



Knit One, Kill Two

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Despite the fact that her aunt was an expert knitter, Kelly Flynn never picked up a pair knitting needles she liked -- until she strolled into House of Lambspin. Now, in the first in a brand-new series, she learns how to knit one, purl two, and untangle the mystery behind her aunt's murder. — Kelly Flynn would be the first to admit her life in Washington, D.C., is a little on the dull side. But coming back to Colorado for her beloved aunt's funeral wasn't the kind of excitement she was seeking. The police are convinced that her Aunt Helen's death was the result of a burglary gone bad, but for the accountant in Kelly, things just aren't adding up. After all, why would her sensible, sixty-eight-year-old aunt borrow \$20,000 just days before her death? With the help of the knitting regulars at House of Lambspin, Kelly's about to get a few lessons in cranking out a sumptuously colored scarf -- and in luring a killer out of hiding...

Knit One, Kill Two Details

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From Reader Review Knit One, Kill Two for online ebook

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

What wonderful characters! The mystery is a little slow though. I loved the knit shop next to the coffee shop. Their descriptions made my heart go pitter patter - I love to knit and drink coffee. My idea of heaven.

A nice attempt for a start of a series - introduce the characters and develop them wonderfully. As I said the mystery plot was slow, but nice enough to keep me reading. I understand the series gets better, so I will defer my criticism until the next novel I read in this series.

Varina says

It's hard to fairly evaluate this book, because I listened to the audiobook and the narration is HORRIBLE. It was only just about the level that I can even stand to listen to it. It seemed like the narrator had not read the book before, or even read a sentence before narrating it, so there are all these weird mood shifts and changes. As for the book itself (in as much as I can judge, what with it being filtered through the prism of terrible narration) it's a reasonably interesting book, inoffensive and at times even sweet. I basically enjoyed it, though it could never be called great literature. There were a few annoying aspects that kept repeating themselves. First, Sefton seemed to inject too much comic relief at too odd moments, so one moment they would be grieving or discussing some terrible tragedy then the next, oh that Jennifer, what a hilarious slut! The quick shifts made the characters seem shallow and inauthentic. The narration magnified this flaw but it was there already. Also, we get it, yarn is pretty, but the weird descents into a Pantone color catalog, or that one scene where every knitter in the room is nervously fondling balls of wool to relax....yeah, that was a bit much. Like probably everyone who read this book I am a knitter and get the appeal, but this was just too much, and it accompanied the weird mood shifts (my dear aunt is dead! Oh look, merino!). Overall, the book is pleasant, but there are much better books to be spending your time with.

Anya says

Too much fat shaming and guilt over eating good food for me to enjoy the yarn and murders.

Annika De says

There are a lot of things to love about this book. Knitting! Friendship! A strong female protagonist! Yes, it's cheesy, but the cheese is forgivable given how cute the premise is. The only problem is that all of the delightful elements fail to offset the heaviness of the murder that drives the plot. Unlike with other "cozy mysteries," the stakes in this book are very high - the main character has lost her only living relative and she is convinced the police have arrested the wrong person. As the novel progresses, the situation only becomes more grim, and the juxtaposition of heartwarming knitting scenes with emotionally fraught discoveries is increasingly jarring.

I will say that the central mystery is more complex than those of other similar novels. Cozy mysteries tend towards accidental resolutions, where the protagonist stumbles upon the murderer by chance. In this book,

the main character's investigation is productive and rewarding for the reader. Kelly, the protagonist, is an interesting character; unfortunately, the extensive cast of secondary characters is too poorly-developed for the reader to properly invest in any of them. And for all of the characters introduced, the list of suspects is painfully short. I was able to hone in on the murderer about halfway through.

Despite this novel's shortcomings, the knitting and female friendship is enough for me to give the second book in the series a chance. I think things will be more light-hearted when the person being murdered is someone that Kelly is not emotionally attached to, and hopefully another book will allow the author to better flesh out the other characters. Long story short, this book won't be winning any awards, but it's still a pretty good time :)

OssifrageRage says

I was annoyed with this book from the get-go because of typos and word mis-use(The proofreader sucked I guess: "The sound of Carl's barking reached her eyes.") because I live in the Colorado town where it is based, and the shop in the book was the first LYS I knew. What irritated me is that I can see no reason to change the name of the towns -- can someone explain why you would do that?

While I did not figure it out right away, I felt that there was a shallowness to the mystery, and unnecessary details and side notes like the trip to the Scottish games or whatever it was, all about the cafe and the cafe owner and Eduardo's dark rich coffee over and over and over again and all the numerous knitters in the shop all the time who just so happen to not have kids or spouses, and conveniently all of them have jobs they can just adjust at will to allow them to sit around and knit in the middle of the day, then play softball in the evening.

I think it got better as far as the writing went toward the end of the book -- fewer redundancies (Eduardo makes good coffee, someone loves cinnamon buns, the yarn is soft and bright and yummy, she wants to make a sweater, she never learned to knit, Helen was a saint...)

Jennifer says

The first in the Knitting Mystery Series.

This was a rough book but you can see the potential in the series. The main character is Kelly Flynn, a CPA who goes back to her Aunt's house to wrap up the estate after she is murdered. Kelly is an army brat who moved around a lot as a child - and coming back to her Aunt's house reminds her that this was the only place even close to being a real home to her over the years. When she digs into her Aunt's finances and finds some hinky loans against her house, \$20,000 in missing cash and the family heirloom quilt is missing she decides to dig into the mystery of her beloved Aunts death.

How does knitting fit in? Well - the barn on the property is a Yarn Shop ran by a close friend of the dead Aunt. Kelly is slowly seduced by the fiber and the friendship of the yarn shop. Oh - and their is a coffee shop attached - which frankly sounds like my wet dream. Strolling across the yard to fondle new fiber and drink coffee with knitting friends?!?! Uh Yeah. Good stuff their.

You have to be forgiving as you read this first book - but it's worth reading and the series does improve. I like the characters and I like the knitting descriptions quite a bit.

BONUS - there is a knitting pattern for a scarf and a simple shell as well as a recipe for Cinnamon Rolls in the back of the book.

Jaime says

Well that was boring. 90% of the plot was useless filler and the dialogue was beyond repetitive and bland.

Kristin says

Purely a fluff mystery. It's a fun little story that almost dives into the world of fantasy. Really now - how can all these people work such flexible jobs that allow them to continuously pop into the knitting store at whim? Seriously. I also found that there were too many characters, there was nothing to really distinguish them from each other and their characters were all rather flat. Less would have been more here. Being a knitter, I found the rate that all these "working people" were finishing projects the likes of sweaters simply incredible to the point of disbelief. And let us not forget the introduction of the future love interest, to whom Kelly took an immediate dislike.

Still, I liked the Colorado setting, the knitting theme was cool - I totally understood the whole sensory color overload when Kelly walks into the knitting store for the first time - and at least in this mystery, the heroine doesn't act like a stupid ninny and confront the villain alone (like another theme mystery I like to read) only to require rescue by said love interest. I'll read the next couple and see how this series fleshes out.

Amanda says

I'm just going to review this first book, since it is fairly representative of the series. An enjoyable, though somewhat predictable mystery read, especially if you are a fiber addict and like to read about knitting and yarn.

Something I like about these books is that the murders aren't just "the reason for the book," they are treated as being horrible/sad/tragic/hateful, just as they ought to be. Some books are "ho-hum, we needed someone to die so our hero could investigate, HELLO JANE JEFFRIES."

Something that irritated the crud out of me by the 3rd book, and now has gone BEYOND ANNOYING, is the coffee thing. Agatha Christie used a character called Ariadne Oliver, a mystery writer, to comment on how awful it is when you give your Detective a collection of habits or characteristics. At first you do it to make them seem real but after a while they are just the irritating Finnish detective who has finicky eating habits. To put an even slyer spin on the commentary, Ariadne Oliver ate a lot of apples and was always shedding hairpins out of her wacky coiffure. And every time you read about that annoying Finn and how Ariadne had come to despise him, you thought of a certain Belgian detective who combed his moustaches and grew vegetable marrows. Agatha Christie knew what she was talking about.

In these Knitting Mysteries, the Detective is an Accountant who learns to Knit, and who has an addiction to coffee that, if it were an illegal addiction, would be a \$1000 a day heroin habit. And she has a loveable Rottweiler named Carl. I like Carl, he can stay, but I've reached the point with the coffee thing that every time Kelly (our Coffee-swilling, Knitting, Accountant Sleuth) knocks back a cup of joe I feel QUITE ANNOYED. Enough with the fucking coffee. Or, if Ms. Sefton can't let it go, or drop back the number of

java references, I want her to mention that Kelly spends all damn day in the bathroom because of the caffeine, and is noticing that she is DEHYDRATED all the time because she never takes a drink of plain, ordinary tap.

I am An Average Reader, and when I start counting the references to coffee in the books, you need to rethink the whole Queen of Caffeine thing.

Deb says

I am an avid knitter and enjoy a good cozy mystery so I expected this book to be something I would like, given that it enjoys fairly decent ratings. I did not expect to find a poorly edited book full of errors, populated by cardboard characters who exist merely to do favors for the heroine of the book despite the fact they met her ten minutes ago.

Everything about this book rings false. From an Aunt who lives on a golf course and had previously sold huge amount of prime land to developers who is described as barely getting by to the heroine who is a CPA at a high-powered DC financial house but who thinks that \$20,000 is a huge amount of money. I couldn't decide if it was more disturbing that the woman who owns the knitting shop kept insisting the heroine see the shop the day after her aunt's funeral or the fact that the heroine visited her aunt regularly but have never been to the shop or met its regulars despite the fact that her aunt lived next door and spent most of her time there. The police are betrayed as idiots even though the heroine's actions are even more idiotic. I mostly kept reading to the end because this book was so bad, it was actually entertaining. The ending was so bad it seemed like it was spoofing the genre.

A final disturbing note is that there are a lot of terrible events that are revealed in the course of the story that are treated in an off-handed manner and add nothing to the book. The heroine seems to have the emotional depth of a moist towelette.

Mary Billingham says

I was curious to read a Maggie Sefton mystery after I met the author this winter. As is my usual practice, I started with her first book, in case I wanted to follow the development of the protagonist throughout the series.

The first of the "Knitting Mystery" series was not my cup of tea. The murders seemed too bloodless, and the "detective" Kelly Flynn had no business solving them. Sefton presents her, an accountant in her day-to-day life, as smarter than the police and spunkier than most women. To me, she seems foolish, taking risks that no sensible person should. Then there is the knitting side of the story. I do knit on occasion, but the craft has too much importance in this book. The message is: people who knit are the best folks in the world and the cleverest too. I don't buy any of it!

The plot was okay, but, I like my mysteries grittier, and my detectives to be more like Millhone, Rebus or Banks, trained investigators. I will not be reading another in the series.

Christine says

This is the first book in the knitting mystery series. Kelly Flynn returns to her aunts Colorado hometown when she learns of her aunts murder. She soon finds out that her aunt borrowed \$20,000 from her mortgage shortly before her death. Kelly is soon lead to believe that her aunts death was more than a random act of violence, but in fact a calculated murder. Along with her aunts friends, Kelly sets out to find out who would want her aunt dead.

I absolutely loved this book. The characters were fun and engaging. I can't wait to read more.

Danielle says

I picked this book up because it had to do with knitting and it looked like the kind of fluff reading I needed at the time. As a mystery, it lacked suspense and 3-dimensional characters, but it did inspire me to pick up my knitting needles again.

Dawn Michelle says

FINALLY!!

I have been reading "cozy mysteries" for awhile now. Most of them I REALLY enjoy. But I am starting to see a pattern in them. Let me explain~~First, you have a party or a gathering or a function. Then, someone (usually its QUITE shocking) dies. Then, someone (the hero OR heroine of the stories) steps in to "help" local authorities and 128 pages later, *POOF*, the crime is solved. Not always neatly, but solved nonetheless.

THIS book was different. And since this is the first book in the series, I may be wrong about this, but it feels like it will continue in the vein that this one was written. Which is different than most of the cozy mysteries that I am currently reading.

This book *told a story!!* A believable story. With characters you want to learn more about. Who have believable lives. And believable foibles and quirks and temperaments. And are all bound together by their love of knitting and crafts.

And the best thing of all--I had **NO** idea (even though it was staring at me in the end) who the killer was. And was shocked when I realized. HOW REFRESHING!!!!

I cannot WAIT to read the second one in this series. I seriously hope it doesn't let me down!!

Kate says

I started reading this book anticipating a light fluffy mystery read, not the next great work of American literature. Even with that in mind, I was sorely disappointed.

I'm a hardcore knitter, I was knitting while reading this book on my Kindle. But by the third (then fourth, fifth, etc.) time the same plot devices were used, I was losing interest fast. I have no idea how the main

character, Kelly, was able to suck down as much (insert superlative here) coffee as she did and still sleep. I too love going into a fiber shop and giving the prettiest of skeins a squeeze, but Kelly took it to almost being a fetish. I wanted to scream at her to stop molesting the merchandise, and if the shop owner wasn't her new BFF, I'm sure she would too.

The characters were all so one-dimensional I couldn't tell one from the other, except for Lizzie, who is just described as being older, mischievous, and wearing lots and lots of pink and ruffles.

The writing itself wasn't hideous, but the flow of the story ground to a halt every time we were given (via Kelly the reluctant and whiny student) a knitting lesson. Listen, people reading this book either already know how to knit, or if they don't, they aren't going to learn from **READING** about Kelly learning. An editor should have really hacked those passages down to something along the lines of "she patiently demonstrated the movements again and then offered the needles to Kelly."

Regarding the mystery: the culprit is pretty obvious from the moment they appear. I'll confess to being a little confused about why Kelly was so determined to solve the crime, since her "grief" over her aunt's passing (view spoiler) seemed fleeting at best. She squeezed out a few tears and had the sadz once or twice...but then it's off to the yarn shop for more knitting and coffee!

The entire ending would have made me give up, were I not so close to finishing. (view spoiler) Oy.

I e-borrowed this book from the library, and they have at least the next two books in the series. I'm going to give them a try out of fairness and hope the series gets better!
