



Thread the Halls

Lea Wait

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Christmas in Haven Harbor, Maine, means family, trouble, and murder . . .

This Yuletide season, there's no time for Angie Curtis and Patrick West to linger under the mistletoe. Patrick's being needled by his mother--movie star Skye West--to set the stage for a perfect white Christmas as she brings her costar, screenwriters, and director home for the holidays. With his mother's long list of wishes, Patrick's becoming unraveled. To help, the Mainely Needlepointers offer to decorate Skye's Victorian mansion and create needlepoint pillows as gifts for the guests.

But not long after the celebrity celebrants invade Haven Harbor, an unscripted tragedy occurs. Then some questionable Christmas cookies make Patrick sick. Before Santa arrives at the town pier on a lobster boat, Angie and the Needlepointers need to trim down the naughty list, catch a cold-hearted killer, and wrap up the case . . .

Thread the Halls Details

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Author : Lea Wait

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From Reader Review Thread the Halls for online ebook

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here:

Angie and Patrick are going to spend their first Christmas in Maine together and it is going to be perfect. That is until his movie star mother brings some of her film buddies back to rework a script that is in trouble.. She wants them to create a fairy tale environment. It turns into a scary one when the male lead of the movie is shot to death in a snowy field behind her mansion. Things slide further downhill when Angie becomes a suspect.

As the story evolves, secrets that are best left alone come to the forefront and it gets very messy before all is revealed. It is a good story complete with an exciting Nor'Easter, lots of Christmas stuff, interesting characters and a good plot. I did figure out who was the villain but not why and there was an extra wrinkle that was unexpected. It was an enjoyable read that I can recommend.

I give it five purrs and two paws up.

Marti says

The Mainely Needlepoint Series by Lea Wait has added another book! Thread the Halls is about Christmas in Haven Harbor, Maine including a side of murder and snowstorms. Needle pointing plays a part in all these novels, but not to the extent that it is burdensome. I love the quotes at the beginning of each chapter.

The story begins when Angie Curtis was having a small Christmas party for the Mainely Needlepointers and a couple of others. Patrick's mother calls and drops a bombshell! She and her castmates are coming for Christmas and could Patrick arrange a couple of things. By the end of the phone call, the reader knows it is going to be a complete assault on Haven Harbor and its resources. Angie and others chip in to help Patrick and the house is completely transformed into a Christmas Dream. Within hours of their arrival, there is a murder and fingers are pointed every which way. Angie and Patrick do not get a break as the situation gets even dicier with confusion and mix-ups.

Thread the Halls by Lea Wait is an entertaining, cosy mystery.

Kelly says

I voluntarily read this ARC

That was simply amazing. The setting was beautiful, yet dangerous. The mystery was wonderful and a bit shocking. I do have to admit that I ended up putting the book down after a few chapters. The needlepoint descriptions inspired me to pick up a cross stitch that I've been meaning to get to for over a year.

Betty says

It is pleasant to read a Christmas story that shows the everyday life of the individuals. This one does as we follow Angie Curtis and Patrick West as they get ready to celebrate the holidays. Patrick's Mother Skye West returned home to for the Yuletime bringing a trouble movie crew. An unexpected death occurs with the handsome leading man. It is ruled a homicide and the search is on for the killer. The tale takes several turns as the story proceeds. An attempted to poison Michael out the spotlight on Angie as the killer. Angie must work to clear her name. Meanwhile, the story takes place with the annual festival. At the beginning of each chapter are fascinating tidbits of early needlepoint work. I highly recommend this book and series. A recipe for Bev Clifford's Tourtiere is included.

I received a free copy from Kennington Books through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

Marie says

Let me preface this review by saying I love this series, this was the best installment so far! The story moved at a steady pace, no lags anywhere what so ever. The characters have grown and it is evident in this book. A surprise ending made this story, well surprising. I thought I had the mystery sewn up but I was wrong. This book is one Christmas present that shouldn't be left on the shelf.

I received an advance copy of this book from the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Jessica Robbins says

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

The Cozy Review says

There's no time for Angie Curtis and Patrick West to linger under the mistletoe this holiday season. Patrick's, mother and movie star Skye West wants a perfect white Christmas. She brings her co-star, screenwriters, and director home for the holidays and hopes it will help solve the issues that have been plaguing the movie set and actors. With his mother's long list of wishes, Patrick's needs help to get everything done before her arrival. The Mainely Needlepointers offer to help decorate Skye's Victorian mansion and create needlepoint pillows as gifts for the guests.

Hours after the celebrities invade Haven Harbor, a tragedy occurs. Skye's co-star is murdered in her backyard. Someone delivers poison Christmas cookies to Patrick, and Skye blames Angie. Before Santa arrives at the town pier on a lobster boat, Angie and the Needlepointers need to trim down the naughty list, catch a cold-hearted killer, and wrap up the case.

Genre: Career/Hobby Cozy

Publisher: Kensington

Thread the Halls is a delightful adventure for the holidays with plenty of action and a great cast of characters. Lea Wait has created a fun, fast-paced story with a colorful location. This book will delight readers no matter how many cozy's they have read.

Angie Curtis wants to reclaim her childhood Christmas', everything from the experiences she had as a child, to the decorations on the tree and in her heart. Skye West, her boyfriend's famous mother wants a picture-perfect postcard Christmas for her guests. Neither of them will get exactly what they want this year.

Recapturing our childhood is something most people want at some point in their life. Unfortunately, like Angie, we learn that we can't really make this happen, but we can come close. Angie wants to go back and feel those special moments from holidays gone by. But... things keep getting in her way, including murder.

The cast of characters in this book are well-rounded and easily relatable. Even the killer is someone you feel you may know, or someone in your life just like him/her. Angie's grandmother is an understanding and caring woman that readers will want to learn more about. Angie and Patrick's relationship is still in the new stage but progresses throughout the story to a very satisfactory conclusion. Even though Skye is a famous actress, she is very down to earth and loves her son. She wants Christmas to be special and happy, but she doesn't become dramatic when things don't go according to plan.

The setting in the town of Haven Harbor, although fictional, could easily be any small town where people know their neighbors and take care of each other. The food described in this book sounds delicious and makes the reader hungry. The townspeople are down home and in many cases set in their ways, but they treat each other with respect and dignity.

Thread the Halls is the 5th book in the "A Mainely Needlepoint Mystery" series and is a wonderful addition. The plot is straightforward and does not deviate from the main storyline. The story flows smoothly, and the writing is flawless. This book and series is highly recommended to those who enjoy a whodunit with humor, intrigue and old-fashioned holiday fun.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

I have been following this series since it began and was getting a bit behind. With a new book due out soon, I realized that this Christmas edition of the Mainely Needlepoint series was just what I was looking for, now that I am beginning my Christmas reads.

Angie and the Mainely Needlepointers are getting set to have a quiet Christmas season when Patrick West, Angie's boyfriend, drops a bombshell and asks for favours. His mother, actress Skye West, has decided to come home to Haven Harbor for a white Christmas. Not only that, but she is bringing home some people she is working with on her recent, troubled movie. He needs help decorating the mansion, making needlepoint gifts for each of the guests as well as inviting them all for Christmas Eve. There go Angie's plans down the

drain. She had wanted to have a quiet Christmas with Patrick, but any time with him is a gift after all he has been through so she helps him get everything ready for his mother's arrival. Skye and her entourage arrive but before they spend one night in Maine, one of them is found dead in the snow. While trying to keep Christmas on track and find the killer, Angie becomes a suspect, not only in the murder, but in poisoning Patrick as well. There is a definite chill in the air and it's not from the typical Maine winter weather. There is a killer nearby, she just needs to figure out who before it is too late.

Angie grows more in each story. She is really getting comfortable running the needlepoint business and her own needlepoint skills are improving. Whenever a dead body shows up, she tries to stay out of the investigations but she ends up right in the middle anyway. Angie's relationship with her grandmother is so special and I love when she laments about being an adult and not having her grandmother around to make her hot cocoa or whatever else she needs. Skye and Patrick are rich and used to getting what they want, so they take some getting used to, but they are not rude and malicious. Skye is a mother first, so whenever something happens to Patrick, she goes all mama bear, not always thinking about how she treats others. I am enjoying the relationship of Angie and Patrick, but he needs to think more about her, than his mother. I hope that improves as the series goes forward. I had a niggling in the back of my mind about one of the characters as the story unfolded and I was right in my suspicions. The motive for the murder was the one sticking point so the twist at the end was a great way to wind up this mystery. The story was well paced, with some surprises and that huge twist. Each chapter begins with a tidbit about needlepoint or a bit of a historic sampler, but you do not have to read them if that does not interest you. Another great entry to this series. I recommend it to cozy mystery lovers, especially those who love to learn about the area the story takes place.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Snow is falling in Haven Harbor, Maine and movie star Skye West has decided to come home for a white Christmas and bring the people working on her current movie with her. This means her son Patrick has his work cut out for him to get her mansion all decorated for the holiday. She also wants needlepoint gifts for everyone so the Mainely Needlepointers have a last minute job to take of.

Angie is a little disappointed, it is her first Christmas since coming home from Arizona and she had wanted to have a quiet Christmas with Patrick. She decides any time with him is a gift after all he has been through so she helps him get everything ready for his mother's arrival. Skye and her entourage arrive but before they spend one night in Maine, one of them is found dead in the snow. Patrick's mother decided the show must go on and doesn't let a murder ruin her holiday plans until Patrick is poisoned and rushed to the hospital. Angie knows they are a limited number of suspects but she is stumped about who killer could be. There is a definite chill in the air and it's not from the typical Maine winter weather. There is a killer near by, she just needs to figure out who before it is too late.

This was a very entertaining story. Haven Harbor has its own holiday traditions like Santa arriving on a lobster boat. Skye adds a snowy hayride for her friends too.

Angie grows more in each story. She is really getting comfortable running the needlepoint business and her own needlepoint skills are improving. But she does keep finding those dead bodies. She tries to stay out of the investigations but she always ends up right in the middle of them. I loved the part of the story where Angie decorated her tree, trying to bring back the Christmases she remembered. Angie's relationship with her

grandmother always warms my heart.

I always have to adjust my thinking about Skye whenever she arrives on the page. She is a pushy and demanding women but there is no malice in her actions or requests. It is just the way she is. Patrick knows how to handle his mother and even though she sometimes forgets he is a grown man he still loves her. After the fire any mother can understand where she is coming from. They have a close relationship. I hope they both start to fit more into the fabric of Haven Harbor and be less like “the rich people in town” where they expect people to cater to them. Patrick is starting to make progress in that direction as his relationship with Angie gets more serious.

The story unfolded at a comfortable pace with several twists. One I had worked out in the back of my mind. The climatic ending really took me by surprise. I knew something had to happen soon because we were getting to the final pages but I never expected what happened. Kudos to Ms. Wait for a very exciting ending!

Again the author has stitched together a fantastic mystery with memorable characters in a spectacular setting. She also sprinkles humor throughout the story in all the right places. A perfect escape for the holiday season.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Angie and Patrick have now been going out for a few months and it is coming up to the Festive Season, Patrick's mother (Skye) has been working away and then she drops the bombshell that she is coming to Haven Harbour for Christmas, that isn't the bombshell though, the bombshell is that she is bringing a group with her and wants the mansion Christmas ready (in about 3 days!), oh and needlepoint cushions for the half dozen people. Luckily the Mainely Needlepointers come to the fore and not only agree to do the needlepoint but also to help arrange the Christmas festivities.

Angie's Gram comes through with the name of someone to do all the cooking for the crowd and her new(ish) husband arranges for a choir to come along on Christmas Eve and sing carols. So far so good, until Angie and Patrick discover someone dead in the woods of the mansion, Angie needs to try and sort out a large needlepoint order (from a Texan who turns up day after day asking about Skye!) and then Patrick is ill. Who is being more than a Grinch this Christmas, Angie needs to find out and quickly before someone else winds up dead.

Lea Wait has pulled out all the stops again for this, the latest in the Mainely Needlepoint series, how a series can get better than 10 out of 10 consistently I have no idea but Lea Wait manages it!

Anita says

This Christmas season, Angie Curtis has no time to bake cookies or enjoy herself. Her boyfriend, Patrick, has asked her to help out with the preparations for his mother, an actress, and her guests to come to town. Not long after they arrive, Angie finds an actor dead in the backyard. Can Angie find the murderer before another body drops?

This is a great holiday read for anybody who loves a cozy mystery. Ms. Wait creates characters that feel like they could be your neighbors. I love how the churches open their doors to assist people who have no place to go during the brutal winter storms. Ms. Wait has a gift in describing the winter weather of Maine. I could

almost feel the cold wind and wet snow. The best thing about this mystery is the use of red herrings to drive us to a surprise ending. I can't wait to read another of Ms. Wait's mysteries. An Advanced Reading Copy was received in exchange for an honest review.

Lynn says

The Mainely Needlepoint cozy mystery series has been a favorite series of mine since book 1. It is a series that I pre-order. I like it because of the main character Angie Curtis who grew up in Haven Harbor Maine. Her mother died at a young age and she was raised by her Gram. She left for awhile to be a P.I. assistant in Arizona but is back now in her home town of Haven Harbor running a needlepoint visit. As a reader, I feel that Angie can take care of herself due to her P.I. training. The series started out edgier than many cozy mysteries but I feel the edginess is mostly gone. Perhaps because Angie has resolved some past issues through out the books.

Angie is looking forward to a relaxing Christmas in Haven Harbor. She has been gone at Christmas time for awhile so she is looking forward to having her Haven Harbor traditional Christmas. This is not be as Angie's boyfriend Patrick West receives a phone call from his famous movie star mother Skye West, that she want to bring her co-stars, screen writers and director to Aurora for Christmas. Aurora is a beautiful home that she uses as a privacy retreat. There are only a few days until Christmas and she has a list of what she needs done to make this a perfect Christmas for her and her guests. This disrupts many people's personal plans to make this happen for Skye West. She offers money and expects it to be accomplished. It is accomplished but a murder occurs on their first day at Aurora.

I want to mention too that the location of Maine and its traditions add to the enjoyment of the book. Also, the reoccurring secondary characters are interesting to keep up with. I particularly enjoyed the oh so cozy scenes between Angie and her Gram. A Nor'easter storm took out the power and heat at Angie's house and she went to spend the night with her Gram. Gram is Angie's rock. .

It was a good read. I had two suspects in mind for the murder. I wonder what the future holds for Angie and Patrick. I wonder if Pete will be a future suitor. I am looking forward to the next book.

Melinda says

Thread The Halls, the latest in Lea Wait's Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series, is an engaging, well-plotted mystery with well-developed characters. Set at Christmastime in Haven Harbor, Maine we follow Angie Curtis, owner of the Mainely Needlepoint business, who is happily planning traditional Christmas activities. But, when boyfriend Patrick's mother, famous actress Skye West, announces that she is coming to Haven Harbor from Scotland where she is filming a movie, and bringing two of her co-stars, her producer, and the two screenwriters with her, plans change rapidly because Skye tasks Patrick with creating, in two days, a traditional Christmas complete with Christmas tree, wreaths, gifts for her guests, a huge Christmas eve gala buffet, carolers, and a sleigh ride. Asked by a somewhat panicked Patrick, Angie agrees to help and brings in other friends to help as well, including Bev, a widow, who agrees to live in Skye's home and cook for the group during their stay.

Shortly after the entourage arrives, while Angie and Patrick are out walking, Angie finds a body which is soon identified as one of the film party though the police can find no motive and no evidence of who the murderer might be. As Christmas day approaches, others in Skye's party are in danger, clues are scarce, and the police are baffled. With things going from bad to worse, Angie tries to help figure out what is going on but is also stymied, especially when the police begin to look at her as a "person of interest." Can Angie move suspicion away from herself and help find the real culprit?

The resolution is a beautiful blend of the partly obvious and partly unexpected. I thoroughly enjoyed Thread The Halls and highly recommend it.

Lea Wait says

This is an author review. I had such fun writing THREAD THE HALLS! To begin with, I love books set at Christmas, and a Maine Christmas can be (at least fictionally) just about perfect. Of course, since this is a mystery, there does have to be a murder, and a few other complications. But I loved writing about Angie's tree, and Skye's, and the Haven Harbor Christmas festival. Some of my readers have told me they've enjoyed meeting Skye West, the famous Hollywood actress who's bought a home in Haven Harbor, and wondered how I made her seem "just like a real person," as one person said. Well .. I've been on the fringes of movies and television at various points in my life. I worked at a summer playhouse in Maine when I was in high school and college. I majored in drama in college, and also attended the Pittsburgh Playhouse School of the Theatre. In New York, I was on camera daily for two years as the writer-directory-producer (and on-camera talent) in a corporate TV show, and produced corporate films. But perhaps I came closest to "stars" during the four years I was married to a television comedy writer who wrote for some major comedians, on tv and in nightclubs. So -- Skye does seem like a real person to me! I hope you'll enjoy meeting her again in THREAD THE HALLS.

Fred says

Thread The Halls is the sixth book in the A Mainely Needlepoint Mystery series.

Angie is looking forward to spending her first Christmas, in ten years, in Haven Harbor and baking cookies, relaxing with friends and most of all some quality time with her boyfriend, Patrick West. But that is not to be, as Skye West, Patrick's mother, and actress, is planning on flying home from Scotland and wants the house decorated in a quaint Maine Christmas theme. Skye and the cast will be taking a much-needed break from the filming of their latest movie. There are problems with the cast and script but, with some time away from the location and do some rewriting of some script, it is hoped they can put those problems behind them. Before going to meet Skye and her guests Patrick decide to take a walk to enjoy the starlit sky and have a little private time. Just as they are about to turn and head towards the house, Angie notices a shadow and when she goes to investigate she finds the body of the co-star, Paul Carmichael. Even with this unfortunate incident there doesn't seem to be a lot of sympathy for what has happened to a fellow cast member and Angie begins to wonder if one of them wanted him out of the picture...for good. Then when there is an attempt on Patrick's life, Angie really feels the need to learn who the killer is

Lea Wait once again provides a well-plotted story with the Mainely Needlepointers providing their usual support for each other and members of their community.

Delicious recipes are also included.

I love this series and will be anxiously awaiting the next book in the series.
