



# WILDLING ROAD

# ABOUT ME

During the day, a lot of my time is spent out in the bush looking for people pretending to be dead and at night I turn that into what is quickly becoming the start of a very popular book series. I am the 2024 winner of the Scarlet Stiletto Award and Hawkeye Publishing - Manuscript Award. Prior to becoming a novelist, I was a news journalist. I have three other titles, one that was an Amazon international bestseller. I am also a dog trainer & photographer.





Set in Australia's high country, *Wildling Road* is a crime novel introducing rookie K9 Search and Rescue Officer, Mia Thomas as the main character.

When Mia and her dog Koda find the body of a missing teenage girl, she must battle the town's corrupt patriarchy, untamed wilderness, and her own past to uncover the truth before she becomes the next victim.

## ***In a town full of secrets - sometimes the only one you can trust is your dog***



Wildling Road is an Australian crime mystery set in the alpine high country. The story is told from a female perspective with rookie K9 Search and Rescue Officer Mia Thomas as the main character. She has a troubled past and fractured family, and as a result, has always felt like an outsider in the small farming town of Wildling.

The book begins when Mia and her border collie, Koda, are called to search the nearby alpine national park for missing teenager Lilly Daniels. They find her body at the edge of land owned by the town's most powerful farmer, Jack Stanton and when they cut across his property on the way back, Koda gives Mia a definite signal - there's another body nearby.

Lilly's death is quickly dismissed as misadventure because she and her best friend, Britt, are *those kinds of girls*, but Mia suspects there's more going on. As she begins to investigate, she comes up against the town's patriarchy - characters my readers love to hate - rugged terrain, and her own insecurities.

There are also three other female characters. Lilly's best friend Britt, her older sister Juniper, and Mia's grandmother Mimi, who is a sage-style character. Each has their own story arc and stakes, and together they solve the mystery and reiterate the theme across multiple ages and viewpoints - finding your voice and trusting yourself even in the midst of overwhelming adversity, represented by both the characters and rugged landscape.

There are multiple red herrings, a massive plot twist, and as the first book in a series, while answering all the questions, ultimately leads into Book (or Season) Two.

## STAKES

If Mia remains silent, the truth about the girls' deaths will stay buried, protecting the powerful men who control the town.

If she speaks up, she risks everything - her career, her family, her place in the only home she's ever known - and becoming the next victim.





## THEMES

Wildling Road includes overarching themes of:

- Belonging
- Overcoming systemic patriarchy
- Learning to respect and value the environment
- Self-discovery
- Redemption

## TROPES

Wildling Road has tropes including:

- Small town mystery
- Missing persons
- Found family
- Tight circle of suspects



## **MARKET**

My current readership is a female-skewing audience aged between 30-60, split evenly across Australia and the United States. *Wildling Road* is perfect for fans of *The Kettering Incident* and *The Dry*.

# KENP READS & REVIEWS



Wildling Road: Wildling K9  
Mystery Series - Book One  
by Nikki Lee Taylor



Lisa's review



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I absolutely loved this book! Complex characters with complex past and present lives was a thrilling read. Even though this is a book of fiction, I could absolutely believe a lot of the plot could or might've happened. Very well written and a great read that I didn't want to put down until the end.



Wildling Road: Wildling K9  
Mystery Series - Book One  
by Nikki Lee Taylor



Melissa's review



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I really enjoyed this story and can't wait for more of Mia and Koda. Mia (the FMC) is very relatable and her relationship with her dog, Koda, just warmed my heart. The story drew me in from the start and kept me on the edge of my seat wondering what was going to happen next. The relationships she lost and made throughout the book gave her a story and I'm looking forward to seeing how her journey progresses. I absolutely plan on continuing this series!



Wildling Road: Wildling K9  
Mystery Series - Book One  
by Nikki Lee Taylor



PAULINE's review



© 24 Feb 2026

I read an ARC copy.

Nikki Lee Taylor has created a delightful partnership between her human and canine characters, Mia and Koda. The other characters are well rounded and some of the men loathsome. I particularly enjoyed Mias's grandmother.

The depiction of country town life with the power of the patriarchy, the shunning of outsiders, the covering up of the misdeeds of important people all rings true.

Her descriptions of the setting of Wildling Road in the national park are superb.



Wildling Road: Wildling K9  
Mystery Series - Book One  
by Nikki Lee Taylor



Leanne's review



© 17 Feb 2026

The relationship between Mia and her dog Koda is what brings love and heart to the story. The blend of mystery, intrigue and unrelenting poignant moments had me turning the pages eagerly. I felt immediately drawn to the story and gave it all my attention until the end. I am so excited to see where the series leads.

# MEET MAPLE



Maple has appeared in numerous movies, TV shows and commercials including:

- Anyone But You (Starring Maverick's Glenn Powell)
- The TODAY Show
- Sunrise
- Big W
- Simparica
- Lyka
- Petbarn
- Pet Circle





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