



Thread and Gone

Lea Wait

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When a priceless antique is stolen, murder unravels the peaceful seaside town of Haven Harbor, Maine...

Angie Curtis and her fellow Mainely Needlepointers know how to enjoy their holidays. But nothing grabs their attention like tying up loose threads. So when Mary Clough drops in on the group's Fourth of July supper with a question about antique needlepoint she's discovered in her family Colonial-era home, Angie and her ravelers are happy to look into the matter.

Their best guess is that the mystery piece may have been stitched by Mary, Queen of Scots, famous not just for losing her head, but also for her needlepointing. If they're right, the piece would be extremely valuable. For safekeeping, Angie turns the piece over to her family lawyer, who places it in her office safe. But when the lawyer is found dead with the safe

Thread and Gone Details

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Author : Lea Wait

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From Reader Review Thread and Gone for online ebook

Crittermom says

Thread and Gone, the newest installment of the Mainely Needlepoint mystery series is easily as good or better than its predecessors. Lea Wait knows how to keep readers enthralled on multiple levels.

In Thread and Gone, a local lawyer is murdered and everything in her safe, both jewelry and a potentially valuable piece of needlework is stolen. On another level, there is also the mystery of the origin of the needlework itself, delving into the history and the possible connection of the piece to Mary Queen of Scots and Marie Antoinette. While some of the historical connections within the novel are fiction, Lea Wait's research adds depth and interest to the novel. It's difficult to say which mystery is more fascinating.

Angie Curtis puts her PI skills to good use in her search for the missing piece of embroidery and the killer. The knowledge of her friends and fellow needlepointers comes in handy, as they are able to research the origins of the embroidery and the links to the Clough family. The two mysteries blend well, as do the skills of Angie and her friends.

I also liked the inclusion of quotes from pieces of needlework at the start of each chapter. They add to the unique flavor of this delightful cozy series.

Whether you are an avid fan of needlework or simply enjoy reading an entertaining cozy mystery, you can't go wrong with picking up a copy of Thread and Gone.

5/5

Thread and Gone is available for preorder and will be released December 29, 2015.

I received a copy of Thread and Gone from the publisher and netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

Roxann says

From the cover: Angie Curtis and her fellow Mainely Needlepointers know how to enjoy their holidays. But nothing grabs their attention like tying up loose threads. So when Mary Clough drops in on the group's Fourth of July supper with a question about an antique needlepoint she's discovered in her family attic, Angie and her ravelers are happy to look into the matter. Angie's best guess is that the mystery piece may have been stitched by Mary, Queen of Scots, famous not just for losing her head, but also for her needlepointing. If Angie's right, the piece would be extremely valuable. For safekeeping, Angie turns the piece over to her family lawyer, who places it in a safe in her office. But when the lawyer is found dead with the safe open and ransacked, the real mystery begins.

I have read another in this series (not in order). This book was like the other in that the main characters are strong and an interesting plot that brought in some history. I like the main female lead Angie as the amateur

sleuth (she had worked for a detective agency before) and she gets help from other in her group, the Mainely Needlepointers. The story can get a little tedious with always pointing out that so many people in the small town worked hours for little pay and were tired. But that then lead to having lots of suspects. This is a good and fast read cozy mystery and I do plan to read the others in the series.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

Review: THREAD AND GONE by Lea Wait

The Mainely Needlepoint-ers are on their third adventure in the popular summer destination of Haven Harbor, Maine, a port community with its own lighthouse, near Three Sisters Islands. This eclectic group of dedicated enthusiasts commit to researching a potentially priceless embroidered "Byrd of America" (sic) which quite possibly may be a work of love by that 16th century controversial historical personage, Mary Queen of Scots (temporarily Queen of France). Provenance seems a moot question when the attorney keeping the needlepoint and it's accompanying missive in French in her safe is found murdered, and the trusted items disappear.

I enjoy a crafting cozy such as THREAD AND GONE, with its emphasis on craft and talent, and historical research into crafters of past time. Then, too, it's intriguing to watch characters play out their motivations, and compare them to real-life individuals we know. THREAD AND GONE is heartwarming and encouraging. I intend to read the series, too.

Lark of The Bookwyrm's Hoard says

I'm continuing to really enjoy this series set in a Maine coastal town. From the way needlepoint is woven into the mysteries without seeming overly contrived, to the seaside town itself, to the first-person heroine, just about every aspect of the series appeals to me. It's not cutesy; there's a grittier, more realistic edge to the series that makes it believable without losing its "cozy mystery" appeal.

In *Thread and Gone*, the mystery revolves around a piece of antique needlework that just might be the work of Mary, Queen of Scots. It's the property of an orphaned young woman, just turning 18 and going through her parents' effects. Toss in a boyfriend apparently in need of money and pushing for marriage, a few other young adults also eager to pursue better opportunities elsewhere, a lawyer with a convenient safe – and an angry ex-husband, and an apparent robbery-with-murder, and there's plenty to keep Angie and her friends busy.

Angie is smart, curious, observant, sympathetic, and determined to make Mainely Needlepoint, her grandmother's small business, a success. She's also occasionally edgy, drinks a little more than she should, and doesn't have a great track record when it comes to men. In other words, she's a flawed but likeable heroine, and I'm glad she's beginning to settle down in Haven Harbor.

I appreciate that Angie has a background in private investigation, and that she knows when to call in the police. Both factors make her involvement in local mysteries more believable. Unlike some series in which the amateur detective is pitted against the police, Angie is also pretty good at staying on the right side of the

law, both literally and in terms of maintaining good relations. I lost a little respect for her in that regard toward the end of this book, however, when she unnecessarily did something dangerous and potentially illegal.

In addition to that incident, a few other things broke my “willing suspension of disbelief” this time around. To begin with, this is the third mystery Angie has been involved in in as many months (if I’m counting correctly.) Granted, it’s always tough to sell a series set in a small town — how many crimes can really occur in one town in a short period of time before you start thinking that either they are all related, or this is a really bad place to live? You can avoid some of that by stringing the mysteries out in time, or (as Nancy Atherton does) by turning a lot of them into amusing misunderstandings rather than serious crimes. I’d be much more willing to accept the crime rate in Haven Harbor if there were at least six months between each mystery.

Second, there’s the whole question of provenance for the alleged Mary Queen of Scots needlework. I don’t want to give anything away, but I’m pretty sure “provenance” has to be more than conjecture to really raise the value of an object like that; you need a fair bit of documentation. It’s a little thing in the overall story, but it was enough to temporary throw me out of the narrative flow.

Despite those relatively minor quibbles, though, I still really love this series, and I’m eagerly looking forward to Angie’s next adventure!

Review originally published at The Bookwyrm's Hoard.

FTC disclosure: *I received a review copy from the publisher for a blog tour. All opinions are entirely my own.*

Mary says

I love Lea Wait's books. I love visiting Haven Harbor, Maine. I love seeing the Mainely Needlepointers and all the fun and friendship that they all share. I enjoy the trouble and involvement that Angie Curtis gets into when she does not listen to the police when she gets involved with the latest murders in Haven Harbor!

This book had two murders, one a woman lawyer and a tourist who Angie only met once, but she had to figure out what happened to both of them.

Of course, the story kept me up all night and I read until the early morning.(4AM) Then I could not go to sleep at all so I started to read another book.

This book was well written and I enjoy Lea's beginning of each chapter. I am intrigued with it so much that I am looking in to learning how to do needlepoint.

Keep up the good work, Lea. I just ordered the latest book do out on March 27th my Granddaughter's birthday.

Lea Wait says

This is an author review -- so, first, I want to share how much fun I had doing the research for THREAD AND GONE, and then writing it. Connecting Mary Queen of Scots to Marie Antoinette and then to the coast of Maine was a challenge, but I found amazing ways in which it worked. I'll admit I love history, but I hope even if you don't, you'll enjoy the puzzle. (And don't forget to read my Author's Note at the end, in which I share my own personal connection to this story.) Of course, most of the book is set in Haven Harbor, Maine today . . . and there's nothing better than a July week on the coast of Maine. So welcome back to Haven Harbor, and Angie Curtis and her Mainely Needlepointing friends. And stay tuned! They'll next be seen in DANGLING BY A THREAD, in November, 2016!

Lisa Morin says

I was excited to read this new book in the needlepoint series. While I enjoyed the history regarding Mary, Queen of Scots and Marie Antoinette, I was not as engaged in the story as I hoped I would be.

I missed the needlepoint group as a whole, when they got together it made the story more enjoyable. I felt that some of the mystery was left unsolved, but maybe the author is holding out until the next book.

I did not like Rob Trask at all, he was not portrayed as a nice guy and I had a hard time getting through the story because he was such an unlikable character.

My other issue is with Angie and her drinking. I'm not sure if the author is intentionally making her drinking an issue, but I am a bit tired of all the innuendos surrounding her habits. Again, maybe this topic will be answered in her future books, but this time I was a bit disappointed by the story as a whole. There were some really interesting parts, but some very disjointed parts as well. I will not give up on the series, I am hoping the next book will answer some of my questions.

I received an ARC from NetGalley via Kensington Publishing in exchange for my fair and honest review.

Cathy Cole says

I discovered two brand-new cozy mystery series in 2015 that I absolutely love, and Lea Wait's Mainely Needlepoint series is one of them. Wait has a knack for combining strong characters and intriguing plots filled with fascinating historical tidbits, and I find it irresistible.

In Thread and Gone, one piece of extremely old needlepoint has possible ties to Marie Antoinette, Mary Queen of Scots, and all of the Scottish queen's attendants who were also named Mary. (It's not as confusing as it sounds.) Wait also highlights a connection between Maine and France that I'd forgotten, and I appreciated the memory jog. In addition, the author's inclusion of quotes at the beginning of each chapter gives a real sense of the history of needlepoint.

So many of those on the suspect list are locals living in a poor area dependent on tourism. Times are hard. Money is scarce. Wait does an excellent job of showing us people who are tired of working endless hours to barely make ends meet, and she does it in a subtle way to root us firmly in the setting. (It also makes it more difficult to pinpoint the killer!)

As always, Wait's characters shine. Level-headed, smart Angie Curtis previously worked for a detective

agency, and this makes her one of the best amateur sleuths around. This time she's not aided by her grandmother, who's on her honeymoon in Canada. I did miss her, but the elderly Ruth filled in very well. One of the Mainely Needlepointers, Ruth is crippled by arthritis and helps Angie with online research. The fact that Ruth also writes and publishes erotica adds a little spice to a character too many would dismiss simply as a crippled old woman.

i think you can see by now why I enjoy this series so much. There are three books in the series so far, and I've read all three this year-- something that I very, very seldom ever do. All I can say is bring on number four!

Heather says

This book ticked all my boxes. Needlework? Love it. Cozy Mystery? Heck yeah. History? Give me more. You'd think that combining all my major loves into one book would mean an instant 5 star read, right? Yeah. No. Sadly this book was a huge waste of potential. The characters were one dimensional and dull, the story was barely even a story, and the pacing was just off.

At no point was there a real mystery that our protagonist (sorry, don't remember her name and don't care enough to look it up) actively tried to solve. She just seemed to wander around and occasionally someone with important information would talk to her. Heck, in the climax, (view spoiler) This book suffered from a serious case of "tell-don't-show-itis".

Also, like I mentioned earlier, the pacing was so strange, even down to the break up of the chapters. The chapter breaks almost felt like the publisher/author expected this book to be read on the bus or in the line at the grocery store. Chapters would literally end and the next pick up mid-conversation when there was no natural breaking point. It was jarring and unnecessary. Slightly spoilery example: (view spoiler) Now, that whole chapter was unnecessary and the break was so jarring, especially as each chapter begins with historical quotes (which actually were my favorite parts of the book). Then there's another serious slump in pacing until the end with a rather silly action scene. Nope. Not feelin' it.

Ok. Now, this is the thing that bothered me the most, although I admit, it's rather silly. The series is called "Mainely Needlepoint" series. The term "needlepoint" is used SEVERAL times in this book, both in general and to describe the stolen artifact. Problem is...there's no needlepoint in this book. At all. None. The piece that the story revolves around is embroidery, not needlepoint. They are not the same. Some times the characters use the right term of "embroidery", but 90% of the time, "needlepoint" was used. If only the author had used the term "needlework", I'd have one less thing to complain about.

I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Penny Marks says

I really enjoyed book three in the Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series. I have enjoyed the other two in the series and feel that each can be read alone if you haven't read the earlier ones. One of the reasons I love these books is the history and samples at the beginning of each chapter. The author is great about who, where, and

when each were done. I used to cross stitch with my mom as a young girl and enjoy it. I am also a huge history nut and loved the Mary, Queen of Scots and Marie Antionette references throughout the book. I could read about them all day.

The story line in this book had me so intrigued. Besides the history in this book I also loved the characters and theme of family and traditions. You can't put a value on family.

You have the needle pointers at the Fourth of July yearly Maine celebration. This is the first one in 10 years that Angie has been too. She has a dinner party with everyone except Gram of course who is on her honeymoon with Tom. Everything is going great until she has a knock at her door. There on her doorstep are Mary Clough and Rob Trask her fiancé asking about a piece of needle point found in the attic of her parents house that she is trying to clean out. This gets the attention of some of her needle point friends who come and look at the amazing piece. Both Sarah and Ruth think this piece could date back hundreds of years and be very valuable. This peaks the interest of Rob who I have to add I don't like. He seems to only be about the money and value of everything instead of the family value and tradition. Mary is wanting to keep a lot because she has lost both of her parents and wants to keep a piece of them. Really don't know how these two are going to make it??? Everyone agrees that they should put the needlepoint in a safe place while they are researching. They decide to put it in Lenora's office safe which happens to be in her house. Lenora is a lawyer that handles wills, estates, and divorces. Meanwhile Rob is blabbing all over Haven Harbor how valuable this needlepoint could be and that he wants to sell it to buy a boat. But wait, isn't it Mary's? YEAH! Rob and a "friend" end up going to see the needlepoint the next day only to find Lenora dead in her office and the safe cleaned out! Angie feels bad not only because Lenora is dead but she promised Mary it would be safe. Angie and her needlepoint friends begin not only doing research on the needlepoint but investigate why someone would kill Lenora??? Will Angie be able to stay out of the investigation or will she become the next victim?

I loved this book and found it easy to follow especially if you are a history buff.

I received this book from NetGalley for an honest review.

Kaitlyn Dunnett says

I do enjoy this series and this entry didn't disappoint. Of course, I may be slightly biased since my pseudonym turned up in the text and my real name was in the author's note. As always, Lea Wait does a superb job of portraying life on the coast of Maine. My only complaint is that I have to wait until November to see what happens next in Angie's life.

Fred says

Thread And Gone is the third book in the Mainely Needlepoint series. Another great story for this enjoyable series.

With Grams and Pastor Tom off on their honeymoon, Angie is preparing her first 4th of July dinner for her friends, the Mainely Needlepointer's. As they are about to begin their dessert, Mary Clough and her boyfriend Rob Trask show up and ask to speak with Angie. Ethan Trask, Rob's brother, and a state trooper has told them to talk to Angie about what appears to a very example of needlepoint. Mary, who is close to her 18th birthday, has been busy cleaning out the family home she has inherited. Angie and Sarah feel sure that the needlepoint piece may date back to the late 1500's and was made by Mary Queen of Scots. Mary and

Rob plan on getting married soon and Rob wants Mary to sell the piece so he can get a down payment for a lobster boat and a double-wide trailer. Angie convinces Mary to let her give the piece to Lenore Pendleton, a lawyer, to put in her office safe until she and Sarah can authenticate it and possibly get a provenance for it.

Then the day after Angie leaves the piece with Pendleton is found dead in her office, the safe wide open and the needlepoint piece gone. Naturally, Angie feels bad about Pendleton being murdered, but even more that a needlework which had in intrusted to her is missing. Angie and Sarah continue to pursue the background of the piece and find are able to find a link the piece with Mary, Queen of Scots and Marie Antoinette. Now if they can just find the missing needlepoint work so it can be returned to Mary, they also just might be able to find the murderer.

Wait also provides chapter headings that describe various needlepoint works through the ages. She also provides the reader with a short history of Mary, Queen of Scots, Marie Antoinette and the sea captain that bought the piece to America in the late 1700's. Delicious sounding recipes are also included in the book.

I love this series, even though I'm not a needlepointer, as Wait provides the reader with an interesting look at the life in a small seaport of Maine and it's interesting residents.

Will definitely be watching for the next books in this series.

Lynn says

The Mainely Needlepoint series was my favorite new cozy mystery series in 2015. Angie grew up in Haven Harbor Maine and left for awhile to go to Arizona where she worked as an assistant to a private investigator. She returns to Haven Harbor Maine in the first book due to her mother's body being found. Her mother disappeared when she was a child. Angie went into business with her grandmother's Needlepoint business.

The third book starts off with a New England 4th of July picnic dinner of baked salmon, fresh green peas and hot potato salad. The guests were some of the Mainely Needlepointer group that make needlepoint products to sell. Angie's grandmother is on her honeymoon with the local pastor Tom in Canada. There was a knock of the door and two young people were there wanting information about a very old piece of needlepoint found in the attic of the girl's house. They are looking for information about the needle point work- age and value.

What I really like about this series is that you get a sense of Maine such as with the weather. Their summer month of July was cooler than I expected. As we enjoy eating lobster, we find out about the hard life the fisherman has eking out a living. If you are a cozy reader that likes to read about Maine, you should like this series.

I, also, like the character of Angie. She is serious, She is not a girly girl. She is level headed and uses her past as a private investigator assistant in solving mysteries. I enjoy that there isn't romance (yet) in the books. There are hints that there could be in the future. Right now Angie wants to get on with her independent life. So many cozies are almost half (or more) romance and then mystery.

The history portion of the book about Mary Queen of Scots and Marie Antoinette was interesting. I felt a desire to read a book about Mary Queen Of Scots for more information after reading about her in this book..

There were several suspects. While the murderer wasn't really a surprise as that person was on my radar, it wasn't who I thought it would be. The red herrings had me guessing between two other suspects. This book held my interest and read fast. I am now looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Author Lea Wait has embroidered mystery and needlepoint to create a masterpiece of a cozy!

I started this series with book two, **THREADS OF EVIDENCE** and instantly fell for this delightful series. Protagonist Angie Curtis and her group of Mainely Needlepointers are a great cast of characters. The setting of Haven Harbor, Maine sounds like just the sort of place I'd love to visit.

With **THREAD AND GONE**, author Wait has penned an excellent mystery that kept me rooted to my chair. The intrigue started right away, and I wasn't about to stop reading until I knew all the answers. With an exciting conclusion that lasted for at least two chapters, I was out of breath by the time I finished the story!

On a side note...I love that each chapter starts with a quote or tidbit. They're fun and interesting to read.

Make sure to check out the back of the book for a yummy recipe, and an excerpt of **DANGLING BY A THREAD**, book four in this wonderful series!

Betty says

The Mainely Needlepointers receive an old tapestry from Mary Clough to learn about its history. Angie Curtis takes the stitching piece to her lawyer so it can be put in a safe. There is a story about the needle work was done by Mary, Queen of Scots; if so it is very valuable. Later the lawyer is found strangled to death and the contents of the safe missing. Angie and friends search to find answers to the questions.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through Netgalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions are my own.
