



Patterns of Murder: Crewel World / Framed in Lace / A Stitch in Time

Monica Ferris

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The art of needlecraft requires patience, discipline, and creativity. So, too, does the art of detection. Just ask Betsy Devonshire--who's learning that life in a small-town needlecraft shop can reveal an unexpected knack for knitting ... and a hidden talent for unraveling crime.

When Betsy arrived in Excelsior, Minnesota, all she wanted was to visit her sister Margot and to get her life in order. She never dreamed her sister would give her a place to stay and a job at her needlecraft shop. In fact, things had never looked so good--until Margot was murdered...

In a town this friendly, it's hard to imagine who could have committed such a horrible act. But Betsy has a few ideas. There's an ex-employee who wants to start her own needlework store. And there's the landlord who wanted Margot out. Now Betsy's putting together a list of motives and suspects to figure out this killer's pattern of crime...

Framed in Lace

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When the historic Hopkins ferry was raised from the bottom of the lake, who would have thought they were literally raising the dead! But there it was--a skeleton--right before their eyes. Unfortunately, the evidence is slim and soggy: The boat sank in 1949, the victim on board was a woman, and near the body is a piece of unidentifiable lacelike fabric. Sounds like a job for Betsy Devonshire. Betsy knows there's more to this story than what's on the surface. And once she and patrons of her needlecraft shop start lending a hand, they're sure to stitch together the details of this unnerving mystery ...

A Stitch in Time

The art of needlecraft requires patience, discipline, and creativity. So, too, does the art of detection. Just ask Betsy Devonshire--who's learning that life in a small-town needlecraft shop can reveal an unexpected knack for knitting ... and a hidden talent for unraveling crime.

The cold, blustery Midwest winters don't exactly agree with Betsy Devonshire, but since moving to Excelsior, Minnesota, she sure has met a lot of warm, friendly people. So she isn't too surprised when the town's most talented needleworkers volunteer to restore a dam aged tapestry that was found in the basement of a local church. Betsy even offers to donate materials for the project, thinking that the free publicity will boost sales at her financially troubled needlecraft shop. But soon Betsy is afraid of losing more than her business because her good intentions have unleashed some deadly secrets...

Patterns of Murder: Crewel World / Framed in Lace / A Stitch in Time Details

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Birgit says

Crewel World *4 stars*

Framed in Lace *4 stars*

A Stitch in Time *3 stars*

Jackie says

Love this series, combination of my hobby (stitchery) and loving mysteries

Colleen says

I enjoyed this book and will continue to read more in the series. I have to admit, not the toughest to figure out but an enjoyable read. Likable characters, although I have to admit it was sad to lose the Margot character but of course that is the springboard for the entire setting of the series.

Terry says

Another very good mystery series.

Connie Hendryx says

I really like this author! Though I have dabbled in needlework (my main love is quilting), I have done most of the crafts talked about in this series. I finished this third book and immediately got on Amazon to order the next two in the series (we must read books in order!). Luckily a friend lent me this trilogy and two more books, so I will be set for a while....I only read these books while upstairs in my quilting studio and take a few minutes...

Sundy DeGooyer says

Fun, easy murder mysteries. I enjoyed reading the three books. And it really made me want to pick up my cross stitching again! I do so enjoy needle work!

Michelle says

This is a compilation of the first three books in the Needlecraft cozy mystery series. The first book, "Crewel World", introduces us to the small town of Excelsior, MN, where Margot owns the needlecraft store in the small downtown area. Her sister, Betsy, is coming to stay with her to figure out her life. Betsy has led an itinerant life, running off to join the Navy, marrying a sailor, and then later marrying and now divorcing a man from Southern California. She lives with Margot in the apartment above the shop, and starts helping out at the store. When Betsy is killed in an apparent robbery, Betsy must figure out if she wants to stay or throw in the towel. When her sister's death begins to look like murder, Betsy tries to help in discovering the killer. There are several suspects including the landlord Margot has been battling with, a woman who covets the store, and several other possibilities. She is aided by Margot's loyal friends and co-workers in both running the store and solving the crime. The book included a cross-stitch project at the end related to the story. The second book is "Framed in Lace", and deals with a skeleton found on an historic ferry raised from the local lake. Betsy delves into the town's past. When evidence (a piece of lace) points to one of their fellow stitchers, Betsy, her assistant Godwin, and police woman Jill work together to find some answers to this mystery and clear their friend. Another cross-stitch pattern is included at the end of the novel. The third and final book in the compilation is called "A Stitch in Time" and involves a tapestry discovered when the church is going to be renovated. Betsy offers to donate materials for its repair, and while examining it, discovers that it contains symbols for saints hidden within the design. Someone wants the tapestry to go away, as several attempts are made on Betsy's life. She and her friends must solve the mystery of the tapestry and find out who is bent on keeping old secrets hidden. Again, a design is included at the end of the novel. This was a fun, light series, and I enjoyed reading the descriptions of a hobby that I participate in.

Kay Schuch says

Another fast read that I do enjoy after reading something I can really get my teeth into. I am enjoying the storyline around an area of MN that I am somewhat familiar with. Of course, the other part of the story, all things crafted with numerous fibers also is very fun reading. In fact, THIS book got me so interested in making bobbin lace, that I simply have to give it a try? :)

Betty says

These three books were good and I would definitely read more in the series. There is not a lot of depth to the characters which are likeable.
