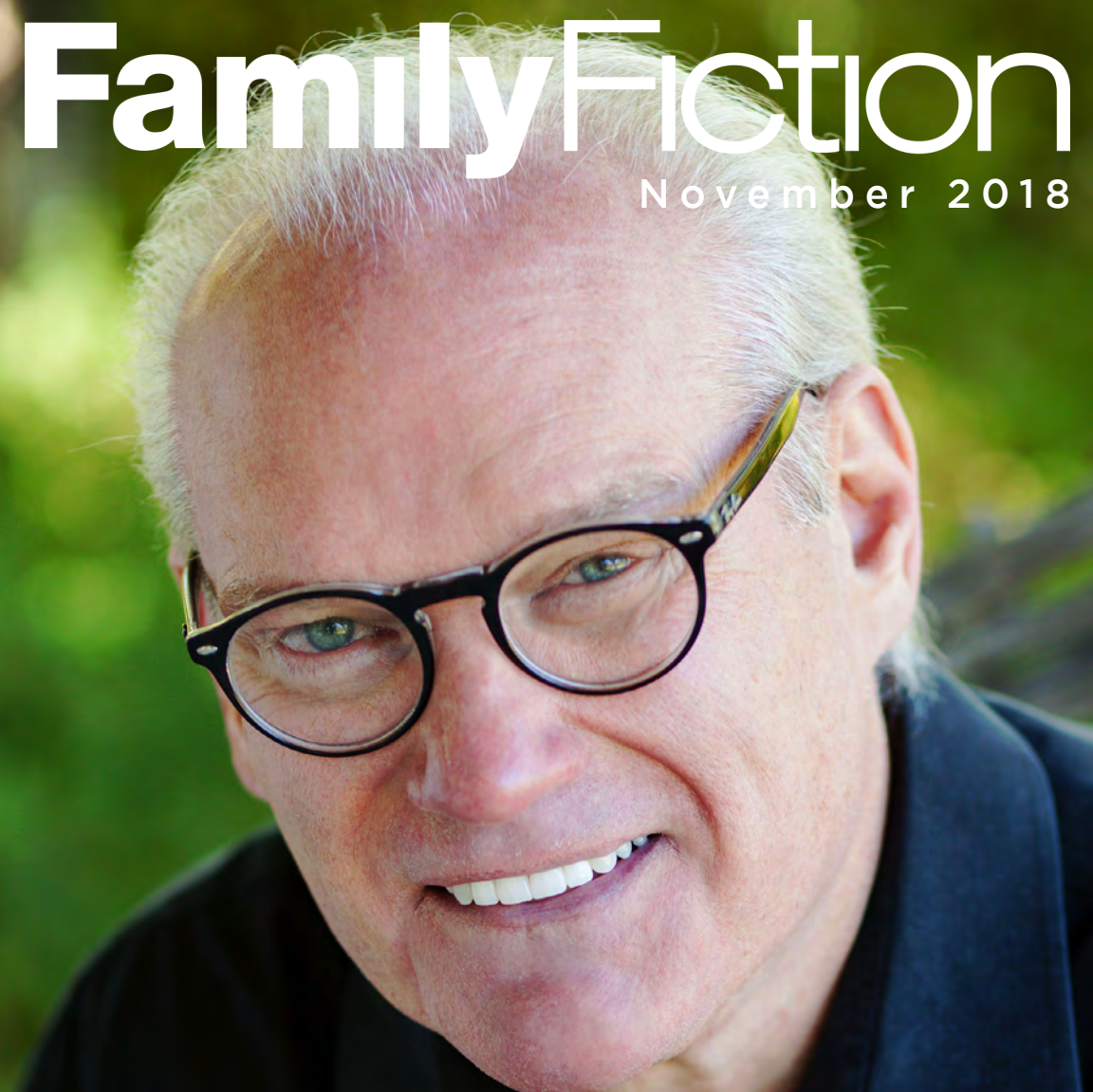


FamilyFiction

November 2018



Suspense Author **JERRY B. JENKINS**

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Lynn Austin | Cindy and Erin Woodsmall

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Features



SUSPENSE

JERRY B. JENKINS

The prolific author talks about his new archeological thriller, about the other categories he writes—and those he won't.



HISTORICAL

LYNN AUSTIN

The author explains how historical research feeds her ideas for her novels.



CONTEMPORARY

CINDY & ERIN WOODSMALL

The writing team explains the pros (and cons) of keeping it in the family.



On the Web: Christian Fiction News

Check out these news articles: Christy Award Gala, New Comedy/Drama film Small Group, Netflix to Develop Narnia Series, and the 2018 Carol Awards.

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AMISH

Q&A with
Jan Drexler



CONTEMPORARY

Q&A with
Travis Thrasher



HISTORICAL

Q&A with
Susan Schroeder



ROMANCE

Q&A with
Carolyn Miller



SPECULATIVE

Q&A with
Raquel Byrnes



SUSPENSE

Q&A with
Liz Johnson

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE SPECIAL SECTION



New Releases & Bestsellers

Amish

Contemporary

Historical

Romance

Speculative

Suspense

Children's

YA/Teens

Comics/Animation

Movies/DVDs

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Lineup for Christy Award Gala/Art of Writing Conference

Tickets for the Art of Writing conference and The Christy Award Gala are available for a special bundle price of only \$99.

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Film *Small Group* displays fresh perspective through humor, drama

Now in select movie theaters, the film *Small Group* is a comedy-drama that examines the dynamics of the small group movement within mega-church culture.

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Netflix to Develop Narnia Series and Films

The deal marks the first time that rights to the entire seven books of the Narnia universe have been held by the same company.

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2018 Carol Awards Handed out by American Christian Fiction Writers

Winners were announced at ACFW's awards gala during their 2018 conference in Nashville.

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Jerry B. Jenkins

Obedient to the Word

The prolific author launches his new suspense series with an archeological thriller set in the Middle East.

Jerry B. Jenkins' books have sold more than 70 million copies. He's known to most readers as the co-creator of the blockbuster **Left Behind** series, but he's also written historical novels, biographies, how-to books, children's books, and so many more. His latest novel is ***Dead Sea Rising*** (Worthy Publishing), a suspense novel that places his archeological protagonist in the middle of a mystery with moral and political implications in the Middle East.

In this interview, Jerry outlines his plan for the **Dead Sea Chronicles**, shares a surprisingly wide-ranging list of his favorite characters, and reveals the time he thought he should abandon his writing.

Jerry, *Dead Sea Rising* is the first book in a new series. What can you tell us about the Dead Sea Chronicles?

I envision a six-book project that might grow to 12—but that's entirely dependent on whether readers like the characters and the story. I couldn't be happier with the enthusiasm the first volume has engendered in Worthy Publishing's office. There's no substitute for in-house buzz.

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No spoilers, but *Dead Sea Rising* is like part Indiana Jones or *National Treasure*, part political thriller, with a foot planted firmly in biblical archeology. What inspired you to go in this direction?

I'm blessed to be at a place in my writing life where occasionally ideas come to me from publishers. Nine of ten I pass on, because I have ideas of my own. But I immediately resonated with this one from Worthy and loved the idea of getting to run with it.

If you squint at this book a certain way, it looks like it falls somewhere between *Da Vinci Code* and *Left Behind*. Is that a fair assessment, or does that description make you cringe?

Hmm, cringe at two phenomena that have totaled more than 140 million books sold? No.

While *Dead Sea Rising* enjoys some commonalities with those—the international scope, the potential for controversy, and hopefully the epic feel of the story—it's unique in other ways.

My main character is a late 30s female archaeologist. I interweave a story from ancient Mesopotamia beginning 4,000 years ago with the birth of Abram. There's also a Vietnam subplot.

What do you think makes a great lead character? Who are the lead characters you love in literature or movies?

Believability, credibility, and the potential for heroism to give the character room to arc. I'm a fan of leads as disparate as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Frank Galvin (Paul Newman's character) in *The Verdict*, Clarice Starling in *The Silence of the Lambs*, Dorothy Gale in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games*.

For this book, you're working with Dr. Craig Evans as a biblical consultant. How did you come to work with him on this project?

Craig was also suggested by the publisher, and with one look at his curriculum vitae I approved. He's been a delight to work with, one of those rare double-doctorate guys able to keep the cookies on the lower shelf where I can reach them. He retains a layman's passion for archaeology and history.

What's that working relationship like? Does he work with you on plot details or is the book written before he sees it?

The latter, but he was only a phone call or email away while I was writing and always seemed to respond immediately. I am neither theologian nor scholar and certainly not an archaeologist, so he's indispensable to the project.

What are the spiritual themes in *Dead Sea Rising*?

My main character is a Messianic Jew, which makes for an intriguing dynamic, given her work in a conflict-ridden Middle East. Her gender alone is an obstacle there, only exacerbated by her faith.

Over your career, you've written like 200 books—but to lots of people you're only known for a fraction of those. Out of all the categories you've written that aren't thrillers, is there another category you've written that you wish more of your readers would check out?

I've written seven biblical novels—four based on the gospels, two on the life of Paul, and one on Joseph (earthly father of Jesus). Also, it might surprise some to know I've written more than 20 as-told-to autobiographies of athletes (Hank Aaron, Walter Payton, Nolan Ryan, et al) and Christian luminaries (Bill Gaither, Billy Graham, Luis Palau, etc.).

Is there a genre or category you've never written, but still would like to one of these days?

Actually, no. I've written from Middle Grade through Adult, historical, biblical, contemporary, and futuristic fiction. Also nonfiction from biography to how-to and from documentary to marriage and family. I don't write romance, sci-fi, or fantasy, but I appreciate those who do.

What are the best ways for readers to support their favorite authors?

Let me count the ways! Buy their books, read their books, recommend their books, review their books, show up at readings and signings.

But I appreciate this question, because you know what warms me most as an author? Hearing directly from readers: emails, texts, letters, comments on websites.

I'm sure this is true of my author colleagues as well. At heart we are artists, and we love hearing from readers.

As a writing teacher, you're shepherding a whole generation of authors. What do you hope your legacy will be? Do you prefer to be thought of as an author or as a teacher?

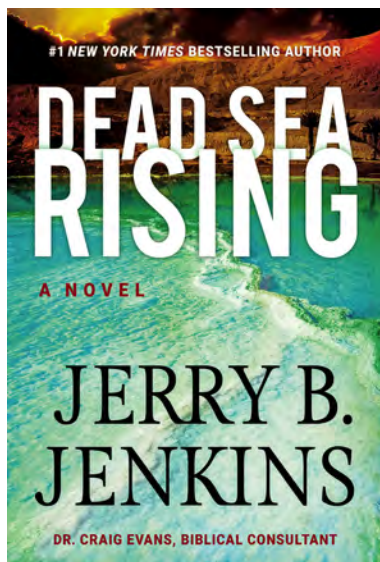
I would like to be known as obedient. I answered a teenage call to full-time Christian work and assumed it would mean I should abandon my writing to pursue training as a pastor or missionary. But a wise counselor told me that "God often equips us before He calls us," and suggested my writing might be the vehicle I would use to follow my call.

As for teaching, I enjoy paying it forward, and I think it's important that I'm not a teacher who "used to be a writer." Rather, I'm a teacher who's also a working writer. **FF**

Visit Jerry B. Jenkins' author page here:

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Jerry B. Jenkins



Dead Sea Rising: A Novel

Dead Sea Chronicles #1

Jerry B. Jenkins

Worthy Publishing



Nicole Berman is an archaeologist on the brink of a world-changing discovery. During her first dig in Jordan, she believes she has found concrete evidence of a biblical patriarch that could change history books forever. But

someone doesn't want the truth revealed. While urgently trying to connect pieces of an ancient puzzle, a dangerous enemy is out to stop her... **FF**

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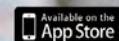
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Lynn Austin

Feeding on the Past

The author explains how historical research feeds her ideas for her novels.

A former teacher who now writes and speaks full-time, **Lynn Austin** has sold more than 1.5 million copies of her books and won eight Christy Awards for her historical fiction. Her latest novel is ***Legacy of Mercy*** (Bethany House): Unable to focus on her upcoming marriage, a woman hires detectives to learn the truth about her birth mother—and soon discovers that some secrets are better left hidden.

In this interview, Lynn explains why her readers demanded this novel, reveals the inspiration for the story's time and place, and discusses the challenges in separating historical fact from fiction.

***Legacy of Mercy* is a sequel to your novel *Waves of Mercy*. How does this new book build on that story?**

At the end of *Waves of Mercy*, one of the main characters, Anna Nicholson, returns to Chicago to marry her fiancé and continue her life as a wealthy young socialite. She has discovered, over the summer, who her birth mother was, and she is naturally curious to learn more about her.

She also has no idea who her birth father was and longs to solve that mystery, too. Most of all, she is eager to learn how to grow in her new Christian faith. In *Legacy of Mercy*, she explores all of these questions, which creates a host of new problems in her life.

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The other main character from *Waves of Mercy*, Geesje DeJonge, is contented with her walk with God and her life in Holland, Michigan, after enduring many trials as an immigrant from the Netherlands. At age 67, she isn't seeking a new adventure. But when she offers to help Cornelia, a young Dutch immigrant, she'll discover that she still has many things to learn about God and about herself.

What made you want to return to Anna's story?

After *Waves of Mercy* was published, I started receiving letters from readers who all wanted to know what happens next in Anna's life. She is only 23 years old, and a brand-new Christian, so there had to be a lot more to tell about her—or so my readers insisted.

They were also concerned about Derk VanderVeen—would he ever find true love? The more I thought about it, the more curious I was to discover the answers, too. I loved all of the characters from *Waves of Mercy* so it was a pleasure to bring them back to life and find out what happens next.

Anna's grandmother is helping Dutch immigrants adjust to America. What inspired you to explore the story of Dutch immigration to America?

I live in Holland, Michigan, a town that was settled by Dutch immigrants in 1847. When my husband and I moved here four years ago, I was curious to learn more about the town's past.

It has been a haven for Dutch immigrants leaving the Netherlands for a variety of reasons, including religious persecution, famine, and the poverty and hardship following World War II. The more I read about their courage, perseverance, and faith, the more I knew I wanted to tell their stories.

What inspired you to write about characters in this period and place?

I lived in the Chicago area for more than 20 years and I find its history fascinating. In a way, it's a new city—almost completely rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1871. It doesn't have the long history of places like New York City or New Orleans, and any newcomer can start with nothing and become a millionaire in Chicago.

I also love the "Gilded Age" when houses were ostentatious, women wore elegant gowns, and the wealthy had scores of servants. It looks so wonderful from the outside, but women of that era faced so many limitations.

I've always wondered if I would really enjoy all that wealth and elegance if my only role in life was to be a pretty ornament on my husband's arm. That's what fascinates me most about this era—how does a woman find a sense of purpose in a frivolous age?

When setting out to write a novel, which comes to you first—the time, the place, or the characters?

I usually begin my novels with a certain time period or historical event in mind. As I delve into the research (including travel to the book's setting, whenever possible), I figure out the setting for the novel.

In the process, I find that my characters start forming in my mind. I flesh them out by creating resumes for them with all sorts of background information. When the characters begin to “speak” to me and I hear their “voices,” I know I’m ready to start writing.

At this point, I don’t have a clear outline of the plot in mind. I simply begin writing and see what happens next.

What kind of research did you do to get the details in *Legacy of Mercy* right?

I spent a lot of time reading about manners and customs among the wealthy during the Gilded Age, when the story takes place. Society demanded strict adherence to rituals, such as afternoon teas and calling cards.

I had explored these details in earlier novels, such as *A Proper Pursuit*, and more recently in *Where We Belong*, so it was fun for me to revisit them. Mind you, I would have gone bonkers if I had to live with so many restrictions—especially the rules that say a married woman must turn over all the decision-making to her husband.

When writing historical fiction, what are the challenges (or joys) of balancing historical facts with filling in the blanks with your imagination?

One of the joys of writing historical fiction is that as I research past history, I get scores of great ideas for plots and stories! I once read a true account of how women dressed up like men and fought in the Civil War—and it led me to write the novel *Fire by Night*. The true story of the Packhorse Librarians during the Great Depression led to my novel *Wonderland Creek*.

In all those instances, the historical facts fed my imagination. The challenge comes when I have to fit my plot ideas into a historical framework. Sometimes I wish I could change the facts and the dates to fit my story! And often, by the time I finish a novel, I have trouble remembering which ideas were true facts and which ones I made up.

What do you hope readers take away after reading *Legacy of Mercy*?

One of the themes is about gossip and how lives can be destroyed by the power of our unbridled tongues. Another is the difficult struggle that young people often face when they seek to stay true to their faith and to who God created them to be.

I think there's also a message for the older generation—that God doesn't believe in retirement! I would be thrilled if readers found themselves pondering these themes after finishing *Legacy of Mercy*, but my primary goal is always to simply tell a good story.

How does your faith impact your approach to writing stories?

Every author writes from his or her own worldview, whether

they are a Christian, an atheist, or some other religion. Our worldview is the way we make sense of life and put all the puzzle pieces together to answer life's questions.

I don't have a spiritual theme in mind when I begin a story. I simply want to tell a tale about people in a certain time and place, facing a difficult dilemma. It's not my goal to preach the gospel message in every book I write.

But because I'm a Christian, my worldview seeps through the pages of my book as the characters wrestle with the big questions in life. And it's natural for them to find the answers to those questions from my own Christian worldview.

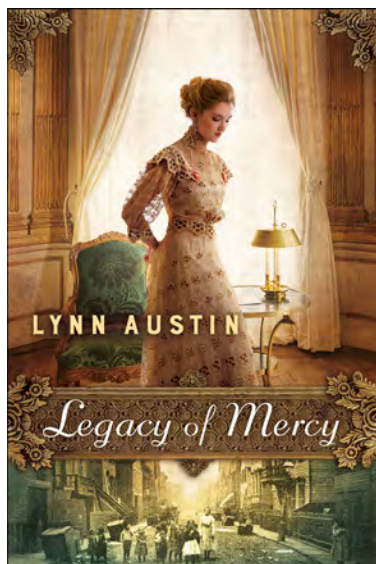
What are your favorite ways for readers to support their favorite authors?

I think it's wonderful when readers are so excited about an author that they want to share her books with all of their friends. Word-of-mouth is still the number one way that books are sold. Book clubs are very popular, and I love it when a reader tells me that no one in her club had read one of my books until she suggested it for their monthly selection—and then all of those new readers told their family and friends about it!

It's so helpful when readers post blogs about an author's books and post reviews on Goodreads and Amazon, but when they share their copy of a book until it falls apart, that's the best advertising ever! **FF**

Visit Lynn Austin's author page here:

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Legacy of Mercy

Waves of Mercy #2

Lynn Austin

Bethany House

Buy Now



Having returned to Chicago, young socialite Anna Nicholson can't seem to focus on her upcoming marriage. The new information she's learned about her birth mother continues to pull at her, and she hires Pinkerton detectives

to help her find the truth. But as she meets people who once knew her mother and hears stories about the past, Anna soon discovers that some secrets are better left hidden.

At the same time, unflattering stories about Anna are leaked by someone who would love to see her disgraced and her engagement broken. And as Anna tries to share her faith with her society friends, she understands that her choice to seek God's purpose for her life isn't as simple as she had hoped.

When things are at their darkest, Anna knows she can turn to her grandmother, Geesje de Jonge, back in Holland, Michigan. Geesje's been helping new Dutch immigrants, including a teen with a haunted past, adjust to America. She only hopes that her wisdom can help all these young people through the turmoil they face. **FF**



Cindy Woodsmall

Cindy and Erin Woodsmall

Southern Exposure

The writing team explains the pros (and cons) of keeping it in the family.

Cindy Woodsmall is a bestselling author best known for her Amish fiction. Daughter-in-law **Erin Woodsmall** has edited, brainstormed, and researched books with Cindy for almost a decade. Now they've co-written the Southern novel ***As the Tide Comes In*** (WaterBrook), a *Steel Magnolias*-meets-*Sweet Home Alabama* story set on St. Simons Island.

In this interview, the two ladies share how this collaboration came about, Cindy explains why she decided to write her first Southern novel, and Erin reveals her experiences that led up to this book.

Tell us about your new novel, *As the Tide Comes In*...

Cindy: *As the Tide Comes In* is a journey through loss and renewal set in a gorgeous, unique location. Tara Abbot is a young woman who has set everything aside to raise her half-brothers to adulthood.

When tragedy strikes, she's floundering and lost like a rowboat in a squall. But God's love endures, even through the worst of storms. She encounters a spunky group of lifelong friends, as well as a young man who stirs something inside of her that she's never experienced before.

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With your daughter-in-law Erin Woodsmall co-authoring *As the Tide Comes In* as well as a couple other titles with you, can you tell us what it's like working as a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law team?

Cindy: It's been rejuvenating, like opening the windows at the end of winter and welcoming the fresh spring air. Erin has helped me behind the scenes for a lot of years, but to dive into a story as a writing team has been completely different.

The great thing about writing as a team is that each person brings something special to the table. We know different things about life, loss, and love, and we've navigated through life as a family for 12 years, so we can rely on each other's strengths and shore up each other's weaknesses, both on page and off.

Erin: It's a lot of fun! I've always loved reading and making up stories, but for the first time I've been able to use these skills for something tangible.

Cindy is so skilled at her craft of writing, and she has this wonderful intuition about shaping stories. She can really create juicy conflict and ultra-romantic scenes, no explicitness needed! I learn something new every day.

***As the Tide Comes In* tells the story of Tara Abbott, a woman who has suffered an unthinkable loss. The Glynn Girls—a group of eccentric 50-something women who live on St. Simons Island—take her in as their own. What message do you hope readers glean from the support they offer Tara?**

Cindy: Since the novel's conception, we liked exploring the difference of helping in a clean, hands-off way versus getting "dirty" and uncomfortable. It's a great thing to donate to our

churches and give to charities and to spend time helping teens or elderly and then return home.

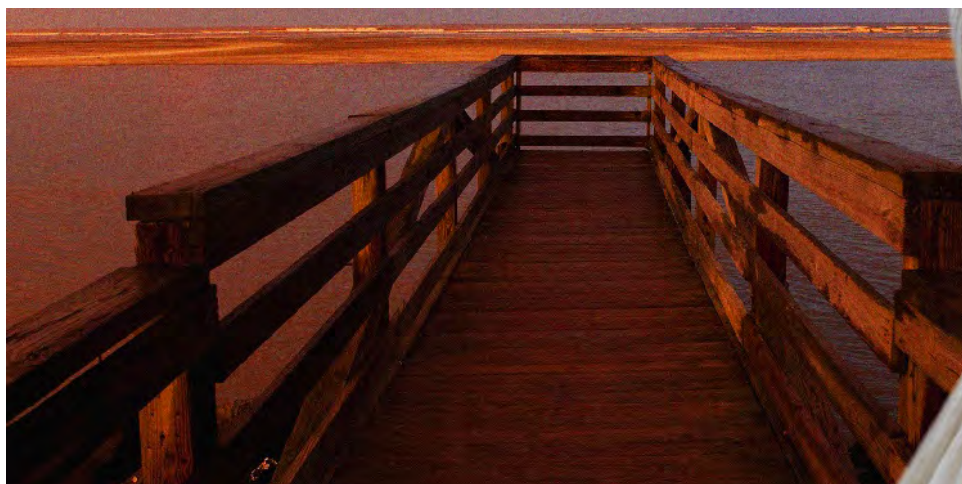
But can we muster the courage to really minister to those who pull us out of our comfort zone? Jesus was all in. To Him it didn't matter who someone was. He ate with sinners and ministered to the "unclean" of the day. How can we apply that to modern life? It's not easy!

Cindy, this is your first Southern novel. What inspired you to go in this direction? (And what does this mean for readers who love what you were doing before?)

Cindy: Although I was born in Washington, D.C., and lived in the dairy farming part of Maryland by the time I was nine, I've been a Southern gal for over 40 years. The South has its own unique culture and stories that have been begging me to write them for a long time.

I've had 12 wonderful years of writing 22 novels with Amish culture and setting, but I found that writing *As the Tide Comes In* was refreshing in ways I hadn't expected.

Still, lovers of Amish fiction need not worry because my heart still belongs to the Amish. I have an Amish Christmas novella titled *The Christmas Remedy*. And I'm currently writing a full-length Amish novel that is teeming with unique storylines.



Cindy, how does the process of co-writing compare to writing your own novels? (Are there pros and cons?)

Cindy: The pros are almost too many to list, so I'll list my top faves:

- 1.** I love that my daughter-in-law is helping me brainstorm the overall story ideas and then we travel together to do the research.
- 2.** After step one, my creative energy is likely to start pouring forth more ideas than I can sort out. She makes time in her busy week—three children with number four on the way and a homeschooling mom—to meet and talk it out. She's great at typing up notes while I "vent" my story thoughts. That has been a huge blessing.
- 3.** She's very thoughtful and careful about what we need to do next so I feel motivated and excited about writing. I love writing, but there are many components to being an author that constantly pull us away from the thing we long to do—WRITE!
- 4.** If my creative energy is low, she often has really good instincts of what's going on and good suggestions for overcoming it.

5. I get a lot from our blending of perspectives of older and younger viewpoints. It helps me continue to develop new, fresh characters.

There is one con—finding a computer program that meets our needs when co-authoring a piece. When I was writing solo, I saved the master files on my desktop, and I didn't have to worry about accidentally overwriting them or updating the wrong file. I had a system and it worked well.

But collaborating has forced us to search for a computer program that syncs quickly. Without being specific, we've tried many programs that should meet our work needs, but they don't. A partial solution to this problem is using Google Docs. If I use Google Docs to change the age of a character or a date on the timeline, Erin can immediately see it and make adjustments in her story writing.

But it doesn't work well for the novel itself, just the auxiliary documents—timeline, chapter-by-chapter outline, research, character charts, and synopses. The auxiliary documents keep all factual information straight for forward movement on the story. Those pieces are turned over to the editors when we turn in the manuscript.

One wrong piece of information—a date in the timeline, birthdate or eye color of a character, distance between a home and a barn or neighbor, type of entryway into the characters' homes—will come back to haunt the authors and editors during editing, so keeping the documents updated and correct is vital.



Erin Woodsmall

As far as the novel itself, when Erin or I finish a chapter on our computers, we copy and paste that chapter into Google Docs. When we're finished honing it together in Google Docs, I copy it and move it to the master file on my desktop.

Erin, what were your experiences that led up to this novel?

Erin: Growing up, I spent a lot of time on St. Simons Island. Both of my parents are from the Brunswick/Golden Isles area of Georgia. We went there at least once a year and many years we visited three or more times.

St. Simons Island is a wonderful place to visit. My mom has an adventurous heart, and she'd take me "off the beaten path" year after year. Similar to what Tara and the Glynn Girls eventually do in the book, I biked all over St. Simons countless times. I didn't always realize it, but during every trip I was learning about the island's unique ecosystem and rich history.

I've lived in North Georgia my whole life. While movies like *Steel Magnolias* and *Sweet Home Alabama*—which *As the Tide Comes In* has been compared to—are an embellishment of Southern living, I've met many unique Southern people who are sincere, charming, and quirky, similar to the Glynn Girls.

I was a choir director for a small Methodist church for about five years, and saw firsthand that there are big, vibrant personalities in little towns all across the South. While none of the Glynn Girls have direct inspirations, I was able to draw upon a lifetime of experiences in small Georgia towns.

What literary or storytelling influences did you bring to the table?

Erin: As far as storytelling influences, I think the biggest one is obvious: Cindy. She has an amazing instinct for story, plot, and for which elements work and which don't.

I still have so much to learn, but thankfully she's patient! It's been a beautiful journey that brought us to begin writing together, and I'm just so thankful to find a kindred spirit in her.

Because our stories are contemporary, I can also bring some insight to the table concerning the younger characters. Tara is very close to my age, and she has some of the same interests I have, like running, hiking, and loving outdoor adventures.

It's obvious that Cindy doesn't need my help writing realistic characters in their 20s or 30s because she's been doing it for over a decade. But it's nice to be able to open my life of real experiences to her as we're creating new characters in a culture outside of Amish life. In our more recent writing of non-Amish settings, I bring things to the table she hasn't personally experienced in the same way she experienced the Plain lifestyle.

Most of the book takes place on St. Simons Island, Georgia. Why did you select this location, and what did you learn from research trips there that helped shape the story?

Erin: When Cindy had the idea for this novel, originally it was going to be set in a town similar to our hometown, which is a suburb of Atlanta located on Lake Lanier. But she'd been unable to find a setting that felt truly right.

When she told me the storyline was inspired by Sidney Lanier's poem, I immediately thought of Glynn County, Georgia, which includes Saint Simons Island, because Sydney Lanier wrote the poem while there. I mentioned that information to her, and everything clicked into place.

The whole area has a small-town feel, and it seems as if everyone knows everyone going generations back. My parents grew up in Glynn County, and I spent my childhood visiting grandparents and roaming St. Simons.

Cindy: I was so excited about the setting being St. Simons Island, and we planned a weeklong research trip to the island. We stayed in a lovely old home on East Beach, and that house became a central focal point of the story.

Because Erin had family in St. Simons, we were able to interview friends of the family that covered several generations of unique lives. Between our time there and Erin's familial connection, we were able to create a story that stays true to the island's culture and history.

A couple of the things we did while there were climb all 129 steps of the lighthouse and spend a lovely afternoon at Gould's Inlet, which became the book's cover. We also went on a historical "ghost tour," although I doubt if anyone believes the ghost part of the story.

But the stories are a part of the island culture and a way to pass down the island's history from one generation to the next, because everything up to the point of the person dying and becoming a ghost is well-documented history.

What inspired the story in this new novel?

Cindy: I fell in love with the idea that if we lose all of what makes us, us—who are we? How do we find our way back to ourselves ... or to God? Can we find our way back?

I've had the ideas of this story simmering for years, and one facet of the story is about a close-knit group of 50-something women who are forced to take a closer look at how they give of themselves to others. Most of us want to give, but we like to pick the when, where, and how.

What happens if “it” picks us? And what happens if the “it” is a young homeless woman who seems mentally unstable and is stealing from us?

The Glynn Girls found the whole situation taxing, and what they wanted to do and what God seemed to be asking were two very different things.

What or who inspired these characters?

Cindy: A seedling idea came to me one morning as I was waking. It was about three close-knit teens who'd bonded while living in the foster care system.

My desire to understand foster kids beyond the clichéd portrayal took root. Who were these girls? What would life be like as adult teens without any family support system?

To help us dive deeper into understanding the girls, Erin went to Asheville, North Carolina, where the girls are from originally, and she connected with a legal advocate for the juvenile court system. That was a tremendous help!

The research was quite a journey—uplifting and unnerving. *As the Tide Comes In* shows Tara at 18, trying to get her feet under her when family needs arise.

There's one responsible adult holding life together for Tara's two half-brothers—a dying elderly woman who isn't related to Tara. None of it is easy or fair—because when adults abandon their children due to addiction, the concept of life being unfair takes on all new meaning.

The Glynn Girls—the group of 50-something women who've been best friends since they were 10—were inspired by many Southern women I've met over the years. They're quirky, funny, and overbearing at times, but their hearts are in the right place.

When Tara's world collides with theirs, it's interesting because the Glynn Girls don't understand her at all at first, and they treat her poorly. When they begin to see her for who she is, Tara, at almost 30, isn't capable of yielding to their maternal ways.

Which character(s) surprised you most in this novel?

Erin: I'd say Sue Beth, the Glynn Girl who at the beginning of the book isn't getting along with Julep, who is another Glynn Girl and the hero's mother. Cindy and I started out thinking Sue Beth was a shallow flirt. That's how she appears to everyone, but by the final draft, Sue Beth is a complex woman who's hiding her wounded, long-term marriage from even her closest friends.

When Barnes & Noble wanted an exclusive bonus feature, we wrote a short story about Sue Beth that opens readers' eyes to who she really is. I hope readers will get chance to check it out because she gets a point of view that we didn't have time to explore in *As the Tide Comes In*, although there's lots of character development for Sue Beth in the main storyline too.

For readers of your Amish fiction, Cindy, which elements of *As the Tide Comes In* can they look forward to most?

Cindy: If readers love picturesque settings, we have readers covered with the beautiful setting of St. Simons Island! If readers enjoy strong female characters who live a life of sacrifice while holding onto that unique part of who God made them, we have that covered too.

And readers can expect a clean read with no explicit language or scenes. Another element that's shared with Amish fiction is the strong sense of community, and these characters have that in the St. Simons Island setting. No one has to face the world alone, and we loved developing the interactions and relationships between the characters.

What are your favorite ways for readers to support their favorite authors?

Cindy: We live in a great time for readers to support their favorite authors! I love it. Word of mouth is so very important. One reader can reach hundreds or thousands of people by posting a review on Facebook, Goodreads, Amazon and the like. That is so very helpful!

Just a shout out of: “I’m reading *As the Tide Comes In* and loving it” or “I’m reading *As the Tide Comes In* and I’m in need of tissues one minute and of covering my mouth to stifle laughter the next.”

Those are simple, but very effective, and if readers post an image of the book’s cover to go with that, wow, it’s a powerhouse of support!

Another great support is to “Like” and “Share” authors’ posts on social media—for me that’s mostly Facebook. I can’t express how much I appreciate my readers’ help with spreading the word about each book on their own social media pages.

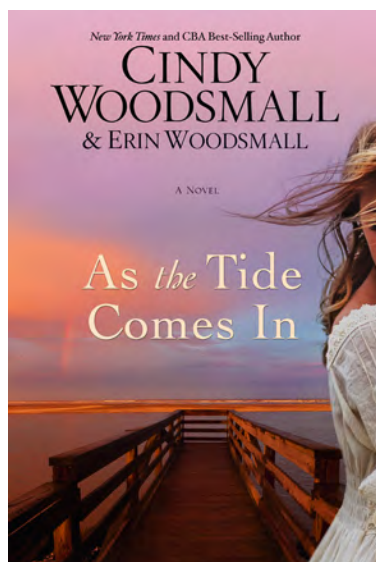
My debut novel came out in 2006, and I don’t know where I’d be without readers’ faithful support for each book, both online and word of mouth to their real-life family, friends, and even strangers in bookstores. **FF**

Visit Cindy Woodsmall’s author page here:

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Visit Erin Woodsmall’s author page here:

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As the Tide Comes In

Cindy Woodsmall
and Erin Woodsmall
WaterBrook



A New York Times bestselling author releases her first Southern novel, a Steel Magnolias-meets-Sweet Home Alabama story set on St. Simons Island.

When an unthinkable loss sends Tara Abbott's life spiraling out of control, she journeys from North Carolina to Georgia's St. Simons Island. Although confused and scared, she hopes to find answers about her past—her life before the years of foster care and raising her two half-brothers as a young adult. Will she find steady ground on the island, surrounded by an eccentric-but-kindhearted group of older women called The Glynn Girls and a determined firefighter? Or will the truth splinter what's left of her identity into pieces? **FF**

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MANDISA
DOES GOD QUIT?
RD QUESTIONS, DARK ROOMS

From the pen of **Jan Drexler** comes the brand-new **The Amish of Weaver's Creek** series, set against the backdrop of the Civil War. The first book, ***The Sound of Distant Thunder*** (Revell), puts her characters to the test as they struggle to reconcile their convictions and desires while the national conflict threatens to undermine and engulf their community. In this interview, Jan reveals what motivated her to write about an Amish family during that era, explains how the Amish struggled with the war, and shares the research she did to get the details right.



What motivated you to write about an Amish family during the Civil War era?

A big part of my motivation grew out of my fascination with the history of the Civil War. I wanted to look past the timelines and statistics of the war to the stories of the people who lived through that time.

Another part was my experience growing up in an Anabaptist family during the Vietnam era. The attitudes, beliefs, and actions that I witnessed in the young men just a few years older than I was turned into something I needed to explore and understand better.

The Amish struggle with their religious convictions in regard to war. Can you explain their struggles and their belief systems when it comes to war?

The Amish call themselves “non-resistant,” which is a bit different from being a pacifist. While the two are similar in believing that



war and violence are always wrong, a non-resistant person takes this belief to a more personal level. They will not resist an evil person or deed, even when it is directed against themselves or their loved ones.

During the Civil War, the Amish often found their beliefs put to the test. When the draft was instituted, the Amish as a whole didn't support it, but the choice of whether to serve or not belonged to the individual.

In this first story of the series, I try to present the elements that affected that choice for each of the characters and the consequences of those choices.

What type of research was required for writing *The Sound of Distant Thunder*?

This series has involved extensive research into Amish beliefs and history, Holmes County during the 1860s, and the Civil War, to name some of the broader topics.

I also delved into the daily life of a soldier, trade embargoes between the North and South, how mail was sent between the soldiers and their homes, and if and how Amish men served in the military and under what circumstances. I read diaries, biographies and Civil War histories, and used my experiences of visiting Civil War battlefield sites and museums.

Two of the books I relied on the most in my research were *Mennonites, Amish, and the American Civil War* by James O. Lehman and Steven M. Nolt, and *Unser Leit ... the Story of the Amish* by an Amish historian, Leroy Beachy.

What do you hope readers gain from reading your book?

Besides a satisfying reading experience, I hope readers gain a further understanding of the Amish and their history, and a deeper understanding of the Civil War, a conflict that still affects our lives today in many ways.

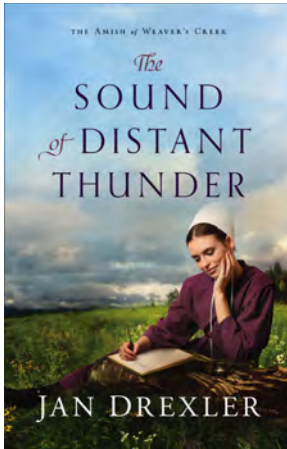
What's next on your writing to-do list?

The second and third books in The Amish of Weaver's Creek series are at the top of the list, and after that, I'm still looking into possibilities. I'd love to continue exploring how the Amish lived during times of upheaval in the world outside their communities. **FF**

Visit Jan Drexler's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jan-drexler>

Jan Drexler



The Sound of Distant Thunder
The Amish of Weaver's Creek #1
Jan Drexler
Revell



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Based on the extraordinary true story, the film ***Indivisible*** details the challenges of returning home from war—and the toll it takes on a marriage.

There have been several resources created to enhance the film's message, including the novelization by **Travis Thrasher**, published by Thomas Nelson. In this interview, Travis explains

the process of adapting a true story, compares this experience with his previous novelizations, and reveals what inspiration he got from adapting the film.



How do you describe *Indivisible*?

In one word: authentic. There are so many films out there that have a tagline of “based on a true story,” but *Indivisible* truly is based on Darren and Heather Turner. This film takes a unique look at the family of an Army chaplain from a realistic standpoint.

What happens when a man who has been called to bring hope to other soldiers ends up suffering himself? And what happens when the woman married to him has to wait and watch for her husband to come back home?

This is a book based on a movie based on a true story. What's the process of adapting something that's based on true events?

It's quite an interesting process to be writing a work of fiction and to be able to email the main hero of the story! With other novelizations, I've taken a lot of creative license when it comes to fleshing out characters and storylines.



In this case, however, I did the very opposite. Instead, I wanted to share even more about the real Darren and Heather Turner while staying true to the story of *Indivisible*. My No. 1 goal with this adaptation was to honor the Turners' amazing testimony.

You've written several novelizations. How often do you collaborate or work directly with the filmmakers vs. working alone?

Every novelization I've worked on has been different. When I first began working on *Indivisible*, I connected with the director, David Evans, to hear his heart and vision for the film. He was extremely supportive of my ideas and my work.

My process starts with reading the screenplay and seeing the story in my imagination. Sometimes I don't see the film until after the book is finished, but in this case, I was able to watch the film while I was working on the novelization.

The great thing was being able to collaborate directly with Chaplain Turner himself. I asked him a variety of questions while working on the book. He was incredibly generous and extremely helpful.

What personal inspirations did you take away from the script while converting it to a novel?

I'm an emotional guy, especially as the father of three young girls, so it's easy for a film to make me tear up whenever it has something to do with a father and his children. At times I was quite emotional working on this book and imagining what both Darren and Heather were going through.

I was constantly reminded of the extreme sacrifices our military families make, and about how only God can heal the wounds in a marriage.

What was your favorite thing about working on *Indivisible*?

I will never be in the Army nor will I ever be a chaplain, but for a while, I got to “play” one in the process of working on this book. Honestly, more than just being able to write from Chaplain Turner's point of view, I was incredibly honored to be able to portray a part of his life in this novelization.

It's not a biography or memoir, but it's still a story based on real family. I know a lot of people will love the movie and the book! **FF**

Visit Travis Thrasher's author page here:

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Travis Thrasher



Indivisible: A Novelization

Thomas Nelson

Travis Thrasher



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Historical Susan Schroeder

Christian author **Susan Schroeder**

hopes to reach people's hearts and improve their relationship with God through her stories. Her historical novel ***Season of Defiance*** (Lighthouse Christian Publishing) is a character-driven adventure about a half-Indian, half-white man of noble blood. The story traces his journey into despair and loss of faith after accidentally killing a friend, as well as how he finds his way back to God. In this interview, the author explains what inspired her to write about these themes, shares how the story intersects with the historical record, and reveals the biggest challenge for a Christian author writing about that era.



***Season of Defiance* is a historical drama set in Colonial America that struggles with issues like justice and prejudice and forgiveness. Why were you inspired to write a novel that dealt with these themes?**

These are the same issues that man has struggled with since he was thrown out of the Garden of Eden. I wrote this story because I felt moved to show that accepting God's sovereignty in our lives is the only cure for the many injustices that plague us in life.

What drew you to set your novel in this particular time and place?

The novel is set in the early 1700s because it's such a fascinating time period in our nation's history. The American colonies were a fresh new frontier. People were full of hope for the future. Faith in God was a normal part of people's lives.

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I chose to make my main character, Rafe, an adopted member of the Mohican tribe because I've been fascinated with the Mohicans ever since I read James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* when I was a child. I set the story in what is now known as Stockbridge, Massachusetts because that's where the tribe that raised Rafe until he was 10 would've lived, having been forced to move in 1664 after a war with the Mohawk.

**How does this novel intersect with the historical record?
What research did you do to get the details right?**

I researched on the internet to find out what the fashions of the day were, how they wore their hair, what the society of that time period was like. I even looked up old maps from that time period so I would know how long it would've taken someone to walk or ride from one place to another.

Some of the places in the story actually existed, like the Stockbridge School where Rafe learned about God from the missionaries. Another real location was Venue House, in front of which one of my characters is sold into slavery.

It was the original Nassau marketplace from which slaves were sold in the 18th and 19th centuries, although I used artistic license and turned it into more of a records repository in my story. I also used an anecdote of the Governor of New Providence taking steps to rid the island of pirates. It was fun weaving those few tidbits of actual history into the story.

What are the challenges for a Christian author writing a story set in this era?

The biggest challenge for me as a Christian was portraying the wickedness and debauchery of the pirates without it becoming offensive to the reader. I was careful not to include gratuitous violence, and avoided using curse words. Instead, I wrote “he cursed” or something similar. I don’t know about others, but when I read curse words in a story, it really ruins it for me.

Another problem, not related to being a Christian writer, was that the way people spoke in the early 18th century is quite different from how we speak today. Of course we have no recordings, but we do have writings from that time, which my research revealed were more formal than the spoken word.

I’d always thought they didn’t use contractions, as is portrayed in some novels and movies of the era, but in my research I found an article that said they actually did use them. I chose to write the conversations in my novel mostly in a modern manner, with a word from the era thrown in here and there when appropriate. I felt this made the conversations more natural for the reader and would help keep them focused on the story instead of on the odd language.

What do you hope readers get out of *Season of Defiance*?

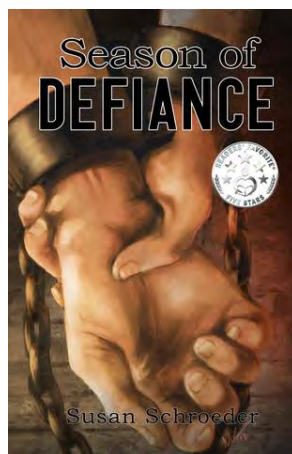
Like Rafe, everyone has doubts about their salvation from time to time. They think because they've done something wrong God couldn't possibly love them. Or they've been convinced by constant bullying because they're different in some way that they're not worthy of God's love.

I'm hoping this story will bring them to an understanding that there's nothing God can't forgive and no one God cannot love. His love is that great. I have Romans 8:38-39 on my computer's home screen to keep me mindful of just that:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **FF**

Visit Susan Schroeder's author page here:

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Season of Defiance

Lighthouse Christian Publishing

Susan Schroeder



A longtime lover of Regency romance, Australian author **Carolyn Miller** has written historical romances that have won a number of RWA and ACFW contests. She wraps up her **Regency Brides: A Promise of Hope** series with two novels, ***Miss Serena's Secret*** and ***The Making of Mrs. Hale***, both from Kregel Publications. In this interview,



Carolyn tells us about the series, explains why one man would have so many titles, and shares the best part about writing Regency romances.

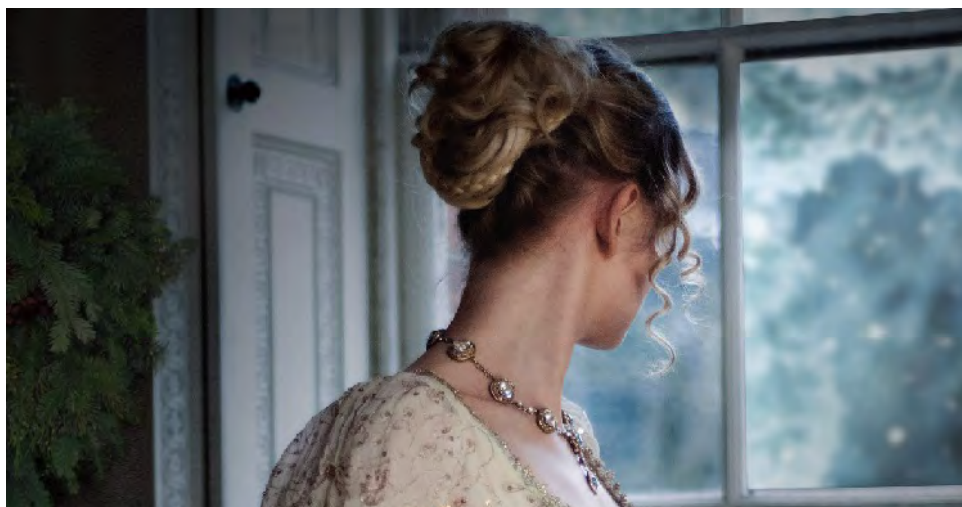
Carolyn, how do your two latest books fit into the overarching Regency Brides: Promise of Hope series?

Miss Serena's Secret and *The Making of Mrs. Hale* follow the stories of characters mentioned in the first book of this series, *Winning Miss Winthrop*. I think it's fascinating to see how different characters develop over time, and to see snippets of the stories of previous characters as they progress in life.

Miss Serena's Secret specifically follows Catherine Winthrop's sister, the artistic Serena, in her quest to overcome particular physical and social issues as she strives to create her art, whereas *The Making of Mrs. Hale* examines whether a runaway marriage (to Gretna Green!) can be redeemed.

Your leading man is variously referred to as Viscount Carmichael, Henry, and Lord Carmichael... These are all the same man, right? Is this the kind of thing Regency Era readers already know and I just look stupid for asking?

Yes, all the same man! Henry Carmichael (also known as Harry), is the heir to the Earl of Bevington, which means he's entitled to use



one of his father's subsidiary (lesser) titles, in this case Viscount Carmichael. The British peerage has a system of ranks, from the king or queen, through to princes, dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, barons, etc, so a viscount ranks lower than an earl.

It's a little complicated, but if you think of the British royals, consider how Prince William is also known as the Duke of Cambridge (and, FYI, also holds the titles Earl of Strathearn and Baron Carrickfergus). Same man, different titles.

Henry is called a lord because that's the way peers and their heirs are addressed. It's pretty tricky, and probably not something all Regency readers know, so you don't look silly for asking!

Is this the conclusion of the series, or where do you go from here?

The Making of Mrs. Hale is the third book in the Regency Brides: The Promise of Hope series, but in 2019 we'll see my new series release, Regency Brides: The Daughters of Aynsley, which is another trio of books centering on three sisters (you guessed it,

the daughters of Lord Aynsley!) and their various paths to finding their happy-ever-afters.

It's been fun exploring different tropes and different settings, and the stories in this new series involve everything from fossil hunting on England's south coast to lairds in a Scottish castle!

Why so you think the Regency era is so popular with contemporary audiences?

I think contemporary readers love the manners, fashions, and settings of an era we barely recognize these days. Who doesn't love the idea of a Mr. Darcy-type character dancing with the heroine at some grand English estate?

It's a form of escape, a little like a fairy tale, except it's grounded in the reality of history. And it's not just carriage rides and fancy balls; it's also a time of great social and technological change, which means there is a world of interesting facts to discover.

What's the best part about writing romances set during the Regency era?

I actually really like the social constraints that make romances set in this era so different from today. In Regency times a lady couldn't openly admit her feelings, and had to employ far more subtle ways to communicate her interest in a gentleman (such as the language of the fan!).

It was a time when marriage was everything, as the right partner could lead to wealth and security, which meant that protecting a young lady's reputation was vital. A young couple had to be far more restrained in their actions; sometimes they barely had a chance to talk without a chaperone (which is why dancing at balls

Carolyn Miller

was so popular, as young ladies and gentlemen could actually speak to each other).

They weren't supposed to do anything as bold as kiss (at least until after they were engaged), and they definitely couldn't go off alone, otherwise there might be a ruined reputation and an enforced trip to the altar. These social constraints make it a fun challenge to see how characters can be brought together, and I like that my characters are drawn to each other because of their humor, their faith, their shared interests, rather than basing a relationship on mere physical attraction.

Of course my characters experience physical attraction, too. Add to this all the intriguing elements of Regency history, and there is a lot to love. **FF**

Visit Carolyn Miller's author page here:

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The Making of Mrs. Hale

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Raquel Byrnes writes across several genres including YA Steampunk, Fantasy, and Gothic Mystery. Her current series is **The Blackburn Chronicles**. We talked with Raquel about the first book in the series, ***The Tremblers*** (Pelican Book Group).

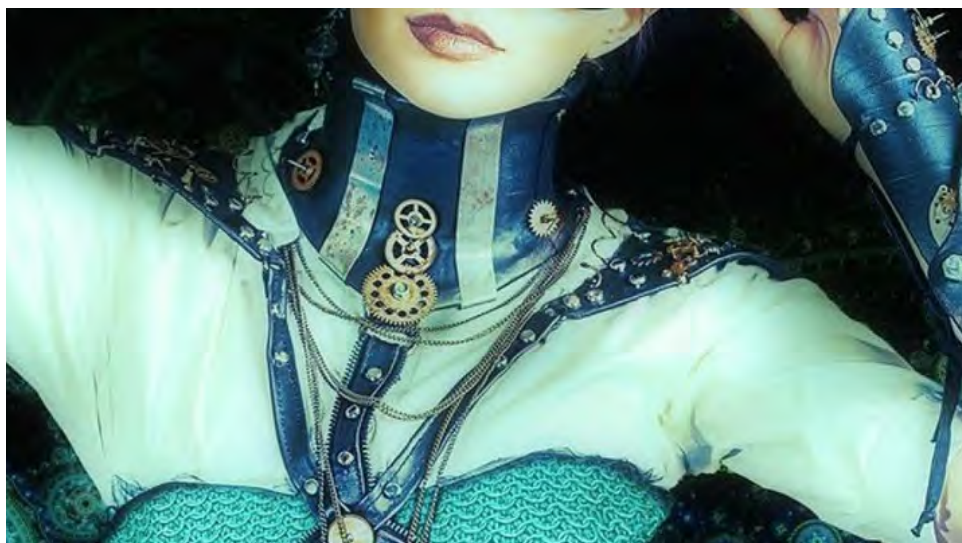


In this interview, the author gives us the background on the series, explains the challenges of creating this world, and reveals how her faith is infused into her tales of adventure.

What can you tell us about the world of the Blackburn Chronicles?

We live in a broken world riddled with sin, but what would a world be if it was literally broken and getting worse? Just as our Lord has always used the most improbable people to showcase his power and love in the toughest of situations, *The Blackburn Chronicles* follows the Victorian debutante Charlotte on a tumultuous journey. The novels take place in 1885, 10 years after a chain of earthquakes set off by a secret government project fractured the whole United States.

With the government broken into city-states surviving under protective electric domes, the seas unlivable, outlaws running the skies, and her mother's death, Charlotte is struggling with her faith. Then things get complicated. In the absolute darkest of times, does God still have a plan?



What were the challenges in creating this world?

The hardest part was anticipating the technological advancement under the extreme survival conditions the country was experiencing. How might the inventions and discoveries by the brightest minds of that time been changed? What would society do if the entire country, so fresh out of the Civil War, were threatening to fall to dissent again?

My favorite challenge by far was creating the weapons and wardrobe of a steampunk rebel. The heroine, Charlotte, became a tinkerer as a way of connecting with her otherwise emotionally distant scientist father.

After her world fell apart, the weapons she made had power and feminine finesse. From the beautiful magenta explosions of her Screeching Violet grenades to the chainmail which lined her bodice to ward off electric shock from the massive dome that shielded the cities, imagining the New America was exciting.

What about Charlotte Blackburn and Ashton Wells made you want to tell their story?

Charlotte is an ordinary young woman in an impossible situation. She's anyone who's struggled with something they can't escape. And she's everyone who's stepped out in faith despite feeling woefully unprepared. Her willingness to face terrifying challenges to help those she loves is what drew me to her.

Ashton is a true believer in the secret order who took him in as an orphan. His journey from blind obedience to the most feared warrior for right was a fascinating prospect to write. His heart follows two commands. He always does what's morally right, and he loves Charlotte, but it tears him apart when his heart can't have both.

How does your faith impact your approach to storytelling?

My stories may have harrowing airship battles, scary monsters, and ruthless villains, but I always begin and end with hope. Faith is woven throughout Charlotte and Ashton's journey.

The struggle to hold on to that thread of light when everything seems to be crumbling down around you was important for me to explore. Believing in what is good in a deeply broken world can seem impossible, and it is through my stories that I hope I can point people to grace.

What do you hope readers come away with after reading *The Tremblers*?

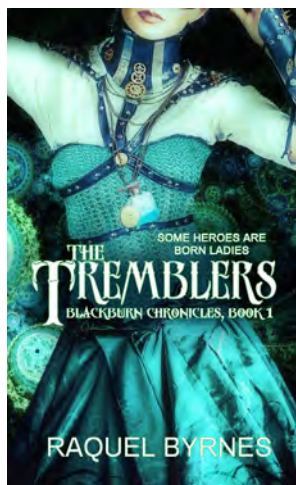
It's my hope that readers take away the idea that they are not alone when they have doubts or when they struggle with doing the right thing because they are afraid. We're not called to be perfect, rather we are called to believe in a perfect God.

Raquel Byrnes

Everything else is just one foot in front of the other as we step out in faith. **FF**

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The Tremblers

Blackburn Chronicles #1

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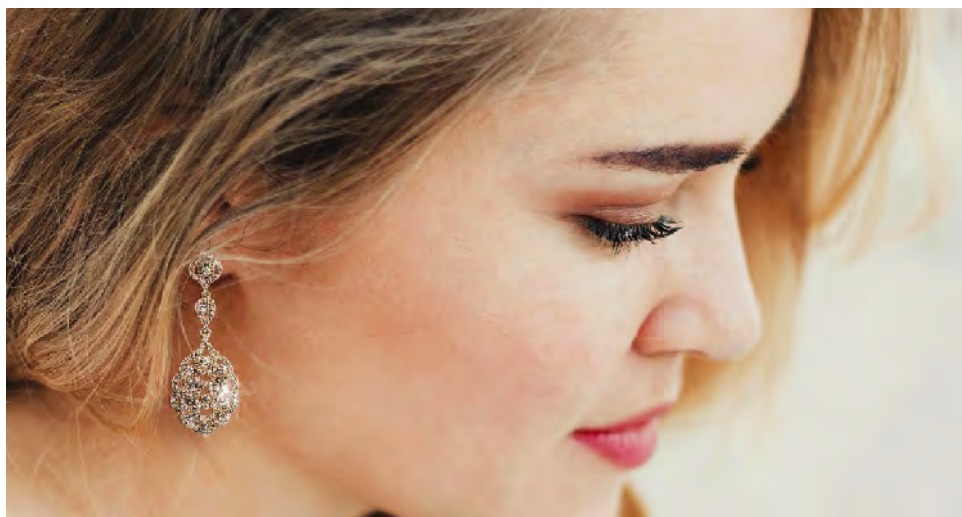
A marketing manager for a Christian film company, **Liz Johnson** is also the author of more than a dozen novels. Her latest book is the romantic adventure ***A Sparkle of Silver*** (Revell): Get ready for a romantic escapade through dark halls and dusty corners as two charming characters race to unravel secrets and find the fortune they both desperately need—before treasure hunters claim it for themselves! In this interview, the author spills some details about writing a book set in two different eras, shares the inspiration for the story, and explains what she hopes readers get out of the new book.



***A Sparkle of Silver* blends the past with a contemporary setting. Was it difficult to write a story involving two different eras?**

I thoroughly enjoyed writing in both eras. The contemporary setting of the historical landmark was such fun. My hero and heroine are both dealing with such heavy things that I loved writing about their exploration of the Chateau. For a few hours they could almost forget their painful circumstances and just enjoy the discovery of the old home.

Writing about the 1920s was a whole new challenge for me. It meant new types of research and exploring the era. And because the 1920s storyline is told through journal entries, I had to really immerse myself in the character. She ended up being one of my favorite parts of the story.



What was the inspiration for your new book?

About eight years ago, my dad and I visited Hearst Castle in California. I'd never heard of it until our visit, but I was mesmerized by the opulence of this home built by William Randolph Hearst.

He spared no expense in building his retreat in San Simeon, and I couldn't get over the gold-plated tiles in the pool—or the fact that there were two pools on the grounds. He entertained actors and socialites, the elite of Hollywood and some of the richest people in the world. Yet year after year Hearst continued to expand the home until it had more than 160 rooms on the estate when he left in 1947. It just wasn't ever enough.

By the time we finished our tour, I already had a story idea about an actress in costume at a similar estate. It's changed a bit since then, but *A Sparkle of Silver* can be traced back to that trip to Hearst Castle and a somber realization that money and all it could buy would never fulfill Hearst.

What type of research was required for writing *A Sparkle of Silver*?

I did a lot of research into the 1920s, everything from the way they used language to what would have been built into a grand estate in 1929. Of course, my trip to St. Simons was a great jumping-off point, with information about things like the feel of the wind off the ocean and the sound of the waves on the shore. This is also my first book with a character who is battling dementia, so I did quite a bit of reading about how that might manifest itself.

Was there any part of this book that really surprised you once you began writing it?

Yes, but I can't reveal it without giving away too much of the story. I will say that I was as shocked by the darkest moment in the book as the characters themselves. The revelation should have been apparent to me, but somehow I didn't see it until the very last minute, and when it all came together, it felt like an enormous gift.

What do you hope readers gain from reading your book?

I hope that readers are reminded that the very best things in life are free—the love of family, laughing with a friend, the grace of God. When we face financial struggles, it's easy to focus on those and miss the joy in life. I also hope readers will be encouraged by the reminders that God has not forsaken us. When the storm rages on, many of us struggle to say, "It is well with my soul." That's okay. God is still on his throne. Our doubts and trials do not diminish who He is or His love for us. **FF**

Visit Liz Johnson's author page here:

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Liz Johnson



A Sparkle of Silver

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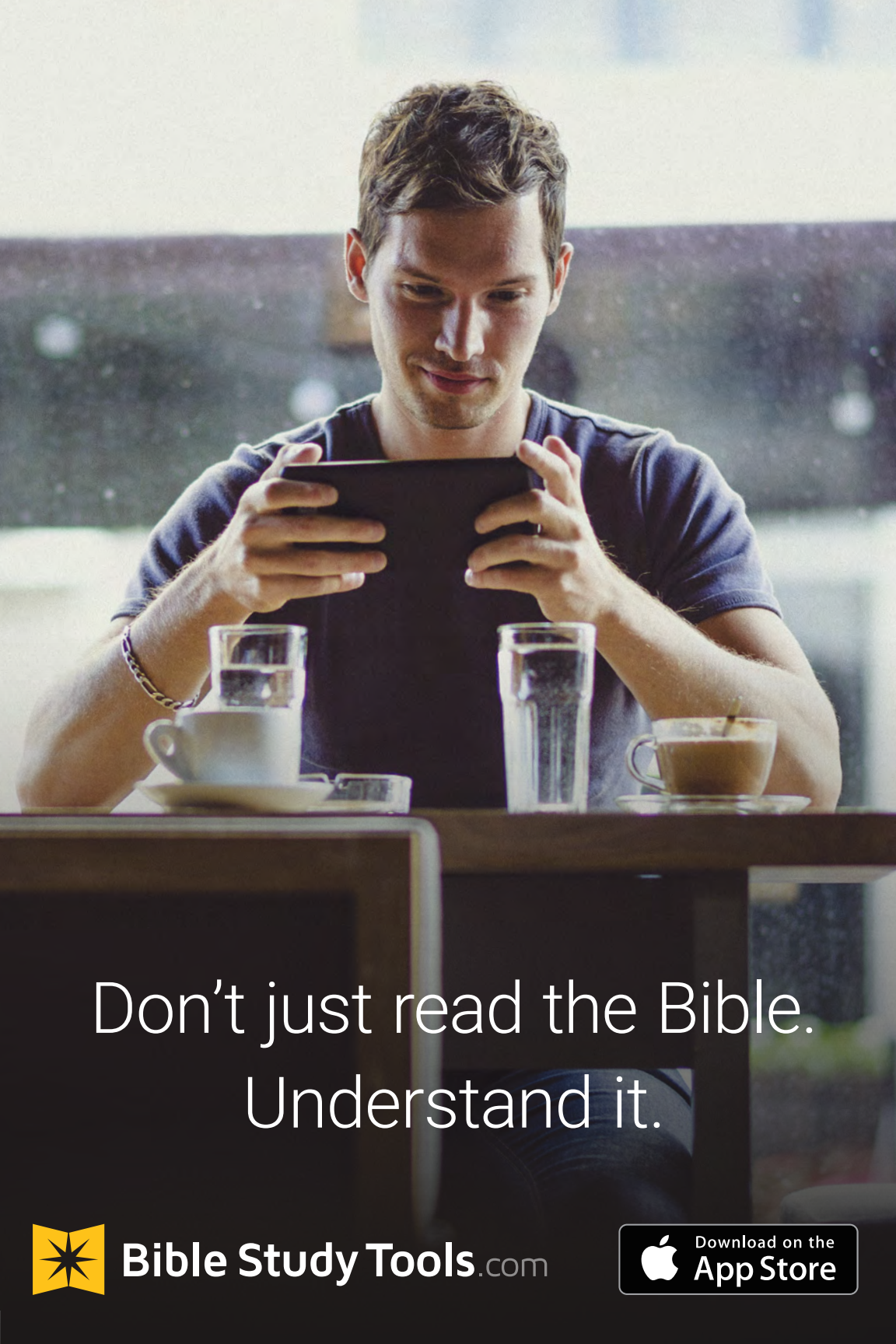
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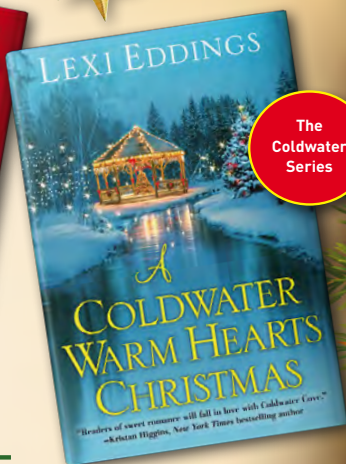
The Amish Christmas Candle

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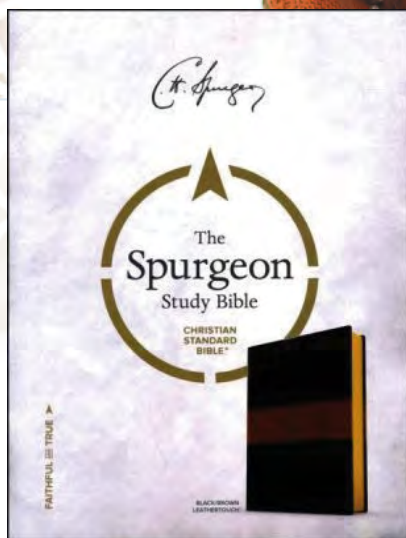


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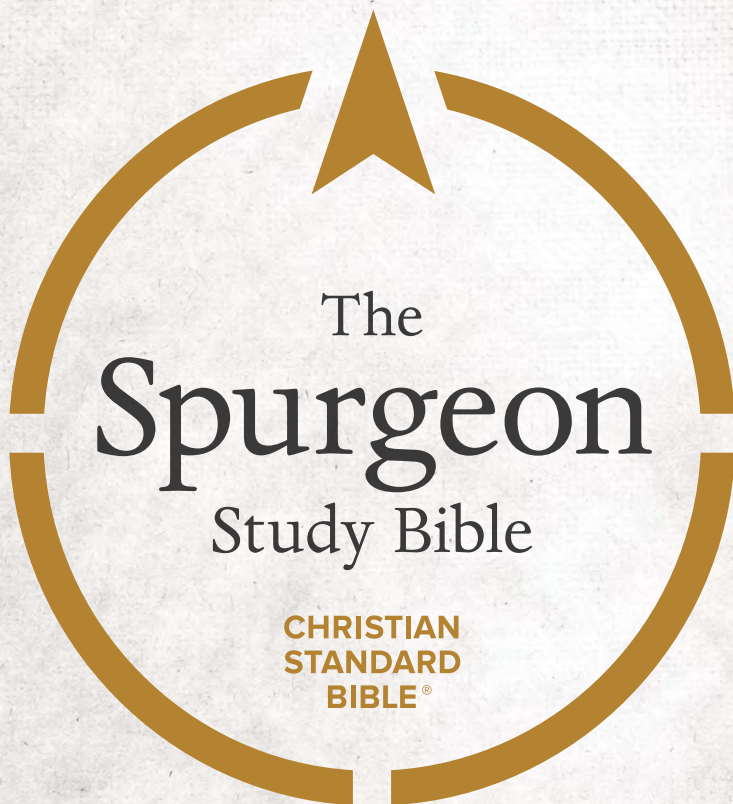
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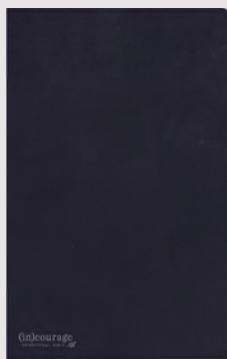
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The **CSB She Reads Truth Bible** aims to live at the intersection of beauty, goodness, and Truth. Featuring devotionals by the She Reads Truth team, and Scripture reading plans that include supplemental passages for deeper understanding, this Bible invites every woman to count themselves among the She Reads Truth community of “Women in the Word of God every day.” The *CSB She Reads Truth Bible* also features 66 key verses, artfully lettered to aid in Scripture memorization.



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Paul Cardall *Christmas* **PaulCardall.com**

Pianist and composer Paul Cardall releases his much-anticipated album *Christmas*, featuring vocal collaborations from three world-class voices: 12-time Grammy award-winner CeCe Winans, award-winning singer/songwriter Audrey Assad, and Australia's Broadway star Patrice Tipoki.

Look for this moving collection to become the soundtrack of your Christmas celebrations year after year!

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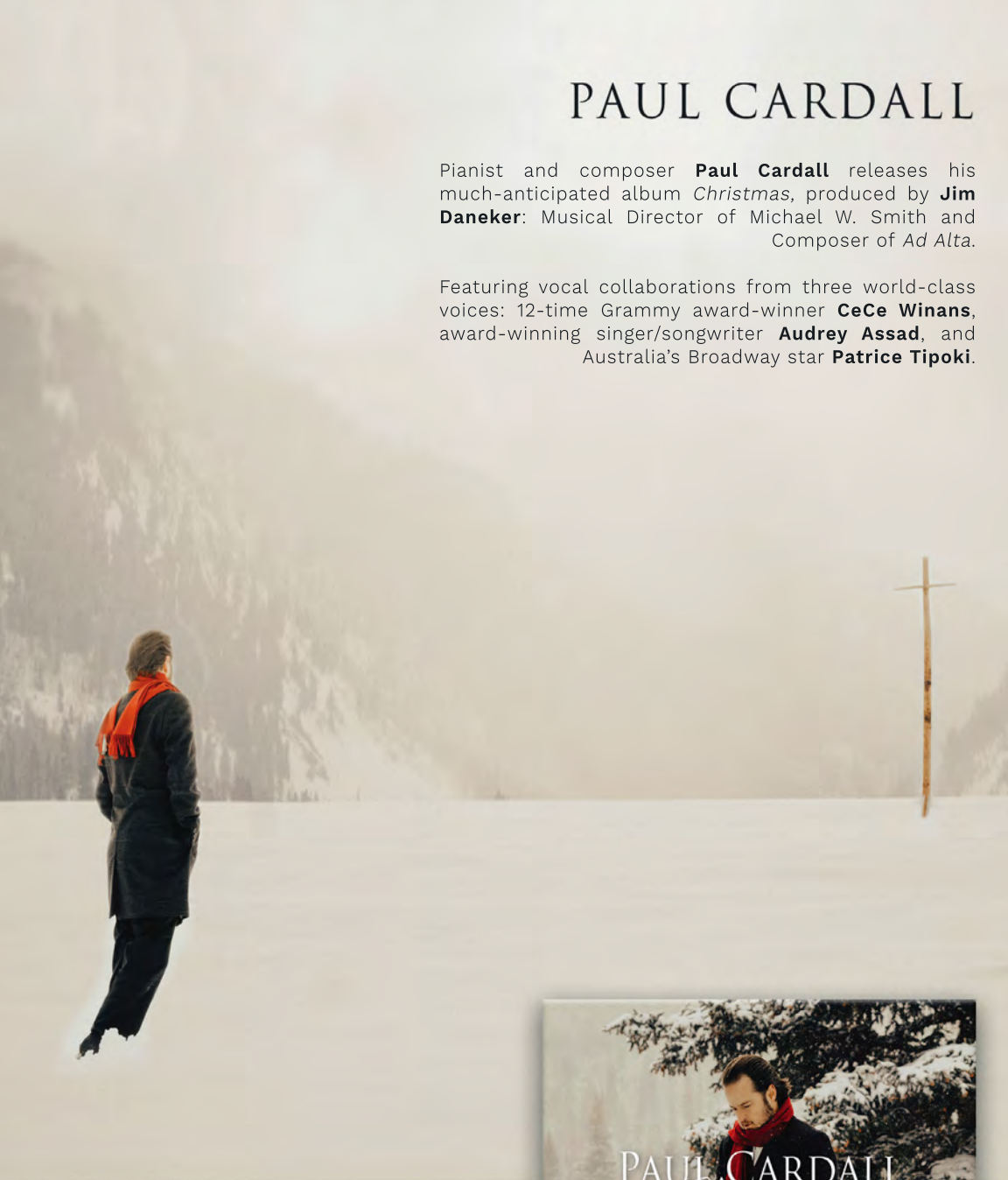
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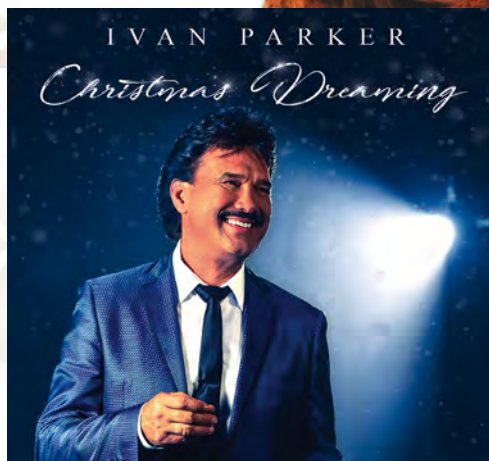


This moving collection will become the soundtrack of your Christmas celebrations year after year! Paul Cardall's *Christmas* is available everywhere music is streamed or sold.

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Ivan Parker *Christmas Dreaming* **Difference Media**

Just in time for the holidays, Ivan Parker is returning with a new full length Christmas album featuring some of his favorite songs of the season.

Showcasing his award-winning signature vocals atop big band horns, jazz piano runs and lush orchestrations, Parker

seamlessly delivers a range of Christmas classics, including “There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays” and “It’s The Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” alongside such sacred selections as “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” and “What Child Is This,” among others.

“It’s my hope that this collection presents the spirit of Christmas morning—the peace that brings us closer together at the holidays,” said Parker. “‘It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year’ and ‘There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays’ take me right back to my childhood and Christmas with my family. And the newer classic, ‘My Grown Up Christmas List,’ is so fitting for the times we live in now. With much confusion and division in the world, it was important for me to have a song about love, peace and the restoration of joy. Forget the problems and the things that divide us and let’s go back to what the season is all about.”

“Most of all, I want people to understand the real reason for Christmas,” Parker emphasizes. “Carols like ‘What Child Is This’ and ‘It Came Upon A Midnight Clear’ point us back to the manger—these are the songs that present Jesus, the true Hope of Christmas.”

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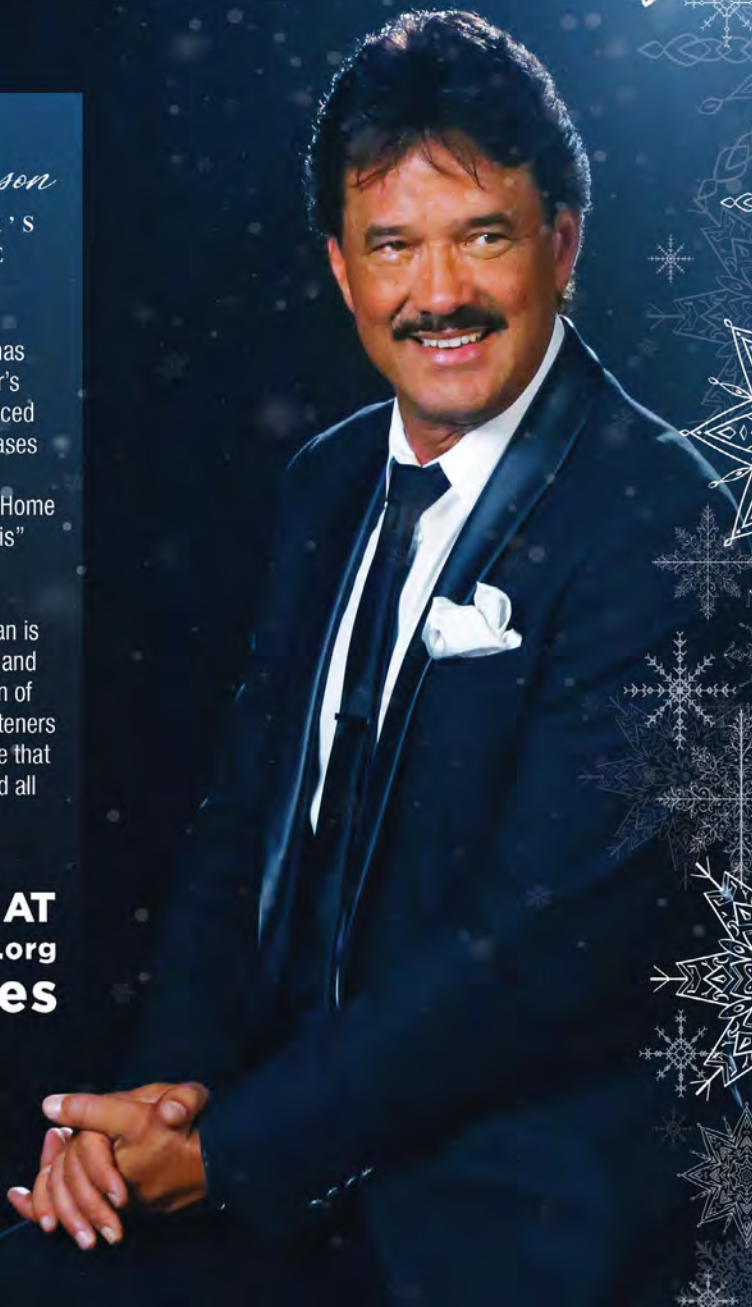
Christmas Dreaming

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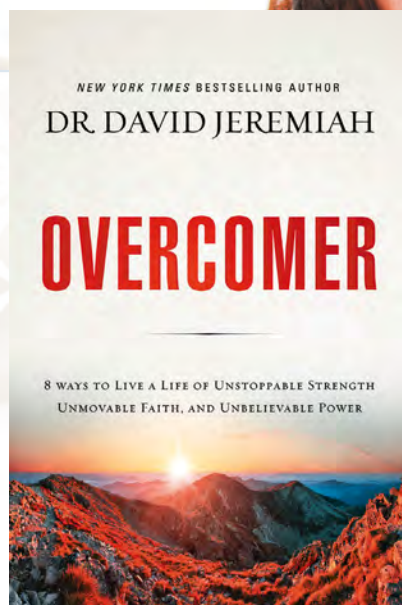
This brand new full length Christmas album features some of Ivan Parker's favorite songs of the season. Produced by Garry Jones, this project showcases nostalgic renditions of "Christmas Dreaming," "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays," "What Child is This" and more.

Highlighting the musical qualities Ivan is known for, with fresh arrangements and crooner style, this timeless collection of holiday classics is sure to inspire listeners with the message of hope and peace that rings true throughout the season and all year long.

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Dr. David Jeremiah *Overcomer*

God didn't design you for defeat. He designed you for victory. It's hard out there. Sometimes it feels like the world is ripping apart at the seams. Sometimes it feels like our hearts can't take any more hurt. But no matter what the world throws at us each day—anxiety, fear, confusion, temptation—we have a choice on how to respond.

We can either concede defeat or live in the victory God has promised. It's easy to say we choose victory, but how many of us are prepared for it? How do we win this fight against our fears? How do we overcome the world?

In ***Overcomer***, bestselling author Dr. David Jeremiah uses Paul's instructions in Ephesians 6—his command for us to overcome the forces of evil by putting on the armor of God—to lay out a pathway for spiritual victory. Dr. Jeremiah also reminds us we're not alone in this fight. God knows what we need, and He provides us with His power so we can face life's challenges assured of success.

"The journey of the Overcomer is a wonderful, profound, healing journey," writes Dr. Jeremiah. "God is all good, and He only gives good gifts—one after the other, again and again—to strengthen you for whatever the future holds."

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

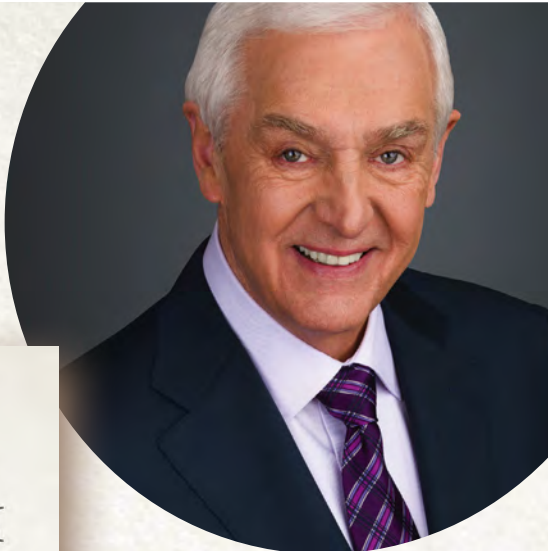
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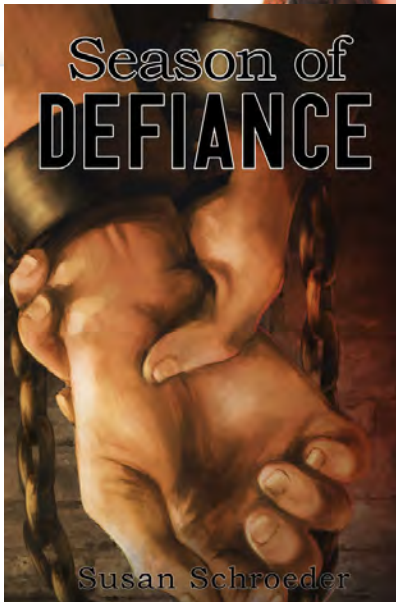
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Susan Schroeder *Season of Defiance*

This is the story of one early 18th century man's long and tortured path to redemption.

A half Indian child of rape, Rafe is often called an abomination or a demon-spawn by his peers. But his faith in God upholds him until he accidentally kills his only friend and the ensuing downward spiral into iniquity makes him wonder if there's any hope for such a man as he has become.

"Season of Defiance is an inspirational story that puts one man's life before his conscience and God, exploring the theme of loss, sin, and

redemption. But it's the spiritual and self-doubt aspect that captivated me... Here is a story that explores some of the powerful spiritual questions that haunt the human mind and readers will undoubtedly find themselves mirrored in the conscience of the protagonist.

Susan Schroeder is a great storyteller and she masterfully knits a wonderful message into the fabric of this compelling story. Season of Defiance has a gripping plot and a compelling cast of characters. The gift of descriptive prose allows the setting to come out perfectly in readers' minds.... The conflict is deep and it is developed at different levels — physical and internal — but it is the internal conflict, taking place in the protagonist's mind, that had me captivated and enthused. This is a beautiful story that is well-paced, entertaining and inspiring. You'll find your soul navigating the pages of this book."

—Ruffina Oserio (Reader's Favorite 5-star review)

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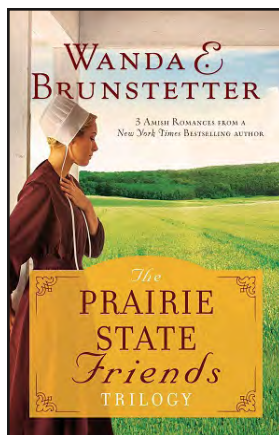


Season of **DEFIANCE**



Susan Schroeder





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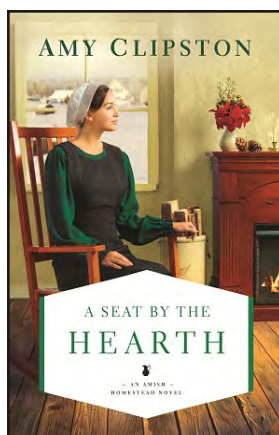
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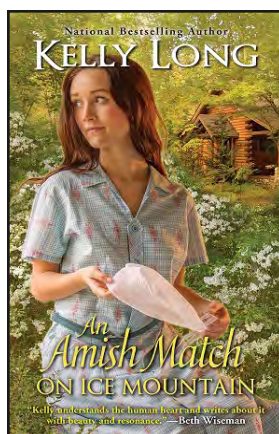
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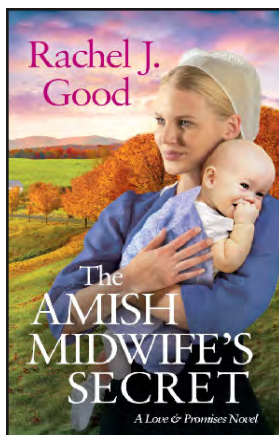
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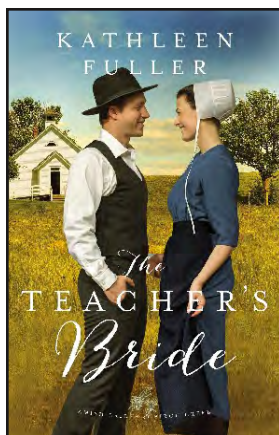
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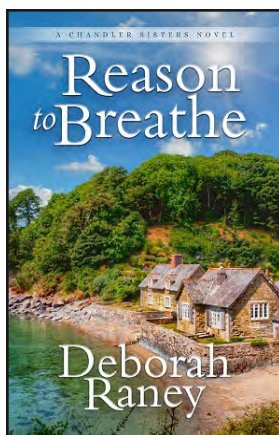
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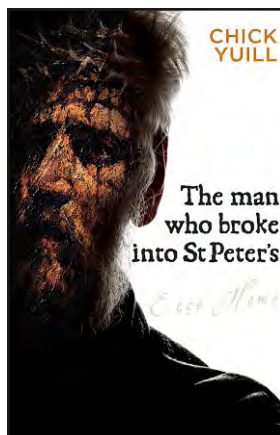
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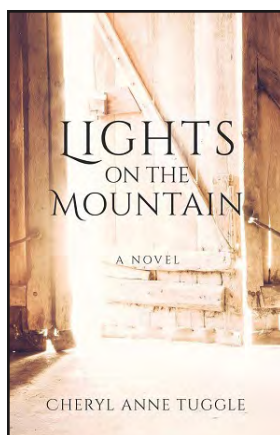
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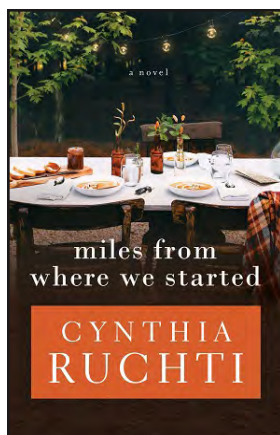
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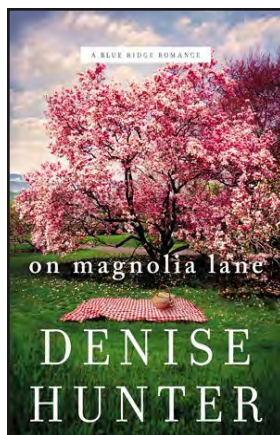
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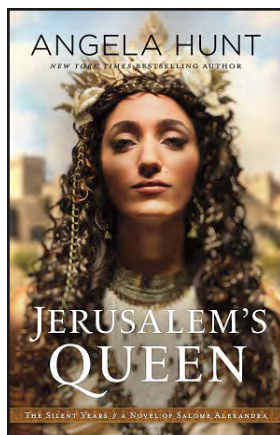
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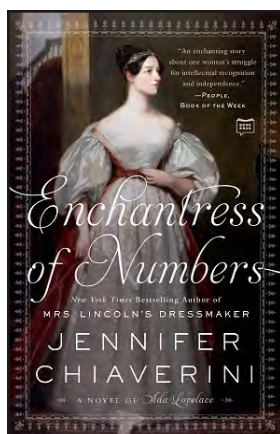
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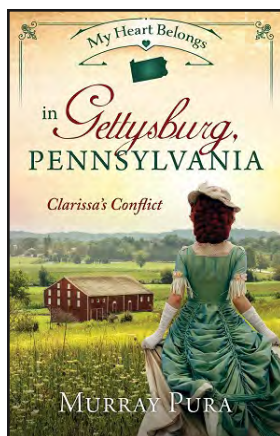
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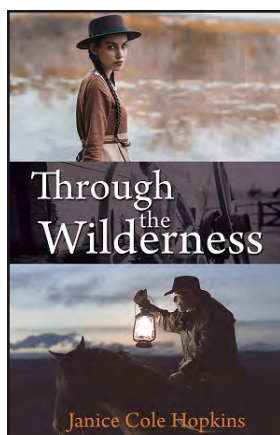
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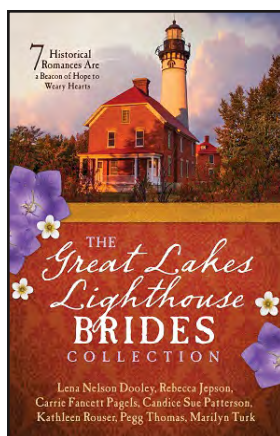
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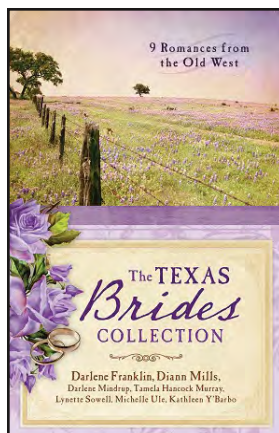
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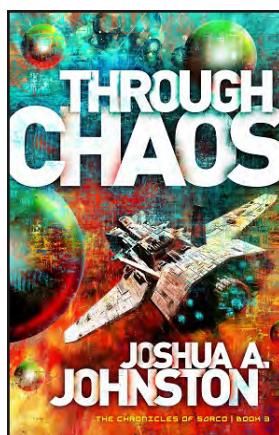
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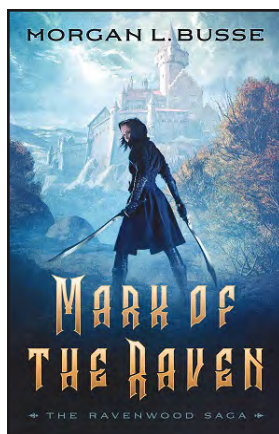
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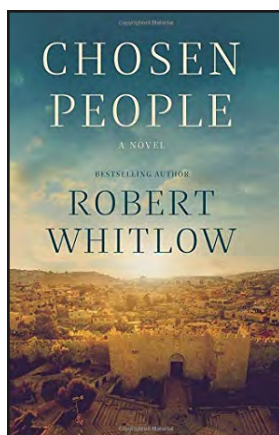
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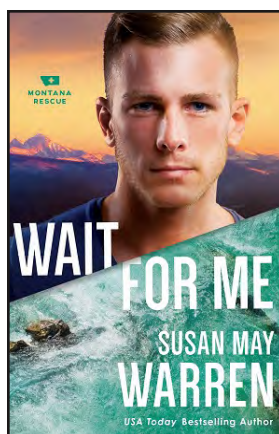
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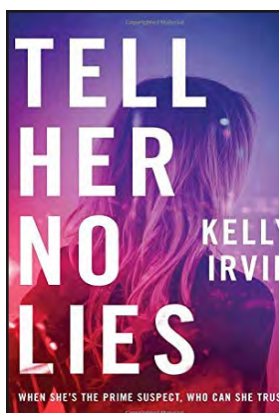
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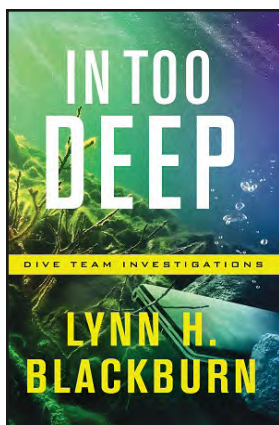
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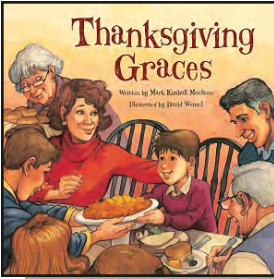
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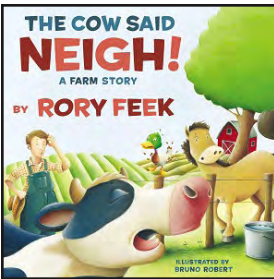
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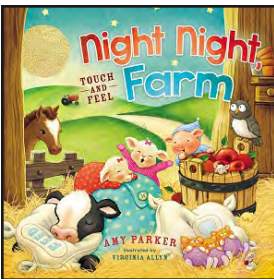
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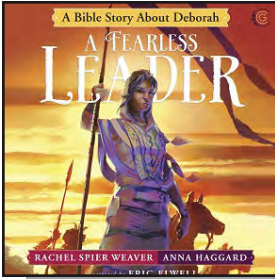
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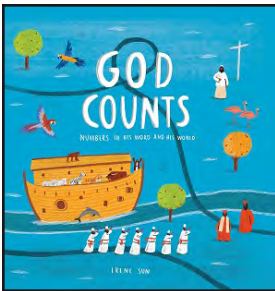
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Rachel Spier Weaver, Anna Haggard,
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Harvest House
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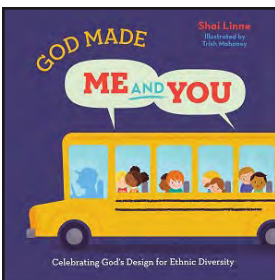
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Irene Sun and Alex Foster
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Christmas Dress

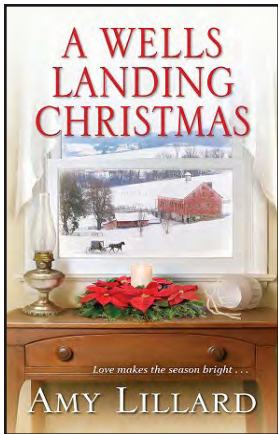
Bridgestone Multimedia Group

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A Wells Landing Christmas

Wells Landing #8

Amy Lillard

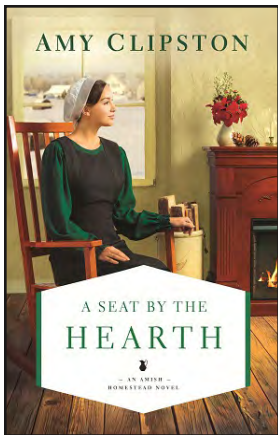
Zebra

Genres: Christmas, Amish, Romance

September 25, 2018



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An Amish Christmas Gift

Amy Clipston, Ruth Reid, Kelly Irvin

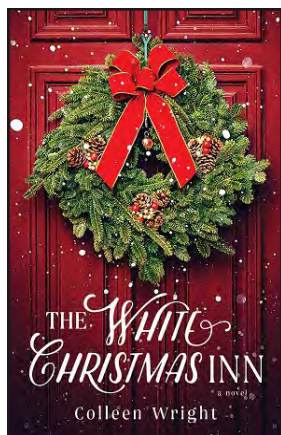
Thomas Nelson

Genres: Christmas, Amish, Romance

October 30, 2018



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The White Christmas Inn

Colleen Wright

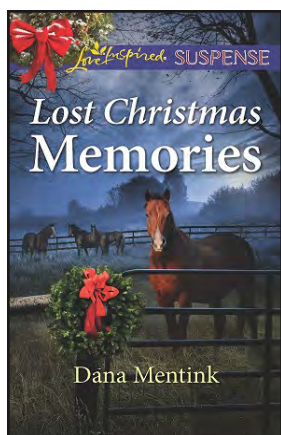
Howard Books

Genres: Christmas, Historical, Romance

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Lost Christmas Memories

Gold Country Cowboys

Dana Mentink

Love Inspired Suspense

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November 6, 2018

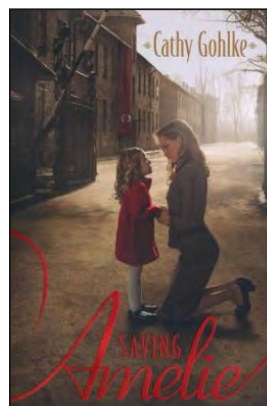
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A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF THE BESTSELLING TITLES FOR JULY 2018

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

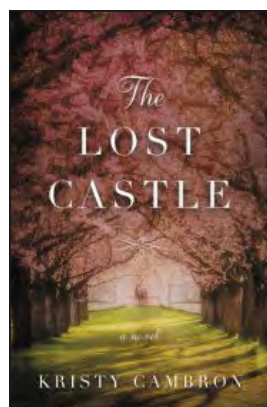
- 1** ***The Masterpiece***
Francine Rivers
Tyndale House Publishers
- 2** ***The Story Keeper***
Lisa Wingate
Tyndale House Publishers
- 3** ***The Outcast***
Jolina Petersheim
Tyndale House Publishers
- 4** ***Sensible Shoes***
Sharon Garlough Brown
InterVarsity Press
- 5** ***Manin the Blue Moon***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

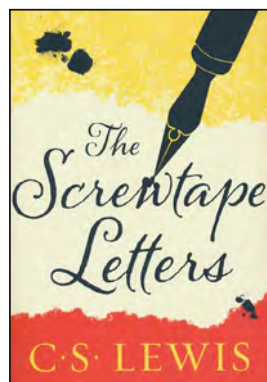
- 1** ***If I Live***
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 2** ***If I Run***
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 3** ***If I'm Found***
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 4** ***Where Shadows Meet***
Colleen Coble
Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 5** ***The Man He Never Was***
James Rubart
Thomas Nelson Publishers



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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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