

Gone with the Wool

Betty Hechtman

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The national bestselling author of *Wound Up in Murder* spins a deadly yarn of knitting bees, butterflies, and beauty queens.

Every October, thousands of monarch butterflies flock to California's Monterey Peninsula to spend the winter there. To welcome their colorful guests, Cadbury by the Sea holds a weeklong festival complete with a butterfly queen and her court.

Eager to show some town spirit, Casey Feldstein finds herself fluttering back and forth between setting up a yarn retreat, baking and helping out at the festival. But when a former butterfly queen is found dead with a knife in her back after a Bless the Butterflies service, Casey must set her loom aside to hook a killer with a score to settle.

Includes knitting patterns and a recipe!

Gone with the Wool Details


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From Reader Review Gone with the Wool for online ebook

Betty says

Purchase for Save Our Cozies, I have read this author's Crochet and thought it was one I haven't read. My surprised to find it is the latest book out in a different series. I have always enjoyed books by this author and this one did not disappoint.

The monarch butterflies return every fall to Cadbury, California to winter over there. The town has a major festival every year to honor the butterflies. Casey Feldstein is holding a Yarn Retreat to include the town's activities in her plans. During a display, the leader is stabbed in her back. Casey discovers an extortion attempt to become a partner in the town business. Who kill dislike woman I have increased my TBR pile again. I recommend the book.

Jeanie says

Excellent! Especially enjoyed the whole experience with butterflies.

Patrizia says

3 stelle e mezza

Questa serie mi piace e stavolta non avevo proprio capito chi fosse il colpevole. Forse sono stata un po' distratta dalla vita personale della protagonista... Confesso che non amo molto il personaggio del suo ex: e meno male che è un ex! Mi sembra molto immaturo, vista l'età e la professione.

Barb Martin says

I actually do loom knit, so I was really looking forward to this installment in the Yarn Retreat Mysteries series. Alas, as is typical, the author spent relatively little time describing the craft. She was too busy worrying about a murder and Dr. Sammy's parents putting undo pressure on Casey and the good doctor to get married.

Betty Hechtman sprinkled enough foreshadowing and clues into the pages, so I figured out who our killer was and what Dr. Sammy's dad's "problem" was before the reveals. Honestly, I thought it seemed like Casey spent more time with her retreaters this go-around, but the retreaters didn't share that opinion. I think she wasted a lot of time away from the retreat.

These are cozy mysteries and are supposed to be quick, light reads. They work. Just don't go debating the finer points of the stories.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Author Betty Hechtman has knitted up another delightful tale in this addition to the Yarn Retreat Mysteries!

GONE WITH THE WOOL isn't just another Yarn Retreat Mystery . . . it's the best in the series. Ms. Hechtman really made use of her thinking cap (wonder if it was knitted?) when she penned this one!

I loved the October setting for the town of Cadbury by the Sea, and the monarch butterfly imagery. I felt like I was at the center of it all.

The search for who stabbed the former butterfly queen, and all the mayhem along the way, made GONE WITH THE WOOL hard to put down. With plenty suspects to sort through, and many things to throw off your guesses, you'll be lost in the pages of this book, and not want to put it down.

Returning fans, and new readers alike are going to enjoy GONE WITH THE WOOL. And, no worries . . . you don't have to know how to knit to read this series.

Make sure to check out the back of the book for fun knitting patterns and a yummy recipe!

Kristi says

In the fourth Yarn Retreat mystery, Casey Feldstein hosts a loom knitting retreat to coincide with the town's annual Butterfly Week. The town is abuzz with the festivities. When a former Butterfly Queen is found murdered, Casey cannot help becoming involved in solving the crime.

The book was a fun read. I really enjoyed the subplot of Sammy's parents visiting Cadbury. However, I missed the regular yarn retreaters. I don't feel as though the retreat was woven into the storyline well. It seemed more of an afterthought. The mystery was enjoyable, and I did not know the culprit's identity before it was revealed.

Lyn says

While this was a pretty good story, I definitely could and did put it down a few times because I had a hard time staying interested.

It's a clean story, pretty well written. There were some funny things about it, like the situation with Sammy. But, not all that exciting, and definitely repetitive. I admit, I didn't know who the perpetrator was before the end, but I think that might be because I just wasn't invested in the story, so I didn't really care. Thinking back on it, though, I'm not sure the clues were there for us to guess it at all. One thing in the end gave it away unmistakably, and then everything was over. Kind of anticlimactic. The recipe and such at the end were pretty neat, though.

Note: I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways.

Dez Nemec says

Bought this thinking it was part of the author's other series. It was not great. Too much was going on at once, and how many thirty-somethings live in such fear of their parents?!

Kristie says

It's Butterfly Week in Cadbury by the Sea. The monarchs come to visit once a year and the town celebrates in a big way with many events and the crowning of a Butterfly Queen. This time Casey puts on a week long retreat and the retreaters get to take part in the town events. There was no lack of suspects in this book's murder, the victim was quite unpleasant and many had motives. I hope in the next book that Casey puts in a little more face time with her retreaters, she seems too content to let her early bird retreaters and the workshop leaders run everything while she runs around town sleuthing. I think there should be a better balance. The storyline with the "Amazing" Dr. Sammy has run its course as well. It seems he will be a permanent resident of Cadbury while pining after Casey. Hopefully that gets toned down with the next book.

Carol says

Casey Feldstein is leading another yarn retreat at Vista Del Mar, the hotel and conference center in Cadbury by the Sea across the street from the house she inherited from her aunt. She timed the retreat to coincide with the week-long butterfly festival to give the retreaters something else to do in their spare time. This time a new problem develops between her and Dane, the local cop with whom Casey has a thing: ex-boyfriend Dr. Sammy, who moved to Cadbury by the Sea, told his parents it was to follow Casey but didn't mention that he is doing a magic act on weekends. He has told his parents, who want them to marry, that he and Casey are living together and wants her to live the lie for a week until they go home. Add a murder that happens during the Blessing of the butterflies and Casey is calling her detective friend in Chicago for ideas to solve the crime, which focuses on Dane's sister. Once again Casey's cat Julius serves no other purpose but to ask for "stink fish."

Renee says

Light-hearted and satisfying. I had a moment of feeling like it was an extended episode of The Love Boat. (And I mean that in the best way.)

Mary Ann says

Casey is trying to fit into the community and so when the football team has their get together before the first game, she brings in corn muffins for the chili dinner. The next day she hears about two of the boys becoming ill and she is being blamed for poisoning the boys. One night, during the blessing of the butterflies, the woman who accused her is found with a knife in her back and she later dies at the hospital. After her death,

Chloe, the sister of Dane, her current boyfriend, is being looked at as the one who did it. Dane asks Casey to help him, while this is happening, Dr. Sammy's parents arrive for a visit and think that they are living together and he asks her to help him pretend that they are. She investigates to find out who actually poisoned the boys and who actually murdered the woman who made everyone miserable.

It was a good story and a continuation of the series. It would probably be better read in order, but I am reading it as I get copies.

Clare O'Beara says

I've read a crocheting murder mystery by this author and liked it. I don't crochet by the way. This series follows instead a knitting and yarn class which enjoys a 'retreat', in other words a friendly workshop weekend without WiFi. The town is also hosting a festival because the black and orange Monarch butterflies come to the area each year. This aspect is interesting and enjoyable but I found it just background, as no visiting biologist or pesticide manufacturer gets involved in the murder.

During the festival a few mentions are made of food poisoning from muffins so I was pleased by the nice misdirection because a stabbing occurs instead of a poisoning. The concerns are all local and as always the police ask the amateur sleuth to stay out of their business. But a yarn working class full of gossiping ladies is hard to beat for passing information.

Have fun! You will find some recipes and patterns at the end.

I was sent an ARC copy for an unbiased review.

Jennifer says

I still find these books entertaining, mostly because I enjoy hearing the fiber arts references and descriptions of desserts, but the lack of character growth is starting to annoy me. Okay, okay, maybe I shouldn't be reading cozy mysteries for character growth, but since nothing is changing, Casey and Sammy's inability to stand up to their parents, despite the fact that they're grown adults in their mid-30s is becoming annoying. I also find it difficult to relate to the fact that Casey's "big" problem is having a loving, but helicopter parent mother who has secured her spots at not one, but two professional schools (pastry school and private investigation). Woe is Casey
#9point9percentproblems.

I also ended up being annoyed that everyone kept saying that Chloe could never expect to be Monarch Queen" (some small town election thing) if she didn't change the way she dressed, and in a series that's so obvious about it's "lessons," the author doesn't believe that girls shouldn't be slut shamed for wearing revealing clothes, or that people's character and skills shouldn't be judged by their non-conforming appearance? Casey never corrects Dane when he says stuff like, "I don't know where I went wrong [in raising Chloe]" because she's wearing a short skirt and has brightly dyed hair :/
