



FamilyFiction

August 2020

Historical Author **LORI COPELAND**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

How to Support Your Favorite Authors

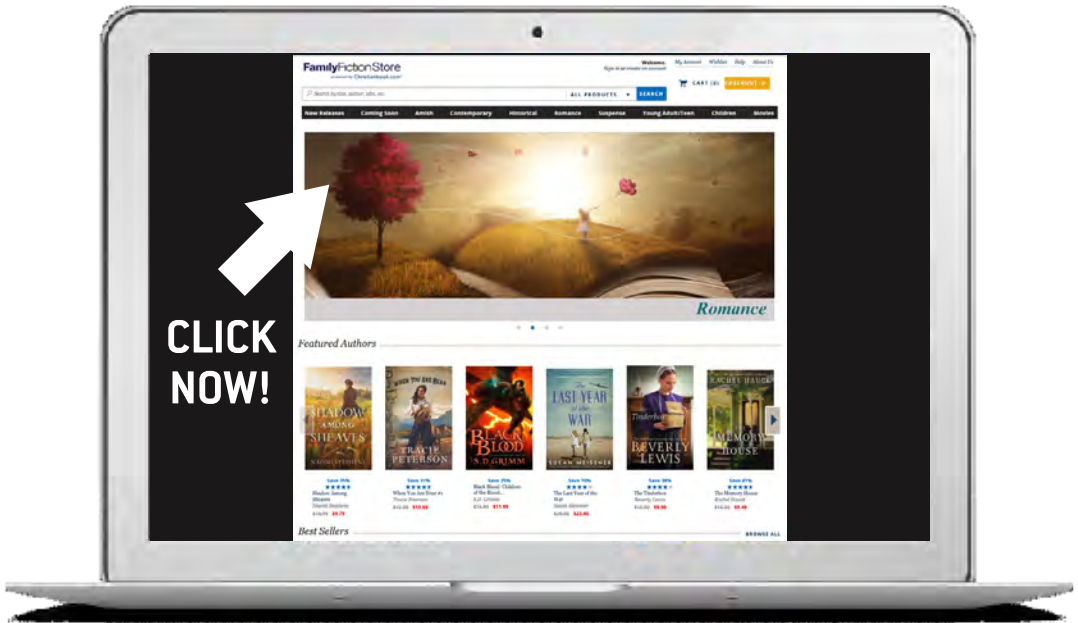
Michelle Stimpson | Michelle Lindo-Rice

Rachel Fordham | R.J. Anderson | Dani Pettrey

30+ New Christian Book Releases



Find ALL of Your Favorite Christian Fiction & Authors on the NEW www.FamilyFictionStore.com



ALL Your Christian Products in 1 Simple Site

Shop by Your Favorite Genre:

- Amish Fiction
- Contemporary Fiction
- Historical Fiction
- Romance Fiction
- Fantasy & Science Fiction
- End Times Fiction
- Suspense Fiction
- Children's Books
- Young Adult Fiction

Shop by Your Favorite Author:

Terri Blackstock, Wanda E. Brunstetter, Melody Carlson, Ted Dekker, Lynette Eason, Chris Fabry, Suzanne Woods Fisher, Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis, C.S. Lewis, Charles Martin, DiAnn Mills, Tracie Peterson, Dani Pettrey, Francine Rivers, Joel C. Rosenberg, Kim Vogel Sawyer, Lauraine Snelling, Cindy Woodsmall & 100s more!

Shop Other Christian Products:

- Bibles & Bible Accessories
- Bible Studies & Curriculum
- Clothing & Accessories
- DVDs
- Gift & Home
- Homeschool
- Music
- Sunday School
- VBS

Features



HISTORICAL

LORI COPELAND

The historical romance author talks about her purpose as an author.



CONTEMPORARY

BUCK STORM

The suspense author explains how the main character in her latest novel can stop crimes before they happen.



SUSPENSE

MICHELLE STIMPSON & MICHELLE LINDO-RICE

The authors share the challenges of writing romance and suspense as Christians.



How to Support Your Favorite Authors

Advice from Christian authors—including Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis, Jerry B. Jenkins, and more!

On the Web: Christian Fiction News

- August Selection for Christian Romance Book Club
- Romance Q&A: Cecelia Dowdy-Candy Beach Series
- Historical Romance For Christian Romance Book Club Poll

FamilyFiction is owned and published by FamilyFiction Publishing in partnership with Salem Publishing & Salem Media Group

Publisher/GM

Ross Cluver
Ross@FamilyFiction.com

Editor

Chris Well
Chris@FamilyFiction.com

Editorial Assistant

Erica Well
Erica@FamilyFiction.com

Proofreader

Michele Thompson

Design & Digital Production

Ross Cluver

National Account Executive Salem Media Group

DeDe Donatelli-Tarrant
805.987.5072
DeDe@salempublishing.com

Web Ad Traffic Coordinator

Web & Social Media Support

Brandon Woolum
BWoolum@salempublishing.com

FIND US ONLINE

FamilyFiction.com
[Twitter.com/FamilyFiction](https://twitter.com/FamilyFiction)

**DOWNLOAD THE
2020 FAMILYFICTION
MEDIA KIT.**

CLICK HERE

Department Spotlights



AMISH

Q&A with
Kathleen Fuller



HISTORICAL

Q&A with
Rachel Fordham



ROMANCE

Q&A with
Melissa Ferguson



SPECULATIVE

Q&A with
R.J. Anderson



SUSPENSE

Q&A with
Robin Carroll



SUSPENSE

Q&A with
Dani Pettrey



New Releases & Bestsellers

New Christian fiction from every genre—including titles from **Lynette Eason, Wanda E. Brunstetter, Susan Sleeman, Rachel McMillan, Tammy L. Gray, Liz Johnson**, and more!

Amish

Contemporary

Historical

Romance

Speculative

Suspense

Children's

YA/Teens

Comics/Animation

Movies/DVDs

NEWS ON THE WEBSITE

Check out these news articles, updates, and other bonus material online at www.FamilyFiction.com

August Selection for Christian Romance Book Club: ***Collateral Damage* by Lynette Eason**

Want to join the conversation? The discussion takes place inside the Facebook group in August.

Read more here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/august-selection-christian-romance-book-club-collateral-damage-lynette-eason>

Romance Q&A: Cecelia Dowdy *Candy Beach Series*

The author shares some behind-the-scenes info about the book, reveals all the elements that came together for the Candy Beach series, and explains why she always puts her characters through emotional angst.

Read more here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/romance-qa-cecelia-dowdy-candy-beach-series>

VIDEO: Michele Phoenix *Fragments of Light*

Author Michele Phoenix's new book *Fragments of Light* releases tomorrow with Thomas Nelson Publishers! She shares with us one of the themes of the book and the passage from which it's derived.

Read more here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/michele-phoenix-fragments-light>

VOTE: Historical Romance for Christian Romance Book Club

Christian Romance Book Club members are choosing the September featured book. Join the Facebook group to vote!

Read more here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/vote-september-featured-romance-book-christian-romance-book-club>



HISTORICAL ROMANCE: LORI COPELAND

WRITING FROM THE HEART

The historical romance writer talks about her purpose as an author.

Known for her fast-paced historical and contemporary romantic comedies, **Lori Copeland** is a two-time **Romantic Times Lifetime Achievement** recipient, a **RITA** and **Christy Award** nominee, and an inductee of the **Missouri Writers Hall of Fame**. In 2014, **Hallmark Movies** produced her contemporary title *Stranded in Paradise*. This summer, **Tyndale House** has started re-releasing her popular *Brides of the West Series*, and Lori talked to *FamilyFiction* about the classic books. In this exclusive interview, the author tells us where the idea for the series came from, how her faith informs her fiction, and the power of writing romances from a biblical worldview.

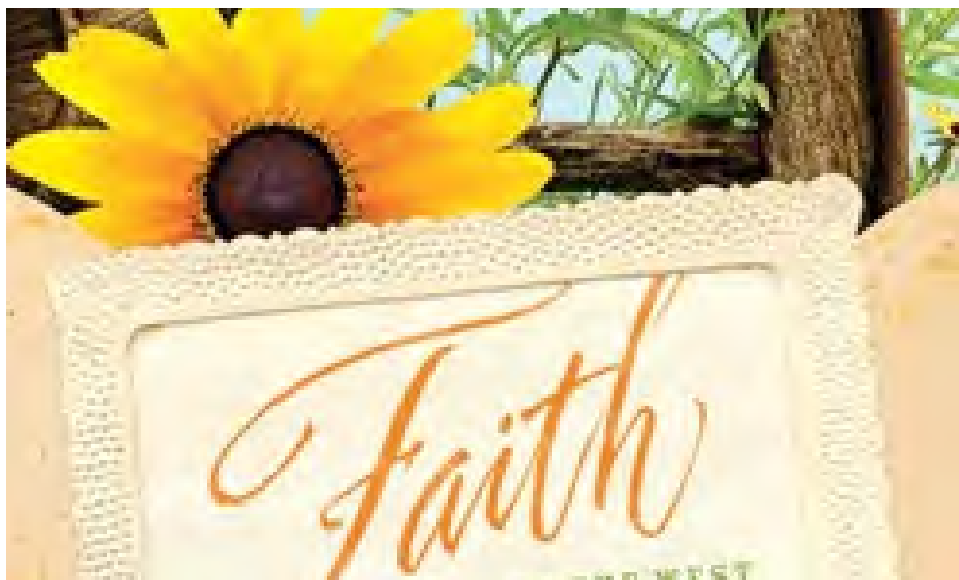
Lori, your *Brides of the West Series* is coming out in brand-new packaging. What's the overarching theme or concept of *Brides of the West*?

The series theme is young mail-order brides in the old west. Since travel and distance was often a big obstacle for these women it wasn't uncommon to resort to marrying a man the girl had never met. It would take a lot of courage and faith to leave home and strike out on a life-changing adventure but the main characters in the series, Faith, June, and Hope, chose to find a mate this way.

What was the original inspiration behind the concept and characters of the *Brides of the West Series*?

Oddly enough, it started with the one book contract for *Faith*. I named her Faith because she took a leap of faith in believ-

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ONLINE: <https://www.familyfiction.com>



ing in God's faithful leading. When *Faith* was released, readers wanted more, thank goodness, so my editor suggested we make *Brides of the West* a three-book contract. From there, the series acquired a devoted following. Since I'd fallen in love with the characters, I was only too happy to continue with two more books, making it a six-book series.

What drew you to writing about mail-order brides in the old west?

I had a friend who was a mail-order bride. This was often the case for women living in the 1800s in towns where single men weren't as plentiful. Mail-order brides compare to today's online dating services.

Which characters surprised you the most over the course of writing this series?

Faith, because of her steadfast faith. Then Patience turned out to be a handful. Her adventurous personality made for some

merry chases and improbable situations, but God saw her through thick and thin times. Glory was also fun to develop.

I enjoyed writing about an innocent young mountain woman with so little experience of the world. Her sheltered life left her completely unprepared for marriage, but she was able to rise to the occasion with a lot of chuckles along the way.

You've set several books in this general time period.

What is it about the old west that keeps you coming back?

I have asked myself the same question. Perhaps it is because I would have loved simpler times, my ancestor's strength and integrity. Life wasn't easy, but it was real life, not an emotional roller coaster.

What does it take to research the period when your western romances take place?

I loved hearing my grandparents' stories about their childhoods. I have read many books on the old west.

The problems people faced in those days were so different from ours—their focus was on survival, not larger world events, in many cases. Any time I get to sit and talk with an elderly person, I cherish their childhood memories.

What are the challenges or benefits of writing "romances" from a biblical worldview?

Well, not everyone believes the Bible. Beliefs are as varied and diverse as strawberry ice cream and liver. I began my career in the secular market before entering the Christian market. I was miserable writing material that went against my beliefs.

It took many years and many long hours of prayer to have a door open for me in the Christian market. That door was Tyndale House Publishers and the first book was *Faith*. Tyndale has been a blessing because I can now help shape young readers by teaching pure love.

Can you share some examples of how your faith impacts your storytelling?

A storyteller must write for the heart, and I write from my heart. My purpose is to help shape young women's lives—to tell stories of God's love and forgiveness in a way that encourages women to make wise choices in life, regardless of what others are doing.

We teach by example. And I always praise the librarians who have pointed a reader my way.

Why is storytelling such a powerful way to communicate truth?

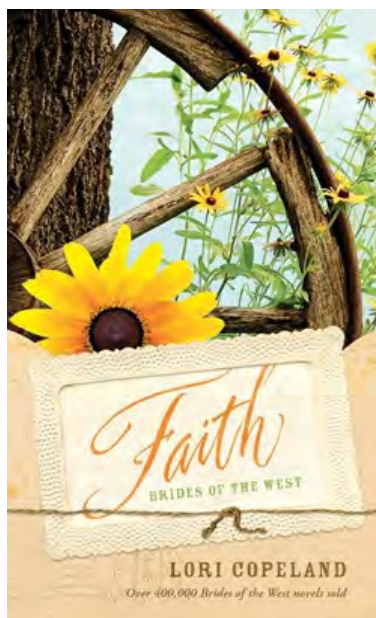
Jesus often spoke in parables. For me, writing is the joy of communicating fact AND fiction in my books. My goal is and always will be to tell a story of unbelievable love and redemption using a romance format.

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

Buy their book! Write a review on numerous sites, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Goodreads—find a way to pass the word along that you've read a book that really connected with you. **FF**

Visit Lori Copeland's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lori-copeland>



Faith

Brides of the West #1

Lori Copeland

Tyndale House

Buy Now 

With the matrimonial prospects in her little Michigan town virtually nonexistent, nineteen-year-old Faith—along with her two sisters, Hope and June—answers an ad for mail-order brides. Before she knows it, she's on her way to Deliverance, Texas, to marry wealthy rancher Nicholas Shepherd.

But from the moment she arrives in Deliverance, sparks fly between Faith, a strong-willed tomboy, and her prospective husband—a man with a strong will of his own! After a string of wedding postponements and a slew of interferences, a union between Faith and Nicholas begins to look less and less likely.

In the meantime, Faith and Nicholas are beginning to care for each other—but is their matching stubbornness destined to forever be a barrier between them?



June

Brides of the West #2

Lori Copeland

Tyndale House

Buy Now



Like her sister before her, June leaves her Michigan home to embrace her future as a mail-order bride to a young Washington State pastor. But from the start, nothing works out as June expects.

Caught up in her fiancé's vision for an elaborate tabernacle that would

benefit God's glory, she soon learns that not everyone approves of the plan; some would rather support the local orphanage. June finds herself drawn to the orphanage run by her friend Samantha and her aging aunt.

Caring for the orphans is a natural outlet for June's generous, nurturing spirit. But the two projects seem incompatible, and June finds herself faced with difficult choices—choices that challenge both her faith and her heart.

**It's not enough to
publish a book.**

**You still need to
tell people about it.**



Helping You Build Your Author Platform.

BuildYourBrandAcademy.com



CONTEMPORARY: BUCK STORM

HOPE AND JOY

The author meditates on the “one great truth in the universe.”

Buck Storm is a singer and songwriter in Hayden, Idaho. He's also the author of several books, the latest of which is ***The Beautiful Ashes of Gomez Gomez*** (Kregel Publications). The novel is a work of literary Americana fiction filled with humor and heart: Lives and hopes collide in the town of Paradise, stretching across decades and continents in this epic story of forgiveness, redemption, and love.

In this exclusive interview, Buck shares the inspiration behind the heartbreaking premise, explains some of the quirkiest details of the novel, and compares writing fiction with writing songs.

The premise of *The Beautiful Ashes of Gomez Gomez* is so ... sad. [When his wife, Angel, is killed in a head-on collision, Gomez Gomez feels he can't go on--so he doesn't.] What inspired this storyline?

It's hard to pinpoint. Certainly the characters have been with me for a while.

I remember, some years ago, being on a road trip with an elderly missionary friend. She told me a story about how she fairly regularly picked up the wrong suitcase at airports (you had to know her). One time she found a container of human remains in one of the bags.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ONLINE: <https://www.familyfiction.com>

I think the book, or at least the title, started percolating then. The thought of a human being's hopes, dreams, favorite songs, first kiss—every experience and memory—ending up as so many ashes in a lost bag I found a tragic and fascinating thought. Of course, the actual story took a hard left as soon as I started writing.

Love, for the believer, is eternal. Grief isn't. These are things I wanted to explore. To tell you the bottom-line truth, it's hard for me to say where inspiration comes from for most things I write. I'm generally as surprised as the next guy watching the story unfold.

This is book one of a series named *Ballads of Paradise Series*. What spiritual themes are you exploring in this series? (Do you know yet how many books it will be?)

I almost never start in writing a book with a teaching theme or message in mind. I can't. Starting out with that kind of weight on my shoulders bogs down the whole process. It allows too much of me in.

For me, too much thought invariably gets in the way of the story. I personally feel a little taken advantage of when I read a sermon thinly disguised as a novel (whatever the faith, political bent, or agenda might be). It's okay for books to just be books, stories to be stories, even if they exist in the faith-based market.

That being said...as authors, artists, songwriters, etc., we all have soul-themes that will insist on finding their way into our work. They won't be quiet.

I love God. I love Jesus. I love *His* love. So, by nature (I hope) these things will find their way into anything and everything I produce, whether it be prose or song or even how I love my family and neighbors.

If I'm honest in my work and let things flow out of my personal relationship with God, then His relentless pursuit will resonate in a reader's heart in an authentic way.

How does *The Beautiful Ashes of Gomez Gomez* fit into the greater series?

Gomez Gomez sets the scene and creates some natural conflict for follow up books. It also offered me some interesting characters to follow.

I really enjoyed writing the Early Pines character. He's big, loud, and confident in his own slightly off- the-rails way. So, I've taken him further in book two, *The Sound the Sun Makes*, as a central character. It's another quirky romp. And be ready for a lot of plot twists!

Book three will be *Venus Sings the Blues*. It will definitely take readers in some unexpected directions. I think I'll leave that one a mystery for now.

Why does Gomez Gomez have two last names for a name?

Mostly because it caught my ear when the title came to me. In the book, his dad named him after a notorious rodeo bull. But it fits because nothing about Gomez Gomez is completely normal. He's definitely an adventure in humanity.



When I was a kid, my dad rodeoed a bit. Gomez's character is inspired by a bull rider I met once back behind the chutes. He'd been gored not long before and had a fresh hole that went in low in his side and came out his back. I thought that was pretty dang cool.

Gomez Gomez—and the town—seem to have gotten themselves into a bad business deal. Without giving too much away, can you explain a little of what's going on? Does it play into why Gomez Gomez is so fatalistic?

Sure. It's essentially a quirky David and Goliath match up, pitting eccentric, homeless widower against a wealthy and influential businessman. Gomez Gomez has lost his wife, Angel, in a head on collision and, grieving, he's moved into the bushes next to the crash site to basically drink himself to death.

It's sacred ground to him. He's always been a little (or a lot) out there, and alcohol certainly doesn't help the situation.

Sonny Harmon, who owns the car dealership next door to Gomez Gomez's vacant lot wants the land to expand. He basically doesn't even consider Gomez Gomez human. The town squares up and takes sides. Hopefully, so does the reader.

What was the most challenging part of writing this story?

Probably putting a Catholic Priest in the middle of a love triangle. I really didn't plan that, but there it was.

Obviously, by nature, it was a touchy subject to write about. I'm not Catholic, for one thing. So, I guess that makes me either the exactly wrong or exactly right person to write a novel about a priest struggling with his calling.

I did talk with Catholic friends. A situation like Jake's isn't an uncommon occurrence. I wound up doing quite a bit of research. Learned a lot. It was fascinating, really.

I think we often consider clergy, especially ones who live a conspicuously set-apart life, as existing on another plane than the rest of us mortals. It's ingrained in us even as kids.

Of course, we know they're really only human, but we still find ourselves taking that reverent step back. But what are their thoughts? Their dreams? Favorite songs? What did they dress up for on Halloween when they were kids? Who were their heroes? And, in this case, what if a priest falls in big, fat, messy, miserable love?

In the end, I had to just follow the story.

As the story developed, did any characters surprise you?

Hmm. I didn't expect Gomez Gomez's sidekick, Bones, originally. But I enjoyed writing him. I found a lot of depth there.

Also, when Elvis jumped into Gomez Gomez's addled world it took me by surprise. I thought about pushing him out but, in the end, he was just too fun to eliminate (plus he's Elvis, man! Who am I to tell him what to do?).

What are you hoping readers will take away after they read *The Beautiful Ashes of Gomez Gomez*?

Simple—hope and joy. With maybe a smile or two thrown in. These are such dark times. The book deals with some tough subject matter, but the one great truth in the universe is that God's love is insistent. That is the clarion call. His love will prevail no matter how deep and dark our valley.

You're a singer-songwriter who has branched into novel-writing. Do you favor one format over the other?

Funny, I was having this conversation over lunch with a friend yesterday. I can say this: I've loved writing songs for a lot of years. It's taken me around the world and allowed me to meet and work with many of my musical heroes.

But writing novels is so different. The only way I can describe it is that I can lean back in the language and relax in a way that's impossible to do with songs. I still enjoy songwriting, but compared to books, there's something that falls a little short. Writing books fulfills me in a different and very special way. **FF**

Visit Buck Storm's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/buck-storm>



The Beautiful Ashes of Gomez Gomez

Buck Storm

Kregel Publications

Buy Now



Literary Americana fiction filled with humor and heart

When his wife, Angel, is killed in a head-on collision, Gomez Gomez feels he can't go on—so he doesn't. He spends his days in the bushes next to the crash site drinking Thunderbird wine, and his nights cradling a coffee can full of Angel's

ashes. Slow, sure suicide, with no one for company but the snakes, Elvis's ghost, and a strange kid named Bones.

Across town, Father Jake Morales plays it safe, haunted by memories of the woman he left behind, hiding his guilt, loss, and love behind a thick wall of cassock and ritual. Then a shady business deal threatens the town—and his good friend Gomez Gomez—and Father Jake can't just stand by and watch. But what happens when the rescuer is the one in need of saving?

The Beautiful Ashes of Gomez Gomez is quirky, heartfelt, and deeply human. Lives and hopes collide in the town of Paradise, stretching across decades and continents in this epic story of forgiveness, redemption, and love.



ROMANCE: MICHELLE STIMPSON & MICHELLE LINDO-RICE

A REDEPTIVE QUALITY

The authors share the challenges of writing romance and suspense as Christians.

Michelle Stimpson is the bestselling, award-winning author of more than 50 books and 50 short stories. A former public school teacher, Michelle takes joy in teaching others through a good story. **Michelle Lindo-Rice** is the 2015 winner of the **Black Writers And Book Clubs Rocks Female Author of the Year Award**, and a recipient of the 2017 **Black Pearls Legend & Leader Award**. She enjoys crafting fiction centered around faith, friendship, family, and forgiveness. Together, the two authors are co-writing the *Love Town Series*. The latest book in the series is ***Small Town Faith*** (Independent): An inadequate vigilante, a daring detective, and the dangerous man between them—when Jazzy goes undercover by befriending her brother's killer, will love thwart her mission?

In this exclusive interview, the two authors share behind-the-scenes details of the series, explain the essential qualities of romantic lead characters, and reveal the advantages Christian authors have when writing suspense.

What inspired the story in *Small Town Faith*?

LINDO-RICE: Both Michelle and I brainstormed the kind of story we wanted to tell. We knew we wanted to focus on twins, we wanted their grandmother to be central and we knew we

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ONLINE: <https://www.familyfiction.com>



wanted it set in a small town. We both love romances, especially those inspired by God and wanted to showcase men of faith.

STIMPSON: I'm always fascinated by the dynamics of small towns. So, these books are a joy to write.

What's the overarching theme behind your *Lovetown Series*?

LINDO-RICE: The overarching idea is that of God's love and forgiveness. In both books, each of the heroines had a situation that required them to forgive and also to lean on God when their own strength failed them.

STIMPSON: I hope that readers will be encouraged as they watch these themes unfold in these young characters who are growing in their new faith. They're imperfect—full of fear and uncertainty—and yet they are finding and giving both love and forgiveness. It's the story of every one of us, really.

How does *Small Town Faith* fit into that bigger picture of the series? (How many books are planned for the series?)

LINDO-RICE: Michelle and I thought about possibly doing 3 books in the series, but we knew we wanted to give each of the Thompson twins: Janiya and Jazmyn their own story as each woman finds her path to God. *Small Town Faith* is the second book, the first book focused on Janiya's story.

Tell us about Jazmin "Jazzy" Thompson and Detective Travis "the Tease" Gonzalez. What about these two characters made you want to build a book around them?

LINDO-RICE: Jazzy began talking to us from book one. She has a strong personality and we had already discovered how Travis felt about her. We felt Travis would be a good balance for her



feisty character, but we did ensure he had already discovered God's love. We knew that it would only be by his actions that Jazzy would 'see' Christ in him and move on the path toward conversion.

STIMPSON: I, too, love a feisty heroine who kind of fights off the hero's love at the beginning. And Travis is quite a hero, being both a conscientious police officer and an intentional evangelist. What I enjoy about Christian romance is how the vertical relationships with God grow and enhance the horizontal relationship between characters.

What do you consider the essential qualities for a leading lady and a leading man in a romance?

LINDO-RICE: Both the leading lady and leading man need to have their own story. A romance cannot be just about how they fall in love. Each character has to come into their own and overcome their own weaknesses; find their strengths, that makes for a much stronger read.

What do you find to be the challenges (or benefits) of writing “romances” from a biblical worldview?

LINDO-RICE: For me, my greatest challenge is keeping the intimacy appropriate for the readership. I tend to write with a little heat but fortunately, I have a great spiritual editor in the form of the Holy Spirit and a wonderful writing partner to help temper certain situations.

STIMPSON: I’m always careful to not send the message that finding a husband will solve all your problems. It’s a tricky thing! Both characters must have a life and a growing faith outside of each other.

This is also a work of suspense. What are the challenges of writing about crime, danger, and violence from a biblical perspective?

LINDO-RICE: I don’t think there is a challenge. The Bible is filled with so many histories involving crime, passion, danger and violence and shows what happens when the ‘character’ fails to repent and even better, when they do repent. I think that just like the Bible, a story like this one has to have a redemptive quality.

STIMPSON: I’ll add that we use “fade to black” a few times in this book because, while we both appreciate the fact that the Bible is full of dangerous encounters, we don’t want to trigger readers who may have traumatic histories. Some people read Christian fiction in order to minimize the risk of exposure to triggers and temptations they are trying to overcome. We don’t want to be a stumbling block for believers. Again, it’s a tricky balance.

You're co-writing the *Lovetown Series*. What did each of you bring to the story? What are the pros and cons of writing a novel with someone else instead of on your own?

LINDO-RICE: When co-writing, there has to be mutual respect and appreciation for each other as a writer. The pros are that you have an immediate brainstorming partner and where you may be weak, the other person may be strong, so it's a nice balance. Of course, as you write each scene, then you get immediate feedback. It is a wonderful experience. I think one con can be time management. If something happens either of the writer's lives, the completion is impacted.

STIMPSON: I've co-authored so many books at this point, I'm spoiled! The collaborative process provides such an opportunity to grow and learn from one another. It also brings a level of accountability that helps both writers. To date, I haven't had a bad experience with another author, so I'm all for it.

Can you share some examples of how your faith impacts your storytelling?

LINDO-RICE: My faith and value system are evident in every story that I tell. I also think that as I have grown and matured, my writing has as well. I see your faith like writing; the more you write, the better you get. And, so, the more you exercise your faith, the stronger it becomes. Michelle and I are prayerful as we plot the story. There are certain points where we have to stop and ask God to lead the character.

Why is storytelling such a powerful way to communicate truth?

STIMPSON: Christ shared truths through parables (stories). He recognized the power of stories to help people form

analogies and see themselves, their relationships, and their circumstances in light of the Kingdom. He took the disciples aside and explained the deeper meaning in closed conversation. Christian fiction provides that analogy so that people can (in book clubs or in their private time alone with God) explore His truths more deeply. Christian fiction is a set-up for growth. **FF**

Visit Michelle Stimpson's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/michelle-stimpson>

Visit Michelle Lindo-Rice's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/michelle-lindo-rice>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0818FQND1/?tag=familyfiction-20>



Small Town Faith

Lovetown Series #2

Michelle Stimpson
& Michelle Lindo-Rice
Independent



Jazmin “Jazzy” Thompson will stop at nothing to avenge her brother’s death, even if it means using herself as bait. Ignoring her twin sister’s warnings, Jazzy goes undercover by befriending her brother’s killer. But will love thwart her mission?

Detective Travis “the Tease” Gonzalez, has been pursuing Jazzy since their teens but his reputation as a flirt supersedes him. When they are united on a case, will Travis finally get his chance to prove that what he feels for her is the real deal?



How to Support Your Favorite Authors

These 10 Authors Share Their Tips For Making Authors Feel Appreciated

Being an author can be a lonely profession. They sit for hours on end with their words and then they come up for air—and they don't always get to hear about the impact their fiction has on the world. Do you love reading? Do you want your favorite authors to keep writing new books? Below, read advice from several top Christian fiction authors on how you can help out your favorite writers. Including tips from Karen Kingsbury, Lynn Austin, Beverly Lewis, Jerry B. Jenkins, Vanessa Riley, and a whole bunch more!

This is what we asked them: "What are the best things readers can do to support their favorite authors?"



Karen Kingsbury

Awwwww, sweet question. Well, first, I consider my readers to be friends—not fans. I care for them and pray for them, and when I meet readers at a signing event I am moved to think that God put a story on my heart, but He had their hearts in mind. Only He could do that. I would love for the readers to

pray for me, that I'll stay focused on the stories God has given me to write. And that I'll continue to find the balance that allows me to be a wife and mother and grandma to the family who loves me—all while still writing! Also, on a practical note, I'd love for them to visit KarenKingsbury.com and sign up for my free newsletter!

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ONLINE: <https://www.familyfiction.com>



Jerry B. Jenkins

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.



Vanessa Riley

The best thing readers can do to support their favorite authors is to share the love. Tell a friend, a co-worker, that aunt that loves to read about your author's latest series or newest book. Sharing your love and enthusiasm is infectious and will encourage others to take a chance on finding their next new favorite read.



Lynn Austin

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!



Beverly Lewis

Post reviews online. Suggest the new novel at your book club. Purchase a second—or third—book to give to a friend or stranger. And pray for the authors you love to read. They get tired, too, and sometimes discouraged or weary of deadlines, just like anyone who is busy working a job. Also, send an encouraging email to the author's website

or a private message to their Facebook page. Sharing how the book made a difference in your life is an ideal way to support an author.



Tosca Lee

On a very practical level, by buying my books. Any time you can buy an author's work you're helping them to continue writing. I've watched too many good authors quit in recent years. Pre-orders are also very important to authors, as they send a message to the publisher. Also, please always request your favorite authors' new

books at your local, school, or church library and leave reviews online at retail sites, BookBub, and Goodreads. Beyond that, I will always take prayer! This is a very nice question—thank you for asking.



Melanie Dickerson

The best way to support your favorite author is to tell other people about their books. The more people who are influenced to want to read our books, the more sales for our books, and let's face it. I can't keep writing books unless my books sell. So I am always really grateful for those who tell

their friends—or even strangers!—about my books. I love my readers and I'm so grateful for them!



Shelley Shepard Gray

I think the best support for an author is to either buy his or her books or encourage their local libraries to order them. Nothing makes me happier than to hear that someone got one of my books from their local library! Of course, talking about the books with friends and family and reviewing books

and posting the reviews on Goodreads, Amazon, or Christian-book helps, too. I've been so grateful for readers' support and reviews!



Patrick W. Carr

Buy lots of books. When you find an author you like, tell your friends. I love telling my friends about my favorite authors. Leave a review on Amazon and Goodreads. Reviews are the currency of the publishing world.

Follow your author on Facebook and Twitter and let them know you enjoy their work. Writing is a lonely pursuit. Writers, all writers, need encouragement.



Robin Jones Gunn

Aside from buying their favorite authors' new books, it's amazing what readers can do when they share on their social media. I have a series of Christmas novellas that have been made into Hallmark movies. When the first movie aired in November 2016, I was overwhelmed by the support of all my readers who spread the word. *Finding Father Christmas* broke the network record by being the most watched and highest rated Christmas movie of 2016! I soon received an email from the President of the Hallmark Channel saying that my readers certainly "showed their support." I agree. They did!

As a result, a sequel movie went into production and *Engaging Father Christmas* was aired on November 12, 2017. I've seen how the power of reader support is being heard in Hollywood. When readers buy books with clear Christian values and tune in to the programs created from those books, it nudges the market to continue to provide more books and movies with the same wholesome content. I'm so grateful to all you beautiful readers that have asked me to keep writing more stories for you over the years. I take your requests seriously and I hold you in my heart. **FF**

Find an expanded version of this article on the website! Go here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/how-to-support-your-favorite-authors>

With over a million copies sold, **Kathleen Fuller** is the author of several bestselling novels, including the *Hearts of Middlefield* novels, the *Middlefield Family* novels, the *Amish of Birch Creek Series*, and the *Amish Letters Series* as well as a middle-grade Amish series, the *Mysteries of Middlefield*. Her latest book is the collection ***Amish Generations: Four Stories*** (Zondervan): Four sweet and funny Amish love stories, spanning four different generations. Love comes at all times and for all ages!



In our exclusive interview, Kathleen shares an overview on the stories, explains what makes this set a little different from most of her other stories, and which out of the four was her favorite.

How did *Amish Generations* come about?

I've always wanted to write a book involving several age groups/generations, so when the opportunity for a four-novella anthology came up, I knew it was the perfect project for that theme.

Share with us a little about the stories.

Each story features a couple from a different generation and a different stage in life. In *Young Love*, the couple is in their twenties, in *Long Awaited Love* they are in their thirties, in *Second Chance Love* they are in their forties, and *Never Too Late* they are in their sixties and seventies.



The characters in these stories have experienced the gamut of romance—brand new love, overcoming hurt and betrayal, dealing with the death of a spouse, finding love after vowing never to fall in love, etc.

Did you always intend for it to be four separate stories, or are they interrelated at all?

Most of my Amish stories are interrelated, including my novellas. I enjoy connecting characters from other books, but in this case, I wanted the stories to be completely separate. In addition to each story featuring characters of different age groups, they are all set in different Ohio communities during different seasons. The theme is the only thing that connects them together.

Out of the four, do you have a favorite one?

Never Too Late is my favorite. Getting into the mind of a seventy-year-old committed bachelor was a fun challenge!

Did any of the characters surprise you as you wrote their stories?

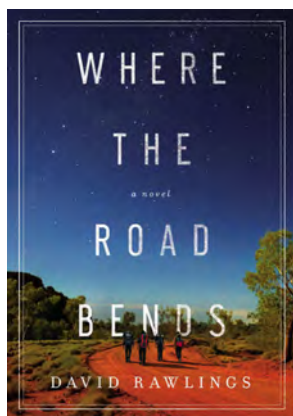
What a great question! All my characters surprise me when I write, but Elva from *Never Too Late* surprised me the most. She had an inner strength that Jerald easily saw, but she was also able to trust again. I think that shows how strong she really is. **FF**

Visit Kathleen Fuller's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kathleen-fuller>

Kathleen Fuller — *Amish Generations: Four Stories*

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/amish-generations-four-stories/kathleen-fuller/9780110359548/pd/359548?event=CSRCG>



Amish Generations

Four Stories

Kathleen Fuller

Zondervan



To discover more Amish books, CLICK here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/genre/amish>

READ MORE ONLINE!: <https://www.familyfiction.com>

FAMILYFICTION.COM

Rachel Fordham started writing when her children began begging her for stories at night. She'd pull a book from the shelf, but they'd insist she make one up. Finally, she paired her love of good stories with her love of writing and has not stopped since. Her latest novel is the historical romance ***A Life Once Dreamed*** (Revell):



Years ago, a shocking secret sent Agnes Pratt running in search of a new start—which she found in Penance, a rugged town of miners and lumberjacks in the Dakota Territory. When childhood friend and former sweetheart James Harris accepts a position as the town doctor, James wants to know why Agnes left behind the life they had dreamed of creating for themselves—but he's precisely the one person who can never know.

In this interview, Rachel explains why she chose the setting of her story, the research that went into the book, and what inspired her to explore the subject of illegitimacy and its effects on one of her characters.

Rachel, please share with us a brief overview of your new novel, *A Life Once Dreamed*.

Six years ago, Agnes left James and the city behind and started a new life for herself in the Dakota town of Penance. James was left behind and brokenhearted, but he trudged on and became a doctor despite never truly losing his desire to be with Agnes. *A Life Once Dreamed* is the story of these two people, who've grown and changed, coming back together and asking themselves if there is a way for them to share a future.



Your two previous novels, *The Hope of Azure Springs* and *Yours Truly, Thomas*, take place in a fictional town in Iowa. Why did you choose the Dakota territories as the setting for your latest book?

I'll always be fond of Azure Springs, Iowa, and would love to set a million books there. For *A Life Once Dreamed*, I needed a setting that was a sharp contrast to Buffalo, New York, where the book begins. I wanted a place that would still be rugged and, in many ways, isolated for my heroine to start her new life in.

Penance became that town. It's full of heart and endearing characters, but it's also a land that challenges the main characters and causes them to learn a new way to live and to look at life. I hope everyone will love this rustic town like I do.

What type of research did you do for the story?

There were many small things that required research—the climate, vegetation, and industry of the Dakotas. I also read up on the rules of etiquette in small rural towns and the life of a teacher. But the issue that required the most digging was illegitimacy and adoption laws of that era.

One of your main characters faces stigma for being an illegitimate child. What inspired this story angle?

The idea for this novel came after watching the movie *Blossoms in the Dust*. It tells the story of Edna Gladney, who was a pioneer in the fight against the illegitimate stigma. I watched this and couldn't stop thinking about how sad it was that people's lives were torn apart by something they couldn't change.

After doing research, I discovered that in the time period of my story it was still somewhat possible to keep illegitimacy a secret because birth certificates and official birth records were just starting. Often babies were quietly claimed by someone else, but if their status was known they were often mocked, labeled, and legally discriminated against.

In my main character's case, her status would have been revealed because of who she was marrying and who knew about her birth. Rather than face the community backlash and public shame, she flees, sparing herself and James.

In the years following when my story takes place, the government required the status of illegitimate children to be listed on birth records, and it wasn't long before those children were harder to adopt out and labeled as inferior. It became much harder to hide, and the stigma grew even worse until people like Edna Gladney fought to spare these kids.

In today's world, it seems foreign to most that illegitimacy was viewed with such scorn. Yet many of us, if we dig in our family tree, will find we have been touched by this in some way. Bringing a light to this once popular form of discrimination was not only a thrilling writing experience, but one I think is important.

What would you like readers to take away after reading *A Life Once Dreamed*?

Like always, I hope readers end the book with a happy sign and all the good feelings that rush over you when you've been swept away in an engaging tale. Then I hope they pause and think about what they read and realize they were more than merely entertained.

I'd love to know that readers left this story more aware of those around them. Illegitimacy may have lost its stigma, but there are still so many times when we are quick to judge someone based on factors out of their control. In addition, I hope readers will think about how sometimes the roads we travel in this life take us far away from what we were seeking but somehow take us to exactly where we are meant to be. **FF**

Visit Rachel Fordham's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/rachel-fordham>

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/a-life-once-dreamed/rachel-fordham/9780800735395/pd/735395?wch=ESR0G>



A Life Once Dreamed

Rachel Fordham
Revell



To discover more Historical books, CLICK here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/genre/historical>

READ MORE ONLINE!: <https://www.familyfiction.com>

Melissa Ferguson used to have hobbies like running and backpacking—but now that she and her husband are outnumbered, her hobbies include diaper changes and chasing toddlers in parking lots. Her debut novel is the rom-com ***The Dating Charade*** (Thomas Nelson), a hilarious and warmhearted reminder that love can come in very small packages—and that sometimes our best-laid plans aren't nearly as rewarding and fun as the surprises that come our way.



In this interview, Melissa explains why she wanted to write about the discomforts of dating, how her faith impacts her storytelling, and how a busy mom finds time to write.

In real life you're married, and a relatively new mom, raising three small children(!). What inspired you to write this story featuring the discomforts of dating?

Being an author, I believe, is all about following those rabbit trail daydreams and seeing what wild adventures ensue. For me, *The Dating Charade* started precisely because of my life as a mom of three children.

With two-year-old twins and a newborn at the time, I found myself wondering (in the midst of being covered in screaming kiddos and flying food) one day how humorous it would be for a confident, independent guy to end up suddenly with my life without warning (hence, poor Jett) and how he would handle all the chaotic, hilarious parenting moments that happened each and every day.

Then I wondered how humorous it would be to have him trying to find, and secure, new love in the midst of that chaos. Then I wondered how humorous it would be to have a twist on *The Brady Bunch* where she had three kids thrown into her lap as well, and voilà, we had the start of *The Dating Charade*.

Your character, Cassie Everson, is “an expert at escaping bad first dates.” Is this storyline at all based on any of your own experiences?

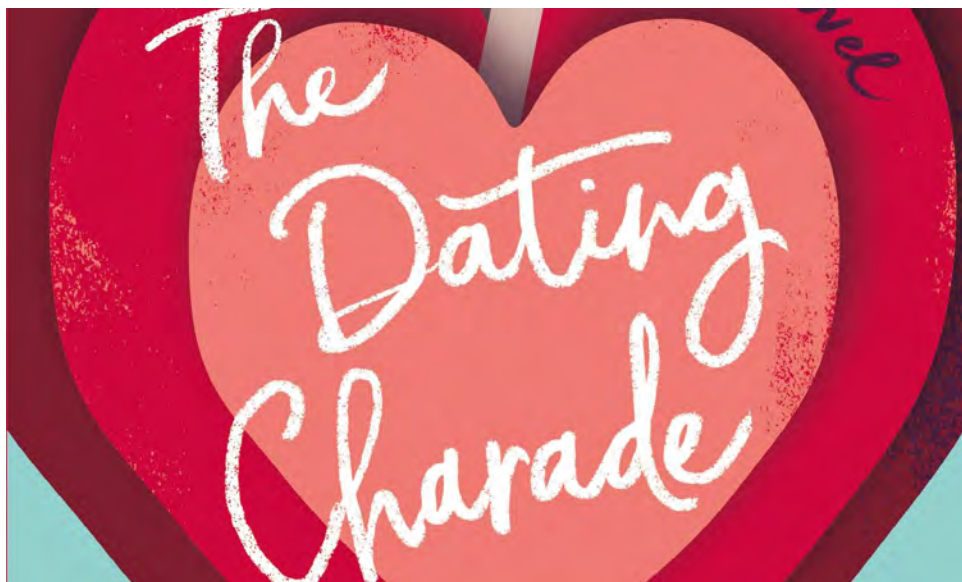
Ha, not really. My husband is the only man I have ever truly dated (which is its own love story in itself) and once he caught me, I never really wanted to escape.

However, I have a load of hilarious stories from friends who have done online dating and had horrible dates! One friend was in the midst of sharing about her latest experience when the idea for writing about it began.

Jett knows Cassie from high school but wasn’t her high school sweetheart. Did Cassie and Jett’s previous acquaintance make it easier to have their story interweave? Was anything surprising as you wrote their story?

Oh, there’s always plenty of surprising tidbits your characters make known to you while you are writing. I had no intention of writing *The Dating Charade* with Jett having a high school crush on Cassie from afar. But as I wrote, the words presented themselves, and I followed the story.

I’m not sure if it made it easier for their story to interweave, but I do think it was endearing to imagine him liking her—for her strengths, not just her beauty—from a distance, years prior. It also justified why he would continue to pursue her even after a



first terrible meeting. She was *the* Cassie Everson. He wouldn't just let her go after one awkward night.

Aside from that, there were plenty of surprising points in the story. The whole story was surprising to me! I think one surprising thing I *loved* and chuckled to myself over many a time was Edie and her hand sanitizer and relationship with men and attitude. I *love* Donna Gene and Edie.

How does your faith impact your storytelling?

With every story I find I start with a message and work my way out from there. And with every message the root comes from Christ and the message of Scripture.

In this story, I started with the message of fostering and the power of adoption and God's heart for the broken and lonely, and His grand message of taking us beneath His wing—and commanding us over and over to care likewise for those in need.

Every book I've written so far starts with a God-breathed message and works itself out.

With twin toddlers and an infant of your own, how do you make the time to write?

Ah, time. Well, let's start by saying I love caffeine. I tried to go without caffeine for a couple days last month and slept 13 hours both days. I realized in those moments that I could either go without caffeine and have a nice, healthy sleep schedule, or I could drink caffeine and parent my children and write. So, caffeine it is. (I say while raising my coffee cup in the air as a toast).

Second, I write during rest times for my children and after hours when my husband is home.

Third, meals become pretty basic when writing under a deadline. Like, "Here are carrots and hummus and apple slices with bread" dinners three nights a week. **FF**

Visit Melissa Ferguson's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/melissa-ferguson>

<https://familyfictionchristianbook.com/the-dating-charade-melissa-ferguson/9780785231004/pd/731007/event-ESRCG>



The Dating Charade

Melissa Ferguson

Thomas Nelson



To discover more Romance books, CLICK here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/genre/romance>

The daughter of a preacher who read Tolkien and Lewis aloud to his children, **R. J. (Rebecca) Anderson** grew up daydreaming about Narnia and Middle-Earth, watching *Doctor Who* from behind the sofa, and hanging out in her brothers' comic book shop. Now she writes novels about knife-wielding faeries, weird science, and the numinous



in the modern world. Her latest book is ***Swift*** (Enclave), the first book in the ***Flight and Flame Trilogy***. To save her people, a wingless girl must learn to fly. Deadly threats and shocking revelations await Ivy as she ventures into a strange new world, uncovers long-buried secrets about her family's past, and finds that no one—not even herself—is entirely what they seem.

In this exclusive interview, Rebecca tells us about the characters who inhabit her world, explains the most challenging aspects of world-building, and reveals the spiritual themes at the heart of the novel.

Your main character, Ivy, is “a piskey girl, born without wings and raised underground.” Tell us a little about the piskey people. Do they normally have wings, and live above ground?

As we learn in the early chapters of the novel, the piskeys of Cornwall used to live in hidden villages on the surface, but they moved underground with their mining cousins, the knockers, to escape their enemies and the dangers of the modern world. So Ivy's been raised the same as all the other piskeys her age, with the same rules and expectations.

But all the other piskey girls and women have beautiful moth-like wings that they can use to fly up shafts and around tunnels, while Ivy's being born wingless is seen as a defect that limits her and causes others to pity her. She's spent her whole life longing to fly but it seems like she never will, so she's had to work extra hard at other skills (like rock climbing) to compensate.

Richard is a trapped faery who wants Ivy's help in escaping the Delve's dungeon. What is the Delve? What inspired your story?

The Delve is the name for the abandoned tin mine where Ivy and her fellow Cornish piskeys live. Richard (not his real name, but Ivy overhears him reciting a speech from Shakespeare's *Richard III* and assumes that it is) ends up in the Delve's dungeon after being captured snooping around on the surface—the piskeys are extremely suspicious of outsiders.

The story actually began with the title, which was suggested by a reader on Twitter when I asked what my next book should be called! There were a lot of words tossed around, but that was the first one that brought a specific character and idea to mind.

I liked the concept of “swift” as both a bird and a term for speed and agility, and the idea that Ivy might actually not be swift compared to others, and might have to overcome that in the story, was especially compelling to me. I've always been interested in stories about characters who are outsiders or living with a disability, especially as I didn't read a lot of stories growing up that allowed disabled or disfigured characters to take center stage and not be treated as doomed objects of pity, or portrayed as creepy villains like the Phantom of the Opera or Captain Hook.



What was the most challenging part of developing this magical world?

It helped that I'd already established some background in my *No Ordinary Fairy Tale Trilogy*, which ends about a year prior to Ivy's story (though you don't have to have read *Knife*, *Rebel*, or *Arrow* to understand *Swift*). So a lot of the basic worldbuilding ideas were the same—such as magic being the innate and God-given power given to sub-angelic beings like faeries and piskeys, and humans being the only ones blessed with real and lasting creativity—but the big challenge was to make Ivy's people and environment feel fresh and different from that of the British and Welsh faeries I'd written about before.

Cornwall has its own distinct lore and history, so I dug into old Cornish folktales to find out about the piskeys, knockers and spriggans (which rhymes with "pigeons," believe it or not!) and books about the tin mining boom and bust of the 19th and 20th

centuries. I also took a research trip to Cornwall with my husband to explore some of the sites I was writing about, like the capital city of Truro (which plays a large part in *Swift*), and Redruth, where my own maternal grandparents were born and raised before emigrating to Canada.

This is book one in the *Flight and Flame Trilogy*. How does this novel fit into the bigger picture of the series?

This first book is crucial to introducing Ivy as a character, and setting her off on a search for truth and purpose that takes her the whole three books to complete. At the start of her journey she's a bit like Naomi in the book of Ruth—someone who's suffered a lot of hard knocks and painful losses in her life, and is struggling with bitterness and frustration because of that.

When “Richard” comes along and offers her a hope she'd never dreamed of, she's afraid to take it. But growing up with a congenital disability and poor health compared to other piskeys has made Ivy more determined, more ready to think outside the box of her people's traditions and superstitions, than she would have been if her life had been easier.

And as she takes her first steps of faith and courage, and starts to reach beyond her limitations and other people's expectations, she also begins to realize how wrong some of the things she's always believed about herself and her fellow piskeys really are.

So between the shocking and life-changing discoveries Ivy makes and the characters like “Richard” that she meets in the course of the book, *Swift* is essential to setting up the events of *Nomad* and *Torch* (books two and three in the series, coming out in November 2020 and February 2021). But *Swift* also reads as

a full and hopefully satisfying adventure in itself, because I like readers to come away feeling like they've read a proper story and not just the beginning of one.

What spiritual themes are you exploring in *Swift* that you'd like readers to reflect on?

In this first book, the focus is on the way that false assumptions and false teachings can keep us from truth that could (and should!) transform our lives. Ivy's people are ruled by her Aunt Betony, a proud, stubborn woman who believes she knows what is good and best for everyone.

But as Ivy starts to question and probe deeper into what her aunt is doing, she discovers ways she's been misled about the nature of her world, her people's role in history, and a far more deadly threat to the Delve than sneaky faeries or hungry spriggans.

I know many parents of children and teens are concerned about books that seem to be promoting rebellion. But *Swift* is not a book about rejecting good, godly leadership, it's a book about holding what our authorities are telling us up to the light of truth, and doing what's right even if it's hard and scary and painful to do so.

The relationship between Ivy and Betony becomes something of a Moses and Pharaoh struggle, where one is determined to hold tight to the piskeys of Cornwall while the other wants to set them free... and that idea leads us into the rest of the trilogy. It's really a story about the difference between self-centered fear and the Satanic desire to cling to power, and the kind of selfless, sacrificial faith that makes a true, Christ-like leader.

Thanks for these great questions and giving me an opportunity to answer them! I hope families will enjoy *Swift* and its sequels, and welcome letters from parents and teens who have read these stories. **FF**

Visit R.J. Anderson's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/r-j-anderson>

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/swift-r-j-anderson/9781621841326/pd/841326/event-ESRCG>



Swift

The Flight and Flame Trilogy #1

R.J. Anderson

Enclave Publishing



To discover more Speculative books, CLICK here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/genre/speculative>

Robin Carroll grew up in Louisiana with her nose in a book. She still has the complete *Trixie Belden Series*, and her love for mysteries and suspense has only increased with her age. Her latest novel is *Dead Silence* (Shiloh Run Press): When a court sign language interpreter reads the lips of someone planning an assassination, her life—and the life of her son, lying in the ER—are now in the crosshairs of the assassin.



In this exclusive interview, Robin shares about navigating a story set in the political realm, reveals the real-life inspiration for her protagonist, and explains how her book features one of the strongest loves of all.

Robin, what inspired your suspense novel *Dead Silence*?

With the political status this country is in at this time, I wanted to touch on such upheavals, but not go into much more detail, focusing more on how our beliefs and support can shape events in our lives.

You've set *Dead Silence* in both the legal and political worlds. What did you find the most challenging as you developed your story?

Trying to keep my own political views out of the way! LOL. I wanted to portray that we are so much more than our political beliefs. I see so much unkindness between people with different political views that I wanted to show how, despite it all, people can find a common ground.



Share with us a little bit about your protagonist, Elise Carmichael.

Elise is an ASL translator and who has a deaf son. Many years ago, I became friends with someone who is deaf. She shared with me some of her frustrations, but also how her way of life is in comparison to mine.

It got me to thinking that being deaf could be thought of as a disability but could also be used as an advantage ... it was all in how you looked at it.

My friend shared many stories of how she “eavesdropped” by reading lips and learned much about people and how they reacted to issues, enough that it led her into her career field today—a counselor, specializing in providing therapy for the hearing impaired as they live in a hearing world. I hope that I portrayed my characters in this positive light.

Did any of your characters surprise you as you wrote the novel?

Actually, Wesson did. I had originally viewed her as an antagonist-type to Elise’s protagonist, but she wasn’t about to stand for that role! LOL

What theme(s) are you exploring in *Dead Silence*, and what would you like readers to take away?

While this is a departure from a regular love story, it is indeed one of the strongest love themes there is—that between a mother and child. I hope readers relate to the way Elise will let nothing, nor no one, stop her from going to whatever lengths necessary to protect her child. **FF**

Visit Robin Carroll’s author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robin-caroll>

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/dead-silence-robin-carroll/9781643523316/pd/523316?event=ESRCG>



Dead Silence

Robin Carroll

Shiloh Run Press



To discover more Suspense books, CLICK here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/genre/suspense>

Suspense Dani Pettrey

With sales of more than half a million copies of her novels, **Dani Pettrey's** fiction combines the page-turning adrenaline of a thriller with the chemistry and happy-ever-after of a romance. Her latest novel is

The Crushing Depths (Bethany House),

the second book her *Coastal Guardians Series*. Following the death of an

oil-rig worker on a drilling platform, Coast Guard investigators uncover a murder—and must race to catch the killer while a tropical storm cuts them off from any rescue.



In this exclusive interview, Dani explains how her fans' enthusiasm for the characters' stories fueled the series, shares a peek into the lives of her two main protagonists, and reveals the biggest challenge in writing the story.

***The Crushing Depths* is the second book in *The Coastal Guardians Series*. What inspired the series?**

Noah Rowley, the CGIS team leader, first appeared as a secondary character in my Chesapeake Valor series. I liked him so much and readers sent emails asking for more of him, I decided he needed his own story. My family and I vacation down in North Carolina every summer and I adore Wilmington, so I gave Noah a promotion, put him as regional director and developed his investigative team.



Your story includes activists protesting oil drilling platforms and deals with a mysterious death on an oil rig. What aspect of the story did you find the most challenging as you wrote the book?

Making sure I painted as close to an accurate picture of life on an oil rig as possible. I spent a lot of time researching, reading books, watching movies, and most helpful, were the men who've worked on rigs all over the world for two decades. It's a completely different world working and living on a rig.

What can you share with us about the protagonists, Rissi and Mason?

Rissi Dawson and Mason Rogers met as teens in an abusive children's home. While only in the house together for a matter of months, the two developed a special friendship—one that has lingered despite the decade apart.

When Rissi goes to meet the newest member of the CGIS team, she stops dead in her tracks. The boy she knew was now a man and was standing less than a foot from her.

Did any of the characters surprise you as the series developed? Do you have a favorite?

Rissi and Mason are definitely my favorite couple, but two other team members—Emmy and Logan, have worked their way into my readers' hearts. I get so many emails about when their story will be told, and I'm equally hooked.

What would you like readers to take away after reading *The Crushing Depths*?

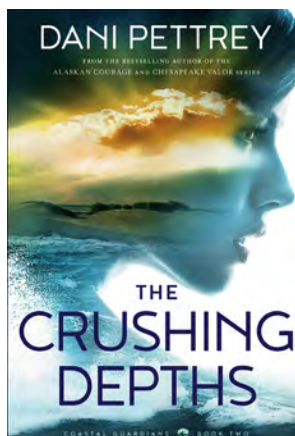
That love, faith and hope endure in the best and worst of circumstances. God's light is stronger than any darkness. **FF**

Visit Dani Pettrey's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dani-pettrey>

Dani Pettrey — *The Crushing Depths*

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-crushing-depths-2-hardcover/dani-pettrey/9780764233449/pd/233449?event=ESRONJM>



The Crushing Depths
Coastal Guardians #2

Dani Pettrey
Bethany House



To discover more Suspense books, CLICK here:

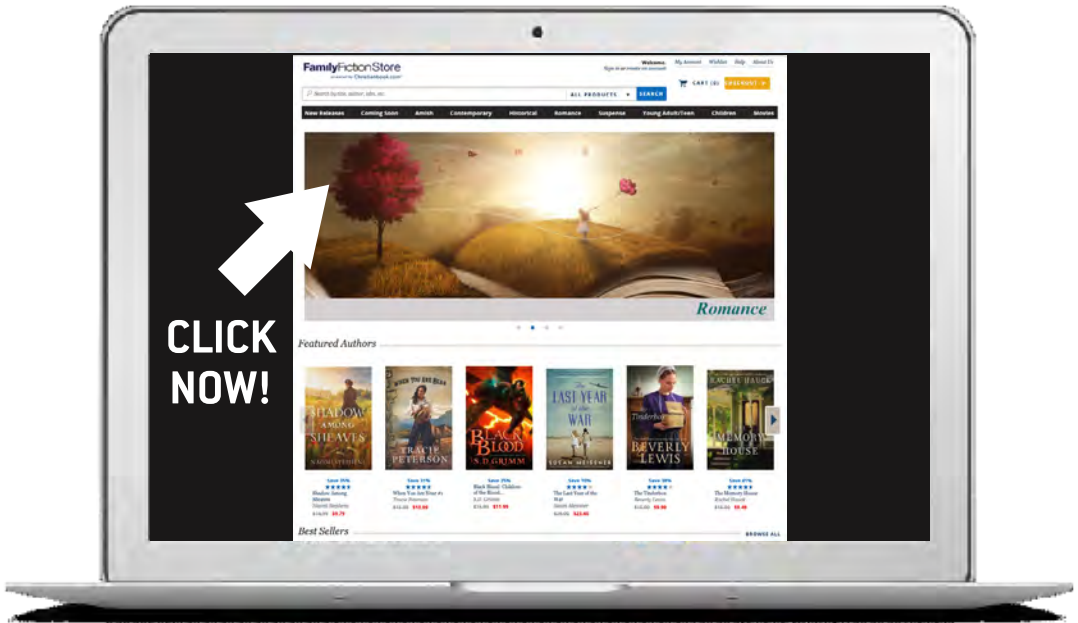
<https://www.familyfiction.com/genre/suspense>

READ MORE ONLINE!: <https://www.familyfiction.com>

FAMILYFICTION.COM



Find ALL of Your Favorite Christian Fiction & Authors on the NEW www.FamilyFictionStore.com



ALL Your Christian Products in 1 Simple Site

Shop by Your Favorite Genre:

- Amish Fiction
- Contemporary Fiction
- Historical Fiction
- Romance Fiction
- Fantasy & Science Fiction
- End Times Fiction
- Suspense Fiction
- Children's Books
- Young Adult Fiction

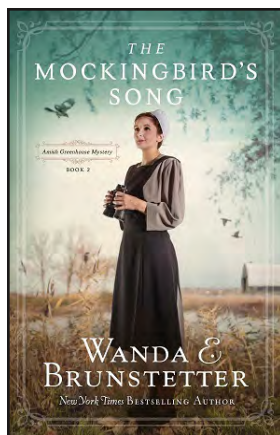
Shop by Your Favorite Author:

Terri Blackstock, Wanda E. Brunstetter, Melody Carlson, Ted Dekker, Lynette Eason, Chris Fabry, Suzanne Woods Fisher, Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis, C.S. Lewis, Charles Martin, DiAnn Mills, Tracie Peterson, Dani Pettrey, Francine Rivers, Joel C. Rosenberg, Kim Vogel Sawyer, Lauraine Snelling, Cindy Woodsmall & 100s more!

Shop Other Christian Products:

- Bibles & Bible Accessories
- Bible Studies & Curriculum
- Clothing & Accessories
- DVDs
- Gift & Home
- Homeschool
- Music
- Sunday School
- VBS

New Releases: August 2020



Mockingbird's Song

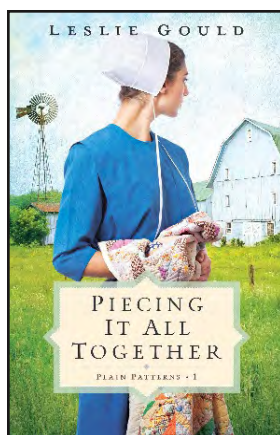
Amish Greenhouse Mystery #2

Wanda E. Brunstetter

Shiloh Run

Genres: Amish, Romance, Suspense

Buy Now 



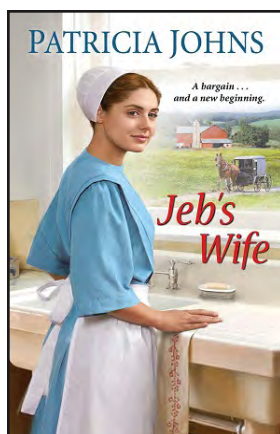
Piecing It All Together

Leslie Gould

Bethany House Publishers

Genres: Amish, Romance

Buy Now 



Jeb's Wife

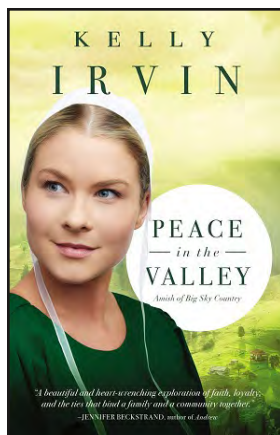
Patricia Johns

Kensington Publishing

Genres: Amish, Romance

Buy Now 

New Releases: August 2020



Peace in the Valley

Amish of Big Sky Country #3

Kelly Irvin

Thomas Nelson

Genres: Amish

Buy Now



Searching for Rose

Dana Becker

Kensington Publishing

Genres: Amish, Romance, Suspense

Buy Now



Wednesday Walks & Wags

The Sunday Potluck Club #2

Melissa Storm

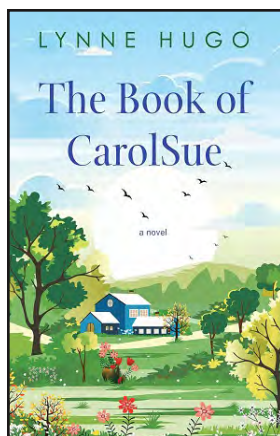
Kensington Publishing

Genres: Contemporary

Buy Now



New Releases: August 2020



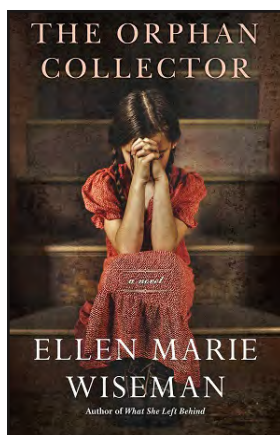
The Book of Carol Sue

Lynne Hugo

Kensington Publishing

Genres: Contemporary

Buy Now 



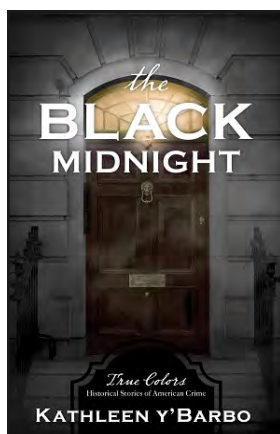
The Orphan Collector

Ellen Marie Wiseman

Kensington Publishing

Genres: Historical, Romance

Buy Now 



The Black Midnight

True Colors #7

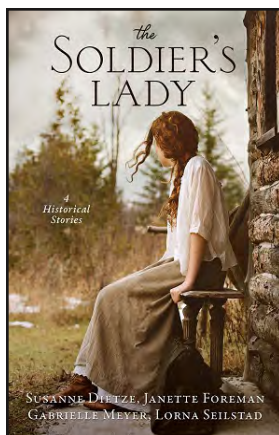
Kathleen Y'Barbo

Shiloh Run

Genres: Historical, Romance, Suspense

Buy Now 

New Releases: August 2020



The Soldier's Lady

4 Historical Stories

Susanne Dietze, Janette Foreman,
Gabrielle Meyer, Lorna Seilstad
Shiloh Run

Genres: Historical, Romance

Buy Now 



Vying for the Viscount

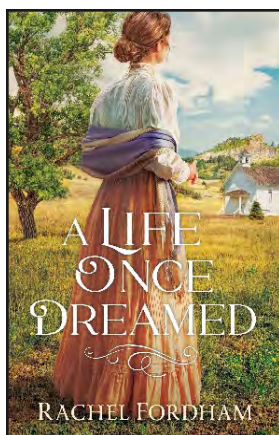
Hearts on the Heath #1

Kristi Ann Hunter

Bethany House Publishers

Genres: Historical, Romance

Buy Now 



A Life Once Dreamed

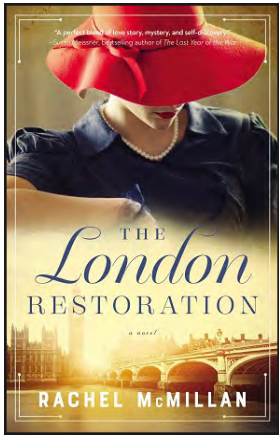
Rachel Fordham

Revell

Genres: Historical, Romance

Buy Now 

New Releases: August 2020

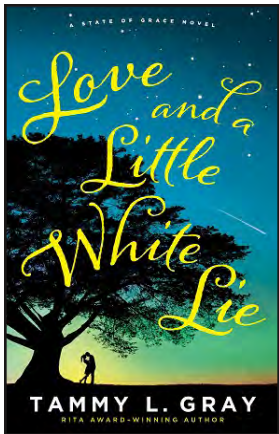


The London Restoration

Rachel McMillan

Thomas Nelson

Genres: Historical, Suspense



Love and a Little White Lie

State of Grace #1

Tammy L. Gray

Bethany House Publishers

Genres: Romance



Home to Heal

Lois Richer

Love Inspired

Genres: Romance



New Releases: August 2020



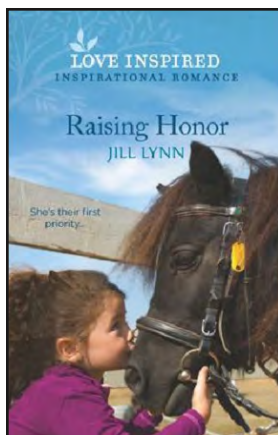
A Dazzle of Diamonds *Georgia Coast Romance #3*

Liz Johnson

Revell

Genres: Romance

Buy Now 



Raising Honor

Jill Lynn

Love Inspired

Genres: Romance

Buy Now 



To Love a Prince

True Blue Royal #1

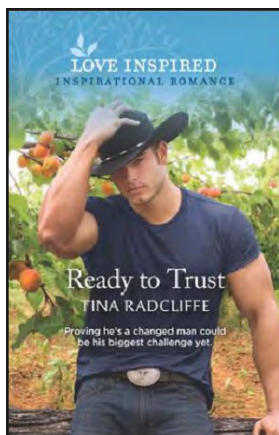
Rachel Hauck

Hauck House

Genres: Romance

Buy Now 

New Releases: August 2020



Ready to Trust

Tina Radcliffe

Love Inspired

Genres: Romance

Buy Now 



Swift

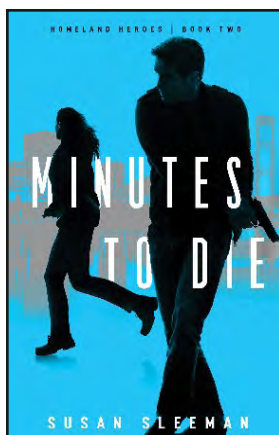
The Flight and Flame Trilogy #1

R.J. Anderson

Enclave Publishing

Genres: Speculative, YA

Buy Now 



Minutes to Die

Homeland Heroes #2

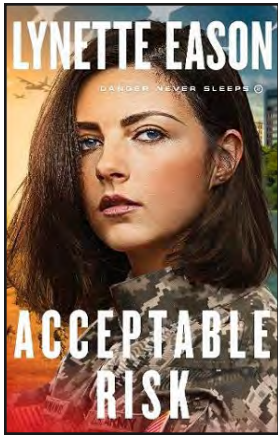
Susan Sleeman

Bethany House Publishers

Genres: Suspense, Romance

Buy Now 

New Releases: August 2020



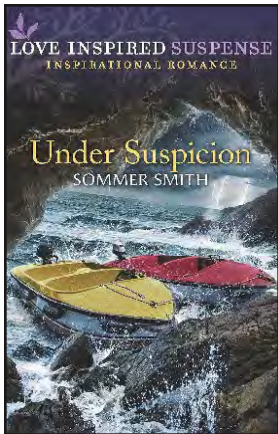
Acceptable Risk

Danger Never Sleeps #2

Lynette Eason

Revell

Genres: Suspense, Romance

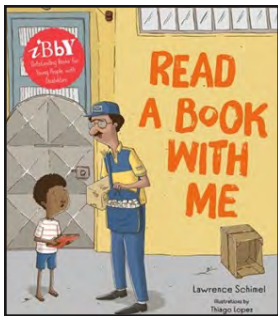


Under Suspicion

Sommer Smith

Love Inspired Suspense

Genres: Suspense, Romance



Read a Book with Me

Lawrence Schimel

Illustrated by Thiago Lopes

Beaming Books

Genres: Children's



New Releases: August 2020



My Pet Unicorn

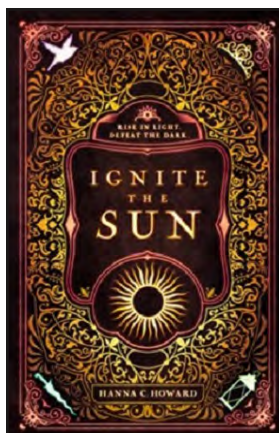
Elanor Best

Illustrated by Jess Moorhouse

Make Believe Ideas

Genres: Children's

Buy Now



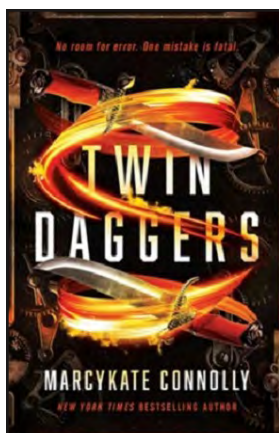
Ignite the Sun

Hanna C. Howard

Blink

Genres: YA, Speculative, Romance

Buy Now



Twin Daggers

MarcyKate Connolly

Blink

Genres: YA, Speculative, Romance

Buy Now



New Releases: August 2020



The Cascadia Treasure
Bridgestone Multimedia
Genres: Movies, Children's



Useless
Bridgestone Multimedia
Genres: Movies, Contemporary



When Calls the Heart
In Perfect Unity
Edify Films
Genres: Movies, Romance



New Releases: August 2020



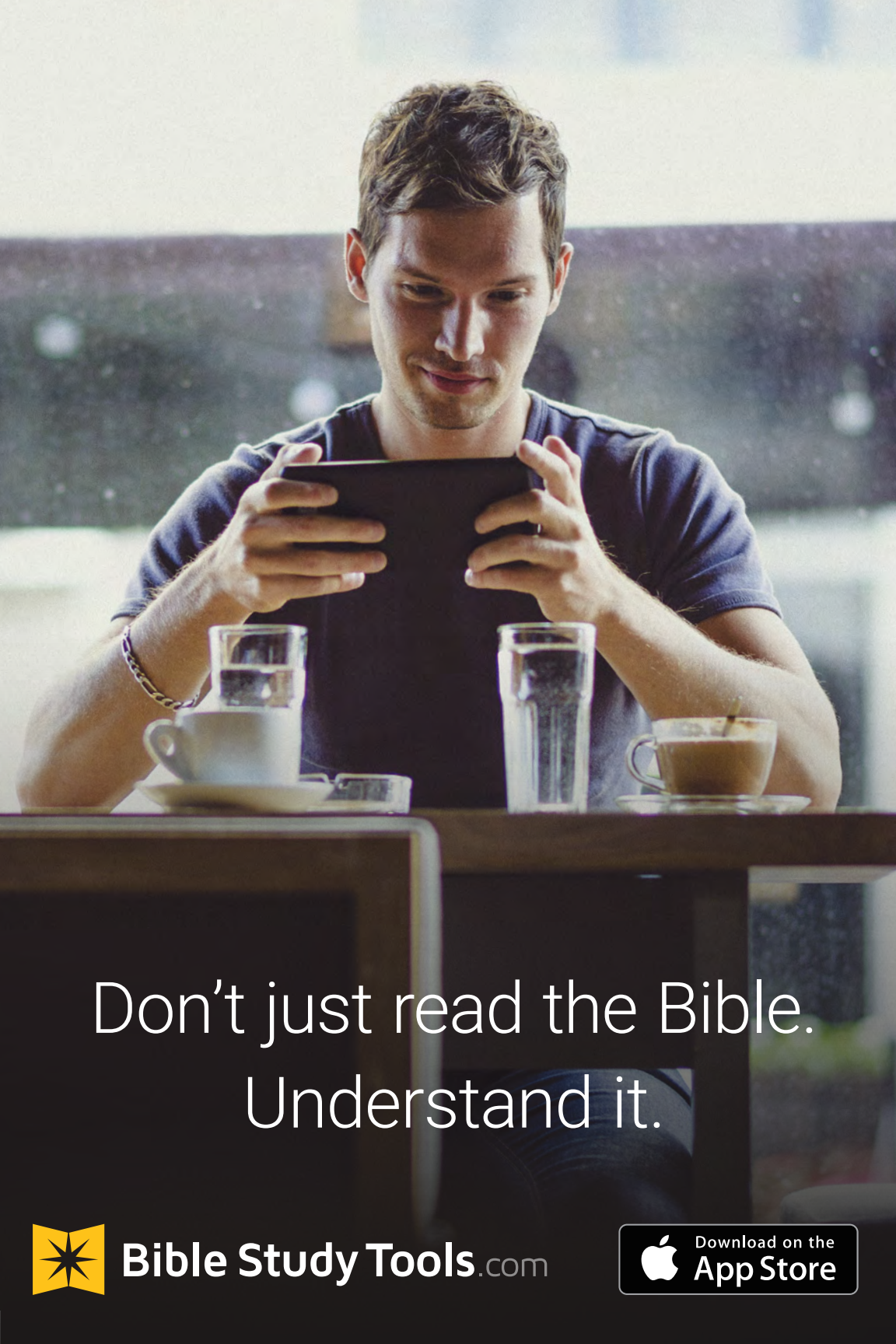
Slugs & Bugs

Complete 13-episode Boxed Set

Brentwood Studios

Genres: Movies, Children's





Don't just read the Bible.
Understand it.



Bible Study Tools.com



Download on the
App Store