

Gayle Wigglesworth's new book, "Intrigue in Italics," sends her heroine off on an adventure in Italy

By ALICIA ANGST, Observer Reporter

Kingwood author Gayle Wigglesworth's newest book, 'Intrigue in Italics,' is now available. This is the third book in her "Cozy" series.

Claire Gulliver, an ex-librarian turned bookstore owner from California, is heading off to Italy for the next adventure in her life. Her mother has been given a trip to an Italian culinary institute. Gulliver decides to tag along and 'do' Florence before meeting her mother and her best friend in Venice. On her first day, Gulliver recognizes an old friend who ignores her. The strange thing about it is that friend is supposed to be dead.

The first two books in the series, "Tea is for Terror" and "Washington Weirdos," have received high acclaim from her readers. Wigglesworth also has a cookbook available. "Gayle's Legacy, Recipes, Hints and Stories Culled from a Lifelong Relationship with Food" is filled with family recipes and traditions.

Wigglesworth prefers to lay out her stories in a basic outline before she gets started and fill in the pieces as she goes along, but sometimes the unexpected happens.

"I didn't know what the ending was going to be until I got to the ending," said Wigglesworth about her latest book. "It just came to me when I got there. Also, Claire's mother was originally only going to the cooking school. A totally new adventure developed during the writing. It got complicated during some of the fast-paced parts, so I had to stop writing one half and finish the other half and then work it back in."

This past year the author has been traveling to mystery conventions to spread the word about her books.

"I'm having a lot of fun with them," said Wigglesworth. "I love meeting fans. I also find new writers that I would like to read."

Wigglesworth enjoys writing about places that she's visited.

"I pick a place I've been that I want the readers to visit," said Wigglesworth. "I try and write it so that after you've read one of these books you feel like you've been there."

The author's next book, "Cruisin' for a Bruisin'," takes place on an Alaskan cruise. One of the characters from the first book will be returning.

Wigglesworth is a member of the Houston chapter of Sisters in Crime, The Final Twist, and Mystery Writers of America. Her advice for aspiring authors is that being a member of a group can be very helpful and encouraging.

"Writing is kind of an isolated career," said Wigglesworth. "It's good to join a group like that because it encourages you."

For more information on the artist, visit her Web site, www.gaylewigglesworth.com "Intrigue in Italics" is available at The Shadow Box Gallery, 23858 Highway 59 North, or at Murder by the Book at 2342 Bissonnet in Houston.

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