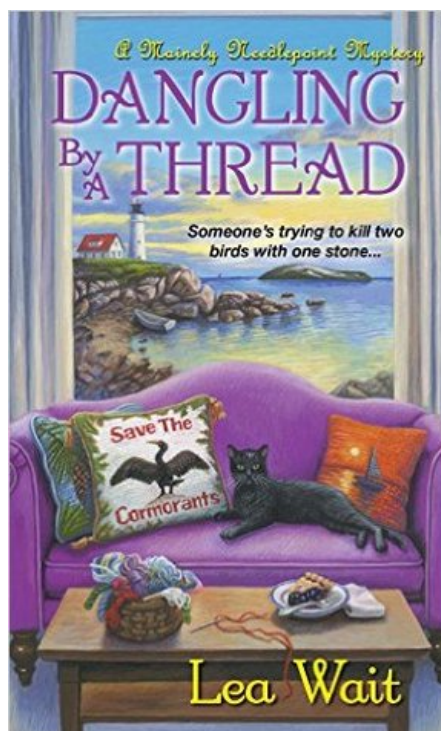




Dangling by a Thread

Lea Wait

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The Mainely Needlepointers are about to learn that no man is an island—especially when greedy developers want his land . . .

Hermit Jesse Lockhart lives alone on King's Island, three miles east of Haven Harbor, Maine, where he's created a private sanctuary for the endangered Great Cormorants. But when a wealthy family wants to buy the island and Jesse's cousin Simon petitions for power of attorney to force him to sell, Jesse is the one who becomes endangered.

Mainely Needlepointer Dave Perry, who befriended Jesse in the VA hospital, rallies the group to his defense. Angie Curtis and the ravelers stitch "Save the King's Island Cormorants" pillows and sell T-shirts to pay for Jesse's legal counsel. But tragically, on a visit to the island, Angie and Dave find Jesse dead. Now the search is on for a common thread that can tie the murdered man to his killer . . .

"Offers a wonderful sense of place and characters right from the very beginning. Highly recommended." —*Suspense Magazine on Threads of Evidence*

Dangling by a Thread Details

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From Reader Review Dangling by a Thread for online ebook

Ian says

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. Published by Kensington Books via NetGalley.

Someone's trying to kill two birds with one stone...

When Angie is sitting at the wharf early one morning drinking coffee, she sees a man row in, someone she has never seen before. When she enquires about him, she learns that most people call him the 'Solitary Man' and he lives out on King's Island. Later she learns his name is Jesse Lockhart and he's a friend of Mainely Needlepointer Dave Perry.

King's Island is a private sanctuary for the endangered Great Cormorants where Jesse lives, which he jointly owns with his cousin in Chicago.

But trouble breaks out when a wealthy family want to buy and build a house on King's Island. And will not take No for an answer.

So the Mainely Needlepointers take up the cause to "Save the King's Island Cormorants" to help preserve the birds nesting area and Jesse's home.

Then Jesse is found murdered. Angie starts nosing around to find the killer, she could end up....dangling by a thread!

This is the fourth instalment of the Mainely Needlepointers mysteries, and keeps getting better and better as the series progresses. With a great set of characters, well plotted and written. A series well worth reading.

If you like the review and would like to read reviews on other books I have made, visit my blog at [www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress...](http://www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress.com) like, comment and follow.

Patrizia says

Questa serie mi piace sia per l'ambientazione (una cittadina costiera del Maine) che per il gruppo di ricamatori che sta al centro delle vicende: ogni volta che leggo uno dei libri di questa serie vorrei andare a visitare il Maine e le mie manine fremono per mettersi a ricamare! In questo volume, poi, al centro di tutta la storia c'è la protezione di un'isola in cui nidifica una specie di cormorani in pericolo: un argomento che mi interessa molto. Aggiungiamo al tutto tre gattini orfani e mi sono innamorata di questo libro! Anche se il finale lascia con l'amaro in bocca...

Jody McGrath says

Angie Curtis manages Mainely Needlepoint in Haven Harbor, Maine. Early one morning, she sees an old man rowing to shore. This turns out to be Jesse Lockhart. He is good friends with her friend Dave, but mostly he is a solitary individual. He lives rustically on an island that he owns with his cousin, that is home

to the nesting grounds of the Great Cormorant, a threatened bird species. When a multimillionaire wants to buy the island and develop it into his Maine getaway, Jesse refuses to sell. Later, when Jesse is found with his head bashed in, Angie and her Needlepoint group take on Jesse's cause...and the solving of his murder.

This is the 4th book in the Mainly Needlepoint Mystery series. I have not read any prior to this, and felt like I missed out on a lot of the backstory. The author seemed to refer back to a lot of things, so at times I felt lost. The book also has a strange writing style. When the characters are interacting, the writing is very straightforward and normal, but when it comes to descriptive paragraphs it gets a little flowery. I also DNFed this book in the beginning due to the descriptions, but I found if I skimmed over them, the story was enjoyable.

I didn't really connect with any of the characters. None of them had much personality, they were just telling a story. The mystery took backstage to the save the birds information, and it was pretty easy to figure out the murderer. It was pretty disappointing. I finished the book and enjoyed parts of it, but I doubt I would pick up another one in this series.

*I voluntarily read an Advance Reader Copy of this book and have given an honest review *

Lisa Morin says

Dangling by a Thread, written by Lea Wait is a surefire page turner!

In this book, Angie meets Jesse Lockhart, a local hermit who prefers to live a solitary life on King's Island, where his one passion is taking care of the Great Cormorants, a "threatened" bird species.

Local needle pointer Dave Perry is a friend of Jesse's, and when word spreads that a wealthy couple want to purchase King's Island as a vacation spot for a million dollar home to be built on, Dave tries to warn his friend.

Before Dave can actually warn his friend, he becomes the victim of a senseless accident that leaves him hospitalized.

Angie and her needle point family do all they can to help Jesse, but they might be too late.

In the last review I wrote for this series, I expressed concern for Angie and her drinking. I was stunned to see that the drinking was curbed in this book, it was a very pleasant surprise.

While Angie is still trying to come to terms with her past, she is making some dear friends and seems to be finding her way in the quaint town of Haven Harbor, Maine.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it was an exciting read and I felt I could relate better to Angie in this story.

I am glad I decided to read this book, the changes in Angie were noticeable and the author really wove a wonderful tale that was hard to put down.

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my fair and honest review.

Lynn says

Many have written a short synopsis of the plot so I will write about my thoughts after reading the book. The Mainely Needlepoint series was my favorite new cozy mystery series for 2015. One reason I liked it was that it was a little edgier than other cozy mystery series. Angie, the protagonist, had somewhat of a chip on her shoulder when she returned home to Maine after being in Arizona for ten years.. In Arizona, she was an assistant to a private investigator. Angie is very independent, reads people very well, has a business mind and is not a girly girl. That being said, Angie seems to have homogenized in the fourth book into a more typical cozy protagonist. Some readers have stated they like this change and the softer Angie. So as readers, we all differ in what we prefer. The plot of the book did not interest me as much as the other books. It was written well and well developed though. I would have given it 3.5 stars if that rating was available.

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This is one series that I pre-order and I will the next book. I do like this series very much. The secondary characters in this book bring a wealth of material to the series too. It seems no one character is featured along with Angie in every book. They all make appearances. This book featured Dave who is a high school teacher and does needlepoint for Angie.

NicoleG says

Dangling by a Thread is the 4th book in the Mainely Needlepoint series. Although I found the last book in the series a bit low moving, I was able to read this book in just a few sittings. The characters held my interest and the subject matter was not what you find in most cozies. I would have liked to have read more needlepoint project descriptions but all in all it was enjoyable. I am eagerly awaiting the next book in the series.

I voluntarily reviewed this book via NetGalley.

Sarah says

This is the first one in this series that I have read and it wasn't bad.

When Mainely needlepointers Dave Perry and main character Angie Curtis find hermit Jesse Lockhart dead on King's Island they begin the search for the murderer to avenge his death and save the island as it's a sanctuary for endangered Great Cormorants.

Basically there I've just reworded the blurb and may have made it sound weird but it's an entertaining cozy mystery that has good characters and a lovely setting. I will be looking for the rest of this series as I do love me some cozies!

Huge thanks to Lea Wait, Kensington Books and NetGalley for this copy which I chose to read and all opinions are my own

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here:

Before this series, I didn't know much about samplers. Momma would never do it since she cannot sew worth beans. It is an interesting art form and I love the way the author weaves different samplers into the beginning of each chapter with a bit of a biography of the creator of the piece. It would be something that would fascinate me even if I did not like the books.

But I do like this series.

The reader gets a palpable feel for the rugged Maine location, complete with recognizable characters. The people are fully fleshed and realistic. I always like when a heroine is smart and savvy and doesn't do silly things to put herself in danger. I have gotten quite invested in Angie and her family and friends.

Could the presence of a great Maine Coon cat, Juno, be part of it? Could three adorable kittiens who changed human lives have contributed? Well, maybe. But if the story wasn't compelling and the characters people for whom the reader can care, it would be all for naught.

i do confess I sussed out the murderer pretty early in the book. Maybe I am getting to be a better detective after reading so many mystery books.

If you are looking for a quick read and good characterization, check it out.

I give this five purrs and two paws up.

Marie says

A deep emotionally satisfying read, this series gets better with each installment. The mystery was so well crafted it caused me to keep turning the pages well into the night. This was one book that didn't leave you 'dangling.'

A must read!

I was given an ARC of this book by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

grco_nigelvoadenterathopiusI am always excited when Lea Wait has a new book released. This time we are drawn right into the story as we travel to King's Island, one of the many islands off the coast of Maine. This one is a nesting ground for some Great Cormorants and it is inhabited by just one person, Jesse Lockhart. He travels across the water 3 miles to Haven Harbor for his mail and supplies. He leads a solitary life and will do anything to protect "his" birds. When a well to do visitor to Haven Harbor decides he wants to purchase the island and build an enormous house, Jesse refuses to sell. But Jesse owns the island jointly with his cousin and the man is not giving up. Jesse asks his friend Dave Perry for help in halting the sale. Dave, one of Angie's needlepointers asks her for her assistance but before they can even get a plan together Jesse, not his birds become the hunted. Now they need to find a way to save Jesse's birds and find his killer.

I became invested in Jesse and his cause right away. I was sad that he became the victim. I love bird watching and even with all the great descriptions and information the author provided about Great Cormorants I wanted to know more. She also includes sampler sayings and information at the beginning of each chapter.

Angie is a wonderful main character. Her relationship with her grandmother always touches my heart. Dave Perry plays a major role in this story. Through him we also meet 3 new furry baby characters. Patrick and his mother have returned to town but he is still recovering from his injuries. There was also a real sense of community in all of Haven Harbor about the island and the birds.

The author's writing style starts slow and builds so we get a chance to engage with the characters before they become a victim or a suspect. The needlepointing took a bit of a backseat to the mystery but the Mainely Needlepointers were helpful as Angie tried to eliminate suspects. Her friends make great sounding boards, but Angie's best friend, Sarah Byrne, is involved in a new relationship that has her a little distracted. About half way through the book the pace picks up and the book becomes very hard to put down.

Lea Wait definitely brings Maine and her characters to life in each and every one of these stories. To fully enjoy them and realize the way the characters evolve I encourage you to read them all and in order. Each contains a wonderful mystery too!

Ann says

I've enjoyed all the books in this series, Mainely Needlepoint, this is book 4. We are back with Angie, Dave and all the other needle workers as they decide to help Jesse save the Great Cormorants in Haven Harbor, Maine. Jesse's family has been trying to sell his island to developers declaring him incompetent but someone wasn't willing to wait and now Jesse is dead. As always a great mystery with all the locals helping solve the murder and save the birds they all love.

Johnna says

Great series!!

Debbie Floyd says

3.5 stars This is a quick fun cozy mystery series.

Linda Baker says

It has been three months since Angie Curtis moved back to her hometown of Haven Harbor, ME. Her much-loved Gram has married the pastor and moved out of the family home and left Angie rattling around in the big house. The needlepoint business is going well and Angie is reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. However, as her self-imposed six months for a decision about staying in Haven Harbor approaches, she finds herself restless. On one restless early morning she walks down to the harbor and watches a man row in from a small island offshore. She has never seen him before and is intrigued. It turns out that he is a hermit named Jesse Lockhart who has lived on the protected island with a population of Great Cormorants for three years and is called "The Solitary" by the people of Haven Harbor. Only Dave Percy, a needlepointer and high-school teacher seems to know much about Jesse. Multimillionaire Gerry Bently is visiting in Haven Harbor and is determined to buy the island and build a huge home there. Jesse, as part-owner, has no interest in selling. He just wants to be left alone to protect the Great Cormorants. Someone is willing to kill Jesse to make sure that the sale goes through.

I always enjoy the Mainely Needlepoint series and Dangling by a Thread is no exception. As a long-time summer visitor in Maine, I am well aware of the tension that between those who want development and those

who are concerned for the environment. Maine has always had a hard-scrabble economy and people struggle to get by. In today's world, it's good to see people work together to solve a problem, and that is the way it's done in Haven Harbor. Angie and her group of needlepointers are an interesting and likable group in a setting I love. The antique sampler sayings and descriptions that precede every chapter are often hilariously dour and revealing of the life of early New Englanders. I highly recommend the Mainely Needlepoint series for cozy mystery readers and those who have an interest in Maine life.

Lea Wait is a regular contributor to the Maine Crime Writers blog and recently posted a piece on real-life Maine hermits. Anyone who loves Maine and crime writing should take a look at this highly entertaining blog. Thanks to Kensington Books for an advance digital copy in return for an honest review.

RATING- 4 Stars

Mary says

I cannot get enough of these books! Please Lea Wait do not stop writing about Angie Curtis and the Mainely Needlepointers! I would be so disappointed.

This story started out with Angie going down to the wharf early in the morning seeing the lobstermen getting ready to go out to get their daily catch. While she is down there she notices a strange small boat come in with a strange looking man she has never seen before. She asks around and all they tell her is they call him The Solitary. So she decides to follow him.

She follows him to the post Office but the post master does not tell her anything about him except that he comes into town to pick up his mail every week or two.

So she decides to visit one of the needlepointers, Dave to see how he is doing with some pillows she asked him to work up for her customer. When she gets there, the stranger is leaving Dave's house in a hurry! Now she knows she will at least find out what his name is. She finds out his name is Jesse Lockhart and he lives on King's Island where the Cormorant birds live and nest, just him and the birds!

He and Dave became friends when they were both in the VA hospital together. Jesse told Dave all about the area where he grew up and Dave came to Maine and fell in love, bought a small house in Haven Harbor, went to college on the GI bill, and got a job as the biology teacher in the HH High School.

When Jesse got out of the hospital, he headed back to Maine and settled down on his Grandfathers Island. He did not want to be bothered by other people, so he stayed on the island.

All the trouble started when a rich person stopped near the island and wanted to buy it! Jesse did not want to sell because the birds would have to leave.

When Jesse turns up dead, everyone involved thinks the sale will go through, but they did not think that Jesse would change his part of the will to hold it up in court for many years to come!

This book was more exciting than the others and I am hoping that the newer ones to come will be even better. Keep up the amazing work, Lea!

