
Maggie Summer, owner of the antique print business Shadows, is thrilled when her old college roommate, Amy Douglas, invites -- almost begs -- her to come to the coast of Maine to see her new house. August is the perfect time for antiquing and, as it turns out, for murder. Amy and Drew Douglas have just bought a creaky but gorgeous eighteenth-century house in the little town of Madoc. Built in 1774, the house sits high on a hill overlooking the river. The house is great, but not the neighbors, who seem to think that the property should never have been put up for sale. Until now, its always belonged to one formidable Maine family. Amy and Drew are New Yorkers. What are they doing here, where they dont belong? Hostile neighbors are just the start of their problems. Who is behind a series of strange fires and bizarre accidents? Where is the baby that Amy hears crying in the night, and why do she and Drew want so obsessively to have a child of their own? And what is the relationship between Drew and an attractive teenager named Crystal? As Maggie searches for answers, she runs into fellow antiques dealer Will Brewer, a man with whom she once hoped for a romantic future. But can she trust him now? He, too, is part of the family that always owned Amy and Drews house. Is his loyalty to Maggie or to his family? When a body turns up in the backyard, Maggies Maine holiday suddenly turns into a hunt for a killer. Who will tell Maggie the truth? Is there a clue in her antique prints? Everything comes back to the house on the hill. What tragedies has it seen? What sorrows are soon to come? If only walls could talk, then Maggie would know whom to fear. Inspired to use her own Colonial house as a provocative fictional setting, author Lea Wait combines history and mystery in this richly nuanced and immensely entertaining new Shadows mystery.

My Personal Review:
When Maggie Summers old college roommate and close friend begs her to come visit her in her new home in Madoc, Maine, she drops everything to
see Amy Douglas. Her husband and Amy left their high powered jobs in New York City and bought an old Colonial home built in 1774, which they intend to restore to its former glory. The move hasn't worked well for the Douglas as Amy tells Maggie the moment she enters the home. Sounds of a baby crying disturb their sleep as do phone calls with nobody at the other end. A fire breaks out in a room where nothing is combustible and shingles fall off the roof even when the roofer has fixed them. Matters take a more serious turn when Amy's part-time helper is murdered and her husband gets into a car accident because the brake line is cut. As Maggie starts putting the pieces of the puzzle together, she realizes that there are two separate groups at work with different aims and only one of them intended actual harm.

SHADOWS ON THE COAST OF MAINE is a picturesque amateur sleuth mystery that is perfect beach or pool reading material. Readers are treated to life in a small Maine village in which the same families have lived near each other for generations and an outsider is considered anyone whose gene pool hasn't resided there for over a century. Lea Wait has written a complex, multi-layered who done it that is fun to read and difficult to solve, leading to readers waiting anxiously for the author's next novel. Harriet Klausner