

Kathleen Ernst  
WRITING AT THE INTERSECTION OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THE PAST  
cloud-studded blue sky.



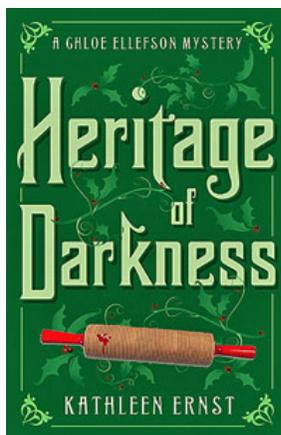
## Chloe's Tomato Wild Rice and Kale Soup

The following is from *Heritage Of Darkness*, the fourth book in the award-winning Chloe Ellefson Historic Sites mystery series by bestselling author Kathleen Ernst.

*"I'm making tomato soup with wild rice and kale," Chloe told Violet.  
"As Roelke's grandma used to say, sometimes the only thing you can  
do for people you care about is make sure they eat a good meal."*

42 oz. of chopped tomatoes (about 5 cups)	¾ c. cooked wild rice
1/3 c. red cooking wine	1 cup chopped onion
½ t. each of dried rosemary, basil, and thyme	1 clove garlic, minced
1 c. milk or 4 oz. cream cheese cut in small pieces	1 T. olive oil
½ to 1 c. minced or chopped kale (optional; it has minimal effect on taste, but adds a nutritional boost)	½ to 1 t. honey

Sautee onion and garlic in olive oil over medium heat in a large kettle until onion is translucent, about three minutes. Add spices and sauté one more minute. Add tomatoes and heat to a simmer. Add wine and simmer for half an hour. If the soup seems too watery, cook for another 15 minutes. Add chopped kale. Add milk and/or cream cheese and continue to cook, stirring until smooth. (If you use cream cheese, this will take some time, but the soup will taste fine if there are bits of unblended cream cheese.) If the soup tastes too acidic, stir in a little honey. Stir in cooked wild rice. Serves 4.



Dark Secrets Hidden In Norwegian Traditions. For curator Chloe Ellefson, a family bonding trip to Decorah, Iowa for rosemaling classes seems like a great idea—until the drive begins. Chloe's cop friend Roelke takes her mother's talk of romantic customs good-naturedly, but it inflates Chloe's emotional distress higher with each passing mile. After finally reaching Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Chloe's resolve to remain positive is squashed when she and Roelke find Petra Lekstrom's body in one of the antique immigrant trunks. Everyone is shaken by the instructor's murder, and when Mom volunteers to take over the beginners' class, Chloe is put in the hot seat of motherly criticism. As she investigates, Chloe uncovers dark family secrets that could be deadly for Mom . . . and even herself.

*Heritage Of Darkness* is available as a trade paperback through local independent booksellers and from national chains like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and others. Electronic versions of the book are available for the Kindle, Kobo, and Nook e-readers. More about the story can be found online at <http://www.kathleernerst.com/heritage>.