



Fat Free and Fatal

G.A. McKeveitt

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There's nothing like a makeover story to get people hooked, and America is certainly addicted to the weight-loss saga of once celebrated actress Dona Papalardo. Plus-sized P.I. Savannah Reid is no exception although she can't imagine wanting to shed her own hourglass figure by undergoing gastric bypass surgery like Dona did. After Dona's personal assistant is shot dead in the star's mile-long driveway, Savannah becomes her bodyguard. The victim was wearing one of Dona's fur coats, indicating that Dona was the target. And when Dona's hunky gardener takes a bullet between the eyes, Savannah knows she must act quickly to find the killer.

Knocking around Dona's palatial estate gives Savannah plenty of opportunity to hobnob with A-list celebrities and compile a list of suspects that proves some people can never be too rich, too thin, or too vindictive. But just when Savannah's sure she's had her fill of the macabre, the shooter strikes again, and this time Savannah is nearly caught in the crossfire. Now, Savannah's determined to find the truth. After all, it's pretty hard to enjoy fifteen minutes of fame—or a double chocolate brownie—from six feet under...

Fat Free and Fatal Details

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Nolan says

I've always enjoyed this series. Savannah is easily among the most unpretentious book characters you'll ever meet anywhere. She's not the skinny rich girl who so often makes up the ranks of female private detectives. Instead, she's a plus-sized former cop who loves those around her and loves herself for who she is. She doesn't constantly diet, and she doesn't go about wistfully seeking the approval of those who wish she weighed less. The inspiration of her life is her beloved grandma, a woman who raised her and gave her all the down-to-earth knowledge Savannah would need to thrive in a sometimes-superficial world.

She is surrounded in this series by a lovable cast of characters. Her close friend and confidant, Dirk, is on the local police force where Savannah used to work. They aren't partners anymore, but Dirk still prefers her association to anyone's on the force. As a result, many of the cases she solves were originally his. She is assisted in her work by two homosexual former FBI guys who enliven the books in a good way. Their sexual orientation doesn't keep poor Savannah from wistfully dreaming of a relationship with at least one of them. Finally, there's Tammy, the youthful, skinny assistant whose innocence and charm Savannah puts to good use rather often.

As this book opens, a woman is dead, and she is probably dead because she borrowed clothing from her employer; and, from a distance, she resembles that employer. The employer is a movie star who, after packing on the pounds, insisted on gastric bypass surgery. As a result, the movie star has been ill ever since, and she has, alas, taken her frustrations out on her staff, including the woman who it dead.

Dirk brings Savannah in on the case, and soon the entire detective agency is at work trying to protect the star while finding out who killed the look-alike.

The dialogue here is sometimes profane and always snappy and funny. You can't help but love Savannah, the southern girl turned California transplant. Indeed, when her utterly dysfunctional sister shows up with her new husband in tow, Savannah has all she can do to help them get their lives back together and out of her house. There aren't any sexual descriptions in this particular book in the series. If you've not read this series or become acquainted with this character, it's time. Savannah is a woman who firmly believes that chocolate solves far more problems than it creates, and she's really quite good at solving mysteries in her own right. These characters are well developed, and the plots are imaginative and well written.

Barbara says

This series is usually a fun and enjoyable read. This book did not disappoint. I love Savannah and her extended family - most of them helping her in her investigations as private investigator. Dirk, her friend (and possibly more? at least hinted at in this book), is the only one who is a "current" professional - a police homicide detective. (One of her extended family is a former FBI agent.)

Fairly light reads, in terms of being easy to read and not too graphic or grim, but still very engaging and intriguing reads. I don't know where I am in this series and it usually doesn't matter. I think they can stand up well on their own.

However, this book sees, to indicate that the friendship and partnership she and Dirk have had all these years may be changing. I may need to pay more attention to where I am in the series, so I can monitor this development.

kathy says

I have enjoyed all her books and have been reading them for a while. The characters are fun to keep up with. Always something different in each book so the plots are not boring or redundant.

Ann-marie Carlson says

Great story

I love Savannah Reid and the fact she is a big girl. Lots of action, and her relatives are colorful and fun. The movie star was a good character, and the accurate ness of Bariatric surgery and it's dangers.

Barbara Patten says

Another good book in the Savanah Reid series ! I just love the characters in this series. The stories are interesting and easy to follow. Reminds me of a Grown-up Nancy Drew. Started reading the series last summer. I have very little time to read due to work, and school full-time. So, summer is my time to put down the textbooks and read for enjoyment. Thank goodness for the author and for the Savannah Reid series. I hope there are more to come in the series!!

Jessica says

This isn't my favorite series, but I still keep my eyes open for it at the library. I wonder at times if the author is trying to get more and more ridiculous with Savannah's family issues, and this book's token Reid visitation is no exception. On the positive side, there does seem to be more realism in the way the characters deal with major issues like gastric bypass, body image, loss of privacy, and how the taking of a life weighs on one's conscience. What is touching is how the major characters acknowledge how much they need each other and the ways that they demonstrate this.

Kay says

I love Savannah Reid -- all of her siblings are named after cities in Georgia and all are just slightly dysfunctional but loveable -- as is Savannah. This series is one of those you'll-love-the-characters-and-who-cares-who-dunit!

Laura says

I somehow skipped over this book when it was "new" but picked it up at the library--I honestly wish I was able to rate this book a "10" ***** it was THAT GOOD!!

Having been down in the dumps for 2 days before-hand; really needed the humor especially the ending!
Whoo Hee

Mayda says

Savannah is pressed into service as the bodyguard for actress Dona Papalardo after her assistant is murdered. Her friend, Detective Dirk Coulter and Savannah believe that Dona may have the target. While working to track down the killer, Savannah is also trying to understand Dona, and what compelled her to undergo gastric bypass surgery. Much happens in this well crafted and well written mystery, peopled with the interesting characters readers of this series have come to enjoy.

Chelsea says

The characters have definitely grown on me, so I'm really enjoying the Savannah Reid Mysteries, in no particular order.

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more. But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Stephanie says

I like all of her books - easy to read, simple to get through, likable characters.

Marcia says

This is another Savannah Reid mystery. The motive for the murders is connected to the serious story based on the problems with the effects of gastric by-pass surgery. The lighter problem involves the youngest of Savannah's siblings (Jesup) who has recently married a young man (Bleak) she just met. Savannah "cures" them of their obsession with the macabre by inviting them to attending an autopsy. Another serious topic is the emotional toll that killing someone can have on police officers/private investigators. During the confrontation, Tammy realizes that she cannot kill another human being, even if her own life is in danger. Savannah reassures her that she (Tammy) is not a weak person for acknowledging this. Not everyone can do it, even police officers, without serious emotional repercussions.

Kat says

another good one, but this time i guessed the lady of the house did it . ok i only guessed toward the end but its the first time in this series i guessed. its a movie star and she killed her assistant and gardener, then she wanted the murderer she hired to kill her too, but she changed her mind and set it up so savannah killed him instead. she had some weight loss surgery that went bad so she was sick all the time. she ended up getting arrested. this one had savannahs sister marry a man she didnt know in LV and they didnt get along and got divorced. they came and stayed with her the week they were married.

it was good!

Nathalie S says

I went to the Provo Library on Friday and was thrilled to find more books about one of my favorite private investigators--Savannah Reid, a Southern Belle transplant to Southern California. I love to read about strong women who have a sense of humor, love to eat and are comfortable with themselves. Again, I've been following this series by G.A. McKevett for years and it is just as enjoyable as the first one I read. Savannah is a forty-something former police officer who now has her own detective agency, the Magnolia Moonlight Detective Agency. She has her own team who are also her friends--Barbie-like computer savvy assistant Tammy, gorgeous former FBI agents John and Ryan and police detective, Dirk. She and Dirk used to be partners when Savannah was a police officer. Therefore, they share a close relationship mixed with irritation, deep loyalty, love of food (preferably made and therefore free by wonder cook Savannah) and a love of their work getting the bad guys off the streets. In this one, Savannah is asked to bodyguard a Hollywood actress whose friend and assistant has been gunned down in front of her own home, while borrowing the actress's clothes and chauffeured limo, thereby suggesting the actress was really the target. And the chase is on...with an unexpected twist at the end. The story is intermingled with the sidestory of Savannah's youngest Goth

sister, Jesup who shows up on her doorstep having just married another Goth-guy whom she met just a few days before in Vegas. I should mention that Savannah is the oldest of nine siblings from Georgia who were raised by their long-suffering, loving and strong Grandma Reid since their mother lost custody due to her incurable drunkenness. This explains a lot about why Savannah is so strong and vulnerable at the same time and why she puts up with her irresponsible red-neck siblings who are all named after cities in Georgia (Savannah, Atlanta, Macon, etc). There is much humor and laugh out loud moments in this book along with action, all the gamuts of emotions...right up my alley. Ahhhh....:)
