



The Drowning Spool

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In the *USA Today* bestselling Needlecraft Mysteries, Betsy Devonshire, owner of the Crewel World needlework shop, knows how to untangle even the most knotty of mysteries. But a soggy murder case might have Betsy in over her head...

Even though running Crewel World keeps Betsy plenty busy, a little extra cash on the side doesn't hurt. So when the local senior complex, Watered Silk, asks her to teach a class on the tricky punch needle technique, Betsy jumps at the opportunity to win over some new customers.

Unfortunately, the business that Betsy drums up is not of the needlework variety. A young woman is found floating in Watered Silk's therapy pool, and Betsy's sleuthing skills are immediately called upon to figure out who drowned her. But the list of suspects is more twisted than any Betsy has encountered before. The young woman had three lovers—each with a motive for the murder.

It's up to Betsy to sort out the snarl of romantic entanglements and find a killer, or the wrong man is bound to get pinned for a crime he didn't commit...

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The Drowning Spool Details

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From Reader Review The Drowning Spool for online ebook

Dee says

I always enjoy Betsy Devonshire's adventures. Monica gave us a twist in the end that I didn't see coming, made it really special. I'm a stitcher and totally snoopy too! It was worth the wait!

Chris Curtis says

Fewer shout outs to designers and brand names and a little more mystery and detecting would make this book so much better. The original Monday bunch characters need to return to help with the mystery not just as filler. Why keep Jill barefoot and pregnant when she and Betsey make such a fun detective team? I hate Betsey's love interest and his songs. When he went to the clubs to help her investigate he was ok but otherwise he was boring.

Sarah Hearn says

I always enjoy these stitching books by Monica Ferris, being a stitcher myself. She stumped me this time with her explanation of punch-needle work. I could not follow it at all. There wasn't enough time spent with Goddy and the Monday morning group though. Not enough descriptions of work people were doing, and what was the bit about the coin collecting club? What was its relevance? Did she start with one idea and then forget to take it out when it no longer fit the plot? Also, I have to say, the introduction of Preston and Sony was inept. In the first sentence we read Sonja, and then in the next sentence, literally, the next sentence, she's Sony. I thought the proof reader and copy editor had screwed up. And can't Connor find another endearment than "machree"? I'm sure the Irish have lots of other ways of expressing fondness for someone; it began to sound like her nickname, i.e., Betsy-machree like Betsy-Anne or something. I know this is going to sound really bad and I don't mean it that way, I know lots of men knit and embroider and do beautiful work, but that scene where Betsy and Connor settle down beneath their own little lamps to embroider the evening away was just wet and sappy. I mean, seriously? Not every person in her life has to do hand-work. Couldn't he whittle or collect stamps or something completely unconnected to needlework? I gave this three stars because I thought the mystery was reasonably inventive, although I did work out who'd done it. But. What are the odds that three people in the Monday Morning club are going to be related to suspects? How small is Excelsior? It's starting to feel like Cabot Cove, Maine where everybody Jessica Fletcher knew was in danger of being a corpse or being hauled off for murder.

Sue says

The best part of the book is the background needlework information such as an intro to punch needle, an explanation of Hardanger embroidery, types of floss, etc. The premise of the book is very good but Betsy Devonshire passing herself off as a PI assisting the police is farfetched and their sharing information on an ongoing homicide investigation is really pushing it. Even that could be overlooked but when she visits a taller, stronger, younger woman on false pretenses, alone, tells the woman that her husband had an affair

with the victim is really mind blowing to the reader. Then Betsy is surprised when the woman gets very mad and orders her out of the home! I was disappointed with this book.

Susan says

First, Betsy Devonshire must move her exercise routine, temporarily, to the pool at a retirement community; then she's asked to teach a course for some of the residents. So she's not far off when a woman is found murdered in the pool that's used for water aerobics. People keep finding reasons to involve Betsy in the case, and she finds information the police can't possibly come up with. I usually like this series better, but the plot didn't seem to cohere very well--threads, to use an appropriate metaphor, are picked up and dropped again.

Laura Salas says

Who wrote this book? I've enjoyed this series up until now. They're always unrealistic, sure, but the local setting and the relationships of Betsy with Goddy and Connor and fairly clever plotting has made them fun reads. This one has so many ridiculous coincidences, so much wooden dialog, important scenes that get cut off and then just summarized later, interspersed with scenes telling in excruciating detail what DMC floss colors someone is changing...ugh. And Betsy is suddenly someone with absolutely NO skill in interpersonal communications. Her conversations with people are painful. I made it about 3/4 of the way through and finally gave up. Realized I really didn't care who killed Teddy. (And the narrator of the audio version is painful, too.)

Betsy says

This series has most definitely run its course. As a needle craft mystery, the minute detail about patterns and threads and projects did not seem out of place, but the book was so heavily and clumsily padded that it was ridiculous -- every outfit was itemized, as were the contents of purses, pool bags, and sandwiches. And when did the likeable Godwin become such a moron? And how could anyone -- police, house mates, nosy needle workers -- have possibly missed the fact that the murderer was someone who did not know the location of the victim's bedroom? Sheesh!

Sarah says

Meh. The mystery was okay, but the way it was woven together at the end was pretty lackluster. It was frankly disappointing. The "who" in "whodunnit" was very predictable. And I could do without all of the boring descriptions of craft related stuff all the time. And long-winded descriptions of pointless crap too. (Seriously. Just tell me she's eating a salad. I don't need an ingredients list.) I appreciated how unconventional many of the characters are as sleuths. An old crafting lady is not something I ever recall seeing as the detective in mystery novel before. (It always seems to be the same old boring late 20's cop with relationship trouble.) So that was refreshing. It didn't make up for the fluffy writing and lame wrap up, but it's nice not to be completely bored with the cast.

So... not terrible interesting but i didn't loathe it either. Very "meh". The audiobook narration was much the same.

Laura says

It's been a long time since I read this author--too long! The pace was steady, not too fast. The characters are "old friends" and the relationships good.....what more can a reader ask for!

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

It always amazes me how an author of a long running series can keep each new book fresh. How they are able to find new ways to commit the crimes, and come up with new locations and settings. But in this seventh installment of her Needlecraft Mystery series, author Monica Ferris does just that.

THE DROWNING SPOOL was a well written mystery that kept me engaged and guessing. I had no idea who had perpetrated the crime until it was revealed.

Ms. Ferris has a knack for creating “visual” stories. This book was filled with vivid descriptions making me feel as though I was in each situation with the story’s heroine, Betsy Devonshire.

There is a fun Embroidery pattern for needlecraft lovers. But be assured, you do not need to know needle work to enjoy this book.

Joan says

I enjoy this cozy series with interesting characters set in Minnesota.

Susan Webb says

Betsy Devonshire such a smart woman and she tries so hard to keep her sister's legacy, Crewel World, alive. No matter what she does, she always seems to find herself in the middle of a murder mystery!

Ptaylor says

I've been reading this mystery series since the first one,Crewel World, and, up until now, I've enjoyed them. They're easy on the brain and a nice break from literary fiction. Plus, as a cross stitcher, I've enjoyed seeing some of the patterns that come with the book or learning about other techniques. (Punch needle was the needlework of choice in this one.)Betsy is completely unlikeable, and seems to act without thought. At one

point she asks a woman about her husband's mistress. Mind you, she's never met this person before, and the lady thinks she's there to see her scrapbooks or ask her to conduct a scrapbooking class. In spite of her tactlessness, Betsy's surprised when she's threatened physically. Don't waste your time.

Marge says

This series does not seem to be written by the same author as when it started. The dialogue is juvenile and boring. Every single person introduced is described by their weight - the short plump woman, the tall slender man, the obese woman - really is that the only way you can describe people. Also I don't need to know what everyone is wearing. This book seems like a lot of fluff and very little substance. And what was that one random chapter about coin collecting thrown in for? Maybe while writing this book the author read the reviews of the last book and realized people don't care about Goddy's coin collecting boyfriend. Remember back to the beginning of the series, when Betsy found out she was an heiress? I wish the author did, she writes her as if every penny is a make or break for this woman. I miss the interaction in the needlework shop and the description of designs and techniques.

Carol says

Just OK. Kind of predictable, and the ending seemed rushed and incomplete.
