

## Chile Death: A China Bayles Mystery *by* Susan Wittig Albert



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**Author:** Susan Wittig Albert

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## Reviews of the *Chile Death: A China Bayles Mystery* *by* Susan Wittig Albert

anneli

Susan Wittig Albert has a deft touch when it comes to writing about a real live woman struggling with adversity, albeit with great support and friends. In the previous book, her main character, China Bayles, has overcome her qualms of getting married to her fella, retired cop Mike McQuaid. This, of course, following her solving a murder mystery and finding out that he has had a fling that he regrets. But the road of life never runs smoothly in a book and at the conclusion of the book, Mike is nearly killed and while alive, wheelchair bound.

In this book, Mike is working to gain control over his arms and legs and is now at a convalescent hospital where he is getting daily physical therapy and now he is the one with cold feet about getting married, thinking it would be unfair to tie China to a man who can't walk and take care of her. Depressed, he never the less allows himself to come out of the hospital to judge Pecan Springs annual chile contest where one of the other judges dies. Its soon determined that its not a heart attack and perhaps not an accidental death, and China is once again picking up clues and trying to solve the mystery.

While I liked the prior book, I liked this one more and enjoyed the give and take between not only Mike and China, but China and her friend, Ruby. A quick, easy to read story line; a true cozy in every way.

Braned

This is the 7th book in the China Bayles series. China is dealing with McQuaid's recovery and is now on the other side of realizing how much she loves him, with McQuaid being the reluctant one, unwilling to burden China. She convinces him to take up his traditional position in judging one of the annual chili contests in town. When one of the judges, who they thought was clowning around about the taste of the chili, dies from anaphylaxis, they work together to determine whether or not this was an accident or murder. Adding to the personal side, Ruby wins the lottery and wants to invest in China's long dream of a tea room. China is reluctant to become partners with Ruby and worries on how this will affect their relationship. The relationship aspect and characters were much bigger players than the actual mystery in this one and I think the author did a nice job with making it seem real (with the minor exception of the lottery win). I look forward to seeing how the characters develop in the next book.

Conjulahala

In 1953 I served in the Army in San Marcos, later my daughter lived in New Braunfels. This is the area of these books so fun to read of the disguised places.. While bit of "women's" mysteries, and I am not one of those, it is good story and free of some of the stuff that has crept into contemporary mysteries. Brava...

Quinthy

As always, I loved this mystery. I have many of Susan Wittig Alberts books. A great mystery to get into on a hot afternoon.

Nekora

I'm reading the China Bayles series in order, but the library didn't keep most of the earlier titles.

Nulix

I love her books. The addition of herbal history and treatments to the stories just add to the enjoyment. I give her books to friends I know enjoy a well written mystery.

Oso

Love this series.

As a frequent participant as a competitive chili cook and webmaster for a very active group (30+ events a year) in the Central Texas area on the Tolbert circuit, I'd give this novel a strong 1st Place!

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