



Hog Wild

Cathy Pickens

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A runaway pig is about as explosive a piece of news as there is to be found in Dacus at the moment. But shortly after Avery Andrews has returned to her hometown, all hell breaks loose.

Her new office is still in disorder when Maggy Avinger arrives, clutching a copy of her dead husband's letter to his lawyer. He's made arrangements for an enormous stone angel to be erected at his grave and for the angel's plaque to read that Maggy murdered him. His doctor says Harden died of lung cancer, so he's really got some nerve. Plus--and what really bothers Maggy--the garish angel is in such bad taste!

Avery promises to look into it. In the meantime, Maggy invites her to a native plant rescue at the site of a new development. A dead body is found crammed into an abandoned mine hole and a series of gruesome deaths follow. Avery discovers that the victims had received anonymous letters accusing them of various ethical shortcomings. With the help of an attractive reporter who seems too good for her father's humble paper, Avery seeks to find a connection between the disasters and nab a killer.

This is the third in a distinctly charming series that keeps getting stronger and funnier with every book. Pickens's voice is nothing short of delightful as she develops these characters, all the more endearing for their eccentricities. Whether moonpies are a staple of one's diet or not, readers will feel right at home. In the best of ways.

Hog Wild Details

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Author : Cathy Pickens

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From Reader Review Hog Wild for online ebook

Sandy Wilson says

Enjoyed it. Didn't see the end coming until late in the story.

Gwenette says

This was pretty good. I read the next book in this series first, and I really wish I'd read them in order. The angel statue that's mentioned at the beginning of the next book is explained here, and how the main character ended up sharing office space with an investment counselor in a former funeral parlor is explained in the preceding book. (That'll be my next read.) After my last foray into reading murder mysteries, I wasn't sure I wanted to tackle this one, but it was much better, featuring a character who actually had a reason to solve crimes. Plus, it's set in the South, which is near and dear to my heart, so it gets bonus points for location, location, location.

Kat Chan says

[Unusual as well, the protagonist actually doesn't solve anything. Instead, a written confession explains everything. (hide spoiler)]

Erika says

I enjoyed this one WAY more than the second. It was fun to be back in Dacus, the whole feel of the stories there are just different than the one she based in Charleston.

I like how naturally she makes the overlapping and at first unrelated mysteries seem to merge and grow naturally, so far they have never really felt forced. And I love how she includes storylines that have nothing to do with the main mystery as well.

It's also been a real pleasure to have an inside look into a character as she grows, changes and makes realizations about herself, her family and what and who she wants to be. This also feels so organic and natural, like watching a real person grow and unfold vs. a created character. And I LOVE her family.

My one quibble is one that I find common in most mysteries. When seemingly intelligent people behave in stupid ways.

When faced with a possible personal threat to herself and others, a threat she recognized and knew could be serious....she goes to the realators office to look for a place to live or on other errands that really didn't have to be done just quite at that time. Putting things off till the end when it was more convenient for the storyline. I hate it when authors do that.

But that is my only quibble about this book, which overall isn't to bad.

This series has been one of my luckiest finds and I am so grateful to the librarian who directed me to them.

Amanda says

A great laugh

Ainsley says

Hello twists and turns with small town charm. This book started off with chills but thrills but ended more on a well rounded rather than a spine tingling note. I thought I would find that disappointing but it actually wasn't. It certainly didn't surpass any expectations or leave me stunned and thinking about the ending of the book for days but not all books should do that, this is a meat and veg kinda book, it fills you up, passes the time and is satisfying but isn't anything stand out or gourmet.

Jennifer Hodges Young says

This is a nice cozy mystery where Avery is learning how to move from big city, big firm law to the bread and butter of small town law. In this book a sleazy housing developer is trying to buy out property from one of the older residents in town. This leads Avery to a reporter who has more of a history than she knows and his hot button is environmental damage done by large corporations destroying the land to make a profit. A few murders later Avery has to come to terms with the knowledge that first impressions don't always tell the truth and she has to uncover who and why the murders happen.

Susan says

Another wild tale of Avery Andrews and this time she is back in Dacus and the bodies are piling up. There is a wild pig on the loose and a beautiful angel who needs a home. A developer is trying to pull a fast one in Dacus and someone is sending poison pen letters. Even Avery gets one. Then the bodies begin to turn up, killed horribly and no one knows who...

These are more than cozies... they are tough suspense thrillers in many ways as well. I do wish Ms. Pickens had written more of them.

Madelyn says

Another Southern Fried Mystery book. Avery Andrews, attorney, has moved back to her hometown of Dacus, South Carolina. She is setting up her law office. Many interesting things are happening. A native

plant rescue, a pig on the loose, and a new reporter for her dad's newspaper are some of the activities that are going on. The book keeps one guessing until the end.

Fredrick Danysh says

When Harden Avinger dies he leaves a request that the accusation that his wife poisoned her carved on a giant angel for his tombstone. A pot-bellied pig is on the loose in Dacus frustrating the sheriff's department. Soon lawyer Avery Andrews has left her big city practice to return home and is soon involved in a series of murders.

Shonda Franks says

I am starting this book today and hoping that it goes down more smooth than the last book by this author. Here goes nothing....just took forever to finish it. Just barely made my book challenge. Started the last book in this series last night. Fingers crossed it takes me less than a week to read....

Debbie Maskus says

In this 3rd of the Southern Fried series set in South Carolina, Avery has a full plate with many "would-be" clients. Following the Southern tradition of quirky characters and homespun humor, the story also highlights the plight of nature against humans. Avery and the town of Dacus, reel under the discovery of three murders, and the sighting of Bambi, a pig running amok. Pickens story is a gentle mystery, devoid of graphic corpses and graphic sex. The tale is one that could be read aloud and no one would blush. A refreshing look at life as seen in "Mayberry".

Book Concierge says

This misses the mark. Pickens is trying too hard, and has thrown in everything but the kitchen sink. Lots of loose end. No reason at all for several events. I don't think I'll read any more of the series.

Val says

Comedy. Drama. That pretty much sums up these books so far. The best so far in the series but there is one thing missing... Will Avery ever have a love interest?

Lois says

The pig has nothing to do with anything.

The murders are barely strung together with very little in the way of red herrings. The motivation isn't believable, and there is no climactic confrontation with the killer.

The possible romance is developing waaay too slowly, with no smoldering, let alone sizzle, going with *anyone.* The best relationship Avery has is with a deputy, who can't be the love interest because he has a gut--and might possibly be married.
