



Macramé Murder

Mollie Cox Bryan

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As the head of a bustling crafting retreat, Cora Chevalier could use a break of her own. So she and her creative cohorts temporarily swap small-town Indigo Gap for the Sea Glass Island Craft Retreat, where they teach classes and create beachy crafts like shell mosaics and sea glass chimes. Cora and her boyfriend Adrian are enchanted by their surroundings—especially the stunning wedding and blissful newlyweds they encounter on the beach. But awe becomes shock when the bride turns up dead the next day . . .

The woman's death appears to be the result of a severe jellyfish sting. But when it's revealed that she was murdered and Adrian becomes a suspect, Cora must hitch the real culprit to the crime—and fast. Because it just might take everything she has to crack a case more twisted than her most complex macramé knot!

Macramé Murder Details

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From Reader Review Macramé Murder for online ebook

Jill says

I received this book as part of a Goodreads giveaway, thanks to Goodreads and the author, Mollie Cox Bryan for the opportunity. This was the third book in the series, but the first one for me and I did not feel lost having not read the other two. Being a crafter myself, I loved the whole premise of a crafting retreat with a good mystery thrown in. The description of the island made me feel like I was there with them. Cora and Jane were likeable characters you couldn't help but to root for as they worked hard to solve the mystery and provide their students with a fun crafting experience. I definitely want to read the two earlier books in the series and hope there are more to come. The craft instructions at the end were the icing on the cake!

Jessica Robbins says

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

Kristina says

Macramé Murder by Mollie Cox Bryan is the third installment in A Cora Crafts Mystery series. Cora Chevalier is off to the Big Island Craft Retreat on Sea Glass Island with Ruby and Jane. Cora and her boyfriend, Adrian arrived early so she could spend some quality time together. While walking on the beach with Adrian, Cora observes a mermaid themed wedding with the bride wearing a beautiful one-of-a-kind tiara. The next morning Cora hears that the bride, Marcy Grimm was discovered dead on the beach. Cora is shocked when Adrian is taken in for questioning. It seems Adrian has been keeping some secrets. Cora knows that Adrian did not kill Marcy and sets out to prove it. When another body turns up and someone close to Cora is harmed, Cora knows she needs to find the culprit quickly. Will Cora be able to find the killer before it is too late?

Macramé Murder is nicely written, has a good pace and it is easy to read. I like the craft aspect of the series and various crafts described in the book. The sea glass and shell tiara was beautifully described (my daughter would love it—Little Mermaid fan). Macramé Murder can be a standalone novel. Cora and her associates history is supplied along with the details of the previous two cases (in the first two books in the series). My rating for Macramé Murder is 3 out of 5 stars. I thought the murder was interesting (there were some good parts), but the killer obvious (at least to me). There is a twist, but many readers will anticipate it (it was predictable). I never felt the suspense, though, in the story. Cora's numerous panic attacks and anxiety quickly got on my nerves. You would think she would be at an old hat at murder by now (I suggest she get a new medication). Cora is a hard character to like (I have really tried). The romance was too prominent for my tastes, and I am not a fan of Adrian. Then there is the love triangle between Cora, Adrian, and Cashel (Cora should pick him). Personally, I feel that Cora and Adrian's romance is progressing too quickly (they just started dating). I wish there had been less focus on Cora's personal life and more on the mystery. The story felt long (especially since the first murder happened so early in the story), and I thought there was too much time devoted to Cora thinking (internal dialogue).

Peggy R says

I have been a fan of this series since I picked up the first book, so I was happy to read this third installment to catch up with Cora and Jane. I think this is a terrific series full of fun, quirky characters and well crafted mysteries. I also love reading about the various types of crafts being taught at the retreat. It makes me wish I was more of a creative person and could do these types of crafts myself. The charming setting, whether it is Indigo Gap or Sea Shell Island, add another layer of dimension to the stories that keep me, as a reader, engaged and returning to the series to see what author has in store for us in the future.

A full review will be posted to my blog closer to the review date.

I received an advanced reader copy from Kensington, the publisher, through Netgalley.

Laura says

This is a great book; this is the third book in the Cora Crafts Mystery series and is written by Mollie Cox Bryan. As the head of a bustling crafting retreat, Cora Chevalier could use a break of her own. So she and her creative cohorts temporarily swap small-town Indigo Gap for the Sea Glass Island Craft Retreat, where they teach classes and create beachy crafts like shell mosaics and sea glass chimes. Cora and her boyfriend Adrian are enchanted by their surroundings—especially the stunning wedding and blissful newlyweds they encounter on the beach. But awe becomes shock when the bride turns up dead the next day. The woman's death appears to be the result of a severe jellyfish sting. But when it's revealed that she was murdered and Adrian becomes a suspect, Cora must hitch the real culprit to the crime. This is a great book with a wonderful story and well developed characters. This book will keep you reading long into the night. If you are looking for a great book, then you need to read this book. I am looking forward to reading the next book by this great author. I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader's copy of this book. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

Madeline McEwen says

Macramé Murder has a fabulous fictional setting, ideal for stay-cationers reading and crafting at home but wishing they could escape to some exotic location, although hopefully far less dangerous.

Cora, the protagonist is a funny and quick-witted woman who will win you over as an irresistible character worth rooting for: "After all, helping was Cora's thing. She had the disease to please. And that wasn't always a bad instinct."

Cox Bryan skillfully knits together history clippings [Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardiere] between snippets of much more contemporary text messages.

As well some great one-liners: "Next Marcy Grimm, she was about as interesting as a piece of dry toast." This kind of description is so much more pithy and apt than a character's eye color or hairstyle.

Patrizia says

Altro libro che si lascia leggere. Se devo trovargli un difetto, devo proprio dire che fino alla fine non vengono forniti abbastanza indizi per arrivare alla soluzione del giallo.

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Cora Chevalier and her friend Jane Starr are working at a seaside crafter's retreat. Along with them is their friend Ruby, who also is teaching; Ruby's son Cashel, an attorney who decided to take a vacation, and Cora's boyfriend Adrian. While walking on the beach with Adrian, Cora sees a wedding and remarks on how lovely it is but is stunned the next day when it's discovered that the bride has been murdered. What's worse, she soon discovers that Adrian knew the woman, and now the police consider him a suspect in the murder.

While Cora knows he's not capable of it, she still wonders why the police are questioning him, and Ruby volunteers her son's services as Adrian's attorney. It's not the vacation Cashel planned, but nevertheless he accepts that Adrian needs help - even if he doesn't really like him.

When Cora thinks that Cashel might not do his best for Adrian, she decides to step in and try and find out who wanted the bride dead. But when she starts looking around, she finds that the answer might be closer than she thinks since there are people at the retreat who have secrets of their own, including the woman who organized everything. It's only when she sees that someone wants Cashel out of the way - and maybe herself - that she understands not only are there secrets, but someone else might die in order to protect them...

While I really enjoyed this book and it was quite interesting, I also discovered that I like Cashel better than Adrian. While Adrian is nice (and like Cora, I believe nice men are better than those who aren't; I'm married to one myself) I also discovered that there is no *fire* to him; practically no personality at all. He seems rather lifeless, while Cashel at least has a personality and you get a sense that he probably also has a fun sense of humor and would do well by Cora; he also seems more intelligent, and I like intelligent men. I don't get that impression of Adrian - the man wasn't even smart enough to realize that he was wrong in keeping secrets from her while wanting to 'get into her pants' as it were, and he seems so *dull*. Ah, well. There's always the hope that they'll figure they aren't right for each other after all. Just my opinion...

Aside from that little tidbit, I felt the story was well done and kept the reader interested throughout. There were enough twists that you had to look for the clues in order to see them, and enough red herrings strewn within. While there weren't any nail biting moments, there didn't really need to be; you just had to put things together as the plot moved along - which it did admirably. When the ending came it was done nicely, and while it wasn't a complete surprise, it was satisfying. Recommended.

Juli says

Cora Chevalier and her sidekick, Jane Starr, return in Macrame Murder, the third book in the Cora Crafts Mystery Series. This time, Cora and Jane travel to Sea Glass Island to teach crafting classes at a resort. They

are both looking forward to just teaching classes at this retreat, not running it like they do for their own craft business in Indigo Gap, NC. But, this idyllic island crafting retreat quickly goes wrong. The body of a local woman is discovered on the beach. Unfortunately, Cora's boyfriend, Adrian, quickly becomes the main suspect in the killing. He admits that he dated the woman, and that she broke up with him three years earlier. Cora and Jane realize they need to discover the true murderer before Adrian faces murder charges for a crime he didn't commit. When a second body is discovered, they realize that they could all be in serious danger.

I like this series. Cora and Jane are great as main characters. They have flaws and issues, but work through their challenges. Both women are independent, intelligent and feisty. Strong female characters -- love it! The mystery moves along at a good pace, with snippets about various crafts (macrame, sea glass jewelry, knitting, crochet, etc) sprinkled in throughout. At the back of the book are craft patterns for CD/DVD Coasters, macrame friendship bracelets and sand candles. The mystery plot is believable for the most part. There was one instance where I had an eyeroll moment -- the way one body is discovered just seemed a bit silly to me. But hey -- it's a cozy mystery. Sometimes you have to suspend reality and just enjoy the story.

I've enjoyed every book in this series so far. And I will definitely continue reading each book as it comes out!

For more information on the author and her books, check out her website at: <http://mollicoxbryan.com/>

****I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book from Kensington via Netgalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.****

Abby Fabian says

Macrame Murder was a wonderful addition to this colorful series. The characters are not only fun, but they are also realistic. They have pasts, like we all do. This helps turn them into characters, rather than just names on a page. When Cora learns more about Adrian, her boyfriend, she assesses her life, and decides whether or not she is ready to open herself up to a relationship. The craft theme was sprinkled, like glitter, throughout the book. There was never a moment where I forgot it was a craft mystery. I also never forgot that there was a crafty killer lurking between the pages. The mystery left me with the satisfied feeling that can only come from reading an enthralling story. The mystery was filled with twists, turns, and truly shocking moments. I am eagerly awaiting the next book in this captivating series!

I received a free copy of this book. I am voluntarily leaving a review.

Cathy Cole says

I continue to enjoy this mystery series with its emphasis on crafts and murder. Cora is the type of character I really like (even though she suffered from a few too many panic attacks in this book)-- she's smart and compassionate, and the years she spent being in charge of a shelter for abused women gives her a different perspective on the human race. Her former career also taught her not to behave as though she's a trained police officer. Cora is primarily a businesswoman who hires teachers for her craft retreats; she isn't the Martha Stewart type who can run any sort of class she puts her mind to, so I was puzzled when I learned that she was teaching at this South Carolina retreat. When I found out what her class was all about, it made

perfect sense-- and I'll let you find out what it was for yourself.

I was happy to see that Cora and her friends were in South Carolina. This avoids the old Cabot Cove Syndrome nicely, and-- let's face it-- if you found out people kept getting bumped off at a craft retreat you were thinking of going to... would you go? Probably not, unless you believe yourself to be Miss Marple reincarnated.

I enjoy the craft retreat setting and the characters, and I also enjoy trying to solve the mysteries. The mystery in Macramé Murder is complex, and I didn't have it all figured out before the reveal, which is always a good thing. Speaking of "good things" (didn't Martha Stewart used to do that?), that sums up Mollie Cox Bryan's cozy series perfectly, and I hope you give it a try.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Nothing can ruin a craft retreat quicker than a murder. Cora, Jane and Ruby have been asked to teach at the Sea Glass Island Craft Retreat. Thinking it will be nice to have someone else in charge they accept. Who would turn down a beach retreat? Cora even brings her boyfriend, Adrian along. While checking out the beach they catch a glimpse of a wedding. Sadly, the next day the bride was dead and Cora is beyond shocked when Adrian becomes the prime suspect. Say What?? She is warned to let the police handle things but there is no way she is just going to teach her classes and relax on the beach with a drink in her hand while Adrian could end up behind bars. She will sift through every speck of sand on the beach to get to the truth.

When I was in high school macramé was a big thing, I took a mini class where I macraméd a beautiful hanging table and some owls and plant hangers. I am thrilled this craft is being revived in fresh new ways.

Mollie Cox Bryan sure has tied her characters in knots in this mystery. Cora and Jane are strong women, smart and gutsy too. They really don't back down from a fight especially when one of their friends is in trouble. Cashel and Ruby are great assistants in the investigation. It is also nice that Cashel was available to serve as Adrian's lawyer even though he gets a little prickly about having to work during his vacation. I loved the dialogue between all the characters, it was believable. Serious when need be but there are funny moments too.

The mystery was difficult to solve with so many twists that brought more and more suspects to light and another dead body. I was excited when I figured out one major clue before Cora but I was really unsure of the actual murderer until the end. The suspense ratcheted up as we got closer to the end and the twists continued. A new element came to the forefront and Cora learned she had to trust the people around her, then things started to fall into place.

Sea Glass Island, off the coast of the Carolinas sounds like a wonderful place, but a little over the top with mermaids ? I would love to visit and if there was a craft retreat that would be an awesome bonus.

This was a fun story. I love this crafting theme. It makes me long for the crafty self I used to be before my accident. I get to experience things I can no longer do through characters like these. That is what first drew me to cozy mysteries and it is why I continue to read them today.

Linda says

Five stars plus! This complex and well-plotted sequel to the first two Cora Crafts mysteries was a delight to read. Peppered with surprises and loaded with intrigue, its feel-good ending made me long for many more installments in this terrific cozy series.

Linnea says

Dealt with social issues and also character interaction. Definately a page turner kind of book.

Kelly says

****I voluntarily read this ARC****

Oh, my. That opening scene was beautiful! I feel that in this book, I really had a chance to get to know the characters. The murder itself revealed a tangled web of deceit that reached much farther than I expected. There were some massive twists woven into the story, and I was a bit surprised when it was all revealed.
