



Hornswoggled

Donis Casey

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Its the spring of 1913, and love is in bloom for Alice Tucker. Alice's new beau, Walter Kelley, is handsome, popular, and wealthy. Everyone in Boynton, Oklahoma, likes him. Everyone but Alice's mother, Alafair. She sees that Walter has a weakness for the ladies--and they for him. Moreover, Walter's late wife Louise had been stabbed in the heart and her body disposed of in Cane Creek only a few months earlier. The murderer has not been caught.

The sheriff has cleared Walter of the deed--he has an alibi. But Alafair is not so sure that he wasn't involved in some way. Something literally doesn't smell right. Could it be Louise's tormented spirit signaling clues from the other side, or is Alafair scenting a more direct link to the crime?

Even if he had nothing to do with his wife's death, Alafair judges Walter to have been a bad husband and, with the help of her feisty mother-in-law, Sally McBride, Alafair sets out to prove to the headstrong Alice that Walter is not the paragon she thinks he is. You can bet that Alice has something to say back. As she searches for the truth behind the death of Louise Kelley, Alafair uncovers such a tangle of lies, misdirection, and deceit that she begins to think that the whole town has been downright hornswoggled!

Hornswoggled Details

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Author : Donis Casey

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From Reader Review Hornswoggled for online ebook

Michelle says

Interesting mystery.

Patty says

Donis Casey writes historical mysteries set in Oklahoma, this one set in 1913. Alafair is the mother of twelve, ten of whom are still living. When one of her twins sets her "cap" for a recent widower Alafair is on the hunt to determine who killed the widower's wife, hoping to change her determined daughter's mind.

The mystery here was about as convoluted and confused as any I have ever read. There were tons of clues and plenty of possible murderers so my mind jumped from one to another trying to track the killer along with Alafair. I will admit that I got close, picking the wrong one of a pair, but she fooled me with a final twist I didn't see coming.

I enjoy spending time with Alafair's extended family and friends and am looking forward to reading the next in the series.

Larry says

I'm not a cozy kind of guy, but I recently found Donis Casey's series featuring Alafair Tucker, farm wife, mother and amateur sleuth in early Twentieth Century Oklahoma, and I am experiencing the zeal of the new convert. While I still prefer my crime fiction darker, I relish each visit to the Tucker farm.

HORNSWOGGLED picks up the next year after the events of the previous book, and begins with the discovery of a body in the creek running through the Tucker property. The victim, with a bone-handled knife still planted deep in her chest, is the wife of the local barber, a prosperous, well-liked man who still manages to acquire a bit of a reputation as a philanderer. When Alafair's daughter, Alice, shows signs of being smitten by the new widower, Alafair's instinctual distrust of the would-be suitor pushes her into the murder investigation. A twisted plot serves up suspects and suspense a-plenty, and the flashes of the Tuckers at home shows the strength of family and character that underlies their lives. This may be one of the major attractions of this series for me - Arkansas in the early 1960s wasn't Oklahoma in 1913; but many memories of weeks spent at my grandparents' farm are reenacted at the Tucker farm.

These books are good.

Rosemary Nichols says

The second book in a series is tough. People who were enchanted with the first book are looking for even better. But if you poured your heart and talents into the first book, it is hard to keep up the standard.

Nonetheless, I found this a worthwhile read. If nothing else, this book gives a sense of how hard investigation was for law enforcement and amateur investigators when all you have to go on is the most basic physical evidence.

Every parent has wrestled with the principal challenge faced by Alifair Tucker: how to stand by while your hard headed child is making what you believe is a major life mistake. Alifair doesn't like the handsome, wealthy widower her daughter Alice has chosen as her fiancé. Then there is the nasty problem that said fiancé is a new widower with a murdered wife.

There is a certain Marx Brothers element to this story in that so many inept neighbors have tampered with the body.

Mayda says

Imagine yourself the mother of a headstrong girl who knows what she wants and whom she wants to marry, letting nothing or no one get in her way. Now imagine you believe that the man she has her eye on is possibly involved in the murder of his first wife. What would you do? If you were Alafair Tucker, you would set out to prove or disprove his guilt. And even if it is proved that he is innocent of the crime, he is still considered to be a flirt and a cheat and a liar. But Alafair's daughter is bound and determined to be his bride, even if that means alienating herself from her family. In trying to uncover the truth, Alafair finds herself pulled in all directions, as more and more people seem to be involved in the death and cover-up. When she goes one step too far and endangers herself and her family, Alafair realizes that the truth does not necessarily set you free. In this intriguing tale of love and murder, of family and trust, what seems to be true may not be true at all as the facts keep changing. This well performed audio version just adds to the home-spun delight of the tale. Set in Oklahoma nearly 100 years ago, much of the story's charm comes from the mores and customs of that era.

LeeEllen says

this is a wonderful series

Pat Walker says

I love it when historical fiction really captures the time. More than being well researched, this writing reflects the feel of its time period; its values, place, language, and daily life. Bonus: If you are an audiophile, like me, this book has a quality narrator. Now, to download the next in the series and get on with the fun.

Rachel says

Worth reading for the title alone! I stumbled upon this series and was totally delighted by it. This is a woman in 1910 frontier Oklahoma who solves murder mysteries, and is a farm wife and mother of 12. The

descriptions of her daily chores and home life were enough to snag me. The mystery was great too. Can't wait for the rest of the series.

Teresa Stefaniak says

Keep walking and listening.

Debbie says

HORNSWOGGLED by Donis Casey (Mystery Fiction, cozy) 2.5 star rating

I so enjoyed the first in this series, The Old Buzzard Had it Coming, when I read it in 2010. There was a clever mystery, and Alifair Tucker seemed a down-to-earth and intelligent protagonist.

It's awful how long it takes me to get back to a series that I want to continue. But in this case, I should have postponed it indefinitely. The mystery wasn't at all fairly clued and the body was moved surreptitiously so many times by so many different people that the book reminded me of the period English farces I watched at the Shaw Festival decades ago. Only the book wasn't funny.

Points for the period setting (1912 Oklahoma) and dealing with thorny family issues.

Read this if: you're determined to read everything in this series; or you'd enjoy the Oklahoma setting enough to overcome the plot flaws. 2½ stars

Kathleen Meacham says

This 2nd book in the series was even better than the 1st. Almost 4 stars. Unraveling the trail to this murder was quite a ride.

Ronna says

This is the second Alafair Tucker mystery, set in 1913, Oklahoma. Though it sparkles in historical atmosphere, language, and family life, it doesn't quite live up to the first book in this series. That said, I definitely enjoyed Alastair's detecting to protect her large family.

Alice, one of Alastair and Seth Tucker's eldest daughters is bound and determined to marry the widowed barber, Walter. Alafair is just as determined to protect her daughter from someone with a reputation for chasing women, even when he was married. AND, his first wife was murdered just a few months ago. No one has been charged with her murder, and Alafair is not at all convinced that Walter is completely innocent of any wrongdoing.

This is more than an historical mystery. The family, and community life, is quite compelling in and of itself. There are some yummy recipes at the end of each of Casey's books also. Suggest for all cozy, history, and

women's fiction readers.

Nancy Harmon says

I tried really hard to like this book, but there was way too much "shucky-durn" for my taste. I realize that the setting was early 1900'a when things were supposed to be much simpler... The author had a difficult time staying in one POV, and I really don't see what daily chores or what was served for dinner was relevant to the story. The murderer was named Ulises or Ulis depending on what page you were on. At one point, both in one paragraph. The final chapter was too much of a "happily ever after" for me.

Phillis says

Donis Casey does it again. I almost didn't guess who done it until near the end. I'll tell ya she's good mystery writer. You're so caught up in the whole 1913 down home culture and meanwhile the currant of the story is taking place and you are follow every move that Alafair makes and how it all comes together in the end. Even Alafair was surprised at the conclusion of this mystery.

Shirley Schwartz says

This is the second book in the Alafair Tucker series. I absolutely love it. It's set in Oklahoma and it's spring 1913 in Boynton, Oklahoma. Love and murder are in the air, and unfortunately Alafair and her family are drawn into both. One of Alafair's daughters seems to be in love with a man that Alafair cannot trust or like, but Alice is adamant that she must have this man, even though he may be implicated in his wife's recent death. I love Alafair, and I love her down-to-earth outlook on life. The glimpses that these books give us of what life was like in a small town in 1913 are totally realistic and utterly enjoyable. Families were huge - Alafair and Shaw have 10 children, and all of them help around the house and the farm. It's a wonderful, warm, rambunctious family, and there is Alafair ruling the roost and keeping all her boisterous children in line. The mysteries are fun and a little tricky, and the whole time Donis Casey stays within her chosen time frame - never veering off or accidentally letting slip something that wouldn't have a place in 1913. The characters are so full of life and totally unforgettable. Bring on book 3.
