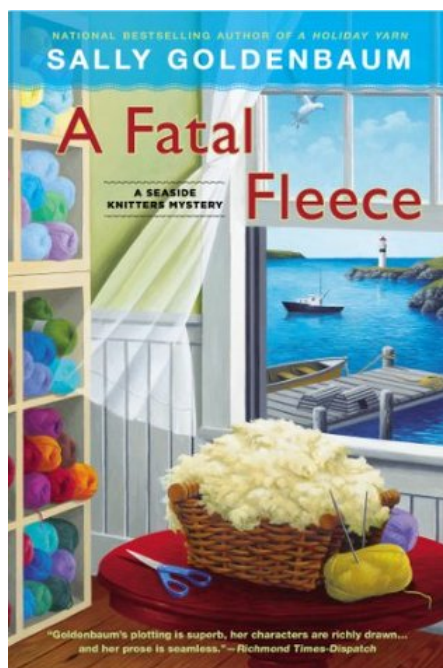




A Fatal Fleece

Sally Goldenbaum

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A Fatal Fleece Sally Goldenbaum

It's summer in Sea Harbor, Massachusetts, and while tourists flock to the beautiful cottages by the sea, trouble brews for the Seaside Knitters. One of them gets tangled up with a precocious granddaughter and another stands accused of casting a local resident off on a permanent vacation. As Izzy Chambers and the Seaside Knitters prepare Izzy's yarn studio for the tourist season, fellow knitter Birdie Favazza has her hands full with a visiting granddaughter she never knew existed. Gabby soon becomes a fixture in the town—riding off on Birdie's bike, teaching her own crochet class, even striking up an unlikely friendship with a reclusive local fisherman named Finnegan, himself the source of much local turbulence.

But it's Cass Halloran, the lobsterwoman, who stumbles over the body of the old fisherman, covered with leaves and sea grass, and wearing the yellow fleece vest she once made him. When Cass unwittingly becomes a suspect in his murder, the knitters rally to protect their dear friend.

Soon the Seaside Knitters will discover that caring for Gabby while casting their net for a killer is tricky business indeed. They'll have to keep their wits about them as they piece together the clues, working to catch a killer before one of their own winds up knitting behind bars.

A Fatal Fleece Details

Date : Published May 1st 2012 by NAL

ISBN :

Author : Sally Goldenbaum

Format : Kindle Edition 339 pages

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

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From Reader Review A Fatal Fleece for online ebook

Sarah says

Not very well-written. Not clear why the knitters need to solve the murder when the police are totally working the case. Not very hard to work out whodunnit. Pretty good for falling asleep to, though.

Deb Sharp says

fantastic!!! Another great book in this awesome series.

Nancy Narma says

“A Wonderful Tight-Knit Cozy”

I'll admit it, I enjoy cozies. Ms. Goldenbaum's latest mystery is not good...IT IS FANTASTIC!! I had not read any of her previous work, so I was unfamiliar with the close-knit “Almost Family” residing in Sea Harbor, Massachusetts. It didn't take me long to get acquainted with Nell and Ben Endicott, their Niece and her Husband, Izzy and Sam Perry, Jane and Ham Brewster, Willow Adams, Cass Halloran and her younger Brother Pete, and Cass' “wanna-be boyfriend”; Danny Brandley and wealthy widow; Birdie Favazza plus many others and to feel like I was part of the group. A longtime, watchful resident of the community, Francis Finnegan's land was a developer's dream. The more people complained about its run-down appearance, the more “Finn” left it unkempt, complete with tall grass, weeds and rusty metal. Almost no-one could understand the crusty old seaman with the exceptions of Lobsterwoman Cass Halloran, her Mother; Mary, and Finn's good friend, “The Old Man of the Sea”; Angus McPherran. All three knew the land held precious memories of his beloved late wife, Moira and despite reaping a small fortune if it was sold, Finn wouldn't part with the parcel and instead “Fenced out the world”. This only caused more fury, especially from pushy Councilwoman; Beatrice Scaglia and burly construction company co-owner; Davey Delaney, who both wanted the land so badly, they would do almost anything to get it. Finn protected his property like one would a precious jewel and fought off trespassers and vagrants who hoped to find goods of value within the run-down dwelling he called home. Meanwhile, Birdie receives unexpected company and a surprise. Her Brother-in-Law Nick Marietti and Birdie's ten-year old talented and precocious Granddaughter; Gabby—the Daughter of Birdie's late third Husband, Joseph Marietti's “love child” Christopher, both of whom she never knew existed. Birdie was now “Nonna”! Although they were only going to stay a few days on their way to Maine, Gabby quickly endeared herself to all she met including curmudgeon Finn and was warmly pulled into the knitter's group who were astonished with her crocheting skills. Finn watched over her like a china doll and taught her many things, like one would a daughter. Gabby was a fast learner and game for anything and they became cherished friends. Nick Marietti is a puzzlement in himself and arrived at Sea Harbor with his own batch of secrets, melded with lies. But why?? When Cass finds Finn's lifeless and bloody body lying in the mud outside his house, she is figured as a person of interest in the crime and the Seaside Knitters, plus their male counterparts, spring into action, looking for clues to prove their beloved friend's innocence. Who is in the unmarked grave found on Finn's property? Did Finn kill someone and his death was one of revenge? To further complicate matters, Finn's estranged Daughter; Beverly Walden, shows up on the scene counting the days and inheritance money she will be receiving as Finn's next of kin---or will she?? Did she have a hand in the crime? Will she use her feminine wiles to achieve her goals? Perhaps having to share it with someone as unscrupulous as she? Or was it the work of Davey Delaney, hoping to prove his worth to his

Father? Perhaps it was an act of cunning by Beatrice Scaglia, hoping to acquire the property and win over the voters in her bid for re-election. Maybe it was the secretive Nick Marietti? As much as I thought I had this figured out a couple of times, Ms. Goldenbaum placed a few puzzling curves in the seaport road. The Author has also included the directions for the knitted purple cardigan that Nell makes for Gabby. I also encourage you to check out the patterns, etc. on sallygoldenbaum.com—especially info about Gabby’s crocheted beanie, which is very reminiscent of one worn by Ali McGraw some years ago. I loved this book and am looking forward to reading more of Ms. Goldenbaum’s work and “going backward” and reading “The Wedding Shawl”. I do want to hear more about Gabby and the Seaside Knitters in the future—Bet you will too! Don’t miss this one!!

Nancy Narma

Mary says

I have said this before and I'll say it again. I want to live here. And be friends with Nell and Birdie and Cass and knit at Izzy's yarn store. Even with the diminishing number of townspeople (a substantial portion are murderers and, of course, some of the remaining townspeople are murder victims), this is a town I could retire to.

Rose Collins says

I like this series of mysteries because of the setting - a yarn/knitting shop and wonderful descriptions of the sea coast and delicious Friday night dinners on the grill with martinis and music overlooking the ocean. Someone of course is murdered in the town and the group of women, Nell, Izzy, Birdie and Cass from the knitting shop pick up clues and eventually solve the murder. The story involves an older cranky man, Finn, living by himself after his wife has died in an old building/house which he has greatly neglected. The property is also overgrown and an eyesore. The land is in a premium location on the shore so the town would like it to be kept up and also desires to buy it for the town's use. Finn is murdered. In his will he leaves the property to Cass, the woman who owns the lobster business, because she is one of the few people who was ever friendly towards him. Turns out the murderer is a married man having an affair with Finn's daughter. Finn had seen them and threatened to tell the man's wife.

Linda says

Another fun visit with the Seaside Knitters. I liked having Gabby there and hope she shows up in future books. Surprisingly enough one of my top suspects was actually guilty. As much as I don't knit (and have no desire to) I enjoy hearing about the knitters projects.

Emily Cullen says

Reclusive fisherman Finnegan owns a large chunk of unkept land that he refuses to sell, and when his body is found by one of the "Seaside Knitters" the other three ladies seek out the real killer. I really enjoy this cozy mystery series. Great stories, well defined characters and food and atmosphere that will want you to vacation

in this Massachusetts fictional seaside town!

Kathleen says

I finished this book while on vacation. While it is number six in the series, it didn't disappoint. Although, I did know "who dunnit" well before the end. I must be getting better at reading between the lines! The setting and characters are so well written that I find myself wanting to wake up in Sea Harbor, surrounded by the wonderful sights, sounds, tastes, aromas and friendships that abound in this little harbor town. And reading about knitting is always a pleasure. Looking forward to #7.

Ann says

Another lovely murder mystery. No blood, no gore. They are really just a puzzle to solve, and set in a lovely part of the world I happened to have visited a few years ago. They bring back memories of a very happy holiday.

Ruth says

I was thrilled to find two books in this series that I hadn't read. We are back in Sea Harbor with the usual cast of characters. I love the descriptions of the times that the friends are together and the food that they eat. It is enjoyable to read about the shops and eating establishments in the town. Gabby, Birdie's granddaughter becomes a main character in this book as Birdie learns that her husband, Joe had had a child out of wedlock.

As usual, a person turns up murdered in this sweet little town and the ladies want it solved so that they can move on into summer at peace. I was almost a third of the way through the book before the murder took place! It was not difficult to figure out who going to be murdered but to guess the murderer was something else. I did not have it figured out until page 296 out of 317! It is a sign of a job well done when the suspects are laid out so well that it is difficult to pin the murder on any single person. Of course, we are not quite privy to some of the clues that become known at the end.

I also enjoy the fact that Ms. Goldenbaum can display the intense love between Nell and Ben without any graphic details. There is no cursing, no graphic core, and no sex. It is simply a mystery, well written.

I hope to be able to return to Sea Harbor soon and join the gang on the Endicott's deck.

Karen says

Once again the story held my interest to the last clue! This time I figured it out, the murder, b4 it was written. Lol. Another page turner with lots of side story details to me more than just about the main mystery. I can't put Sally's books down! As soon as I finish one I buy the next one!

Dorothy J. Barkell says

A haunting mystery from a great storyteller

The group at Sea Harbor is shocked and saddened when their crusty townsman and friend is murdered. His land, in a perfect spot for development, is fought over even before he is dead. With a long lost daughter, a close friend, a feisty 10 year old and various other interested parties, the police and the small group of amateur detectives are hard put to bring the murderer to justice. The many threads are woven together in a for-profit mystery. Good book! I hated for it to end.

BooksnWool says

Obviously no one reads this kind of book for the realism so I expect no one will mind the suspect successfulness of the yarn store and the uniform warm sweetness of the community. Do save it for a holiday break when you'll be eating and drinking too much anyway-- the residents of this fantasy seaside village live very well and would be torment for anyone watching their diet. Keep right away if you're weaning yourself off alcohol!

I found this to be a light read, better written than most in the craft-mystery genre, though not as gripping or entertaining as my favourites. It had a nice bit of backstory that brought extra dimension to the characters in the community. The author may have invented a new point-of-view you could call 'communal'--the scenes where the gang all get together have the disconcerting effect of looking through multiple sets of eyes at the same time. However it's free of a lot of the howlers I've seen in craft mysteries and the characters don't behave stupidly.

It's a stretch to call it a knitting mystery just because the protagonists spend time in a yarn store. Characters pull their knitting out once or twice and they hold a class to make a hat, but yarn and knitting make only token appearances in the plot. The pattern for Gaby's swing cardigan looks like a sweet little jacket. The link on Ravelry is broken but there's a page on the author's website with patterns from the various books.

Heather says

This summer in Sea Harbor, Massachusetts, one of the Seaside Knitters gets tangled up with a precocious granddaughter, and another stands accused of sending a local resident on a permanent vacation...

As Izzy and the Seaside Knitters prepare her yarn studio for the tourist season, fellow knitter Birdie Favazza has her hands full with her granddaughter Gabby. The little girl soon becomes a fixture in the town and even strikes up a friendship with a reclusive local fisherman, Finnegan, who is the source of much local turbulence.

Then lobsterwoman Cass Halloran stumbles over the old fisherman—his body covered with leaves and sea grass and wearing the yellow fleece vest she once made for him. When Cass becomes a suspect in his murder the Knitters must rally to protect their friend.

Soon the Seaside Knitters will discover that caring for Gabby while casting their net for a killer is a tricky

business, indeed. They'll have to keep their wits about them as they piece together the clues...or one of their own will wind up knitting behind bars.

My thoughts: Hmmmm, what can I say . . . I am having mixed feelings about this series over the last couple of books. I don't know whether it is I need a break from cozy mysteries for awhile or if the books are just getting increasingly slow and a bit boring.

I truly do enjoy the setting and the main characters in this series . . . it just feels as if the story lines regarding the actual murder mystery have been dragging quite a bit. Ugh!

I will keep giving it a try since of course like any good reader . . . I already own the entire series ?

Overall, a fun cozy mystery series with great main characters and a charming, cozy location – but increasingly slow plot lines!!

quinnster says

I don't know what was different about this book compared with the previous 5, but this one had me pretty engaged from beginning to end! I think the characters are growing on me a bit more and that is both a good thing and a bad thing. At this point, characters who have been around since the beginning could be the murderer! Between the victims and the killers this town is going to be a ghost town soon!
