The Kate Fox series by Shannon Baker

**Stripped Bare** [2016]

Kate Fox is living the dream. She's married to Grand County Sheriff Ted Conner, the heir to her beloved Nebraska Sandhills cattle ranch, where they live with Kate's orphaned teenage niece, Carly. With the support of the well-connected Fox Clan, which includes Kate's eight boisterous and interfering siblings, Ted's reelection as Grand County Sheriff is virtually assured. That leaves Kate to the solitude and satisfaction of Frog Creek, her own slice of heaven.

One night Kate answers a shattering phone call from Roxy at the Bar J. Carly's granddad Eldon, owner of the ranch, is dead and Ted has been shot and may never walk again. Kate vows to find the killer. She soon discovers Ted responded so quickly to the scene because he was already at the Bar J . . . in Roxy's bed. And to add to her woes, Carly has gone missing.

Kate finds out that Eldon was considering selling his ranch to an obscenely rich environmentalist. Some in town hate the idea of an outsider buying up land, others are desperate to sell . . . and some might kill to get their way. As she becomes the victim of several "accidents," Kate knows she must find the killer before it's too late . . .

**Close Enough** [2017]

Reeling from her recent divorce, Kate Fox is campaigning against her ex to become the next Grand County, Nebraska Sheriff. When a child goes missing in the Sandhills, the whole town organizes a search and rescue mission. But Kate doesn't think Ethan wandered off - something more nefarious is going on. With a dangerous winter storm fast approaching, Kate must find Ethan before it's too late.

*Close Enough* is a thrilling Kate Fox eBook short story that bridges the gap between *Stripped Bare* and *Dark Signal*.

**Dark Signal** [2017]

Still recovering from her recent divorce, Kate Fox has just been sworn in as Grand County, Nebraska Sheriff when tragedy strikes. A railroad accident has left engineer Chad Mills dead, his conductor Bobby Jenkins in shock. Kate soon realizes that the accident was likely murder.

Who would want to kill Chad Mills? Kate finds that he made a few enemies as president of the railroad workers union. Meanwhile his widow is behaving oddly. And why was his neighbor Josh Stevens at the Mills house on the night of the accident?

While her loud and meddling family conspires to help Kate past her divorce, State Patrol Officer Trey closes in on Josh Stevens as the suspect. Kate doesn't believe it. She may not have the experience, but she's lived in the Sandhills her whole life, and knows the land and the people. Something doesn't add up - and Kate must find the real killer before he can strike again.

**Bitter Rain** [2018]

Kate's meddling family is at it again. Despite their efforts to pair her off, she's settling into single life as Grand County Sheriff - until Deputy Kyle Red Owl's sister disappears. Shocked by the harsh realities of rez life, and coming smack up against a Lakota-hating sheriff, end-of-world preppers, and a greedy liquor store owner, Kate fears the worst for the missing girl.

Old loyalties and lies collide with new secrets. Secrets someone is willing to kill to keep hidden. Knowing she'll always be an outsider when it comes to her good 'ol boys world, Kate is more determined than ever to find the girl society has abandoned, but can she do it before someone else dies?


This booklist created for the *Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group*
**Additional novels by Shannon Baker as of 2018**

**Ashes of the Red Heifer** [2010]

An ancient prophecy. A terrible secret. A deadly conspiracy. Annie Grant, a strong-willed veterinarian is in Israel, just days from finding a cure for a deadly bovine disease threatening to cross into the human population with deadly affects. She can save millions of human lives and her professional success might help heal the rupture with her family when she walked away from the Nebraska ranch she loves. When her research is disrupted by a bomb, she and her lover are kidnapped by a fanatical Jewish group intent on forcing God's hand. Is Annie the chosen of God, destined to fulfill ancient Hebrew prophecy? Using her best friend as hostage, the group forces Annie to find the cure and engineer the birth of a perfect red heifer in Israel, making it possible for Jews to again find God's favor. Battling time and trapped in the bloody crossfire between rabid Zionists fighting to recapture Israel's glory, militant Muslims intent on stopping them and Christians anticipating rapture, Annie must choose. Her own life. Or an apocalyptic war. The future of the world. Or the ashes of the red heifer.

**The Nora Abbot series**

**Tainted Mountain** [2013]

All Nora Abbott wants to do is make enough snow to save her ski resort from the drought that is ravishing Northern Arizona. But now her husband has been murdered; angry protestors have occupied her mountain; her overbearing mother has blown into town; and energy tycoon Barrett McCreary has launched what might just be a hostile takeover of the cashstrapped resort.

To make matters worse, the local Hopi tribe claims making snow on the mountain will upset the balance of the earth, so Nora turns to the ruggedly handsome Cole Huntsman for help. The only trouble is that Huntsman seems to be playing from both sides of the deck. And when a fortune in uranium claims are at stake, double-dealing is a deadly strategy.

**Broken Trust** [2014]

When a chance meeting on a hiking trail leads to a position at a nonprofit in Boulder, Colorado, Nora feels lucky to have a job . . . even after she finds out that the previous financial director has gone missing.

With her suspicions of foul play confirmed by her Kachina guardian, Nora doesn't know who to trust in an organization that's rife with deceit and corruption. As she's pulled deeper into a treacherous conspiracy, an unannounced visit from her mother and a reunion with Cole Huntsman have Nora playing tug of war with her own feelings. Fearful for her own life and the safety of those she loves the most, Nora wonders if her new beginning in Boulder will turn out to be a deadly mistake.

**Tattered Legacy** [2015]

Nora Abbott risks her career at Loving Earth Trust on a film project to convince Congress to expand the Canyonlands National Park. But someone is desperate to keep the secrets of the land hidden.

When her best friend and director of the film is found dead, Nora is convinced it wasn't an accident. Nora's Hopi kachina messenger has vanished and now it looks as though Cole Huntsman, the man she's finally allowed herself to love, has left her, too.

As Nora uncovers an unlikely intersection of ancient Hopi legends, a secret polygamist sect, and one of the world's richest men, she is drawn deeper into danger. Her mother's surprising past holds the key to the clash of cultures, but will Nora put all the pieces together in time to prevent disaster? Set in the iconic red rocks of Moab, Utah, Nora races to discover what really lies beyond the stars.