



## Shades of Wrath

*Karen Rose Smith*

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SHADES OF WRATH is book 6 in Karen Rose Smith's Caprice De Luca Home Staging cozy mystery series. Between her booming business, her family, and her work rescuing stray animals, home stager Caprice De Luca's life is packed. But when a murder unsettles peaceful Kismet, Pennsylvania, she adds amateur sleuth to her resume.

Thanks to a wealthy patron, Kismet's women's shelter, Sunshine Tomorrow, has inherited a run-down mansion. Now the shelter's director, Wendy Newcomb, wants Caprice's decorating expertise. Caprice is happy to help, but when she glimpses a few heated encounters between Wendy and some locals, she fears that Wendy may be in need of protection herself.

When Wendy is found dead inside the old house, Caprice is compelled to poke around in her affairs--and discovers she had her share of enemies. Now, with countless clients, a TV gig that could make her a household name, and rumors of a marriage proposal on its way, Caprice must find time to design an investigation that will lure a crafty killer into the wide open--before someone else winds up in a state of permanent disrepair...

## Shades of Wrath Details

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Author : Karen Rose Smith

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## From Reader Review Shades of Wrath for online ebook

### Janet says

now have to wait till the next one comes out in the fall

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### Norma says

I've read all of the Caprice De Luca Mysteries and again, SHADES OF WRATH did not disappoint. Not only could I not put it down, but I refused to put it down. When I thought I had it figured out, I didn't.

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### Brenda says

Shades of Wrath is the sixth installment in the Caprice De Luca Mystery series featuring home-stager, interior decorator Caprice De Luca and her family and friends residing in Kismet, PA. With her business booming, content in her relationship with lawyer boyfriend Grant Weatherford and her rescued pets all settling in to their new "furrever" homes, Caprice couldn't be happier.

Caprice receives a phone call from Wendy Newcomb, the founder of Sunrise Tomorrow, a local organization assisting victims of domestic violence. The foundation has been bequeathed the Wyatt estate which includes the crumbling 1920's Tudor mansion from Wendy's elderly friend Leona Wyatt. Wendy has dreams of turning the old home into a transitional space for women who have escaped their dangerous relationships and wants Caprice to do all of the decorating.

Wendy has a past that includes a violent partner and often finds herself in the middle of nasty domestic situations, so it's really no surprise when after Caprice hears her being warned to stay out of several relationships that Wendy is found dead in the old mansion. Suspects include Wendy's boyfriend Sebastian Thompson, her employees at Sunrise Tommorow and several disgruntled exes.

Caprice soon finds herself investigating alongside Grant, Chief Mack Powalski, and her sister Nikki's boyfriend Brett Carstead. Returning characters include her parents, Nana, sister Bella and husband Joe, Uncle Dom and neighbor Dulcina.

There is so much more than solving the mystery in this series. The author has been able to create such loveable characters that you feel as though Kismet is your own backyard. Caprice's dedication to rescuing and finding good homes for her furry friends is representative of the author's own personal life. Readers of the author's blog will recognize the names of many of her pets and the introduction and placement of Sunnybud in Bella's home is a touching tribute to the orange tabby who held such a special place in the author's heart.

I received an advance copy of Shades of Wrath from NetGalley via Kensington Publishing. While not required to write a review I am more than happy of offer my honest opinion.

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### **Sandy Bartles says**

This is the sixth book in the Caprice De Luca Home Staging mysteries and the books just keep getting better and better. Caprice is a woman not afraid to say how she feels, dresses in outdated clothes, rescues animals and finds them homes, loves her family and is in love with a wonderful lawyer. I enjoy reading about the process of Staging homes. There is always a murder to solve and the author keeps things moving along at a fast pace. She had me guessing to the very end as to who the murderer was. This is an excellent book and I can't wait to read the next one in the series!

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

Shades of Wrath by Karen Rose Smith is the sixth book in the Caprice De Luca series and every book seems to get better than the last one. In this story, Caprice has been hired to redecorate a transition home for abused women. She is thrilled to be helping the Sunshine Tomorrow Foundation with the home that was willed to them by a wealthy patron and friend of the shelter's director, Wendy Newcombe. In her job helping abused women and their families, Wendy has made many enemies. This only makes the case more difficult to solve when her body is found in the mansion, dead from a hit on the head forcing her over a balustrade. Caprice is a busy bee in this book. She is competing in a competition to redecorate a home, she is trying to find out who killed Wendy, her courtship with Grant is moving right along and she is still trying to do her job as a stager/decorator.

I really enjoy this series! The home makeovers, the pets, Caprice's large and involved family, and the added element of romance keeps me happily reading this series. The characters are realistic and are people that I would want to meet and be friends with. The mystery is not always the easiest to solve, as there are usually many viable suspects. Caprice is smart, caring and loyal which makes the reader want to know her, not just have her solve the mystery. This book touches on her faith and the importance of it in her life as well as her values and love of family. I like that there is usually some kind of important issue in each book. This one deals with domestic violence. It touches not only on physical violence, but also on emotional and mental abuse. This part of the story was well written and fit the story very well. Overall, if you enjoy cozy mysteries, this series is one that I highly recommend. You do not have to read them in order, but it will certainly help you get to know Caprice, her family and her friends. Pick one up and enjoy!

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### **Amelia says**

For the sixth book in the Caprice De Luca Home Staging Mystery series, the danger keeps increasing for the main character who turns amateur sleuth once more when a person in her hometown is murdered. Caprice De Luca is a professional home stager with a reputation for making every detail perfect. She is also curious by nature, and frequently becomes involved when there are lots of questions connected to the killing of someone whom she knows. Getting those much needed answers becomes very important to her, because she not only cares but wants justice. I never knew what would happen in an upcoming scene or who might perhaps be accused of the crime. Karen Rose Smith intricately entwines many clues with possible suspects to make her mysteries exceptionally riveting. Also, the issue of domestic violence is tackled with realism and sensitivity in this story. SHADES OF WRATH intrigues with a wide range of motives and lively characters.

The houses that Caprice De Luca stages are usually being decorated to be sold. But her latest project will be

done so women facing a crisis will have a relaxed place to stay. A large older house has been donated to be a women's shelter, and Wendy Newcomb would like to make the place inviting with help from the talented home stager. Caprice is someone who likes to aid people and even animals in need, so she wants to do her part.

At her first meeting with Wendy, a disagreement with a man known to them both is taking place and Caprice overhears much of it. Later, another appointment never takes place because Wendy is dead and it appears to have not been an accident. Since Caprice knows about a couple of instances where the woman had been confronted by angry individuals, she wonders if one took their rage a step further. Although plenty is going on in her own life at the moment, she still makes time to look for evidence as to what really happened to Wendy before their meeting.

There are numerous activities that Caprice takes part in, and delving into many of them let me get a sense of the person she truly is inside. She loves animals, and helps to find homes for those which are strays. Her work as a home stager is certainly important to her, and clients are treated with respect. Much of her life is centered on family, and gatherings including food are special. I definitely got hungry when several very tasty meals were being prepared. Her romance with Grant is moving forward, and these moments are made personal. Ms. Smith gives her characters believable temperaments, and Caprice is uniquely delightful. When she cannot keep herself from looking into a murder, then her inquisitive behavior really shines.

In SHADES OF WRATH, the list of those who might be guilty just keeps growing and a few of the additions are unexpected. I always try to read the mysteries of Karen Rose Smith very carefully, as I never know where a hint might be revealed. Once again, I was repeatedly caught off guard when facts are finally disclosed, making the story full of surprises. Caprice may try and stay out of the investigation, but she just seems to wind up in situations where something new is learned and trouble often follows these discoveries. With the way in which the story concluded, I am eager to see what occurs next in Caprice's life. There are constant mysteries to solve in SHADES OF WRATH, where truths are not guaranteed until the very end.

Copy received from author - 4.5 Stars

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### **K.A. Davis says**

I knew that SHADES OF WRATH was going to be a bit different, perhaps even special, when I started out reading the dedication (am I the only one who does that?) and saw that Karen Rose Smith dedicated the book "for women who have faced domestic violence." As the story unfolds the reader is immediately introduced to Wendy Newcomb, the founder and director of Sunrise Tomorrow, a foundation for victims of domestic violence. Wendy is passionate about protecting women and that focus is explored within the plot, quite effectively. The protagonist, Caprice De Luca, has a very close-knit, loving family that has helped her develop healthy self-esteem while growing up. She is also in a caring relationship with Grant that seems to be progressing. But working with Wendy and meeting some of the women she has helped, Caprice realizes that not everyone is as fortunate as she has been, which gives her a greater empathy for others and provides an opportunity for her to grow as a person. I applaud Karen Rose Smith for tackling this social issue and bringing a spotlight on a subject that is typically ignored.

The plot moves along at a good pace that kept me turning pages. There were also lots of suspects who could have wanted Wendy dead, which kept me guessing. I was completely caught off-guard at the reveal...I just didn't see it coming! But I think what keeps me coming back to read the Caprice DeLuca Mystery series are

the characters. They're people you'd want to have as your friends and are good role models. Caprice and her family get together often to share meals and there's also a lot of food mentioned in the book which can make a reader hungry.

Thankfully the author provides recipes with her story and I tried her recipe for Bella's Old-Fashioned Coconut Cake. It was absolutely delicious and I appreciated the fact that it used only natural coconut products instead of relying on artificial flavors.

I was given an ARC and willingly provided my review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### **Julie says**

Shades of Wrath by Karen Rose Smith is a 2016 Kensington publication.

The deeper into this series, we go, the better it gets!

This sixth installment in the Caprice De Luca series sees Caprice helping with the redecoration of a transition home for abused women.

But, before she gets too far along with her plans the proprietor, Wendy Newcomb is found murdered. Caprice is once more sucked into the investigation as she prepares for a competition and irons out her future with Gant.

I love this series! The decorations, the pets, Caprice's large and loving family, and the added element of romance and realistic relationships has me eagerly awaiting an update on these wonderful characters.

The mystery is always compelling, too. With many cozies the mystery can sometimes seem rather thin, but not with this series. Caprice is a terrific and smart amateur sleuth, and her eye for details helps her notice things others might miss.

In this case, Wendy's death draws attention to a very important issue and KRS did an amazing job of handling such an edgy topic. Domestic violence is still a troubling and oft hidden problem in our society and I applaud the author for centering a story around it.

Once again, Caprice impresses me with her faith, value system, and dogged determination to find the truth.

Overall, if you love cozy mysteries, this series is outstanding and I highly recommend it. Those who have been following along, I think you are going to love joining Caprice on her latest adventure!!

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4.5 stars

### **Tess says**

Karen Rose Smith is on the fast track to be added to my list of favorite authors. Caprice DeLuca is a home stager, currently working in a tudor revival mansion, monstrous but charming. When the woman who hired Caprice is murdered, Caprice steps in to "help" solve the murder. Caprice is stretching herself very thin, she has also entered herself in a model home make-over challenge, which will be televised. Caprice and 2 other designers, will put their talents to the test and the TV audience will select the winner. Caprice will be there, as long as the murder in the mansion doesn't distract her.

FTC Full Disclosure - A copy of this book was sent to me by the publisher in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review.

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### **Sarah says**

Hmmm not sure what to think about this one. I know now that it's the 6th in a series and it's something I didn't know before

It's not a bad series, it's quite an interesting and engaging book yet I know that there is more information in the previous books that would flesh out the series for me and maybe engage me more in what's happening.

Caprice DeLuca is staging the house of the recently deceased Leonna Wyatt for her friend Wendy, Leonna left the house to Sunshine Tomorrow, a group who helps women suffering from domestic violence, her friend Wendy is subsequently killed and Caprice wants to find out what the hell is going on.

Sex, lies, sneaky sneakiness is abundant in this story. Who's telling the truth and who's a little fucker!?

\*Huge thanks to Karen Rose Smith, Kensington Books and NetGalley for this copy which I chose to read and all opinions are my own\*

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### **Betty says**

Caprice De Luca has an appointment to meet Wendy Newcomb, the head of Kismet's Woman Shelter. Arriving at the shelter Caprice at the shelter the police are present as Wendy has been murder. Caprice becomes involved as there are several men looking for a wife, jealousy between staff members and the family of the inheritance the shelter recently received are all viable suspects for the killer. Caprice ' romance with Grant, home staging, family relations and her animal rescue. I recommend this book and series.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Bios through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Linda says**

Caprice De Luca is looking forward to the new opportunity of redecorating a mansion recently inherited by

Sunrise Tomorrow, a foundation developed as a women's shelter. But then the director, Wendy Newcomb is found murdered and Caprice once again feels obligated to help seek out the murderer. But is it someone in Wendy's personal life or someone associated with the shelter that committed this act? I really enjoy this series and the main characters. It is enjoyable watching the growing relationship between Caprice and Grant, as well as the close connections she has with her family. There were several twists to the story before the murderer is finally caught. I also liked the attention given in this story to domestic violence, a situation that all too often goes undiscovered and misunderstood. I look forward to the next book in this series to see how things work out with Caprice and Grant, as well as Uncle Dom, Nikki and Brett. Finally, I would like to mention one standout cat in this story. For those of us who follow the author's blog, Sunnybud was the subject of a daily adventure as Karen tried to tame this lovable stray. Unfortunately he passed away to the sadness of Karen, her family and followers. I loved that finally, at least in this story, Sunnybud has found his forever home at last. Disclosure: I received a copy of this book through NetGalley and have voluntarily written this review.

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### **Patricia says**

Caprice De Luca's life is busier than ever. Her success, with her home-staging business, has others seeking her out. When a local women's shelter, Sunrise Tomorrow, inherits a mansion, the director (Wendy Newcomb) asks Caprice to decorate it. Soon, though, Wendy is found dead and Caprice is drawn into the investigation. Wendy made a lot of enemies protecting women from their abusers. Caprice, able to get information others may not always tell police, learns of something Wendy had that a killer would be very interested in finding (and maybe even killing for).

Caprice finds herself seeking a home for a yellow tabby, Wendy had named Sunnybud, who had taken up residence in the old house. In the midst of the murder investigation, a builder asks Caprice to participate in a TV competition decorating homes he has built, which could lead to a contract to decorate more. Plus, Caprice's relationship with Grant takes a new turn and romance is evolving for others in her family.

It is always a pleasure to reconnect with Caprice, to share a mystery and a little romance. I received an advance copy of *Shades of Wrath* from NetGalley and look forward to the next installment in this series.

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### **RO G'ma says**

*Shades of Wrath* is the sixth installment in Karen Rose Smith's Caprice De Luca Mystery series. The storyline is well plotted, the characters well developed, and the story moves at a steady pace. This book sends a strong message of the importance of family, friendship, and the care of animals but the mystery definitely takes a backseat. The issue of domestic violence is addressed in this book and there are some twists to the story before the murderer is caught. Ms. Smith provides great character background and this book can be read as a standalone. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading chick-lit and light, cozy mysteries.

Caprice De Luca owns a thriving home staging business in the small town of Kismet, Pennsylvania but also enjoys redecorating homes. She's looking forward to working with Wendy Newcomb, the director of Sunrise Tomorrow, and redecorating a mansion Sunrise Tomorrow (a women's shelter) recently. Caprice overhears a

couple of heated conversations between Wendy and others and is somewhat concerned about her safety and when Wendy's body is found in the mansion, Caprice feels obligated to help expose the murderer. Caprice and Grant's relationship is growing stronger.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review from NetGalley.

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### **Shelleen Toland says**

Caprice has her own business decorating houses and businesses. She is hired by Wendy, who is the new owner of a women's shelter for abused women. Wendy is murdered and Caprice is thrown into trying to help solve the mystery. This is a cute cozy mystery and I received it from NetGalley.

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