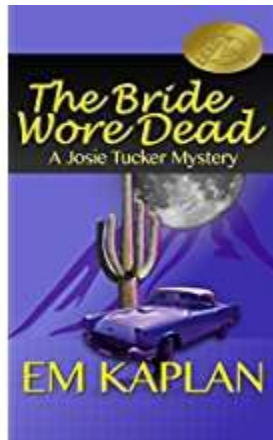


The Bride Wore Dead: A Josie Tucker Mystery



By EM Kaplan

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Josie Tucker writes a food column for the local paper, even though she had digestive issues. After she fills in as a bridesmaid at the last minute, her stomach condition is the least of her problems. Soon after the wedding, while the newlyweds honeymoon in Arizona, the bride dies. Some believe the death is suspicious and Josie is asked to investigate. She returns to the area in which she grew up and soon finds her own life in danger.

In Josie Tucker, Ms. Kaplan has created a very complex and believable character. The story turns out to be a bit darker and foreboding than one would gather from the title and the cover art. It deals with some very depraved aspects of human existence and society. But Josie is a fighter and a survivor. She finds out just what happened and emerges stronger for it. She also realizes her feelings for a longtime friend.

This is a book in which this reader anxiously looked forward to the next reading session in order to find out just what was happening in Josie's life. It was very difficult to close the cover at the end of the daily reading time. As a result, other books in the Josie Tucker series are now a part of this reader's *to be read list*.