



# Not a Creature Was Purring

*Krista Davis*

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**Santa Claws is coming to town and checking his list for a murderer—as the *New York Times* bestselling Paws & Claws Mysteries continue...**

*Inn owner Holly Miller finds it ruff staying cheerful over the holidays when the dead body of a beloved businessman turns up in the pet-friendly town of Wagtail, Virginia.*

Inspired by her German heritage, Holly's grandmother has arranged for Wagtail to have a Christkindl Market packed with goodies and decorations for the howliday tourists. But Holly's mood takes an unseasonable turn when she learns that her old flame and childhood friend Holmes Richardson has brought his fiancée home—and she'll be staying at the Sugar Maple Inn...

A love triangle becomes the last thing on Holly's mind when her Jack Russell Trixie's nose for trouble leads her to the corpse of a pet clothing tycoon. Now Holly and her dedicated detectives—Trixie and Twinkletoes the cat—must sniff out the killer to keep Christmas from going to the dogs...

**Delicious recipes for owners and pets included!**

## Not a Creature Was Purring Details

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Author : Krista Davis

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# From Reader Review Not a Creature Was Purring for online ebook

## Amanda says

As if Wagtail wasn't charming enough, this fifth book in the series is set around Christmas, adding all the magic of the holidays to the pet-friendly Sugar Maple Inn and its small mountain town. Holly, co-owner of the inn with her grandmother, is tasked with catering to the family of her friend Holmes' fiancée, a wealthy, eclectic, demanding brood. With her strong feelings for Holmes and some crimes around town, and Holly isn't having the most relaxing holiday. This is a fast-paced, fun mystery with plenty of twists and turns. I loved all the festive events around town: the marketplace on the green, Santa Paws meeting with all the kids and pets for photos and treats, elves delivering gifts to children and those in need. This has quickly become one of my favorite series, and Not a Creature Was Purring definitely added to my Christmas spirit. I can't recommend this book and the Paws & Claws mysteries enough!

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## LORI CASWELL says

### Dollycas's Thoughts

Welcome to Wagtail, Virginia! The perfect escape for dogs, cats, and their persons! That is until one of the Sugar Maple Inn's guests ends up dead.

The town is celebrating the holidays with a Christkindl Market. Food and gifts can be found in several kiosks around the green. The homes are all decorated too. Some with the usual holiday fare but there is one who has taken the decorations to new heights, including some holiday music.

Christmas has also brought a pet clothing business owner to the inn with his whole family. This also brings Holmes Richardson to town with his fiancée. Holly still has feelings for Holmes but she knows she has to remember the woman is a guest at the inn, so she tries to put a smile on her face and attend to the woman's needs, no matter how outlandish they are.

To say that the Thackleberry family tree is full of crazy may be putting it mildly. They are a couple of good souls in the bunch but most feel quite entitled due to the family's wealth. Holmes' bride to be is by far the worse. When their patriarch is killed it is easy to put them all high on the suspect list.

All my favorite characters have returned including Gingersnap, Twinkletoes, and Trixie. Krista Davis does such a great job of character development, pet or person. They come alive in these pages. The series characters continue to evolve and the guest characters fit into the mix so well. They are all lifelike and easy to like or dislike as the case may be.

Visiting Wagtail at Christmas would be spectacular. They do know how to throw a holiday, even with a dead body. The town tries to not let a murder investigation slow them down. The author has described every setting in such detail that is very easy to imagine you are there.

The plot weaves together a fantastic mystery and an interesting romantic triangle. There are plenty of suspects with a motive that singling out one is very difficult. It was fun chasing down the clues in a little winter wonderland. Holly treads lightly into Holmes relationship with Norma Jean. As his friend, she wants

him to be happy, as a woman falling in love with him she wants him to be with her.

If I had a tail it would be wagging. This is an excellent mystery and perfect to curl up with on those wintery, blustery days ahead.

If you are new to the series, start at the beginning and enjoy. The book/series would also make a great gift for the pet-loving reader on your list.

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## **Fred says**

Not A Creature Was Purring is the fifth book in the A Paws And Claws Mystery series.

I wish my Westie and I lived in Wagtail, Va. It's a beautiful little community with friendly residents, a nice assortment of shops and eateries and best of all, pets are welcomed everywhere.

Christmas is just around the corner and Holly Miller is looking for to her first Christmas since returning to Wagtail. But, on the downside for Holly, her old boyfriend is also returning for Christmas and will be bringing his fiancée.

Dale Thackleberry and his extended family, a wife, ex-wife, daughter, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren have descended on Sugar Maple Inn to celebrate their family Christmas. But from the beginning, it is anything but a holly jolly time. Brother and sister grandchildren are bickering with each other, Dale's second wife doesn't understand why there has to be a "family" Christmas. Most of the family is more interested in what presents they might be getting, rather than putting aside personal feeling and make the best of a trying situation. To add to this situation, Holly learns that Holmes, her former boyfriend, fiancée is one of Thackelberry's grandchildren.

Holly, dressed as one of Santa's helpers, is out delivering presents to needy families in Wagtail when Trixie, her Jack Russel Terrier, shoots off towards the huge inflatable Grinch that Rupert Grimpley has in his yard. As Holly goes to get Trixie out of the bottom, she notices a body inside. It is soon learned that it is Dale Thackelberry.

Holly's first thought is that one of the family may have gotten tired of waiting for their share of the family fortune. Even Doris, Dale's mother, has suspicions that it might be a family member and asks Holly to do a little investigation. Once again, Trixie and Twinkletoes are up for another challenge and are on board to help Holly investigate this tragic event.

Recipes for humans and pets are also included with this book

I will be looking forward to seeing what adventures Holly, Trixie and Twinkletoes will be involved in.

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## **Linda says**

Sugar Maple Inn in Wagtail, Virginia is all booked up for the Christmas holidays. When Dale Thackleberry's body is discovered inside of an inflatable Grinch by the corpse-sniffing Jack Russell terrier, Trixie; Holly

Miller and her grandma Oma (the inn owners) wonder if someone in the pet clothes manufacturer's quarrelsome family decided Dale was a Grinch and made sure he'd never see another Christmas morning. Holly's precious pets, Twinkletoes and Trixie act as mommy's guards and help thwart the bad guys.

Author Krista Davis strings a chain of clues like twinkling lights around a tree lighting the way to answers as to whodunnit. The sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feel of the holiday spirit are skillfully portrayed throughout the story. Delicious recipes at the end for your cooking pleasure.

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### **RebeccaS says**

What a fun holiday mystery. This book made me so happy and really helped with my Christmas spirit. This is the first book I've read in this series, but it won't be the last. Krista Davis is quickly becoming one of my must read authors.

Holly Miller owns a special Inn in a special town. Wagtown is the most pet-friendly place you will ever see. The Inn caters to guests who want to travel with their furry friends and even serve cat and dog specialties on their menu. Christmastime in this special town is even more festive with the German-style Christkindl Market. When a dramatic family comes to stay at the Inn for Christmas, all chaos breaks loose. Holly quickly finds herself embroiled in the drama and also trying to solve a murder.

I love the characters in this story. Holly and her lovable companions Trixie and Twinkletoes are too cute and make the story even more enjoyable. I love how they both play their part in help Holly try and solve the mystery. I also enjoyed the other characters such as Holmes, Oma, and even Aunt Birdie. I absolutely loved the descriptions of everything from the Inn, to the holiday celebrations, to the various pets that make this series special. This is a town I would love to visit myself.

As for the story, I really appreciated the connection between the "family of interest" and Holly. It made more sense for her to be snooping since she has a (somewhat tenuous) tie to the suspects. Though she didn't do a ton of snooping around town, she was privy to many intimate conversations and was able to gather most of her information that way. I was thrown off the trail many times and was completely surprised by the culprit. I also liked learning more about Holly's personal story.

I definitely recommend this cozy mystery, whether it is the holiday time or not. I cannot wait to return and read the rest of these novels.

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### **Cat Tutt says**

I couldn't wait until the holidays to read this one, and I'm kind of bummed that I didn't because it was full of Christmas cheer! Sometimes a book is set at the holidays, but it isn't really all that holiday oriented... not the case with this one! It adds so much ambiance, to have the season brought into it so completely. I think potentially my favorite thing about it was imagining all the pups and kitties in their holiday finery.

The mystery was good, although not my favorite from this series. Still, I was shocked by the resolution, as usual. And though the very end had nothing to do with the mystery itself, it was QUITE satisfying!

All in all, this one was another joyous read in the Paws and Claws series. Not my favorite, but a ton of fun and well worth a read.

\*4.5 Stars rounded up to 5

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### **leslye says**

With the season upon us, I thought I'd jump in and read some holiday books, and spending Christmas in Wagtail, Virginia was such a great place to start. ... So much fun!! This fifth book in the *Paws & Claws* series is my favorite so far. From the gorgeous cover art (that includes our favorite duo, Trixie and Twinkletoes)... to the mystery reveal at the end, the pages just seemed to turn themselves!

As if Wagtail wasn't charming enough already, adding all the magic of Christmas to the Sugar Maple Inn and the small mountain town set such a beautiful scene for holiday cheer. I loved all the festive events around town- the Christkindl Market on the green, "Santa Paws" meeting the kids and pets, elves delivering gifts to those in need. Everything in Wagtail is decked out, lit up and happy..... until the Thackleberry clan comes to town! Holly must cater to this wealthy, eccentric, snobby family and in return gets much more than she bargained for. When she and Trixie find a dead body, the celebrations take a turn, and Aunt Birdie becomes the prime suspect. ...(oddly enough, I've always loved cantankerous Aunt Birdie, envisioning Disney's Cruella Deville with her black and white hair, Lol!). But this time we do get to see another side to her, and that was nice.

Animal lovers will especially love the scenes with all the pets and their "people". Twinkletoes stole the spotlight from big sis, Trixie, this go round. She was truly the star here! Holly still loves Holmes, and the two grandmas are up to their usual matchmaking. Fans of the series will love this new edition, and it leaves a few threads hanging, making me hopeful for more novels to come. I'm ready for the next one!

PS. .... did someone say *Fluffy Cake* !?

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### **Crittermom says**

Santa Claws has delivered up a mystery that is certain to delight animal lovers and mystery lovers alike. The newest mystery in Krista Davis's bestselling Paws & Claws series is a wonderful holiday themed treat that serves up pets and corpses aplenty. Wagtail, Virginia is a pet lover's dream - a town devoted to pampering humans and their beloved pets, where there is no such thing as "no pets allowed". In this installment, Christmas is on the horizon and Holmes has brought his fiancée and her family to Wagtail. Seeing Holmes with his glamorous, self indulgent and snobbish bride-to-be is difficult to handle but things get worse when Trixie finds a corpse - that of Holmes's fiancée's grandfather, a successful businessman beloved in Wagtail for his generosity and kindness. Unfortunately the rest of the family doesn't follow his example, ranging from the vicious and cheap Vivi to the self-indulgent wastrel Blake. When Holly's aunt falls under suspicion, it becomes all the more important for Holly and Trixie to find the real murderer.

Not a Creature was Purring is a great cozy that will definitely appeal to fans of the series and newcomers

alike. Krista Davis is a fantastic storyteller who has a wonderful way of characterizing pets and their beloved owners. If you enjoy pet cozies, you should not miss this series.

5 / 5

I received a copy of Not a Creature was Purring from the publisher and Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

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### **NicoleG says**

Another fun mystery in the Paws and Claws series! The only disappointment is that Wagtail is not a real place! I would definitely want to live there!!

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

Author Krista Davis doesn't disappoint with her new Paws & Claws Mystery.

NOT A CREATURE WAS PURRING was such a fun holiday mystery. Krista Davis packed a lot into this 289 page book. This story had some many things going on. Including recipes for people and pets!

Author Davis introduced a new tradition to me, Christkindl Market/Christkindlmarkt or Christmas Market, which started in Germany. They originated with the celebration of Christmas during the four weeks of Advent. It's a Market with all sorts of decorations and wonderful items for Christmas shopping. This is something I've never heard of but truly enjoyed reading about, and another reason I love cozies so much, learning new things.

And of course there's a mystery. A brilliantly plotted one. NOT A CREATURE WAS PURRING had me so involved I lost all track of time. Searching for a killer with Holly and her pet detectives, while she's also dealing with the return of her childhood friend/flame, and his fiancée, was quite a ride! I was breathless by the time I reached the conclusion.

Give the gift of NOT A CREATURE WAS PURRING to yourself, and all your reader friends!

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### **Karen says**

I loved Not a Creature Was Purring, this was a great holiday read from a much loved and treasured series I read by Krista Davis. This mystery had all the things you love about the holidays and everything you love and hate about family gatherings. It was warm, felt genuine and still over the top enough to keep you engaged and entertained. I would love to spend time in Wagtail year round, but Christmas time seems just that much more special, and cozy even with the recent mysterious deaths. From the author descriptions of the

Sugar Maple inn, to the decorated golf carts, Christkindl Market in the square and holiday pet clothes, it is easy to fall in love with and feel like you belong in Wagtail. I love this series and I loved this book. If ever Hallmark should make a cozy mystery into a holiday special it is this book and this series! I read it in one sitting not wanting it to end. A Great Read and a Great series to gift someone this holiday season.

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### **Betty says**

I normally don't read books with a Christmas theme, however, this is one of the series, I like. It was true to form. Wagtail village was decked out in Christmas decorations and Santa's elves were getting all their Christmas wishes. The Thackleberry are gathering to celebrate Christmas at the Sugar Maple Inn. The family is honoring Norma Jean and her Fiance, Holmes before the spring wedding. Trixi found the Dale Thackleberry dead in the collapse caricature, Grinch. He has been stabbed several times. Aunt Birdie has been having an affair with the victim and becomes a person of interest. There are a few mishaps to affect the mood of the season. Later Trixie found the body of Vivienne, Dale's wife. Will Holmes break his engagement with Norma Jean? Who killed Dale and Vivienne? Recipes for deserts and let's are included. I recommend this book and series.

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### **Amy says**

A charming Christmas cozy! The author paints a vivid and detailed picture of Wagtail, West Virginia--a resort town where Holly and her family run an inn specially designed for dogs and cats. I felt like I was seeing all the decorations, eating the sumptuous foods, and personally meeting all of the guests. The book also marks Holmes' return home to announce his engagement to Norma Jeane, of the wealthy Thackleberry family where both of their families decide to spend Christmas vacation together at Wagtail. Holmes is also Holly's childhood love, which sets up a well-plotted romantic triangle. Unfortunately, one or more of the family members may have murdered Dale Thackleberry, the head of the pet clothing company. While Holly and her family do their best to comfort them, she is trying to find out who would want to kill him because the prime suspect is one of her relatives. But Dale has his own secrets and when revealed, unleashes multiple suspects who all have their own motives to want him dead.

This is the fifth book in the series but can be read as a stand-alone. This was my first read in the series and I didn't feel lost. The book moved slowly in the beginning and I was overwhelmed by the number of characters. After Dale's murder, I enjoyed the pace much more. The identity of the killer(s)?? kept me guessing until the very end of the book. There was no sex, graphic violence, or profanity. Ms. Davis also included delicious recipes, for both people and pets at the end of the book.

\*\*\*Thanks to the author for a complimentary copy of the book. My review is voluntary and contains my honest thoughts and opinions.

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### **April Schilling says**

I received this book in the mail today from Amazon and started reading it as soon as I opened it. Five hours later and I finished it. I loved it! Such a great series and this latest book did not disappoint at all!



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## QNPoohBear says

It's Christmas in Wagtail and Holly is thrilled to be one of the elves helping the less fortunate townspeople. One Grinch threatens to ruin Christmas for everyone and Holly's Aunt Bridie is at the center of it. She's also busy hosting the Thackleberry family, owners of a dog clothing manufacturing company. While Trixie enjoys being an ambassador of the brand and patriarch Dale Thackleberry is happy to play Santa Claus, unfortunately, one of the party happens to be the fiancé of Holly's old friend (and crush) Holmes. Norma Jeanne Blume, Dale's granddaughter is high-maintenance and high drama. No one likes her, not even her cousin Tiffany. Dale's third wife Vivi is also a drama queen who begrudges every penny spent. The in staff can't wait to be rid of them but Holly is determined to be nice for the sake of her friend. When Trixie sniffs out yet another dead body, the Thackleberries start pointing fingers-at each other and at Aunt Bridie. Holly knows Aunt Bridie may be crotchety at times but she's not a murderer. Officer Dave isn't so sure. Holly is determined to save her aunt and maybe she'll save Holmes in the process.

I just loved this book! The series gets better and better as it goes along. As you know, I LOVE Wagtail and want to move there right now. Wagtail at Christmas is even more charming with the cozy inn, good food, a Christkindl market, secret elves, and Santa Paws! It is magical! The whole thing may be a bit too twee for some people, but if you don't like the coziness and/or pet themed mysteries, don't read this series.

Not only was the setting charming but the mystery was great. I was really shocked and upset by the identity of the victim. Who would do such a thing? It seemed really obvious but of course it can't be TOO obvious. I had two suspects, then changed to another, finally to a third and I was wrong about all of them. The clues aren't there to be put together and solved.

I really loved Holly in this book. She remains mature and respectful of Norma Jeanne, despite everyone telling her not to be. I admired her for being that way.

Norma Jeanne and the Thackleberries are largely an unappealing family. I loved Dale! He's the greatest grandpa and only one of the grandkids appreciates him and only because they know the family secrets. Vivi, his third wife, does have some sympathetic points, but by and large, she's unpleasant. Dale's daughter, EmmyLou, is his only biological child. She's kind and sweet. I liked how she acknowledged her daughter's faults but loves her daughter anyway. I especially liked Maggie, her German Shepherd and the love EmmyLou and Barry have for Maggie. How did they get a daughter like Norma Jeanne? I also liked Linda, Dale's step-son's wife and her love of Christmas. Her daughter Tiffany is the most likable of her family. She's intelligent, practical, friendly and I felt sorry for her when her mother constantly put her down. Her brother, Blake, is completely horrid. He's shallow and seriously got on my nerves. I don't have any respect for him. The character development at the end is a bit too sudden and unrealistic but it's a Christmas story so it's fine. That's really my only negative about the book. I could have done without Holmes and his relationship drama. I was hoping Norma Jeanne would be nice and not stereotypical but Holmes handled it well and wasn't too idiotic.

As always the animals are the star. It's implausible for a terrier to sniff out dead bodies but I love Trixie so much. She's still a lot of fun and very cute with her antics. Clever Twinkletoes is the star of the story here. I'm not much of a cat person but I like Twinkletoes. I love how the animals help solve the mystery and are incorporated in every aspect of the story. This element makes the series stand out.

My only other question about the book is how Holly has the money to buy such expensive gifts for people? Helping the boy buy a sweater for his foster grandmother is one thing and I can even see buying the boy the one thing he wants for Christmas but her gift for Holmes was a bit much for their relationship.

The recipes sound great! I had to wake up today and make those gingerbread pancakes. One batch makes enough for an inn- a half batch makes enough for a private party.

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