

***Apple Cider Slaying* by Julie Anne Lindsey**

This is the first Cider Shop Mystery, a new series by Julie Anne Lindsey. Winona Mae Montgomery, a.k.a. Winnie, and her Granny Smythe run the family orchard in Blossom Valley, West Virginia. The struggling business needs to do something to stay afloat, so Winnie plans to open a new shop at the orchard and host a holiday festival. When a neighbor that Granny had recently fought with is killed at the orchard, Granny is the obvious suspect. Even with everything else on her plate, Winnie jumps in to find the real murderer in order to clear her Granny's name, and of course clashes with the new handsome sheriff in the process.

This is such a charming book! The depiction of the small town and the orchard during Christmastime is so well done that you feel like you're right there alongside the lovely cast of characters. And the descriptions of the tasty treats and drinks offered by Smythe Orchard made my mouth water, so thankfully there are recipes included in the back of the book! The mystery itself keeps you guessing, with just enough twists and turns to keep you on the edge of your seat. Winnie and Granny are easy to root for, and I cannot wait to read more about their adventures at the orchard.

Gennifer King