



## Family Matters

*Laurinda Wallace*

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## **Family Matters** Laurinda Wallace

The peaceful farming community of Deer Creek is nestled in the rolling hills of Wyoming County in Western New York. It's home to Gracie Andersen, who once again finds herself in a cemetery, laying a family member to rest. Wrestling with unresolved guilt and grief over the loss of her husband and unborn child, Gracie desperately wants to get her life back.

An odd gift from her troubled uncle thrusts her into an investigation of her cousin's tragic death 20 years ago. What really happened that rainy, October night when her cousin was killed by a hit-and-run driver? As pieces of the truth are wrenched from the past, her new business, Milky Way Kennels teeters on the edge of disaster. Her life starts to tailspin, and opposition to the investigation comes from friends and family alike. And then death strikes again.

With Haley, her black Labrador by her side, Gracie doggedly pursues the truth of her cousin Charlotte's untimely death.

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## **Family Matters Details**

Date : Published April 10th 2013 by Mice Productions (first published April 9th 2013)

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Author : Laurinda Wallace

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## From Reader Review Family Matters for online ebook

### Patricia Gligor says

Gracie Andersen has more than her share of problems to deal with. After losing her husband and unborn child, she is struggling to put the past behind her and to move on with her life. But, the past won't let her go. When her uncle gives her the diary that had belonged to her deceased cousin, Gracie finds herself involved in solving two murders.

I look forward to reading the next book in this series!

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### Rita Chapman says

I enjoyed reading Laurinda Wallace's Family Matters. I was impressed from the start by her style of writing. The novelty of the dog kennels as the setting for this mystery made an interesting setting for her character, Gracie and is a bonus for dog-lovers. Laurinda's descriptions made it easy to picture her characters and it was not until close to the end that I was able to guess the real villain of the piece. I read it in three days as I grabbed every opportunity to read the next chapter!

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### Jill D Coffin says

#### A great cozy that had me guessing until the very end

I've been reading mysteries of all types for decades and it is unusual for me to be surprised at the conclusion. This author misled me until the very end . This story was exciting and well written. I will be reading the next in the series!

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### Sharon says

Not your everyday mystery story. Good storyline, interesting characters and a bundle of questions needing answering. Finding the truth takes readers along a twisty path as all is not what it seems.

Nice little recommended 3.5 star mystery.

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### Dawn Turner says

An enjoyable read. Gracie is as imperfect as the rest of us and trying to muddle through a lot of mess in her life, not to mention the nay-saying of people close to her who mean well but are misguided in their advice. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

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## **Chazzi says**

Gracie Andersen is working to get her life back together after a personal tragedy. She, and business partner Jim, have opened Milky Way Kennels and business is going well. Then things change.

Her Aunt Shirley dies and at the funeral Uncle Stan gives her a bag of books. His insistence and cryptic remarks add to the mystery when she discovers what is buried in the pages of the books. This all brings up the tragic, accidental death of her cousin from 20 years ago. Or was it an accident?

Milky Way Kennels experiences some bad events and finds business starts to spiral down. These events are unusual for this small town in the hills of Western New York. Is there a tie between the current events and the past?

Gracie, with her black lab Haley by her side, works to solve the multiple mysteries while keeping business at the kennels going.

The style of writing and the characters and speed of action made this a pleasureable read. Clues appear along the way, but not all take you where you think they will. Descriptions of the area, characters and action add to the pleasure and the pace of the story. A Good Read.

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## **Linda Cole says**

### **Enjoyable**

Really liked this book it had family, traditions and a cold case murder mystery. It had many possible suspects and misdirection. Will read next

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## **Christie Hagerman says**

Gracie is just a sweet, easy-going gal trying to recover from personal tragedy when life quickly spins out of control. Things in her world go from bad to worse at every turn, and the danger mounts as she gets closer to solving the mystery around her cousin's death. She's easy to root for, with her trusting personality and never-give-up attitude.

I pegged this book totally wrong. The lovable characters and small-town life lulled me into thinking I'd wrapped this mystery up pretty soon into reading, but the fun was just getting started. Not only did the crimes--old and new--intensify, but the deaths and suspects were piling up more quickly than I could make my next guess. I was pretty sure I'd picked out the love plot from the get-go, as well, but found myself surprised again by the time I'd turned the last pages. Just the way I like it!

I'm looking forward to the next volume of Gracie's adventures, already wondering what she and her faithful canine companion Haley will be getting into next.

PARENTAL RATING: PG. If your teens are into mysteries, this one is sure to grab their attention. (SPOILER ALERT) Charlotte's death involves an unwed pregnancy and there are a few scenes of danger, but I felt all of this was appropriately handled and wouldn't affect the placement of this book on my girls'

shelves.

\*\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **LD says**

**Ok**

Ok this book was good. I liked the characters and the setting. Nice family story  
Liked the dog kennel aspect

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### **Sharon says**

This book was interesting enough that I read it in one sitting. Gracie Andersen had a series of family deaths, including her aunt, uncle, cousin, husband, and baby. She is a fragile soul who finds her inner strength when her uncle gives her information about cousin Charlotte's untimely death 20 years earlier. Gracie decides to investigate Charlotte's death which causes a chain of events resulting in more deaths and attempted homicides.

Gracie finds peace and maybe, a new love, and more than anything else, a strength she didn't know she had.

I recommend this book for anyone who likes mysteries.

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### **Elizabeth says**

This book held my interest right to the surprising end that I didn't see coming. Set in my home area of Western New York it was easy to identify with the location. Gracie Andersen is a kennel owner who has suffered the loss, within a few days of each other, of both her husband and unborn son. It is two years later and she's starting to get her life back together, opening a boarding kennel with a friend. When her aunt dies, an expected death from cancer, her uncle gives her a bag of books that he's very anxious his daughter not know about. The books are ordinary books but when Gracie gets them home she discovers all the new stories, death certificate, and diary of her cousin who had been killed by a hit and run driver 20 years previously. Thus begins an exciting mystery as Gracie tries to solve the death of her cousin. You think you've figured out who did it but you'd probably be wrong, I was.

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### **Loren Robertson says**

#### **Happy ending**

I gave this four stars because the main female character was written as such a hairbrain. I didn't get why she was so silly to go into obviously dangerous situations. But the mystery was well thought out, and not easily solved. And I do prefer a good ending. There were a few scenes that made me uncomfortable due to personal

ptsd issues. Overall not a bad book.

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### **Charles Ray says**

After her aunt's funeral, Gracie Andersen's alcoholic uncle gives her an odd gift—a collection of old books that includes the diary of her cousin who had been killed in a hit and run accident 20 years earlier. It is clear to her that he wants her to find the truth of the 'accident,' but before she can get more details from him, he's killed in a suspicious 'accident.' To add to her troubles, her dog kennel is suffering one tragedy after another, and someone wants her to stop prying into the past; chief among them, her annoying cousin, Isabel.

Family Matters by Laurinda Wallace is an interesting cozy mystery that follows Gracie as she begins to uncover family secrets that Isabel wants to keep hidden. She and Isabel have never gotten along, but she's shocked to learn that, not only is Isabel somehow involved in the 20-year-old death, but the death of her uncle as well. The closer she gets to the truth, the more dangerous her life becomes, until the case reaches a conclusion that will come as a complete surprise.

A well plotted mystery, but the author could have done a better job of pacing, rather than the rather monotonous rhythm throughout. Not a bad first book, that I give three and a half stars. The author shows promise.

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### **Laurie M. Boyd says**

#### **A great puzzle**

I really liked the double mystery--one in the past and one in the present. The characters are believable and small town life is depicted accurately.

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### **Jan Locke says**

#### **Good read**

This book has a lot to offer: a look into a small town & the people who live there, family dynamics & the importance of status to some, past heartaches & present dangers & an interesting plot. It was slow at times but worth getting to the end of the story. Family does matter but can also lead to some major terror! I enjoyed the slow build up of the beginning relationship between red haired, angry Gracie & Marc, the patient, more than competent officer.

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