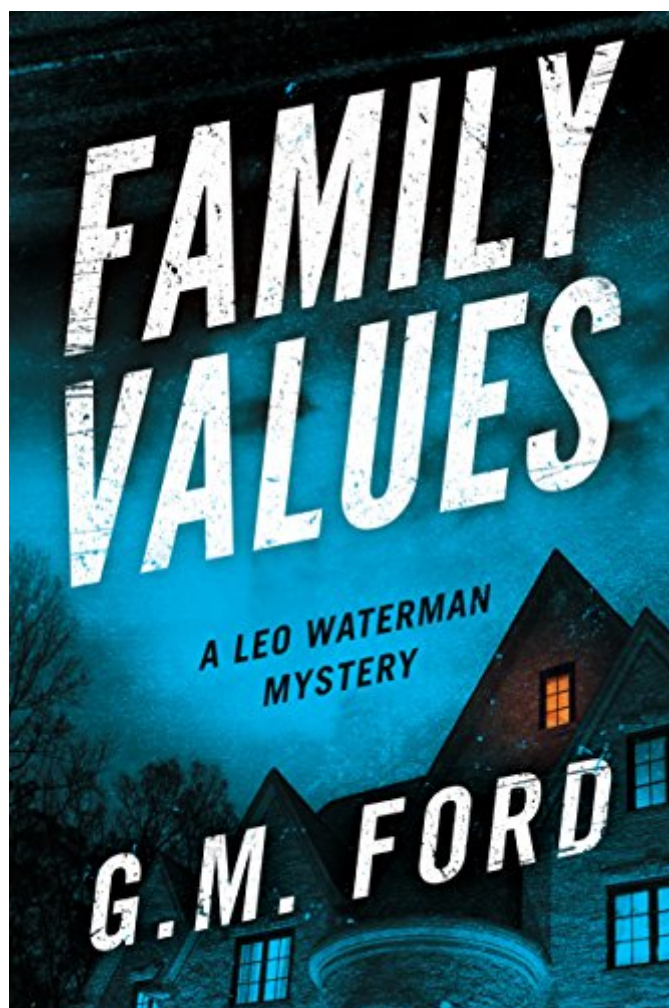


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# Family Values (A Leo Waterman Mystery)



## Synopsis

Returning to Seattle after a business trip, retired PI Leo Waterman is shocked to find his girlfriend, Rebecca Duvall, unconscious on the bathroom floor, her house filled with gas. Officials believe it was a suicide attempt in the wake of a humiliating scandal. Under investigation for dereliction of duty, she'd been suspended from her job as medical examiner for King County. Leo knows Rebecca too well and is determined to prove her innocence and clear her name. Most important, he wants to find out who tried to kill her. Despite the prosecuting attorney's claims of a solid case, Leo rounds up his ragtag team of miscreants to find the truth. The investigation leads straight to The Highlands. There, behind the locked doors of one of Seattle's most exclusive gated communities, old money can afford to bury older family secrets. But for Leo, unearthing them is going to trap him in a conspiracy that is deadlier, and far more personal, than he feared.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Great to have Leo back in action. Perhaps the most engaging and fast paced opening of any in this

series. Glad Ford brought in the zoo characters, even if in a diminished role this time out. Just a great story with the usual wit. My one continuing quibble is with Ford writing about people using firearms but having no clue as to how they actually work or perform, just a little time on the internet and he could square this issue.

Once upon a time I bought *Who in Hell is Wanda Fuca?* just for the title. I met Leo Waterman and his gang and revelled in every word. Each book has been better than the last: true to Seattle, true to its characters and true to the best of Classic Mystery. *Family Values* deserves a wide reading.

Ton of fun. So glad to get the Waterman series back. Hope there's more to come. Over the years I've bought them all, first on paper and then for Kindle. They're such a fun re-read once in a while. This one might be my favorite.

As always, I thoroughly enjoyed this Leo Waterman story. I never know what fix he is going to get into next. A good guy just trying to do what's right but at the same time, not letting the creeps get away with the awful deeds they heap on decent people. I love it!! You can't miss with this series or any book written by Mr. Ford. Anxiously awaiting the next installment! It is always worth the wait.

Always enjoy his books. A good read, entertaining and kept me reading when I had other I should have been doing.

I love this series, this is the best. Thanks G .M. do not need 9 more words to say I loved this book.

“They were standing inside the door when I came out of the bathroom. Two of them. Matching gray suits, milling around like the owned the joint. Something about carrying a gun in one pocket and the power of the state in the other changes the way a person relates to the universe. For as long as I could remember, that particular sense of privilege has always pissed me off. Leo Waterman is a solid citizen now, no longer the scruffy Seattle PI that he was when our series began. But now that he has a lovely home and a good woman—well, sometimes anyway—he also has more to defend, and is less fettered by economic constraints. Those that have loved this series from the get-go should go go go to their nearest book seller or favorite website and get get get this book. New readers can jump right in, but likely as not, you’ll want to go back and get the rest of the series once you’ve

seen this one. Lucky me, I read it free thanks to Net Galley and Thomas and Mercer, but it's worth the full jacket price. It is for sale now. Leo returns from vacation to find Rebecca Duvall, the love of his life, on the bathroom floor with a needle in her arm. Her reputation has been damaged by a suggestion of corruption, but Leo knows this is no suicide attempt. Her job as medical examiner is on the line now, and so Leo enlists the help of his boisterous investigative squad to untangle the mystery of who wants Rebecca not only fired, but dead. Ford tells the story with the gut-busting edgy humor for which he is known. He takes a playful jab or two at gender fluidity; at times this part feels a little excessive, but that's not where the story lingers. There are a million twists and turns as our impulsive PI goes where everyone tells him he should not. "I went out to see Patricia Harrington today. Don't [fool] with those people, Leo. There are some arrhythmia-worthy attack scenes, and the plot wholly original and free of formulaic gimmicks. The streets and alleys of Seattle and the hinterlands beyond are all rendered immediate and palpable. Ultimately the heart of the tale is revealed by Leo's regard for Seattle's homeless men and women, some of whom were once friends of his late father. It is them he turns to for extra eyes in a difficult situation: They were great for stakeouts, as long as it was somewhere downtown. They could hang around all day and nobody paid them any mind because society has trained itself not to see the poor and the destitute. That way, we don't have to think about how the richest society on earth allows so many of its citizens to live in the streets like stray dogs. The snappy banter between Waterman and Seattle cops is always delightful. It's even better once we add a pair of fake UPS guys, some thugs known as the Delaney brothers, local ruling scions, and poor Rebecca as the straight character representing all that is sane and normal: "Oh Jesus! What now? Locusts?" The narrative is fresh, funny, and entirely original, avoiding all of the formulaic foolishness that makes old lady schoolteachers like this reviewer peevish. The ending will make you want to sing. Altogether, this novel is an unmissable treat.

I love G.M. Ford (although you have to wonder about a man named after two car manufacturers.) I love the fact that Leo Waterman has never lost faith with his homeless buds: George, Ralph, Harold, men of substance during the reign of Leo's father's mayoralty, who fell hard when they became entangled in the schemes of the Sr. Mr. Waterman. I love the fact that Leo always has his eye out for the ones who can't protect themselves, in this instance the Korean girl prostitutes. As with all P.I.

types (although Leo is not a practicing PI at the moment) Leo does not hesitate to take on the bad guys, the higher up the better, The fact that the battle began with the defense of his lady love, after two attempts to murder her, just makes it more satisfying. And, in this book, I love Gabe - whoever "they" might be! I definitely want to see Gabe in the next book!!! These books have always made me laugh out loud. Earlier in the series it was more about the antics of the homeless army. Now, it is in the inventiveness of the story line, and quotes like "a dose of antibiotics big enough for a rhino with the clap" or doggie cosplay (don't ask.) Mr. Ford, whether you really are a retired astronaut or not, I promise that if you keep writing, I'll keep reading.

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