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"Red-haired Grace Wickham is an endearing and fully believable sleuth. Rosemary Miner's mystery, *ONCE UPON A TIME TO DIE FOR* is a page-turner. Set in nineteenth century New York State and full of rich detail and interesting history, the mystery pulls the reader into the hard-scramble lives of Victorian American working families and their sprawling, growing communities."—Anna Maclean, author of *Louisa* and the *Crystal Gazer*

"Herbalist Grace Wickham is one of the most engaging heroine-sleuths I've yet encountered. She drives this cleverly plotted and beautifully researched novel to an exciting and unpredictable ending. A fine debut!"—Nancy Means Wright: author of the Ruth Willmarth series: St. Martin's Press. —*THE PEA SOUP POISONINGS* (for kids) Hilliard & Harris Publishers.

"Rosemary Miner's debut historical mystery, *ONCE UPON A TIME TO DIE FOR*, vividly evokes life in the Adirondack town of Wevertown in the years after the Civil War. It also introduces an appealing amateur sleuth, Grace Wickham, who is the perfect person to solve the murders of a tannery owner and his wife because, as a doctor, she literally had her finger on the pulse of the community."—Leslie Wheeler, author of *MURDER AT GETTYSBURG*

ONCE UPON A TIME TO DIE FOR

The year is 1873 when on a late October night Grace Wickham is called to an accident at the local tannery. Recently returned from a year of medical school, Miss Wickham is the person people turn to as they once did her late father, the local doctor.

The body floating in a steaming tannery vat is the owner, Truman Reed, and the men who rush to answer the emergency bell each have reason to wish him dead. With the constable out of town, the coroner asks Gracie to look into things, for this was no accident.

Is the murderer the manager himself whom Reed threatened to fire? Was it his partner, Phineas Pierce, who wanted to sell? Troublemaker Wash Baker, whose pay had been cut? Recently fired night watchman Orrin Rooney? Reed's embittered wife? Or Chester Owens, who believes his son died following Reed's unreasonable orders? And why was a peddler hanging around the tannery that night?

As Gracie sees patients in her herbal practice and talks with neighbors, she puzzles over motives and evidence with Adirondack hotel owner and friend, Ambrose Baldoon, (the only man taller than Gracie's six feet). Another suspicious death complicates her investigation until clues converge and Gracie comes up with some surprising answers.



In a previous incarnation, Rosemary Miner taught 11th grade American History. Her historical cozy, *Once Upon A Time To Die For*, sets her Adirondack mystery in the 1870's.

Jobs in the local tanneries brought immigrants and her amateur sleuth is called to investigate the dead body floating in a tanning vat. Rosemary is a member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America.

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