



LINDA
LOVELY

Picked Off

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Udderly Kidding Dairy is hosting a campaign fundraiser for Eva's best friend, who hopes to be South Carolina's next governor. The candidate's son, a pro quarterback, is flying home for the wingding. And Brie's eager to get a close-up view of the cute tush she's admired on TV, even though she's reluctantly sworn off even more tempting local beefcake.

The campaign fundraiser promises to be a huge success until a pitchfork attack turns the goat farm into a crime scene—again. To protect her friends, Brie puts her sleuthing skills to work. Will she live long enough to find out who's behind a vicious assault, a kidnapping, blackmail, and murder?

Picked Off Details

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Author : Linda Lovely

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From Reader Review Picked Off for online ebook

Taryn says

In this second book of the series we meet Carol who is Eva's friend and a state senator. Carol is running for governor and Brie along with her Aunt are getting the farm ready for a get together where she will speak about her running points. Brie along with Andy and Paint are setting up the Udderly Haunted Barn of Horrors to help raise money to put towards Carols campaign. Carols famous footballer player son, Zack, will be joining the party to help promote his mother and catch up with old friends. When Zack is found in the Barn of Horrors knocked out and stabbed it doesn't look good. Follow along as Brie and her friends delve into who would want to hurt Zack and why. When Carol goes missing things seem to go from bad to worse. Is Carol alive? Why was she taken? Will they be able to find her? Is what happen to Zack and Carol connected? With long ago issues, a reporter who is always out to make the family look bad, and a security duo on the take will Brie be able to sort through it all? This was a great read that I couldn't put down and had me laughing the whole way through. I had my suspicions on who the culprit was but was surprised in the end. I can't wait to see what happens next!!!

Sabine says

Another crazy, fun mystery with Brie Hooker and the gang.

Close to Halloween Aunt Eva hosts a fundraiser event for her friend Carol Strong who is aspiring to become the governor of South Carolina. A haunted barn is set up at the farm for the guests. Carol's son Zack, a pro quarterback, who shows up to join the event and support his mother is stabbed in the haunted house with a pitch fork and barely survives.

Brie, Paint, Andy and Mollye are getting into some very precarious situations on their mission to find the perp. A murder, an abduction, a hike in the woods and being shot at just makes them more persistent in finding out who stabbed Zack and why.

I had a great time with this mystery and am looking forward to the next book. I really wonder what is going to happen with Brie's love triangle. I can't see her holding Andy and Paint any longer without a decision.

I requested this book from NetGalley and am thankful that Henery Press and the author provided me with an advance copy.

Katreader says

PICKED OFF by Linda Lovely
The Second Brie Hooker Mystery

A Halloween themed political fundraiser for Eva's friend, Carol Strong, turns frightening when people start running from the haunted barn. The cause is not the scary decorations, but rather the bloody body of Carol's son, Zach, star quarterback of the Las Vegas Aces. With Zack in a coma, Brie tries to puzzle out who

attacked him. Was it one of the local enemies from his past? Did it come from a disgruntled football fan or someone from his team? Or was the attack politically motivated, a way to bring down his mother and stop her running for governor? While Eva comforts Carol, Brie, along with Mollye, Andy, and Paint search for the truth.

Lies, deception, and trust are at the heart of this second Brie Hooker mystery. Who is telling the truth? Who can you trust? There are lots of characters with ulterior motives and plenty of suspects and I, for one, wasn't trusting anyone! The mystery was cleverly plotted with plenty of action and lots of humor. My favorite bits included scenes with Duncan and Rita! I could picture their antics as well as their heroics perfectly! Although not a fan of love triangles in mystery series, I do like the underlying friendship and camaraderie of all three characters. Indeed family and friendship is at the heart of this series.

PICKED OFF is a fun mystery that celebrates friends and family while providing plenty of action and laughs.

FTC Disclosure – The publisher sent me a digital ARC provided through NetGalley, in the hopes I would review it.

Jessica Robbins says

*I received a free copy of this book from Netgalley which I voluntarily chose to write an honest review for.

What a great addition to this wonderful cozy mystery series. This time Brie gets wrapped up in the investigation of a pro football player that has been attacked. Her eclectic style mixed with the farm details, vegan bits, and her aunt makes for a comical story line that you can really get hooked on. Add the cheese curses plus a hoot for her best friend to bring on the laughs even more. I have to say that this is very well written cozy that I highly recommend to fans of the genre. I really enjoyed it so I give it 4/5 stars.

Mary Brown says

Picked Off
A Brie Hooker Mystery, Book #2
Linda Lovely
5 Stars

Synopsis:

Udderly Kidding Dairy is hosting a campaign fundraiser for Eva's best friend, who hopes to be South Carolina's next governor. The candidate's son, a pro quarterback, is flying home for the wingding. And Brie's eager to get a close-up view of the cute tush she's admired on TV, even though she's reluctantly sworn off even more tempting local beefcake.

The campaign fundraiser promises to be a huge success until a pitchfork attack turns the goat farm into a crime scene—again. To protect her friends, Brie puts her sleuthing skills to work. Will she live long enough

to find out who's behind a vicious assault, a kidnapping, blackmail, and murder? (Goodreads)

Review:

The characters are well developed and well rounded. I like the interactions between Brie, Aunt Eva and Mollye, Brie's friend. They are sometimes outrageous and always funny. I enjoy spending time with them and seeing what they are up to. I have to say that I wish Brie would make up her mind about her love interests, Paint and Andy. I started getting frustrated with her wishy washy ways. That is only my opinion and others may not feel the same way. I hope the next book settles the issue.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and she created a farm setting that was teeming with some incredible animals, especially one special mule. The mystery had enough suspects and clues to consider and even though I thought I knew who had done the deed, I was wrong. But that is okay with me.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy mystery. And if you are an animal lover, you should read this book.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book provided by the publisher, Henery Press, and NetGalley, which I greatly appreciate.

Betty says

The second book in the Brie Hooker series is another story covering a serious matter. The goats, donkey, the guard dogs are there to add relief as the tension grows as things become difficult for Brie and her Aunt Eva. A dread Lover's Triangle is developing and it is slightly different.

At Udderly Kidding Dairy friends have gathered to plan a fundraiser for Carol Strong, Eva best friend who is running governor of South Carolina. It has Halloween theme with a haunted house. Carol's son is the quarterback for a professional football team that is expected to go the Superbowl. The fundraiser is a success until the quarterback is an attack with a pitchfork in the haunted barn. The dairy is again a crime scene attracting a lot of media because of persons involved. Brie and her friends begin to explore for answers. They will discover revenge, murder, betrayal and vicious assault before they find answers. I highly recommend the book and series.

Disclosure: Many thanks to Henery Press for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own.

Larissa Reinhart says

Picked Off is utterly charming! Hunky heroes and a spunky heroine will sweep you off your feet in this adorable cozy. A sweet Southern tale of revenge, jealousy, and murder. Grab a mint julip for this one. Better yet a goat's milk shake. Sans pitchfork.

Linda says

Get ready for another madcap adventure with Brie Hooker and her Aunt Eva at the goat farm! It's close to Halloween and the gang's been working on a scary haunted barn. Brie is still being courted by best friends, Paint and Andy, and trying to decide who she likes best. Senator Carol Strong's son, Zack, a pro-quarterback for the Las Vegas Aces, comes home to visit and is attacked and badly injured during the haunted barn event. The sheriff, Brie, Aunt Eva, and Sala Lemmon, owner of the Aces, aim to find out who hurt him and why! The exciting plot deals with the seriousness of gambling addiction. Author Linda Lovely has some surprises for readers and the story is a swift, humorous read! Note: Contains mild adult language.

I reviewed an ARC provided by NetGalley and Henery Press.

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

This is such a fun series and it is interesting to see how the mystery plays out since it does not hinge on someone being murdered.

I've really enjoyed getting to know these characters - Brie the vegan chef, her wacky friend Mollye, Aunt Eva, and of course the two men vying for Brie's affection - Paint and Andy. And of course the goat farm's name is very creative - Udderly Kidding.

This book pulled in politics, attempted murder, kidnapping, and gambling into the why of the mystery. There is a murder but as I said earlier, it is not what causes Brie and the gang to start looking into this curious situation. I was partially surprised at how the mystery portion unveiled. While I wasn't totally shocked at who was behind it all, it did take awhile before I guessed it might be this character.

I still love the way Brie uses meat and cheese to substitute for curse words. It cracks me up every time.

This is a fun series and the only thing that might make it better is some vegan recipes.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

The South Carolina Governor's race is heating up and Udderly Kidding Dairy Farm is hosting a fundraiser for Senator Carol Strong. A Halloween themed costume party has been set up on the grounds and people have come from all over. The Senator's son has even flown in from Las Vegas. Zack is the starting quarterback for the Aces. Brie who has told Paint and Andy she values their friendship too much to date them decides she may like to get to know Zack a little better. Before she has the chance he is attacked by

someone with a pitchfork in the barn. He survives his injuries but has a long recovery ahead of him. Since it happened on at Udderly and Eva and Carol are best friends, Eva decides Brie needs to find the culprit that brought the party to a complete halt. Was it someone from nearby or did someone follow him from Vegas to make sure the quarterback has thrown his last pass?

This is a very exciting story. Gambling, greed, fame, revenge, jealousy, all play a part in the wonderfully written tale. The first victim is just seriously hurt, then another victim is kidnapped, and then a murder is uncovered. Twists, turns, spins, this story has it all.

The attack of pro quarterback Zack Stone brings not only a lot of press to the area but it also brings the owners of his team, extra security, and his back up quarterback to town. These additional characters take the story in an unexpected direction and really add dimension to the story. Brie, Eva, Mollye, Andy, and Paint have their hands full taking care of some and avoiding others as they all piece together the clues to find out who did what and why. A certain animal plays a pivotal role in one scene that had me both on the edge of my seat and laughing out loud.

I will say everyone seems to be worried about Brie's love life including Brie. I was excited to see at one point it looked like she had made a huge decision only to backtrack herself a few chapters later. I know romantic triangles are a big part of cozy mysteries, but this one needs to be decided soon. I don't think the idea Andy and Paint have come up with is tenable for long in the future. I do appreciate the friendship all the core characters have. It is very believable and real.

Linda Lovely's plot takes on a serious issue in a very entertaining way. As with the first book, I enjoy the author's writing style. Her descriptions create fantastic imagery of time and place. The dialogue is spot on. Brie's meat and cheese curse words always make me smile. Aunt Eva's cursing is a little stronger, but she is a strong woman. A huge heart but I wouldn't want to get on her bad side.

I had a great time reading the story. Another perfect escape from this author. I can't wait for book #3!!

K.A. Davis says

PICKED OFF, the second book in the Brie Hooker Mysteries by Linda Lovely, is a terrific addition to a zany series that will keep you entertained! From the opening scene to the final chapter, there are several attention grabbing plotlines to keep the reader turning pages. Protagonist, Brie Hooker, is a vegan yet finds herself working at her Aunt Eva's Udderly Kidding goat dairy farm, tending to 400 goats. Surrounded by meat and cheese loving family and friends, Brie still holds her own and has taken it as her mission to convert them by introducing her vegan fare a little at a time. Aunt Eva is quite the character and the repartee that she and Brie have is quite humorous. I also enjoy Brie's curses of choice, which are concoctions of meat and cheese phrases. This adds to the colorfulness of the dialog without resorting to inappropriate language. Another colorful addition is Brie's best friend, Mollye. She is a great sidekick and adds more hilarity to each scene she's in. Also, I can't overlook the two male supporting characters, Andy and Paint. These hunky best friends both want to date Brie and she in turn is enamored of them both. While I don't mind a love triangle starting out in a series, I'm not a fan of it continuing past the first book. For me, in this instance, it did detract from the overall plot and mystery which is unfortunate because I do love the characters and Ms. Lovely's writing style.

That said, when the story centered on the mystery at hand I was enthralled! A contender for South Carolina's

governorship goes missing, her pro-football quarterback son is attacked, and his old high school friend is found murdered. Not only was I kept guessing about who the killer could be, I was kept guessing about who the intended victim(s) really were and why they were the victim. Could it be someone who opposes the political candidate or does someone from Vegas have it in for the quarterback? Haunted houses, secrets from the past, sketchy news reporters, and the theme of gambling are woven into this fun read!

I was provided an advance copy via Netgalley with the hopes I would review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <https://bit.ly/2rQfevw>

With its rural South Carolina setting, a goat farm (400, to be exact), and quirky characters, *Picked Off* is a fun cozy mystery. Cozies often have a creatively crazy title, but here it's the Udderly Kidding Dairy and the name Brie Hooker that have me shaking my head. Really cute! There are some references to previous events in the first book, but this story stands alone.

The age-old vices of jealousy, revenge, and greed play a big part in the mystery, including the lure of sports gambling. The strong secondary characters function almost like an ensemble cast, and they added so much to this story – from Brie's aunt Eva, to her friend Mollye, and the two friend/boyfriend guys, Paint and Andy. I liked both of the guys and wish Brie wasn't so indecisive. Hopefully she will choose one or find someone else in the next book.

South Carolina politics also enters into the storyline, beginning with a Halloween costume party that served as a fundraiser for Eva's friend and governor candidate, Carol Strong. It was a fun evening – until an attack that left a pro football star in a coma. The mystery was well plotted, with enough twists and turns to keep me guessing.

I didn't care for the mild profanity, even when food terms were used as substitutes, and the romantic, lustful element had a little too much emphasis for me. Still a good cozy mystery overall.

I received a copy of this book through Great Escapes Tours. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Carol Evans says

I have mixed feelings about *Picked Off* by Linda Lovely. I love Brie and all of her friends, who I first met in *Bones to Pick*. Her aunt is awesome, feisty and honest and loving. She and her friends, Mollye, Paint and Andy make a great team, even if they're a bit bumbling, like any good amateur detectives. They are funny and truly care about each other. The mystery is good. We've got plenty of suspects and motives, which is not surprising considering the victim – who doesn't actually die by the way – is a professional football player and his mother is a politician. We've got rednecks and franchise owners and gamblers.

Then the author goes and ruins it all with a love triangle, which was my problem with the first in the series too. I had hoped she would let that go by the wayside, but nope. Apparently Brie can not be “just friends” with either of them – again, so at the end of this one they’ve all decided that one week she will date guy #1 and the next week guy #2. Sorry if that’s a spoiler but it really annoys me. Especially because other than that it’s a really good series.

Picked Off takes place around Halloween, so if you’re looking for a cozy in October, keep it in mind

Karen says

I was asked to review Linda Lovely's second in the Brie Hooker Mystery series Picked Off and was excited to download my ARC from Netgalley. I loved the first one and the second one did not disappoint. This one had a bunch of great storylines and I enjoy the wannabe love triangle between main character Brie and best friends Andy and Paint. I also love that Brie is a vegan, which is such an odd part of the plot and yet comes together beautifully. Lots of animals, dogs and mayhem at their farm. The mystery in this one I very much enjoyed, the political twist was not what I expected and read really well not a predictable run of the mill plot line. I really enjoyed it. I could not put it down and I read it in one night. This one is out June 5th and well worth the read. A fine Henery Press book! *Not sure why but Amazon has the cover below. I liked both covers but this is what it looks like if you go looking for it.

Patty says

Picked Off by Linda Lovely is the 2nd book in A Brie Hooker Mystery series, and another great addition. Brie and her aunt Eva, are hosting a fundraiser at Kidding Dairy when a local celebrity is attacked with a pitch fork. Why would someone attack him at their dairy, Brie vows to find out. Once I started this book, I could not stop reading it until I was done. Not only is this book an exciting mystery but also very refreshing and a quick read. If you love fun cozy mysteries, which are my favorite, you will love this book.

I received this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.
