



# Assault and Beadery

*Mollie Cox Bryan*

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All of Cora Chevalier's dreams are coming true. Since moving to Indigo Gap, North Carolina, the busy crafting maven has been blessed with a great boyfriend, a lovely home, and a booming craft retreat business. But on the eve of her first Crafty Mom's Escape Weekend, tragedy strikes again in Indigo Gap. This time, it's curtains for Stan Herald, the disagreeable director of the local theater group, who's murdered on the opening night of their new production. Worse, Cora's friend Zee is accused of the crime.

Cora is determined to prove her friend's innocence, but Zee's mysterious past is making that difficult. And with a list of suspects longer than a double spool of satin cording, getting a bead on the real culprit won't be easy. With her friends Jane and Ruby at her side, Cora must string together the clues and solve Stan's murder before the killer gives an encore performance.

**Includes crafting tips!**

## Praise for Mollie Cox Bryan's mysteries

"A playful charmer!"

--*Woman's World* on *No Charm Intended*

"Scrapbookers and hobby cozy fans will enjoy this delightful holiday escape."

--*Library Journal* on *A Crafty Christmas*

"A font of ingenuity . . . superb entertainment."

--*Mystery Scene* magazine on *Scrapbook of Secrets*

## Assault and Beadery Details

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Author : Mollie Cox Bryan

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# From Reader Review Assault and Beadery for online ebook

## Lisa Morin says

I'm a fan of this series and Assault and Beadery did not disappoint me.

I would love to be at one of Cora and Jane's retreats. They sound great and I know I would have a lot of fun and laughs.

When a local theatre member is found murdered, the suspect list is wrong, and it even includes some of Cora and Jane's guests.

This book grabbed my attention and got it from cover to cover. I highly recommend it to all cozy mystery readers.

I volunteered to read and review an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

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## Nina says

Assault and Beadery by Mollie Cox Bryan is a can't put down, delightful, cozy mystery - with sufficient cliffhangers to capture your attention to the last few pages (which include crafting tips, how awesome!). I initially was disappointed that it seemed the crime played second fiddle to Cora and Jane's retreat for moms, but as the book progresses, Ms. Cox Bryan carefully crafts the mystery through the pages in a way that does not disappoint.

While this is my first visit into the world of "Indigo Gap" and Cora and Jane's crafting retreats, the narrative invites you to sit down and take up the crafts with the characters, and you begin to truly invest yourself in their lives. I look forward to going back and learning more about Jane's character as well as reading Macramé Murder when it comes out!

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## Julia says

I really enjoyed this book. It is one of the better cozy mysteries that I have read lately. The pacing of the story was great, the cast of characters was interesting. The crafting was something I have not tried so I liked reading about it.

Cora, Jane and Ruby are hosting a craft retreat. The subject of the retreat is beading. This is a craft I am not very familiar with, and I loved learning about making the different types of beads. I had no idea that there were so many!

The victim in this one is Stan Herald, a very unlikable character. I didn't really care much about him. Cora's friend, Zee, is accused of the murder so Cora and friends try to find the real culprit. I liked the flow of the book. Detailed descriptions of crafting interspersed with sleuthing. The book felt very relaxed to me and I enjoyed reading it.

This book features a crossover with characters from the Cumberland Creek Mystery Series by the same author. It adds an interesting dimension to the story, but it is not necessary for the reader to have read the

other series in order to enjoy this book.

I think this is a great series and I look forward to reading many more books.

I received a free copy from the Cozy Mystery Review Crew and the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Abby Fabian says**

It is beautiful to see how much Cora and Jane heal and grow in each book. These ladies have really come a long way. The point of view is predominately Cora's, but every once and a while it switches over to Jane. I love this! It helps us to see the situations from the other character's perspective while also giving us a deeper glimpse into each woman. I especially love seeing Jane strive to make her daughter and herself happy. She is one of those characters you get invested in and want to succeed.

Cora and Jane's friendship is ironclad which obviously makes them the perfect crime fighting team! And let's not forget the plucky and sometimes moody but completely lovable Ruby who rounds out the trio. Together they make beautiful creations and catch murderers. All while trying to run a business and take care of their guests.

Even with all of the murder and mayhem going on, the craft theme is always prevalent. I absolutely adore the fact that we not only get thorough explanations of all the crafts, but there are instructions for many in the back of the book! If you find yourself saying " I wish I could make that! " while reading the book, guess what? You can!

The mystery in this one was a puzzler. Even the police seemed to be having an especially hard time. If you like your cozies with a strong mystery, than this is your book. Actually, than this is your entire series! All of the books have solid mysteries that are sure to keep you guessing.

Cora's relationship with her boyfriend Adrian, a librarian at the local school, seems to be coming along nicely. Her friendship with Brodsky, the homicide detective, is one of my favorite aspects of the books. They both suffer from anxiety and are very supportive of each other. I would have liked to see a bit more of Cashel, Ruby's lawyer son. There were plenty of mentions of him, but not as much dialogue.

Get comfortable because once you pick up this book, you won't want to put it down until you have devoured every last word!

*I received a free copy of this book. I am voluntarily leaving a review. All thoughts and opinions expressed here are my own.*

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### **Lisa Book Shelf says**

From net galley. A great 4th book in this series with great character and fun crafty tips. A perfect combination of mystery and fun among a crafty retreat when a murder is found and Zee is accused of

murdering the theater director. So Cora and her friends follow the clues and find the real culprit. Perfect for any crafter -would make a great gift.

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### **Wulfwyn says**

This was my first book by Mollie Cox Bryan. It is part of the series, A Cora Crafts Mystery. I had no issue with jumping into the series. Because of that, I believe this book can be read as a stand-alone or out of series order. This was also my first cozy mystery with crafting as a theme.

I really enjoyed this mystery. I liked Cora and the other characters very much. They were people I would enjoy being around. I felt comfortable with them. I was thrilled to see Cora pay attention to gut instinct. I think we all need to listen more when it tries to get our attention. As someone who deals with anxiety and panic, it was interesting to have a major character dealing with it. I was encouraged by Cora.

I was intrigued by the idea of a crafting retreat. I have never been to one. I do enjoy some crafts but am lousy at keeping them up. My crafting level is, at best, self described as kindergarten - first grade level. I do love to do them do and am, frequently, as proud as the best of any kindergarteners. I started this book with a little bit of fear that I would have a difficult time with the crafting part. No worries, though. I was able to not only keep up just fine but also found myself wishing to attend a craft retreat. I believe I could manage to learn something new and fun to do. I was even encouraged enough that I am planning to try the crafts at the back of the book. I'm thinking I could come away with some meditation beads...or maybe just a necklace like is pictured on the cover. There are actually a couple of craft instructions that I want to try.

The mystery was well written. I was kept guessing all the way up to the reveal. There were several secrets and surprises along the way that had me changing my mind about suspects. The big reveal contained the best secret! But I'm not going to give you anything there.

I recommend this cozy mystery book. It was fun and interesting. If you make any of the crafts in the book and post photos on Instagram, please tag me, (Wulfwyn907). I would really like to see what you made. I will be adding the other books in this series to my TBR. Thank you to Kimberlee at the Review Club on Facebook for the ARC. The opinions expressed are my honest thoughts regarding this book.

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### **Sheila Samuelson says**

First time reading a book by Mollie and I LOVED it. The suspense keeps you intrigued to keep reading. I felt bad for a few of the characters BUT in the end I'm glad the right person was arrested for the crime.

I'll definitely be reading more by this author :D!!

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### **Amy says**

This is the fourth installment in the Cora Crafts series. Everything is in place for the Mom's Bead Retreat at Cora's place in the mountains of Indigo Gap, North Carolina. At the same time, it is supposed to be opening night for the local theater production of Fiddler on the Roof but their very demanding director, Stan Herald,

is found murdered. One of Cora's friends is jailed briefly on suspicion for his murder but then Cora finds a clue which changes the focus of the investigation. Could one of the moms really be a killer under her own roof?

I really liked this cozy mystery. Although I hadn't read the prior books in the series, it was easy to follow the storyline. There were just the right amount of suspects and the mystery tied nicely together at the end. There was a romantic element to the book but I appreciated that the primary focus remained on the women and their relationships. I look forward to reading the prior books in the series as well as the next installment.

Thanks to Cozy Mystery Review Crew and Kensington Publishers for an ARC of this book. My review is voluntary.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

We return back to Indigo Gap just in time for the Crafty Mom's Escape Weekend. In addition to getting ready for the event, Cora is helping with scenery for the upcoming play at the local theater. But before the curtain goes up for the production, the curtain comes down on its director, Stan Herald. Cora's friend Zee is found near his body and becomes the prime murder suspect. Cora, Jane, and Ruby know their friend is innocent. They commit to finding the real killer to free their friend all while handling the Mom's who have escaped for a fun and crafty weekend. Hopefully, the weekend will be a beading success on both counts.

A strong group of friends shines within these pages. Cora, Ruby, Jane, Cashel, come together to help their friend Zee. Cashel handles the legal stuff. Cora and Jane do the sleuthing. Ruby does whatever is needed so the others can do their thing. In this story, that means keeping the moms entertained and she does is well. These characters are a lively group and people I would love to be friends with, tagging along crafting and sleuthing would be a blast.

It does take a group of people to handle everything happening within these pages. Mollie Cox Bryan has crafted a clever mystery to go along with the crafting theme. Twists and turns really kept me guessing. Even after a confession, the case is not solved. This was a good one that kept me guessing right up until the end.

It is stories like these that make me love cozy mysteries. Before an accident left my right side paralyzed I was quite the crafter. Books in this series have not only brought back great memories but allowed me to vicariously do some arts and crafts. In fact, I think I could make some of the beads described with one hand and just a little bit of help with the cutting.

Wonderful characters, a great mystery, and fun crafts make this story A Perfect Escape! I am ready to book my next trip to Indigo Gap!

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## **Jeanie says**

Welcome back to Indigo Gap, NC where a new craft retreat is planned at Kildare House! This is a pleasant novel with appealing characters, a complex mystery, and various interesting crafts to learn, this time beading.

Cora, Jane, and Ruby are beginning their third retreat at Kildare House, this time for moms to celebrate their children returning to school. The “Crafty Moms’ Escape Weekend” includes at least two moms away from their child(ren) for the first time. Cora and Jane have been best friends since meeting in their former careers and are now business partners in the historic Kildare Mansion nestled in the North Carolina mountains. Ruby has lived in the gardener’s cottage for many years. She is a respected herbalist, and many crafts she teaches include artistic uses of herbs. Cora has a successful craft blog, and Jane creates and sells pottery from her studio in the carriage house.

Roni, one of the crafters, miscalculated her driving time and arrives a day early for the retreat. Lena, the guest instructor, will arrive the next morning, while most of the retreaters will come in the next afternoon or evening.

Zee, a friend of Cora and Jane, is the musical director for the community theater productions, and owner of The Blue Note, a local B & B. Maisy, one of the local gossips and a stage mom at the theater, calls Ruby shortly after Ruby’s attorney son goes to the police department to meet a new client. Unfortunately, the new client is Zee, accused of killing the obnoxious play director, Stan. He was found dead in the theater and Zee was next to him, unconscious, clutching the murder weapon.

This will not be as relaxing of a retreat as hoped for, as many demands are made on the partners’ time, especially when Zee hopes for help finding who murdered Stan. When Cora finds a valuable piece of evidence in the trash at Kildare house, she wonders if she is responsible for bringing a killer into the house. She learns more about their guests and hopes to find the bad gal before anyone gets hurt.

Each of the ladies has valuable experience, sharing their crafting talents to teach or learn how to make beads for use in jewelry, fiber, or metal arts. Some retreaters arrive in pairs, having been friends for a long time, and a few come alone. Cora is adept at drawing some of the ladies out and learning more about them, including their families and what crafts they enjoy. They are well defined as evidenced by actions and realistic conversations.

The mystery is what really makes this novel. While there are elements included that, to me, are a departure from a traditional cozy and discouraging for me to find, the murder and limited evidence make for an intriguing puzzle. It seemed as if there were many pieces, none of which fit together with the others. I was impressed with how Cora works it out, to the chagrin of Detective Brodsky, even though it is a bit unrealistic that she is the only one tripping over important clues. I had several potential suspects on my list, but at the end of the story, I was surprised by the final twist of events showing the real killer, and why. If one enjoys mysteries that include crafts, small towns, and challenging murders, I recommend it. Instructions for some of the beads are included.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher, and this is my honest review.

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## **Kristina says**

Assault and Beadery by Mollie Cox Bryan is the fourth book in A Cora Crafts Mystery series. Cora Chevalier and Jane Starr are touching up the sets for IndigoArts production of Fiddler on the Roof which begins that evening. They then hurry home to make sure all preparations are complete for their Crafty Mom’s Escape Weekend which begins the next day. Cora is surprised when she gets a call from Zee Mancini, musical director for IndigoArts, later that evening. Stan Herald, the play’s director, was found murdered on the stage with an unconscious Zee beside him. Cora knows that Zee did not commit the crime. She teams up with Jane and Cora to dig into Stan’s life looking for alternate suspects. The ladies need to string together the clues to get a bead on the killer. It would help if Zee was not so mysterious about her past. In between talking with their suspects, the ladies need to teach their classes and make sure their guests have a pleasant crafting weekend. Can they wrap up the case before the killer strikes again?

Assault and Beadery may be the fourth book in the series, but it can be read alone. The author provides the background on the main characters and how the retreat came to exist. The current crafting retreat, Mom's Escape Weekend, is for mother's whose children just went back to school. It is a chance for them to get away, relax and learn some new skills. Beading is the focus of the weekend. French beading, making rose beads, polymer clay beads, wet felting, knotting and artist trading cards are a few of the crafts described in the book. Instructions for different crafts are included at the end of the book. I like that crafting is featured in this series (many cozy mysteries used to feature crafts). The crafty fun is described with delightful details. If not for the pesky murder, I would love to be a guest at this retreat. I still do not understand why they do not employ a cook for their retreats instead of using a caterer. The retreaters could bound over delectable dinners. Indigo Gap sounds like a charming town. There are a variety of shops that I would enjoy browsing. I like how the shops and streets have blue themed names. I have still not taken a liking to Cora. This series would have benefited from a different main character. Cora with her anxiety issues and panic attacks make her unappealing. It is mentioned frequently throughout the story with it becoming an issue near the end for Cora. Panic attacks are a serious issue and the author has shown how Cora tries to cope without resorting to medication. However, reading is supposed to be relaxing and Cora gives me anxious and uncomfortable. Cora is not the right person to be the main character who investigates crime which puts in her situations that exacerbate her condition. The whodunit has a variety of suspects and misdirection to confuse the reader. Readers will have no problem untangling the clues and identifying the killer. It was fun to have the characters from A Cumberland Creek Mystery series visit Indigo Gap. The pace is a little slower in Assault and Beadery and there is mild foul language along with copious amounts of alcohol (these ladies let loose while Cora was out of the house). Join Cora, Jane and Ruby in Indigo Gap for crafts, creativity and killing.

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### **Sara Grotz says**

Assault and Beadery was a welcome addition to the Cora Crafts mystery series. It was fast paced and kept me interested up until the end (which I won't spoil). The best part of a series is getting to know all of the characters over time, and I love how much Cora, Ruby, and Jane have grown and developed. The crafting is woven in during the mysteries very well, and usually leaves me with a desire to make something when I am done.

The ladies decide to host a mom's escape weekend, and unfortunately, the night before the retreat begins the local theater director is murdered, leaving their friend Zee the prime suspect. The retreat of course starts off as planned, and includes a few characters from the author's other series, which I loved. Cora is my favorite. I especially like how she struggles with anxiety and other real ailments that are very relatable to me, although I also understand Jane's struggles as a mom. The characters get better each time we get to visit Indigo Gap, and I look forward to the next in the series. I did receive a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, but all opinions are mine alone.

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### **Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says**

Review: ASSAULT AND BEADERY by Mollie Cox Bryan  
(A Cora Crafts Mystery)

I really was educated while reading this Cozy Mystery novel: educated in certain types of Crafts



(beadmaking, paper crafts, and Artistic playing cards), but equally so in the art of friendship, and the procedures of small business, and the foibles of small town living. Indigo Gap, North Carolina, is a small but active and thriving community tucked in the shadows of the looming Appalachian Mountains. It sports tourism and craft retreats, the latter organized by best friends Cora, Jane, and Ruby, in a lovely Victorian called Kildare House. A beadmaking retreat is marred by the death of the community theater's producer and the arrest of its musical director. But Cora and Jane are not just crafter and potter; both have faced evil and crime, and they are determined that the actual killer will be identified--before another death.

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### **Peggy R says**

All in all, I think this is a fun series that keeps me entertained. I enjoy the crafting aspect as well as the small southern town setting. The characters are interesting and the author keeps it fresh with the addition of revolving secondary characters in the form of the retreat guests.

I voluntarily read an advanced review copy provided to me by the publisher, Kensington, through Netgalley.

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### **Christine says**

Cora and her partner Jane are set to begin their beading retreat when they receive an urgent call from their friend Zee. She has been arrested for murder. Not exactly the way they wanted to start their retreat. As Cora tries to focus on bead making, she begins to wonder if one of her attendees might be the killer. Also included are interesting descriptions of a variety of bead-making techniques. An enjoyable mystery.

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