



Stripped Bare

Shannon Baker

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Stripped Bare by Shannon Baker is "A must read" (Alex Kava, *New York Times* bestselling author) that stars a female Longmire in the atmospheric Nebraska Sandhills.

Kate Fox is living the dream. She's married to Grand County Sheriff Ted Conner, the heir to her beloved Nebraska Sandhills cattle ranch, where they live with Kate's orphaned teenage niece, Carly. With the support of the well-connected Fox Clan, which includes Kate's eight boisterous and interfering siblings, Ted's reelection as Grand County Sheriff is virtually assured. That leaves Kate to the solitude and satisfaction of Frog Creek, her own slice of heaven.

One night Kate answers a shattering phone call from Roxy at the Bar J. Carly's granddad Eldon, owner of the ranch, is dead and Ted has been shot and may never walk again. Kate vows to find the killer. She soon discovers Ted responded so quickly to the scene because he was already at the Bar J . . . in Roxy's bed. And to add to her woes, Carly has gone missing.

Kate finds out that Eldon was considering selling his ranch to an obscenely rich environmentalist. Some in town hate the idea of an outsider buying up land, others are desperate to sell . . . and some might kill to get their way. As she becomes the victim of several "accidents," Kate knows she must find the killer before it's too late. . . .

Stripped Bare Details

Date : Published September 6th 2016 by Forge Books

ISBN : 9780765385444

Author : Shannon Baker

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Mystery, Adult, Crime

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From Reader Review Stripped Bare for online ebook

Emily says

Kate Fox believed she was living the dream, her marriage to Sheriff Ted Conner was wonderful and running the cattle ranch kept her invigorated. When Kate is called to a shooting and murder that involved her husband, she is immediately by his side. Finding out Ted has survived she can breathe again, but she is worried about Carly who is missing. Carly is under her care and close to moving out in the world, but with a murder and Ted becoming a suspect Kate is reeling. As the dominoes fall, secrets are revealed and Kate is not sure she will ever be the same again.

Fast paced action packed suspense story. There are moments in this book that you feel for Kate and just want to give her a hug. I like how the story unfolded had me guessing who done it until the very end. I am not sure if this will lead to more books with Kate Fox as the star, but I could definitely see more books in the future.

Judi says

I really enjoyed this book and can't wait for the next adventure of Kate. Kate Fox is married to the town's sheriff and life is pretty good for her and him. Her niece, Carly, lives with them. Kate has lived in the town all her life and everyone knows everyone. She runs the farm and loves it..But now things are changing, when she gets a call that her husband has been shot and Carly's Grandfather is dead. As she rushes to the scene, they are taking her husband to the hospital and they have questions on whether he shot the grandfather.

Rushing to the hospital to find out if her husband is still alive, she runs into her husband's old girlfriend, and overhears her talking..Yep, her husband has been having an affair with his old girlfriend.

If things aren't already bad enough, Kate might be pregnant. If she leaves her husband, she will lose her beloved farm. So Kate does the only things she knows to do, find out who shot the grandfather. But Carly is now missing too and maybe has run off with her boyfriend.

As you can see, this is a fast moving book that I think you will love and can't wait for the next one.

Kelly says

I really liked the characters in this series outing! Looking forward to the second that comes out in October!

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

STRIPPED BARE

(Kate Fox: #1)

Written by Shannon Baker

September 6, 2016; 288 Pages
Forge Books
Genre: romantic suspense, mystery

(I received an ARC from the EDELWEISS in exchange for an honest review.)

★★1/2

Kate Fox, call me Kate Connors, loves working and living on Nebraska Sandhills cattle ranch. The heir, who is also her husband and the Sheriff, is the love of her life. To complete their family is her orphaned teenage niece. Things are going well...till her husband is shot and may also be the one who killed her niece's grandfather. With the election for Sheriff coming up she also has to step up for at the debates. With everything on her plate can she solve the murder too?

This novel tries to be a "western" Stephanie Plum series. Right from the beginning you kind of know things are not what they seem to Kate. You want to feel sorry for her but she just doesn't evoke sympathy from readers. I also found this book a bit confusing at times...she mentions the name "Elvis" but don't know who that is right off...and people in the town also gets a bit muddled as everyone seems to be "tied" to everyone at some point. It caused me to reread many passages and get a bit frustrated with the book. I found some things to be a bit unrealistic as things do not get explained. The ending of the book does set up the book but unfortunately, I am going to pass on rest of the series. I was able to finish the book and did feel better that I figured out the killer. I see there are quite a few positive reviews so this may just be my opinion. You may want to give it a two chapter test as it stays the same throughout the book.

Coleen says

Surprise! I liked the ending, which is actually unusual for me.

The story of Kate Fox, married to the Sheriff in Grand County, Nebraska, is an interesting one, and moves right along in the mystery of a murder and shooting. The problem for me was that I couldn't keep track of all of the folks and their various alibis and their relationships and their motives for or against having been involved. Even towards the end, where it looked like there might be some unveiling of what had 'really' happened, things got downright confusing!

Nevertheless, there was an explanation of sorts, and that was that! As noted, however, there was a 'bit' more, and I liked the ending.

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Barbara Q says

Well, the author has promise and I DID finish this book. The milieu (Nebraska's Sandhills) is beautifully described; the characters pretty good; the plot OK. But there are too many hyperbolic verbs and too many sentences like this (not a direct quote but you get the idea):

I put on my old leather gloves, walked across the faded linoleum floor, grasped the doorknob, pulled open the door and walked onto the wooden back porch.

A lot of unnecessary simplistic wordiness, but I will try at least one more Kate Fox novel as I liked her character.

Wisteriouswoman says

The biggest problem with this book for me was that I read 'Dark Signals' first. This series needs to be read in the correct order otherwise you read along feeling like you know all the surprises. I enjoy reading about Nebraska so much! It is so refreshing to hear about a place I've never been to. The big family background is interesting and the artistic mother with bipolar adds a bit of fun.

One thing I like about the main character is how she contrasts with Roxy the woman her husband is sleeping with. It is easier for me to respect someone who gets up at all hours of the night to check on her birthing cows than someone who uses a portable curling iron when her hair gets a bit mussed up. Often when I think about my appearance being less than stellar I ask myself, 'would I care if I was out on a ranch?'

I felt a bit uncomfortable about the situation with the niece--Kate always talks about her but I would have liked to get to know her as a character. The plot wasn't that interesting and I didn't think the ending was satisfying because there were too many characters that are brought into the story without the reader getting to know much about them.

The 4 star rating is because I like the gutsiness of the main character and the feeling of living in the Sandhills that the book portrays including insightful sayings by Kate's mother and father.

I look forward to reading more about Kate Fox. Like that gal!

Sally says

Stripped Bare is the perfect start to what promises to be an excellent series. It's the kind of book that has you rushing to get to the end but then immediately looking for the next in the series because you don't want to leave Kate Fox and the Nebraska Sandhills. Kate felt lucky to have won Ted's heart and thought her life was pretty perfect, but when her orphaned niece Carly's grandfather Eldon is killed and Kate's husband Ted is shot, Kate learns of Ted's deception and wonders if anything was ever real. Ted is a suspect in Eldon's murder. Even though he's deceived her, Kate is certain Ted is innocent and sets out to prove it and to find out what really happened.

Kate is rough-edged and doesn't always do the safest, smartest thing. And as soon as she starts investigating attempts are made on her life. But she's smart and brave and determined and I couldn't help but like her. Her large family is quirky enough for you to want this series to go on just so you can get to know them all better. But quirky or not, the Fox family sticks together. And they are all in Kate's corner as she tries to find out what happened to Ted and Eldon. She loves the ranch and she loves Ted, but will she be able to keep either of them? As the story moves along Kate realizes that she is possibly the only one who didn't know what was going on with Ted and Roxy. Ted begs her to stay with him and Kate agonizes over her decision, a decision we don't learn until the very end of the story.

Stripped Bare is a good strong mystery, with many villains and many clues, but you'll be lucky if you figure it out and aren't surprised at the ending. It's a great read and great start to a series. I'll be reading more.

Kathleen says

In Stripped Bare, the first book in the Kate Fox Mystery series, author Shannon Baker weaves an intriguing mystery tale that follows the amateur sleuth adventures of cattle rancher Kate Fox Conner, as she tries to prove the innocence of her husband, Sheriff Ted Conner, and niece Carly Edwards, who have become person of interests in the murder of Carly's grandfather, cattle rancher Eldon Edwards.

Kate Fox Conner's life revolves around working on the Frog Creek cattle ranch and supporting her husband of eight years, Grand Country Sheriff Ted Conner. Kate's life is turned upside down when Ted is shot at the murder scene of local cattle rancher Eldon Edwards. Kate finds out that Ted is having an affair with Roxy Edwards, his ex-girlfriend and Eldon's daughter-in-law. And if that isn't enough, Eldon's granddaughter and Kate's niece Carly is also missing, leaving authorities to list both Ted and Carly as person of interests in Eldon's murder. Concern for her husband and niece leads Kate to embark on an amateur investigative adventure to clear their name and find the real killer, even when danger lurks in their Nebraska Sandhills community.

Stripped Bare is an intriguing whodunit tale that easily peaked my interest. This riveting tale has enough quirky characters, witty banter and humor, drama, secrets, betrayals, a growing list of suspects, and surprising twists and turns, that will easily keep you guessing the identity of the murderer. You can't help but get caught up in the drama and calamity that ensues as Kate tries to solve the murder and prove Ted and Carly's innocence. Kate's amateur investigative adventure unfolds with a wonderful balance of comedy, drama, and suspense, that easily left me wanting more. I loved the surprise ending, and I can't wait to read the next installment of this sassy lady's adventures!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much I really enjoyed the author's rich description of the midwestern setting. The author transports the reader to the rustic Nebraska Sandhills small town of Hodgekiss surrounded by cattle ranches, railroad tracks, the large Fox clan and memorable townsfolk.

Stripped Bare is a fast-paced suspenseful tale that mystery fans will enjoy reading.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book review promotion by Roger Charlie Publicity.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Jodi says

I think I went into this book with the wrong expectation. I read somewhere that this was like the Craig Johnson Walt Longmire series but set in Nebraska. It is not anything like Walt Longmire! It reads more like a cozy mystery with an amateur sleuth. I wish I would have known that going in, as I think it may have changed my impression of the book. I really liked the setting, which is the Sandhills of Nebraska. The

population is sparse and most are related to the protagonist Kate Fox. She is married to the county sheriff, and works his cattle farm and helps him with an investigation if one happens. The book starts with Kate's husband being shot at the Bar J ranch, along with the owner of the Bar J. Kate sets out to find out who shot her husband and Eldon.

Mike Schneider says

A well-done murder mystery set in the rural west.

Penny says

Thanks to Goodreads for selecting my name to receive a free copy of Stripped Bare, by Shannon Baker. This is an great book, with lots of interesting characters and plenty of action to keep you reading. I always try and guess how a book will end, but I missed on this one. Absolutely loved the ending – very fitting. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to read any books written by Shannon Baker, but after reading this book, I plan on purchasing other books written by her.

Jenny says

An intelligent mystery driven by unique relationships, colorful/relatable characters, and small town charm. Pieces of the novel may be hard to swallow, however a relevant plot pushed reader to a satisfying climax. Superior gem incorporated for book two. Three and ½ stars for Baker's Stripped Bare.

Deborah Ledford says

Quite a captivating first book of a new mystery series. Heroine, Kate Fox, leads a cast of compelling characters and there are enough capable villains to consider, which makes STRIPPED BARE a very satisfying journey.

I've never personally visited Nebraska, so I appreciated descriptions of the featured locations, so rich and layered I felt like I slipped into the boots of each character and walked comfortably in their world. Looking forward to following more wild rides Ms. Baker will come up with.

J.A. Kazimer says

Think you know whodunit? You don't.

At least I didn't, and I'm usually at the top of the mystery solving game.

I've read some of the reviews, saying Kate, the main character is unlikable. To me, she was not so much likable as smart which beats likability anytime. I wanted a ball-buster heroine, and I got one.

The story is well paced, action packed, and entertaining to the last page. I highly suggest reading it.
