



## Ivy Get Your Gun

*Cindy Brown*

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## **Ivy Get Your Gun** Cindy Brown

“It is not easy to combine humor and murder, but Cindy Brown does it effortlessly.” – Rhys Bowen, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Malice at the Palace*

There’s a new sheriff in town—and she can sing!

When Gold Bug Gulch’s actor-gunslinger Mongo winds up shot for real, actress and part-time PI Ivy Meadows goes undercover as the ingénue in the tourist town’s melodrama. Unfortunately, she’s distracted by a pack of marauding Chihuahuas, a problematic love life, auditions for *Annie Get Your Gun*, and a personal mission: to show people the real Annie Oakley.

What’s more, the no-good, yellow-bellied varmint who killed Mongo isn’t finished with the Gulch—or with Ivy. Will our heroine prove she can get a man with a gun—before the killer gets her?

Related subjects include: cozy mysteries, women sleuths, murder mystery series, whodunit mysteries (whodunnit), amateur sleuth books, book club recommendations, humorous murder mysteries, private investigator mystery series.

## **Ivy Get Your Gun Details**

Date : Published May 16th 2017 by Henery Press

ISBN :

Author : Cindy Brown

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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# From Reader Review Ivy Get Your Gun for online ebook

## Cindy Brown says

I had a great time writing this book! Inspired by a real-life incident in Tombstone, AZ, IVY GET YOUR GUN retains the screwball humor of the other Ivy Meadows mysteries, with the added bonus of a big dollop of "girl power" ala Annie Oakely.

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## HENERY PRESS PUBLISHING says

“She’s sassy, she’s spunky, she likes rugelach, she sorts through feral chihuahuas and her own emotional quandaries to track down a murderous miscreant, and she’s happiest when she’s somebody else onstage. Ivy 'Get Your Gun' Meadows is my kind of PI, and I predict a long run for her brand of witty wackiness. And wacky wittiness.” – Too Slim, Bass Player and Joke Slinger for the Grammy Award-Winning Riders In The Sky

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## JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Ivy Meadows, an actress and part-time PI who lives in Arizona, is hoping for the lead role in Annie Get Your Gun. But while she's waiting, she receives a frantic call from her fellow actress and friend Marge, who wants to hire her to find Lassie, Marge's pug, who has disappeared into the desert with a pack of Chihuahuas. Knowing the desert is dangerous for small animals, Ivy agrees. But then Marge tells her that Arnie, her husband, has discovered he's a father, and Arnie has invested tons of money in a ghost town named Gold Bug Gulch, run by Arnie's son Nathan.

Marge is afraid Nathan is taking advantage of Arnie, and not be his son at all, and wants Ivy to go undercover in the Gulch as an actress in their little melodrama for the tourists, in order to learn more about Nathan. How can she say no?

But on her first day, one of the town's actors is killed by a real bullet, and now Ivy wants to know if it was an accident or intentional. While she's in the town, she not only meets interesting characters, she's in the middle of several "accidents" that all seem to be intent on closing down the Gulch. But with a host of suspects, it won't be easy to sift through them, and if she doesn't figure it out soon, she could find herself in a role she won't be happy to play - permanently dead.

Once again, Ms. Brown has written an engaging mystery that will keep you reading right through to the end. She peppers the book with interesting characters who may or may not be who they claim to be; interspersed with humorous situations, dangerous ones, and a new talent that Ivy - nor anyone else - knew she had.

While she's still trying to circumvent her boyfriend Matt's insistence that they tell people they're a couple, she doesn't want to lose him but realizes that with him leaving the group home her brother Cody is in, she's going to have to make a decision soon. And no one is more shocked than herself when her father visits and she discovers a few things about him that she never knew. To top it off, she learns more about sharpshooter Annie Oakley than the 1950 film shows, and proceeds to educate others, even incorporating it into the daily

"melodrama."

With a full plate indeed - auditioning for a stage role, working in the Gulch, searching for a lost pug, investigating both Nathan and a murder - Ivy's life is nothing more than normal (for her), and it is very enjoyable indeed to watch her navigate through the pitfalls and surprises that await her around every corner, as she tries to remain unobtrusive, but manages to create havoc wherever she goes.

This is a book that is fun to read; both whimsical and, at times, suspenseful; when we discover who the murderer is, as we know we will, it comes as a surprise; and although there are a few clues scattered about, it is hidden well enough to give us plenty of red herrings to follow. Highly recommended.

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## **Holly says**

\*4.5 stars

This is definitely the best one out of the series, so far. I thought it had a strong mystery to it and Ivy is really growing as a character. That's why I like the Ivy Meadows mysteries because of Ivy. She is so relatable. She's making her way through becoming a PI and an actress, balancing between friendships and romance. Plus, she's so likable that you can't help but want her to succeed. I really enjoy these cozies and look forward to more from Ivy.

\*\*Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Mark Baker says**

Ivy takes on an undercover job at Gold Bug Gulch, where one of the gun fighters has just been shot and killed. As she gets to know the employees at the tourist trap ghost town, she finds plenty of suspects, but was it an accident or murder? Meanwhile, she also trying to land a part in Annie Get Your Gun for a theater company that might really boost her career and keep her relationship with her new boyfriend on track.

Since I've loved the first three books in this series, I was expecting to love this one, and I wasn't disappointed at all. The story moves forward quickly, and the characters are strong. The author finds that perfect balance of comedy without making anything or anyone not feel real. In fact, there's some real depth to these characters by the end. Throw in the acting, and I completely enjoyed it.

NOTE: I received an ARC of this book.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

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## **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Not everyone can do what author Cindy Brown can do better. Not everyone can do it better then author Cindy Brown can. (Singing along, weren't you?)

IVY GET YOUR GUN was my first book in this series so I was worried that I wouldn't know everything that was going on. However, author Brown did a great job of making things understandable for new readers.

Chapter one of this tale had me both laughing out loud and gasping in shock! Protagonist Ivy Meadows is such a fun character. I enjoyed getting to know her, and how she thinks. And the cast of supporting characters are so much fun! I am in love with Marge and her husband, Arnie.

As for the mystery aspect of the story, IVY GET YOUR GUN was a first rate whodunit. Ms. Brown was building up the suspense, and causing mayhem even as she was leading to a conclusion I never expected. Truly a clever, and fast moving read.

Grab up a copy of IVY GET YOUR GUN. You'll be happy that you did!

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## **Glen says**

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

A fairly standard cozy. Ivy is a part time PI. When a member of the cast in a wild west themed show is really shot in a fake gunfight, she investigates.

Ivy seems a little too disorganized and incompetent to actually solve anything.

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## **Cuppa says**

Ivy Get Your Gun by Cindy Brown  
Ivy Meadows #4

Ivy Meadows (a.k.a. Olive Ziegwart) lives a double life. She splits her time between training to be a private investigator with her Uncle Uncle Bob and auditioning for acting roles in the Arizona theater world. Ivy rises to meet challenges both personal and professional in this mystery series that is both touching and comic.

Ivy Get Your Gun, the fourth book in the series, begins with a missing dog and quickly escalates to a suspicious death in a staged wild west shoot-out. Ivy's friends, who own both the missing dog and a share in the wild west attraction, ask her to investigate. At the same time Ivy is vying for a role in the musical Annie Get Your Gun, which will be staged by a company that she's been trying to break into. In her personal world, Ivy's boyfriend Matt wants their relationship to be recognized but Matt is a social worker at the home where her brother, who has a cognitive disability, lives and Ivy is afraid her brother will be hurt if their relationship doesn't work out.

To find out what's really going on at Gold Bug Gulch, Ivy goes undercover, playing an ingenue, a saloon girl and even Annie Oakley in the town's various entertainments. She juggles her life and work issues while switching costumes at Gold Bug Gulch. Eventually Ivy sleuths her way to satisfying solutions for all of them. I dabbled in theater in high school and college. I can see some of my experiences through author Cindy Brown's descriptions of the theater life for a struggling actress. Definitely not all glitz and glam. Brown's characters are a draw to the series as well. Ivy's traditional family disintegrated after the accident that left her brother disabled. But Ivy has built a new one from both extended family and friends. I am so pleased with the positive way that Brown depicts Ivy's brother, his housemates and his girlfriend. I too have a family member who has a cognitive disability and I appreciate the glimpse into the lives of people who share that challenge and meet it successfully.

Ivy Get Your Gun stands alone, so you don't need to have read the previous books in the series, but I recommend you do. They are all excellent and you will be doing yourself a disservice if you skip to the

middle of the series.

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## **Valerie says**

A runaway pug named Lassie. A pack of wild chihuahuas. A dead cowpoke actor named Mongo.

Welcome to Gold Bug Gulch, Arizona, a Western theme ranch that PI-in-training Ivy Meadows discovers offers more than a real-life dead cowboy. At Gold Bug Gulch (say that three times fast!), Ivy not only takes on finding Lassie, but goes undercover as a tour guide to find out who killed Mongo (he was in a fake duel that turned deadly) and finds herself in the middle of a Hatfield and McCoys-type feud that goes way back. Her real calling as an actress has her on tenterhooks as she waits to hear about her audition and subsequent callback for a big deal role in a regional theater's *Annie Get Your Gun*. If she gets the part—and doesn't get mired in solving the murder—it could be the jackpot for her career.

And that's just the beginning of Cindy Brown's thoroughly delightful *Ivy Get Your Gun*.

I'll say no more about the plot except it gets a smidgeon complicated and intense.

But it's Ivy who keeps the story moving. Ivy is a hoot, sometimes over eager, over talkative, but always heartfelt and ready to help. Even when she's telling tidbits about her early life, we laugh while understanding there's darkness under that humor. When someone says something unintelligible to her, she understands what they're saying. "After years of living with my mother, passive-aggressive mumbling was my second language." That's the trait of damn good writer, someone who can give you background on a character without a bunch of hullabaloo.

After reading *Ivy Get Your Gun*, you'll be singing, "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm." Heck, you just might buy some chaps and a cowgirl hat, and every other mystery Cindy Brown has written. Yeehaw!

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## **Jenna says**

Setting: Gold Bug Gulch, Arizona

Characters

Ivy Meadows - aka Olive Ziegwart, theater actress, P.I., narrator

Matt - Ivy's significant other

Cody - Ivy's brother

Arnie & Marge - husband and wife, friends of Ivy's

Plot: Arnie and Marge's pug has escaped his yard and run off with a rogue band of chihuahuas. The pet parents are devastated and ask Ivy, an actress by night, but private investigator by day, to help them find their beloved dog. In the course of her search, Ivy is roped into another investigation - this one much bigger and more deadly. Arnie's son has pulled his father and stepmother into investing in Gold Bug Gulch, a wild west tourist town out in the middle of nowhere. During one of the town's "gunfights," an actor is shot through the heart - and now everyone is wondering just who is to blame. Working undercover, Ivy infiltrates

the old west town, making friends - or are they enemies? - along the way. In true Ivy Meadows fashion, nothing goes according to plan. Her cover may be blown, her relationship with Matt is on the rocks, and she just might ride off into the sunset prematurely thanks to a bad guy in good guy clothing.

Pacing: Quick

Predictability: Low

Wild Card: This is one of my favorite series. Ivy is such a fun character to spend time with! I always find it difficult to put down one of Cindy Brown's books. The wild, wild West may not be my particular cup of tea, but I'll gladly follow Ivy into trouble wherever she goes.

Hit, Miss, or Draw? Hit!

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### **Jeanie Jackson says**

Loved it. The Ivy Meadows Mystery series is an awesome series. The main character is great and unique and all the primary characters have wonderful hearts. I feel like I know them and love spending time with them. Even most of the secondary characters are strong and well developed. The plot in Ivy Get Your Gun followed several paths and I didn't expect most of them but it was great. I did figure out the murder before the end but not by much and even then I had doubts. I am already anxious for the next one.

Ivy is pulled between looking for her friend Margie's beloved put who has run away with a pack of feral chihuahuas (did I mention unique!) and finding the person who switched bullets out for a pretend gunfight causing a young cowboy actor to kill another. Ivy gets a job at the wild west theme town to investigate the murder and becomes the target of sly and potentially dangerous tricks. Matt is pushing to announce there relationship but Ivy isn't sure she is ready but she has to decide between being part of a real couple or giving up on a guy that she has come to love. Excellent book!

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### **Stacy McCain says**

IVY GET YOUR GUN by Cindy Brown might be my favorite Ivy Meadows book yet. This time, the story follows Ivy's pursuit of a role as Annie Oakley in the Arizona Theater while she goes undercover in a Western-style park to uncover who is killing off the help. Again, I didn't guess the right villain and I loved the ending. I really enjoy the journey that Brown takes us on with this series - we always find out new things about Ivy and her family and the books are funny and have good mysteries. I also liked that this book taught me a few things I didn't know. A thoroughly enjoyable book.

I received an ARC of this novel from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Daniel says**

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 4.25 of 5



We're back in an Ivy Meadows Mystery with Cindy Brown's *Ivy Get Your Gun*. This time Ivy takes to the road for some out-of-town acting work, but she can't escape the need to solve a mystery.

The character of Ivy Meadows (aka Olive Ziegwart) is really growing now that we're in this, her fourth mystery tale. She's out of town, working at the Gold Bug Gulch in Arizona where she's hoping for the role of "Annie" in *Annie Get Your Gun*. But of course Ivy wants people to know the real Annie, and not the phony character from the play. Which could be a problem since the director just wants some flashy entertainment.

But when Ivy gets to Gold Bug Gulch she immediately gets caught up in a missing persons ... er... animal case. A local pug named "Lassie" has run off with a pack of wild Chihuahuas and the owner fears that the wild coyotes will grab her. If only that were the worst of things to happen at the gulch.... An actor by the name of Mongo is killed during a 'fake' shootout when someone swaps the blanks for real bullets. Ivy goes undercover and channels as much of Annie Oakley as she can to get to heart of the mystery.

This was a great step for Ivy ... to get away from her uncle (even though she gets in touch with him a few times) and really be on her own as an investigator. We needed to see her step up and we did. But we also see her grow a little in personality. She's still eager, enthusiastic, and reactive, but she appears to be stopping and thinking a little more. Her research into the real Annie Oakley, to prepare for her audition, also shows a maturity in theatre that we haven't seen before this as well.

But the maturity does not come at the expense of the fun. Author Cindy Brown keeps the entertainment level high while also making a stronger mystery. My only 'complaint' here is that I didn't feel that the unraveling of the mystery was smooth enough. Too much came all at once, though we were being distracted along the way to notice it. It was only after, while thinking about what happened, that I wished I'd had a few more hints along the way.

I work in professional theatre and have for much of my career and it is so nice to read a story that incorporates theatre so well. Cindy Brown clearly has experience in the theatre world beyond a small-town community theatre. I greatly look forward to the next Ivy Meadows mystery.

Looking for a good book? *Ivy Get Your Gun* is the fourth installment in the Ivy Meadows Mystery series by Cindy Brown and it's a fun-filled, humorous mystery worth reading.

I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Ivonne Rovira says**

Struggling actress Ivy Meadows gets hired to look into the accident-plagued Gold Bug Gulch Western Theme Town, where plumbing backups, snake releases, and even an "accidental" killing have plagued the ghost town-turned-tourist attraction. Ivy plays Annie Oakley and some other characters as part of the entertainment, but her real job is to sniff out what's really going on.

While I didn't enjoy *Ivy Get Your Gun*, the fourth novel in this series, as much as author Cindy Brown's first two books in the series, *MacDeath* and *The Sound of Murder*, author Cindy Brown certainly made a big improvement over No. 3 *Oliver Twisted*. Ivy got to show off both her acting *and* her private investigator

chops, as her PI uncle Bob Duda was gone for most of the novel. Flawed but with a heart of gold, Ivy Meadows is a heroine you can't help but adore! While I found her inexplicably flaky relationship with her boyfriend Matt frustrating, that wasn't enough to put me off this novel. I loved learning about the real Annie Oakley (as opposed to the Hollywood caricature dreamed up in the musical *Annie Get Your Gun*), and I simply enjoyed the other characters, who were much better realized than those in *Oliver Twisted*. In addition, *Ivy Get Your Gun* boasts a very fine mystery that will keep you guessing until almost the very end. Nice comeback, Ms. Brown! And kudos for spreading the news about the real Annie Oakley.

In the interest of full disclosure, I received this book from NetGalley and Henery Press in exchange for an honest review.

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