# FamilyFiction

# CHRISTIAN ROMANCE

40

Essential Christian
Romance Authors:
FamilyFiction Readers
Pick Their Favorites

Celebrating 30 Years of Redeeming Love

70+ New Romance Releases for 2021

## **ROMANCE PANEL**

Karen Kingbsbury, Irene Hannon, Jody Hedlund & more: Writing Love Stories as Christian Authors





## **Romance Features**

#### **40 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN ROMANCE AUTHORS**

For our *FamilyFiction* 2021 **Romance Special Issue,** we asked readers to weigh in on their favorite Christian romance authors!

## ROMANCE PANEL: WRITING LOVE STORIES AS A CHRISTIAN

Several Christian Romance authors discuss the challenges—and benefits—of writing about "romance" from a biblical perspective.

#### REDEEMING LOVE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

In the mood for a love story? Pop some corn, grab a seat on the couch, and enjoy these clean love stories on DVD.

#### ON THE WEB

- Lisa Washington wins Author Elite Clean Romance Award for Love Lifted Me.
- Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse team up for Endless Mercy.
- Courtney Walsh's new book titled
   Is It Any Wonder due out April 6, 2021.

#### **NEW RELEASES IN CHRISTIAN ROMANCE**

70+ Christian Romance releases out now or coming out in 2021...romance, historical romance, Amish romance, and romantic suspense...including books from Tracie Peterson, Wanda E. Brunstetter, Terri Blackstock, Suzanne Woods Fisher, Lynette Eason, T.I. Lowe, Amy Clipston, Susan Sleeman, and so many more!

## FamilyFiction is owned and published by

FamilyFiction Publishing in partnership with Salem Publishing & Salem Media Group

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## **Featured Author Spotlights**



HISTORICAL ROMANCE
CARRIE FANCETT PAGELS
Historical Romance author
Carrie Fancett Pagels shares
her thoughts on what inspired her latest novel, *Dogwood Plantation*.





## AMISH ROMANCE MOLLY JEBBER

Amish Romance author Molly Jebber recently released the latest book in her Amish Charm Bakery Series, titled Maryann's Hope. Read what Molly has to share about her new book.



## ON THE WEBSITE

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

## Lisa Washington Wins Author Elite Clean Romance Award for *Love Lifted Me*

Winners were given the chance to speak through video call and Washington used the time to thank her family, friends and faith.

#### Read more here:

https://familyfiction.com/lisa-washington-wins-author-elite-clean-romance-award-love-lifted

## Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse Team Up for *Endless Mercy*

Endless Mercy released on January 5 and is available everywhere now.

#### **Read more here:**

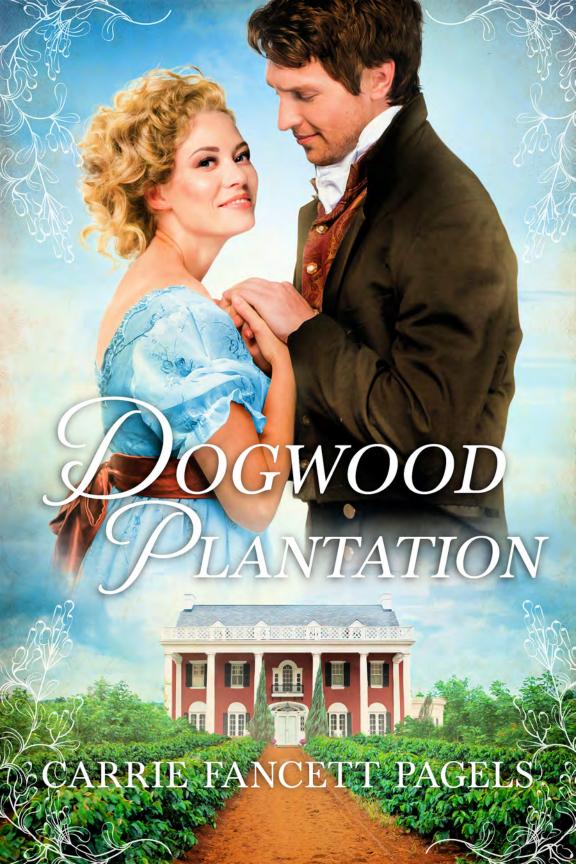
https://familyfiction.com/peterson-woodhouse-team-endless-mercy

## Courtney Walsh Is It Any Wonder Due Out Apr 6

Christian fiction author Courtney Walsh is set to release her latest book, *Is It Any Wonder: A Nantucket Love Story* on April 6, 2021.

## **Read more here:**

https://familyfiction.com/courtney-walsh-wonder-due-apr-6



# HISTORICAL ROMANCE SPOTLIGHT: Carrie Fancett Pagels

## Dogwood Plantation

**Carrie Fancett Pagels** writes stories about overcoming with God's help. She is an ECPA-bestselling award-winning author of Christian historical romance. Carrie won the Maggie Award for Excellence medallion in 2018 for her novel, *My Heart Belongs on Mackinac Island*. Twenty-five years as a psychologist didn't "cure" her overactive imagination.

## What is the plot of your novel, Dogwood Plantation?

When a deadly yellow fever outbreak draws Cornelia Gill back home, her new independent life must be abandoned. Injured veteran, Carter Williams, likewise must return to Dogwood Plantation when he suffers grievous family losses. Both become caretakers to younger family members. As the War of 1812 heats up, two wounded hearts begin to heal. But can they manage all that life has handed them?

## What inspired you to write this story?

A combo of my own genealogical research, reading about historical events in Charles City, and visits to Shirley Plantation inspired this story. I'd found ancestors in Virginia who had died within a day of one another and I wondered about that and I came upon an article about an epidemic in Charles City that had killed many people in a short time. Then I visited Shirley Plantation, actually with my mother-in-law while I was still a psychologist and not writing fiction. I heard a family story, according to the docent, which touched my heart.

#### Carrie Fancett Pagels—Dogwood Plantation



So the story question was: What if you had parents who died closely together and someone in the family had to raise those children? And what if you were sympathetic to abolitionists and were forced to hold, in trust, a plantation and slaves for the minor child who would inherit? And what if all this occurred during the War of 1812?

## What were your goals in writing Dogwood Plantation?

I wanted to look at how hard it would have been to have lived during this time (War of 1812) and to have come up against a situation (slavery) which was untenable but out of your immediate control. What would you have done? As a caretaker of young people, how would you attempt to influence them? And what if you had your own issues, physical injuries, to deal with, too?

Also, a darker thread in this story is that of incest and sexual abuse. I'm not especially overt with it, but I have a character who has experienced this abuse and I show the impact she has on so many other people! This is based on my 25 years as a psychologist working mostly with children. This is not what the story is about, but this thread is woven through the story. I'd like readers to understand that people who engage in inappropriate behavior sometimes have some terrible backstory that has contributed.

## What do you want readers to take away after reading Dogwood Plantation?

There is always hope. You can overcome, with God's help. My tagline is 'Overcoming with God'.

God works all things together for the good of those who love Him. He sees the "big picture" and we have to trust in Him.

We can do our best to influence the next generation but in the end it is up to them to make the choices and we have to pray God will work in their lives and that they will walk in obedience to His will.

## What are the challenges (or benefits) of writing "romances" as a Christian author?

I am physically disabled from RA and OA so writing is a physical challenge to me with chronic pain as I have never gone into remission. The benefit is that when I walk in obedience to God and keep writing, He has blessed those efforts.

I've been so encouraged and had my life enriched by the many readers and authors and industry professionals with whom I

## Carrie Fancett Pagels—Dogwood Plantation

have worked! FamilyFiction blessed me by being my first contest win for my short story, "The Quilting Contest," in the Historical category for The Story contest some years ago.

Specific to "romance" writing, I've found you do have some people who look down upon this genre. I'm actually moving more over to Women's Fiction and Inspirational Suspense, with a WF title **Butterfly Cottage** releasing this Spring and a dual-timeline suspense with romantic elements book titled **Behind Love's Wall** (November, 2021) in the Barbour Publishing **Doors to the Past Series**.

## What does it take to research the period where and when your novel takes place?

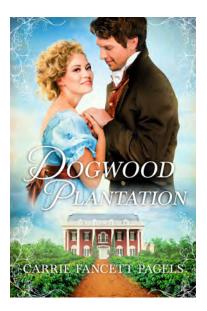
I prefer to visit in person whenever possible. In fact, I have only one book where I haven't actually visited the location, a novella set in Kansas. Although it takes a lot more research for a historical fiction, I've found that for contemporary fiction simply being in the location during the present time can yield so much more information for the reader. This is one of the reasons I return to the Straits of Mackinac, where a number of my stories are set, during the summers. The details that go into my upcoming releases are from weeks in the setting versus vs. weeks in the library or online doing research. And it doesn't hurt that I love the area! I live in Virginia, so my Virginia-set stories have been super fun to research onsite at the many historical places we have here in the Commonwealth! FF

## **Visit Carrie Fancett Pagels's author page here:**

https://familyfiction.com/authors/carrie-fancett-pagels

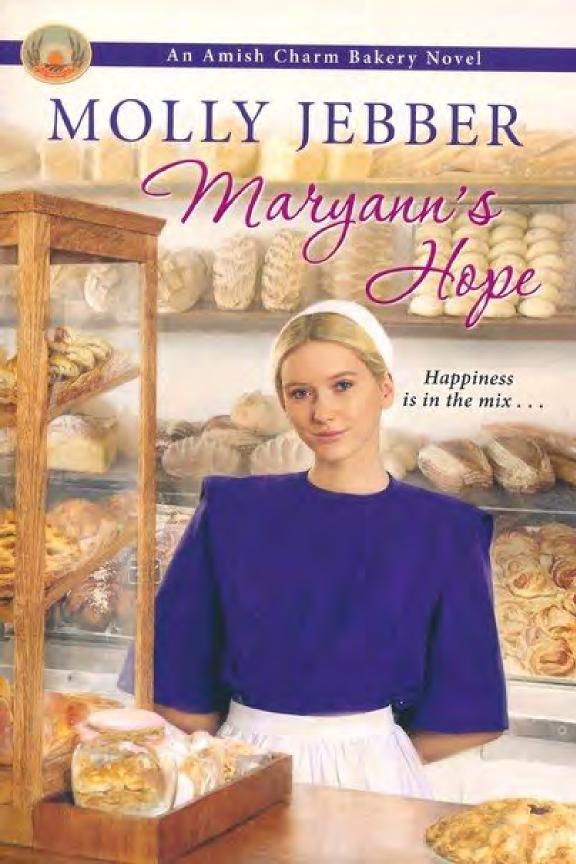
## Carrie Fancett Pagels—Dogwood Plantation

https://www.amazon.com/dp/0997190884/?tag=familyficti09-20



## **Dogwood Plantation**Love Along the James River Hearts Overcoming Press





# AMISH ROMANCE SPOTLIGHT: Molly Jebber

## Maryann's Hope

**Molly Jebber** writes Amish historical romance fiction. Her books have been featured in *USA Today*'s HEA column, and made *Publisher's Weekly*'s Best Ten List. She's on Romance Writers of America's Honor Roll and she receives rave reviews in numerous magazines and media across the country.

Her new **Amish Charm Bakery Series** has a whirlwind of intrigue, turmoil, and joy! Check out her full list on Amazon or her website at http://www.mollyjebber.com! Some are offered in large printhardback and audiobook, along with print and eBook.

## What is the plot of your latest novel, Maryann's Hope?

Secrets devastated Maryann Harding's marriage to an Englischer—and took away her untrustworthy husband. Now the young Amish widow has found contentment cooking up treats at the bakery, raising her little girl, and comforting her ailing mother. And when Andrew Wittmer asks her to marry him, Maryann is over the moon with happiness that she and the kind furniture maker will put down roots in her hometown.

Until Andrew's uncle becomes ill, and Andrew must permanently take over his store in a town hours away. Though she would go anywhere to be Andrew's fraa (Amish for wife or woman), Maryann can't abandon her mother—or the family that depends on her so much. And when she discovers Andrew harbors secrets of his own, Maryann's hard-won trust is shaken. Now, can she risk difficult choices and take a leap of faith into the loving, joyful future she longs for most?



## What inspired the story we find in *Maryann's Hope*? To show when things seem impossible, God can do all things.

## What were your goals writing this novel?

- To write a story readers could enjoy and keep them wondering what would happen next.
- To show God's forgiveness, love, grace, and how he answer's our prayers.
- To make readers gasp, laugh, and enjoy getting to know Maryann, her baby, Betsy, friends and family. And the same with Andrew, the man she falls in love with.

## What do you want readers to take away after reading *Maryann's Hope*?

- Maryann makes mistakes, but she never abandons her faith in God. Her life isn't easy, and she's weathered big storms, but she's not been scarred enough to not fall in love.
- To show sometimes we have trust issues from the past that may interfere with our new relationships.

- To show Maryann has to be vulnerable, and its' hard for her.
- To show when our hearts in the right place, God can work miracles.

## What are the challenges (or benefits) of writing "romances" as a Christian author?

I love writing about love, showing what looks impossible to work out. I find writing Amish Romances are all benefits. I love it. Readers can learn about Amish traditions and lifestyles, and faith in God. As an author, I can show the Amish have many of the same issue that we do.

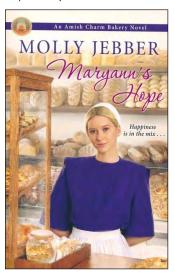
## How do you approach writing about the plain people in a way that's accurate to their way of life?

Visiting their communities and talking with them, researching their news, reading their "budget" newspaper. FF

## **Visit Molly Jebber's author page here:**

https://familyfiction.com/authors/molly-jebber

https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/maryanns-hope-molly-jebber/9781420150674/pd/15067X?event=ESRCG



## Maryann's Hope

The Amish Charm Bakery #4 Molly Jebber Zebra



# 2021 **CHRISTIAN** ROMANCE READERS POLL

# 40 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN ROMANCE AUTHORS

For our **FamilyFiction Collector's Edition 2021 Romance Special**, we asked our readers to weigh in on their favorite type of romance stories and their favorite Christian romance authors.

We're pleased to announce the results right here! We hope you'll take a look at who Christian romance readers picked as their favorite authors—including those who write romance, historical romance, Amish romance, and romantic suspense!

## **Favorite Type of Romance Story**

We know that lots of **FamilyFiction** readers love a good tale of romance—but what kind of tale? We asked, and this is how our readers answered...

Romantic Suspense	36%
Historical Romance	27%
Amish Romance	19%
Contemporary Romance	18%

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

## **40** ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN ROMANCE AUTHORS AS CHOSEN BY *FAMILYFICTION* READERS

We asked our readers to name their five favorite Christian romance authors, and these 40 talented writers earned the most votes.



## **1. Lynette Eason** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lynette-eason

Lynette Eason is the bestselling author of the Women of Justice, Deadly Reunions, Hidden Identity, and Elite Guardians series. She is the winner of three ACFW Carol Awards, the Selah Award, and the Inspira-

tional Reader's Choice Award, among others. She lives in South Carolina with her family.

"I hope that the characters will come across as capable and caring. Women who can take care of themselves and others, but ones who are willing to admit they need help sometimes. They're not perfect, they're not indestructible, but they're resilient and strong, and have all the characteristics we sometimes wish we had for ourselves. I hope they help us see that it's okay to have flaws and weaknesses...We can overcome all of that by relying on God and trusting Him to take care of us, to get us through the tough times."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Lynette Eason—Active Defense https://familyfiction.com/suspense-qa-lynette-eason-active-defense



## **Active Defense**

Danger Never Sleeps #3 Lynette Eason Revell Romance, Suspense

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/active-defense-3-lynette-eason/9780800729363/pd/729360?event=ESRCG

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



## **2. Wanda E. Brunstetter** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/wanda-brunstetter

One of the founding authors in the Amish fiction category, Wanda E. Brunstetter has published more than 100 books, which have sold more than 11 million copies. Wanda's ancestors were part of the Anabaptist faith,

and her novels are based on personal research intended to accurately portray the Amish way of life. Many of her books have landed on the top bestseller lists, including the New York Times, Publisher's Weekly, USA Today, CBA, ECPA, and Christianbook.

"It's a blessing when one of my readers tells me that something they read in one of my novels has inspired them to do something or helped them cope during a difficult time. When I meet readers at a book signing, speaking engagement, or via social media, I feel a connection, and friendships develop."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Wanda E. Brunstetter—Six Unlikely Souls Connect Through an Amish Cooking Class https://familyfiction.com/wanda-brunstetter-blessing



## The Blended Quilt

Wanda E. Brunstetter and Jean Brunstetter Shiloh Run Press Amish, Romance

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-blended-quilt-jean-brunstetter/9781643526010/pd/3526010?event=ESRCG



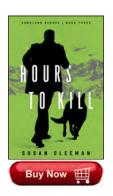
**3. Susan Sleeman** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-sleeman

Prolific suspense writer Susan Sleeman keeps readers on the edge of their seats—and seems to be in the middle of multiple series at any given moment. She's the bestselling author of more than thirty-five romantic

suspense and mystery novels, with sales exceeding one million copies. She's also won several awards, including the ACFW Carol Award and the *Romantic Times* Reviewers' Choice Award.

"For me there will be an equal balance of romance and suspense in a book, neither one overshadowing the other. I try for this balance in my books, but if I am guilty of having more of one than another it would be suspense. My favorite part is developing real characters that readers can relate to and who need to change to find their happily ever after in life. This almost always involves a spiritual struggle in my books. I just love it when I see the suspense plot, the romance, and the spiritual message all come together in that 'aha' moment that changes the character's life, and they realize they are deserving of a wonderful life no matter their past or their struggles."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Susan Sleeman—Heroes in the Digital Age https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-author-interview-susan-sleeman-heroes-digital-age



Hours to Kill Homeland Heroes #3 Susan Sleeman Bethany House Romance, Suspense

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/hours-to-kill-3/susan-sleeman/9780764233975/pd/233975?event=TCG|1013625



#### 4. Dee Henderson

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dee-henderson

Dee Henderson is the author of numerous novels, including *Taken*, *Undetected*, *Unspoken*, *Full Disclosure*, and the acclaimed *O'Malley* and *Uncommon Heroes* series. Her books have won or been nominated for

several prestigious industry awards, such as the RITA Award, the Christy Award, and the ECPA Gold Medallion.

"I love a strong character who has made decisions about their life, who has a sense of who they are, and where they want to go. The romance that unfolds tends to play to the strength of each character, rather than change their personality. I want an authentic story that reflect how these people would act and decide matters in their lives."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Dee Henderson—Unspoken https://www.familyfiction.com/q-a-dee-henderson-unspoken



## **Betrayed**

Cost of Betrayal Collection
Dee Henderson
Bethany House
Romance, Suspense

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/betrayed-ebook-dee-henderson/9781493414857/pd/97558EB?event=ESRCG

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## 5. Karen Witemeyer

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/karen-witemeyer

For those who love to smile as they read, bestselling author Karen Witemeyer offers warm-hearted historical romances with a flair of humor, feisty heroines, and swoonworthy Texas heroes. Winner of the HOLT

Medallion, ACFW Carol Award, Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, *National Reader*'s Choice Award, and a finalist for both the RITA and Christy Awards, Karen is a firm believer in the power of happy endings—and ice cream.

"Every book I write is a spiritual journey for me, and I pray that when a reader picks one of them up, they are taken on a spiritual journey as well. One in which God reveals a nugget of truth to them that allows them to walk closer to the Father even as they romp through a lighthearted, adventurous story."

**READ THE INTERVIEW**: Karen Witemeyer—Spiritual Journeys https://familyfiction.com/historical-romance-interview-karen-witemeyer-spiritual-journeys



## Heart's Charge

Hanger's Horsemen #2 Karen Witemeyer Bethany House Historical, Romance

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/ hearts-charge-2-karen-witemeyer/9780764232084/ pd/4232084?event=TCG|1013625



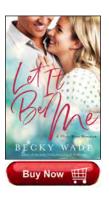
**6. Becky Wade** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/becky-wade

Becky Wade's humorous, heart-pounding contemporary romance novels have won multiple Christy Awards, the Carol Award, the INSPY Award, and the *Inspirational Reader*'s Choice Award for Romance. Becky lives in

Dallas, Texas with her family.

"I write Christian romance because I want to honor God through my profession. I ask the Lord before every writing session to enable me to tell the story He would have me tell. I work and work to give each character a spiritual arc that illustrates an aspect of God's astonishing grace and love because my faith compels me to celebrate those aspects of His character."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Becky Wade—Romantic At Heart https://familyfiction.com/becky-wade-romantic-heart



Let It Be Me Misty River Romance #1 Becky Wade Bethany House Romance

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/let-it-be-me/becky-wade/9780764235610/pd/235611?event=TCG|1013625

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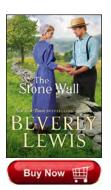
**7. Beverly Lewis** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/beverly-lewis

Born in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, Beverly Lewis has more than 17 million books in print. Her stories have been published in 12 languages and have regularly appeared on numerous bestseller

lists, including the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. Beverly and her husband, David, live in Colorado.

"At its core, every book I write is about lifting the spirit and stirring the heart—which allows readers from all ages and walks of life to relate to my characters, however cloistered and unalike they may initially seem."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Beverly Lewis—Taking the Long Way Home https://familyfiction.com/beverly-lewis-taking-long-way-home



# **The Stone Wall**Beverly Lewis Bethany House Publishers Romance, Amish

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-stone-wall-beverly-lewis/9780764233081/pd/233084?event=ESRCG

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## 8. Susan May Warren

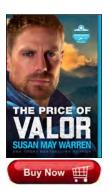
https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-may-warren

Susan May Warren is the *USA Today*-bestselling author of more than fifty novels with more than one million books sold. Winner of a RITA Award and multiple Christy and Carol Awards, as well as the HOLT Medallion

and numerous Readers' Choice Awards, Susan has written contemporary and historical romances, romantic suspense, thrillers, romantic comedy, and novellas. She makes her home in Minnesota.

"It's all about the heart, and how the hero and heroine reach inside and heal each other's deep wounds. So first, we need to discover the wounds (half the fun is getting to the heart of the matter!) and then we have to figure out how they heal them. Of course, there is physical attraction, and high-stakes issues, but I think the heart of the matter is the healing they bring to each other. I've always said that the way a man treats a woman wins her heart, and likewise, the way the woman lets the man be a hero wins his heart, so I just let that play out on the page, and ... swoon!"

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Susan May Warren—All About the Heart https://familyfiction.com/suspense-interview-susan-may-warren-heart



## The Price of Valor

Global Search and Rescue #3
Susan May Warren
Revell
Romance, Suspense

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-price-of-val-or-3/susan-warren/9780800735869/pd/735866?event=ESRCG



**9. Rachel Hauck** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/rachel-hauck

Rachel Hauck is a *New York Times, Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* bestselling author. She is a Christy Award Winner and a double RITA finalist. Her book *The Wedding Dress* was named Inspirational Novel of the Year

by *Romantic Times* Book Club. She is also the recipient of RT's Career Achievement Award.

"Weddings are the truest picture of love. After all, the end of the age cumulates with a wedding! Jesus and His Bride. Weddings are the ceremony where love is publicly declared. Commitments are made. Hope blooms. Families are formed. It seems weddings are a doorway into a new life. Two lives joining together to become one."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** Royal Love—Rachel Hauck on Romance, Writing & Her New Novel https://familyfiction.com/royal-love-rachel-hauck-on-romance-writing-her-new-novel



Once Upon a Prince Movie Tie-In Edition Rachel Hauck Thomas Nelson Romance

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/once-upon-a-prince-1/rachel-hauck/9780785248033/pd/248033?event=ESRCG



## Go to the website for the entire list of 40 authors!

https://familyfiction.com/40-essential-christian-romance-authors-2021-edition



#10 Irene Hannon

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/irene-hannon

Irene Hannon is the bestselling author of more than fifty novels. She's been award multiple times by the Romance Writers of America, and has also been elected to the RWA's Hall of Fame. Her many other awards

include National Readers' Choice, Daphne du Maurier, Retailers' Choice, Booksellers' Best, Carols, and Reviewers' Choice from *RT Book Reviews* magazine, which also honored her with a Career Achievement award for her entire body of work. Her latest contemporary romance is *Starfish Pier*, the sixth book in the *Hope Harbor Series*.

"All the [Hope Harbor series] plot lines—and there are others besides the central romance in each book—feature characters facing challenges. I weave the stories together, showing the interconnectedness that binds us all together. And in the end, I strive to leave readers feeling upbeat and optimistic. I try to show that happy endings are always possible, and I also highlight the tremendous power of love (not just romantic love) to transform lives."

**READ THE INTERVIEW:** *Irene Hannon—Hope of a Happy Ending* https://familyfiction.com/irene-hannon-hope-happy-ending



## **Blackberry Beach**

A Hope Harbor Novel Irene Hannon Revell Romance

**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/blackberry-beach-a-hope-harbor-novel/irene-hannon/9780800736156/pd/0736151?event=TCG|1013625

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## 30+ Christian Romance Authors Discuss Writing About Romantic Love from A Biblical Perspective

Over the years, **FamilyFiction** has talked to a lot of Christian authors who write all manner of romance fiction—ranging from contemporary romance and historical romance to romantic suspense and Amish romance. What are the unique challenges (or benefits) of writing "romances" from a biblical worldview? Find out what these authors had to say! Including Francine Rivers, Karen Kingsbury, Tracie Peterson, Tamera Alexander, and more!



## **Francine Rivers**

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/francine-rivers

"I hope the stories I write will increase readers' hunger and thirst for Jesus, and the characters will inspire them to be more like Him. It's so easy to follow the ways of the world, to get sucked into following the herd rather than be among the flock. I want to encourage readers to trust in

the Lord always and to remember only His Word is truth.

I know many people who won't touch a Bible. You even mention reading one, and they raise their hands in protest. Those same people will read a novel. For some, it's just a form of entertainment. They enjoy the characters and what happens to them and move on. But others feel a seed being planted and it begins to grow. Jesus used parables. Some never asked questions after He spoke. They just listened, were briefly entertained, possibly perplexed, and moved on. But the disciples and those willing to admit their hunger and thirst came to Him and asked: What do you mean by that? And He told them. Readers sometimes ask me questions about my stories. That gives me an opportunity to point to Jesus. It gives me a chance to tell them what I've learned. When you go into the Bible with an open heart and mind and ask God to speak to you, He does. He meets you right where you are."



## **Karen Kingsbury** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/karen-kingsbury

"I really do love my readers, and I enjoy getting to know them and praying for their needs. For me, writing is a ministry first and foremost. You're not just telling a story and walking away. You're telling a story and dialoguing about how that story affected people."



## **Becky Wade**

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/becky-wade
"The challenge: Keeping the story clean while
also ensuring that it deals authentically
with some of the struggles and temptations
Christians face when they fall in love. The
benefit: The opportunity to write stories about
great love between men and women AND God's

great love for us—all wrapped up in a single novel."



## **Carolyn Miller**

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/carolyn-miller

"I've long been fascinated by people and what makes them tick, so as a Christian author, I feel immensely privileged to be able to explore the inner workings of the heart through my stories. I want to create a world where readers long to be, for readers to be immersed in my stories, which

for some novels has meant fairy tale-like aristocratic alpha males and grand English estates.

But I want my stories to be more than just good kisses, and so I aim to balance that by grounding the story in a sense of reality, and allowing space for real life questions to be answered. My characters deal with questions concerning identity, insecurities and the need

for belonging that all humans face, and which allows for the God threads to be woven into the story that helps deal with such issues.

I love seeing how relationships develop, how personal challenges can be overcome through God and through healthy relationships that are based on a 1 Corinthians 13 kind of love. Exploring this through stories, particularly romance, is a wonderful way to use fiction to express God's truths."



## **Michelle Lindo-Rice**

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/michelle-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."



## **Tracie Peterson**

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tracie-peterson
"First, I get to shine the light on the love God
has for each of us and His never-ending mercy.
Fans have written to tell me the way God has
used the books to change their lives, bring
them back to God or even bring them to God
for the first time. They might never have picked

up a Bible or walked into a church, but they read a simple fiction novel and God used that to open their eyes to the truth of who He is. Second, I love history and very much enjoy learning about the various places and things that I choose to write about. And last, but not least, I love a happy ending and all of us need love from one another, but ultimately from God. I am so completely blessed to be a writer, but even more so to write for God."



Jody Hedlund https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jody-hedlund "Stories have POWER. Sunday school teachers and youth leaders know the power of stories to capture attention and move students. Parents know the power of stories to teach character lessons (think the story of the Boy Crying Wolf or of the Tortoise and the Hare). Pastors know

the power of stories (through illustrations) to help us remember truths better. Jesus knew the power of stories, which is why he used them so often during his ministry on earth to relay truths (in all four gospels Jesus tells over 45 stories also known as parables). Stories have the power to teach us lessons and to bring us hope. And Christian fiction in particular has the power to point people to the true Giver of Hope.

While I try not to preach at my readers, I do weave faith themes through my books. My faith also motivates me to keep my stories 'clean.' I believe Christian fiction is a much-needed alternative, especially Christian romance. I got an email from a reader telling me that she'd picked up several books and been really turned off by the explicitness within them, but that she didn't realize the books contained such content until she started reading them. She wanted to know if there was a rating system or some way that she could tell if the book would be "clean" before she started reading. I was glad that I could point her to inspirational Christian fiction, that she would be guaranteed the sweet romance she desired."

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thttps://www.facebook.com/groups/986896981440636



## **Dani Pettrey**

https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dani-pettrey "I think showing the beautiful nuances of romance from a Christian mindset and delving into the glorious, pure love God created for us to enjoy as we fall in love and proceed in a way that keeps God first and as a couple grows in step with God's plan and purposes for a man

and a woman as they move into and experience marriage as He created it."



**Molly Jebber** https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/molly-jebber "Writing Amish historical romance, it's understood that my books are faith-based. Mary Sue Seymour, previous owner of The Seymour Agency, gave me the best advice. She said "Write Amish and show their faith along with your conflict. You won't be asked to

add sex or bad language like you would if you wrote contemporary romance if you're with one of the big six publishers."

She was right. Kensington formed an in-house umbrella for Christian authors called "Kensington Bouquet," and I have not been asked to compromise on these things. And I love being with Kensington.

Another benefit is I've been asked to speak to Christian groups about the Amish traditions and lifestyles which has been good for marketing my books and sharing what Jesus Christ means to me."



Toni Shiloh
https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/toni-shiloh
"I love that I get to show romances as God
intended it. Not without flaws but beautiful and
able to glorify Him despite them. The challenge
is knowing I can't please everyone, and some
people will disagree, but praying I wrote what
God put on my heart."

Click through for an expanded version of this article, including input from **Tamera Alexander**, **Irene Hannon**, **Cecelia Dowdy**, **Shelley Shepard Gray**, **Rachel Hauck**, and so many more!



**CLICK:** https://familyfiction.com/romance-panel-writing-love-stories-christian-authors

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### **Redeeming Love**30 Years of a Christian Romance Classic

Francine Rivers talks to the *Christian Romance Book Club Podcast* about her groundbreaking biblical romance novel.

**Redeeming Love** by Francine Rivers is a favorite Christian romance classic featuring a tragically wounded soul, the man called to marry her, and the only love that heals all. A perennial best-seller since it was originally published in 1991, the novel has sold millions of copies and been translated into more than 30 languages.

A powerful and contemporary retelling of the biblical book of Hosea, *Redeeming Love* takes place against the romantic backdrop of the California Gold Rush of 1850. The story centers on Angel, who was sold into prostitution as a child. She has survived through hatred and self-loathing, until she meets Michael Hosea (Lewis) and discovers there is no brokenness that love can't heal. The story reflects the redemptive power of unconditional and sacrificial love with characters and circumstances relevant to the contemporary world.

With the novel hitting its 30th anniversary—and a film adaptation headed to screens this spring—the *Christian Romance Book Club Podcast* talked with Francine about the origins of the novel, how her faith impacts her fiction, and what the message means for the world today.

Our podcast works along with FamilyFiction magazine and we have a Facebook group book club. We have a really good mix of longtime fans and authors who are fans and actually a big chunk of brand-new readers who are discovering romance novels written from a Christian worldview and what that all means.

I'd love to especially help our new listeners orient themselves to who you are and your work, and how your faith impacts your work. While there's room for all of it, I'd love to primarily talk about *Redeeming Love, The Masterpiece,* and your next novel, *The Disinherited*.

I started actually in the general market, so I can look at it from two points of view. In the general market, the emphasis in romance is really between just the man and the woman.

When I became a Christian in my late 30s, I couldn't write for quite a while. And I started reading the Bible, and I realized that God was saying, 'You want to be My child, but you don't really know Me.' So, as I was reading the Bible over and over again, we were doing a home Bible study and we came to the minor prophets. And *Hosea* was really the story of *Redeeming Love*.

So, I placed that story in the same time period I'd been working in the general market for a number of years—from 1840s up to the 1880s in California history—and it was really my statement of faith. But the difference really between general market fiction romance and Christian fiction romance is that you have a triangle in Christian fiction because God is always in the center of it.

#### Redeeming Love—30 Years



And especially in *Redeeming Love*, it's really an allegory to show what God's love is like. In the book of Hosea, the prophet was showing Israel how Israel was behaving toward God.

For me, when I read Hosea, I could see myself as Angel, going in every other place to find answers. You go to your friends, you read how-to books, you're listening to psychologists online, all this other stuff rather than going to God—the One that created you and has a plan for your life. The story is to show how much God loves us through the character of Michael.

And then I'm like Angel. We start out where we're children of darkness. And then we are defiant, we don't want anybody controlling our lives. And then we are often fearful because God isn't asking for little bits and pieces of us, He wants everything we are—from the past, present, and future. And then when you have that relationship with God, you begin to see yourself in a more humble way. And then there's tremen-

dous joy in being a child of God and following in God's ways. So, that's sort of it in a nutshell.

## That's a very good nutshell. I'm really curious, because you started out as an English and journalism writer. How did you jump from journalism to fiction?

I always knew I wanted to be a writer, from the time I was a little girl. But I didn't like to read, so I didn't have a vast body of having read a number of books.

My parents were non-fiction readers. My dad literally built our house from the foundations. My mother was a nurse. So, they were doing a lot of non-fiction reading.

I thought, well, if I'm going to be a writer, I need to learn how to write. So, I majored in English with an emphasis in literary writing, and minored in journalism, because I had no idea what kind of writing I was going to be doing. Just that I knew I would be a writer.

It was actually when Rick and I got married, he's an avid reader and so were his parents. His mom and dad started handing me books like gothics and romances and westerns and historicals, and I loved it. I loved the fiction, because you could learn a lot about history by reading a historical romance or a historical novel.

So, I thought, well, that's the kind of writing I'd like to do. But the first book I wrote was actually a combination of genres that I liked, so I wrote a western gothic romance—I didn't know you were supposed to kind of stick in one genre—and I had so much fun with it, I just kept going with it. So, I'd written I think

about nine books when I was in the general market and then you become a Christian and it just begins to change everything from the inside out, and that changed my whole direction of writing.

Actually, I thought that *Redeeming Love* would probably be the only book I'd write as a kind of a statement of faith. Then I had so many *questions* because I came to faith.

I had grown up in the church, but just because you're in church doesn't mean you're a Christian. I didn't have the heart knowledge. I had some *head* knowledge, but I thought, I had so many questions; like how do you share your faith with unsaved family and friends who don't want to read the Bible and they don't want to hear about Jesus?

That's where the story of A Voice In The Wind came from and Hadassah. The characters just were playing out the different points of view about the question I had, and then I would have one strong Christian struggling trying to find their God's perspective. And it was a quest for me because I didn't have the answer to start with.

It's in the process of writing and studying the word of God and playing out all the different ways of looking at that question and then finding what God's answer is to that. So that's kind of been the direction of my writing ever since.

You were talking about *The Masterpiece*. Really the question in that one is, can two broken people from tremendous, horrendous childhood events, can they find wholeness together? And, of course, the answer is in Christ yes, we can find wholeness.

In *The Disinherited*, the question I had in that one is, can one person impact an entire community? And yeah, one person can.

So, really writing has become a quest for me. It's a way of worshiping God, because I have to stay focused on the Lord. I have to stay focused on the Word to find the answer that I'm going for in the novel.

That's really fascinating, because you mentioned earlier that you actually had writer's block when you first became a Christian...

Yeah.

#### How did that feel when...

Terrible! I remember going on a walk with my husband and he said, If you had a choice between me and the three children—we had three children at the time—and your writing, you'd take your writing. It really stopped me for a minute, because I thought, 'I think that's true!' It was the one area of my life where I thought that I had some control, and I could make things happen. With the writing you can create any kind of story you want. But it's an illusion, it's not the truth.

When we moved to northern California and I became a Christian, I think God removed it. He just took the ability away. Nothing I wrote made any sense. I think He was saying, 'You need to come to Me, and get to know Me. You need to know if you want Me to be the Master of your life. You need to let me be the Master of your life.' And so that three years was really taking away the idol of writing and replacing it with the love of the Lord and the love of His Word.

Of course, when I came to Hosea, it was like God's saying 'This is the love story I want you to write. It's all about Me, it's about how I love you, and how I love everyone else that is seeking love.'

I needed to learn to put the idol of writing down. Since then, I don't tend to write more than four pages a day. If I finish that by noon, the rest of the day is, you know, do something else. I always start my morning in Scripture and reading before I start to write.

I'm not a writer—that's not who I am. I'm a child of God. That has to stay the priority.

How was that—I'm going to say struggle, although that's not necessarily what it was—when you were going through that period where you had to wait to access your ability to write and the Lord was working on you and how to see Him in a new way? What was that like? Because as a creative person, I would imagine that would just be so upsetting to put it calmly!

Oh, oh yeah, I was very upset! I didn't understand what was happening. Because I think you tend to think that well, you come to Christ and you become a Christian, everything's going to be wonderful.

#### **Exactly!**

And no, that's not what happened. It was like all the flotsam and all the stuff from my past everything was coming up and God was there, kind of walking me through it, And also I've been walking through all of it all along the way in writing books.

For example, *The Atonement Child* had to do with an abortion I had in college. So, I needed to deal with that issue and I used that in my writing. That was probably the hardest book I've ever had to write, but it was also the most healing.

So I think I struggled with it because I thought, 'I'm a writer—why can't I write?' It was quite a while before I understood that when it ceased to matter to me—when I didn't care if I ever wrote another word—that's when He gave it back to me.

That's when the story of *Redeeming Love* came. It was like, 'OK, now you have your priorities straight. Now I'm Number One in your life. Now let's work together and because you still have lots of growing to do.'

I'll be growing until I die. He's constantly teaching us. I think writing is the medium that He uses for me. He gave me the gift of writing, so it's for His use. It's not for me to selfishly do whatever I please with it.

But it was not easy. It took three years. The first year and a half was like 'Why is this happening?' I thought my life was supposed to be better becoming a Christian, and it was just chaos.

I love that you are bold to say that. So often, we're taught that "everything's magically wonderful after you're a Christian." But it's really, "You've got to actually do some work." And it's worth it.

Definitely. It's an inner transformation, and I think any kind of transformation is not easy.

A seed has to break open in order to grow, and I think that's part of it. You're being, in a sense, broken down and rebuilt, too, because your priorities are completely different. You're the temple of the Holy Spirit now. The Holy Spirit is inside of you and the Holy Spirit is contrary to what your fleshly nature is.

If you've lived over 30 years, 35 years doing your own thing the way you want to do it, and all of a sudden you have the Holy Spirit in you saying that 'Nuh-uh, it's not going to be like that,' it is kind of an educational process, too.

But at the other end of it, it's so fulfilling and so joyful that it's nothing the world can give you. The world can't give you what God gives you.

It seems very obvious that becoming a Christian really changed your life.

Yes

## So, how did you get there? If you were in the secular market writing, just doing your thing, how did you get to Christ? How did you and He find each other?

Well, Rick and I were really struggling in our marriage. When we moved to northern California, Rick was starting his own business, and I stayed in southern California until the children were finished with their school year.

He was looking for a place for us to live in Sebastopol, where he started, because we wanted to also be closer to family. We thought if we were closer to family that would help. He found the only rental house at the last minute, and when we moved in, on each side of us were Christian families.



On the first day we were moving in, a little boy about eight years old kept coming over and pestering us, wanting to help us move in. I think Rick finally gave him a box of shoes or something and [the little boy's] saying, "Have I got a church for you!" Then the other lady with apple pie was talking to us, and I thought 'I'm desperate enough to try anything, even church.'

To back up, Rick and I had been attending a church in southern California, but I think Jesus had left the building. They were not focusing on the Gospel. There were a lot of things going on in that church.

Rick ended up actually being the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and he wasn't a Christian. They didn't know he wasn't a Christian. We didn't know we weren't Christians.

I mean, if your parents were Christians, you tend to think well, I'm a Christian, too. And they say God doesn't have any grand-children. It's a decision each person has to make.

When we moved north, Rick said 'I want nothing to do with the church.' He'd seen the inner workings of that [previous] church.

So, I started a few weeks later. I thought I'm desperate enough to try anything, otherwise we're going to end up in a divorce. So, I started going to church; and when I walked in everybody was so welcoming and loving.

And then the pastor was teaching out of the Word of God about the book of Ephesians. And starting at chapter one, verse one, 'Here's what the historical context is—what the Scripture actually means, and how does it apply to your life today.'

That's what I've been looking for. It really was working on me.

I wanted Rick to come, but he was saying no, thanks. I thought, if I can't get him to church, then I'd talk to the pastor. 'Can we have a home Bible study?' He said, 'If it's all right with your husband, sure.'

So, we started a home Bible study, which is still going now, and Rick is teaching it. Over 30 years, we've had a home Bible study.

#### That's amazing!

That's what really made the difference. We were going through the gospels. We were going through topical studies. We studied baptism.

So, we both decided we needed to be baptized. We were baptized together, and that really began the change in our marriage. I remember we sat down with the kids and told them, 'You've heard a lot of yelling and shouting at each other. We're not getting a divorce. You'll still hear us arguing about things but we're staying together.'

We are together. And the kids remember that. They just say, 'You two are such a strong couple' because we've worked things through.

#### That's an amazing testimony.

Yeah. Rick was not raised in the church. I was. And we actually were friends from the time we were in fifth grade. And that friendship I think is what really held us together for a long time.

He went to Vietnam. He was a marine in Vietnam and my brother was serving at the same time and was captured during the Tet Offensive. It was 1967... my brother was found, very badly wounded. Rick's mother wrote to him every day the whole time he was serving overseas ... Rick wrote to me in college and said, 'you're really lucky to get your brother back,' and we just started a correspondence back and forth. He came home in December of 1968, and we were married a year later in December 1969.

So, we had a lot of issues. I brought in my issues from college—including the abortion—and Rick came in with all the issues of what he suffered when he was in Vietnam.

We had enough flotsam to sink a ship, you know, to work through. But we've been married now 51 years.

Getting to that place where in your books you're dealing with really hard issues, with prostitution, with abortion, with abuse. These are topics that make people uneasy. Yeah, but it's real life. Jesus can be in the midst of anything and turn anything to good.

I think about as an example, the abortion experience. It kept me trapped for years. I lost our first baby and then we had our son. I lost another child, had our daughter, and then lost another child before we had our third son.

So, that was constantly in my mind that at that time. I was thinking, 'God is only taking away from me what I took from Him.' And, of course, that was not the truth. So, I was looking for 'Is there such a thing as forgiveness?' because I wasn't experiencing it. I wasn't feeling it even though I was a Christian.

It took the writing of that book to realize that we have to learn to accept the forgiveness and forgive ourselves. That's one of the things that I learned in the writing of that story.

We'd been married I think about 25 years at the time, and Rick didn't know a lot of that before we got married. So, we got re-married in typical California fashion, we went out to the beach. Our kids were almost grown.

#### Redeeming Love—30 Years

Then one was thinking about getting married and we just said, 'Don't have any secrets before you get married.'

And we re-did our wedding ceremony on the beach. And the kids really learned from that, I think.

I know one of the couples, they wrote down everything. They shared it with one another, and then they just burned it in a fire. You know, 'That's the past, we're moving on together.' But that was a really healing experience.

In writing—especially when you're writing Christian fiction—we need to deal with the real issues of life.

God can enter into any of those situations and He can turn it for good. If I hadn't written that book, I wouldn't be able to talk about that issue.

I heard from a lot of people about that book, and how it brought healing to them. God turned that bad experience to good. And in the process of writing it, He brought healing to me, too. So, we have to trust him.

All the things I thought might happen with that story, didn't. I thought I was going to get persecuted and criticized and all kinds of stuff and none of that happened.

It actually brought a number of letters of women sharing their stories about what they had been through. So, whatever God gives us to do, He equips us to do, and it's miraculous what He can do.

Like with *Redeeming Love*, I didn't make the connection with sex trafficking when I was writing it. I remember reading a story in a women's magazine and I had a picture of a little girl who had been taken—they had a picture of her, like a school picture—a perfect little picture of this beautiful little girl. And then they had confiscated a pornographic film at, she was the same age and she was terrified you could just see on her face the terror.

And then you saw her a few years later, and her demeanor was totally different. So, I had those pictures on my bulletin board, and I kept thinking 'I'm writing for that little girl, wherever she is.'

But this story is to tell her, no matter what's happened to you, no matter what you've been through, no matter what you've done, God loves you and He can redeem you and He can restore you and He can build your life in a way you never, ever expected.

That's the power of Christian fiction. To show how God is involved in every aspect of our lives.

And it works even better when we cooperate! [Laughter] We say, 'Welcome, please renovate me! Please remake me and transform me into the woman you intended me to be.' Because His plans are lot better than any plan I've ever had.

#### And you feel more fulfilled.

Your life has real purpose, and your Boss is the Creator of everything.

Yes! That's really interesting, because I've bumped into as a Christian, that some people become conflicted about their gift and being the son or daughter of God and how that fits together.

Yeah. It's like, where'd those gifts come from? He planned those from the beginning.

And we may use pieces of them and not realize the fullness that He could bring from that. He gives you talents, but you have spiritual gifts, too. But you don't get the spiritual gifts until after you come to Him.

I know they have all kinds of classes and things and I'm not quite sure what my spiritual gift is, but I don't worry about it. I figure, God will work all that out. I don't have to identify it.

Other people may recognize it more in me than I will ever recognize it in myself, but it's not important for me to have a specific identity on that score. It's like, 'Do whatever you want, Lord. I'm your vessel, cracked and dented.' But you'll do what He wants.

I love that you didn't like to read at first when you were little, but you wanted to be a writer. Was reading those historical romances like the trigger? Was there something about setting your stories in a certain time period that just really fascinates or challenges you?

I think a story kind of tells you where it's going to be. But I remember as a kid we lived out in the country. We were about three miles out of town, so I didn't have a lot of people around me, and my mom worked, and my dad worked. When I came home from school, I usually came home to an empty house.

So, I lived in my head a lot. I used to carry on conversations [by myself].

I remember my brother had a little boy scout troop and they hid all over the house because they were going to jump out and scare me, and then they didn't come out for a long time and one of the kids came out later and said, 'We thought there were other people in the house because there was this conversation going on.' [laughter] I never talked out loud after that again, because that was so embarrassing. 'There was nobody here, it was just me talking to myself!'

I mean, I created stories in my head from the time I was a little kid. My dad was a police officer, but he had his first heart attack when he was about 39 years old and he was in bed at home for three months.

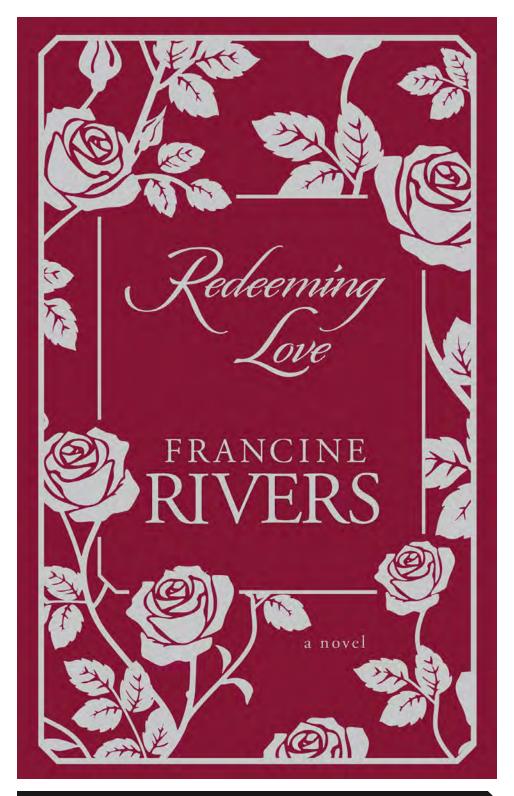
What did he do during that three months? He wrote a book on how a police officer interacts with the community and reaches the community.

And my mother was a journalist. She wrote a diary every day from the time she was 17, and I have all of her diaries.

So, I saw writing going on. I just wanted to be a writer and I wanted to tell stories, but I didn't know what I'd be writing.

I was not a very good reader—I got like a D in reading when I was in sixth grade. I'm still to this day a slow reader.

I tend to read every single word and act it out in my head. I'm doing really well when I read 52 books in a year because that's



a book a week, and that's a stretch for me because I take time. I underline, I make little notes, I'm analyzing the writing as I'm going. So, it takes me a lot of time to read something.

People would ask about my favorite author, and I would say the person I happen to be reading at the time. Every book has a unique voice, and you can't judge between people. I mean, everybody has something of value to offer. I read all kinds of stuff.

### Do you like to read more non-fiction now, or do you kind of split?

I split. And I usually try to alternate—fiction, nonfiction. Sometimes I'm reading two books at the same time and I'll kind of switch back and forth. But I like both, fiction and nonfiction. And a variety of subject matter.

### Yeah, that's fun because you never know what might pop up that will maybe inspire.

I tend to make a list, and I have designations. Is it a youth book, a YA, is it fiction, non-fiction, is a devotional. And then I make those little designations, and at the end of the year I kind of look at that list and see, 'Am I over-reading any one particular thing?'

I think a writer should be well-read and read lots of different things because we're always learning. We're observing. That's part of being a writer, to get a taste of all kinds of things from life. All kinds of points of view. Absolutely. And you can be well prepared for what you might have to write about.

Yeah.

## Congratulations on *Redeeming Love* being made into a movie! How do you feel, it's the 30th anniversary and now there's the movie adaptation?

We've been trying for about 15 years. We worked with various companies and I read numerous scripts.

I finally decided, 'I think I need to write the script and show what I'm looking for.' So, I got *Final Draft* and I read some books about script writing. Then I wrote the script and sent it in, just to show them what I was looking for in a script. And they said, 'Well, we like this one.'

#### Wow! That's cool!

That was like, 'OK! My first attempt at a script!' And then I worked with DJ (Caruso, the director of the movie), so he came in with a director's eye.

I wrote in a linear style, so it was just like the book straight through. Well, if you go into a movie, you're not going to want to watch all the abuse up front in the first 15 minutes of the movie. Most people would want to get up and leave.

He restructured the screenplay, and then we worked together on scenes to cut length, but make them more dramatic, that kind of thing. So, I wanted to have his name on there—we're sharing writing credit on it. That was really quite an experience.

Then Rick and I were able to go to South Africa and watch some of the filming! But at a certain point, you have to turn it over to other people to do it, and they did an amazing job. It's a whole other art form that I don't know anything about.

And it's hard topics. I'm not sure what the rating is going to be, but I'd be stunned if it is a PG-13 because we're dealing with prostitution, we're dealing with abuse. They're not topics that you're going to want to bring a child to be entertained. But they've made it a beautiful love story.

It was so hard to find a man who could play Michael, because so many of them couldn't pull off purity. And they didn't understand the dynamics between Michael and Angel. They didn't understand Michael is loving her in a Christ-like way, giving her time and wooing her the way God woos us.

We found a young actor in Britain, Tom Lewis. He's classically trained, a very, very good actor. He can show all those different nuances in his expressions so that there's so much going on there. He's a new actor, but I'm sure he's going to be a big star one of these days.

And then Abigail Cohen is amazing as Angel. I couldn't be more pleased with the people cast in the movie. Or the sets—the sets are phenomenal. They did a really great job.

### This must be so exciting, seeing your words translated onto the screen!

It's so different when you read a book. There's even more in the book, of course—you're inside the minds of the people you're reading about, where you can't do that on screen. But there is

#### Redeeming Love—30 Years

real power in seeing it on the screen. It almost has more impact seeing it visually than reading it, so I hope a lot of people will go.

The whole thing with the movie is that we want it to glorify God. We want Him to be at the very center of it. That when people walk out of the theater, they've seen a story about how much God loves them, and they have hope when they walk out. That's been the prayer from a lot of us all the way through this whole process.

#### Listen to the Christian Romance Book Club Podcast!

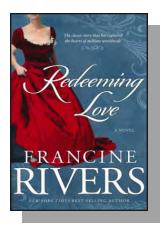
https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/familyfiction-christian-romance-book-club-podcast-family/id1543943778

#### Join the Christian Romance Book Club group!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/986896981440636

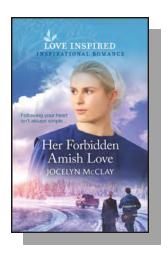
#### Redeeming Love—30 Years

https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/redeeming-love-francine-rivers/9781590525135/pd/525132?event=ESRCG



### **Redeeming Love**Francine Rivers Multnomah



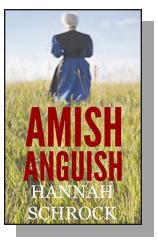


#### Her Forbidden Amish Love

Jocelyn McClay Love Inspired

Release Date: 01/26/21 Genres: Amish, Romance



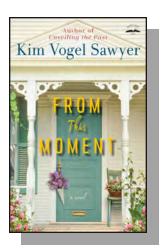


#### **Amish Anguish**

Hannah Schrock Love Inspired

Release Date: 02/09/21 Genres: Amish, Romance





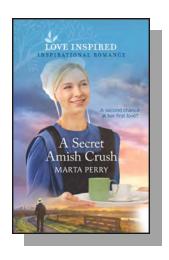
#### **From This Moment**

Kim Vogel Sawyer Waterbrook

**Release Date:** 02/23/21

**Genres:** Genres: Amish, Romance



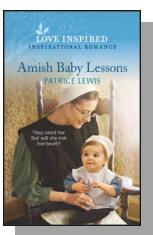


#### A Secret Amish Crush

Marta Perry Love Inspired

Release Date: 02/23/21 Genres: Amish, Romance





#### **Amish Baby Lessons**

Patrice Lewis Love Inspired

Release Date: 02/23/21 Genres: Amish, Romance





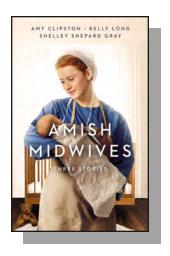
#### The Robin's Greeting

Amish Greenhouse Mysteries #3 Wanda E. Brunstetter Shiloh Run Press

**Release Date:** 03/01/21

**Genres:** Amish, Romance, Suspense





# **Amish Midwives: Three Stories**Amy Clipston, Kelly Long, Shelley Shepard Gray Zondervan

Release Date: 03/02/21 Genres: Amish, Romance



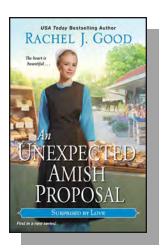


#### An Unlikely Amish Match / An Amish Arrangement

Vannetta Chapman, Jo Ann Brown Love Inspired 2-IN-1 AMISH

Release Date: 03/09/21 Genres: Amish, Romance





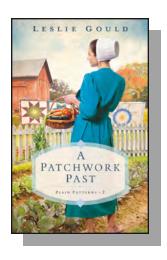
#### **An Unexpected Amish Proposal**

Rachel J. Good

Zebra

Release Date: 03/30/21 Genres: Amish, Romance



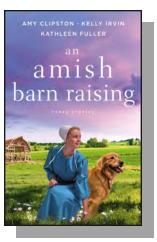


#### A Patchwork Past

Plain Patterns #2 Leslie Gould Bethany House

Release Date: 03/30/21 Genres: Amish, Romance



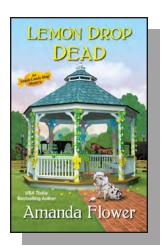


#### An Amish Barn Raising Three Stories

Amy Clipston, Kathleen Fuller, Kelly Irvin Zondervan

Release Date: 04/06/21 Genres: Amish, Romance





#### **Lemon Drop Dead**

Amish Candy Shop Mysteries #6
Amanda Flower

Kensington Publishing **Release Date:** 04/27/21

Genres: Amish, Romance, Suspense



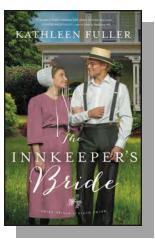


#### Samuel's Return

Amish of Southern Maryland #6
Susan Lantz Simpson
Zebra

Release Date: 04/27/21 Genres: Amish, Romance



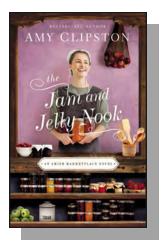


#### The Innkeeper's Bride

Amish Brides of Birch Creek #3 Kathleen Fuller Zondervan

Release Date: 04/27/21 Genres: Amish, Romance



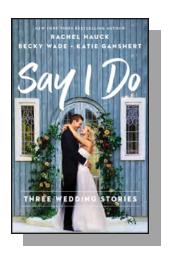


#### The Jam and Jelly Nook

Amish Marketplace #4
Amy Clipston
Zondervan

Release Date: 05/04/21 Genres: Amish, Romance





#### Say I Do: Three Wedding Stories

Rachel Hauck, Becky Wade, Katie Ganshert Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 01/05/2021

**Genres:** Romance





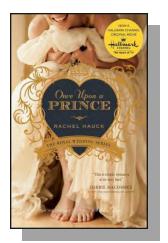
#### Til I Want No More

Robin W. Pearson Tyndale House

**Release Date:** 02/02/21

**Genres:** Romance





#### **Once Upon a Prince**

Movie Tie-In Edition Rachel Hauck Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 02/16/21





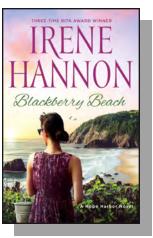
#### The Summer House

Lauren K. Denton Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 03/02/21

**Genres:** Romance





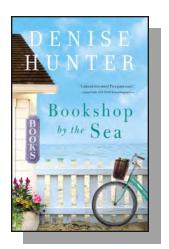
#### **Blackberry Beach**

A Hope Harbor Novel Irene Hannon Revell

**Release Date:** 04/06/21

**Genres:** Romance



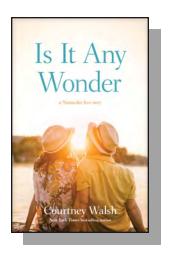


#### Bookshop by the Sea

Denise Hunter Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 04/13/21





#### Is It Any Wonder

A Nantucket Love Story
Courtney Walsh
Tyndale House

**Release Date:** 04/06/21

**Genres:** Romance





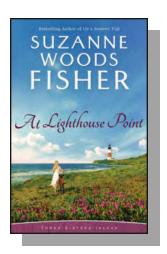
#### Let It Be Me

Misty River Romance #1 Becky Wade Bethany House

**Release Date:** 05/04/21

**Genres:** Romance



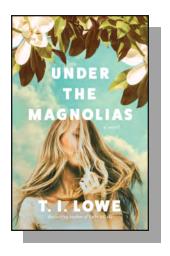


#### **At Lighthouse Point**

Three Sisters Island #3
Suzanne Woods Fisher
Revell

**Release Date:** 05/04/21





#### **Under the Magnolias**

T.I. Lowe

Tyndale House

**Release Date:** 05/04/21

**Genres:** Romance





#### **Plot Twist**

Bethany Turner Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 06/14/21

**Genres:** Romance





#### **This Time Around**

Three Sweet Romances
Denise Hunter, Melissa Ferguson,
Kathleen Fuller
Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 07/13/21





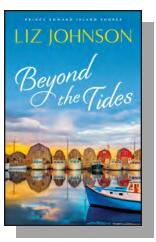
#### Make You Feel My Love

Robin Lee Hatcher Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 07/13/21

**Genres:** Romance





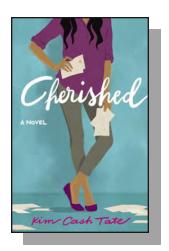
#### **Beyond the Tides**

Prince Edward Island Shores #1 Liz Johnson Revell

**Release Date:** 08/03/21

**Genres:** Romance



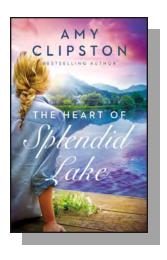


#### Cherished

Kim Cash Tate Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 09/07/21





#### **Heart of Splendid Lake**

Amy Clipston Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 09/14/21

**Genres:** Romance





#### The Moonlight School

Suzanne Woods Fisher

Revell

Release Date: 01/31/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





#### When Twilight Breaks

Sarah Sundin

Revell

Release Date: 01/31/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





#### A Dance in Donegal

Jennifer Deibel

Revell

Release Date: 01/31/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



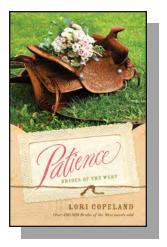


#### The Lady in Residence

Doors to the Past #1 Allison Pittman Barbour Books

Release Date: 02/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





#### **Patience (New Edition)**

Brides of the West #6 Lori Copeland Tyndale House

Release Date: 02/02/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





#### The Orchard House

Heidi Chiavaroli Tyndale House

Release Date: 02/09/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





#### The Paris Dressmaker

Kristy Cambron Thomas Nelson

Release Date: 02/16/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



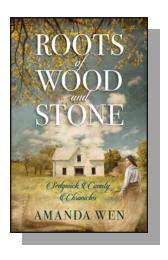


#### The Prince of Spies

Hope & Glory #3 Elizabeth Camden Bethany House

Release Date: 02/19/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





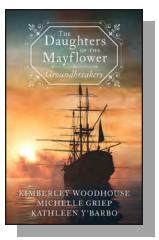
# **Roots of Wood and Stone**

Sedgwick County Chronicles #1
Amanda Wen

**Kregel Publications** 

Release Date: 02/20/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# The Daughters of the Mayflower

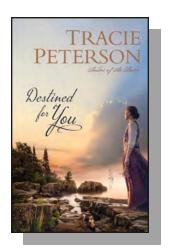
Groundbreakers 3-in-1 Edition

Kimberley Woodhouse, Michelle Griep, Kathleen Y'Barbo

Barbour Books

Release Date: 03/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





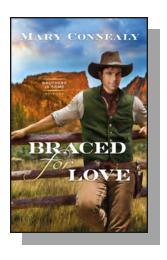
# **Destined for You**

Ladies of the Lake #1
Tracie Peterson

**Bethany House** 

Release Date: 03/02/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# **Braced for Love**

Brothers in Arms #1 Mary Connealy Bethany House

Release Date: 03/02/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



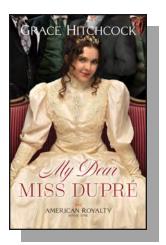


## **Dreams Rekindled**

Mesquite Springs #2 Amanda Cabot Revell

Release Date: 03/02/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



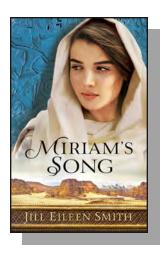


# My Dear Miss Dupré

American Royalty #1 Grace Hitchcock Bethany House

Release Date: 03/02/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





**Miriam's Song**Jill Eileen Smith
Revell

Release Date: 03/02/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





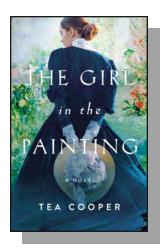
## Groom Wanted / A Texas-Made Match

Debra Ullrick, Noelle Marchand

Love Inspired 2-In-1 Historical Classics

Release Date: 03/09/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



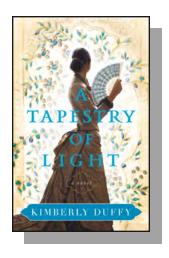


# The Girl in the Painting

Tea Cooper Thomas Nelson

Release Date: 03/09/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# A Tapestry of Light

Kimberly Duffy Bethany House

Release Date: 03/16/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



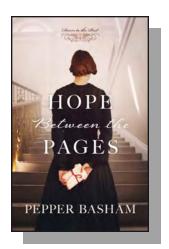


# A Song for Her Enemies

Sherri Stewart Heritage Beacon

Release Date: 03/21/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# Hope Between the Pages

Doors to the Past #2 Pepper Basham Barbour Books

Release Date: 04/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





## **Dusk's Darkest Shores**

Regency Wallflowers #1 Carolyn Miller Kregel Publications

Release Date: 04/20/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



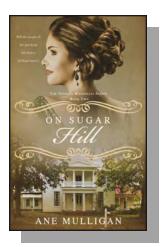


# Winning the Gentleman

Hearts on the Hearth #2 Kristi Ann Hunter Bethany House

Release Date: 04/20/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# **On Sugar Hill**

Georgia Magnolias #2 Ane Mulligan Heritage Beacon

Release Date: 05/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



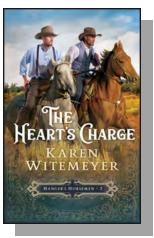


# A Lady in Attendance

Rachel Fordham Revell

Release Date: 06/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# Heart's Charge

Hanger's Horsemen #2 Karen Witemeyer Bethany House

Release Date: 06/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





# The Seeds of Change

Leah's Garden #1 Lauraine Snelling Bethany House

Release Date: 06/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance





## Come Back to Me

Waters of Time #1 Jody Hedlund Revell

Release Date: 06/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance,

Speculative





# **Along a Storied Trail**

Ann H. Gabhart

Revell

Release Date: 06/01/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



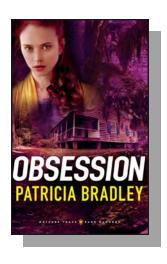


# No Journey Too Far

Carrie Turansky Multnomah

Release Date: 06/08/21 Genres: Historical, Romance



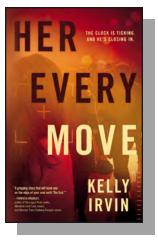


## Obsession

Natchez Trace Park Rangers #2 Patricia Bradley Revell

**Release Date:** 01/31/21 **Genres:** Romance, Suspense





# Her Every Move

Kelly Irvin

Thomas Nelson

**Release Date:** 02/09/21 **Genres:** Romance, Suspense



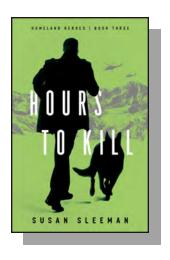


# **Unknown Threat**

Defend & Protect #1 Lynn H. Blackburn Revell

**Release Date:** 03/02/21 **Genres:** Romance, Suspense





## **Hours to Kill**

Homeland Heroes #3 Susan Sleeman Bethany House

Release Date: 03/16/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense



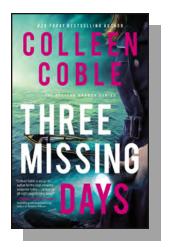


## **Hostile Intent**

Danger Never Sleeps #4 Lynette Eason Revell

Release Date: 08/03/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense



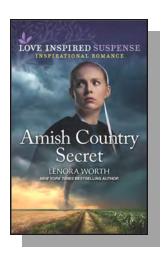


# **Three Missing Days**

Pelican Harbor #3 Colleen Coble Thomas Nelson

Release Date: 04/06/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense





# **Amish Country Secret**

Lenora Worth

Love Inspired Suspense **Release Date:** 02/09/21

Genres: Amish, Romance, Suspense



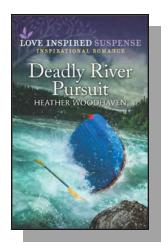


# **Present Danger**

Rocky Mountain Courage #1 Elizabeth Goddard Revell

Release Date: 04/06/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense

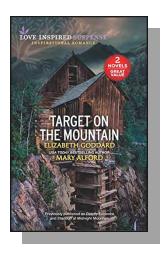




# **Deadly River Pursuit**

Heather Woodhaven Love Inspired Suspense **Release Date:** 03/09/21 **Genres:** Romance, Suspense



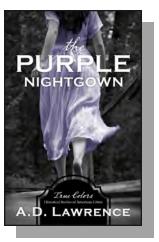


# Target on the Mountain

Elizabeth Goddard, Mary Alford Love Inspired Suspense 2-In-1 **Release Date:** 03/09/21

**Genres:** Romance, Suspense



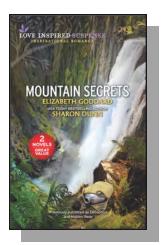


# The Purple Nightgown

True Colors #10 A.D. Lawrence Barbour Books

Release Date: 03/01/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense



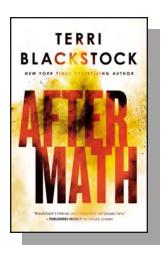


## **Mountain Secrets**

Elizabeth Goddard, Sharon Dunn Love Inspired Suspense 2-In-1

Release Date: 03/09/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense



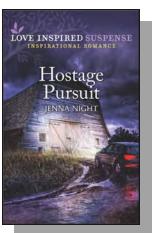


# **Aftermath**

Terri Blackstock Thomas Nelson

Release Date: 05/11/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense





# Hostage Pursuit

Jenna Night

Love Inspired Suspense
Release Date: 02/09/21
Genres: Romance, Suspense





# **Power Play**

Capital Intrigue #3 Rachel Dylan Bethany House

Release Date: 06/01/21 Genres: Romance, Suspense





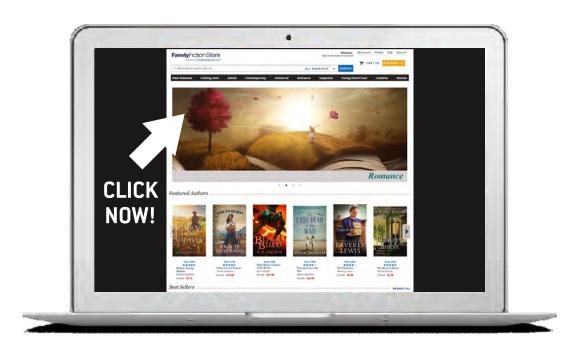
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