



A Murderous Yarn

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.**A Murderous Yarn**

Heavens to Betsy Devonshire! She never intended to get so caught up in this year's antique car race. But as sponsor of one of the entrants, she can't help but keep a close eye on the outcome—and it's not pretty. One of the drivers never makes it to the finish line. His car is found exploded in flames. Now Betsy and her crafty friends must determine if it was an accident or the work of a jealous competitor. The answer may be in a piece of needlework, but pinning down a suspect won't be easy...

A Murderous Yarn Details

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Author : Monica Ferris

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From Reader Review A Murderous Yarn for online ebook

Patt says

Another in the Needlework mysteries. This was different because it didn't center around Betsy's shop. Her friend Jill's boyfriend becomes an antique car enthusiast and Betsy sponsors him in an antique car run. Of course, there's a murder and, of course, Betsy is able to help solve it. What is her clue? Floss orts, of all things, and unless you do cross stitch, you probably don't know what floss orts are

1

RebeccaS says

For me this was between a 3.5 - 4 stars, but I went with 4 because it was a nice quick read. I enjoy this series more and more as I continue with it. I'm glad I went back to the beginning instead of jumping around too much. This story centered around an antique car run and as readers we got A LOT of information about antique cars, which I think really added a fun and different element to the story. Yes, I wish there was more about needlework / the Cruel World shop, but it was also a really nice change up for the series. When the characters talk about their needlework projects, I start to really wish I had a hobby of some kind of needlework where I could use it to relax and make beautiful things. I would love to have a chance to buy that Columbus Circle quilt that was mentioned in the story. The characters are growing on me as well, they are becoming less flat (though Jill could really loosen up if I'm going to like her any more). We get some more "personal life" drama in this one which is good for character building and to break up the murder investigation. The mystery this time around was very interesting and I was completely surprised by the ending!! Also, I'm hoping for a budding love interest for Betsy, but I don't know if that was strong enough in this book to hint at future encounters. I hope my library has the next book so I can continue the series soon.

NancyHelen says

This is more of a 3.5 than a 4 as I enjoyed it, but was not as interested in all of the information about classic cars as Betsy Devonshire was!

Karen Parker says

Have been reading the series in order, and this book is quite delightful. I was relieved that for once Betsy neither got hurt nor was in imminent threat of being killed. I enjoyed the mystery itself, the characters and story line, and the bonus of a smattering of information about antique autos.

Susan says

Not my favorite book in the series. The mystery took a back seat to the antique cars and their description.

Jan says

Another interesting episode.

Lorrie says

I enjoyed the antique car descriptions!

Chazzi says

Betsy Devonshire may own a needlepoint shop but she is no stranger to solving murder mysteries!

This time she finds herself sponsoring her friend and his Stanley Steamer in an antique auto rally. That isn't too bad until one of the drivers turns up dead on the side of the road under his car. The mystery is that he didn't die in the fire that fried his car...it was the bullet to the chest that did him in.

The dead man's widow asks Betsy to look into it, as the two ladies spent time together at the time of the man's death. Or did they? Things become more interesting when the oldest son tells Betsy to stay out of his father's death and other siblings want her to continue.

Some help comes from her Stanley Steamer friend as he is one of the local cops, along with her best friend Jill. A little inside information helps to clear up some of the mystery.

This is a cozy mystery that hums along at a nice pace.

Becky says

I like this series but something about it doesn't set right with me & I couldn't figure out what it was. Well now I know! It's the narrator. She sounds angry & rude all the time. Instead of making the characters seem conversational she makes them sound mad & confrontational. I will still listen to some of them on CD since I have pinpointed the problem. Maybe I can find them with a different reader.

Linda says

Good little mystery. I liked the antique cars in this one, that was a fun addition. Good sleuthing on Betsy's part.

Kathleen Hagen says

A Murderous Yarn, by Monica Ferris, b-plus, Narrated by Susan Boyce, Produced by audiogo, downloaded from audible.com

In this edition to the Betsy Devonshire mysteries with Betsy and friends from the Crewel World yarn shop, Betsy agrees to sponsor Jill's husband in an antique car race. She becomes very involved in the antique car history, and we as readers learn a lot of interesting facts about antique cars, when they were made, different kinds of cars, etc. But ultimately when the race takes place, one of the racers doesn't turn up at the finishing line. They go back through the route and find him in a lay-by, dead and burned underneath his car which exploded. He had been having car trouble all day with his head under the hood, so at first everyone thought that there had been an accident and the car had exploded. But then they found that he had been shot in the chest, and so it was murder. Betsy had spent most of the day with the man's wife and turned out to be her best alibi. Otherwise she would have been the main suspect. Betsy had to find out what happened. The suspects included the victim's oldest son along with a very good friend of the family, whom Betsy believed to be in love with his wife. As she and the police figured out what happened, we too were treated to a satisfactory conclusion. These books are quick and easy reads after the very heavy books I've been reading.

Sabine says

A 3.5-4 star read for me. It was a nice change that the mystery was set around an antique car run. Lots of information on old cars ... at times a little too much for my taste. The murder happened quite a bit into the story and "whodunnit" was pretty obvious. But even though the investigation was fun and entertaining and made for a quick read.

Marina Sinelnikova says

So now I got an urge to ride in a very old car... I know some people hate digressions and descriptions, but this is one of the reasons I like this series - I get to imagine myself doing all the splendid things and visiting interesting events.

Rebecca says

When her best friend's boyfriend Lars bought himself a 1912 Stanley Steamer, Betsy Devonshire was fascinated enough to offer to sponsor him for a local antique car run. She figured it would be good advertising for her needlework shop, Crewel World, in Excelsior, Minnesota. What she doesn't figure on is one of the owners being burned to death beneath his own car, and the owner's wife--who had spent the day with Betsy--asking her to investigate.

While I enjoyed the antique cars in this one, and now wish I could go for a ride in a Victoria touring car by Renault, this wasn't much of a mystery. I figured out the killer and the alibi pretty much immediately, they were so obvious. For readers of the series, the only reasons to read this one are if you like antique cars, or

want to witness Betsy's first encounters with Maury Steffens, who features in many of the later books.

Rain City Girl says

Lots and lots of detail about antique cars, very minimal mystery story. Not my favorite.
