



# MIDNIGHT INK NEW TITLE ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 2008

## Heaven Preserve Us: A Home Crafting Mystery (Book 2)



### Specs

ISBN-10: 0-7387-1122-5  
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### Synopsis

A reputation as a small town busybody sleuth. A gum-cracking boss who keeps calling her “babe.” Now a suicidal phone stalker? Great.

After solving the messy mystery of her neighborhood handyman’s lye-induced death, thirty-something Sophie Mae Reynolds makes preserves by day and answers phones at a crisis center by night. What better way to keep a low profile? But on her very first night, Sophie Mae gets a call from a man who is threatening suicide . . . and her. Overhearing the caller’s irate outbursts, her morally-bankrupt boss Philip Heaven severs the line. As harassing calls to her home increase, Philip comes down with a deadly case of food poisoning. And his eerie last words keep ringing in Sophie Mae’s ears: “Threat. Meant it.” Now stirring up the town with talk of murder-by-preserves, Sophie Mae and her hunky boyfriend Detective Ambrose are on a blood-red trail of rancid beets to find and stop the crafty killer.

**Other books by Cricket McRae:**  
*Lye in Wait: A Home Crafting Mystery*  
(Book 1)  
October 2007

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## MIDNIGHT INK AUTHOR PROFILE

### Cricket McRae

A former resident of the Pacific Northwest where her novels are set, Cricket McRae has always dabbled in the kind of practical home crafts that were once necessary to everyday life. The magical chemistry of making soap, the satisfaction of canning garden produce, and the sensuous side of fiber arts like spinning and knitting are just a few of the reasons these activities have fascinated her since childhood. As a girl she was as much a fan of Nancy Drew as of Laura Ingalls Wilder, so it's no surprise that her contemporary cozy series features a soap maker with a nose for investigation.

For two years Cricket managed her own soap making business, including all product design, manufacturing and marketing. She has also worked at a variety of other jobs, ranging from driver's license examiner to program manager at Microsoft. This fulfills her mother's warning that she'd never have a "regular" job if she insisted on studying philosophy and English in college.

Now she lives in Colorado, fitting her interest in all things domestic around writing, hiking, biking and, currently, learning how to hate the game of golf.



Photo by Kevin Brookfield



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# MIDNIGHT INK

## PRAISE FOR THE HOME CRAFTING MYSTERY SERIES

### Praise for *Lye in Wait* Book 1 in the Home Crafting Mystery Series

"McRae crafts strong characters, including Sophie's best friend, Meghan; Meghan's ten-year-old daughter; and an aging corgi. She also spins a credible, enjoyable plot."

**Library Journal**

*Lye in Wait* is a finalist for the 2007 *ForeWord Magazine* Book of the Year Award.

"The author, herself a soap maker, gives readers a new tweak on the cozy, complete with credibly written characters possessing enough appealing eccentricities to keep readers happy."

**Booklist**, 9/15/2007

"*Lye in Wait* is an enjoyable book with a credible, if not complex, plot that's handled well. It's a fine start to this new series."

**Hidden Staircase Mystery Books/Mysterious Reviews**

"*Lye in Wait* is a wonderful start to a mystery series by a first-time author whose writing demonstrates a fluidity and polish more often seen in veteran authors. The pacing is perfect, so the story never gets bogged down. The characters are well developed; the plot stays focused on the investigation; the story threads are resolved nicely at the end. There's lots to like in *Lye in Wait*."

**Cozy Library**

"As impressed as I was when McRae was realistic about crafting supplies, I was even more impressed when Sophie ran into all the sorts of realistic problems a self-appointed busybody ought to run into - people she upsets needlessly, people who refuse to talk, and official people who point out that she's simultaneously making herself a target and a suspect. Sophie is given a reason for her inability to stop meddling (and it's not just the obvious one) and she runs into roadblocks. I appreciated that."

**Reviewing the Evidence**

"Ms. McRae has a unique talent for turning phrases in her wording, and *Lye in Wait* is a promising start to a new series."

**Romance Reviews Today**

"This is a cozy mystery that holds substance, suspense and clever twists for readers."

**The Coloradan**, 12/09/07

"*Lye in Wait: A Home Crafting Mystery* is a fun addition to a popular genre."

**Curled Up With A Good Book**

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