

FamilyFiction

September 2018

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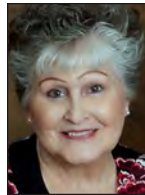
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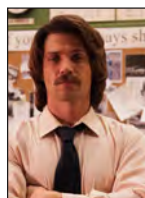
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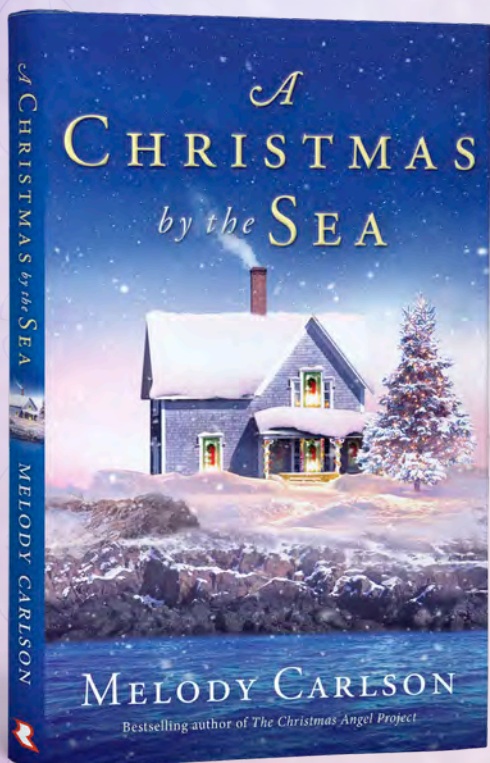


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When Wendy Harper inherits her family’s beachside cottage in Seaside, Maine, she sees it as a way to finally pay off the debts that have mounted since her husband died. Her twelve-year-old son, Jackson, sees it as an exciting new start in a life that has grown rather gray without his father.

Before it can be sold, the neglected property must be renovated before Christmas. But the charming town, along with local craftsman Caleb Colton, pulls on Wendy. She knows that the most responsible thing to do is to sell the cottage and return to Ohio, but the lure of the sea—and a fresh start—is hard to resist.

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The Realm Awards recognize excellence in Christian fiction in the categories of fantasy, science fiction, and horror/supernatural/paranormal.

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HISTORICAL: ELIZABETH BYLER YOUNTS

Finding Common Ground

The historical novelist explains why what connects us is so much more important than what divides us.

Women's fiction writer **Elizabeth Byler Younts** gained a worldwide audience through her first book, ***Seasons: A Real Story of an Amish Girl***. She has consulted on Amish lifestyle and the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect for two award-winning television shows. Her latest novel is ***The Solace of Water*** (Thomas Nelson), which offers a glimpse into the turbulent 1950s and reminds us that friendship rises above religion, race, and custom—and has the power to transform a broken heart. In this interview, the author shares how writing this novel was a different experience for her, outlines the challenges of writing about characters with a different frame of reference, and explains how her faith infuses her stories.

What can you tell us about *The Solace of Water*?

The Solace of Water ultimately is a story of unlikely friendship. The reader will meet two women who have isolated themselves from their communities due to their own burdens. When Delilah Evans moves to Pennsylvania and meets Emma Mullet, a reclusive Amish woman, no one anticipates the friendship that they will build.

Fighting against their instincts to balk at their differences and desire to hide their personal demons from each other, the two are forced together by Delilah's daughter Sparrow. This sets them on a course of forgiveness, laying down bitterness, and taking a firm grip on true hope.

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The novel involves finding common ground among divided communities. How much of that theme is driven by your own experiences?

After leaving home for college and then, a few years later, marrying into the Air Force, I began to really see how divided American culture is—race, religion, politics, socioeconomic, and even football ... and so much more. I began to recognize my own judgments and attitudes when I encountered someone who had a vastly different way of viewing things.

For years, the pervading themes on social media have been political and divisive. They hurt people, friendships, marriage, and skew so much of the view we hold about another person. What I realized, however, was when I was sitting at a table with some friend I might not agree with on Facebook, I still found a human I deeply loved.

I found that this person was speaking from their decades of life just as I was—trauma, burdens, soul-shaping experiences.

Disagreements didn't need to be spoken about because there was no time. There was too much good that connected us. These real connections are powerful if we allow them to be.

I didn't write *The Solace of Water* as a manifesto or as an activist, but just as a woman trying to desperately remind myself that there's no limit to love. Jesus proved that on the cross, and I need to do my best to live it out. The Bible doesn't tell me to be selective in my sisterly love—it's actually the exact opposite.

How similar are your experiences to those of the characters? Or were your own experiences just the spark?

The previous books were directly linked with the history of my family. Those memories and stories sparked a plot to write about.

The Solace of Water was entirely different. It was what I'd call a soul book. It started forming in my mind years before it was contracted. I just couldn't get these women out of my mind, and I knew that this wasn't just my family heritage surfacing; there was something deeper I needed to explore.

When, in my mind, I saw an Amish woman and an African American woman reaching out for each other in desperation, I needed to know their story. So, I began to dig.

Which character(s) surprised you the most writing this book?

That's hard! They each revealed things to me that I didn't expect.

I think ultimately it was Delilah. The outright bitterness she had toward her daughter, Sparrow, because of the death of her son was a burden to me. I personally had a hard time shaking her grief off my shoulders. It really did feel heavy and cumbersome and like a snake that wouldn't let go.

Sometimes she would make me so angry, but my desperation for her to find hope to reconnect with Sparrow was what drove me. I don't want to give away any spoilers, but the intermingling of forgiveness and hope and letting grief have its natural course broke me more than once as I wrote it.

What do you hope readers take away after reading *The Solace of Water*?

I have never written a book with the intention to teach someone or to prove some point, so I can only tell you what I learned. I learned that I'm not as good as I think I am. But in the same breath, I don't seem to love well the person God is growing me to be—instead I fight with Him too much.

I learned that bitterness will destroy everything it touches. I learned that withholding forgiveness is never worth it. I learned that the person on the other side of that inflammatory Facebook post has a story behind that post—it's usually worth hearing. I learned so much.

Why is storytelling such a powerful way to share truth?

I think the best way to answer this is with what an Amazon reviewer said about *The Solace of Water*: "I love when an author uses their gift to take readers to a place they have never experienced. But when they close the last page, they feel as though they have exchanged shoes and walked a journey unknown."

I think that encompasses why hard stories are so important. I get to walk in someone else's shoes as I write it, and then offer that journey to readers. It builds understanding and ultimately love for those we encounter.

Your story is set in the 1950s. What kind of research did you do to get the details right?

I did a lot of internet research, purchased several books that covered the 1950s life and racism in the North, and spoke with as many people as were willing. Cold, hard research will never give every scenario or the whole story, so I didn't want to give the impression that Sinking Creek is representative of every town in central Pennsylvania in the 1950s and the same for the African American and Amish communities. I just did my best to portray one story to the best of my abilities.

What are the challenges of writing about characters with a whole different frame of reference than yours?

In a word: terrifying. I was afraid on so many levels—writing out of my culture, writing filled with bitterness, self-harm, and hate. But yet, it still couldn't be without hope. It's always about hope.

Ultimately, I just had to fall into that uncomfortable rhythm and pattern of pure honesty as I wrote every scene. Honesty is just naturally uncomfortable in so many scenarios. That honesty had to invade every space of the book—the grief, the racism, the self-destructive behavior, the self-centeredness it takes to withhold love and forgiveness, and how all of that affects relationships.

I just had to face it as honestly as I could and then write it without holding back—ask my husband if I was easy to live

with while I wrote this book. My emotions were all over the place. All of this is counter-intuitive to me, and I had to fight the urge to just want to hide. But through Delilah, Emma, and Sparrow, I realized that nothing—no secret, no habit, no deed—is truly hidden.

How does your faith impact how you tell stories?

I believe faith is kind of like the concept of the sunrise or daybreak—which readers will pick up on a bit in the book also. When you feel all is lost, daybreak is still going to come, and it will sweep away the night and burst forth.

I had to remember that in every scene I wrote that might make the reader cringe, God was present every single time—and hope was on its way. God's not shocked, not scared, and not hopeless. I had to keep that point of view in order to finish this book.

I had to make sure that the characters, who I'd grown to love, would come to that knowledge and embrace it. That nothing happens outside of His hope.

What are the best ways that readers can support their favorite authors?

Write a review and tell your friends. Word of mouth about a book you enjoyed can be even more powerful than an expensive advertisement.

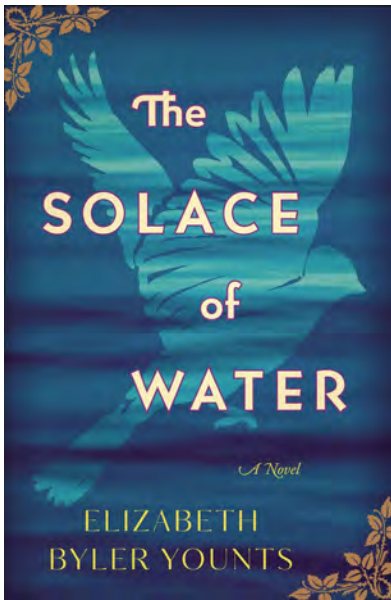
It's not in the nature of most authors to feel comfortable asking for help in spreading the word, but it is essential. So, if you loved *The Solace of Water* or another book you've read recently, tell people about it and bless the author with a review.

Elizabeth Byler Younts

And sending a message to the author of the book about how the book touched you—that's pretty awesome also. Those are the emails I won't ever forget. **FF**

Visit Elizabeth Byler Younts's author page here:

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The Solace of Water

Elizabeth Byler Younts
Thomas Nelson



After leaving her son's grave behind in Montgomery, Alabama, Delilah Evans has little faith that moving to her husband's hometown in Pennsylvania will bring a fresh start. Enveloped by grief and doubt, the last thing Delilah imagines is becoming friends with her reclusive Amish neighbor, Emma Mullet—yet

the secrets that keep Emma isolated from her own community bond her to Delilah in delicate and unexpected ways.

With the white, black, and Amish communities of Sinking Creek at their most divided, there seems to be little hope for reconciliation. But long-buried hurts have their way of surfacing, and Delilah and Emma find themselves facing their own self-deceptions. Together they must learn how to face the future through the healing power of forgiveness. **FF**

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SPECULATIVE: JILL WILLIAMSON

Biblical Truths for a Fantasy World

The award-winning SF & F author talks about creating an Old Testament allegory.

Award-winning author **Jill Williamson** writes fantasy and science fiction for teens and adults. She loves giving writing workshops, and she blogs for teen writers at the website **Go Teen Writers**. Her epic fantasy series **Kinsman Chronicles** started out as a nine-part eBook series that has now been collected into three volumes. The final volume is **King's War** (Bethany House): Will the gifts of Arman be enough to defeat the armies gathering against his name? In this interview, Jill shares the biblical parallels between her fantasy series, explains the unique challenges of creating an epic fantasy for different formats, and shares how her own experiences as an author impact how she teaches others to write.

***King's War* is the finale of The Kinsman Chronicles. What can you tell us about the overarching story of the chronicles?**

I wanted to tell the story about how Achan and Vrell's ancestors came to Er'Rets. Achan and Vrell are my heroes from the Blood of Kings trilogy. The Kinsman Chronicles has a different feel from the Blood of Kings trilogy for a couple reasons.

First, it takes place 500 years before Blood of Kings in an Old Testament-like world where kings do evil in the eyes of the Lord and few people follow God's ways. Second, I wrote these books in the style of general market epic fantasy writers like Robert Jordan, Brandon Sanderson, and George R. R. Martin, and by that, I mean, many points of view coming together to

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tell a massive story. Most of the trilogy follows half-brothers Wilek and Trevn's journey in bringing their people back to the truth.

Did you have the whole epic mapped out ahead of time —or did you discover it along with your characters?

No, I had very little mapped out, which was somewhat terrifying since these books were so long. I knew that each book would have a different setting. And I sort of knew how I wanted to end the last book.

The rest I brainstormed, wrote, then re-brainstormed when things got broken, which happened more often than I liked. Also, as I got to know certain characters, like Grayson and Oli, they stepped forward and demanded points-of-view chapters.

Although the chronicles are three “books,” the epic was originally spread out over nine eBooks. How did that change your approach to writing it?

It was challenging to try and give each part some sort of resolution. It was also hard to remember to keep all the parts at somewhat even lengths. I tried to break them up at the act breaks, so the second parts of each book tended to be longer than the first and third parts.

Also challenging was the editing schedule. For several years, I was constantly juggling different versions of different parts. For example, I'd be writing a first draft of part seven, rewriting part five, doing line edits on part four, and proofing part three.

And what was even more strange, the first part of a book would release on eBook before I finished the third part of that same

book. It was challenging not to be able to make final changes to the first part of a book.

What are the challenges of creating a fantastical world while keeping your story grounded in biblical truth?

The challenge is there are so many different interpretations of biblical truth, it's impossible to please every reader. In every world I create, I make my own list of rules and truths for that world, then I can measure characters' actions against that standard. But biblical truths depend on the story and my goal for the story.

The Kinsman Chronicles were allegory for an Old Testament world that would become a New Testament world, so I was able to make a lot of biblical parallels. A story I'm currently working on is about a much subtler biblical truth of being created in the image of God, so that story won't have as many biblical parallels for every little aspect of the story and world.

King's War is your twentieth book. (Congratulations!) What have you learned as an author that you wish you'd known starting out?

Thanks! I wish I would have better understood genres. I wrote whatever I wanted to write, as long as it was speculative, and I think that confused my readers in the beginning. I might have done a better job establishing myself and connecting with readers had I stuck with writing fantasy for my first 10 or so books, rather than dabbling in science fiction and contemporary and dystopian and children's.

I have some readers who liked all those genres from me, but overall, I hear from readers who like my fantasy and want more,



or like my contemporary and want more. It's been challenging to decide what to write next and how to brand myself.

In the time since you started, fantasy stories have continued to become more mainstream. (i.e., *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* went from being outliers to the norm.)

How does that affect you as an author?

It makes me want to write a story for the general market! Ha ha. It also makes discoverability much more challenging. With so many fantasy books out there, it becomes more and more difficult for people to find out that my books exist.

It's the difference of being in a pool of 100 fantasy books published in a year compared to 1,000. But I'm glad there are so many books out there for voracious fantasy readers.

You've written SF and fantasy for different age groups. How does writing for a particular audience change your approach to a story? Which comes first, the idea for the book or the audience you plan to write for?

So far, it's always been the idea that comes first. And with the exception of the RoboTales books, I never had an idea come up for a specific age group other than teens.

With the Kinsman Chronicles, since it was for Bethany House, it was going to be published for adults. I remember giving my first few chapters to my agent for feedback, and she told me all my characters were teens and that I needed some older characters. That was hard for me. I was so used to writing teens, it was really all I wanted to write.

And I think this was confusing to my readers too. Many assumed that since I wrote the Kinsman Chronicles, they were for teens. They didn't know Bethany House didn't publish YA books. They just knew *Jill has a new book*.

My approach overall is if the story is for children or middle grade, there will be little to no romance subplot in the story and it will be more plot focused. If the story is for teens or adults, there will be some romance and the plots will include more on character growth.

How does your faith impact how you tell stories?

My stories will always end with hope because of the hope I have. I don't mind writing about dark topics here and there, but I will always leave my readers with hope. Our world is obsessed with darkness—teen readers, especially—and I want to shine light into that darkness.

You teach about writing at Go Teen Writers. How does teaching writing affect how you approach writing your own fiction?

My answer is kind of backwards from the question. How I approach my fiction affects how I teach on Go Teen Writers. I'm the kind of person who learns something amazing and wants to share it with everyone yesterday.

As a writer, I'm always learning new things and trying them out in my own writing process to see how they fit. Whatever I learn, I share with Go Teen Writers because I know they are also refining their own writing processes.

What are the best things that readers can do to support their favorite authors?

The best things readers can do to support authors are to buy an author's books new from the author or any store, to write book reviews and post them in several places, to encourage their local library to order the books, and to tell people about the author's books whenever and however they can. **FF**

Visit Jill Williamson's author page here:

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King's War

The Kinsman Chronicles Book #3

Jill Williamson

Bethany House

Buy Now



One battle is over, but the war has just begun. They escaped the Five Realms and have found a home, but peace is much harder to find. The aftermath of the Battle of Sarikar should have been a time to mourn those lost in the slaughter. The enemies

of Armania are many, however, and when one steps back to regroup, another surges forward in attack.

While the remnant must take responsibility for the evil they brought to Er'Rets, it would seem that something just as dark already existed in this new world. The growing struggle between Armania and Barthel Rogedoth is but a pale reflection of a far more dangerous battle for the souls of humanity.

And so begins this awe-inspiring conclusion to Jill Williamson's Kinsman Chronicles. The Hadar family and their allies prepare to make one final stand in the name of Arman. There shall be war—in Er'Rets and in the Veil—to vanquish evil or be ruled by darkness. **FF**



HISTORICAL: TESSA AFSHAR

Love Never Fails

The historical novelist on why she wrote a biblical novel about “the many gaps left by our love.”

Tessa Afshar is the award-winning author of several historical and biblical novels. In 2011, she was named New Author of the Year in **FamilyFiction’s Reader’s Choice Awards**. Her latest novel, *Thief of Corinth* (Tyndale House), transports readers to first-century Corinth, a city teeming with charm and corruption. When the lives of a young woman and her father hang in the balance, they befriend a Jewish rabbi named Paul, whose radical message challenges everything they’ve fought to build. In this interview, the author shares how her personal story impacted the narrative, explains why first-century Corinth was an ideal setting for her adventure, and reveals why she took a familiar Scriptural passage in an unexpected direction.

A thief? What made you want to write about such an unusual profession?

Many of Corinth’s inhabitants were on the naughty side. In his letter to the house churches he helped to build, Paul said they had been greedy, immoral, drunkards, slanderers, and swindlers before Jesus grabbed hold of them (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

I wanted to write about a character that fit this mold. Someone who was a bit of a rascal with a lot of spunk and yet at the same time seemed lovable.

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What are some of the central themes you explore in *Thief of Corinth*?

One of the themes that emerges from the story is the lingering wounds of divorce. Another thread the novel grapples with is that of broken self-esteem: the way we try to fill that void by trying to win affirmation, affection, or admiration. Perhaps the most central theme of *Thief of Corinth* is that of love—the fallen nature of it, the imperfection and brokenness of it, and the sole solution to all our struggles, Jesus Himself.

Why did you choose Corinth as the location of this novel?

I wanted to build a central thread of the story around 1 Corinthians 13, which meant that the story would naturally be centered in Corinth. Corinth was a fascinating city, a boomtown, full of opportunity and excitement and danger.

It provided a thrilling background for a novel. My only regret is that I could not personally travel there before writing the story.

Divorce seems like a very contemporary problem, yet you write about it in a first-century context. What made you choose this topic?

Divorce is not a modern invention. For thousands of years, it has plagued human relationships. Today, it has become a commonplace part of our existence but remains as damaging as ever.

Having gone through the experience of my own parents' divorce when I was 13, I knew firsthand that the ensuing separations and divisions often leave a deep mark. Many of my readers have been touched by the wounds of divorce in a personal way. I wanted to write a story to which they could relate.



One they would find realistic, but ultimately encouraging.

All your books are written about people who lived in Old or New Testament times. Why do you think your readers connect with these characters who inhabited such different worlds from ours?

The people who inhabit the biblical world have managed to capture our hearts for thousands of years. Most of these characters are flawed men and women through whom God fulfills His purposes. In my experience, all of us struggle with various wounds. Soul wounds.

Biblical stories show us how in God's hands a broken person can live a healed and healing life. Our souls hunger for that truth regardless of the century we live in.

Please share a little of your personal story. Do you think your unique history influences your writing?

I was born in the Middle East to a nominally Muslim family. After my parents' divorce, my mother, my sister, and I moved to England when I was 14. Although I have lived in the Christian West my whole adult life, I never heard the gospel until I was in my mid-20s.

My journey of faith began with a dream. During a particularly difficult season in my life, I had a vivid dream. In my dream I was on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. From a distance I saw a man walking toward me and I knew instantly that this was Jesus.

As He drew closer, I felt very disappointed. You see, the only Jesus I had seen up to this point was portrayed by a couple of very good-looking actors in TV movies.

But the Jesus of my dream was not handsome by any stretch of the imagination! I thought, *this is Jesus?*

As He approached I realized, *of course this is Jesus*, for in His eyes I saw such depth of love and power that I almost fell to my knees. He asked me to follow Him and I did. In the dream not only did I know Him as Jesus, but I also knew beyond the slightest shadow of doubt that He was the Son of God, very God of very God, and unlike anyone else in the whole universe.

Shortly after that dream, friends began to ask me to go to church and Bible study. It was as though God Himself first opened a door in my inmost being and then He arranged for me to find out the facts! I simply fell in love with Jesus. There's no one like Him.

Both my upbringing in the Middle East and my powerful conversion experience influence what I write. These experiences seep into my stories, often without my awareness.

You choose a well-known text (1 Corinthians 13) and put an unexpected twist in the familiar words. Tell us why you chose this passage as a central theme for this novel...

To begin with, we Christians think of those verses as a wedding passage. But in fact, the original intent was for everyone to apply them to their lives.

Because we hear them so often, we have stopped listening to the words. But they are extraordinary! At the end of that section, Paul says, "Love never fails."

I wanted to examine the discrepancy between those words and our lives. Our love does fail, with shocking regularity, at least according to the 1 Corinthians 13 standards.

Thief of Corinth focuses on this discrepancy and asks us to honestly examine our relationships. The story helps us to intentionally invite the healing of God's own love into the many gaps left by our love.

What do you hope your readers will take away from this book? I hope they will feel encouraged that God can work through the messes we make with our mistakes, that He can cover the gaps we leave in our relationships. When our love fails, His remains perfect, faithful, and unshakable.

Tell us a little about why this novel is different from what we might expect from a more typical work of biblical fiction.

Increasingly, fans have been asking me for a book they could share with friends who are not practicing Christians. I wrote *Thief of Corinth* mostly for them. It is a more lighthearted story than you usually find in the genre. *Thief of Corinth* has more action and adventure than you may expect to find in biblical fiction.

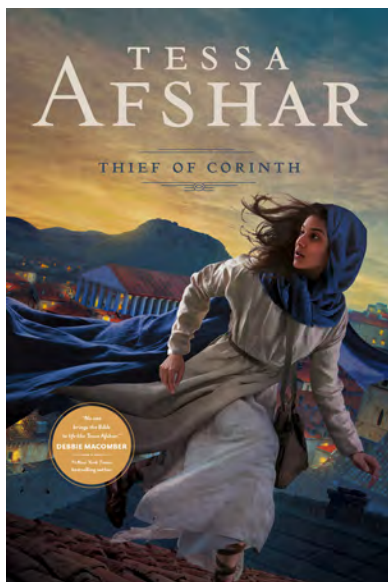
I hope my readers will be able to escape into a world that will make them laugh, cry, cringe, clap, and emerge feeling satisfied and strengthened. The novel still grapples with a few important issues, and of course it takes the reader on an adventure of faith. But that adventure occurs later in the story, giving the reader time to settle into the plot first before coming face to face with God.

Were there any characters from this novel you would like to bring back in upcoming books or is that a big secret?

There is a character named Theo who absolutely won my heart from the first page. Readers will discover a few shocking revelations about Theo's past in *Thief of Corinth*. But I want to tell the story of his future, hopefully in the final novel of this series which has been based on minor characters from the Book of Acts. **FF**

Visit Tessa Afshar's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tessa-afshar>



Thief of Corinth

Tessa Afshar
Tyndale House



First-century Corinth is a city teeming with commerce and charm. It's also filled with danger and corruption.

After years spent living with her mother and oppressive grandfather in Athens, Ariadne runs away to her father's home in Corinth, only to discover the perilous secret that destroyed his marriage: though a

Greek of high birth, Galenos is the infamous thief who has been robbing the city's corrupt of their ill-gotten gains.

Desperate to keep him safe, Ariadne risks her good name, her freedom, and the love of the man she adores to become her father's apprentice. As her unusual athletic ability leads her into dangerous exploits, Ariadne discovers that she secretly revels in playing with fire. But when the wrong person discovers their secret, Ariadne and her father find their future—and very lives—hanging in the balance. When they befriend a Jewish rabbi named Paul, they realize that his radical message challenges everything they've fought to build, yet offers something neither dared hope for.

Be transported back in time by this gripping tale of adventure, bravery, and redemption, and discover why Debbie Macomber says, "No one brings the Bible to life like Tessa Afshar." **FF**

The award-winning author of the **Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill** and **The Honeybee Sisters series**, **Jennifer Beckstrand** has always been



drawn to the faith and enduring family ties of the Plain people. Her latest novel is the Amish romance ***Home on Huckleberry Hill*** (Zebra Books): Huckleberry Hill's irrepressible 80-something matchmakers Anna and Felty Helmuth are at it again—and this time, they're willing to rough it to get the job done. In this interview, Jennifer explains the theme of the Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill series, shares how she writes about the Amish, and pinpoints why Amish romances are so popular.

Jennifer, *Home on Huckleberry Hill* is the ninth book in The Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill series. What's the overarching theme or connection for the series?

Anna and Felty Helmuth are well into their 80s, but they're not about to slow down or take life easy. They've taken on the monumental task of making matches for all their eligible grandchildren. After all, young people can't be trusted to find their own suitable mates.

Anna and Felty are persistent and a little hard of hearing, so protests from victims—er, grandchildren—fall on deaf ears. No one can resist Anna's schemes or one of her homemade potholders.



Without spoiling anything, what happens in this new book?

Home on Huckleberry Hill is different from anything I've written before because the hero and heroine are already married to each other. Mary Anne Neuenschwander has fallen out of love with her husband, Jethro, but because the Amish don't believe in divorce, Mary Anne moves into a tent in the woods behind the house.

When Anna and Felty get wind of Mary Anne's living situation, they decide that if they want to get Mary Anne and Jethro back together, they'll have to plan a little camping trip of their own.

How do you write about the Amish in a way that's accurate?

I've done a lot of research on the Amish, and I have friends in Amish country who are always willing to answer my questions. Every Amish community is different, so I try to make my books reflect the customs of the area I'm writing about.

What is it about Amish romances that makes them so popular?

I think Amish romances take people back to a simpler time without electronics and the trappings of the modern world. My readers know that when they pick up one of my books, they won't get any bad language, violence, or sex. They also like the messages of faith and family that are a big part of Amish romance.

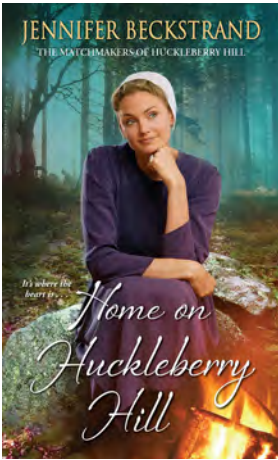
What do you hope readers take away after reading *Home on Huckleberry Hill*?

I hope readers learn that it's never too late to fix a mistake and that forgiveness frees and empowers us. Love will always find a way if we'll open our hearts to it. **FF**

Visit Jennifer Beckstrand's author page here:

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Jennifer Beckstrand



Home On Huckleberry Hill
Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill #9
Jennifer Beckstrand
Zebra Books

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Rachel Linden is a novelist and international aid worker whose adventures living and traveling in 50 countries around the world provide excellent grist for her stories. Her latest novel is ***Becoming the Talbot Sisters*** (Thomas Nelson): Twin sisters Waverly and Charlie Talbot have drifted far apart as they pursue opposite dreams of stardom and service to the poor. Now they must come together to face their fears, find their courage, and fight for what they love. In this interview, the author shares the inspiration for the novel, the challenges of writing about painful memories, and the ministry that her book supports



Rachel, *Becoming the Talbot Sisters* deals with struggles that many women face. What inspired you to write this novel?

The main themes of *Becoming the Talbot Sisters*—infertility, miscarriage, and the sexual exploitation of women—are all deeply personal for me. While living in Budapest my husband and I lost our first baby through miscarriage, so I really connect on an emotional level with this aspect of the story.

I also worked for seven years with a faith-based organization in Europe, partly focusing on helping women who had experienced trauma. Some had been trafficked and many had suffered exploitation and abuse.

I was so inspired by these women—by their strength and resilience—and wanted to write a story with a theme about sex



trafficking, but write it from a women-centered, relational angle that celebrated women's bravery in the face of great adversity.

Some of this novel is drawn from your own personal experience. What are the challenges of revisiting painful memories for the sake of a novel?

Revisiting painful personal memories while writing a story can come at an emotional cost, but it also can act as a therapy of sorts. When you really dig deep to explore past memories and emotions, it can be a cathartic process as you give voice to parts of your own personal story through the written word.

When you revisit and then view those feelings and events through the lens of the fictional story you are creating, it can help painful past memories take on a greater meaning and clarity in your own life.

How does your faith impact how you approach storytelling?

My faith permeates every story I write. I love to tell stories about hope, courage, and connection with a hint of romance and a dash of whimsy, all set in beautiful locations around the world.

But more than just a fun, exciting story, I strive to tell stories that are life giving and transformational. My characters, just like me, are on a sometimes rocky, sometimes unexpected journey toward relational healing, intimacy, and joy!

After reading *Becoming the Talbot Sisters*, what do you hope readers will do next?

I hope readers walk away from the book inspired to courageously face life's big challenges, choosing to be "every day brave." Every day brave is a simple concept but it's not easy. It means standing with courage against life's fear and challenges, no matter the circumstances.

As women, we can face tremendous challenges in our lives, our careers, our family relationships, our roles as wives and mothers, sisters and daughters, in matters of the heart, and in so many areas of life. Being every day brave takes guts, grit, and a steadfast hope!

A portion of the sales of this book are going to the ministry of Hope Dies Last. Can you share more about this ministry? What led you to support this particular ministry?

I am absolutely thrilled to be supporting Hope Dies Last and their amazing work with trafficked and exploited women in Europe. They are a Budapest-based ministry that focuses on creatively addressing the root causes of trafficking and sexual exploitation as well as supporting other anti-trafficking organizations

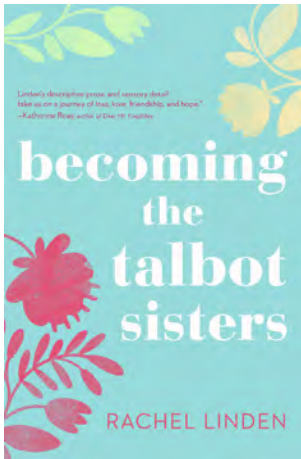
Rachel Linden

in Europe and working directly with trafficked and sexually exploited women.

I first connected with them about five years ago and since then have supported the organization financially, served in an advisory role for them, and participated with them practically in the work they do. I know the staff very well and am consistently impressed by their integrity, creativity, and dedication as they work to help exploited women across Europe. **FF**

Visit Rachel Linden's author page here:

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Becoming the Talbot Sisters

Rachel Linden

Thomas Nelson

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Stephenie H. McGee writes stories of faith, hope, and healing set in the Deep South. In her historical romance ***In His Eyes*** (By the Vine), Civil War veteran Major Westley Remington returns home on medical furlough to settle his father's estate at Belmont Plantation, only to find his home is being run by a fiery and independent woman—one many believe to be his wife. In this interview, Stephenie talks about the time and place of her novel, her research to get the details right, and why writing this book was a journey for her.



What were your goals writing your historical novel *In His Eyes*?

My goal for this novel was to explore the heart of who we truly are. Who are we in our own eyes? In the eyes of others? Who are we in God's sight? *In His Eyes* features a young woman who must look at the labels she's been given and strip away all the masks she tries to wear to discover a deeper truth.

What is it about this time and place that inspired you to set your story there?

The days following the Civil War were a very tumultuous time in our history as a nation. During this time of hardship, a lot of women had to discover their inner strength, rely on God and sharpen their faith, and fight for love and the things they held dear. All of these elements made fertile ground for my story.

Then, while sketching out the ideas for the plot, I knew I needed a house in the Mississippi Delta near the river. I found one very old picture of Belmont Plantation online, and not only was it



beautiful, it stood exactly where I needed it to for the story. When I clicked on the link, I discovered the house had recently been purchased, restored, and opened as a bed and breakfast. I dug around and found the owner's name (who happens to have been born in the small town I now live in) and sent him an email. I told him who I am and asked him if he would be interested in discussing the possibility of featuring Belmont on one of my novels.

He sent back a reply later that day and—this is such a God thing—showed me a picture of one of my other books (*The Whistle Walk*) he was currently reading while on a business trip! He said he would love to see Belmont on my next book, and everything went from there.

What kind of research did you do to get the details right?

Thanks to the wonderful people at Belmont, I spent a few days in the house, slept in “Ella’s” room, and walked the halls to get

a good feel for everything. One of the ladies that works at the house is a historian, and she took me all over the county, giving me the history of the area as well as the house. I also took a lot of pictures, which I referenced frequently while writing.

What's your favorite thing about writing historical fiction?

History. I'm always fascinated by the things I find in my research, and I wonder what life would have been like for those people at that time. What would it have been like to step into their hoop skirts and have to deal with the upheaval of our nation? I truly enjoy the research, and try to make the era come alive on the page.

What do you hope readers will come away with after reading *In His Eyes*?

I think we all struggle with feelings of inadequacy at times. Sometimes we forget who we are and whose we are, and it can lead to all manner of insecurities. In *In His Eyes*, Ella struggles with these things as well.

Writing this book was a journey for me, one where God gently led me to discover some important truths along with Ella. He encouraged me to never forget that no matter what else goes on in life—good or bad—my identity is always grounded in Him. It's my hope there is a reader out there somewhere He has the same message for, and this story can help point them toward Him.

What are the best things readers can do to support their favorite authors?

I have to tell you, the very best part of my writing career is when I get a letter, email, or Facebook message from one of my readers telling me my story meant something to them. I always pray God

Stephenie H. McGee

has a use for these manifestations of my imagination, so when I get to see how He used my characters to speak life to someone I would have never otherwise met, it is a tremendous blessing.

A lot of times authors worry if their stories matter. I think readers taking a moment to express how much they enjoyed their favorite authors' books is a fabulous way to support them. **FF**

Visit Stephenie H. McGee's author page here:

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In His Eyes

Stephenie H. McGee

By the Vine



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Tara Johnson's debut novel, ***Engraved on the Heart***

(Tyndale House), brings Civil War-era Savannah, Georgia, to life: Reluctant debutante Keziah Montgomery lives beneath the weighty expectations of her staunch Confederate family. Dr. Micah Greyson never hesitates to answer the call of duty, no matter how dangerous. Together, Keziah and Micah must decide if they are strong enough to survive the unyielding pain of war. In this interview, the author shares how she drew on her own struggles to write the main character, what drew her to set the novel during the Civil War, and how God works through our frailties.



What inspired you to write *Engraved on the Heart*?

The spark of the idea for *Engraved on the Heart* began when our family visited Savannah, Georgia, several years ago. I was entranced with the history and charm of the town. Secrets seemed to ooze out of every corner.

My family opted to take a historic riding tour of the city. I was especially intrigued by a fact rattled off by our tour guide: “Many of the older homes and buildings in and around the outskirts of Savannah were built by slaves. In fact, if you look closely, you can find some of their fingerprints in the bricks.”

Later that day as I passed a home, a darkened impression molded into the crumbling brick snagged my attention. I sucked in a surprised breath over the precious detail. There it was, staring back at me. The fingerprint of a slave. I ran my

finger over the scarred impression, marveling that such a small mark could tell such an exquisite story.

I wondered whose hands had formed the old brick. What was his name? What were his dreams? Running my fingers over that precious print linked me inextricably to the past, binding an invisible cord between the nameless slave and me.

The next day, we visited the Georgia State Railroad Museum where I found several books in the gift shop about famous women of the Civil War. Courageous heroes like Elizabeth Van Lew who fought against the norms of her culture to give freedom and hope to those trapped in darkness. I devoured their stories, many of whom I'd never heard of in school or otherwise. From there, God slowly unfurled a story in my heart.

Tell us about some of the core themes that are explored in your novel. How can your readers relate to these areas in their own lives?

Keziah's struggle to realize her worth, especially in light of her physical disabilities, provides the foundation for this story. Because of the shame her parents heap on her due to her epilepsy, Keziah battles against a common lie many of us have fallen for as well—that approval and love are the same thing. These two concepts are polar opposites. It isn't until Keziah and Micah are thrust into choosing society's approval versus their own personal convictions that they truly understand the difference between the two.

Just like the characters in *Engraved in the Heart*, readers will see the beauty within their own broken places, and that our worth is not dependent on our accomplishments or failures, but rests in the unconditional love of Christ.

Your heroine, Keziah, battles epilepsy. Where did you draw on the inspiration for her struggle?

I grew up with epilepsy and understand all too well how frustrating such a condition can be. It was far worse in the 1800s, when epilepsy was so misunderstood. Many people who battled this condition were placed in asylums.

Although my own family was extremely supportive, I remember the shame that accompanied those moments in elementary school when I would find two dozen pairs of eyes staring at me in horror because I had a seizure. I remember how frustrating it was to find a chunk of time missing from my memory, yawning like a black hole.

And I remember the helplessness of having no control over my own body. As Keziah's character developed, I thought the dichotomy between Underground Railroad conductor and epilepsy patient would be extremely interesting to explore.

In my research, I learned Harriet Tubman also battled epilepsy. To think of someone leading fugitives to freedom, when their own body was enslaved to a certain degree, was a fascinating, and terrifying, prospect.

Have you always loved learning about the Civil War? What is it about this era that draws you?

Growing up, my Mom and I enjoyed our yearly tradition of watching *Gone with the Wind* together. I have loved learning about the Civil War ever since.

When I was young, the drama and potential romance of the period drew me in, but as I've gotten older, I've fallen in love with

Tara Johnson

the stories of heroism from brave men and women on both sides of the conflict. The Civil War was a turning point for our nation on so many levels—politically, socially, emotionally—not to mention the amazing inventions and reformations that occurred as a result. It completely changed the landscape of our society.

If you had to choose one Bible verse as a theme for *Engraved on the Heart*, which one would it be, and why?

I would say 2 Corinthians 12:9 is the heart of this story. *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

We may think our strength enables us to do great things for God, but the opposite is true: It’s the power of a great God working through our frailties that will change the world. **FF**

Visit Tara Johnson’s author page here:

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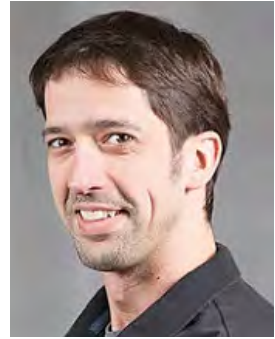
Engraved on the Heart

Tara Johnson
Tyndale House



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Steve Rzasa is the author of several novels of science fiction, steampunk, and fantasy—with a bunch more in progress. His latest novel is ***For Us Humans: A Tale of Alien Occupation*** (Enclave), a sort of buddy cop story with a twist. In this interview, Steve explains what inspired the novel, why the book is set in an alternate 2018, and how *For Us Humans* can be a template for how Christians can engage with the world.



Steve, *For Us Humans* is like a buddy cop action movie with an alien that wants to talk about Jesus—and the human that’s stuck with him. What inspired this particular mix of ideas for your novel?

I’ve long been fascinated by C.S. Lewis’ treatise on the possibility of Christian aliens in “Religion and Rocketry,” so much so that I quoted it at the beginning of *For Us Humans*. Then I read a biography called *Priceless*, about the man who started the FBI’s art crime division. Something clicked, and I knew I had to marry the two worlds.

Trick was, the main character Caz Fortel could be crude and brash, while his alien counterpart Nil was more thoughtful and experienced. Bringing those guys together made the story what it is. I love buddy cop flicks, so getting the chance to do it in a new way with a new theme behind it was exciting.



What was the process of building the world for this novel? And why is it an alternate 2018?

The book is set in an alternate version of the present because I wanted to take a world everyone is familiar with and tweak it with a few interesting changes. Part of what inspired that setting was brainstorming the novel while I was on vacation. I noticed a handicapped parking sign, and immediately thought, “If aliens were around today, I bet they’d have their own parking spaces, especially if they were in charge.” From there the idea steamrolled.

It also made it a fun exercise to deal with human prejudice, because it’s something many people are familiar with. And prejudice against aliens by humans has played a role in entertainment before, such as in the TV show and movie *Alien Nation*.

When it came time to build an alternate present, I chose to show humanity benefiting from advances in technology that were either due to the aliens sharing bits of their knowledge, or from human

tech improving at an accelerated rate. I posited that we'd get a leg up on research spending if military expenditures were redirected. And since the alien Consociation forbids our nations from warring, that made for an interesting aspect of the story world.

While writing the novel, which character surprised you the most?

Actually, several characters proved surprising. Caz Fortel's depth of heart when he finds out a secret family situation was unexpected. Nil's humility about his past mistakes and his openness about his yearning to connect with the Almighty was too. Both antagonists intrigued me as the story developed, too, but I won't say much about them here for fear of spoilers.

But I think Isaac, Caz's best friend and an FBI special agent, surprised me the most, because I didn't expect him to take the actions he did. And those actions make the story all the more compelling.

What are the challenges of worldbuilding as a Christian author? Does your faith make it easier or more challenging?

Most of my novels are science fiction, so the worldbuilding involves advanced technology. My faith doesn't make it more difficult, because I spend a lot of time extrapolating from history and technology what future versions and advancements would be like.

For my fantasy novels, *The Bloodheart* and *The Lightningfall*, that's a trickier question. Those stories involve the use of elemental magic by both heroes and villains. In that case, I start from the perspective that magic in the story world is not what the Bible classifies as "witchcraft" or "sorcery." Instead, it is an elemental force that I made part of the fictional Creation, and therefore just as much God's handiwork as gravity and wind.

In summary, the more fantastical the story, the more I reference my faith to determine if what I'm portraying jives with the Bible, if the concept is even mentioned.

Is *For Us Humans* geared more toward opening a dialogue with non-Christian readers, or helping Christian readers understand how to open that dialogue with the world?

For Us Humans is meant to do both. I'd like Christian readers to see that their idea of who "should" become a Christian, who is "acceptable" to seek the faith, is not always the same as who God chooses to pursue.

Frankly, we don't always like our fellow believers, especially when they come from a background we consider more worldly or sinful. Nil isn't even human, and so that raises a whole host of questions mentioned earlier. On the other hand, I'd like non-Christians to broaden their minds and consider the possibility of a supernatural being, a supreme deity whose existence and reach isn't bound to our corner of the galaxy. He did create everything, after all. **FF**

Visit Steve Rzasa's author page here:

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***For Us Humans:*
*A Tale of Alien Occupation***

Steve Rzasa



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Suspense novelist **Kathy Herman** has more than 20 published novels, including the **Sophie Trace Trilogy**, and **Secrets of Roux River Bayou** series.

Her latest novel is ***A Treacherous Mix*** (David C. Cook), the finale in her

Ozark Mountain Trilogy: Ashamed

and confused, Hawk realizes that someone else in town knows what

happened to his lover. He begins to fear for her life—and his own. In this interview, Kathy explains why location is so important to her suspense, the necessity of trusting God, and how being a Christian author has impacted her own spiritual walk.



Kathy, what inspired the plot in your latest novel, *A Treacherous Mix*?

I was seeking the Lord to help me choose a theme for this finale in the series, and a Scripture verse jumped out at me one morning. Here's what I John 1: 5-6 says: *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.*

I got to thinking about how today's culture has watered down the gospel. Behaviors that are accepted today used to be called sin. I wanted to take one character from this series and show how easy it is, even for a believer, to fall into that trap.

What's the theme or through-line for your Ozark Mountain Trilogy?

Each of the three stories has its own theme, but the overriding theme that runs through the series is trusting God. First Abby.



Then Jesse. And finally, Hawk. Of course, Kate's trust in God went from zero to overflowing as she endured endless hours of helplessness, her children's lives in the balance.

More than one of your suspense series has been named for or built around a location. How important is a sense of space to your fiction?

I know my readers enjoy it, but I REQUIRE it! I need to mentally set my fictional town in a specific location that I'm familiar with. I need to picture it vividly so that I can describe it with clarity and merge my fictional town into my chosen region of the country.

Something many people don't realize is that I am mentally and emotionally immersed in that location for as long as it takes me to finish a series. That's why I choose scenic regions.

Don't get me wrong, I do come back to reality at the end of a writing day. But much like I imagine an actor is immersed in a role during the shooting of a movie, I am immersed with the characters in the setting of my books while I'm writing—and

sometimes, even in my down time when I'm still in the "flow" and my creativity is working overtime.

My late husband and I used to laugh about the fact that we never ate alone. My characters were real to both of us, and we often discussed the storyline, especially after I read a new chapter to him and it ended abruptly with someone's life in peril. He would look at me with a knowing grin. "Come on, you can't leave me hanging. What happens next?"

But he already knew that I didn't know yet. I am what's known as a "seat-of-the-pants" writer (or "pantser"). I don't outline the story because it does me no good. My characters often take a sharp turn without any forethought on my part.

That's when writing really gets fun. I have a general idea of where I want the story to go, and my characters get me there, but the unexpected can happen multiple times in the process.

Are these real places? Do you scout them out, or are they inspired by where you've been?

All my series books are set in areas of the country where I've visited, often several times. My towns are fictional, but the region is real. The key is keeping the details authentic.

On your website, you wrote about how reading Christian fiction has impacted your spiritual walk. How has writing Christian fiction impacted you spiritually?

It's increased my faith immensely because each book is a walk of faith for me. As I mentioned before, I'm a "seat-of-the-pants" writer who finds it useless to outline.

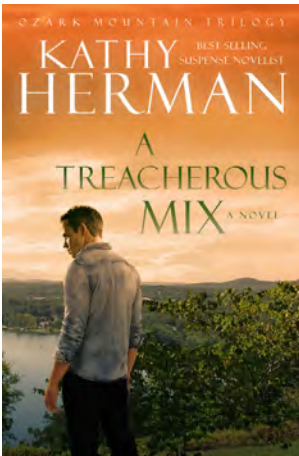
Kathy Herman

It can get really intense when I encounter writer's block, or when I still don't know how I'm going to end the story, and the deadline is a week away! It always comes together, but every time, it has required trusting the Lord to get me there.

Also, the spiritual elements in my stories I have learned through having been tested myself. Not necessarily in the same way as my characters, but in a way that left an impression and a deeper understanding of the Word. **FF**

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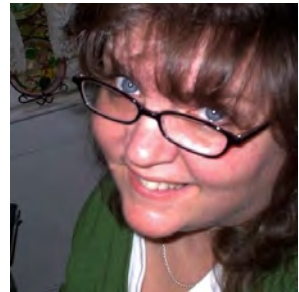


A Treacherous Mix
Ozark Mountain Trilogy #3
David C. Cook

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Children's author **Pam Halter** (right) and illustrator **Kim Sponaule** (below) are the creative team behind the **Willoughby and Friends** series, starring a young, somewhat clumsy, gentle dragon named Willoughby. The first book, ***Willoughby and the Terribly Itchy Itch*** (Fruitbearer Kids), won a Realm Award. The second book in that series is ***Willoughby and the Lumpy Bumpy Cake***: Tomorrow is Rosewings' birthday, and every cake Willoughby tries to bake ends up lumpy, bumpy, black, and burned. How will he ever surprise his friend? In this interview, Pam explains what inspired the series, the real friendship behind the books, and the importance of helping children enjoy stories.



What inspired a Christian children's book series starring a dragon?

Well, Kim and I have been working together since 1995. We published two Sunday School-type picture books together through Concordia in 2001, and we have lots of other things in our files we've worked on together, just waiting for a publishing home. We often brainstorm book ideas together.

One day she said, "We need a story about unlikely friends. Like a dragon and fairies." So, I thought about it.

I remembered the story about the Lion and the Mouse and I wondered what problem a dragon could have that fairies could help him with. Dragons have small front arms, kinda like a T-Rex,

so the itch was born. And really, can't we all identify with not being able to reach the itch on our backs?

Kim and I wanted stories from our Christian worldview, but ones we could maybe get into public schools with. Stories that would teach children about friendship and kindness without saying, "Here's how you can be kind and make friends."

So, we have a Scripture verse for each story in the dedication (which will always be For Friends Everywhere) and it's not mentioned anymore in the story. The characters simply live it out, just like we live out the gospel in our lives. St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." That's what we want in Willoughby.

Are these books designed for little readers, or to encourage parents or caregivers to read along with them?

We want to encourage parents or caregivers to read along. I don't know a child who doesn't love to be read to. Not only is it fun, it creates a loving bond, and also helps instill a love for reading and good stories.

What themes or ideas come across through the series?

Willoughby is all about friendship. We haven't put it in any of the stories yet, but Willoughby loves to say, "A good friend is a great gift!"

We also want kids to see the characters in the stories showing kindness. Being helpful. Working to get past the sometimes hard outside of a person and get to their heart. And don't we need more of that in the world today?



What's the best thing about working with illustrator Kim Sponaugle? What's the collaborative process creating these illustrated books?

The best thing about working with Kim are all the hours of eating brownies and drinking coffee. Haha! Just kidding. Although we do that A LOT.

The best thing about working with Kim and brainstorming stories is that she helps me see stories from an artist's point of view. I look at the words. Kim looks at the potential those words give for creating illustrations. It's improved my writing more than anything I've ever done.

I write and we both edit the story. She draws and we both talk about tweaks for the art. We have a really good balance.

The best thing to come out of this is our friendship! We didn't know each other until 1995, when a mutual friend introduced us.

Pam Halter

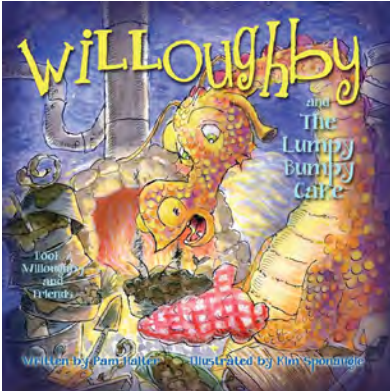
What do you hope children and/or adult readers get out of this series?

We want children to have fun. To enjoy the stories. To learn naturally to be kind and offer friendship to other kids who may appear different in their actions and looks. To get to the heart of a person instead of judging the outside.

Kids like to imitate their favorite characters, right? Here's a way I can help them learn to be a better friend. Through Willoughby. It's a great lesson for all of us, no matter our age. **FF**

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Willoughby and Friends #2
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International Christian Visual Media, the association for Christian film and television, announced winners of its Gold Crown Awards for excellence in faith films with ***The Case For Christ*** taking Best Picture–Gold honors.

“The growing Christian film genre has topped \$2 billion in total ticket sales,” said ICVM President Jared Geesey. “It’s a privilege for our association to play a part in encouraging, equipping, motivating and recognizing the talented men and women who bring stories of faith to the screen.”

Focusing on the theme of “Difference,” the July conference brought top Christian media professionals in communications and the arts to Nashville for four days of networking, training, mutual encouragement, and fellowship. The annual conference attracts producers, writers, actors, marketers, social media experts, and distributors of Christian and family content for film and television. The event was capped with the Gold Awards presentation. The awards drew nearly 70 entries in a wide variety of film, video, and television formats.

Andy Erwin, the director of *I Can Only Imagine*, which has grossed over \$83 million to date, gave the event's keynote address. He encouraged creators by sharing what he and his brother and co-director, Jon, learned in facing truly daunting circumstances while filming.

"Embrace every closed door," Erwin said, "so God can direct you to the right open one."

The Case For Christ won Best Picture. A Pure Flix release that grossed almost \$15 million, the film tells the story of famed Chicago journalist Lee Strobel, who put his investigative skills to work to disprove Christianity only to become convinced of its truth. It is based on his bestselling book of the same name that has sold over five million copies.

Storm and Luther's Forbidden Letter from Vision Video earned the Best Picture–Silver Award, and *Tortured For Christ* was named Best Picture–Bronze.

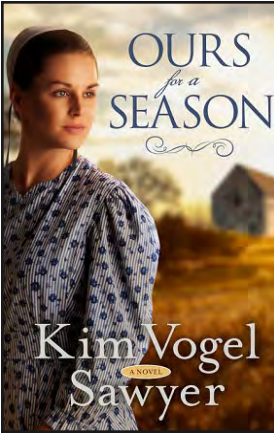
The Best New Filmmaker Award went to an up-and-coming brother trio, the Kooman brothers, who own and operate Unveil Studios. This honor includes a \$1,000 cash award from the Christian Film Foundation, founded by the Kendrick Brothers.

In addition to Erwin, speakers at the event included award-winning actress Karen Abercrombie, star of the Kendrick Brothers film *War Room*; noted casting director Beverly Holloway; Fathom Events Director of Programming Katie Sawyer-Stachler, writer Catherine Clinch, and many others. **FF**

Visit our Movies, TV, and Entertainment department for more:

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New Releases: September 2018



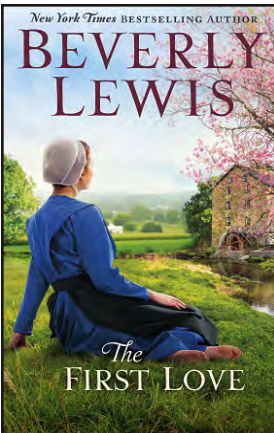
Ours for a Season

Kim Vogel Sawyer

WaterBrook

Genres: Amish, Romance

Release date: September 11, 2018



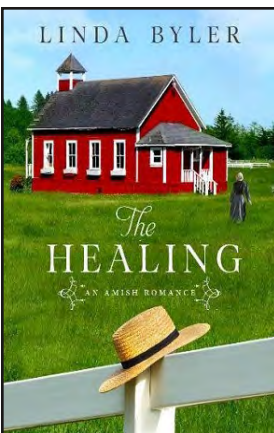
The First Love

Beverly Lewis

Bethany House

Genres: Amish, Romance, Historical

Release date: September 4, 2018



The Healing: An Amish Romance

Linda Byler

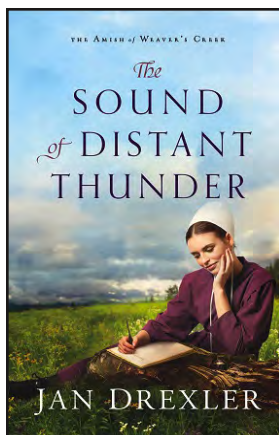
Good Books

Genres: Amish, Romance

Release date: September 4, 2018



New Releases: September 2018



The Sound of Distant Thunder

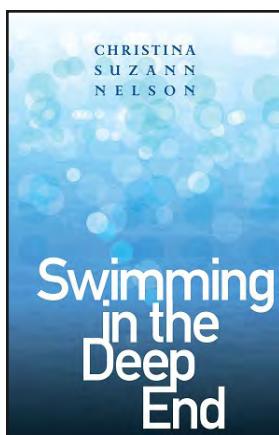
AMISH OF WEAVER'S CREEK #1

Jan Drexler

Revell

Genres: Amish, Historical, Romance

Release date: September 18, 2018



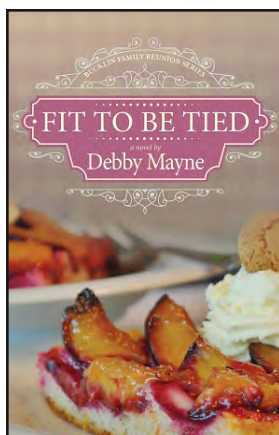
Swimming in the Deep End

Christina Nelson

Kregel Publications

Genre: Contemporary

Release date: September 25, 2018



Fit to Be Tied

BUCKLIN FAMILY REUNION #2

Debby Mayne

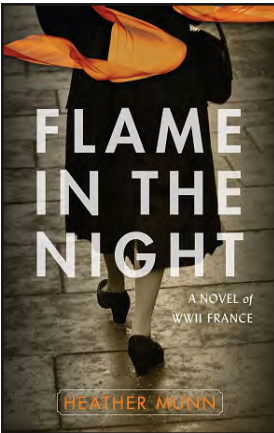
Gilead Publishing

Genres: Romance, Contemporary

Release date: August 28, 2018



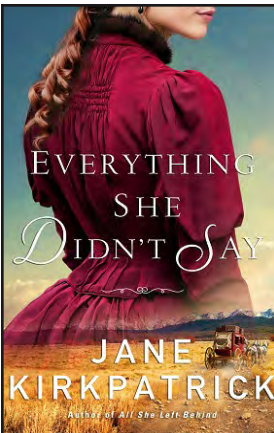
New Releases: September 2018



Flame in the Night:
A Novel of World War II France

Heather Munn
Kregel Publications

Genre: Historical
Release date: September 18, 2018



Everything She Didn't Say

Jane Kirkpatrick
Revell

Genre: Historical
Release date: September 4, 2018



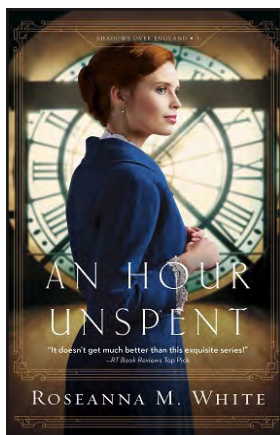
In Times Gone By

GOLDEN GATE SECRETS #3
Tracie Peterson
Bethany House

Genres: Historical, Romance, Suspense
Release date: September 4, 2018



New Releases: September 2018



An Hour Unspent

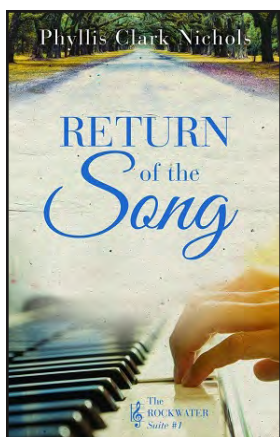
SHADOWS OVER ENGLAND BOOK #3

Roseanna M. White

Bethany House

Genres: Historical, Romance, Suspense

Release date: September 4, 2018



Return of the Song

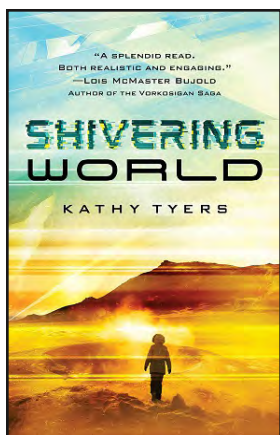
ROCKWATER SUITE #1

Phyllis Clark Nichols

Gilead Publishing

Genres: Romance, Contemporary

Release date: September 18, 2018



Shivering World

Kathy Tyers

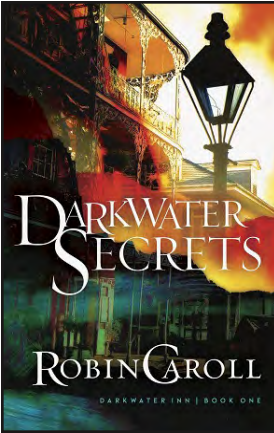
Enclave; Reissue edition

Genre: Speculative

Release date: July 10, 2018



New Releases: September 2018



Darkwater Secrets

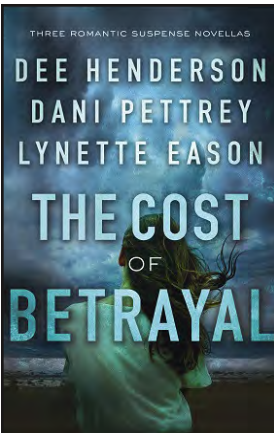
DARKWATER INN #1

Robin Carroll

Gilead Publishing

Genres: Suspense, Romance

Release date: July 17, 2018



The Cost of Betrayal

THREE ROMANTIC SUSPENSE NOVELLAS

Dee Henderson, Dani Pettrey,

Lynette Eason

Bethany House

Genres: Suspense, Romance

Release date: September 4, 2018



A Secret to Die For

Lisa Harris

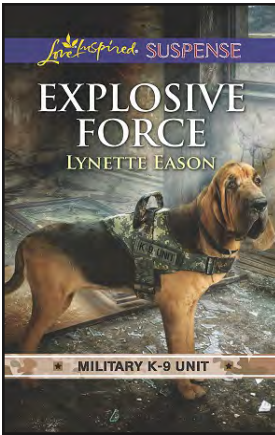
Revell

Genres: Suspense, Romance

Release date: September 18, 2018



New Releases: September 2018



Explosive Force

MILITARY K-9 UNIT

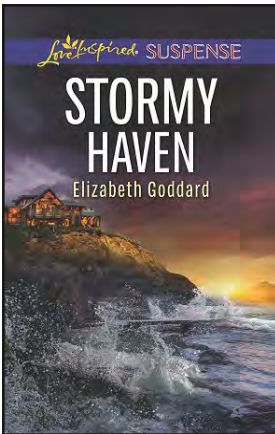
Lynette Eason

Love Inspired Suspense

Genres: Suspense, Romance

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Stormy Haven

COLDWATER BAY INTRIGUE#2

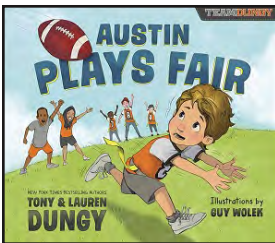
Elizabeth Goddard

Love Inspired Suspense

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Austin Plays Fair:

A Team Dungy Story About Football

Tony Dungy, Lauren Dungy

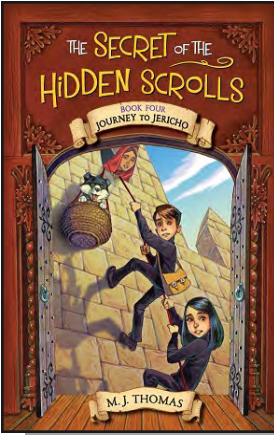
Harvest House Publishers

Genre: Children's

Release date: August 7, 2018

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Journey to Jericho

THE SECRET OF THE HIDDEN SCROLLS #4

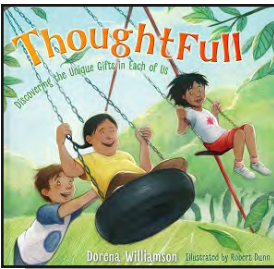
M. J. Thomas

WorthyKids/Ideals

Genres: Children's, Speculative

Release date: August 7, 2018

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ThoughtFull: Discovering the Unique Gifts in Each of Us

Dorena Williamson

B&H Kids

Genre: Children's

Release date: August 15, 2018

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At Home in Mitford

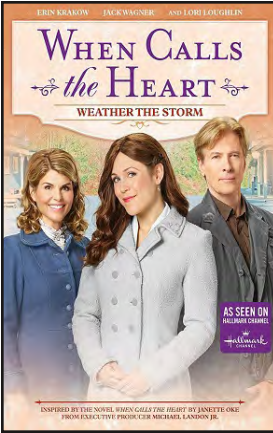
Hallmark

Genres: Movies, Contemporary, Romance

Release date: September 4, 2018

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New Releases: September 2018



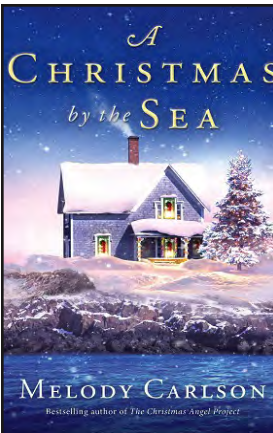
When Calls the Heart: Weather the Storm

WHEN CALLS THE HEART SERIES

Shout! Factory

Genres: Movies, Historical, Romance

Release Date: September 4, 2018



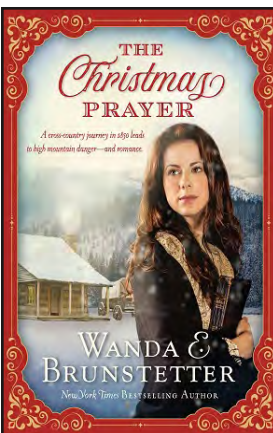
A Christmas by the Sea

Melody Carlson

Revell

Genres: Christmas, Romance

Release date: September 4, 2018



The Christmas Prayer

Wanda E. Brunstetter

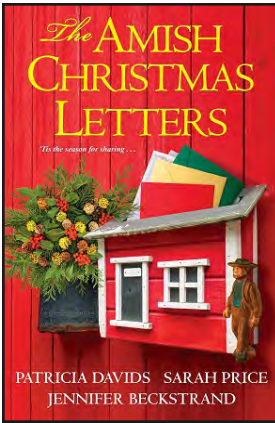
Shiloh Run Press

Genres: Christmas, Amish,
Romance, Historical

Release date: September 1, 2018



New Releases: September 2018



The Amish Christmas Letters

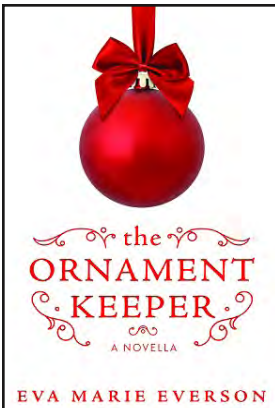
Patricia Davids, Sarah Price,
Jennifer Beckstrand

Kensington

Genres: Christmas, Amish, Romance

Release date: September 25, 2018

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The Ornament Keeper: A Novella

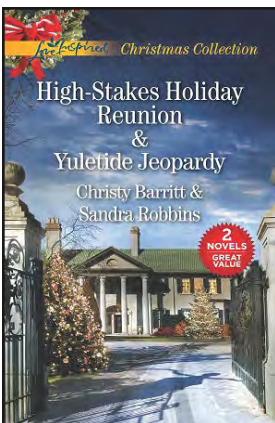
Eva Marie Everson

New Hope Publishers

Genres: Christmas, Romance

Release date: September 24, 2018

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High-Stakes Holiday Reunion and Yuletide Jeopardy (Christmas Collection)

Christy Barritt, Sandra Robbins

Love Inspired Christmas Collection

Genres: Christmas, Suspense, Romance

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New Releases: September 2018

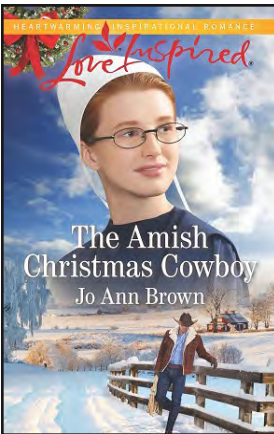


Christmas Stalking and Christmas Countdown (Christmas Collection)

Margaret Daley, Vicki Hinze
Love Inspired Christmas Collection

Genres: Christmas, Suspense, Romance

Release date: September 25, 2018



The Amish Christmas Cowboy

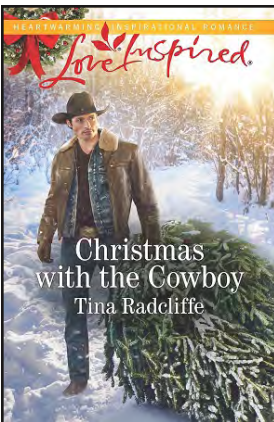
AMISH SPINSTER CLUB #2

Jo Ann Brown

Love Inspired

Genres: Christmas, Amish, Romance

Release date: September 18, 2018



Christmas with the Cowboy

BIG HEART RANCH

Tina Radcliffe

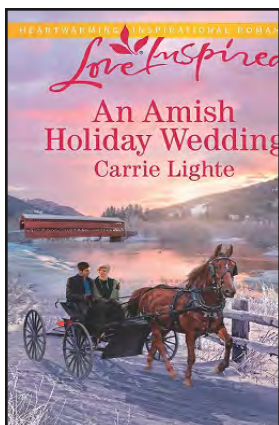
Love Inspired

Genres: Christmas, Romance

Release date: September 18, 2018



New Releases: September 2018



An Amish Holiday Wedding

AMISH COUNTRY COURTSHIPS #3

Carrie Lighte

Love Inspired

Genres: Christmas, Amish, Romance

Release date: September 18, 2018





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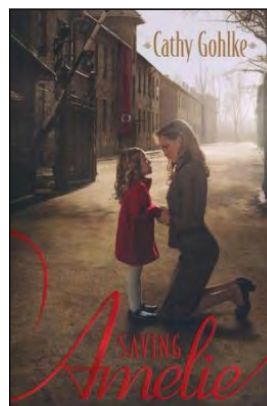


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HISTORICAL FICTION

- 1** ***Saving Amelie***
Cathy Gohlke
Tyndale House Publishers
- 2** ***In Dreams Forgotten***
Tracie Peterson
Baker Publishing Group
- 3** ***In Places Hidden***
Tracie Peterson
Baker Publishing Group
- 4** ***Five Brides***
Eva Marie Everson
Tyndale House Publishers
- 5** ***The Sea Before Use***
Sarah Sundin
Baker Publishing Group



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CONTEMPORARY

- 1** *The Masterpiece*
Francine Rivers
Tyndale House Publishers
- 2** *The Story Keeper*
Lisa Wingate
Tyndale House Publishers
- 3** *The Outcast*
Jolina Petersheim
Tyndale House Publishers
- 4** *Sensible Shoes*
Sharon Garlough Brown
InterVarsity Press
- 5** *Manin the Blue Moon*
Michael Morris
Tyndale House Publishers

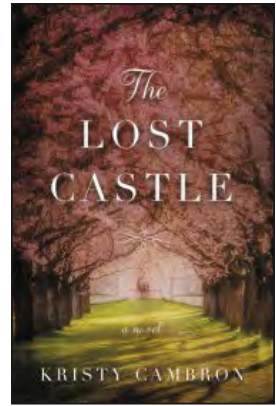


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ROMANCE

- 1** *The Lost Castle*
Kristy Cambron
Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 2** *The Weaver's Daughter*
Sarah Ladd
Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 3** *The Heart Between Us*
Lindsay Harrel
Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 4** *To the Moon and Back*
Karen Kingsbury
Howard Books/Simon & Schuster
- 5** *Dead Drift*
Dani Pettrey
Baker Publishing Group



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SUSPENSE/MYSTERY

- 1** *If I Live*
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 2** *If I Run*
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 3** *If I'm Found*
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 4** *Where Shadows Meet*
Colleen Coble
Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 5** *The Man He Never Was*
James Rubart
Thomas Nelson Publishers

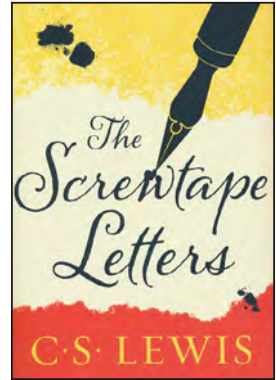


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SPECULATIVE/FANTASY/SCI-FI

- 1** ***The Screwtape Letters***
C.S. Lewis
Zondervan
- 2** ***The Choosing***
Rachelle Dekker
Tyndale House Publishers
- 3** ***The Calling***
Rachelle Dekker
Tyndale House Publishers
- 4** ***Hinds' Feet on High Places***
Hannah Hurnard
Tyndale House Publishers
- 5** ***This Present Darkness***
Frank Peretti
Crossway Books



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