



## Marinating in Murder

*Linda Wiken*

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**The third in a delicious series featuring a dinner club that tries out new recipes--while trying to catch a killer**

The Culinary Capers Dinner Club is planning a fall picnic for their next meeting. What could be better than sharing delicious food with friends under a beautiful autumn sky? But when club member Alison Malkovich opens the back of her SUV to load in the picnic supplies, she finds a dead body. To make things worse, it's the body of her ex-husband, and now she's the prime suspect. Because Alison is a police officer, she is suspended and warned not to do any investigating of her own. That's not about to stop J.J. and the Culinary Capers gang though. They know that Alison is innocent, and after all, they do have some experience solving crimes.

## **INCLUDES DELICIOUS RECIPES**

### **Marinating in Murder Details**

Date : Published March 6th 2018 by Berkley

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Author : Linda Wiken

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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## **From Reader Review Marinating in Murder for online ebook**

### **Toni (T.C.) LoTempio says**

I enjoy reading about the adventure of JJ and her friends. I was glad to finally see her romance (if you can call it that) with Devine take a definitive turn. although JJ does like to place herself in danger, isn't that what a good amateur sleuth does?????? I also find my mouth watering at the food descriptions. Am anxious to see if Berkley renews this series.

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### **Lisa Morin says**

Marinating in Murder by Linda Wiken is the first book in this series that I have read. I was not aware that Erika Chase and Linda Wiken are one in the same, it was a pleasant surprise!

The series features The Culinary Capers, a group of friends who meet regularly to share recipes, food and life in general.

When a planned fall picnic goes off kilter, the group bands together to help a fellow club member.

J.J. can't believe that her friend's husband has been living a double life. When J.J. and her friend Allison discover his body, shoved into the back of her SUV- it suddenly turns real. Who is the real victim in all of this, her friend, the other wife, or a trusted friend who felt betrayed?

I was so caught up in this story that time flew by. I was so taken with the witty characters and the easy friendship that this dinner club shared.

I will definitely be reading the first 2 books in this series.

I volunteered to read an ARC of this book offered by the publisher and NewGalley.

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### **Marla Bradeen says**

MARINATING IN MURDER is a fun cozy mystery. I liked the characters and following along as the heroine tried to figure out what was going on. In addition to the mystery, there are lots of food references, and several storylines focused on potential love interests. Readers who like romance with their mysteries are likely to enjoy this book too.

Disclosure: I won a free copy of this book in a giveaway.

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### **Ann says**

I like this series because the group is so diverse and the food always sounds so delicious. Ms. Wiken includes a few recipes at the end of the story. This month they are planning a fall picnic for the monthly get together

but when Allison opens her truck to pack the coolers she finds her not quite ex, ex-husband dead. As a police officer she is officially off the case but the rest of the dinner club steps forward to find the murderer. This is book 3 but you'll be fine with this book without reading the previous installments. I received a copy of this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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

Marinating in Murder, the third book in the Dinner Club Mystery series by Linda Wiken, is a nice addition to culinary cozies! J.J. Tanner is part of the Culinary Capers Dinner Club and has made several new friends since she joined. With each book the reader learns more about J.J. and the members of the dinner club although this book can be read as a standalone. Ms. Wiken provides enough details so new readers won't feel lost but doesn't stray from the plot line which keeps the story moving at a good pace. One of the members, Alison, has always been very private. None of their group knows her that well but most assume that she's reticent about herself because she's a cop. But when the body of her estranged husband is found in the back of her SUV and she's the number one suspect, the group pulls together to give her support and J.J. vows to clear Alison's name. I so enjoyed seeing the group's camaraderie and as the story progresses, friendships deepen. J.J. is quite tenacious and, at times, is willing to step on toes to find answers to prove Alison's innocence. The more questions she asks the more suspects come to light and I was surprised by the reveal.

I also loved the mentions and descriptions of the cookbooks the group cooks from and I agree with J.J.: the more photos in cookbooks the better. You'll get hungry by all the mentions of food and lucky for us readers and cooks, Ms. Wiken includes delicious recipes at the back of the book.

I was provided an advance copy from Netgalley with the hopes I would review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### **Melissa Castor says**

J.J. and the rest of the Culinary Capers group are preparing to leave for a picnic when the body of Alison's ex-husband (or at least thought to be ex) is found in her car. His murder turns up all kinds of things Alison didn't know about him. J.J. sets out to prove that her friend is not the killer and find out who the true killer is. Very good book and I look forward to what's next for the gang as well as J.J. and Devine.

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### **Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says**

Autumn is on the horizon and so the Culinary Capers group decide to enjoy the last of the good weather by having a picnic for their latest meeting, everything is going fine until Alison unlocks her SUV and discovers a dead body, the problem isn't so much that (although that is bad enough), the real problem is that it is her estranged husband and this means that Alison is suspended from the Police force pending the investigations outcome, and even though she is one of their own Alison is worried that the Powers That Be (aka Detective Hastings/Hashtag) will look no further, this means that for once Alison is right behind J J and the rest of the Culinary Capers gang doing a little (err LOT) of snooping on the side.

So with this, a full work load and more that one man apparently wanting to take her for dates J J has a full life, so get the Bridezilla sorted, figure out who she wants to spend time with, sort out her neighbour's love life and figure out who is framing Alison, right so no problems then!

Another cracking tale from Ms Wiken, each of the Culinary Capers group are allowed to shine (although J J is the main character), add in some good food and time to settle down and just enjoy. 5 stars from me for this one!

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

#### Dollycas's Thoughts

Nothing can ruin a picnic quicker than a dead body, especially when it is an estranged husband found in his wife's SUV. Police officer Alison Malkovich just wanted to load the coolers but now instead investigating a murder, she is the prime suspect. Will her fellow officers have her back or will she need her Culinary Caper Club members to prove her innocence?

Having recently read Roux the Day it was fun to revisit these characters so soon. Alison had been pretty quiet about her personal life and her friends were pretty surprised when she had to fill them in on everything. They focused quickly on the new suspect that was brought to light, but she seemed to have an alibi. Private Eye Ty Devine has agreed to work with J.J. on the case both because he wants to help Alison but he also wants to spend time with J.J. He is not happy when she agrees to go on a date to get information, especially when it is followed by another date. J.J. is also confused about her feelings for both men.

Linda Wiken has given us such strong characters. I love the way they are still getting to know each other and have each other's back no matter what. The club has a nice variety of cooks and bakers from expert to novice and the cookbooks and recipes never fail to make my stomach growl. Like J.J. I love the cookbooks with all the beautiful pictures. Skye and J.J. have many events coming up at "Make It Happen" but it is the perfect job for J.J. because she sets her own hours and has a boss/friend that understands her sleuthing on the side. The whole group are fun and very engaging.

I really enjoyed the way the author had J.J. seeing both men while trying to find the killer. It added not only romantic tension but excitement to the story. It did seem though at times J.J. was rehashing the same thing over and over again. She kept meeting with people to try to get them to answer questions I thought they had already answered. Sometimes it revealed a new tidbit, but other times she was just seemed to be spinning her wheels. Maybe she was just trying to sort out her feelings about this new man in her life. I felt I had a clear picture of the guilty party early on but was truly surprised by the way the story ended.

Another fine culinary cozy from this author. I hope we get to visit this group of characters again very soon.

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### **Angela says**

In looking back at my reviews of books 1 and 2 of the series I had a very disconnected relationship with the stories and the characters. I am happy to report that with book 3 I didn't feel quite as disconnected. J.J. is growing on me. The writing style in book 3 was much more fluid feeling. The mystery in this installment

was great. I suspected "who dun it" about half way through the book and turned out to be correct but that didn't take away from my enjoyment of the unfolding story. All was well until about the last 2 chapters. All of a sudden J.J. got that TSTL (to stupid to live) bug that some mystery characters get in the crunch moments. Suddenly she was completely stupid and made a series of really bad decisions that had me eye-rolling. I won't say it ruined the book for me but we had been doing so good it was a bit of a let down. Aside from that, I enjoyed the book and was happy to see some forward progress in the relationship category as well. I will continue to read this series.

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### **Bree says**

Readers can read this book as a stand alone, though you might miss some of the budding relationships that are built in other books. I really love J.J. and the club. Though they are a dinner club, they are also sleuthing to solve mysteries and that is something that goes great with good food. Enjoy a glass of sparkling water, and a delightful appetizer while you read and indulge in this book!

Full Review: <https://bibliophile.reviews/book-revi...>

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### **Kayt18 says**

I think this is my favorite out of the 3 books in this series. The characters are now really developed and the relationships are interesting. I enjoy the foodie talk too. I did miss seeing Ness in the one more. Happy for Ty's presence for sure. This is a great cozy read that foodies will love. Intrigue, great action and fun and a fully rounded mystery that satisfies all tastes. Even if you have not read the first two books, you can read this one and not be lost. The author does a great job of getting you up to speed.

I was given a copy by the publisher, but the opinion is my own

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### **Tracy says**

I really liked this. When Allison finds her estranged husband dead in her trunk it doesn't look good to say the least. J.J. and the rest of the club didn't even know she was married so this is a shock, but they're not letting Allison go down for a crime she didn't do so they help investigate even though she thinks they should leave it to the police. J.J is great character and I enjoyed this.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Another deliciously deadly Dinner Club Mystery!

It was so much fun to be back with the gang from the Culinary Capers Dinner Club. Author Linda Wiken has truly created a cast of characters that are a joy to read. I'd love to have a group of friends like them to hang out with. As long as murder doesn't come along with them. Let's keep that between the book covers.

Speaking of the M word, MARINATING IN MURDER showcases a murder mystery that had me on the

edge of my seat (and afraid to open the trunk of my car)! Following along with J.J. and her Culinary Capers cohorts on the search for answers and of course, the killer, was a roller coaster ride of twists and turns. And that ride came to an exciting end with a surprising and satisfying reveal.

Everything you could want in a cozy mystery, I can envision MARINATING IN MURDER, and the rest of the Dinner Club Mysteries being great Hallmark movies!

Make sure to check out the great recipes at the end of the book!

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## **OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/ma...>

Marinating in Murder  
Dinner Club Mystery, Book #3  
By Linda Wiken  
ISBN13: 9780425278246  
Author website: [lindawiken\(.\)com](http://lindawiken.com)  
Brought to you by OBS reviewer Kayt

### Synopsis:

The third in a delicious series featuring a dinner club that tries out new recipes—while trying to catch a killer

The Culinary Capers Dinner Club is planning a fall picnic for their next meeting. What could be better than sharing delicious food with friends under a beautiful autumn sky? But when club member Alison Malkovich opens the back of her SUV to load in the picnic supplies, she finds a dead body. To make things worse, it's the body of her ex-husband, and now she's the prime suspect. Because Alison is a police officer, she is suspended and warned not to do any investigating of her own. That's not about to stop J.J. and the Culinary Capers gang though. They know that Alison is innocent, and after all, they do have some experience solving crimes.

### Review:

Marinating in Murder is the third book in author Linda Wiken's Dinner Club Mystery series. I think this is my favorite. The characters are now fully developed and I feel like I know them much better. I did wish Ness was involved more, but that is just me. The Culinary Capers Dinner Club is still going strong and the friendships between the members is more enjoyable. Police officer Alison Malkovich is hosting the next dinner and she has decided a picnic would be just the ticket. Unfortunately an uninvited guest shows up in Alison's SUV. The body of her ex or not husband has been put in the storage area, making it hard for the crew to load up their picnic supplies. And of course putting a hold on everything. Protagonist J.J. has to help her friend even if Alison says not to do it.

Alison is suspended from the police force and is also the prime suspect. None of the club members really know the whole story about her ex-husband. She is so private. Then the bomb drops as it is learned that her

ex or not husband was leading a double life. He was married to both Alison and another woman. More motive stacks up on Alison and it does not look good. It is up to the Dinner Club members and J.J. in particular to find the answers. As her job as event planner J.J. has to put all the pieces together to come up with the perfect event. She uses these same skills to hunt down the answers and find the real killer.

Alison's ex/not ex's life is hard to filter through, but the Dinner Club is not going to give up until they prove Alison's innocence. J.J.'s favorite PI, Ty Devine is actually willing to help this time. He also seems to be warming up to her. And that is not the only man showing interest in her. The estranged husband's brother-in-law is not only hunky, but seems to enjoy her company. Luckily Ty is watching out for her and keeps her from being the next body to pop up. Action, intrigue, fun and great relationships make this installment my favorite in the series.

I think you could easily read *Marinating in Murder* without reading the other books in this series, but read them anyway. They are good too. I thought I knew who the killer was early on, then changed my mind as things started to be revealed. I did figure out what was going on a bit before J.J., but it was fun following her through all the action in the reveal. Foodies will love this book and this series. Great recipes are included as well. I agree with J.J. that cookbooks need more photos too, lol. A fun romp of intrigue filled with foodie fun.

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review as part of their ongoing blog tour\*

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## **Fred says**

*Marinating In Murder* is the third book in the A Dinner Club Mystery series.

The members of the Dinner Club have a planned picnic for their monthly meeting and are meeting at Alison's house to load everything in a couple cars and head for North Hero Island for their picnic. When Alison comes out and unlocks her SUV and lifts the hatchback she lets out a scream. Inside the SUV is the body of her estranged husband. They were in the process of divorcing, but James never has the time to finalize the paperwork.

J.J. Tanner and the rest of the Culinary Capers club members want to help Alison, but decide it is best to let the police to handle the investigation. But then they receive a startling revelation that changes their minds. It seems that James was a bigamist. With this, they start to investigate James' background. Facts of his life are hard to come by as neither Alison or #2 wife know very little about the man they married. What little he told them turns out to be a total fabrication.

Much to J.J.'s surprise, Ty Devine, a PI, seems to have changed his feelings and has offered to help with the investigation. Could things be warming up between them? They appear that they might be, but then the brother of wife #2 also seems to be making a play for J.J.'s attention.

This was another exciting and well-told story with an interesting and believable cast of characters. I felt I knew who the killer was, but still was kept guessing until the exciting end.

Delicious sounding recipes are also included with the book.

Will be watching for the next book in this delicious series.

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