

How Novel! How crafty!

If you are a crafty person, and you use the library, you are aware of the array of craft books on our shelves. Jewelry making, wood crafts, quilting, knitting, crochet, embroidery, stained glass art....and the list goes on.

Try as I might I am not a crafty person—all thumbs! Wait! One time I did make a quilt! Well, not really, the embroidery design was stamped on the fabric. While working on it I moved from Ohio to a teeny town in Western Kansas. When the embroidery part was finished I knew the quilting was beyond my ken so that task was turned over to a group of lovely ladies who did a fabulous job.

If you are a craftsperson or a crafty person wannabe (like yours truly) you might wish to indulge in novels that weave craft themes into the story and/or title of the book.

My personal favorites are the Benni Harper mysteries by Earlene Fowler. Harper is the curator of a folk art museum who solves crimes on the side. Even though quilt patterns such as *Fool's Puzzle*, *Goose in the Pond* and *Tumbling Blocks* serve as book titles, and the folk art museum may be hosting a quilt show, quilting does not always play a major role in the books. Through a fan Earlene Fowler is involved with Electricquilt.com and quilt designs based on the Benni Harper mysteries can be accessed through the site. You can learn more about award winning author Fowler at her website <http://www.earlenefowler.com>.

Jennifer Chiaverini Elm Creek Quilt novels feature master quilter Sylvia Bergstrom Compson and a young friend who open a quilter's retreat at Sylvia's estate Elm Creek Manor. The latest in the series *New Year's Quilt* has a November release date. Chiaverini is a quilter and the library owns *Elm Creek Quilts: Projects Inspired by the Elm Creek Quilts Novels*. You can learn more about the author and her quilters at <http://www.elmcreek.net>.

Knitters take center stage in Maggie Sefton's knitting mysteries. Heroine Kelly Flynn stumbles into the knitting world after attending an aunt's funeral. Flynn is a busy CPA with no time for relaxation (Sefton is a former CPA) and then she meets her aunt's knitting friends. Sefton fell in love with knitting while writing an article about knitters. Visit her website at <http://www.maggiesefton.com> for more information.

Beloved author and long-time knitter Debbie Macomber's knitting books are set in a Seattle yarn shop owned by cancer survivor Lydia who teaches knitting classes. Women bond, discuss problems, meet new people and readers learn of knitting patterns and receive knitting advice from Macomber. If you are a Macomber fan you won't want to miss her website at <http://www.debbiemacomber.com/index.cfm>.

Scrapbooking fans will delight in Laura Childs' Scrapbooking Mystery Series set in a New Orleans scrapbooking shop. *Motif for Murder*, the fifth in the series, reflects the damage of Hurricane Katrina and shows store owner Carmela aiding victims and re-opening her store in the French Quarter—and solving a murder mystery. More information at <http://www.laurachilds.com>.

JAN KARON FANS TAKE NOTE

Jan Karon's latest book *Home to Holly Springs: The First of the Father Tim Novels* will be released at the end of October. While you await this new book you might want to consider a new series by Gail Fraser about a quaint little town called Lumby. Lumby is

somewhat reminiscent of Mitford and I quite enjoyed the first two books *Lumby Lines* and *Stealing Lumby*. Check out www.lumbybooks.com for more information. The cover illustrations may also remind you of the cover of the Mitford books!

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