



# Dyeing Up Loose Ends

*Maggie Sefton*

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**Dyeing Up Loose Ends** Maggie Sefton

**Murder hits very close to home for Kelly Flynn and the Lambspun Knitters in the next *New York Times* bestselling mystery.**

Four years have sped swiftly by, and Kelly Flynn and friends are all happily busy with children and careers. Baby Jack is now a rambunctious four-year-old pre schooler who keeps Kelly on her toes. She needs all of the coffee she can drink at Pete's Porch Café. Her friends at Lambspun knitting shop are all immersed in the wonderful world of fiber until they are shocked by the murder of one of the café's lovable staff.

Kelly's sleuthing instincts immediately go on full alert, and she starts asking questions. The well-liked waitress may have had enemies no one knew about or she could have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. Kelly and the Lambspun crew soon learn that the answers are knottier and nastier than they ever dreamed.

## Dyeing Up Loose Ends Details

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**OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/dy...>

Dyeing Up Loose Ends

A Knitting Mystery, Book #16

By Maggie Sefton

ISBN 9780425282540

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Brought to you by OBS reviewer Jeanie

Synopsis:

Murder hits very close to home for Kelly Flynn and the Lambspun Knitters in the next New York Times bestselling mystery.

Four years have sped swiftly by, and Kelly Flynn and friends are all happily busy with children and careers. Baby Jack is now a rambunctious four-year-old preschooler who keeps Kelly on her toes. She needs all of the coffee she can drink at Pete's Porch Café. Her friends at Lambspun knitting shop are all immersed in the wonderful world of fiber until they are shocked by the murder of one of the café's lovable staff.

Kelly's sleuthing instincts immediately go on full alert, and she starts asking questions. The well-liked waitress may have had enemies no one knew about or she could have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. Kelly and the Lambspun crew soon learn that the answers are knottier and nastier than they ever dreamed. (Goodreads)

Review:

Kelly and her friends at Lambspun of Colorado have come a long way in the years since she first came to live in the little home she inherited from her Aunt Helen. The core group of friends are closer than ever, and most have small children of their own. Kelly and Steve are parents of a very busy four-year-old and they have busy careers. It is early summer, and many people are away. As a result, Lambspun is less busy than usual with regards to classes and various fiber arts. This is more of a relational and reminiscing novel, somewhat apropos when I learned it was also the final mystery in the series.

The first several chapters are spent with various people of the Lambspun family reminiscing about the mysteries that Kelly contributed to solving over the years and how people met and came together as families. Lambspun folks are not immune from tragedies, as they have pulled together over the years when one of their loved ones has been died, or even when customers were found guilty of murder.

Two weddings are anticipated to take place in the near future for two young couples close to the heart of Lambspun and Pete's Porch Cafe, the restaurant part of the Lambspun building. One is planned thoroughly, even though it is hard to imagine that the two young people are old enough to wed. The other is not to be. One morning when Pete and Jennifer arrived to get the Cafe ready to open, one bride-to-be was found dead, shot, with the gun on the floorboard of her car. Horrified, it is hardest of all for Mimi, owner and manager of

Lambspun, and Burt, her husband and a retired police detective, who have taken the younger couples into their hearts as if sons and daughters. Pete and Jennifer have also worked closely with the young woman for the past several years, and it is hard for them to re-open the cafe without their friend.

The characters have grown and changed over the years they have lived in Fort Collins, Colorado. They have been on softball and other teams together, helped each other and the greater community during times of disaster, and grown closer through both joys and tragedies. I enjoy seeing the women now as mothers learning to balance safe limits for their children without stunting their need to explore and try new things. Kelly is still a favorite; her son is now her most active sport. Mother Mimi is a favorite also, even though this time she is less visible. Cassie is a young favorite; watching her blossom under the care of her uncle, Pete, and Jennifer, his wife, has been amazing.

The death did not occur until well into the novel, much later than I would have anticipated, and I didn't think that there was much time given to asking questions or looking for the bad guy amongst Kelly and the Gang as in the past. With young children, they are very busy, but I didn't feel the mystery was adequately inquired about by police or the Gang. It wasn't until much later that Kelly heard something that clicked her logical, questioning mind, something that made her, Burt, and the police take another look at events. Despite one other person who could have been involved, it was almost obvious who the bad guy/gal might be and who at least one of the red herrings was. While there were plot twists that helped change the course, there were not as many surprises as I anticipated.

When I opened this mystery, I was not prepared for it to be the final one in the series. I have enjoyed the realistic characters and the mysteries woven by an excellent author for a long time! I did miss the activity typical in the shop, reading about spinning or new craft classes, and some of the action outside the shop. I also missed having a full investigation occurring even through the grief and loss. That being said, the novel is still very well written, simply not as much about mystery as about relationship. These beautifully-drawn relationships have stood the test of time, and there is much to be learned from this series even as we puzzle over the murders and learn about various fiber arts. As one can see through the pages of memories, this is a series that will be read, re-read, and enjoyed for yarn lovers for some time to come.

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Carol says**

The book has 259 pages. Pages 1-9 gave me faint hope this might be better than the last books. Various members reminiscing about past deaths pages 10 to 56. New death page 136. Arrest page 251. There were many things over-explained (the usual) and so many not. (1) big deal made about one of the female group being way too thin and looking skeletal but nothing else ever mentioned until late in the book (2) why did they have little faith in the dead person? I could go on but I have other things to do...like knit. Which by the way was mentioned on only one occasion!

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## **Sherry Brown says**

I enjoyed reading "Dyeing up loose ends". It starts out Kelly sharing about her past mysteries adventures and then it goes into her connection with her friends . I definitely was not expecting the way the mystery ended up! I believe this is worth reading and would definitely recommend it! ?

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## **Karen says**

I finished Dyeing Up Loose Ends by Maggie Sefton , this is the 16th book in the series and it is a great read. Out July 3rd this book walks you through all the past murder mysteries and it also goes through main Character Kelly's current life, her relationship with her friends and her growing little boy. The murder mystery tied in nicely with what felt like a visit with old friends. As usual a great read and a wonderful series.

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## **Kelly says**

Still disappointed. Dying Up Loose Ends is better than the last book that Sefton wrote, but not by much. While some people might enjoy a recapping of the series so far, I found it boring and not really relevant to the story. The real mystery started about a quarter of the way into the book. This book is more about catching up on the characters lives than a mystery. Thank you to Netgalley for the ARC.

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## **Kristina says**

Dyeing Up Loose Ends by Maggie Sefton is the sixteenth tale in A Knitting Mystery series. Kelly Flynn is married to Steve and her son, Jack is now a boisterous four-year-old in Fort Connor, Colorado. Kelly spends her days at Pete's Porch Café and Lambspun working on her client's accounts and enjoys evenings with her family and close friends. Julie, one of the waitresses at the café, takes accounting classes at the local university and is currently having some issues with her boyfriend's ex-girlfriends and her money grubbing brother. One morning Jennifer and Pete arrive at the café to find Julie's car already in the parking lot. It looks like Julie has worked her last shift. They find Julie dead in her car from apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Kelly and the Lambspun crew have another theory and they set about untangling the clues. In between, the group has a wedding to organize for two special people. Join the Lambspun crew one last time in Dyeing Up Loose Ends.

All our favorite characters from A Knitting Mystery series returns in Dyeing Up Loose Ends. The book has a nice, steady pace and a conversational writing style that makes Dyeing Up Loose Ends easy to read. A Knitting Mystery series used to be one of my favorites and I could not wait for each new installment. The last couple of books, though, have felt like they were done by someone else. They lack the same depth and complexity of the earlier books in the series. Most of Dyeing Up Loose Ends is spent reminiscing (I ended up skimming through it since I have read every book in the series and I wonder if someone double checked their information). The various characters share recollections on the cases they have solved as well as discuss how Kelly came to Fort Connor, inherited her various properties, her accounting business, how Kelly met Steve, and how they other characters paired up and married. The murder mystery was simple and there was

little investigating. Identifying the guilty party was a snap. There are cozy moments as Kelly spends time with her friends, a lot of eating, time with the children, a wedding, and time spent at Lambspun. There are lovely descriptions of yarn included in the story and I laughed at Carl's continued determination to catch a squirrel (my dogs have given up). I believe this is the end of A Knitting Mystery series. I just wish the author had decided to go out as she started the series. If, like me, you have read all the books in this series, then you will want to read Dyeing Up Loose Ends (to find out what happens to the various characters). For those who are new to the series, I suggest starting with Knit One, Kill Two.

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## Caroline says

This latest offering from the ongoing series was extremely disappointing to a long-time reader. A large chunk at the beginning of the book was taken up by a completely unnecessary recapping of previous mysteries, which served no purpose, and which also came across as though it had either been ghostwritten by someone who hadn't done their research properly, or by a author who doesn't care any more and has lost interest in her own plots, as it was full of errors. The murder itself felt like a side plot, and the murderer (despite one or two vague/lazy attempts at misdirection) was clearly signposted, so there weren't really any surprises. And it was another book where Kelly wasn't really investigating, but got lucky with a couple of questions. Very, very disappointed.

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## Mary says

I received an Advance Reading Copy of Maggie Sefton's new mystery, *Dyeing Up Loose Ends*.

*A major theme of this book seems to be memories and reminiscing about past murders/books in this series. I have mixed feelings about this, as the first 56 pages of the ARC that I read was devoted to these memories of the past. In one way, I liked it because it's been awhile since I read any of the books in the series, so it was a good refresher. But on the other hand, I felt like I wanted the plot of this current book to get started. The reminiscing carried throughout the whole book even after the current plot got going.*

*All of the characters that we've gotten to know and love in this series are back in this new installment. There has definitely been a time lag between the last book, *Only Skein Deep*, where Kelly and Steve's baby is born, and the new book, where their son is now 4 years old. The murdered person is not one of the main characters from the Gang, but definitely a recurring character. The mystery itself was not difficult to figure out, but it was somewhat of a surprise as to who the murderer turned out to be. As usual, Kelly is not content to accept the explanation that the police come up with and continues to search for clues until the crime is solved. And then at the end, there was a wedding to celebrate.*

*Is *Dyeing Up Loose Ends* possibly the final book in the series??? Notice the similarity to the phrase *Tying Up Loose Ends*. I could be wrong, but all the reminiscing throughout this book might have been an intentional way to summarize the entire series. Fans of this series will not be disappointed.*

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## **Betty says**

The title of the sixteen story will let you know the girls at Lambspun are telling a new waitress about the murders that had been involved. Kelly is kept busy looking after her 4-year son, Jack. There is not much information about the next generation but enough so you know what each person is doing.

Julie a waitress is found dead in her car one morning, closing the cafe and Lambspun for short time. Kelly begins to look into the matter. Kelly needs to find the answer before there is another death. I recommend this book and series.

Recipes and knitting pattern are included

Disclosure: Many thanks to Berkley for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own

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## **Melanie says**

Way too much reminiscing this time. Reminiscing, coffee-drinking, and opening/closing spreadsheets.

Thanks to NetGalley for the ARC.

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## **Linda says**

I love these books and this one was no exception. A good visit with characters that have become friends and a mystery that I was able to solve. This book does include reminiscing and spoilers from earlier books in the series so I would recommend reading them first.

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## **Cheryl says**

Kelly is enjoying motherhood and knitting with her friends at Lambspun. Her friends are interested in the antics of her son and all the murders she has been involved in. When her favorite waitress is killed she gets involved in solving that. While I enjoyed the story there were a few things that just jarred you out of the story. Two college age kids are going into their junior year of college and want to get married, they will make enough watching 4 kids for the summer to pay for tuition, books, dorm and fees for their junior year so they go ahead and get married. It seems very odd that they could earn enough to pay for all that and what about senior year, neither of their families bring that up. The other thing is the crook is clearly shown right away and no one picks up on it.

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## **Joan says**

Ms Sefton, have you totally run out of ideas? Half the book is a trip down memory lane.

Cassie and Eric, two young people who have grown up in this series, have decided that while they have dated others while in university, they really prefer each other's company. They want to marry quickly so they can

live in the married students' residence. They also want to marry so they can finally "take their relationship to the next step". I kid you not, in spite of the fact that everyone else in these books lives together without benefit of marriage for years, this young couple do not want to disappoint their elders. Even this story line seems to fall flat.

There is a death in this book, but it is barely mentioned. Julie, a young woman who works at their Lambspun cafe hangout (they seem to know virtually nothing about her), finds out she she is pregnant and announces that she will marry the father, who is still being pursued by his previous girlfriend. Julie then offers each of her Lambspun friends a piece of her late, beloved mother's valuable jewellery (Did I mention they seemed to have hardly known her). Her deadbeat brother wants it to sell and keep the people he owes money to off his back.

Julie's death is declared a suicide until it is discovered that someone else purchased the gun. On this "evidence" alone, they arrested the killer.

The death in this book seems to be just an aside. There is no "detection" and clues are not followed. The title is appropriate. All loose ends seem to just die, and are not tied up at all.

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## **Alaska says**

To say I was disappointed with this book is a mild understatement. Five years have gone by in Kelly's life. The first portion of the book is a review of all of Kelly's cases. Tiresome. Then there is a weak murder case and another marriage. That is the total book.

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## **Jeanie says**

Kelly and the Gang are reminiscing on the past murders she has helped solve as this novel begins. She and her friends have changed over the years since the series began, further establishing careers, relationships, even three of the couples with very young, active kiddos. I didn't realize this would be the final mystery in the series; looking back is so interesting yet seemed to take more pages than I might have considered. The friendships, marriages, and overall family members by choice relationships are what stand out; to me, that was more important than each of the prior mysteries.

One wedding is being planned for the summer; I was almost surprised that this young couple is now partially through college and definitely old enough for marriage. It was good to see how well they had planned through it to make sure they completed school and could still have enough study while working to pay their school fees and campus apartment. What surprised me is that the little word "love" wasn't evident, at least not that I could recall, unless they were still embarrassed a bit to use the term in front of others. As that small wedding is being planned, another member of the Lambspun/ Pete's Porch Cafe will be getting married. It sounded like this would be a joyful summer in Fort Collins, Colorado.

At least until Pete and his wife Jennifer arrived at work to find one of the young ladies dead in her car, with a handgun on the floor of her car. This terrible death is so unexpected, and doubly senseless. While the Lambspun family (yarn / fiber arts) is greatly distressed, the owner of Lambspun grieves the most. It is almost impossible to open again without the cheerful face of their friend and employee.

I have enjoyed many of the Knitting Mystery books by this author, who is gifted with plotting, dialog, and



character definition, and I will miss them for sure. Fortunately we many mysteries we can re-read and enjoy. I did miss several things this time, however. One is time spent discussing and asking questions about the murder and possible suspects. Another is that Mimi and Burt seem absent from most of the activities, and Mimi has the heart of the mama, so to speak, of the group. I would love to see a spinoff of the series someday, as I also missed the things that make Lambspun such a popular place over the years such as the various crafts and activities, even seeing life from the point of view of beloved alpaca rancher Jayleen. Finding a killer is a priority, and there were a couple of great red herrings stirred into the clues. The real bad guy was kind of a surprise, but there were clues pointing to the shooter even before Kelly caught on. Keeping track of a busy 4-year-old, husband, and career has given her a full plate! I recommend this novel to anyone who has enjoyed this series in the past, but probably not for the first-time reader. I'm looking to seeing this author's talents in her next writing ventures!

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

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