

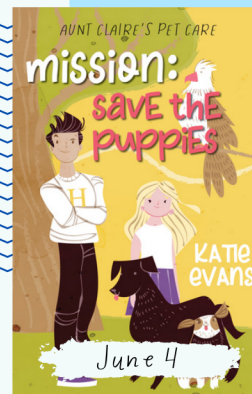
aunt claire's SECRET

AUNT
CLAIRE'S
PET CARE

Sisters Isabel and Maya might fight like cats and dogs, but the one thing they can agree on is that Aunt Claire is hiding a big secret in her small-town veterinary clinic—and they're going to find out what it is.

When Aunt Claire is kidnapped and her animals are stolen, the girls must work together to save her. But doing so could expose her top-secret research to the world and allow the data to fall into very dangerous hands.

This tale of courage, wit, and sisterhood is perfect for fans of *Minerva Keen's Detective Club*.



the adventure continues in 2024

MEET the author

Katie
Evans



Katie Evans is the mother of an Andrew-style jock whose humor inspires her writing. Katie lives in Phoenix, AZ, with her husband Bill, son Tyler, mom Mary Ann and dog Benny the Jet, who wrote a portion of this book by walking on the keyboard. She loves to write and read with her favorite bookworm, her niece, Miley Ann.

Did you ever want to be a veterinarian? A secret government agent?

As long as I can remember, I wanted to be a writer and Aunt Claire's Secret is my first published book, so this is my dream come true! I wouldn't mind being a skilled hacker though!

What inspired you to write Aunt Claire's Pet Care?

Honestly, nothing in particular. I'd been writing a lot and this idea came to me slowly, then refused to leave me alone until I wrote it, rewrote it, and rewrote it some more.

This series was a labor of love, but I did love every minute of working on it.

Which character do you relate to the most?

Daisy, because of our shared love of snacks.

What three words would you use to describe Isabel? Maya?

Isabel – feisty, smart, and passionate; Maya – determined, loyal, strong

Who is your favorite literary villain? Did they influence how you created the bad guys in Aunt Claire's Pet Care?

My favorite villain is Dolores Umbridge. I think she and Dr. Rodriguez's love of power are aligned, but luckily Isabel and Maya don't have school with him.

ExCERpts

AUNT
CLAIRE'S
PET CARE
book one

"There's only one student capable of that kind of hacking," Isabel heard him say. Tavi turned around and gave Isabel a nervous look. This time Isabel did manage to smile at her.

Principal Reed stuck her head in the door and beckoned to Isabel. She knew it was coming. She'd already packed up.

"So, you figured out what we're doing here?"

Maya nodded.

"Is genetic modification illegal? Is that why this is a secret?"

Aunt Claire shook her head. "I don't even know where to begin explaining this to you."

"Is that why you keep your lab a secret?" Isabel asked.

"Not exactly, though that's part of it. I am working on GMOs that could really help people in need. My work is funded by a grant that sees the benefit in this kind of research. So, I'm working in partnership with other scientists to help create service animals. If I could teach a dog to speak, it could perhaps call for help if a disabled person fell. But there are other people out there who see GMOs as a potential for all kinds of different things--like unnaturally strong guard dogs or animals that could be used like weapons. Some researchers see this as a way to make a lot of money. If the information fell into the wrong hands, it could be used for anything."

"Humor me, Steve," Claire said. "How is this going to play out?"

Steve chuckled, "We, at Gennovations, have funding far beyond yours. We have as many researches as we could ever need. We have all the best equipment. We are going to solve this puzzle first, and we are going to solve it better."

"Humble as ever, aren't you?"

Isabel's eyes were wide as she stepped slowly around the room in the light. She stopped at the place where she'd seen something glow. A snake lay coiled up in the back corner, looking at her, sticking its tongue out.

"You glow in the dark," she said, as if the snake knew what that meant.

She waited until Aunt Claire went into the exam room to sneak back into the lab. She slipped inside and kept the lights off. She went straight to Herbert and slipped him a treat, hoping he wouldn't give her away. She scratched Daisy behind the ear before waking over to the desk in the corner and powering on the computer.



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