



## Ax To Grind

*Tonya Kappes*

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## Ax To Grind Tonya Kappes

Southerners keep their secrets swept under the rug, but what happens when that rug goes up for sale?

Bestselling author Berlye Stone, the most famous citizen to ever come out of Cottonwood, Kentucky, has died and put all her worldly possessions up for auction, but not without leaving one more manuscript behind. A hidden tell-all about Cottonwood that's got more gossip than a ladies' luncheon.

When Berlye's assistant turns up with an ax in her back and the only witness is in a coma, Sheriff Kenni Lowry reckons someone in town will do anything to keep the manuscript from seeing the light of day. Her poppa's ghost returns to help piece together the life of the Berlye he once knew, but his memory's a little foggy, and any misstep could cause them a world of trouble. With the help of Deputy Finn Vincent, can Kenni sort through the secrets buried in Berlye's books, or will this be her final chapter?

## Ax To Grind Details

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Author : Tonya Kappes

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## From Reader Review Ax To Grind for online ebook

### **Yvonne Taylor says**

This book was GREAT!!!

Kenni Lowery is the Sheriff of Cottonwood, Kentucky.

When writer Beryle Stone dies after returning to her home town, everyone is going crazy about this last manuscript she wrote. Cottonwood is full of secrets, and someone is out trying to make sure these secrets stay buried. All of Beryles items will be up for sale, someone is sure that it is hidden in a piece of furniture. Cecily Hoover, Beryles assistant is found dead and someone else is found unconscious. It is up to Kenni along with the help of her deputy Finn Vincent, and the ghost of her Poppa to find the manuscript, and the killer before someone else dies.

I love reading about these characters. They are so much fun!! I was very excited to receive an advanced copy for an honest review. I look forward to reading more in this series!!!

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### **NicoleG says**

Well bless your heart! You want to take a romp through Cottonwood, Kentucky? Go right ahead. Oh, be careful of the ax wielding killer who murdered Beryle Stone's assistant and almost killed Paige, Lonnie's wife (that no good Sheriff wannabe!!). Also, make sure you don't do anything in this town that you wouldn't want gossiped about and put in a tell-all book!! Oh, and don't forget Poppa the ghost! But that's ok, only Kenni can see him! And it's a good thing too because he helps her solve mysteries! All in all, this book is a great read so grab a glass of sweet tea and a plate of mama's beans and cornbread and sit back and enjoy this 3rd book in the Kenni Lowry mystery series!! I am eagerly awaiting the next book in the series.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book.

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### **Betty says**

The third book in the Kenni Lowry series. Noted author, Beryle Stone has died and her estate is being sold and auction off in Cottonwood Kentucky. Kenni is asked to provide police protection for the estate. Beetle wrote a novel that will tell all about the town before her death. The manuscript is missing and someone is searching for it. Poppa ghost is present again and Kenni flirts with Finn Vincent, her deputy. Lonnie, her former deputy is running for sheriff. Duke is honor by the town for saving Kenni's life. The events will take Jenni in a circle as she struggled to make since of what is happening. The ending will surprise I recommend this book and series.

?Disclosure: I received a free copy from Henery Press through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

When local author Beryle Stone dies, her home and all its contents are being put up for auction. When Beryle's assistant shows up in town, she demands that Sheriff Kenni Lowry put security around the house. Apparently, there is a tell all hidden somewhere and it needs to be found before it is stolen. With Poppa showing up, Kenni knows that there is going to be a murder, something she does not need with an election coming up in the next year. When the assistant is found dead in an alley with an axe in her back, and the wife of the man running against Kenni is wounded by the same axe and ends up in a coma, Kenni is at a loss as to what has happened. With the ghost of her Poppa helping her as well as handsome deputy Finn, Kenni knows she had better solve this case soon! While this is going on the election has divided the town between Kenni and her former deputy, Lonnie.

I love the characters that inhabit this fictional town. Kenni Lowry is a strong female lead, who just happens to be the sheriff of Cottonwood, Kentucky. She has a sexy, new deputy who is driving her crazy in a good way and is talking about buying a house and putting down permanent roots in Cottonwood. I love her dog, Duke who loves nothing more than belly rubs and dog treats. Poppa is a great character, even though he is a ghost. He used to be the sheriff of Cottonwood while she was growing up and even though he's been dead for several years he's still pretty much in the know about the citizens of Cottonwood and has helped her solve a few crimes in past books. Kenni is the only one who can see or communicate with him and as long as she remembers not to talk to him while others are watching, all is well. Her mother is the typical southern belle, who has no boundaries at all when it comes to Kenni and her job as sheriff. There are also the "Henny-Hens" and their rumor mill along with all the business owners that round out the town. Tonya Kappes is one of my favorite cozy authors and she always tells a great story with plenty of suspense and twists in it. The story moved quickly with a great plot, some humour and a touch of romance. I always love a mystery when I don't figure out the culprit, and this one was a nice surprise, yet the motive and clues all fit by the end. I definitely recommend this book to all cozy mystery lovers, especially if you like a Southern Mystery.

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### **Sandy Bartles says**

This is Book Three in the Kenni Lowry Mystery series. Sheriff Kenni Lowry has help in solving her murder mysteries, and not just from her deputy, Finn. Every time a murder happens in Cottonwood, her late grandfather's ghost makes an appearance. The great thing about it is he was sheriff before her. He can be funny and make you laugh a lot. Sometimes that might not be such a great thing since Kenni is the only one who can see him! This author has a way with her characters. They are very distinct and easily stand out in their own ways. I loved this book and especially loved the ending. Come on Book Four!

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley.

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### **Tari says**

Sheriff Kenni Lowry has an election coming up so the last thing she needs on her hands is the murder of a local author's assistant right before the big estate sale at that author's house. Her Poppa always shows up when there's a murder but at first there was nothing so Kenni wondered just when this was going to happen. She didn't have to wonder very long!

With the ghost of her Poppa helping her as well as handsome deputy Finn, Kenni knows she had better crack this case soon! Other fun side stories include Finn buying a house on Kenni's street and the town being

somewhat divided on the election which is between Kenni and her former deputy, Lonnie.

This was an awesome installment in this series! Tonya Kappes is one of my favorite authors and she always tells a great story with plenty of suspense and twists in it. I didn't guess the killer this time either. And...I absolutely loved the ending! You're just going to have to read it and see what happens!

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### **Sophia says**

I've seen a few glowing reviews for the author's Ghostly Southern series and this has been my year to explore the cozy mysteries so when I spotted this one with its fall-flavored small town setting and mild paranormal elements, I leaped at the opportunity.

Ax to Grind is the third book in the Kenni Lowry series, but it worked just fine getting it out of order. I was able to see how characters and certain plot threads had carried through the series, but it was easy to pick this one up and read.

I'm a sucker for small town settings and humorous tones to the writing so right away I was prepared to settle in and enjoy. Which I did. The main character, Kenni, is the town sheriff. She's got a bossy, nosy mother, an election campaign, busy body town people, and a growing attraction for her new deputy, and then her granddad's ghost appears as the harbinger to a murder.

The mystery in this one was a nice little challenge, but its definitely light and cozy in feel to the story that is equally occupied with other plot threads. I enjoyed following Kenni around town as she worked to put out personal and political fires right along with working on the case with Finn, her deputy. The attraction to Finn is distracting to her, but not unwelcome. It seems like it will be a slow-build ongoing thread through the series.

The scenes with her mother just cracked me up- that woman, much of the town residents, and poppa's ghost were over the top in a fun way.

I didn't actually solve the mystery before the reveal. I had suspicions of the who and how, but had no clue about the why.

My first outing with the author and this series has increased my desire to get my hands on more of her books. I definitely want to go back and get the two earlier ones in this series and then progress to the other series. I think this would be a hit with cozy mystery fans who don't mind a pinch of paranormal and a quirky small town setting.

I rec'd this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sheryl says**

This is book three of the Kenni Lowery Mystery Series by Tonni Kappes and its another winner. What is not to love when you have a strong female lead, Kenni who just happens to be the sheriff of Cottonwood, Kentucky where her office with its single cell is located in the back room of a diner on Main Street right in

the middle of downtown? Her new sexy deputy is driving her crazy in a good way, plus she has her faithful companion, Duke who loves nothing more than belly rubs and dog treats. She can also communicate with her Poppa who was sheriff of Cottonwood while she growing up and even though he's been dead for several years he's still pretty much in the know about the fine citizens of Cottonwood. He has helped her solve a few crimes in the past, the hard part is remembering while they are chatting away that no one can see him and it makes her look rather odd talking to herself in public. Her mother is the typical southern belle, which has no boundaries at all when it comes to Kenni and her job as sheriff. I love the way the characters interact with each other, it is so funny between the "Henny-Hens" rumor mill and the weekly girl's night card game. The one thing that did take Kenni by surprise was when the town's famous resident, Beryl who happened to be a writer of the bodice ripping romance genre passes away and she finds out there will be a rather large estate sale. Not only that but, Beryl's Assistant, Cecily is convinced that there is a tale all manuscript that is hidden among Beryl's items and it needs to be returned to her publisher and fast before someone else gets their hands on it. Before things can get out of hand between her new deputy and herself, they find themselves interrupting a burglary and then stumble over a body behind one of Kenni's good friend Ruby's, Antique shop who is going also the executor of Beryl's estate.

I really had a good time reading the latest book in this series and I am looking forward to the next one. This series is laugh out loud funny and we all need a good laugh! I would like to thank the publisher and NetGalley for the providing me with an e-galley of this book for my honest review.

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### **Laura Thomas says**

Set in the small southern town of Cottonwood, Kentucky, *Ax To Grind* is the third in the Kenni Lowry Mystery series. Having enjoyed the first two books and formed strong attachments to many of the charming and eccentric characters, I was psyched to see what was happening now.

The town's celebrity author, Berlye Stone, recently passed away and there's to be an estate sale for all of her belongings. Sounds exciting. Even more thrilling is that there's supposed to be an unpublished manuscript, Berlye's last book, hidden in her belongings. You can imagine what comes next.

Yep. Kenni and her sexy deputy, Finn, answer an alarm and discover Berlye's estate executor, dead. The race is on to find the manuscript before bodies start piling up. Seems the tranquility Cottonwood has been enjoying has come to a deadly end.

I just love Kenni. She's a pickle and such a southern rebel. She defies the stereotype southern belle, choosing to serve the law and dish it out when necessary. She loves her family, her sweetie and four-legged companion, Duke, and wishes her deputy Finn, might be a sweetie of the two-legged kind.

Almost forgot the ghost. Kenni's Poppa is still hanging around and uses his knowledge to help her solve the case. She keeps forgetting not to talk to him in public as the town spies her talking to herself and think she's a bitty around the bend.

As with most small towns, there's plenty of characters in all guises to keep you entertained and laughing out loud. The mystery keeps you guessing, and the brush with romance adds some titillation to the story.

Tonya delivers another winner. And what's more fun than a mystery about a writer and a missing manuscript.

If you haven't read the first two books, no worries. You can jump in here and get the skinny about the town and characters fairly quickly. I'd recommend you read them though. Why miss out on all that fun.

I received a complimentary copy. My review is voluntarily given.

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### **Jessica Robbins says**

Complete review will be posted on my blog on September 20, 2017 <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogspot.com/2017/09/ax-to-grind-tonya-kappes-kenni-lowry-series-book-3.html>

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### **Rosemary Standeven says**

This is a slow burning detective novel that will appeal to Midsomer Murders and Agatha Christie fans. It also has a touch of Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) and Lassie about it, as the sheriff, Kenni Lowry, is greatly helped out by the ghost of her grandfather, Poppa, and her dog, Duke.

The small-town atmosphere of Cottonwood, with its gossiping "henny-hens", rivalries and jealousies is well depicted, with everyone knowing (or thinking they know) everyone else's business. Some people, though, are prepared to kill to keep their secrets hidden. Plenty of red herrings, and the murderer's identity (and motives) come as a complete surprise.

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

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### **Kathleen says**

"Ax to Grind" earns 5/5 Tell-alls about a Town Full of Secrets!

This third book in Tonya Kappes Kenni Lowry series does not disappoint and has further solidified my delight in all things Tonya writes. Newbies need not worry, there is enough information to keep you entertained. Just think...Life in Cottonwood has been quiet for four months, meaning no murders as of late, and along with sharing the various quirks of Kentucky society with transplanted northerner and new deputy Finn Vincent, Sheriff Kenni Lowry has been dealing with the upcoming election. But Kenni gets interested in the squawking of Kiwi, the Inn's green macaw mascot...Something about Berlye's? Something about a book? Something about dead? Oh dear, how do you interrogate a parrot? Whew! I was quickly turning the pages in this engaging mystery, thrilled with all the twists and turns: Berlye Stone, bestselling author and Cottonwood's most famous resident, recently died and an estate auction has been scheduled. However, residents of Cottonwood discover that before her death she penned a 'tell-all' book exposing secrets that would be best kept in closets or under the rug. But when Poppa appears, they know a crime must be brewing... My inner Sherlock was delightfully challenged with this and on the edge of my seat with the "I didn't see that coming!" ending. This Yankee loved the southern characters; Momma reminds me of my grandmother who was a southern belle at heart. Playing out in the background we have delightful references to all things southern (manners and Derby Pie), the reelection campaign with a former colleague now competition, an endearing ghostly dynamic between Kenni-bug and her Poppa, and a bit of an 'office' romance. Do you hear the 'sigh'? You can read the series out of order, no spoilers in this book, but I recommend for a complete experience to start at the beginning...

"Disclosure: A review copy of this book was sent to me by the author. However, all of the above opinions are my own."

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

#### Dollycas's Thoughts

Another fun, entertaining, crazy, cozy from Tonya Kappes. If you are not smiling and laughing when you are reading this story there is something wrong.

Cottonwood, Kentucky is mourning the loss of bestselling author Berlye Stone, their most famous resident. Then Berlye's assistant is found with an ax in her back. Seems there is a tell all manuscript somewhere and that may have lead to the assistant's death. Sheriff Kenni Lowry with a little help from her Poppa and Deputy Finn Vincent, is determined to find both the book and killer before someone axes her into the great beyond right along with her Poppa.

There was so much I loved about this story.

The characters are so strong and cleverly written. Kenni is such a strong protagonist. She is a darn good sheriff handling everything from neighborly disputes to murder. Her mother is an absolute hoot and a half, she is always deeply involved in one cause or another and right now she is campaigning for her daughters reelection. Kenni's Poppa's ghost returns just when she needs him, sometimes even before she knows she needs him. Their relationship is so strong and heartwarming. It is funny too because only Kenni and her dog Duke can see the ghost. She sometimes forgets that and needs to quickly explain who the heck she is talking to. Deputy Finn Vincent is starting to put down roots in Cottonwood and that bodes very well for a real relationship with Kenni. The tricky part is, she is his boss, so going forward this will be quite interesting.

I really enjoyed the storyline too. An author, who is a bit of a recluse dies and everyone in town seems to be anxious and even afraid of what could be in this tell all book. Kenni learns that the characters in most of the steamy romance books she has written in the past have been based on residents from Cottonwood. This opens wide the list of suspects. She has never read any of the stories but she knows someone who has and that gives her clues to move her investigation forward. Small towns, you have to love them and there is no small town better than Cottonwood for a fantastic cozy mystery.

Southern charm, small town gossip, unique characters and a quality mystery you can stick your teeth into, Ax to Grind is a must read. It can be read all on its own but you really should start at the beginning and get introduced to Cottonwood and the folks that live there properly. Have you ordered your copy yet? What are you waiting for? ?

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### **Lisa Morin says**

Ax To Grind by Tonya Kappes is the third book in the Kenni Lowry series.

This is a fun series and I love the mystery of why her poppa comes back at certain times. Having poppa help her out while he is in ghost form is truly hilarious. How Kenni avoids speaking to him in

public is beyond me.

In this story, a reclusive author has died and the town is full of gossip regarding her death and who receives all her money.

When family secrets are revealed, Kenni and her poppa are hot on the trail of the suspect.

I'm looking forward to reading the next book in this series.

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

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### **Karen says**

Tonya Kappes has the right combination of mystery, intrigue, with just a touch of romance and a ghostly sidekick in her Kenni Lowery Mystery series and the newest in the series Ax to Grind.

I was delighted to be approved to read book three in this series which is out September 19th and you can pre order now. Tonya writes with southern humor, hospitality and flair. I really loved the idea of a small town sheriff, her overzealous southern mother, a grandfather ghost and a partner who she would not kick out of bed for eating crackers....

Then there is the mystery and it is a good one, small town secrets keep and fester as the years go on and when a world renowned and reclusive romance author dies, leaving a huge estate sale open to the public that opens the small town up to the possibility of a murder living among them and scrutiny and leaves a mess of trouble for Kenni to unravel. Loved this one and think you will too!

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