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The Black Sheep Knitters -- Maggie, Lucy, Dana, Suzanne, and Phoebe -- meet once a week without fail, sharing the varied and colorful skeins of their lives as much as knitting tips, recipes, and small-town gossip, and creating an intricate, durable pattern of friendship. Now a shocking murder has peaceful Plum Harbor, Massachusetts, in knots -- and the Black Sheep women must herd together to protect one of their own from a scandalous frame-up.

Maggie Messina, beloved owner of the Black Sheep Knitting Shop, is thrilled to be hosting a workshop for one of her former students, now a celebrity in the knitting world. But the celebration is upstaged when Amanda Goran, the owner of the rival Knitting Nest, is found dead in her shop on the other side of town.

Maggie had reasons to dislike Amanda, a thorn in her side ever since Maggie's shop surpassed Amanda's in popularity. Then again, it wasn't hard to dislike Amanda -- the contentious woman, whose marriage was on the rocks, seemed to specialize in causing misery all over town. But the pointed evidence has a detective casting a suspicious eye on Maggie. She may be a whiz at knitting, but can she keep the police from needling her before her shop, her reputation, and her circle of friends become unraveled?

While My Pretty One Knits Details

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From Reader Review While My Pretty One Knits for online ebook

Barbara says

I don't read a lot of cozy mysteries as I prefer psychological mysteries, but I am usually up for a cozy related to my favorite pastime, knitting. After 50 pages I decided this book lacked too much. I then read the description of the author as a novice knitter. Ah ha. Another opportunist who knows there are readers like me who will read a mystery because it's related to knitting. Immediately I realized this writer doesn't know much about knitting. The description of the shop and knitters lacked genuine details. Plus the first chapter features a demo and speaker in the shop talking about felting knitted projects as though it's the next best thing. Felted knits were all the rage about 6-8 years before this book was written. Some knitters still make them but many many have moved onto other things. The books are set in a small town north of Boston on the coast. Absolutely no local color or sense of place in this book. The author is not from the area and it shows. I am not finishing this or reading the other I have. The real mystery is why this series is published in trade paperback format with cover prices around \$15.

Sandra says

Nice cozy mystery. Like to characters will continue series.

Diane Morasco says

Knitting mysteries are the latest "whodunits" to saturate the shelves. It seems every cozy writer wants to try their hand weaving one making the sub-genre blend together in a knot...

Enter the stellar Anne Canadeo w/ her exemplary mystery debut *While My Pretty One Knits*.

Delightful. Enchanting. Humorous. Impressive. Witty. Those are just a few adjectives to describe Anne Canadeo's effervescent cozy debut, *While My Pretty One Knits*.

I absolutely adore this series. I couldn't put it down & when I was closing in on the ending I hid it. Yes, I did! I recently moved off the island & moved up to gorgeous northern New York & hid it in my huge house;). Well, I tried to hide it but the engaging cast of characters whispered for me to hang out w/ them @ the Black Sheep Knitting Shop. When I tried to ignore them they poked me w/ a knitting needle. Ouch! OK, it was more than one knitting needle. Geez, knitters are a crafty bunch ;).

While My Pretty One Knits is a dynamite introduction to an energetic new cozy mystery series.

Canadeo's writing flows effortlessly off the page & the enchanting, fun, ingenious cast steals the show.

Canadeo knows how to absorb the reader w/ a skillful, fast-paced plot. The characters are well-developed & Canadeo knows how to create a cast of characters you care about.

All you need is a cup of hot cocoa overflowing w/ marshmallows, a crackling fire, a throw & you have an

impeccable cozy evening (cheese, fruit, wine & crackers may enhance your reading pleasure).

Canadeo showcases her sharp writing skills. She is a brilliant new addition to the cozy genre.

When I reached page 249 it was bittersweet. Infact, I am in a bit of a diva monster mood (grumpy sourpuss) because I have to wait until December for Knit, Purl, Die. Grrr... Where are those knitting needles when I need them?

While My Pretty One Knits is a perfect summer read for all of those scrambling to make the most of summer as it draws to a close but it is also an excellent read to curl up w/ as fall arrives.

I really wish I could visit Plum Harbor, Massachusetts & visit all the terrific friends Canadeo vibrantly created. I really want to spend time w/ adorable Tink & Matt -- *sigh*!

While My Pretty One Knits was so richly penned it has made me interested in learning to knit. Really! Moi, who can barely lace her kicks.

I loved this book so much that I imagine myself as a character visiting the Book Review & the Black Sheep Knitting Shop.

Non-knitters will revel in the picturesque surroundings.

While My Pretty One Knits is a tightly stitched novel not to be missed!

Kristin Jones says

I knit, I write, I read. This is the perfect book for knitters like me who are too tired to knit and want to curl up with a good knitting "yarn." It keeps you guessing who the murderer is up to the last chapter, while giving you the sensation of knitting vicariously through each main character. The writing style is definitely genre-specific, which is great if you want a quick read that is highly entertaining. What stuck out to me about this book, compared with other "knit lit" books, is that it infused knitting into every scene. Knitting wasn't just a backdrop to the story, it was the story. Other obsessive knitters will enjoy feeling so immersed in yarn and needles, even when their own knitting is set aside for the night.

Gail says

A fast paced and enjoyable cozy mystery. Full of twists and turns. I really enjoy the Black Sheep Knitting Group. They seem like a nice bunch of ladies I would love to hang out with.

Tari says

Five good friends have a knitting club at their friend Maggie's shop, Black Sheep Knitting. When a rival yarn

shop owner is found dead in her own shop, Maggie is the first one the police look to since it's no secret the two of them didn't get along well even though Maggie tried to tolerate the other shop owner, Amanda. Maggie had just hosted well known knitting author Cara Newsome who had just written her second book and was looking into having a TV series as well. She'd hoped that would help promote her shop but now with the town thinking she's guilty of murder or even a person of interest, things aren't looking too great for her business. Her faithful friends are not about to let Maggie go down since they all know she's innocent.

This was such an enjoyable mystery and story of how five women came together over the love of knitting, something that has actually been making a comeback with younger people. The little group consisted of five very different women of all ages but the thing they all had in common was the love of their art and soon, their friendship and camaraderie with each other, along with helping Maggie of course.

I did guess the killer but not really for the reason that was given at first, although the clues were planted and as it unfolded I saw the why. There weren't a whole lot of people in the story line that could have done it but I think it was written so we the readers could guess it. The take down was pretty cool, Maggie was proven innocent and the perp even confessed. After that the girls all thought they should name their knitting group the Black Sheep even though Maggie was no longer the black sheep in Plum Harbor. She said there was a touch of black sheep in all of them, referring to their snooping, gathering gossip and doing whatever clandestine thing it took to save her from a murder charge.

At the end of the book, Phoebe shares her Jell-o dye recipe, Maggie shares some felting resources, Lucy shares a few sock monkey hat resources since she was knitting those for her nieces and Suzanne shares her famous guacamole dip recipe. I thought it was fun that the notes were written from the actual characters. I'm definitely going to read more in this series!

Elly says

This book was pretty good as far as knitting/mystery books go. There was a nice mix of characters and an actual plot. Wow. The mystery part of it was a bit predictable, but that's OK. I loved the fact that the vet knit. Why can't I meet a guy like that, darn it.

Katharine Holden says

Shallow, especially stupid entry in the crafts-n-mystery genre. I guessed the murderer by page 28. Several things caused me to say out loud: "Oh, how stupid!" or "Yeah, that's believable!" including when the veterinarian character doesn't charge for a vet visit that turns out to include exam, blood work, x-rays, surgery to remove an obstruction, and several days boarding for observation/recuperation at the clinic. Yeah, all for free, right. Also, there are several glaring errors in police procedure. The writing quality is okay, although the book itself needed a better proofreader. One personal quibble (view spoiler)

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This book is about the formation of a knitting group consisting of Maggie, the owner of the knitting store, Lucy, Dana, Suzanne, and Phoebe. From reading the back blurb of the book, I thought the sleuth was going

to be Maggie but it wasn't.

There is a book signing at the store for a former pupil, now author, of Maggie's. Cara Newhouse, author of a popular book on felting (a process done to completed projects.) Everyone is so excited and the five ladies help set up the store.

To their surprise, Maggie's arch-rival appears to actually give compliments and announce that she would attend the book signing. This leaves the ladies almost speechless with shock. Amanda Goren, owner of Knitting Nest, formerly the only shop of its type in Plum Harbor, MA, has made an concerted effort to cause woe for Maggie, ever since her shop opened. Why the change of heart?

The Book signing day arrives and prior the author's talk, another customer arrives with the news that Amanda has been found dead. Maggie knows she will be the main suspect.

Lucy decides to do a bit of investigating on her own.

This was a nice and pleasant cozy mystery. The characters are likable and interesting. Knitters will become fond of the newly named "Black Sheep."

Jennifer says

I admit - I knew "Who Done It" in the first chapter. The set up just kind of gave it away. I spent most of the book waiting for the other characters to catch on to what was already obvious to the reader.

And still I enjoyed the book. I can't say it was written very well - I found who was saying what confusing at times - but there was something about the chemistry of characters that was "ON" enough to make me like reading it.

I definitely felt echoes of other knitting mysteries here. Maggie reminded me a little of Betsy Devonshire from the Monica Ferris books. Lucy reminded me of Kelly Flynn from Maggie Sefton's books And I think there might have been a hint of Debbie Macomber thrown in here too. Maybe that is why I liked it? I found the characters familiar? Even the plot was rather similar to Mary Krueger's "Died in the Wool".

Regardless - it was a quick and fun read and I liked the recipes and knitting patterns/hints in the back of the book a fun little bonus - and the reason this is going on my "Keeper" shelf.

I have hope that future books will improve in plot line and writing development and that the character chemistry will continue on an upward path.

Kristen says

In Anne Canadeo's *While My Pretty One Knits*, the first installment in the Black Sheep Knitting Cozy Mystery series, this tale would get you all tangled up in knitted knots with a compelling storyline. When local book author Cara Newhouse arrived in Maggie Messina's book signing and felting demonstration, she had hidden a terrible secret. It all started when it would be brought to light, when Maggie's craft store rival

Amanda Goran made an appearance and acting good-spirited with a new look at her store. Something was up with her change of attitude. After the book signing, word came about on her suspicious death at her own home. And the police believed Maggie had something to do with her murder as a suspect, when her fellow knitter friends thought it might Amanda's own ex-husband Peter. To help Maggie get off the hook, they dug deeper into Amanda's life, when more suspicious robberies made them raise their own eyebrows. For Lucy Binger, she had put the pieces together, when she rescued Tink, one of Amanda's dog, and had taken him to the vet, which made him real sick. Not only had she had eyes on the new vet as a possible love interest, she made some other shocking discoveries between Amanda's and Cara's alliance with the key evidence, when things came to a head with a heated confrontation between her and fight for their lives to bring her to justice.

Lisa R. says

When I know that a book will have more than one volume, I like to start at the beginning. This book introduced the characters and the knit shop. For those who knit, this is a cute story. Knitting techniques are discussed websites are listed at the end of the book for the patterns worked on in the book. Overall it's an enjoyable read.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

The Black Sheep Knitters -- Maggie, Lucy, Dana, Suzanne, and Phoebe -- meet once a week without fail, sharing the varied and colorful skeins of their lives as much as knitting tips, recipes, and small-town gossip, and creating an intricate, durable pattern of friendship. Now a shocking murder has peaceful Plum Harbor, Massachusetts, in knots -- and the Black Sheep women must herd together to protect one of their own from a scandalous frame-up.

I don't want to reveal more of the plot beyond the book blurb excerpt. Suffice it to say for readers who love to knit, this cozy mystery will entertain. Anne Canadeo writes well and develops the characters to the point where you feel that Maggie, Suzanne, Dana, Lucy, and Phoebe are old friends. The suspense level in the novel surprised me, since cozy mysteries aren't known for their suspense.

I definitely will read more novels in the Black Sheep Knitting Mysteries Series.

Trisha says

This was a pretty adorable cozy mystery. I don't grab them for deep thoughts, controversial subjects or complex plots. I grab them for the fluff fun read they are.

I especially like that this one wasn't JUST about knitting, but about the friendships you make with others who love a craft you do too. Although predictable, I did love the addition of the vet and Tink.

Red Morgan says

Several things wrong with this book.

1. Within 18 pages, I wanted to take my red pen to it. Whoever edited it did a poor job.
 2. The writing wasn't that great either.
 3. Once I figured out for sure who did it, I wasn't interested in keeping reading. I had no connection with the characters at all.
 4. Though it's a book about women who love to knit (one of them owns a knitting shop, actually), there's none of that love conveyed in the story. The author did her research, and she knows about knit and purl and cabling and the Yarn Harlot and UFOs, but there's no passion behind it. It felt like she was just regurgitating facts so that she'd sound good. It just sounded forced.
 5. The title is dumb.
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