



Patterns in the Sand

Sally Goldenbaum

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The follow-up to *Death by Cashmere*: next in the new mystery series set in a tight-knit seaside community.

When young fiber artist Willow Adams visits Izzy Chambers's knitting studio, she's immediately embraced by the Seaside knitters, and they see the monthly arts event at Canary Cove as a perfect place to showcase Willow's work. But the idyllic summer in Sea Harbor turns somber when the body of Nick Peabody-owner of a popular gallery-is found in a community garden. Soon all Nick's secrets begin to surface, and the residents of Sea Harbor realize they didn't know him at all. And when Nick's will reveals that his entire estate has been left to Willow, the knitters find that Willow has some dark secrets of her own...

Patterns in the Sand Details

Date : Published April 28th 2009 by Obsidian (first published 2009)

ISBN : 9780451227034

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Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crafts, Knitting, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Patterns in the Sand for online ebook

Ashley says

Hmm...I'm not entirely sure why I keep reading these books. The writing is okay, and the editing (both for knitting content correctness and basic English grammar) is terrible (FYI, "led" and "lead" are not the same word), but the stories are cute. The same comments I made about the first book regarding food, extra characters, etc., hold true for this book as well. I'll probably read the third because I already have it, but I don't think I'll buy any more.

Margaret McCamant says

A quick read, one of many (often mystery) novels about groups of knitters. I often feel, as I did here, that knitting is not central to the story. The story is not about the bond among knitters if all they do is pull out their knitting at any free moment or, worse, fondle the yarn as they walk through the store.

Martha says

I hated this book. I read "Death by Cashmere" because I love knitting, I love Cape Ann, and I love mysteries. I didn't love that book, but I got "Patterns in the Sand" because of the above reasons and because once I start a series, I want to finish it.

I think maybe "cozies," a term I learned from reading the reviews here, just aren't for me. The characters spend an inordinate amount of time discussing how "scrumptious" yarn is and experiencing paroxysms of joy when a new shipment comes in. I've never met someone who behaves like this.

I found the details the writer has chosen to include off-putting. The yarn, to begin with, but at irrelevant moments, people's clothes or interior décor are described in detail. And this was more in the last book than this one, but why are all the ingredients in the food listed? Yet there are seemingly dozens of characters I can't keep track of because I don't know much about them.

I could never get past the fact that Willow breaks into the yarn shop and hunkers down for a nap *in the display window* rather than one of the couches or chairs that are present and none of the main characters seems to think she's a weirdo because of it. I get that it's a trusting group of people, but really this is not a normal response.

This book failed to get me interested in the murder. I will not be continuing the series.

Sandra Holladay says

I really enjoy cozies and love a good book that is over way too soon. This wasn't one of them – it's an ok read, but it seemed I'd never finish it. Some pros: a couple of the characters really stand out (Birdie and

Cass), there were a couple of knitting terms I wasn't familiar with so looked them up. Cons: someone should have proofread the book for editing errors (can't list them because I didn't keep track, but they were quite obvious at the time), twice the author referred to fibers being 'woven' into yarn when they are actually 'spun' (cloth is woven), these people sure ate good and the story at times seemed more about the food than anything else – it even overshadowed the knitting aspects, I kept getting lost with all the characters (they weren't developed enough to remember them or for me to care enough about them).

I'll keep the rest of the books in the series on the 'back burner' in case I decide to give the series another try, but for now I will be trying other authors.

Leah says

I liked the New England beach town setting. I also liked the food and cooking, the knitting, and the friendships. The mystery was okay. I thought this would have been a better story without it, but I was surprised by who the guilty person was.

Susan says

I agree with another viewer who stated that there was more interaction with the characters getting together to eat dinner with each other and the descriptions of cooking than on the mystery itself. This is a book series that you really have to read from the beginning in order to know who everyone is. The character Nell can get a bit much as times, for me. She just seems to find her life in everyone else and a small interest in knitting. I like Izzy way better. I read the first one, but quite a bit of time went by before my interest was high enough to read this book. On the plus side, the harbor town they live is very well drawn and does make you want to live there.

Zoe says

After a promising debut (i.e. better than Maggie Sefton) this second in the series shows it's flaws. The mystery isn't bad, and there is plenty of fiber talk, but with so many characters, it's hard not to notice when every single person speaks the same way. No characterization whatsoever, and while some would argue that is okay for a cozy, I'm not one of them.

Linda Smatzny says

This time the ladies in the group of friends and knitters have found a new friend, Willow Adams who has recently arrived in town. She is young and full of secrets but when she is a suspect in the murder of an artist the group rallies around. One of Willow's secrets is that she is the daughter of the artist who was murdered. The police discover that she will inherit everything from the artist which moves to the top of the suspect list according to the police. Nell who wants to help Willow enlists her fellow knitters to help Willow. The book was a quick easy read.

Kathleen says

Stumbled on this series and find, with this second book, I simply enjoy the characters, the location and the mystery - very likeable and easy, pleasant read, that features knitting and makes my heart smile and look forward to picking up my needles.

Melissa says

To be fair I actually only got through half of this book before I gave up and realized life is too short to waste time on books you don't really like.

Ivy says

I wish I could give this book 2.5 stars, because it was better than 2 stars, but not worthy of 3. I just never found myself getting attached to the characters. Perhaps the issue is that it was a second in a series, but usually with this kind of cozy mystery you don't necessarily need to read them in order. I won't be perusing any others in this series. It was fine, but not really anything to write home about.

Carol says

I lost interest and stopped reading about a third of the way through. I'm not entirely sure why, but I had some trouble keeping all the artist/shop owner characters straight in my head. And it seemed like much of the "action" took the form of conversations at social gatherings. The plot and characters just didn't pull me in enough to keep going.

Mary says

I have visited Sea Harbor, Maine again in this second book of the Seaside Knitters Mystery. Only this time there were 2 murders and it turned out to be one of the people living in Canary Cove! Unheard of! I found that this book was much better than the first and now I'm looking forward to the next one in this series. It is a good summer beach read, fast moving and just plain good stuff.

Sally Goldenbaum has other series that she has written. I started last night "Murders on Elderberry Road" A story about the Quiltters Club in Kansas. I was able to get to chapter 3 before my eyes closed and I don't remember any more. She is a good writer and I am enjoying spending time with the nice people that she has invented. Look for Sally's books for a beach novel to read on a nice summer day.

Linda says

This one was loaned by a friend, and I read it on vacation after my Kindle broke. I won't be reading any others in the series. It was a tedious read, but I finished it. Typos throughout were annoying, as were misuse of "lead" for "led" and other grammatical errors. The first victim's name is Aidan, not Nick, as stated in the blurb here.

I love knitting, and I love mystery novels, but this one was just too contrived. The characters were sympathetic but not developed enough for me to care what happened to them. There was some good writing, but overall I'm going to pass on this author. Too many other good books out there, so little time for them all.

Jenn says

Knitting fiction and mystery has sprung up all over the place lately. All I have to do is see that knitting is involved and I'll pick up the book to read it.

This one had a fairly captive plot but overall it didn't hold my interest well. The characters didn't seem to come life as in other books. The mystery itself had a nice little twist.
