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Monica Ferris

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When Betsy's sister is murdered in her own needlecraft store, Betsy takes over the shop and the investigation. But to find the murderer, she'll have to put together a list of motives and suspects to figure out this killer's pattern of crime...Includes a beautiful embroidery pattern!

Crewel World Details

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From Reader Review Crewel World for online ebook

Vicky Marie says

Reread

Hmm, somehow I liked this better the second time through. Like all firsts in a mystery series the story is slow to start, but after the first third is done things start to pick up. What I like about the Needlecraft Mystery series is the amateur sleuth, Betsy. She's like Jessica Fletcher from *Murder, She Wrote* in that she actually figures out the murder - who's the killer, how it was executed, etc. It seems like most sleuths just stumble upon the answer. Either that or the killer simply reveals themselves in an attempt to kill the sleuth to keep them silent. To me these endings are underwhelming. It's because of Betsy's smarts that this cozy series is one of my all time favorites.

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza

Avevo letto un libro di questa serie per partecipare a una challenge e mi aveva conquistato, tanto che ho iniziato a reperire anche gli altri.

Questo è il primo della serie e, più che altro, spiega come la protagonista sia entrata in possesso di un negozio di *needlecraft* (*uso la parola inglese perché non riesco a trovarne una in italiano che raggruppi tutti i tipi di lavoro previsti*) e ci presenta gran parte dei personaggi che, come so dall'altro libro letto, saranno presenti nelle altre storie. Ci sono vari riferimenti a progetti, sia a maglia che a ricamo: mi è venuta voglia di riprendere in mano tutti i vari lavori che ho a mezzo...

La storia gialla è ben congeniata, anche se ho capito quasi subito chi fosse il colpevole e perché. Ma l'autrice scrive in un modo tale che è un piacere leggere il libro, anche se si è già capito chi sia il cattivo. Mi stupisce come in due-tre frasi molto semplici riesca a descrivere un ambiente, in questo caso la cittadina dove si trasferisce la protagonista, in una maniera che mi fa venire voglia di saltare sul primo aereo e andare a vivere lì...

Sheila says

An interesting, well-paced, charming-cozy mystery. Had me on the internet looking at needlepoint for almost an hour. :-)

Heather says

This is the first book in a series that's being shared around in my church choir. I like cozy mysteries and I was pretty well stalled on my other reading and falling behind on my goal of a book a month for the year. So... I picked it up and started reading it.

It was an excellent read and went quickly. I did not read that blurb on the back, so I was just a bit surprised

(but only a bit) when Margot was killed.

The characters were likeable and engaging, also believable. I really felt for Betsy when she was struggling through her sister's untimely murder. The things she was feeling and how she reacted... it all made sense.

I enjoyed the characters as a whole. They were just the sort of people you might find in a small town. I think I like Jill the best of all. She was just such fun, partly because she reminded me of other characters I liked in other works.

I was able to solve the mystery right along with the main character - not ahead of or behind. That's always a plus with me. If I continue with the series, I might start getting ahead of Betsy. However, it was nice to see that the clues were all there for the reader to put together.

Joy says

3.5 stars

Almeta says

Although I read the synopsis when choosing to read Crewel World, I didn't retain the information. So it was with some shock (view spoiler)[when I learned that a character that I was getting to know and like was murdered. Surely the author meant the other sister! (hide spoiler)]

It is a CRIME to "waste" an artistically gifted crafter. Period!

The victim's character became even more endearing as the search was on for "who disliked her" enough to kill her. I did not however find myself very interested in the other players. Maybe in a first novel it is too soon to empathize. I'll bet the continuation of the series will develop them further.

I thought that the cause of the motive for murder was quite clever. (view spoiler)[AND needle crafters totally understand the quest for the perfect color. (hide spoiler)]

An easy, entertaining read.

Stephanie says

Monica Ferris was an author of the month at the Goodreads Cozy Mystery group, this is the first book I've read by her.

I liked the characters, was slightly surprised at who the victim was. I found the mystery to be fairly easy to solve, was about at that point of wanting to yell at the characters -- "come on, don't you see it?" but I ended up enjoying how the author wrapped it all up.

I will read more in this series.

Kirsti says

I was surprised to find myself enjoying not only the mystery aspects of this novel, but the knitting parts too! Who knew that a complete novice could still enjoy patterns and purling? Haha, I learned things, though. I really loved the characters as well. Pretty much a perfect mystery read, and someone went to all the trouble to collect these, tie them in a bundle and leave them in an Op Shop, so I now have the entire set! Look out for more reviews of the next couple of books soon :)

Lee Miller says

"Library Journal" reported that this was one of the best current mystery series, so I picked up the first volume just to satisfy my curiosity. I was completely charmed. Cozies are usually light on characterization or real mystery, but Monica Ferris wonderfully combines the American small town cozy with diverse, interesting, fully-formed characters. She also crafted an actual mystery that was hard to put down.

The needlecraft angle was also surprisingly enjoyable. I knew nothing about needlecrafts and was curious about how an author could anchor a story around something like that, but it was so interesting, and I learned so much that I'd never even thought about before, that I'm tempted to pick up a pair of knitting needles myself.

With well-developed characters and a strong story, Ferris proves that cozies can be more than fluff. "Crewel World" was absolutely delightful and I can hardly wait to read the next one.

Melissa says

Crewel World is the first in the Needlecraft series from Monica Ferris. I like the writing style of this cozy mystery. It left me guessing "who did it" ..until the very end. If you like needlework, you will LOVE this series!

Hannah says

So I've just recently fallen in love with the art of embroidery, and I am always up for a good, escapist, cozy mystery. I sampled Crewel World, the first "Needlecraft Mystery" by Monica Ferris, and was quickly hooked. This book is a quick, light read. I enjoyed the setting, the real town of Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota. I enjoyed the characters, and I enjoyed the needlework aspect (plus a free pattern at the end of the book).

What surprised me the most-and what I really loved-was the quality of the writing. Here's an example of an especially lovely paragraph.

"It had started raining sometime during the play, and was still raining when they came out of the theater. But

the farther west they drove, the lighter the rain became, until out in Excelsior it ceased altogether, leaving platinum puddles as markers of its passing, and tree branches hanging lower, their leaves heavy with water." The writing style reminded me a bit of a mystery from an earlier time....perhaps something Nancy Drew-ish or even earlier. Anyway, Crewel World was a lot of fun, and I plan to read more in the series.

Laurel Bradshaw says

Review from Literary Times

Margot Berglund owns a needlework and wool store called Crewel World [set in Excelsior, MN]. She's fifty-three, a widow and an expert in her field. Her store does very well for a small town, and she is able to support two part time staff as well as other casual workers. Her husband Aaron had been a wealthy man but despite this she lives a simple life, causing speculation among the town's people. Margot's older sister, Betsy, comes to live with her. When Betsy was young she ran off to join the navy and married a sailor and now her second husband is divorcing her. Betsy seems to be planning to sponge off Margot, she sees living off Margot an easy solution to her problems, at least for the short term. In the idyllic world of Margot there are some problems. Her landlord wants her building so he can build something new and charge more, but Margot has a cheap lease that is good for another four years. So Joe sues Margot regularly and threatens her too, but she has a good lawyer to protect her. She also has a "Wanta be" successor who wants to run her own needlework store in a town that cannot support two. Irene is a little nuts and readily admits that she wants something to happen to Margot so that she can take over. Unfortunately for Irene she has no people skills and is not very successful with the customers. A few nights after her arrival, Betsy comes home and finds Crewel World trashed and Margot murdered. The mystery begins and Betsy takes it into her own hands when she thinks the police aren't doing enough.

Series info:

Needlecraft mystery series

01. Crewel world - read

02. Framed in lace

03. A stitch in time

04. Unraveled sleeve

05. A murderous yarn

06. Hanging by a thread

07. Cutwork

08. Crewel yule

09. Embroidered truths

10. Sins and needles

11. Knitting bones

12. Thai die

13. Blackwork

14. Buttons and bones

15. Threadbare

16. And then you dye

Sarah Sammis says

Crewel World is the first in the Needlecraft Mystery series and probably the last one I'll read. It's supposedly a cozy mystery but I found it one of the most depressing books I've read this year. Usually in a cozy the death of a character isn't the focus of the book except to provide impetus for the main character to solve the crime. Here, though, the tragedy of the death was the central focus for a large chunk of the novel.

Roughly speaking, Crewel World is divided into thirds. The first third introduces the characters, especially the sisters: Margot and Betsy and the town of Excelsior, Minnesota. The second and most depressing third focuses on Margot's death (not a spoiler as it's mentioned on the back of the book) and the harsh reality of the clean-up from a violent death.

In the final third, Crewel World finally falls into being a cozy mystery. While trying to figure out what to do with the store and her life, Betsy begins to realize that something isn't right with how the murder is being investigated. In learning how to run her sister's store, she sees what the police are missing.

My favorite pieces of the book were the beginning and the ending thirds. Betsy's depression after her sister's death is so well written that I was on the verge of tears while reading through the planning of the funeral. I just don't know if I want to grow that emotional roller coaster on future books in this series.

Sonia Ashby says

A friend suggested I would like reading Monica Ferris' mystery books since I enjoy reading Charlaine Harris' books. "Crewel World" seemed a little slow to draw me in, and since I am not big on needlepoint or knitting I found myself glossing over details having to do with needlework. It ended up being a good mystery book, and the needlepoint played a huge part in solving the mystery. I will try a couple more books in the series and see if I want to keep reading her books.

Dez Nemec says

A bit predictable, but fun!

Jim says

Really liked this first book in this series. If you like female sleuths such as Hannah Swenson, Lucy Stone, Goldy Schulz, or Jacobia Tiptree, I think that you'll really enjoy this mystery. This book revolves around a small Minnesota town's needlework shop and its owner. It made me look forward to reading more books in this series.

Cheryl says

I have read several cozy mystery books and thought I would love this one since it has to do with crafts.

Little did I know that this book would seem to drag on forever and have more mistakes in it than I could count.

I finally got through to the end. But i don't think that I will be reading the rest of the series.

Jennifer says

I picked up this book because I am a knitter who likes mystery's - so it seemed like a good fit. Oh - And it is by a local author which made it a triple threat to my wallet. Had to get it!

The story is set in Excelsior, MN at Margot Berglund's needlework shop Crewel World. She is a widow in her 50's and she has a pretty nice life. Her sister Betsy decides to come and stay with her when her second marriage hits the rocks. Betsy seems somewhat aimless and it seemed like she came to be with her sister to just sponge for awhile. All is progressing well for a few days but then..... MURDER!

It tells you on the back cover of the book that it is Margot that gets murdered - which frankly I found irritating. I found I had little in common with Betsy. But i have to say the writing wasn't that bad if I keep reading a book with a main character I don't really relate to.

As far as the series in general goes it's a pretty tame series. I think the nearest thing to sex in it is hand holding and kissing. I remember thinking that this is a good book to recommend to grandmothers who like mystery's because they are so PG. The mystery's are a little weak in some of the books. The way Betsy gets to her conclusions is sometimes unclear at times.

All that being said - they aren't bad books. A little bland - but still interesting enough that I jumped right into the next book when I finished the first one.

Lorna says

I wish that the other sister had been murdered. It was too annoying to read about Betsy's incompetence and poor judgement for the rest of the book after the murder. However, I suppose that Betsy's thickheadedness was necessary - the murder wouldn't have been much of a mystery to anybody else. Some parts of the book were okay though, and Betsy did manage to pick up the pieces of both Margot's and her own life by the end, which made me like her a little more. I doubt I'll pick up the next one unless I'm really desperate, but the series has some promising aspects, especially the characterization of the small town and the relationships between its inhabitants.

Nicole says

Very well written and I was thinking it was this person or that person left and right. Looking forward to stating the next

