

A Deadly Inside Scoop by Abby Collette

Bronwyn Crewse, known to her friends and family as Win, moves back to her hometown in Ohio after a hectic life in New York City and takes over the family ice cream shop. After some setbacks in getting the shop reopened, opening day arrives...in October. Not exactly the ideal time for ice cream in the Midwest! It snows on her opening day, leaving Win discouraged and questioning her choices. While out seeking some inspiration in the freshly fallen snow, she finds a body near the falls. The discovery opens old wounds in her family and Win's father ends up the prime suspect in the murder investigation. Win sets out to find out who the real killer is and clear her father's name, while running a newly reopened business! She thankfully has some great friends and family to help her out, both with the mystery and the business, along the way.

Abby Collette (a pseudonym of author Abby L. Vandiver) has crafted a wonderful new cozy mystery world in the first book in the Ice Cream Parlor Mystery series. The town of Chagrin Falls feels familiar and friendly, especially to anyone who has spent time in small Midwestern towns. Win is resourceful, her family is warm, her best friends are quirky, and the other residents of the town are colorful. The characters all seem realistic and interesting. It's also really nice to see a diverse cast of characters, something that is usually lacking in the cozy mystery genre. Collette makes the reader feel welcome in this world. The descriptions of the ice cream made in the shop might make you crave a double scoop of your favorite flavor. (Yes, there are recipes at the end!) Sometimes the first book in a new can be too heavy on the introduction of new characters, and the story itself can suffer, but that is definitely not the case here. The mystery itself has good twists and turns, and the ending is pretty satisfying. I can't wait to read more books in this series, to find out what kind of situations Win finds herself in next!