



Better Off Thread

Amanda Lee

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Santa finds himself in a stitch of trouble in the tenth in the series from the national bestselling author of *The Stitching Hour...*

Marcy is busy helping her customers make hand-crafted ornaments at her embroidery shop, the Seven-Year Stitch. But despite the yuletide bustle, when her friend Captain Moe asks for her help, she can't refuse—especially when the favor is to play the elf to his Santa for sick children at a local hospital. Despite the ridiculous outfit, Marcy finds herself enjoying spreading cheer—until the hospital's administrator is found murdered.

Although the deceased had plenty of people willing to fill her stocking with coal, evidence pins the crime on Moe. Now it's up to Marcy, with the help of her police officer boyfriend Ted and her Irish Wolfhound Angus, to stitch together the clues to clear Moe's name—before someone else winds up crossed off Santa's list for good...

Better Off Thread Details

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From Reader Review Better Off Thread for online ebook

Janice says

I read this on the kindle

This is the 10th in a series of 10 not sure if there will be more

I really enjoyed this one it is about a hospital administrator gets murdered & Captain Mo gets charged with the murder

Was a bit disappointed with the ending felt that more could have been said regarding Marcy's romance won't say what but a epilogue to say more

Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/2gzrlpR>

This is the first of Amanda Lee's series that I've read and I enjoyed it very much. When I think of the term "cozy mystery," Better Off Thread fits the description perfectly. All the essential elements are present ... small-town setting in Oregon, amateur detective who owns an embroidery shop, a strong supporting cast of friends, intuitive investigation, humor, a sweet romance, and the most adorable Irish Wolfhound named Angus! The writing is tight, flowing smoothly throughout. And, to top it all off, this story is completely clean – no graphic scenes or profanity!

A story or series is only as strong as its heroine, and Marcy, owner of Seven-Year Stitch, is wonderfully appealing. She's sensitive, caring, and intelligent – the kind of person you would want for a friend. Marcy even has the hidden talent of stunt driving, revealed in a funny scene. Her romantic interest, Ted, is admirable also and readers will love the surprise ending. This story stands alone, but I'm eager to follow all the characters through the previous books as time allows.

The mystery is well plotted and kept me turning the pages. Character depth can make or break a book for me, and that is one of this story's strengths. I especially enjoyed the scenes of Marcy assisting Santa with the children at the hospital. While Better Off Thread is a perfect read for any time of the year, it is especially enjoyable during the Christmas season.

Highly recommended. Within the cozy mystery genre, 5 stars.

I was provided a free copy of this book through Great Escapes Tours. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Karen says

A great pre holiday who-dun-it filled with all the feels! Love her dog so much and I am very sure every time

I read one of these books that one day I will have a dog just like Angus! Amanda Lee writes a great character and captures the feel of the small town perfectly in Better Off Thread. This is one to add to your pre Christmas to be read pile for sure!

Linda says

This book was so much fun to read, and despite the fact that I hadn't read any of the other books in the series, I felt totally at home with the characters and with their roles in the story. Marcy is the kind of protagonist I adore -- a caring, capable, courageous woman who goes out of her way to help anyone in need. I'm definitely going to backtrack and read some of the earlier installments in this charming series!

Marilyn says

Around the Year in 52 Books 2017 Reading Challenge. A book with an animal on the cover.

Captain Moe is playing Santa for the children at the hospital and Marcy is his elf assistant. When they show up on Sunday, Moe discovers the hospital administrator with a kitchen knife in her chest. Since they were heard to argue the day before he is arrested for her murder. When Ted, Marcy, Vera, and Veronica investigate they learn a great deal about the hospital and at least two men with violent, abusive tempers. Who did kill Sandra Vincent and why? I love the references to specific types of needlework in this series.

Annette says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. This series is one of my favorites.

Amy says

This was my least favorite of the series. But I hope there are more!!

Marie McNary says

If you are like me, and like to read Christmas themed books through the month of December, Better off Thread by Amanda Lee is a great one to keep you full of Christmas cheer. Marcy and her dog Angus steal the show in this cozy mystery.

I could tell there had been books in this series before this one (quite a few by the look of the inside front cover), but you didn't feel that you were coming into the party late. You did feel you were coming in during a happy time in Marcy's life. I don't know what Marcy went through in other books, but her personal life was relatively problem free (minus trying to impress the prospective in-laws).

I enjoyed this book and thought it was a perfect December read. It even made me want to go find a shop that sells embroidery kits like Marcy has and figure out how the heck she's been making these adorable sounding Christmas tree ornaments all book long.

Review originally published at: <https://mariemcnary.com/2016/12/03/better-off-thread/>...

Paula Ratcliffe says

This book follows Marcy whose working in her shop after Thanksgiving and helping customers make ornaments at her shop. When Captain Moe asks Marcy to step in as an elf to help out at a local hospital. What Marcy didn't count on was a murder taking place at a hospital! Who killed Sandra Vincent the hospital administrator? And why is it being pinned on Captain Moe? Will Marcy uncover the murderer on time or will she not make it to Christmas?

I really enjoyed this book with the themes of Christmas and of course murder always seems to happen. I loved watching Marcy and her friends and family help clear Captain Moe's reputation. I can't wait to see what is next from Marcy and her friends and family!

Erika says

Marcy shows up at the hospital ready to play elf for some sick children only to find that Santa, being played by her friend Captain Moe, is suspected of murdering a hospital administrator. Sure that the two detectives in charge of the case aren't going to worry about finding another suspect since they have Moe, Marcy and friends decide to investigate on their own.

I was surprised to find out after I finished this book that it was #10 in the series. On the one hand, I should have guessed because the characters and their relationships with each other were all so well developed. I didn't feel like I was missing a lot of background though, so I assumed it was a newer series. Whether you've been with this one from the beginning or are just jumping in now, you'll want to catch this installment. Better Off Thread is the perfect cozy to get you in the mood for a little holiday music and some Christmas shopping!

Lisa Morin says

My favorite one in the series

I really enjoy this series and this particular book 8s my favorite song far. Marcy is a fun character and her nosiness gets her into some sticky situations. Fans of this series will be delighted to read Better off Thread.

Brooke Showalter (Brooke Blogs) says

In Better Off Thread, Marcy finds herself in a holiday whodunnit. Her good friend, Captain Moe, who plays Santa at the local hospital, ends up a suspect in the murder of a hospital administrator. Marcy is determined to find out who is really responsible for the crime. As a result, she ends up in some unsafe situations. In addition to the murder mystery, Marcy is also trying to win over her boyfriend, Ted's, sister Tiffany. She wants to be liked by his family.

Marcy is a smart amateur sleuth, though some of her actions are a little questionable. I don't know that I would go to the lengths she does, especially going against the advice of her police officer boyfriend and ending up in danger. The mystery was good and there were a few viable suspects. I liked the book and felt it can be read even without having read other books in the series.

I received a copy of this book for free but I am voluntarily reviewing it.

Cayleigh Stickler says

This is the final [as of the time of this review] installment of this series, and it finished strong - not even referring to the twist at the end, which wasn't really a twist.

In this, the director of the local hospital is found stabbed to death, and Captain Moe is now a suspect. He is found on the scene of the crime wearing a Santa suit, and the juxtaposition is comically macabre. As the story unfolds, the reader learns that Captain Moe had been secretly dating the administrator, even though they didn't seem quite compatible. As everyone knows, love is quite often a motive for murder. Marcy continues sleuthing in her own way - which is to say completely invasive - to exonerate Captain Moe, and she uncovers several town and family secrets while donning a rented elf suit. Of course, only Marcy would find trouble while reading to terminally ill children in the hospital.

And the humor is spot on in this book! More so than in the previous books. In addition, we see developments in the Marcy-Ted relationship, and Veronica, Ted's mom, plays a larger role in this book than in the others. Of course, Angus bounds on nearly every page, and he even gets to play with his bunny friend, Clover.

While I've always enjoyed cozy mysteries, this series kindled that enjoyment, and I'm excited to dive into another series. The next one has a high bar to compete against.

Caitlin Copp says

Marcy's business The Seven Year Stitch is doing well, her relationship with detective, Ted is great and the holidays have arrived. Marcy agrees to do a stint as an elf at the local hospital as a favor to Captain Moe who is moonlighting as Santa. She is enjoying herself until she hears Captain Moe arguing with the hospital administrator, who is later found dead. Captain Moe becomes the main suspect but Marcy knows he is innocent. She starts investigating and finds that there is no shortage of suspects, now she just has to find the killer and prove Moe's innocence.

Laura Reading says

How can Marcy end up in danger while playing a goofy, lovable Christmas elf at the local hospital? Have you met Marcy, the "inch-high private eye?" She is loyal and warm hearted and often a bit too nosy for her own good. She thought the most difficult part of this holiday would be getting her boyfriend's sister to accept her. Or walking Angus on slippery streets.

I love all the best friend type characters in this series. How supportive they are and how willing to go above and beyond to help each other and to find truth. And when reading an embroidery series mystery I am always encouraged to get my stitching out and work on it! That tells you how powerful this author can be. If only I had a sit and stitch square to enjoy.

A true cozy lover's cozy that might just surprise you at the end.

I accepted a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.
In reality, I begged for it.
