



Framed in Lace

Monica Ferris

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When the historic Hopkins ferry is raised from the lake, a skeleton is discovered. Unfortunately, the only evidence is a piece of lace-like fabric. But once Betsy Devonshire and the patrons of her needlecraft shop lend a hand, they're sure to stitch together the details of this mystery... "Filled with great small-town characters...A great time!" **Rendezvous**

Framed in Lace Details

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Author : Monica Ferris

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From Reader Review Framed in Lace for online ebook

Anastasia says

Framed in lace by Monica Ferris is the second book in The Needlecraft Mystery series. A skeleton is found on board the wreck of a ferry which has been salvaged to be restored, and a piece of old lace is tied to one of the needleworkers. I enjoyed this book very much. I loved how much knowledge and investigation of needleworking and lace led to solving the crime. The needleworking facts were interesting and it was nice getting to know the characters. A pleasant and cozy read.

Joy Gerbode says

A good read, interesting. Because I'm not really into needlework, I don't like the needlework part as much as the mystery ... but it's a needlework mystery, so what would you expect. And I have to admit, the descriptions of the various needlework are interesting. The mystery is pretty good ... although I have a hard time following how she goes from one clue to the next. Still, a fun story and good, light reading.

Jennifer says

Good story & a quick read.[return][return]The details about our heroine and her personal feelings are light. She is mostly the hook between the actions and the mystery being solved, but her personal thoughts and details are only mentioned in a few places.[return][return]The mystery itself is a historic murder, with the body just recently found. The main characters in the mystery are mostly just a memory... and memories of events do differ at times. The final solution is pretty satisfying.

Chris says

It was an easy audio book to listen to while driving. Nothing special but allowed driving and listening without getting confused on either. I like to sew and that was why I chose to read this book.

Toni Moore says

"Framed in Lace, a Needlecraft Mystery #2," by Monica Ferris

"And when it did come up, who found the skeleton?" asked Martha's bosom companion, Jessica Turnquist. Jessica was three inches taller but twenty pounds lighter than Martha. She had a long face with large, slightly bulgy eyes, and a patrician nose over a mouth pressed thin by years of firm opinions. Jessica was crocheting a white baby blanket in swift popcorn stitch; it looked as if a cloud were forming on the table in front of her. (Pages 23-24)

This is the second in a series of mysteries set in a needlecraft store in Excelsior, a small town on the shores of Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota. Betsy Devonshire came to Excelsior from San Diego the previous

summer, fleeing a bad divorce and her ex-husband. Her sister, Margot, owned the needlecraft store, Crewel World, and Betsy planned to stay in Excelsior until she figured out what to do with the rest of her life. Then Margot was murdered (that story is told in the first mystery, "Crewel World") and Betsy inherited the shop. She managed to discover who killed Margot and bring that person to justice. Now it's almost Halloween, and Betsy has decided to keep the shop open until her sister's will is probated.

In the meantime, a mystery surfaces in the form of a sunken ship with an unexplained skeleton in it. The Hopkins was a "streetcar boat" used to take people from Excelsior to the streetcar terminus for the Twin Cities at the turn of the 20th century. The other five boats had been sunk in the 1920s as most people began to drive themselves to the cities, but the Hopkins was turned into a tourist boat and operated until the late 1940s, when it, too, was sunk. A local group is having it raised so it can have a second life as a tourist boat when the skeleton is discovered.

The skeleton is that of a woman, and from injuries to her face, skull, and radius (arm bone) it looks like she's been murdered. There's a "tiny, flattish, filthy, slimy thing" near the skeleton that turns out to be fabric, perhaps lace, made of silk. Thus Betsy and the "Monday Group," women who come by the shop every Monday to stitch and visit, get drawn into the mystery. Perhaps one of them knows something about the piece of fabric that could help solve the murder.

I love to read mysteries, and I do embroidery and needlepoint. So I'm inclined to like mysteries like this. I've read several by another writer that involve a similar fictional needlework store. But I like these by Monica Ferris better. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The characters are believable, the plot is well-drawn, the writing is good, and the "cold-case" mystery is intriguing. I got "Framed in Lace" and several others in the series from a woman in my embroidery group (the East Texas Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America). After I read it, I ordered the books in the series that I didn't have.

Heather says

I definitely enjoyed this book as much as I did the first book in the series. I'm looking forward to picking up the third book when I get to choir practice.

Since someone mentioned having solved the murder ahead of the main character, I'll say this: the astute reader might. All the pieces are there from about halfway through. I did not, because I'd forgotten one of the connections. As it was, I had the murder solved right at the same time as the main character and was trying to see how she'd prove us both right.

I love the connections to embroidery, counted-cross stitch, tatting, lace-making, crochet and knitting that are found throughout the books. I also really enjoy Sophie – who reminds me of my own cats. The author seems to have really done her homework as far as both needlework and cats are concerned.

I really like counted cross-stitch, but I haven't done it in quite a while. The pattern included with this book would make the perfect little gift for someone who is dear to me. I'm really looking forward to getting started on it. That's another thing I love: each book includes a pattern! Such fun!

I like the direction that the relationship between Jill and Betsy is taking. Both of them miss Margot terribly, so I hope that they continue to connect with each other as the series progresses. As much as I hated Malloy in the first book... he's starting to grow on me.

Vicki Cline says

I really like this series. The people are interesting and you feel like you know them. Plus I really like various kinds of needlework, so I can relate to talk in the shop. I wish I had that kind of shop in my city.

Glen says

A ship is raised from Lake Minnetonka, and they find a skeleton on it. They also find a bit of lace. The ship sank in the 1940's. Our amateur sleuth starts poking around, and finds all sorts of the usual small town secrets.

Not bad. A bit more involved than most cozies.

Kirsti says

Betsy is at it again, sleuthing to help a friend accused of murder find the real culprit. As always, this is accompanied by much knitting and needlework, and Betsy is learning more about the craft. I too am learning more as I go on with this series, and I am a complete newbie. I enjoyed learning these things as much as the sleuthing, which I enjoy on any given day.

I actually found this entire set for sale second hand, so I will be slowly working my way through them as my mood shifts. A fun cozy mystery series, four stars!

Kathleen Hagen says

Framed in Lace, by Monica Ferris, b-plus, Narrated by Susan Boyce, produced by Audiogo, downloaded from audible.com.

This is the second in the Betsy Devonshire needlecraft series. This one starts only a couple of months after Betsy solves her sister's murder, from the first book, and is staying on at least long enough to get the estate sorted out, and is keeping the store Crewel World open. In this book, everyone makes an event of going out on Lake Minnetonka to see a ferryboat raised from the bottom of the lake where it was deliberately sunk in 1948. But when the boat is raised, they find a skeleton of a young girl aboard with a piece of lace. Betsy begins investigating, asking questions. She finds that the townfolk remember a girl disappearing in 1948, along with a man, neither of them to appear again. It was assumed that the man, Carl, disappeared with the girl, leaving his wife and son behind. But, a day after the boat is raised, an old man is found dead in a motel room, and he is identified as the missing husband, Carl Winters, who had disappeared from town 50 years ago. As Betsy asks her questions and pokes around, she begins to uncover the truth of that long-ago day, and she helps to clear Carl's wife who is being accused of the murders. We see a lot of the Monday Ladies club who come to work on needlecrafts on Monday afternoons, along with Betsy's assistants, Godwin and Shelley, and who all have input into solving this mystery.

Erin L says

Review of the audiobook

When a historic ferry is recovered from the lake and a skeleton is discovered, Betsy is on hand and curious. When a piece of hand-made lace is the only clue discovered, she begins to investigate.

This is a mystery that delves into the past as the victim is from the late 1940s. WWII is discussed as the townspeople remember those who went to war, whether they returned or not. Becky learns more about other forms of needlework, including various lace-making techniques which was interesting.

I started out giving this three stars, but once I started writing the review, I bumped it up to four. I like the characters and the plot was certainly interesting with the links to the past.

Liz says

I found this on a free pile. I can't think why. It's probably the best book ever written.

Sandy Neal says

I solved the mystery early so was impatient to finish the book! Butterfly cross-stitch pattern. Enjoyed the description of Sophie, the cat, as "trundling" down the stairs! My cat does that!

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza

Stavolta Betsy indaga su un omicidio accaduto ben 50 anni prima. E' stato davvero un libro interessante, sia per quanto riguarda l'indagine che per le discussioni di un particolare tipo di lavoro femminile (se ho ben capito, è una specie di merletto, non mi viene il nome in italiano).

NancyHelen says

Betsy Devonshire is at it again, this time stepping in to solve a historic murder uncovered when a boat is raised and a skeleton is found on board. Betsy, who by now has settled into her new life, is reluctant to get involved but despite her protests, you know she will. A needle wielding Sherlock Holmes is a good way to describe her.
