

Media Kit



Wander Home
by Karen A. Wyle



Author Bio

Karen A. Wyle was born a Connecticut Yankee. After college in California, law school in Massachusetts, and a mercifully short stint in a large San Francisco law firm, she moved to Los Angeles, where she met her now-husband, who hates L.A. They eventually settled in Bloomington, Indiana, home of Indiana University. She now considers herself a Hoosier.

Wyle's childhood ambition was to be the youngest ever published novelist. While writing her first novel at age 10, she was mortified to learn that some British upstart had beaten her to the goal at age 9. She finished that novel nonetheless. After a prolonged detour, she returned to writing novels in 2010. Wyle has published her two novels, *Twin-Bred* and *Wander Home*, on October 15th (2011 and 2012), her older daughter's birthday. She is currently editing the sequel to *Twin-Bred*, and has another rough draft awaiting its turn.

Wyle has been a voracious and compulsive reader for decades. Her most useful preparation for writing novels, besides reading them, has been the practice of appellate law -- writing large quantities of persuasive prose, on deadline, year after year.

Wyle's voice is the product of many years of reading both literary and genre fiction. It is no doubt also influenced, although she hopes not fatally tainted, by her years of law practice. Her personal history has led her to focus on often-intertwined themes of family, communication, the impossibility of controlling events, and the persistence of unfinished business.

About Wander Home

Death is what you make it. . . .

Eleanor never wanted to leave the daughter she loved so much. The overpowering urge to wander -- to search, without knowing what she sought -- drove her away. She left little Cassidy in her family's loving care. But Cassidy and the others died in an accident before Eleanor could find her way home.

Now, they are all reunited, in an afterlife where nothing is truly lost: places once loved may be revisited, memories relived and even shared. Surely this is a place where they can understand and heal. And yet, the restlessness that shaped Eleanor's life still haunts her in death. Somehow, she must solve the mystery of her life -- or none of them will be at peace.

Author Q&A

Q. Is *Wander Home* the first book you've written?

A. *Wander Home* is my second novel. The first, *Twin-Bred*, was science fiction, addressing the question: can interspecies diplomacy begin in the womb? I've also published a short story about human cloning, "The Baby," in ebook form.

Q. What themes does *Wander Home* address?

A. The book deals with various aspects of family relationships, including forgiveness, communication, and the resolution of unfinished business. And then there's the unfinished business that people have with themselves. A related theme is the difficulty of knowing why people make the choices they make, and therefore, the possibility that the judgments we pass on other people will be to some extent unjust.

There is also what you might call a background theme pertaining to marriage: the different ways in which a marriage can be happy.

Q. Are the characters in *Wander Home* based on actual people?

A. My main character Eleanor is both a good person -- a *mensch*, to use the Yiddish term -- and a troubled soul, both of which were true of my late brother, although the details of their lives and struggles are not particularly similar. One particularly sweet moment between Eleanor and her daughter Cassidy comes from my own life, when my younger daughter was a baby. Eleanor's artistic talent is borrowed from my older daughter. As an old woman, Amanda looks like my maternal grandmother, of whom I have warm memories.

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(Author Q and A, continued)

Q. Do you have a favorite among your characters?

A. It'd be a close competition between Eleanor's father Jack and Jack's mother Amanda. Jack is a big strong hunk who's not afraid of strong and somewhat dominating women (including his wife Sarah). He's a thoroughly nice and affectionate fellow, and he's good with his hands. What's not to like? Amanda is (at certain points) a very talented ballet dancer, hailing from a different background than many of the inhabitants of that world. She's both shrewd and wise, with a talent for accepting people as they are.

Q. What's your favorite scene in the book?

A. I'm not good at choosing a favorite anything -- but I'm quite fond of the very first scene, and of the very last scene. Other contenders include Eleanor's introduction to the surprising features of the afterlife, and her reunion with Cassidy (the portion that takes place in Grandma/Amanda's kitchen.)

Q. Does the afterlife you portray in this book reflect your actual beliefs?

A. I have no definite faith that an afterlife exists, let alone any beliefs as to what in particular could await us. The afterlife I imagined for *Wander Home* was designed to help my characters assess and come to terms with the lives they had led. I also wanted it to be appealing in its own right: I created an afterlife that I would love to find at the end of my own journey, hoping that at least some readers would feel the same way. (Some have.)

Q. Please explain in twenty words or less why someone should read this book.

A. It's a unique and intriguing journey, with people worth meeting; and it tends to leave readers feeling happy.

Reviews of *Wander Home*

"[Wyle] knows how to tell a great and original story, and I can say with absolute conviction that I will read any- and everything she writes from here on out. . . . *Wander Home*] is a story about the consequences of the choices we make, and the difficulty even we can have in understanding – and living with – the reach of those consequences. Wyle's isn't the first vision of the afterlife that addresses these concepts . . . but it is one of the loveliest. . . . Wyle has a lovely way with language, weaving characters and setting together into a seamless tapestry of an after-life that I personally hope bears more than a passing resemblance to what's really out there. . . . A beautiful story, well-written and smoothly paced with characters you can't help but fall in love with."

--All Things Jill-Elizabeth

"I love the way the concept of an afterlife is made real in [Wyle's] book, and the way the various characters interrelate, relive moments and revisit places in their history *Wander Home* acts like a large, soft comfort blanket. But don't get too comfortable. It is a barbed comfort blanket, charged with emotion. An excellent read, which I heartily recommend."

--The Indie Tribe

"The afterlife that Wyle creates is brimming with memories, places to visit, and amazing people to meet *Wander Home* is a magical story that delves to the depths of the human psyche and is definitely recommended."

--The Coffee Pot

"*Wander Home* amazes with its unique plot, eloquent surprises, and characters that dazzle and run right into the heart. . . . With an astounding ending, *Wander Home* enraptures from the first page until the last. . . . [W]hen you find yourself in a chair, or on the bed reading *Wander Home*, you will want to read it again and again in order to experience the wonder and beauty of truly coming home. Big kudos to Ms. Wyle for a compelling and delicious novel full of mystery and elegant prose. A winner."

--The Review Broads

Where to Purchase *Wander Home*

Twin-Bred is available as a paperback, and as an ebook in various formats, at the following websites:

Amazon (Kindle): <http://amzn.to/WeIrf9>

bn.com (Nook): <http://bit.ly/TymtxO>

Smashwords (various ebook formats):

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/239628>

Amazon (paperback): <http://amzn.to/Z8fFj0>

bn.com (paperback): <http://bit.ly/TkulFu>

Learn More about the Author

Author website: www.KarenAWyle.net (where one can sign up for email alerts about new releases and events)

Author Facebook page: www.facebook.com/KarenAWyle

Author on Twitter: @WordsmithWyle

Author's blog: Looking Around, at <http://looking-around.blogspot.com>