these books because the whodunit isn’t all that obvious. Just when I think I’ve figured it out, a new wrench is thrown into the mix and I’m back to square one. Twists and turns are made all the more entertaining by the gossipy-catfighting Euchre players and the equally gossipy dispatcher.

Bottom Line: Southern Fried picks up right after the ending scene in *Fixin to Die* but I think it would still do just fine as a stand alone. Fun characters, a quirky town, and Southern phrases will all keep a smile on your face ... though you may also find yourself swooning at Finn on more than one occasion. Kenni Lowry is one of my fave cozy mystery heroines, and I look forward to joining her on more adventures!

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.)

see my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

Donna Davis says

This fetching little cozy mystery is the second in a series, but I didn't read the first one, and I was able to keep up with it finer than frog hair. You might could, too. I am grateful to Net Galley and Henery Press for the DRC, which I received absolutely free of charge in exchange for this review. But don't you worry none, cause you can buy it now.

Our protagonist is Sheriff Kendrick Lowry, and she tells us the whole story in the first person. The problem starts when Myrna finds Owen in the greenhouse on top of her prize tomatoes. Why did he have to go and die there? She says it took her months to get them that plump, and if you've ever grown great tomatoes—an impossible feat in Seattle, I am sorry to admit—you know it's true.

Sheriff Kendrick, locally known as “Kenni”, is assisted in her law enforcement activities by Poppa. Poppa was the sheriff around these parts, but he's dead now, and his ghost can only appear when she has a case to crack, so in a strange sort of way, this murder is a blessing in disguise. The local stigma against a woman as sheriff in this small Kentucky town is offset by the venerable family tradition Poppa cultivated before he departed.

I believe my favorite part is the day following the discovery of the body, when Lowry arrives to find the crime scene tape destroyed and Myrna moseying around the greenhouse like nothing ever happened. You know this happens in real life, but you never see it in fiction, except here. I also love the part when someone suggests the sheriff call for backup, and she notes that her deputy is out of town, and so exactly who is she supposed to call? Again, fictional cops always seem to have unlimited resources in even the most unlikely situations, and Kappes leaned hard on my funny bone. What a hoot.

A lot of this book doesn't make much sense, but then it doesn't have to. It's a romp. However, if a couple of inconsistencies had been cleared up and a hot-stove issue hadn't been grazed, it would be better still.

Would anyone kill for an okra recipe, for example? (I was told as a child that okra tastes like a bowl of warm snot.) Because there's so much camp in this very funny story, I can't tell whether I should be suspicious of this as motive or not; in the real world I don't see it, but in this story, I feel as if anything goes. And while I love the feminist spirit in the sheriff's assertion that she doesn't cook anything, period, later she goes to try out the secret recipe and I find myself wondering how she knows how to glaze a cast iron pan. This woman doesn't even know how to boil water, and yet a fairly obvious cooking skill that nobody puts into a recipe seems to present no problem at all.

But these are just li'l thangs.

Despite the occasional feminist overtones, there are some tired devices and stereotypes that are harder to disregard. Why does half the story obsess with her crush on her deputy? It's kept light, but the notion that a woman is nothing without a man, while not openly asserted, seems to float in the air. I would have liked to see more women, especially older women, depicted in a positive light. It seems as if every story that features a heroic young woman has to also feature an impossible mother, and so I moaned when she introduced her momma. And there's the “cat fight”, which while there's no denying that the narrative is straight-up hilarious, is also a stereotype that suggests women can't get along once you put us in a room together.

The thing that knocked a star off what would have been a four star review is the place where her Poppa's ghost notes that when he saw Deputy Finn carry Kenni's drunken, unconscious body to her bedroom and put her in her bed, he had feared the deputy was about to "take advantage" of her. The word is rape, and it's never funny. The deputy didn't, but the suggestion, accompanied by the euphemism, left an after-taste in my mouth that I couldn't quite get rid of.

If you can get past these brief but clear obstacles, you will get a lot of laughs out of the main thread here. Kappes has a raucous sense of humor, and I had immersed myself in too many dark stories. I was ready for a good laugh, and this title provided several. But unless your pockets are deep or your interest great, I recommend you get this one cheaply on kindle while you can, or at your local library if available.

Karen says

Last night I finished Tonya Kappes Southern Fried, the second book in her Kenni Lowery Mystery series. I loved book two, this was a great story and this wonderful cozy mystery is filled with Southern charm, manners and absolutely addicting Southern sayings. I really love the way Sheriff Kenni and the ghost of her grandfather work together in this one and I enjoy the new deputy as well. Tonya does a great job of giving the readers what they need, a bit of what they want and enough to make you long for the release of book 3.

Kristina says

Southern Fried by Tonya Kappes is the second book in A Kenni Lowry Mystery series. Kenni Lowry is the sheriff in Cottonwood, Kentucky. Kenni is enjoying time with Finn Vincent, her new deputy and romantic interest, when she is called out to a scene. Kenni arrives at Myrna Savage's greenhouse to find a person face down on her prize tomatoes. Myrna is not a happy camper since she needs those tomatoes for a food competition. When the body is turned over, they discover it is Owen Godbey, Myrna's delivery driver. Myrna owns Petal Pusher Landscaping (she does flower arrangements as well). Owen was a contestant in the food competition along with Myrna. Is someone trying to wipe out the competition? Upon further investigation, Kenni discovers that there is a secret family cookbook in Owen's family. Everyone wants the cookbook, but no one knows where Owen hid it. Kenni, with the help of her newly sworn in deputy, Finn along with Poppa, her ghostly grandfather, set out to get answers and round up the guilty party. When Kenni gets a little too close to the killer, they take something that Kenni loves dearly. Kenni will not stop until she catches the culprit and gets back what belongs to her.

I found Southern Fried to be easy to read and to have a fast pace. It is a humorous novel that is more cozy than mystery. The book is full of quirky characters who love to meddle and gossip (especially Kenni's mother). My favorite character is Poppa, Kenni's grandfather. He is a charming man who dearly loves Kenni and provides keen insight. I hope Poppa will be featured more prominently in future books. While Southern Fried is the second book in the series, it can be read alone. The author provides background information on the main characters and updates the reader on what occurred in *Fixin' to Die*. I give Southern Fried 4 out of 5 stars. I thought the mystery was well crafted. It is complex and there are some twists involved. Those that enjoy figuring out whodunit will enjoy solving this one. I appreciate the entertaining Southern phrases in the book. It will be interesting to see how the re-election campaign plays out in future books. If you are looking

for an amusing cozy mystery novel with a paranormal element, then check out Southern Fried.

Robin Leslie Coxon says

Sheriff Kenni Lowry is back. Sitting on top of the Ferris wheel after dark, at the annual Cottonwood Festival, we are given insight into a developing relationship between Sheriff Kenni Lowry and State Reserve officer Finn Vincent. As Finn begins to explain to Kenni the relationship of the pretty brunette in the picture in his wallet, the cozy moment was interrupted by a call for assistance at Myrna Savage's Petal Pusher's Landscaping greenhouse. As they arrive upon the scene Sheriff Kenni Lowry with the ghost of her grandfather and former sheriff, Elmer Simms, find a body lying inside the greenhouse on top of Myrna's prized tomatoes. The body belongs to Owen Godbey, an employee of Myrna's. Owen is dead but his death doesn't readily exhibit how. Sheriff Kenni as well as Deputy Finn and with the assistance of Poppa's ghost, who only Kenni can see, begin the process of determining the reason behind this death. From the beginning, I found I couldn't put it down. The characters oozed with their Southern charm and the background made you feel like you were right there with them. Tonya Kappes has pulled from her own Southern background to make the book genuine.

Dawn Frazier says

An absolute delight to read, this is book 2 in the series. Kenni Lowry is one of my very favorite characters, and I had so much fun reading this! She is hot on the trail again for a killer, and along for the ride is her deceased grandfather "Poppa". I think he adds so much to the story, it wouldn't be the same without him. Duke the dog is also back, and as lovable as ever. And we can't forget Finn, the hunky deputy sheriff. I love the romance between him and Kenni. There are a lot of twists and turns in this book, it made it hard to put down. I was sad to get to the end of the book, I love these characters so much. I cannot wait for the next in the series! I received an ARC of this book, all opinions are mine.

Missy VanHoose says

I was hooked from the first page!! Tonya Kappes keeps you guessing through the whole story as to "who done it". You will not be disappointed in this book. The great mystery, little bit of romance and of course the southern charm keeps you coming back for more. Definitely looking forward to more adventures from Kenni, Poppa and the rest of the gang in Cottonwood, Ky in the future.

I was fortunate enough to receive a arc copy of Southern Fried for my honest opinion.

Merry Chapman says

A roller coaster fun cozy mystery set in a small town where everyone knows everyone else!

Once again Tonya has hit it out of the park! This is book 2 in the author's Kenni Lowry series and it sure

doesn't disappoint. With her dog Duke by her side and her newly sworn deputy she has to solve another murder mystery in the small town of Cottonwood, KY where every one knows everyone else. Of course she is helped along by the ghost of her grandfather, who was the former sheriff, know to Kenni as Poppa. With lots of laughs, red herrings, twists and turns you are guided through the mystery and Kenni's re-election campaign. So much going on in this small town and can Kenni be falling for the handsome deputy, Finn? Using southern vernacular and charm we cheer for our heroine and are charmed by the small town. Lots of laughs combined with a mystery a re-election challenge by her former deputy this book does not disappoint in any way! Can't wait to see how this series unfolds.

Sarah says

Book 2 in the Kenni Lowry Mystery series.

Gotta love this series! Kenni is a wonderful character and I absolutely LOVE her ghostly grandfather, he is awesome!

The mystery is well written and the characters are fun, the development is steady and the setting is 'typical' small town which is how I like most of my cozy mysteries.

Have books 3 and 4 to read so they're going on my list of 'to-read very soon' cozies, will hopefully start book 3 today but we shall see.

Huge thanks to Tonya Kappes, Henery Press and NetGalley for this copy which I chose to read and all opinions are my own

Lisa Morin says

I really liked this book. Kenni is a great character and I loved the small town feelings and the dynamics with everyone in the town.

When Kenni, the sheriff, is called to a crime scene, she spirals into a whirlwind of family secrets that will tear this case wide open.

Trying to ignore her feelings for her new deputy, Kenni leaves no stone unturned in this cozy mystery.

Having the ghost of her grandpa in the book makes it more fun to read.

I look forward to reading more in the series.

I voluntarily read an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

This is my second trip to Cottonwood and not much has changed. Sheriff Kenni Lowry is still trying to prove she can do her job even to her own mother. When another dead body is found some of the residents blame her for the surge in crime and a retired officer throws his hat into the ring to run against her in the next

election. This doesn't sit well with Poppa, her grandfather, the former sheriff, a ghost, that strives to help her protect the community. Time to use a little Southern wit and charm at a few local events to try to move her investigation along. A cook-off competition seems to connect her suspects but knowing this town it could be any little thing that caused one of the residents to turn on one of their own.

I knew when I loaded this book onto my Kindle it was going to put a smile on my face and it did. The story opens with Kenni and Finn on a Ferris wheel and I am thinking their relationship is about to take a big step but then they receive a call for assistance and the moment is totally lost. When the sheriff arrives at Petal Pusher's Landscaping with her ghostly sidekick they find Owen Godbey dead in the greenhouse, face down in the owner's prize tomatoes. Myrna Savage, the owner seems more concerned about the smashed fruit than she is a dead employee. Soon the investigation takes off and a certain amount of hilarity ensues.

These characters are a pure treasure. Kenni's relationship with her grandfather warms my heart and the man had me laughing out loud more than once. Finn and Kenni work well together and would probably play well together too as soon as they sort out a couple of things. The residents of Cottonwood are an eclectic group, full of p&v as my grandmother used to say. We saw that you don't want to mess with Kenni's mama. It is okay if she tries to talk Kenni out of being Sheriff, but no one else had better say Kenni isn't fit for the job. Talk about a turn around.

The murder mystery seems to revolve around a cookbook. Everyone is trying to find it because it contains a very important secret, something about okra. There are several twists and turns and I started to put things together a little quicker than Kenni, but not by much. I found the plot to be very clever and entertaining.

If you like your cozies with a bit of Southern sass and charm then this is the perfect story for you. It is sure to tickle your funny bone too.

Sherry Fundin says

Tonya Kappes had me laughing from the opening pages of Southern Fried, when Kenni Lowry is shushing her ghost.

Kenni is the Sheriff of the small of Cottonwood and the ghost is her Grandfather. It was no surprise that she carried a gun, but there were those who frowned on her being the Sheriff.

Even though Cottonwood is a small town, the characters are far from being small.

The story contains funny quotes and unique characters that will have you smiling and laughing, and shaking your head.

"It's hotter than a prostitute's doorknob on pay day in here."

Murder, the supernatural and humor are the norm in a Tonya Kappes novel.

There are plenty of suspects to keep me guessing, with some romance on the side and a lovable hound dog that, even though he's not a guard dog, acts like one.

The small town of Cottonwood is like all small towns. Even with all the personality conflicts and

disagreements, the people come together in the end.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of Southern Fried by Tonya Kappes.

To see more visit fundinmental

Jennifer Diczko says

I don't think anyone writes Southern charm and Southern mystery like this author. Kenni is back and is still serving as sheriff, along with her Poppa, although she is the only one that can see him. But another murder has turned up and she is going to have to figure out who turned to murder this time. This second book was just as great as the first one. So grab your favorite blanket and curl up into your reading spot for a touch of southern charm mystery.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.
