


Cozy Scribe - Issue 1, April 2025

Who Am I?

NANCY M. WADE
MAR 31, 2025

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1. Why this, why now

Mark Twain wrote a tale of a Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court and in some ways, I feel just as awkward and out of place by being a Northern gal in a Southern Appalachian region. I'd like to take this first issue to introduce myself.

2. Cozy Mystery Readers

My desire to write a cozy mystery came from reading thousands of cozy mystery stories over the years. I mean really ... who didn't grow up reading volumes of Nancy Drew mysteries or who didn't love to solve a complex Agatha Christie yarn? I was hooked. So I thought, why not? I can write a mystery! Boy, how little did I know how difficult it is to drop clues, create multiple characters and possible red herring villains, all while enticing readers to keep reading. It's a learning experience and a work in progress. I hope my readers are left guessing whodunnit.

My first series is based within a fictional small town in central Ohio, in a rural county, and involves a young woman who is married to a county deputy sheriff, and mother of two young boys. She's a cub scout den mother and sells Avon to her friends and neighbors. I have to confess, I based her lifestyle on my own when I was in my late twenties or early thirties, living in Ohio, and raised two boys plus volunteered as a den mother. A Meadowood Mystery allowed me to have fun writing a character that was a grown up Nancy Drew. With each book in the series, her antics grew along with her confidence and sleuthing.

So far I've written seven Meadowood Mysteries. One of my readers actually compared my heroine Meredith Gardner to a "grownup Nancy Drew" - high praise indeed.



3. Southern Flavor Cozy

Hey y'all, now that I'm living in the South, I decided to embrace the region and create a younger character with a more southern flavor. The Maddie Brooke Mystery series is a work in progress as I develop Madison (Maddie) Brooke, residing near the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the Magnolia Blossom Inn. She's youthful, single, a recent grad from University of VA and her friends are more diverse. She lives in an inherited B&B inn along with her grandmother's ghost to add spice to the stories....Bless Her Heart!

With Easter close upon us, maybe Maddie will treat her guests at the B&B to an easy Easter candy. The recipe is below for you to try! Enjoy!



4. Easter Treat: Coconut Cream - Irish Potato Candies



Irish Potato Candy

Irish Potato Candy

Ingredients:

- 1 box or 1 lb. powdered confection sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 - 8 ounce package cream cheese (room temperature)
- 1 – 8 ounce package flaked or shredded sweet coconut
- Cinnamon

Directions:

- Cream together the cream cheese and sugar. Add vanilla and coconut.
- Mix well by hand or with electric mixer using dough hooks.
- Refrigerate one hour before forming candy shapes.
- Roll into small walnut sized 1" balls then cover with ground cinnamon.
- Candy resembles small potatoes.
- Refrigerate candy to keep firm; lasts 2-3 weeks in tight container.

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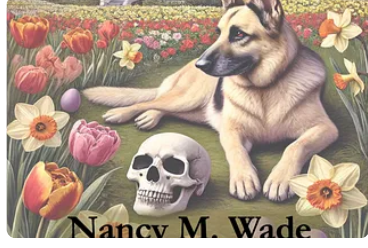
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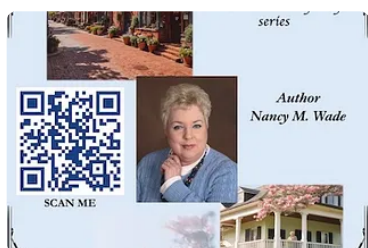
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