



## Thread Herrings

*Lea Wait*

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## **Thread Herrings** Lea Wait

*Angie's first auction may turn out to be her last--when she bids on a coat of arms that someone would literally kill to possess . . .*

Tagging along to an estate sale with her fellow Needlepointer, antiques shop owner Sarah Byrne, Angie Curtis impulsively bids on a tattered embroidery of a coat of arms. When she gets her prize back home to Haven Harbor, she discovers a document from 1757 behind the framed needlework--a claim for a child from a foundling hospital. Intrigued, Angie is determined to find the common thread between the child and the coat of arms.

Accepting her reporter friend Clem Walker's invitation to talk about her find on the local TV news, Angie makes an appeal to anyone who might have information. Instead, both women receive death threats. When Clem is found shot to death in a parking lot, Angie fears her own life may be in jeopardy. She has to unravel this historical mystery--or she may be the next one going, going . . . gone . . .

## **Thread Herrings Details**

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Author : Lea Wait

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## **From Reader Review Thread Herrings for online ebook**

### **Lynn says**

The Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series is one of my favorite cozy mystery series. I only pre-order 4 or 5 series because they are my favorites and I don't want to wait to read them. This is a series I pre-order. Why do I like this series so much?

First of all, it is a little edgier than other cozy series. Angie was a PI assistant in Arizona before moving back to Maine. She has a Glock that she doesn't carry but is handy if she needs it. In this book, with her life in danger she did take out her Glock and took it with her.

I like the descriptions of Maine. I notice in this book the use of the word wicked a lot. Then I received my L.L. Bean magazine in the mail and they were describing some bedroom slippers as wicked. Yes, I guess it is a Maine descriptive word.

I like the characters especially Angie who is smart and independent. She used common sense and tried to stay out of danger's way. The police are portrayed in a positive light which is different than many cozies.

This book was suspenseful and page turning. Angie was in real danger. The killing and threats didn't make sense as it all seemed linked to a 250 year old coat of arms needlework in bad shape that was purchased at an auction.

Some reviewers have called this book the best of the series. I agree except I must add that book one was my favorite as it drew me into Angie's life. This book is one of the best of the series- right up there with book 1.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

In the Mainely Needlepoint Mysteries, author Lea Wait has created a rich cast of characters that I always look forward to spending time with. It's been wonderful watching them change and grow over the course of the series.

THREAD HERRINGS was a story I couldn't tear myself away from. A true page turner of a mystery, with questions stemming from past to present, I just became more and more engrossed. There were scenes that were so emotional, I was literally crying, while other scenes found me gasping or holding my breath.

Lea Wait can stitch more excitement and intrigue into one book than some authors can into an entire series. The best installment yet, THREAD HERRINGS is proof of that.

Truly a book I won't soon forget.

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### **Stanley McShane says**

What an introduction to this author and her series! Ms. Wait really knows her antiques, the business, needlepoint, embroidery, and related samplers and mourning art. The beginning of each chapter includes a child's accounting of a coat of arms (or family crest) embroidery, including familial information.

Haven Harbor, Maine, protagonist Angie Curtis of the Mainely Needlepoint shop is invited by her antiques shop owner buddy, Sarah Byrne, to accompany her to an auction. It is her first experience with an auction and the author does a fine job of detailing procedures. During the preview, Angie spies an embroidered coat of arms that catches her fancy. It's when Angie gets her prize home and removes the frame that she discovers a billet (receipt) for Charles from the London Foundling Hospital in 1757 on a lovingly embroidered ribbon. (The billet is meant to match the receipt at the hospital in order to reclaim the child.)

No problem to read this as a standalone, story-driven plot. Mainely Needlepoint support characters provide historical and genealogical information, along with her grandmother (the latter of whom raised her). Fascinated, Angie begins to research and investigate along with the help of a former classmate, Clem Walker, a TV personality who persuades her to appeal to the public for information. The TV short results in death threats and shortly Clem is murdered and her grandmother's new hubby injured when he attempts to move Angie's car. Angie is forced into hiding and takes her kitty but continues to quietly push for new information.

Certainly an opening that grabs the interest quickly and manages to weave informative and educational tidbits into an intriguing, engaging and well-developed plot. The Maine winter descriptions, while brutal, certainly lent an ambiance to the storyline. The antagonist is worked out through persistent and dogged analysis and is not entirely a surprise, but the motive and conclusion comes off a tad weak.

I received this ebook download from the publisher and NetGalley and greatly appreciated the opportunity to read and review. I thoroughly enjoyed the history and heartily recommend to any who participate in needlework or crafting of any kind. Will also interest any who read cozy mysteries, suspense, and women sleuths. I'm looking forward to Book 8! 4.5/5

See my full review on <https://rosepointpublishing.com>

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### **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

Lea Wait returns with *THREAD HERRINGS*, the seventh book in the Mainely Needlepoint series. If you've read my other reviews for this series before then you may be aware that this series has been a little lukewarm for me. I haven't ever been fully able to fall in love with this series. However, I also find that I keep picking these books up to try.

In this book, I had a lot of the same issues with the previous books that I have read. Although I enjoy the heroine and the community that this series is set in, the pacing of the books are just too slow for me. With Cozy Mysteries in general, this is something that you can expect. However, in comparison to others that I have read, this one has a notoriously slower pace than most of the others. Therefore, I do think it is an exercise in patience to really get through these books.

Despite this however, I still come back and I'm not sure why. While these books don't stand out to me,

there's something comforting about them and that could be why I always pick them up despite not falling in love with them. I think if you're looking for something to really slow down life and get your mind off something that is irritating you, this is the kind of book that you want. So really, there's a place for everything and now I know I will pick these books up whenever I'm in need of something more simple and stress-free.

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## **Kristina says**

Thread Herrings by Lea Wait is the seventh story in A Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series. Angie Curtis is the manager of Mainely Needlepoint in Haven Harbor, Maine. Angie is accompanying her friend, Sarah Byrne to an auction in Augusta. Angie has not been to an auction previously and is looking forward to the experience. Angie is intrigued by a half-finished vintage framed needlepoint coat of arms that is not in the best condition and she spontaneously bids on it when none of the other participants show interest. At home, Angie removes the needlework from the frame and finds a pale silk blue embroidered ribbon along with receipt from the London Foundling Hospital dated October 26, 1757 for a child baptized Charles. Angie wants to learn more about the coat of arms and the child, but she is unsuccessful at the Maine Historical Society. She has lunch with Clem Walker, friend and television reporter, who suggests doing a human interest feature and appeal to the public for information. Instead of receiving helpful material, both ladies receive death threats. Soon Clem is found shot dead in car in Haven Harbor and Angie's car goes boom injuring someone close to her. Angie goes into hiding, but she this does not deter her from investigating. Can she identify the culprit before he finds her?

Thread Herrings can be read alone if you have not indulged in any of the previous novels in A Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series. Angie goes to her first auction and her friend, Sarah kindly explains auction protocol. Since I have not been to an auction, I found it interesting. I had no idea there was a buyer's premium added to the hammer price (winning bid). I could tell the author did her research on the London Foundling Hospital, land patents or grants, the billet or receipt for the child and mementoes parents left behind as identifiers (to later claim the child). Lea Wait incorporated the information in a way that made it easy to understand. Ruth Hopkins helps Angie with genealogy research, but we see very little of the other Mainely Needlepoint group. Patrick West is in town and Angie hides out in his finely appointed carriage house. Personally, I am not a fan of Patrick and I keep hoping they will break up. Patrick comes across as superficial (especially when he was discussing the yacht that could only sleep eight). Angie needs a partner with more depth and who is interested in sleuthing. The mystery plays out with clues interspersed up to the reveal. Angie must solve the mystery via phone since she is unable to go out in public which is a unique way of investigating the crime. Readers are unable to play along and solve this whodunit. I could have done without the frequent (I stopped counting after six) mentions of Angie's gun (a Glock). Angie does manage to indulge in cooking, dining out friends (before the death threats), drinking fine wine, playing with Trixi (her kitten), watch movies, handle business details and check in with Gram. As the action heats up in Thread Herrings, you will find yourself riveted. You cannot help but keep reading to discover how the story plays out.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

Dollycas's Thoughts

Finding treasures at auctions and estate sales is part of the fun, but for Angie Curtis it means MURDER! Her friend, a television reporter is dead and Angie is getting threatened that she will be next.

Antique shop owner Sarah Byrne takes Angie to her first auction and she is drawn to a needlework coat of arms. When no one else bids she raises her paddle and takes it home. She takes it out of the frame to see if it can be restored but she finds a real mystery instead, a claim from 1757 for a child from a foundling hospital. While researching to see if the child is connected to the family from the auction she runs into Clem Walker who suggests they do a piece on the local news to see if one of the viewers may have information. Angie agrees and even hosts a party so her family and friends can watch her on television.

Clem plans a trip to visit Angie in Haven Harbor to discuss the calls the station received. But Clem doesn't make the meeting, instead, her body is found. Angie knows to find Clem's killer she has to find who is connected to the coat of arms. The trouble is to keep her safe she is hiding out and it's hard to investigate anything stuck in a house.

There is so much I enjoyed about this story. It had a totally different feel. The Mainely Needlepointers didn't do hardly any needle pointing but one member of the group, Ruth, is a key player in solving this mystery. Also, Angie accepts that her life is truly in danger after a hairraising event and actually listens to the police and moves to Patrick's secure home until the killer is caught. As long as she has her cell phone and laptop she can keep investigating and pass along what she finds to the police.

At the core of the story are two prominent Maine families. I love the way 79-year-old erotica author Ruth Hopkins knows her way around the genealogy sites. She delves in and finds as much as she can about the families giving Angie plenty of clues and red herrings to sort through.

All of Ms. Wait's characters are interesting, fleshed out and realistic. Most of the recurring characters are very engaging. Patrick is starting to mesh with the rest but still has some work to do. The closer he and Angie get the more he becomes more real to me.

The story is pretty fast-paced and filled with suspense. Key characters are truly in danger and I found myself actually holding my breath waiting to read the actual outcome. I know I was reading much faster from about the midpoint on. The author's descriptions of each person, place, and even the weather were fantastic. She pulls readers right into this story and holds them tight until the final page. OMG, my heart was racing at the ending!

Before my accident auctions and needlepoint were two of my favorite things. Finding samplers and other needlework treasures at auctions always made for a great day. I love that both meshed together in this book.

This book reads very well all in its own but I always recommend reading series in order to really get to know the characters.

This is a wonderful addition to this series. The next book in the series, *Thread on Arrival*, will be released April 30, 2019.

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### **Kaitlyn Dunnett says**

Angie has an intriguing puzzle to solve in this one, and severe limitations on her sleuthing, since for much of

the book she has to stay in hiding to avoid being spotted by the killer who appears to be stalking her. One of the things fans of cozy mysteries enjoy, besides trying to solve a murder along with the amateur detective, is watching the relationships of continuing characters change and grow. There's plenty to satisfy that end of things in *THREAD HERRINGS*, along with hints of what might happen next in the personal lives of Angie and her friend Sarah.

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### **Amy says**

This seventh book in the series focuses on Angie's find at an auction of a tattered embroidery. It is a family's coat of arms dated from the mid 1700's. She soon finds that there is danger attached to this needlework when she begins investigating its history. Will she be its next casualty?

I read the first book in the series but not the others until this one so this can be read as a standalone mystery. I felt the fear, terror, and suspense build for Angie as her world becomes more and more confined to ensure her safety. The other characters are all very supportive of her mission and do their best to help her in any way they can. I also enjoyed the romantic element of the story. I look forward to going back and reading the prior books in this series.

Thanks to NetGalley and Kensington for an advance digital copy of this book. My review is voluntary.

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### **Fred says**

*Thread Herring* is the seventh book in the *A Mainly Needlepointer Mystery* series. I love this series and feel that *Thread Herring* is the best so far.

It's February in Haven Harbor and Angie and her friend, Sarah Byrne, are heading to Augusta, ME to attend an antique auction. Sarah will be looking for items for her antique store, while Angie is going along to see what an auction is like and possibly find some embroidery items. At the preview for the auction items, Angie finds an interesting embroidered coat of arms and time has not been kind to it, but something about it tells her to bid on it.

Angie is the only to bid on the item and when she gets home she takes it out of the frame to get a better look at whether any it might be repaired. What she doesn't expect to find is a folded piece of paper that is a receipt for baby Charles that was left with the London Foundling Hospital in 1757. Angie determines that the coat of arms is unreparable, but she now wants to find out who baby Charles' family was.

Her boyfriend, Patrick West is going to visit with a sculptor about showing his work and Patrick's gallery and agrees to drop Angie off in Portland where she will visit the Maine Historical Society. The visit there didn't give much hope of learning anything. While waiting for Patrick to return she calls a high school classmate, Clem Walker, a reporter at a Portland television station. When Clem hears the story she convinces Angie that they do a short segment to be aired on the station asking viewers to call if they might have any information about baby Charles or the coat of arms. A minute or two after the segment aired, the station received a threat that is Clem and Angie attempted to learn more, they would be killed. The next day the station got another threat and Angie receives a threatening the same thing.

Soon, Clem's lifeless body is found in her car near Harbor Haunts where she and Angie are to have lunch. Then the next day while Angie is talking to Sarah in her store there is an explosion and when she looks outside she finds that the explosion was in her car and is now on fire.

Pete Lambert, Haven Harbor policeman and Ethan Trask, Maine State Trooper, are able to convince Angie to stay at Patrick's house until the killer can be arrested. Since Angie's computer has been taken by the police, she calls on fellow Maine Needlepointer to help scour the internet looking for clues as to who baby Charles is.

As much as Angie wants to be out and about investigating, she knows her life is likely online and stays holed up at Patrick's, hoping that Ruth will be able to learn who Charles' family was.

As always, Lea Wait provides the reader with a well-researched, well-plotted and told story and believable characters. Wait also provides the reader with the workings of an auction and an insightful look at the London Foundling Hospital. Once again, each chapter has either a description of an embroidered piece or a quote from a publication from 1700-1800's.

A delicious sounding recipe is also included.

I am eagerly awaiting the next book in this informative series.

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## **Betty says**

The seventh book in the Needlepoint series is very creative and original for a cozy mystery. I have been reading for 75 years and almost exclusive mysteries since 2013. I have never seen the way the main adventures used in the way. It was a pleasure to read how the protagonist didn't do anything stupid but still managed to solve the crime.

Angie Curtis goes to her first auction with her friend Sarah to learn about auctions. Angie sees an old faded needlepoint of a coat of arms and buys it. At home, she removes the back and a receipt for a child from a foundling nursery in the 1700's and a pink ribbon to identify the child. A chance meeting with a friend who is a TV reporter for a Boston TV station, a one-minute human interest report is made. Shortly, after it airs the station received a message that all who investigate would die. The next CI Walker is shot in her car. Angie and her friends work to make sure Angie is not hurt. There is an explosion that injured her stepfather and there other strange events. The motive is strange and surprised me. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK AND SERIES. One pasta recipe is included.

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

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## **Gaele says**

It's February and everyone is quietly performing their winter tasks, which means Sarah is visiting several auctions and restocking her shop. Never having been to an auction, Angie goes along – and here we are treated to information about estate auctions from a dealer's perspective, and see the pieces during the viewing. While Sarah finds pieces that she can resell and use as stock, Angie finds a not-particularly well-preserved piece of needlework, a coat of arms, a rarity in New England. Bidding on the piece, Angie is the



winner – and takes the unusual piece home, full of questions.

Taking the piece from the frame, Angie finds clues and a mystery hidden behind the piece, all needing more investigation. Discovering the two old Maine families whose items provided the lots for the auction, and some preliminary searching bring Angie to Portland to the history museum, information gathered there gives her new places to search and free hours have her contacting a high school friend turned reporter, and we are off.

A one minute spotlight on Angie and her questions about the piece lead to several death threats, the death of her friend Clem, Reverend Thom's injuries when her car explodes, and danger everywhere. With strangers looking for her in town, footprints around the carriage house that shouldn't have been there, and a strange couple questioning Sarah about Angie's piece of embroidery, the questions are never ending. But, frustrated and tired of hiding, an email left by the enquiring couple, a few chance connections made after a news story and cooperation from Sarah bring them face to face with the killer – not quietly as Angie has to use (for the first time) her gun to get Sarah out of danger and be sure the killer is caught. Of course, as in all of this series, insets of work from old samplers worked in colonial and later eras, and the solid feelings of community, friendship and plenty of snow, sea smoke and cold all combine to paint the quaint little town in winter clothes. Wait brings a sense of the place solidly forward while keeping everyone aware of the fact that murder never makes real sense to anyone BUT those willing to kill for something – and in this story the motive of retribution for hurts perceived and done for years was just as silly, even as the tension, questions and information came hard and fast.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Review first appeared at I am, Indeed

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### **Laura Thomas says**

I've dipped my toes into this series in more than one place. I'm known for jumping in anywhere. It's good to be back, seeing what Angie and the inhabitants of Haven Harbor have been doing.

Not having read a few of the previous books, I felt like I'd been away for a while and arrived back in town, among friends, learning what all had happened while I'd been away. I could picture us sitting at a cafe table and everyone rushing to tell me all the latest news.

So what's happening now.... Angie is at an antique auction. While perusing the offerings, she comes across a tattered embroidery of a coat of arms. She bids on it and wins. Taking it home, she discovers something hidden in it's frame and soon after someone is dead and she's smack in the middle of the investigation. Sorting out the clues is like finding a needle in a haystack, but that doesn't stop Angie.

I admit I was expecting a quick mystery with some fun dialogue and a bit of romance. The author surprised me and took this a step further. There's a mystery in a mystery, danger around every corner and she really tested the boundaries of her characters.

A bit more dark and more suspenseful, this is still a cozy mystery with the quirky characters, small town

ambiance and sweet romance that comes with it. I was swept right up, ushered in, offered a chair, and settled myself in for an exciting story.

I received a complimentary copy. My review is voluntarily given.

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### **Lisa Morin says**

Thread Herrings by Lea Wait is an amazing addition to this series.

I had so many moments of shock that I found myself gasping out loud.

Angie attends her first auction, and when her eye is drawn to a particular piece of needlework, she can't resist bidding.

This simple piece of work, a coat of arms, is in bad shape, but it's the chain of events that come afterwards that rock Angie's world.

The author weaves a vivid tale and her characters are so real, I feel like I know them all.

Fans of this series will be delighted to read Thread Herrings. I highly recommend this story to all cozy mystery lovers.

I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

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

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

It's February in Haven Harbor and Angie and her friend, Sarah Byrne, are going to attend an antique auction. Sarah is looking for items for her antique store, while Angie is attending to see what an auction is like and possibly find some needlepoint items. At the preview for the auction items, Angie finds an interesting embroidered coat of arms. It is in poor shape and Sarah tells her it is probably not worth anything, but it calls to her. When she wins the auction, she takes the piece home and removes it from the frame. In the backing of the piece, she finds a piece of ribbon and a folded piece of paper that is a receipt for baby Charles who was left at the London Foundling Hospital in 1757. Angie's curiosity kicks in and she decides she would like to find out who Charles is and if he has any relatives living in Maine. This decision sets in motion a chain of events that finds a friend of Angie's dead and her life threatened until she is basically under house arrest for her own safety. It is great to see the familiar characters from previous books all present to varying degrees and willing to help her with her research.

This is a great mystery, both the historical and the present day murder. Patrick and Angie are still moving forward with their relationship, but Patrick seems to be a bit overbearing in this book, perhaps due to his desire to keep Angie safe. It was really interesting to see how Ruth is able to use geneology to trace the baby left at the hospital and tie it to a political family. Are they ashamed of their past and want Angie to hush up? There are some red herrings, some obscure clues and lots of computer work used in the pulling together of this mystery. Once again, each chapter begins with an example of work from old samplers worked in colonial and later eras. If this does not interest you, you can skip over it, but I enjoy learning about the needlework of the past as it paints a picture of community, relationships and history. I pretty much figured out who the killer was about halfway through the book, but the motive was left until the end. This book has a lot of tension and suspense as well as relationship building and interactions between the Mainely Needlepointers. I recommend this book to cozy mystery lovers, especially if you enjoy more than one

storyline that comes together beautifully at the end. The publisher, Kensington Publishing Corporation, generously provided me with a copy of this book upon request. The rating, ideas and opinions shared are my own.

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## **Brenda says**

Thread Herrings is the seventh installment in the Mainely Needlepoint series featuring Angie Curtis and set in the small town of Heavenly Harbor, ME. Things are quiet in February so Angie agrees to accompany best friend and antique shop owner, Sarah Byrne to an estate auction in neighboring Augusta.

Fascinated by a variety of needlework both Sarah and Angie bid on a few items with Angie taking home a faded, half finished Coat of Arms. Upon getting the piece home Angie disassembles the frame and discovers a folded paper receipt and accompanying billet for a boy named Charles who had been left at the London Foundling Hospital in 1757. Realizing that there isn't much she can do to repair the needlework, Angie decides to learn more about the baby boy and his parentage.

A subsequent trip to the Maine Historical Society proves uninformative, so Angie stops in to visit her high school classmate and Portland TV reporter, Clem Walker. Upon hearing the story Clem convinces Angie to do a short segment on the local news in hopes that someone might recognize the story of the Coat of Arms. That evening, immediately after the news airs, both Clem and Angie begin receiving death threats - someone is determined to stop them from discovering who Charles was.

Within a few days, Clem has been murdered, someone has blown up Angie's car, and strange people are lurking in Haven Harbor trying to find Angie. On the advice of Pete Lambert, Haven Harbor's Police Chief and State Police Officer Ethan Trask, Angie agrees to move in temporarily with boyfriend Patrick West behind the locked gates of the West compound.

Determined to try and solve the mystery but unable to leave the house, Angie relies on a couple of the Mainely Needlepoint workers for background and genealogical discovery. The author has done quite a bit of research regarding needlepoint and embroidery and historical snippets once again start each chapter, the workings of Foundling Hospitals are explained in detail, and a brief description of auction protocol is included.

I am not a fan of Patrick, and sorry to say but I still did not warm up to his character after this latest installment. I was also disappointed that there was not much interaction with the Mainely Needlepoint workers, and only brief conversations between Angie and her grandmother. All in all fast paced story line and well developed plot that will leave series readers happy and looking for the next installment.

I received an advanced copy of Thread Herrings from NetGalley via Kensington Publishing. While not required to write a review I am more than happy to offer my honest opinion.

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