



A Killer Stitch

Maggie Sefton

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Now in hardcover-the fast-growing mystery series featuring Kelly Flynn and her knitting circle! The House of Lambspun has been bombarded for the holidays. Then an alpaca sheep rancher is found dead in Bellevue Canyon-and knitter and sometime-sleuth Kelly Flynn quickly puts Yuletide frivolities aside. With the deceased's reputation for loving and leaving the ladies of Fort Connor, many women had a motive to kill him. Kelly also finds herself linked to the prime suspect, a former lover of the wealthy playboy rancher. Charged with keeping both spinner and spurned from going over the edge, Kelly will discover more than a few secrets tangled on this triad's bobbin.

A Killer Stitch Details

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Jennifer says

this book drove me crazy. I loved the first three in the series, but this one really got under my skin. How many cups of Eduardo's coffee can one drink? How many times can a cup of coffee be described in the same exact way? And how obvious is the freaking killer? The conversations are monotonous - basically the same conversation had over & over with different words or questions. I kept taking a break from this book, thinking I'd come back & enjoy it - but I didn't.

I'm just over this series.

Michelle says

This is the 4th book in the Knitting Mystery cozy mystery series. When a rancher ends up dead, Kelly gets involved when a friend of a friend and former girlfriend is under suspicion. To make matters more complicated, one of the spinning instructors at her favorite knit shop is also involved in the case, being the girlfriend of the man who died, and now is pregnant with his child. Kelly is also hoping to get the ranch property that she previously lost out on when it unexpectedly comes back on the market. She is also moving very slowly forward in her relationship with Steve. If that isn't enough to keep her busy, she is helping out with a children's holiday party and is participating in a tennis tournament. Kelly must help sort out the murder before one of the two women, or both, go over the edge emotionally. A recipe and pattern are included with the book.

Laura Gabbard says

This was a fun cozy read with plenty of knitting, yarn, and coffee talk to soothe my soul. This book takes place in Colorado in December. I read it in July and it made me nostalgic for snow and Christmas.

Bess says

I have been enjoying the characters more as their personalities are more fleshed out, but some of the side characters still seem more like cliches as they are less central to the plot (Eugene! What have they done to you! Now you're a stereotypically gossipy plot device!).

I feel like this book had a lot less purple prose about the joys of coffee and yarn. Which was probably good for the plot... but I really didn't mind hearing about all the luscious yarn and somewhat missed it. Why else do people read these niche-hobby-mystery books anyway? There's a mystery series for every hobby out there now. I assume we want to read these in part because of the delicious validation and ecstatic descriptions of our hobbies.

More last names are needed. Everyone in town seems to be connected to Kelly's life now, on a first-name-

basis-only, and they are blurring together pretty badly. If they haven't been a central character or had more than one line of dialogue and they are going to ever be referenced again... could they please have last names? Ellen - Hellen - Hilda - Lisa - Lizzie - Lucy - Gary - Greg - I think by the end I had them somewhat down but the beginning felt like a litany of faceless names.

The mystery was interesting, there was a lot of good misdirection, but the reveal was a bit too unexpected and fast. (view spoiler)

Despite the timing problems and so forth, I really enjoy Kelly and many of the more central characters around her. I appreciate that some of them have some serious life challenges going on. I like how they handled the stories of alcoholism in this novel. (view spoiler)

I'll read another, for sure, the next time I want a cozy mystery with a dash of yarn.

Colleen says

This book is one of the author's "knitting" series. It is the first one I read, so it took me a while to get into it. Once I did though, I really enjoyed it. The characters are very easy to visualize.

Karen says

I finished a killer stitch last night and I have only read one other in this series. I enjoy the characters and the small town they live in. I am not normally a Crime of Passion mystery fan but I liked how this story played out. I will not hesitate to pick up another book in this series and love the knit patterns and recipes at the end!

Karen says

Ugh, I wanted to throw this book against the wall. Not because of the plot, though I guessed who the killer was very early on. No, it's the prose that kills me - pun intended. Most of the characters have the same voice, except for Jayleen who is super-Southern-drawl woman. Everyone says "Ooooh, yeah" in response to every question. The sleuth, Kelly Flynn, is forever bemoaning her lack of knitting skills even though she's been knitting multiple things in each book. Kelly's description of touching the yarns and drinking Eduardo's coffee are the same thing every time. I was sick to death of Kelly's caffeine comments by the end of the book.

Also, it wouldn't hurt to have a physical description of the main characters so that I have something to hang my imagination onto. "A Killer Stitch" had so many characters running in and out of the yarn store that I kept forgetting who was who.

I started reading this series because I like mysteries and I like knitting, so it seemed like it had potential. The first two books didn't annoy me so much (and I must have skipped the third), but I don't know if I can get through another one like "A Killer Stitch". Maybe I could do it if I'm in the mood to turn off my brain while reading.

Evelyn says

This series has such potential but this book was a clunker. Kelly is about as boring as a MC can get, the killer is easy to guess, the writing is repetitive, the characters are flat, and a huge chunk of the already-thin plot is devoted to setting up the next book. All that plus a frustrating thread about how Kelly and her boyfriend haven't progressed much past chaste kissing, which of course leads to an immensely silly scene where they share a long kiss in front of people and everyone around them hoots like they're a studio audience.

Brandi says

This is the last book of this series I will be reading for a while. While I still enjoy reading knitting cozies, this series is plodding and not that fun.

The author excels best when she is writing the interactions between the Lambspun group. The mystery, however, is eh at best and her writing is overly repetitive. The last I didn't notice too much until a colleague who had read this series and was dissatisfied by it mentioned it when she found out I was reading this.

I still don't really like the main character Kelly. And can we PLEASE talk about the NONSENSE book titles?! This book is about SPINNING and it's called *A Killer STITCH*?!?!?!? The last book's title, *A Deadly Yarn*, would have been MUCH more appropriate.

At this point, the author is reaching for victims related to the yarn shop. And though I am glad to have read a book that took place around the Christmas holiday during December, this wasn't a satisfying read. And I still own several of the following books, argh!

Joyce says

I will NOT be reading any additional books from this series. The characters are unbelievably shallow. They all seem to be preoccupied with getting the main character to do something she has chosen not to do.

Mary says

This is my fourth book in this series. I am getting attached to the girls who go to the knitting shop to meet up with each other and relax for a spell. Kelly always has to have her Coffee. It is just that there is always a murder. But on this book I did not guess whodunit. This was a much better book than the others. I started the #5 book and Kelly and Steve are getting to be a couple and probably will be getting together in this book, I hope. The books are all readable and the group of people are likable and fun.

CinnamonHopes says

Barely tolerable, this book was as bad as I was expecting. I had to reread the first chapter, because the characters were so generic that I couldn't tell them apart. It took me until the second chapter to identify the main character, and I mostly figured it out due to her major trait - an everpresent cup of coffee.

This was the rankest crap.

Jennifer says

I don't know why I continue to read these books. The character development is lacking, the dialogue is boring and I can't stand that she has based her book on Fort Collins, but calls in Fort Connor. I don't know how many times Kelly can complain about her lack of knitting skills in one book and her dire need of coffee. So annoying.

Nicole says

The writing is so insanely awful, and the humor would have been too gentle for my Catholic grandmother. It kind of kills me that people go on about these books being witty. They're corny at best, and work so hard to be heartwarming that they just come off saccharine and two-dimensional. Plus, isn't anyone there concerned that Kelly sort of wanders around bettering her situation because other people die? She somehow gained a cottage across from a yarn store, a whole bunch of friends, a boyfriend, a lot of ranch property in Wyoming, sheep, cattle, alpacas, and now a ranch in a Colorado canyon, *and* a little consulting business, because everyone she knows seems to die within weeks of meeting her. If I were the cops in that little town, I'd be taking a closer look at Caffeinated Kelly. And if I were her friend, I'd keep my distance.

I mean, I'm finding the books kind of hilarious, but I'm pretty sure it's not in the way the author intends.

Jane says

I'm a little baffled as to why the author has the main character own a dog. The dog shows up every once in a while for no reason relevant to the plot, and the main character's interactions with him (in the two Knitting Mystery books I've read so far) consist entirely of opening the door to let the dog out. Presumably, at some point she lets the dog back in, but we don't see this. I have no idea why these books have a dog in them, or even why the main character wants to have a dog. For someone who works from home, she spends no time with the dog.

When you find yourself obsessing more about the dog in the book with no role rather than the mystery or main character, that means it's time to stop reading the series.
