



# A Quilting Cozy Series

by Carol Dean Jones

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*Reader's Guide*







## READER GUIDE

### ***Tie Died: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #1)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the first installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, one of Sarah's new friends is murdered, and she and her feisty friend Sophie are determined to find the killer.*

1. How do you feel about Sarah's family insisting that she give up her home and move to a retirement community?
2. Sarah got into quilting by wanting to preserve her husband's ties, but quilting ended up playing a large part in her adjustment to her new life. What other actions helped her make a successful transition to life in a retirement community? What about her personality helped her make these changes?
3. How did Detective Shields' alcoholism affect his profession and his personal life?  
Do you think anyone could have helped him face his addiction?
4. How did adopting Barney affect Sarah's life?
5. Why do you think Millie refused to press charges against her abusive husband?  
Why do you think some people choose to remain with their abusers?
6. How has reading this book affected your opinion of living in a retirement community?



## READER GUIDE

### ***Running Stitches: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #2)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the second installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, Sarah has settled in to Cunningham Village. But then a young girl goes missing, and Sarah and her friend Sophie promise to find her.*

1. What do you think about the Underground Railroad quilt block stories? Fact or fiction? How would this have helped slaves reach freedom? Does this seem like something quilters would do?
2. What do you think was behind Sarah's reluctance to become romantically involved with Charles?
3. Caitlyn, a fourteen-year old girl, lived on the street among the homeless for several months. Why do you think she became attached to Millie, an elderly woman with severe mental illness?
4. Sarah said we must all find time for relaxation, play, and creativity. Do you agree, and if so, how do you work these into your own life?
5. Ruth shows no anger toward her Amish family, despite their total rejection of her. Why do you think this is? What do you think it was like for Ruth when her mother turned her back on her daughter?
6. What do you think drove Caitlyn's stepfather to take that final action and pull the trigger?





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### ***Sea Bound: A Quilting Cozy*** (BOOK #3)

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the third installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, Sarah and her friends go on a quilting cruise, where they find a gambling debt gone bad, a missing passenger presumed dead, and a touch of romance.*

1. Sarah is elated when Caitlyn expresses interest in learning to quilt. Have you had an opportunity to pass on your skills to a young person? How did that experience make you feel?
2. Sophie had been experiencing falls for several months, but she kept it secret from her family and friends. Why do you think she didn't want anyone to know about her falls?
3. What is it about Sarah that allowed her to go swirling down the water slide despite her fear?
4. The cruise brought Sarah and Charles much closer. How is falling in love at seventy different than at younger ages? Or is it?
5. Discuss how the crime on the ship was accomplished. Do you think this could actually be done? What problems would it present?
6. Did you pick up any clues along the way that lead you to suspect how the book would end?

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### ***Patchwork Connections: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #4)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the fourth installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, Sarah's daughter, Martha, begins to play a larger role in her life, bringing a troubled past and impending danger.*

- 1.** Consider how the title of this book relates to the content. How did the many connections that were made between the characters change their lives? Consider the connections between Sophie and her son, Sarah and her daughter, Martha and Tim, and Sarah and Charles.
- 2.** How do you think Sarah's independent nature and Charles' need to protect those he loves will affect their relationship? Is a long-term relationship destined to fail? Why or why not?
- 3.** For most of her life, Martha chose to isolate herself, keeping her problems to herself. She claimed she was protecting her family, but it becomes clear that perhaps she was simply afraid to risk relationships. What factors helped her learn to reach out to friends and family? Do you think Sarah's strong independent streak is a milder version of this fear?
- 4.** Greyson had been a cruel and abusive husband. What do you think caused him to risk his own position with the parole board in order to attempt to save Martha from harm?
- 5.** Why do you think everyone assumed the stalker was a man?





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### ***Stitched Together: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #5)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the fifth installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, Sarah and her love interest Charles face the joys and challenges of combining households, while the gang pulls together to defend one of their own accused of murder.*

1. The early months of marriage can be difficult at any age, as two people attempt to combine their lifestyles, possessions, and expectations. What elements of Sarah and Charles' personalities helped them work through this difficult stage?
2. Sarah had only been quilting for a couple of years. How do you think she felt about teaching a beginning quilting class?
3. Do you think Sarah should have contacted Charles' son, John? How did that action on her part help him to reconnect with his estranged son? Is it likely that his son David will come back into his father's life as well?
4. Sarah appeared to totally support her husband following his arrest and throughout the investigation. Do you think it ever crossed her mind that he might have been guilty? Why or why not?
5. Some readers might view Cornelius Higginbottom as a buffoon. What do you think of him? What impact has he had on Sophie? Do you think she will decide to marry him?
6. How do you feel about the ending? Do you agree with Charles' decision to pay for the defense?

## READER GUIDE

### ***Moon Over the Mountain: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #6)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the sixth installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, Sarah's tranquil quilt retreat in the Appalachian Mountains is interrupted by an alarming presence in the surrounding forest.*

**1.** Sarah's mountain retreat involved creating a quilt using photos that had been transferred onto fabric. Sarah suggested that this might be a useful way to help aging family members who are experiencing memory loss. Do you agree? Can you think of other ways to use crafts to help loved ones remember?

**2.** Addie May took every precaution to protect her siblings from being discovered by the county officials because she knew they would be separated and placed in foster care. For Sarah and Charles to help Addie May and her siblings, they had to decide whether or not they could honor Addie's position. They ultimately agreed to do so, but with the stipulation that they would report the children if they felt they were ever in danger. Do you think this was a difficult decision for Charles, given his law enforcement background? How do you think he arrived at this

**3.** Prior to arriving at the retreat, Sarah had read that Tennessee mountain folks tend to be very independent and self-reliant. How did Addie May exhibit these traits?

**4.** Charles drove from town to town, pushing himself to extreme lengths, in an attempt to find the children's father. Why do you think he was so driven? Do you think this ultimately led to his stroke?

**5.** Rosalie, the Abernathys' aunt, offered to come get the children and take them to her home in Portland, at least until their father was found. Why was Sarah adamantly against the plan? Do you think Sarah was wrong? What are the pros and cons for the children?



## READER GUIDE

### ***The Rescue Quilt: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #7)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*The seventh installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries centers on Sarah's friend Sophie, as she encounters several major life changes, including two new family members and a job working with abandoned animals.*

1. If you have read other books in this series, discuss how Sophie is changing over time. In what ways do you think Sarah may have influenced these changes?
2. What role do the dogs play in this book? How do they impact both Sophie and Penny? Discuss the importance of pets in people's lives.
3. Sarah used quilting to reach out to Penny when the child was withdrawn and depressed. How do you think this helped the young girl begin to come out of her shell?
4. Martha expressed reluctance to take on the responsibility of motherhood at this point in her life. What signs did you see that the role might come more naturally to her one day?
5. Patrick is only guilty of swindling a swindler in an attempt to make his mother's last days more comfortable. Should he be prosecuted for his actions?
6. This book presents various aspects of the animal rescue network. Did it change your perspective in any way? Do you think you might like to participate in animal rescue at some point in the future?



## READER GUIDE

### **Missing Memories: A Quilting Cozy (BOOK #8)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*In the eighth installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries, a friend has gone missing, and Sarah is told to leave it to the professionals, but Sarah refuses to accept their assumptions about her friend's identity.*

1. The quilts which were ultimately displayed in the Silent Voices exhibit offered Alzheimer's victims and caregivers the opportunity to express feelings for which they had no words. As you read the descriptions of the various quilts, did you get a sense for what feelings the quilters might have been trying to express? Do you think this experience helped the people suffering from Alzheimer's? The caregivers?
2. The man who saw Ruth struggling with her attacker was on his way to the airport and chose not to report it to the police. Charles said there is a fine line between interfering in other people's lives and doing the responsible thing. What would you have done in this situation?
3. How do you think a fidget quilt could bring comfort to a person suffering dementia? Would this be a useful charity project for quilt groups or crafters? What items would you include?
4. Why do you think the author chose to place Julio (the 'kind man') among Ruth's captors?
5. Timothy and Andy both found themselves as single fathers of teenage girls late in life. Discuss how they were able to excel at their new responsibilities.
6. Do you think Ruth will be able to forgive Nathan for the part he played in her kidnapping? How could he have prevented it?



## READER GUIDE

### ***Tattered & Torn: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #9)**

BY CAROL DEAN JONES

*The ninth installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries draws together a tattered quilt, an exhaustive search through the past, a murder suspect, and a grand jury hearing into a compelling mystery.*

- 1.** Delores prefers to quilt in a traditional manner because it gives her a feeling of continuity and connection to previous generations. Why do you think this was of less interest to the younger members of the club?
- 2.** This book dealt with the search for the identity of a very old quilt. This would not have been a problem if the quilter had added a label to her quilt. What information do you think could have been on that label? If you are a quilter, do you add a label to your quilts?
- 3.** Maud talks about the homeless shelter requirement that occupants be out on the street during the day. At eighty, she found this requirement especially difficult. What other problems do you think an elderly person might experience when living in a homeless shelter?
- 4.** While in New Orleans, Charles was interested in touring the war museum, while Sarah preferred to go to the Museum of Art. The problem was easily resolved, since both Sarah and Charles were accustomed to having their own personal interests in addition to those interests they shared. How do you think this helps in maintaining a healthy long-term relationship?
- 5.** Lt. Stokely encouraged Charles to get a PI license while Sarah continues to encourage him to get away from the stress of investigations altogether. Why is it so hard for Charles to avoid getting involved in crime solving? Do you think he should give it up entirely?



## READER GUIDE

### ***Left Holding the Bag: A Quilting Cozy* (BOOK #10)**

**BY CAROL DEAN JONES**

*The tenth installment of this fun, friendly series of cozy mysteries contains a new friend, trunks full of vintage fabric, credit card fraud, a budding romance, and murder—and Sarah and her friends are at the center of it all.*

1. Why do you think Bernice was so reluctant to see what her foster son was doing to her?
2. Our elderly family members need to tell their stories, but we are often reluctant to listen. Why do you think this is? Is today's generation interested in bygone days?
3. Several times in this series, Sarah mentions that the gentle hum of her sewing machine helps to calm her in times of stress. What other things have you noticed that Sarah does to maintain balance in her life?
4. Charles said that life is meant to be lived with gusto right up to the end. Discuss how the various characters in this series have done just that.
5. Prior to Matt's death, the Police Department was not willing to look at suspects other than Darius. However, after Matt's death, Det. Halifax began working with Charles to find the real killer. What do you think motivated him to change his focus?
6. If you were making a movie of this series, who would you cast?