

## “First Two Pages” Blog for BK Stevens

by Lea Wait

### Setting the Mood

TIGHTENING THE THREADS revolves around Australian Sarah Byrne who now lives on the coast of Maine. Why did she leave Australia? She’s kept it a secret until now, not even telling her best friend, Angie Curtis. But now she’s going to share her secret, setting off a cascade of other shared secrets ... and two murders.

The first sentence of TIGHTENING THE THREADS is, “Haven Harbor’s streets and yards were littered with green leaves that had fallen too soon.” That sentence sets the mood. It’s early fall, a time when the joys of summer are disappearing ... in a literary sense, dying. But autumn deaths are normal. “Fallen too soon” tells readers that this isn’t a normal fall – and that death may come earlier than expected.

A little further down that page I refer to “blood-red sumac,” and have Angie (my point of view character) wonder if it is poison sumac as she is on her way to meet Sarah.

Blood, and poison, have roles in this book

Angie’s mother disappeared when she was ten, and in an earlier book in this series (TWISTED THREADS) Angie tracked down her mother’s killer. On page two of this book she remembers jump roping with friends, and never winning. “I had no desire to relive my childhood, although, like now, memories haunted me.”

Memories, and the past, will haunt this whole book – although most of them will be Sarah’s.

The day is not bright, “Twilight shaded the harbor,” as Angie knocks on Sarah’s door. Inside, she is stunned to see a brilliantly, large, oil painting. “Where did that come from?” she asks at the bottom of page two.

She’ll find out the answer to her question, and more, in the next pages.



TIGHTENING THE THREADS is the 5<sup>th</sup> in Lea Wait’s Mainely Needlepoint series, and was published yesterday, March 27, by Kensington Publishing.

Maine author and USA Today bestselling author Lea Wait also writes the Shadows Antique Print mystery series and historical novels for ages 8 and up. She lives across the street from a wide river, where she loves to row. Other loves? Her husband, artist Bob Thomas, her four daughters, whom she adopted when she was a

single parent, her black cat, Shadow, and watching the seasons change from her wide porch or, on cooler days, from the windows of her study. She invites readers to friend her on Goodreads and Facebook, and to check her website, [www.leawait.com](http://www.leawait.com), where she's posted a link to a free prequel of TIGHTENING THE THREADS.