

Collector's Edition

# FamilyFiction



## CHRISTIAN **SUSPENSE** SPECIAL

Janice Cantore  
*Lethal Target*

Lisa Harris  
*A Secret to Die For*

Irene Hannon  
*Hidden Peril*

# 35

Essential Christian  
Suspense Authors:  
*FamilyFiction* readers  
tell us their picks

60+ Christian  
Suspense  
Books

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## Featured Authors



### JANICE CANTORE

The veteran police officer talks about the real-life drama behind her latest Christian suspense novel.



### LISA HARRIS

The romantic suspense author shares how God uses ordinary people to do great things.



### IRENE HANNON

The romantic suspense author talks about taking readers down a dangerous road—and why it's worth the journey.

## Suspense Features

### 35 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE AUTHORS

*FamilyFiction* readers tell us their favorites—including those who write mysteries, police procedurals, romantic suspense, and more!

### CHECKLIST: 60+ CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE BOOKS

Including the latest titles from Lynette Eason, Dani Pettrey, Terri Blackstock, Dee Henderson, Colleen Coble, Ted Dekker, and more!

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# Janice Cantore—Getting the Facts

The veteran police officer talks about the real-life drama behind her latest Christian suspense novel.

A former Long Beach, California, police officer of 22 years, **Janice Cantore** writes from real-life experience with accuracy and attention to detail, crafting a riveting tale of intrigue for romance and crime drama fans alike.

Her experience in law enforcement lends authenticity to the story of a female police chief's investigation of a small town's increasingly deadly drug problem in **Lethal Target** (Tyndale House), the second novel in her Line of Duty series. In this interview, the author reveals the inspiration for the story, explains how her faith has impacted her as a storyteller, and explains the challenges of being a Christian author writing crime fiction.

## Janice, what can you tell us about *Lethal Target*?

*Lethal Target* is the second book in my Line of Duty series. It's a series about Police Chief Tess O'Rourke. She was involved in a controversial shooting in the first installment, *Crisis Shot*, and she was just about run out of law enforcement. Career salvation comes when she's offered the job of chief for a small police department in Rogue's Hollow, Oregon.

She's just starting to feel comfortable in her new job when this story begins. The town of Rogue's Hollow is a lot smaller than Long Beach, California, but Tess is adapting and liking the small-town feel and camaraderie.

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But big-city crime arrives in town when a promising high school student is found dead of an apparent drug overdose. The young man's death makes no sense and Tess vows to root out the source of the deadly opiate plague.

The investigation consumes her time—that is, until a blogger who chased her out of Long Beach appears in Rogue's Hollow. His harassment of Tess begins immediately, and when he's found murdered on her porch, evidence points to Tess. It becomes a test of the small community: will it come together and support the new chief, or turn on her before the facts are in?

### **What was the inspiration for this story?**

Partly the wave of police shootings recently—shootings that sometimes on the face look bad, but when all the evidence is in, the police officer is exonerated. Whenever there is a shooting that makes national headlines, I pray people will give the officer due process and wait to make a judgment until all the facts are in.

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## Janice Cantore

I was also motivated by the opiate epidemic and the threat of fentanyl. I've read articles about how powerful fentanyl is, that officers could overdose simply by inventorying someone's property if there was the smallest amount of residue present.

Also, I liked the idea of community, togetherness, in a small town. I moved to a small town myself, and the dynamics are fascinating, so I wanted to write that into the story as well.

### **What themes or ideas do you deal with in *Lethal Target*?**

Forgiveness, accepting that God is in control even when hard, sad, tragic, things happen. Tess rediscovers her father's favorite Bible, and that begins to rekindle her faith, but can her baby faith survive the accusations and innuendos that fly after the death of the blogger? And can she solve the crime and bring the real murderer to justice?

### **What are the challenges of writing Christian fiction with elements of crime, danger, and violence?**

To never be too graphic. Though I do deal with hard things—murder, drug overdose, etc.—I never want to gross anyone out or make them uncomfortable.

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

For me there is always hope in Christ. So the struggle is to write the hard things, the hurtful things that life is full of, but finish them with hope, with the light of Christ, without being preachy or clichéd.

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For Tess, she walked away from her faith after her father's murder. That's not surprising, but I wanted to draw her journey back in a believable and entertaining way.

**What can you tell us about the main characters in this book?**

Tess O'Rourke is the daughter of a police officer who was killed in the line of duty. Her dream was to eventually become chief of police for Long Beach. But the shooting that takes place in the first book, *Crisis Shot*, changes everything. And when she leaves to work in small-town Rogue's Hollow, many think that going to a tiny department is the same as retiring.

But Tess still has a lot of passion for her job, and she can only give 110 percent, no matter the size of the department.

**Are your characters based on real people, or do you make them up?**

I make them up. They might be a conglomerate of people I know, but I never consciously, specifically, draw a character after someone I know.

**What or who are your influences as a storyteller?**

Francine Rivers and Randy Alcorn were two big influences on my writing. I think *Deadline* by Randy Alcorn is one of the best books ever written. I'm also influenced by my background in law enforcement and by current events. Sometimes news articles will get me asking a lot of "what if" questions that often lead to a story.

Janice Cantore

**What sort of reader are you thinking of when you write?**

Anyone who likes suspense, who appreciates a crime novel that may be dark at first, but that ends with a good, uplifting finish. I believe in happy endings!

**What do you hope readers come away with after reading *Lethal Target*?**

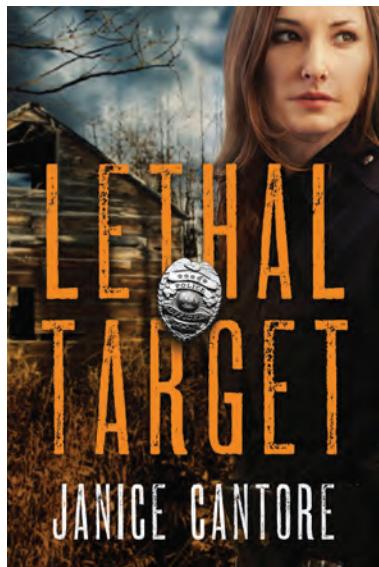
A good feeling that justice has been served, with all the threads tied up in a plausible way. **FF**

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Janice Cantore



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**Lethal Target**  
Line of Duty #2  
Janice Cantore  
Tyndale House

Police Chief Tess O'Rourke thought she'd taken care of her small town's drug problem last year. But now Rogue's Hollow residents are up in arms over a contentious vote on legalizing the sale of marijuana within city limits. And when an 18-year-old is found dead of a possible overdose, Tess wonders if the local pot farms might be involved and begins to fear that a new, deadlier drug

supply chain has cropped up. As tempers flare and emotions boil over, Tess faces the possibility of losing the town's support.

With her relationship to Sergeant Steve Logan on shaky ground, Tess could really use a friend, and she feels drawn to Pastor Oliver Macpherson's quiet presence. But the anger she holds over her father's death prevents her from embracing his faith and finding peace.

Battling storms within and without, Tess is shocked when a familiar face from her past shows up in town to stir up more trouble. And his threats against Tess may prove lethal. **FF**

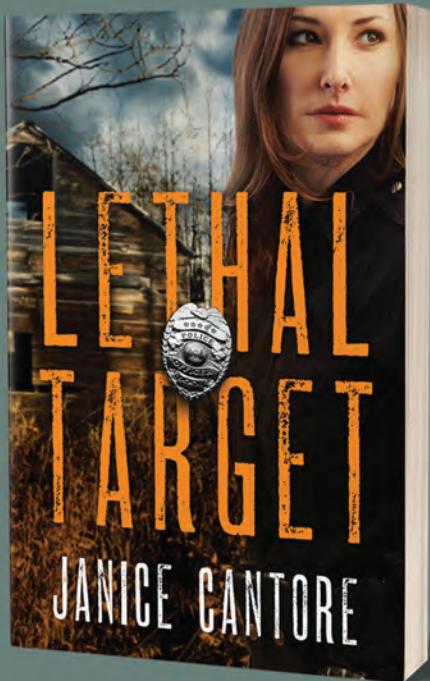
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# NEW FROM VETERAN POLICE OFFICER JANICE CANTORE

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Police Chief Tess O'Rourke thought she'd taken care of her small town's drug problem last year. But when an eighteen-year-old is found dead of a possible opioid overdose, Tess wonders if the local pot farms might be involved and begins to fear that a new, deadlier drug supply chain has cropped up.

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"Fans of Lynette Eason, Dee Henderson, or DiAnn Mills and readers who like crime fiction without gratuitous violence will appreciate discovering a new writer."

- *Library Journal*, on *Accused*



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# Lisa Harris—Seeing the World Differently

The romantic suspense author shares how God uses ordinary people to do great things.

*The bestselling author of more than 30 books, **Lisa Harris** sees her writing as an extension of her ministry—which includes running a nonprofit organization and serving as a church-planting missionary with her husband in Mozambique. Her latest novel is **A Secret to Die For** (Revell): Psychologist Grace Callahan has no idea that she has a secret—and a target on her back.*

*In this interview, she shares about the book's characters, explains how she balances her faith with writing suspense fiction, and reveals the themes in the book.*

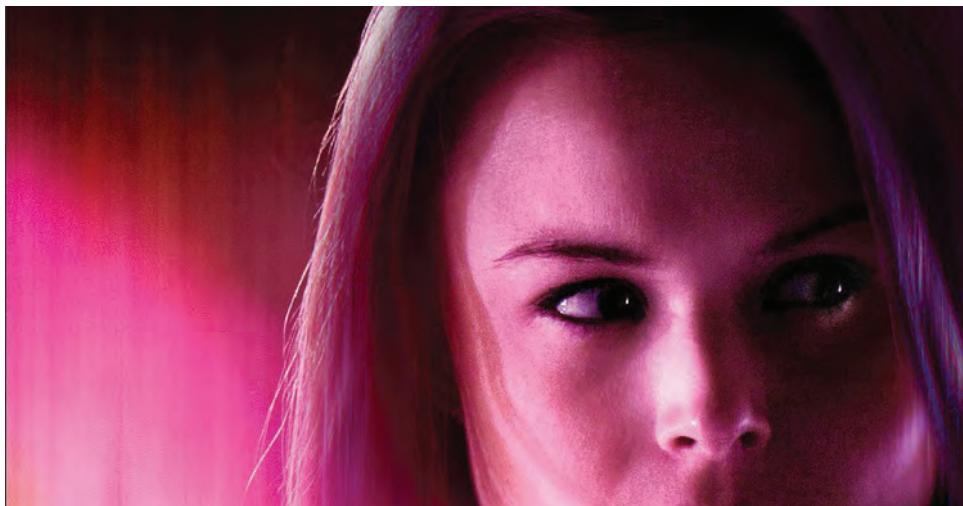
## **Lisa, what can you tell us about *A Secret to Die For*?**

Psychologist Grace Callahan has no idea that she has a secret—one worth killing for. When one of her clients is murdered, she realizes that the computer security specialist wasn't simply suffering from paranoia.

Detective Nate Quinn has just been cleared for active duty after a bombing killed 18 people, including his partner, and left him dealing with PTSD. His first case back on the job involves the murder of Stephen Shaw, and his only lead turns out to be an old friend, Grace Callahan—and her life is in grave danger.

Someone believes Shaw gave his psychologist information before he died. Information they are willing to kill for.

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**What made you want to tell us the story of Grace and Nate?**

I love these characters because they are searching and broken in the beginning of the book. And while everything doesn't wrap up in a perfect bow at the end—there will still be challenges ahead—they've grown both toward each other and toward God, and in the process helped each other in their journey.

**What themes or ideas do you deal with in *A Secret to Die For*?**

Both Grace and Nate are dealing with loss and working through grief. Nate is also dealing with PTSD from his job.

Through the story we see them grapple with these issues, which is especially difficult for Nate, who feels guilty for keeping God in a box and calling out to Him only when he's in trouble. I think these are definitely themes we can all relate to.

**Are your characters based on real people or are they made up?**

I've never purposely based characters on people I know. That being said, I'm known to take in a lot of what I see around me and draw from that to create the people in my stories.

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## **What do you hope readers come away with after reading *A Secret to Die For*?**

I want my readers to see that God is always there even in the worst of circumstances. And that He can use ordinary people to make a difference and bring glory to His name. It's a theme I carry through most of my stories, because I think it's so important.

We read about people in the Bible who felt like they weren't important enough, or strong enough, or smart enough to do big things for God. But sometimes it's the small things that matter most. Sometimes He calls us to make a difference right where we are—even in the middle of the ordinary day-to-day grind!

## **What are the challenges of writing Christian fiction with elements of crime, danger, and violence?**

For me it's trying to find a balance. When I read books or watch movies I don't like a lot of violence, so in my own books I tend to stay away from graphic crime descriptions.

At the same time, one reason I write in this genre is because there *is* evil and violence in our world, and I want to show the contrast of finding justice and hope even in the worst of circumstances. To show how God can redeem any situation no matter what the outcome.

## **How does your faith impact how you write?**

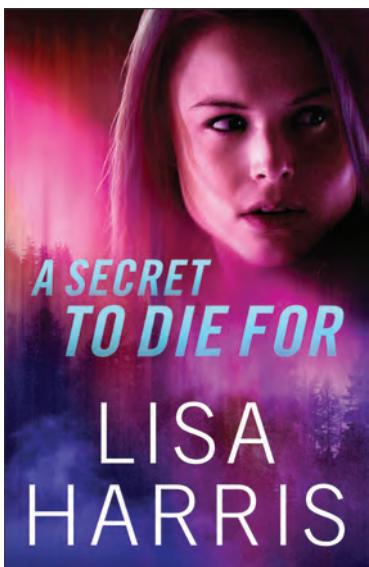
My faith makes me look at the world differently, and that worldview is always woven into my books. I have hope that God can redeem. Hope that He will one day bring justice. Faith that God can take our brokenness and restore us to a

Lisa Harris

new joy that doesn't rely on our circumstances, but instead in our knowing that He will one day make all things new. **FF**

**Visit Lisa Harris' author page here:**

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### **A Secret to Die For**

Lisa Harris

Revell

Psychologist Grace Callahan has no idea that she has a secret—one worth killing for. But when she finds out one of her clients has been murdered, she quickly realizes that the computer security specialist wasn't simply suffering from paranoia.

Detective Nate Quinn has just been cleared for active duty after a bombing killed 18 people, including his partner, and left

him dealing with PTSD. His first case back on the job involves the murder of Stephen Shaw, and his only lead turns out to be an old friend, Grace Callahan--and her life is in grave danger. Someone believes Shaw gave his psychologist information before he died. Information they are willing to kill for.

With her signature pulse-pounding suspense, Lisa Harris takes readers deep into the heart of fear in this race against the clock. **FF**

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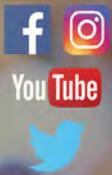
CHASES HOPE

DOES THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE

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# Irene Hannon—Hope of a Happy Ending

The romantic suspense author talks about taking readers down a dangerous road—and why it's worth the journey.

Hailed by *Library Journal* as the “queen of inspirational romantic suspense,” **Irene Hannon** lives up to this title with **Hidden Peril** (Revell), the second book in her Code of Honor series. Readers will be captivated by this edge-of-your-seat thriller that will have them staying up late as they rush toward the explosive conclusion.

In this interview, Irene shares about her latest novel, the surprising inspiration for the plot, and how her Christian worldview infuses her romantic suspense fiction.

## What can you tell us about **Hidden Peril**?

As teenagers, Kristin Dane and her two best friends took a vow to make the world a better place. Twenty years later, she's fulfilling that pledge through her fair trade shop that features products from around the world. All is well until, one by one, people connected to the shop begin dying.

Detective Luke Carter, new to the St. Louis PD, wants to know why. Before he can answer that question, however, the FBI weighs in and Kristin suddenly finds herself in the middle of international intrigue—and in the sights of the ruthless mastermind behind an ingenious and deadly scheme. Can this cold-blooded killer be stopped before more people die...including Kristin?

Both the hero and heroine are struggling not only with the element of danger, but with family and personal issues.

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And one of the main secondary characters finds himself facing a situation where there are no good choices.

But I always end my books on an uplifting note, so readers can be assured that as bad as things get, the hope of a happy ending isn't misplaced.

### **What are Kristin and Luke like?**

My heroine believes wholeheartedly in doing her part to make the world a better place, and she's lived that philosophy. While she doesn't have the best relationship with her parents, she's very tight with her two best friends, who she met in middle school. I love writing the scenes where the three of them get together! They made me smile.

My hero is a police detective who lost his wife several years ago and has just moved into town to be closer to his sister and her family. Because of previous service on a joint terrorism task force, he's uniquely suited to work with the FBI when that agency joins the investigation in this story.

### **What was your inspiration for the plot?**

A pair of cufflinks with a hidden compartment. Seriously. I read about them in a *Wall Street Journal* article while I was trolling for ideas for this book, and they started me what-ifffing.

Interestingly enough, the final plot has nothing to do with the article I read. But that story sparked my imagination and let me down a twisting, dangerous road—one readers can travel with me in this book.

### **What themes or ideas do you deal with in *Hidden Peril*?**

As always with my books, there are several themes. Forgiveness. Acceptance. Reconciliation. The challenge of conflicting loyalties. Letting go. My characters always face moral questions, and this book is no different.

### **Would you share how your faith impacts your fiction?**

I write from a Christian worldview, so all my stories are told through the lens of faith. Overt faith content tends to be on the subtle side, especially in my suspense novels, because I prefer to show my characters living their faith rather than talking about it.

### **What are the challenges of writing Christian fiction with elements of crime, danger, and violence?**

Obviously, if you write suspense, it will have all those elements to some degree. But I minimize description as much as possible and always cast crime and aggression in a negative light.

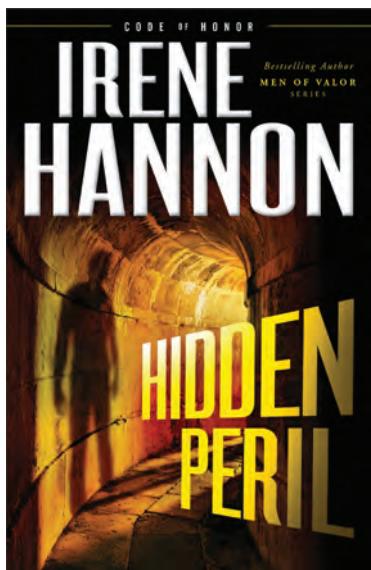
We've become so desensitized to violence and vulgarity in media that it's almost expected in mainstream novels now. But I firmly believe you can tell a compelling story without getting gruesome or graphic.

### **What do you hope readers come away with after reading *Hidden Peril*?**

I hope they come away exhilarated by the journey I've taken them on, uplifted by the resolution—and anxious to read more of my stories! **FF**

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### **Hidden Peril**

Code of Honor #2

Irene Hannon

Revell

As teenagers, Kristin Dane and her two best friends took a vow to make the world a better place. Twenty years later, she's fulfilling that pledge through her fair trade shop that features products from around the world. All is well until, one by one, people connected to the shop begin dying.

Before he can answer that question, however, the FBI weighs in and Kristin suddenly finds herself in the middle of international intrigue--and in the sights of the ruthless mastermind behind an ingenious and deadly, scheme. Can this cold-blooded killer be stopped before more people die . . . including Kristin?

Three-time RITA Award-winner and “queen of inspirational romantic suspense” (Library Journal) Irene Hannon doesn’t disappoint in this edge-of-your-seat thriller that will have readers up late as they rush toward the explosive conclusion. **FF**

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# 2018 CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE POLL

Here are your picks  
for the 35 essential  
Christian suspense  
authors...

# 35 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE AUTHORS

*For our FamilyFiction Collector's Edition Suspense Special, we asked our readers to weigh in on their favorite Christian suspense authors.*

*We're pleased to announce the results right here! We hope you'll take a look at who Christian suspense readers picked as their favorites—including those who write political thrillers, whodunits, romantic suspense, supernatural mysteries, police procedurals, and more!*



## 1 - Lynette Eason

Lynette Eason is the bestselling author of Oath of Honor and Called to Protect, as well as the Women of Justice, Deadly Reunions, Hidden Identity, and the Elite Guardians series. She is the winner of three ACFW Carol Awards, the Selah Award, and the inspirational Reader's Choice Award, among others.

She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and has a master's degree in education from Converse College. Eason lives in South Carolina with her husband and two children.

"First, I want readers to love the story [*Called to Protect*]. Next, I want them to get how big a problem human trafficking is and that we can't turn a blind eye to it. Human trafficking is prevalent and a huge moneymaker for those who exploit others. I think it's also something that people have a hard time believing can happen in their own backyard, so to speak."

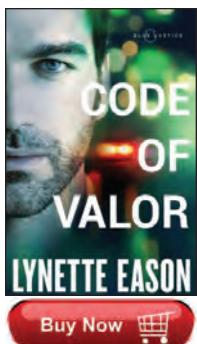
### **LYNETTE EASON (CALLED TO PROTECT)**

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## LATEST RELEASE

**Code of Valor**

Blue Justice

**Lynette Eason**

Revell



## 2 - Dani Pettrey

Praised by *New York Times* bestselling author Dee Henderson as “a name to look for in romantic suspense,” Dani Pettrey has sold more than 400,000 copies of her novels to readers eagerly awaiting the next release. Dani combines the page-turning adrenaline of a thriller with the chemistry and happy-ever-after of a romance. Her novels stand out for their “wicked pace, snappy dialogue, and likable characters” (*Publishers Weekly*), “gripping storyline[s],” (RT Book Reviews), and “sizzling undercurrent of romance” (*USA Today*).

“I actually find it easier to write about crime and danger because I’m a Christian author. Writing about the two allows the strong contrast that exists between good and evil, darkness and light. Faith and the beauty of Christ reveals just how sinful man can be and why our deep our need for a Savior exists. In addition, it’s through danger and a pressure-cooker that a person’s true faith and character is revealed and can truly shine as a testament to Jesus and the work of His Holy Spirit.”

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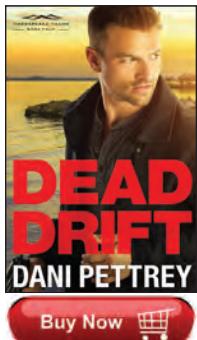
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**Dani Pettrey**

Bethany House

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### **3 - Terri Blackstock**

Terri Blackstock has sold over seven million books worldwide and is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author. She's won two Carol Awards, a Christian Retailers Choice Award, and a *Romantic Times Book Reviews* Career Achievement Award, among others.

"The fact is that I'm a Christian reader as well. So, I really think about when I'm reading a book, what makes me feel defiled in some way? If I'm reading a really gruesome book, and there's a lot of blood, and there's a lot of violence, you know it makes me feel defiled. I don't want to do that to my readers, so there are lines I won't cross. But I do have murder, and I do have blood. But I try not to make the reader wallow in it."

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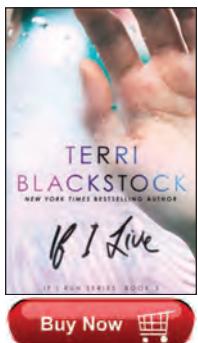
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#### **LATEST RELEASE**

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#### **4 - Dee Henderson**

Dee Henderson has written 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 reflects how these people would act and decide matters in their lives."

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## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results

### **DEE HENDERSON (*UNSPOKEN*)**

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### **LATEST RELEASE**

#### ***The Cost of Betrayal***

Three Romantic Suspense Novellas

**Dee Henderson, Dani Pettrey, Lynette Eason**

Bethany House



### **5 - Colleen Coble**

Colleen Coble is a *USA Today*-bestselling author whose novels have won or finaled in awards ranging from the Best Books of Indiana, ACFW Book of the Year, RWA's RITA, the Holt Medallion, the Daphne du Maurier, National Readers' Choice, and the Booksellers Best. She has nearly two million books in print and writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail.

"My faith impacts everything I do. My characters are Christians who are learning something just like I am. None of us ever arrive, and there is always something God is teaching us. I never know what that something is when I first start out writing a story. My characters have to tell me what they're struggling with, and together we go from there."

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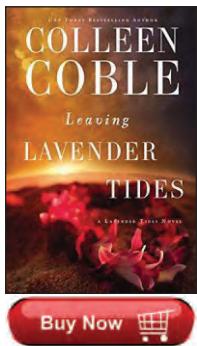
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#### **LATEST RELEASE**

***Leaving Lavender Tides***  
A Lavender Tides Novella  
**Colleen Coble**  
Thomas Nelson



#### **6 - Ted Dekker**

Ted Dekker is a multiple award-winning, *New York Times* and international bestselling author of more than 40 novels. His work has reached tens of millions worldwide and has been translated into numerous languages and adapted into major feature films (*Thr3e* and *House*). In 2013, NPR listeners nationwide named him as one of the top suspense writers of all time.

“Story is paramount to our human experience, which is why Jesus used it as His primary mode of teaching. We are all looking to change the story of our lives. In fiction, we take that journey of change through a series of events involving worthy characters who change as a result of those events. And we are invited to change with them.”

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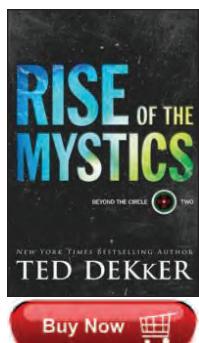
## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results

### **TED DEKKER (*RISE OF THE MYSTICS*)**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/speculative-qa-ted-dekker-rise-of-the-mystics>

#### **Visit Ted Dekker's author page:**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/ted-dekker>



#### **LATEST RELEASE**

#### ***Rise of the Mystics***

Beyond the Circle #2

**Ted Dekker**

Revell



#### **7 - Irene Hannon**

Irene Hannon is the bestselling author of more than 50 novels. She's been honored with three coveted RITA Awards from Romance Writers of America—and she's a member of that organization's elite 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.

"I write from a Christian worldview, so all my stories are told through the lens of faith. Overt faith content tends to be on the subtle side, especially in my suspense novels, because I

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## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results

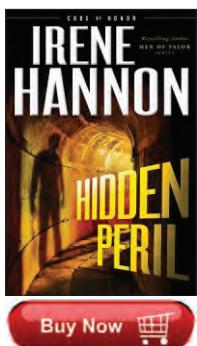
prefer to show my characters living their faith rather than talking about it."

### **IRENE HANNON—HOPE OF A HAPPY ENDING**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/irene-hannon-hope-happy-ending>

### **Visit Irene Hannon's author page:**

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



Buy Now

### **LATEST RELEASE**

#### ***Hidden Peril***

Code of Honor #2

Irene Hannon

Revell



### **8 - Ronie Kendig**

Ronie Kendig is an award-winning, best-selling author of more than 20 novels. She grew up an Army brat, and now she and her Army-veteran husband live a short train ride from New York City with their children and a retired military working dog. Ronie's degree in psychology has helped her pen novels

featuring intense, raw characters.

"I've written interconnected threads across the series in several of my series to date. The most difficult thing is to pull all those moving parts together in the end to create a satisfying but not cliché, everyone-lives-happily-ever-after conclusion."

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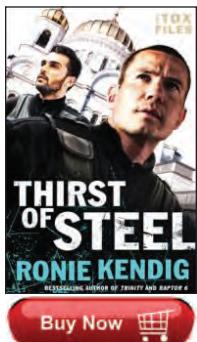
## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results

### **RONIE KENDIG (*THIRST OF STEEL*)**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-qa-ronie-kendig-thirst-of-steel>

#### **Visit Ronie Kendig's author page:**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/ronie-kendig>



#### **LATEST RELEASE**

***Thirst of Steel***  
The Tox Files  
**Ronie Kendig**

Buy Now



#### **9 - Lynn H. Blackburn**

Lynn H. Blackburn won the 2016 Selah Award for Mystery and Suspense and the 2016 Carol Award for Short Novel. She believes in the power of stories, especially those that remind us that true love exists, a gift from the Truest Love. Lynn's passionate about CrossFit, coffee, and chocolate (don't make her choose)—and experimenting with recipes that feed both body and soul.

"I hope readers come away with renewed confidence that God is here for them and that He really is working things for their good and His glory, even when it doesn't feel that way."

### **LYNN H. BLACKBURN (*BENEATH THE SURFACE*)**

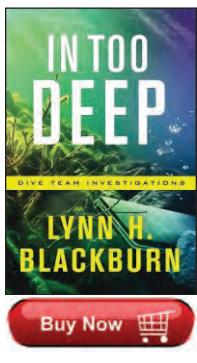
<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-qa-lynn-h-blackburn-beneath-surface>

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

## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results

**Visit Lynn H. Blackburn's author page:**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lynn-h-blackburn>



### **LATEST RELEASE**

***In Too Deep***

Dive Team Investigations #2

**Lynn H. Blackburn**

Revell



### **10 - Nancy Mehl**

The author of more than 30 books, Nancy Mehl won the ACFW Mystery Book of the Year Award in 2009. She has a background in social work and is a member of ACFW and RWA. She is part of The Suspense Sisters blog, along with several other popular suspense authors.

"I want to give [readers] a great story, but I also want to leave them with something even more important. The message that God loves them and has a plan for their lives."

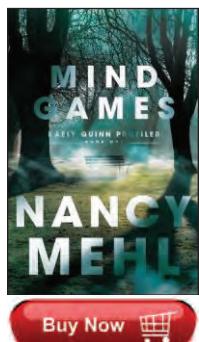
### **NANCY MEHL (*BLIND BETRAYAL*)**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/romantic-suspense-qa-nancy-mehl-blind-betrayal>

**Visit Nancy Mehl's author page:**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/nancy-mehl>

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## LATEST RELEASE

### ***Mind Games***

Kaely Quinn Profiler #1

**Nancy Mehl**

Bethany House



### **11 - Patricia Bradley**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/patricia-bradley>

Patricia Bradley won an Inspirational Reader's Choice Award in Suspense, was a finalist for the Genesis Award, won a Daphne du Maurier Award, and won a Touched by Love Award. She is cofounder of Aiming for Healthy Families, Inc., and she is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. Her most recent novel is *Justice Betrayed* (Revell).



### **12 - Rachel Dylan**

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

Rachel Dylan was a litigator in an elite Atlanta law firm for over eight years and now works as an attorney at one of the Big Three automobile manufacturers. She has won an FHL Reader's Choice Award and was a finalist for the Holt Medallion and Daphne du Maurier award. Her most recent legal thriller is *Lone Witness* (Bethany House).

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### **13 - Jaime Jo Wright**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jaime-jo-wright>

Jaime Jo Wright is a *Publishers Weekly* and ECPA bestselling author. In the recent Christy Award 2018 nominations, her debut novel, *The House on Foster Hill* (Bethany House), was named a finalist in both the First Novel category and in Mystery/Suspense/Thriller. Her next suspense novel is *The Curse of Misty Wayfair* (Bethany House), coming January 2019.



### **14 - Carrie Stuart Parks**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/carrie-stuart-parks>

Carrie Stuart Parks is an ECPA Christy Award and multiple ACFW Carol and Inspy Award-winning author. An internationally known forensic artist, Carrie draws on her extensive experience with actual criminal investigations to write authentic, true-to-life fictional suspense. Her latest novel is *Formula of Deception* (Thomas Nelson).



### **15 - DiAnn Mills**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/diann-mills>

Bestselling author DiAnn Mills combines unforgettable characters with unpredictable plots to create action-packed, suspense-filled novels. Her titles have appeared on the CBA and ECPA bestseller lists; won two Christy Awards; and been finalists for the RITA, Daphne du Maurier, Inspirational Readers Choice, and Carol Award contests. Her most recent novel is *Burden of Proof* (Tyndale House).

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### **16 - Christy Barritt**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/christy-barritt>

*USA Today* has called Christy Barritt's books "scary, funny, passionate, and quirky." Her books have won the Daphne du Maurier Award for Excellence in Suspense and Mystery, have been twice nominated for the *Romantic Times* Reviewers Choice Award, and have finaled for both a Carol Award and Foreword Magazine's Book of the Year. Her latest novel is *Random Acts of Outrage* (River Heights).



### **17 - Lisa Harris**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lisa-harris>

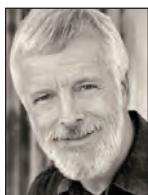
Lisa Harris is a bestselling author, a Christy Award winner, and the winner of the Best Inspirational Suspense Novel from *Romantic Times*. The author of more than 30 books, Harris and her family have spent almost 15 years living as missionaries in southern Africa. Her latest novel is *A Secret to Die For* (Revell).



### **18 - Susan May Warren**

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

Susan May Warren is the *USA Today*-bestselling author of more than 50 novels, with more than one million copies sold. The winner of numerous awards, Susan has written contemporary and historical romances, romantic suspense, thrillers, romantic comedy, and novellas. Her latest novel is *Wait for Me* (Revell).



### **19 - Frank Peretti**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/frank-peretti>

One of Christian publishing's best-known authors, Frank Peretti's novels have sold more than 10 million copies. His blockbuster supernatural thriller

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## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results

*This Present Darkness* was named by PBS as one of “America’s 100 Favorite Novels.” He recently completed the supernatural suspense series *Harbingers* (Bethany House—with co-authors Angela Hunt, Bill Myers, and Alton Gansky).



### **20 - Robert Whitlow**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robert-whitlow>

A practicing attorney, Robert Whitlow is the bestselling author of legal novels set in the South and winner of the prestigious Christy Award for Contemporary Fiction. A Furman University graduate, Whitlow received his J.D. with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law where he served on the staff of the Georgia Law Review. His latest novel is *Chosen People* (Thomas Nelson).



### **21 - Susan Sleeman**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-sleeman>

Susan Sleeman is a bestselling and award-winning author of more than 35 inspirational/Christian and “clean read” romantic suspense books. In addition to writing, Susan also hosts the popular website [TheSuspenseZone.com](http://TheSuspenseZone.com). Her latest novel is *Cold Pursuit*.



### **22 - Cara C. Putman**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/cara-putman>

The author of more than 25 legal thrillers, historical romances, and romantic suspense novels, Cara C. Putman has won or been a finalist for honors including the ACFW Book of the Year and the *Christian Retailing's BEST Award*. She is a practicing attorney and teaches law at a Big Ten business school. Her latest novel is *Delayed Justice* (Thomas Nelson).

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## **FamilyFiction** Reader Survey Results



### **23 - Brandilyn Collins**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/brandilyn-collins>

The award-winning author of more than 30 books, Brandilyn Collins is known for her trademarked “seatbelt suspense”—fast-paced, character-driven suspense with myriad twists and an interwoven thread of faith. Her latest suspense novel is *Plummet* (Challow Press).



### **24 - Joel C. Rosenberg**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/joel-c-rosenberg>

Joel C. Rosenberg is a *New York Times* bestselling author of both fiction and nonfiction, with some five million copies in print. As an expert on global politics, he's been interviewed on hundreds of radio and TV shows, and met with religious and government leaders around the world. His latest political thriller is *The Kremlin Conspiracy* (Tyndale House).



### **25 - Steven James**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/steven-james>

Steven James is a national bestselling novelist whose award-winning, pulse-pounding thrillers continue to gain wide critical acclaim and a growing fan base. Respected by some of the top thriller writers in the world, Steven deftly weaves intense stories of psychological suspense with deep philosophical insights. His latest novel is *Every Wicked Man* (Berkley).

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### **26 - Davis Bunn**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/davis-bunn>

Davis Bunn is the award-winning author of numerous national bestsellers, with sales totaling more than seven million copies. His work has been published in 20 languages and has won four Christy Awards. His most recent suspense novel is the financial thriller *The Domino Effect* (Bethany House).



### **27 - Robin Caroll**

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

The bestselling author of more than 30 novels, Robin Caroll writes Southern stories of mystery and suspense, with a hint of romance. Her books have been recognized in several awards, including the Carol Award, HOLT Medallion, Daphne du Maurier, *RT Reviewer's Choice Award*, and more. Her latest novel is the mystery *Stratagem* (Shiloh Run Press).



### **28 - Janice Cantore**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/janice-cantore>

A former Long Beach, California, police officer of 22 years, Janice Cantore writes from real-life experience with accuracy and attention to detail, crafting a riveting tale of intrigue for romance and crime drama fans alike. Her latest novel is *Lethal Target* (Tyndale House).



### **29 - Kathy Herman**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kathy-herman>

Suspense novelist Kathy Herman has written more than 20 novels—including the Sophie Trace trilogy and Secrets of Roux River Bayou Series—

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since retiring from her family's Christian retail store in Tyler, Texas. Her latest novel is *A Treacherous Mix* (David C. Cook).



### **30 - Jerry B. Jenkins**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jerry-b-jenkins>

Jerry B. Jenkins's books have sold more than 70 million copies. Twenty-one of his titles have reached the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists. His latest novel is *Dead Sea Rising* (Worthy Publishing).



### **31 - Margaret Daley**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/margaret-daley>

Margaret Daley has published several more than 70 books and won the American Christian Fiction Writers' Book of the Year, the Golden Quill Contest, FHL's Inspirational Readers' Choice Contest, Winter Rose Contest, Holt Medallion, and the Barclay Gold Contest. Her romantic suspense titles include the recent *Texas Baby Pursuit* (Love Inspired Suspense).



### **32 - Tosca Lee**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tosca-lee>

Tosca Lee is the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of several novels of historical and speculative suspense. She also co-authored the Books of Mortals series with Ted Dekker. Her next novel is *The Line Between* (Howard Books).

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### **33 - Samuel Parker**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/samuel-parker>

Samuel Parker was born in the Michigan boondocks but was raised on a never-ending road trip through the U.S. Besides being a writer, he is a process junkie and the ex-guitarist for several metal bands you've never heard of. His most recent novel is *Coldwater* (Revell).



### **34 Randy Singer**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/randy-singer>

Randy Singer is a popular author, veteran trial attorney, and a pastor. The author of numerous legal thrillers, he was a finalist with John Grisham and Michael Connelly for the inaugural Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction. His most recent novel is *Rule of Law* (Tyndale House).



### **35 Kristen Heitzmann**

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kristen-heitzmann>

Kristen Heitzmann is the bestselling author of contemporary romantic suspense, psychological suspense, and historical novels. She's won a Christy Award and an Inspirational Readers Choice Award, and was a finalist for a people's choice award in the Netherlands. Her most recent novel is the romantic drama *Told You Twice* (bHd Books).

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

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## As Chosen by FamilyFiction Readers

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

### Favorite Type of Suspense

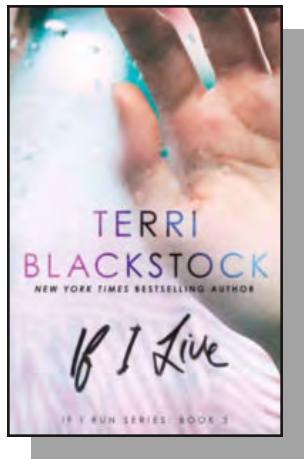
Romantic Suspense	44.7%
Mysteries	26.6%
Thrillers	9.8%
Psychological Suspense	5.3%
Supernatural Suspense	3.5%
Can't Choose	10.2%

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## Suspense New Releases 2018: Book Checklist

Here's a checklist featuring more than 60 Christian suspense titles released in 2018—including thrillers, mysteries, historical suspense, law enforcement, legal suspense, romantic suspense, and speculative suspense.

Among these books you'll find popular Christian authors Lynette Eason, Dani Pettrey, Joel C. Rosenberg, Terri Blackstock, Dee Henderson, Ted Dekker, Colleen Coble, Irene Hannon, Robert Whitlow, Ronie Kendig, Lynn H. Blackburn, Nancy Mehl, and many more!



### **IF I LIVE**

*If I Run #3*

Terri Blackstock

Zondervan

**Genre:** Suspense/Thriller

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### **CHASE**

*Intense #3*

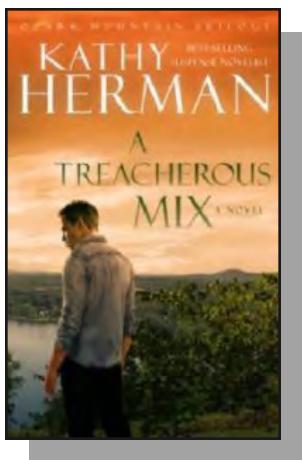
Glenn Haggerty

Freshwater Publications

**Genre:** Suspense/Thriller

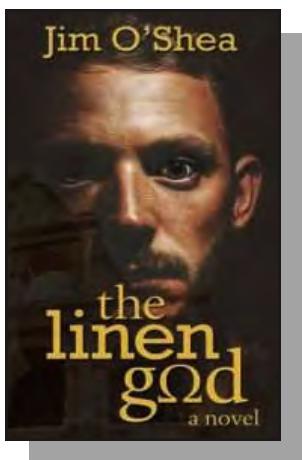
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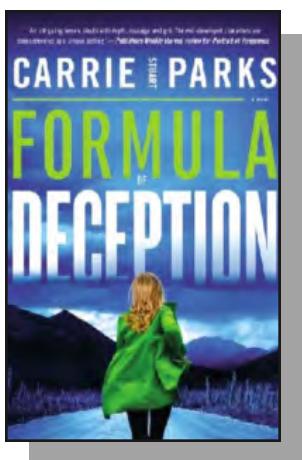
**A TREACHEROUS MIX**  
*Ozark Mountain Trilogy #3*  
Kathy Herman  
David C. Cook  
**Genre:** Suspense/Thriller

[Buy Now](#)



**THE LINEN GOD**  
Jim O'Shea  
Ambassador International  
**Genre:** Suspense/Thriller

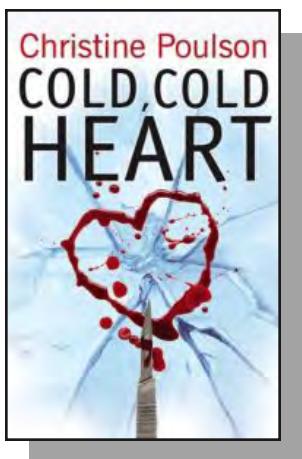
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**FORMULA OF DECEPTION**  
Carrie Stuart Parks  
Thomas Nelson  
**Genre:** Suspense/Thriller

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## Suspense New Releases 2018: Book Checklist



### COLD, COLD HEART

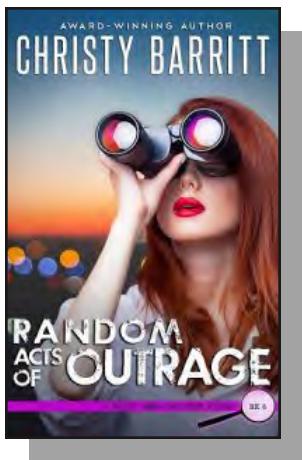
Katie Flanagan #2

Christine Poulson

Lion Fiction

**Genre:** Suspense/Thriller

Buy Now



### RANDOM ACTS OF OUTRAGE

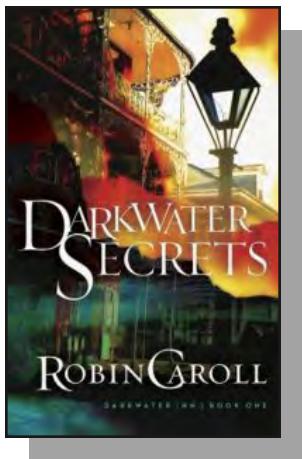
Holly Anna Paladin Mysteries #6

Christy Barritt

River Heights

**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

Buy Now



### DARKWATER SECRETS

Darkwater Inn #1

Robin Caroll

Gilead Publishing

**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

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## Suspense New Releases 2018: Book Checklist



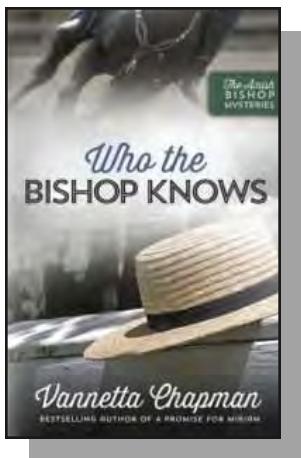
### **STRATEGEM**

Robin Caroll

Shiloh Run Press

**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

[Buy Now](#)



### **WHO THE BISHOP KNOWS**

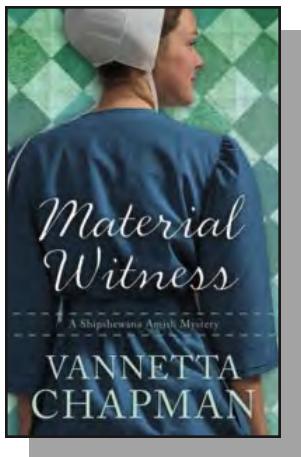
*The Amish Bishop Mysteries #3*

Vannetta Chapman

Harvest House

**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

[Buy Now](#)



### **MATERIAL WITNESS**

*Shipshewana Amish Mystery #3*

Vannetta Chapman

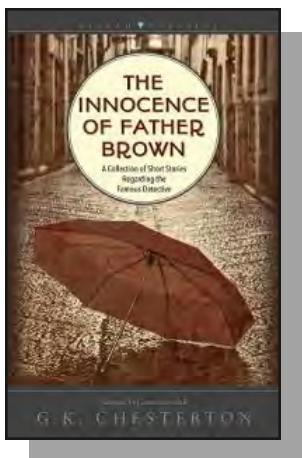
Zondervan

**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

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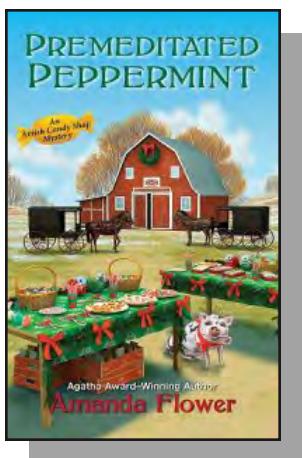


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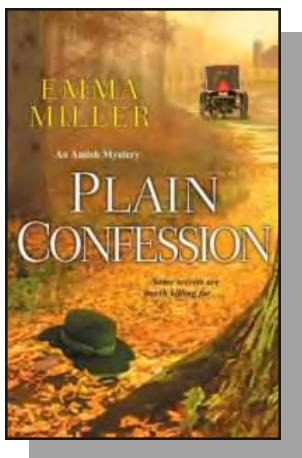
**THE INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN**  
A Collection of Short Stories  
Regarding the Famous Detective  
G. K. Chesterton,  
adapted by James Stuart Bell  
Gilead Classics  
**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

[Buy Now](#)



**PREMEDITATED PEPPERMINT**  
Amish Candy Shop Mystery #3  
Amanda Flower  
Kensington  
**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

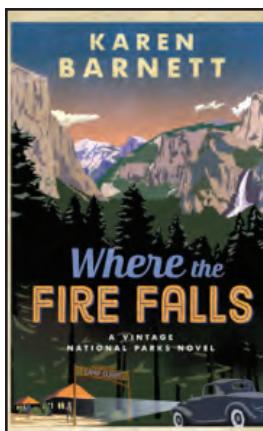
[Buy Now](#)



**PLAIN CONFESSION**  
Stone Mill Amish Mystery #5  
Emma Miller  
Kensington  
**Genre:** Suspense/Mysteries

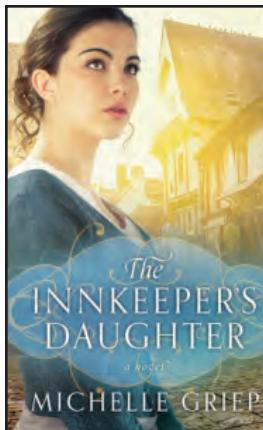
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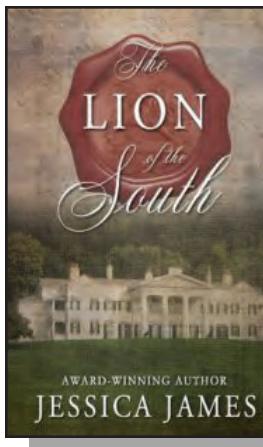
**WHERE THE FIRE FALLS**  
*Vintage National Parks #2*  
Karen Barnett  
WaterBrook Press  
**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

[Buy Now](#)



**THE INNKEEPER'S DAUGHTER**  
*Bow Street Runners #2*  
Michelle Griep  
Shiloh Run Press  
**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

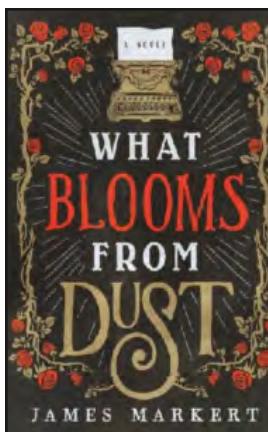
[Buy Now](#)



**THE LION OF THE SOUTH**  
*A Novel of the Civil War*  
Jessica James  
Patriot Press  
**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

[Buy Now](#)

## Suspense New Releases 2018: Book Checklist



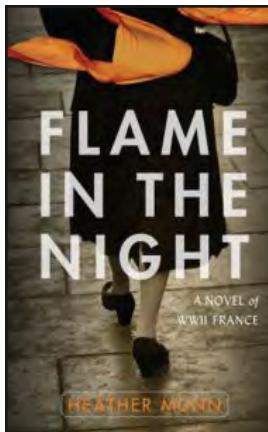
### **WHAT BLOOMS FROM DUST**

James Markert

Thomas Nelson

**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

[Buy Now](#)



### **FLAME IN THE NIGHT**

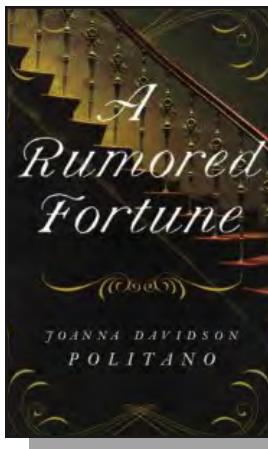
A Novel of World War II France

Heather Munn

Kregel Publications

**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

[Buy Now](#)



### **A RUMORED FORTUNE**

Joanna Davidson Politano

Revell

**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

[Buy Now](#)

## Suspense New Releases 2018: Book Checklist



### **AN HOUR UNSPENT**

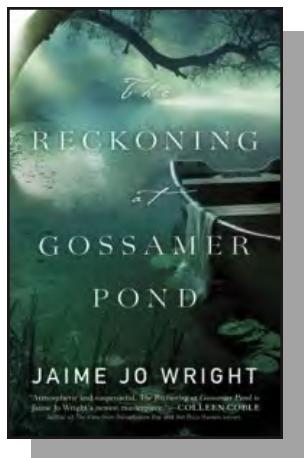
*Shadows Over England Book #3*

Roseanna M. White

Bethany House

**Genre:** Suspense/Historical

[Buy Now](#)



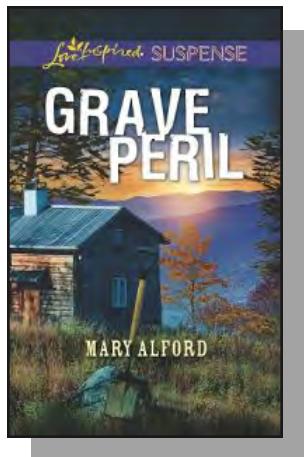
### **THE RECKONING AT GOSSAMER POND**

Jaime Jo Wright

Bethany House

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### **GRAVE PERIL**

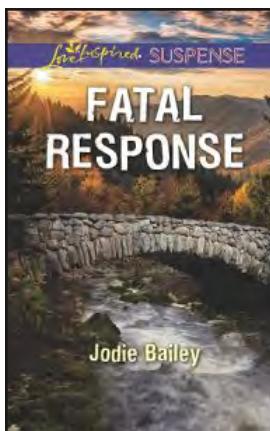
Mary Alford

Love Inspired Suspense

**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

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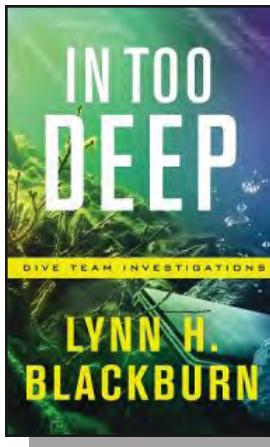
### FATAL RESPONSE

Jodie Bailey

Love Inspired Suspense

**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

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### IN TOO DEEP

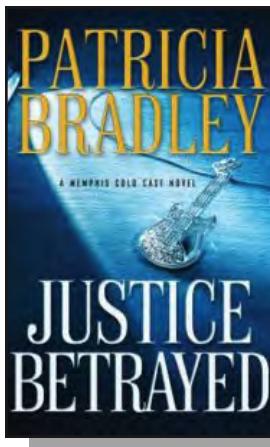
Dive Team Investigations #2

Lynn H. Blackburn

Revell

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### JUSTICE BETRAYED

Memphis Cold Case #3

Patricia Bradley

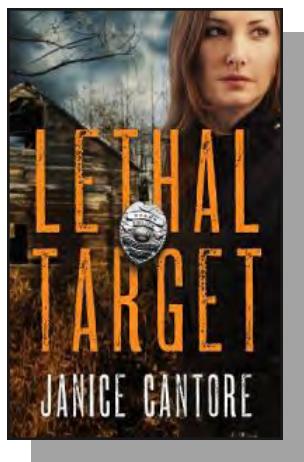
Revell

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### **LETHAL TARGET**

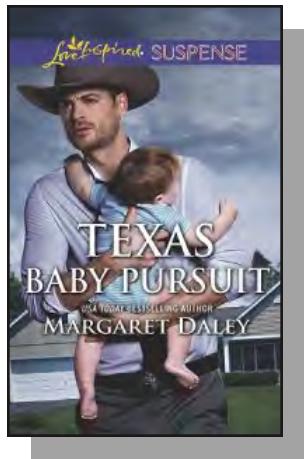
*Line of Duty #2*

Janice Cantore

Tyndale House

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### **TEXAS BABY PURSUIT**

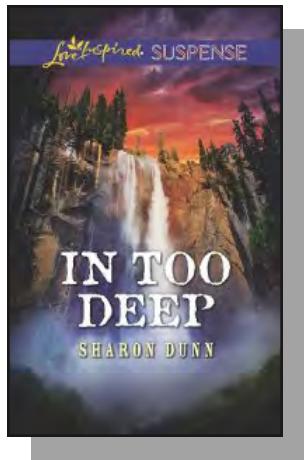
*Lone Star Justice*

Margaret Daley

Love Inspired Suspense

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### **IN TOO DEEP**

Sharon Dunn

Love Inspired Suspense

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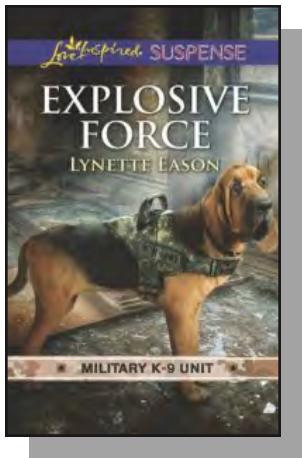
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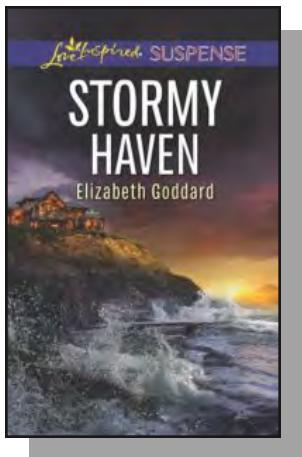
**CALLED TO PROTECT**  
*Blue Justice #2*  
Lynette Eason  
Revell  
**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

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**EXPLOSIVE FORCE**  
*Military K-9 Unit*  
Lynette Eason  
Love Inspired Suspense  
**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

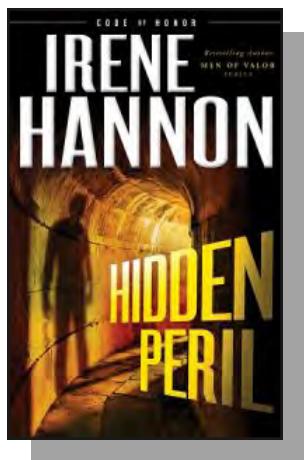
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**STORMY HAVEN**  
*Coldwater Bay Intrigue #2*  
Elizabeth Goddard  
Love Inspired Suspense  
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### HIDDEN PERIL

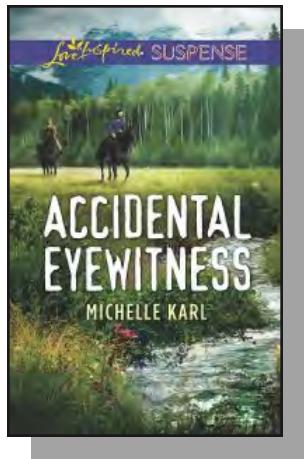
Code of Honor #2

Irene Hannon

Revell

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### ACCIDENTAL EYEWITNESS

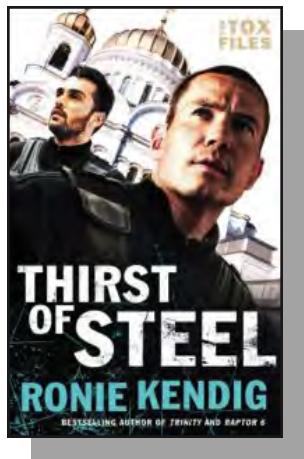
Mountie Brotherhood

Michelle Karl

Love Inspired Suspense

**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

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### THIRST OF STEEL

Tox Files #3

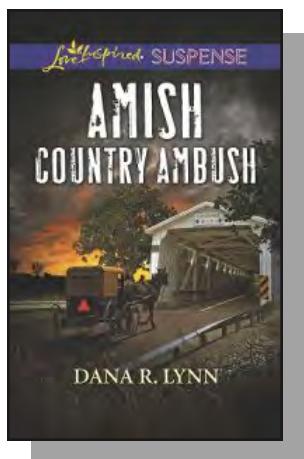
Ronie Kendig

Bethany House

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### **AMISH COUNTRY AMBUSH**

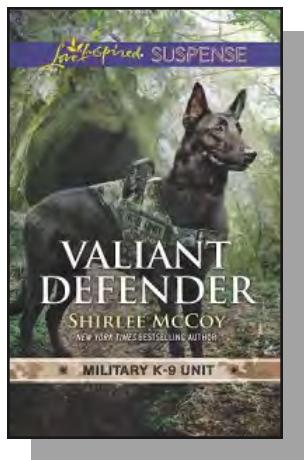
*Amish Country Justice*

Dana R. Lynn

Love Inspired Suspense

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### **VALIANT DEFENDER**

*Military K-9 Unit*

Shirlee McCoy

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### **MIND GAMES**

*Kaely Quinn Profiler #1*

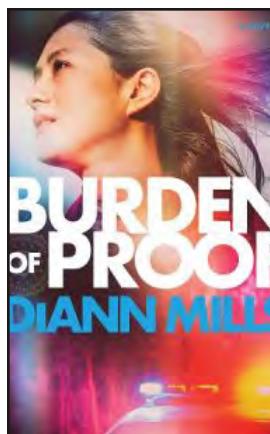
Nancy Mehl

Bethany House

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### **BURDEN OF PROOF**

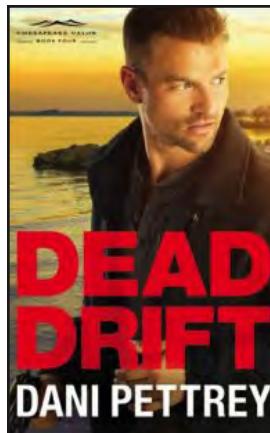
*FBI Rapid Response #1*

DiAnn Mills

Tyndale House

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### **DEAD DRIFT**

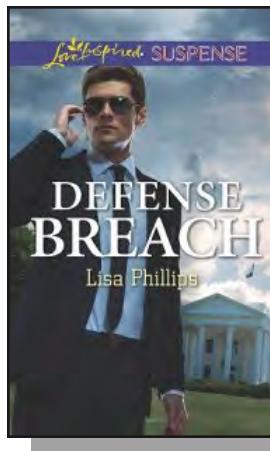
*Chesapeake Valor #4*

Dani Pettrey

Bethany House

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### **DEFENSE BREACH**

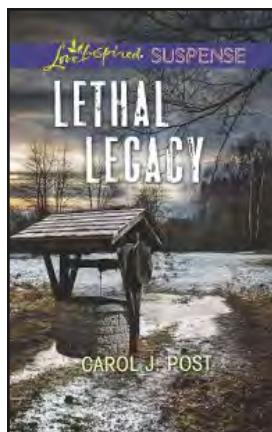
Lisa Phillips

Love Inspired Suspense

**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

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### **LETHAL LEGACY**

Carol J. Post

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### **BATTLE TESTED**

Military K-9 Unit

Laura Scott

Love Inspired Suspense

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### **THE HEAT IS ON**

*Summer of the Burning Sky #2*

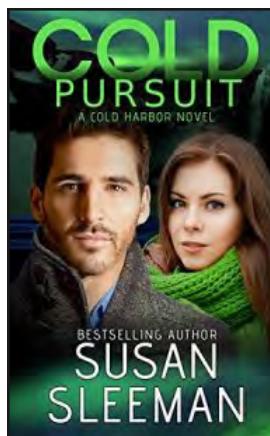
Susan May Warren

SDG Publishing

**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

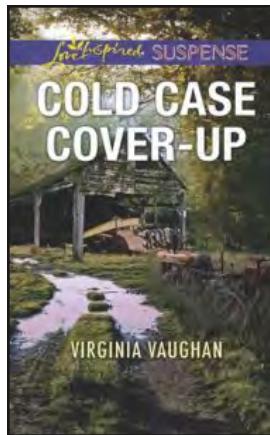
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**COLD PURSUIT**  
*Cold Harbor #6*  
Edge of Your Seat Books  
Susan Sleeman  
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**COLD CASE COVER-UP**  
*Covert Operatives #1*  
Virginia Vaughan  
Love Inspired Suspense  
**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

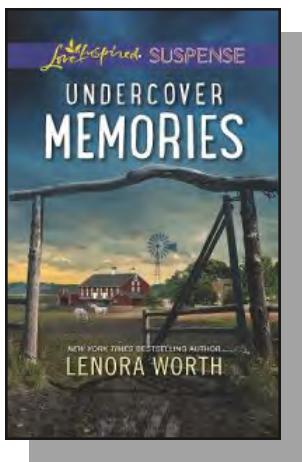
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**PROTECTED SECRETS**  
Heather Woodhaven  
Love Inspired Suspense  
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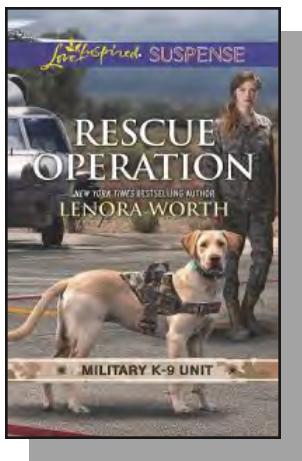
### **UNDERCOVER MEMORIES**

Lenora Worth

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### **RESCUE OPERATION**

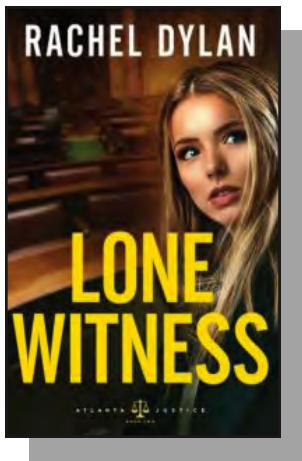
Military K-9 Unit

Lenora Worth

Love Inspired Suspense

**Genre:** Suspense/Law Enforcement

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### **LONE WITNESS**

Atlanta Justice #2

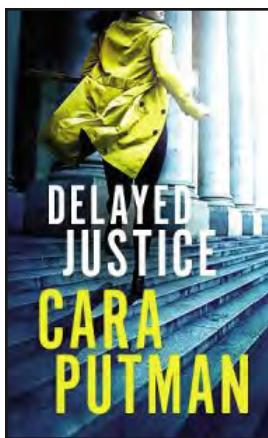
Rachel Dylan

Bethany House

**Genre:** Suspense/Legal/Crime

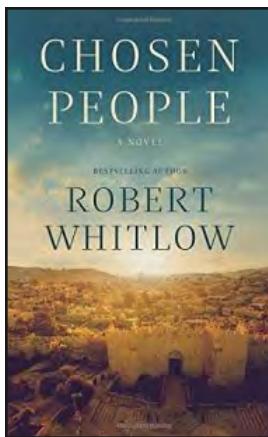
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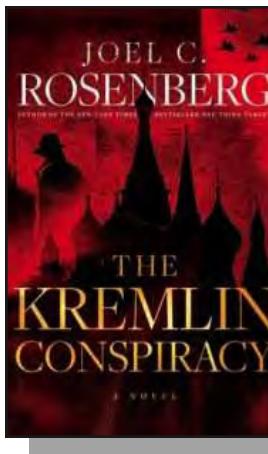
**DELAYED JUSTICE**  
*Hidden Justice #3*  
Cara C. Putman  
Thomas Nelson  
**Genre:** Suspense/Legal/Crime

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**CHOSEN PEOPLE**  
Robert Whitlow  
Thomas Nelson  
**Genre:** Suspense/Legal/Crime

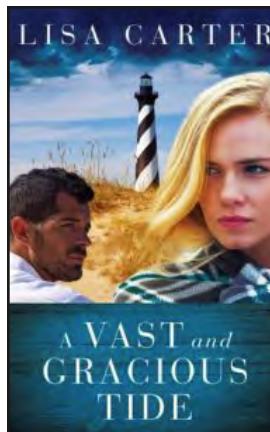
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**THE KREMLIN CONSPIRACY**  
Joel C. Rosenberg  
Tyndale House  
**Genre:** Suspense/Political Thriller

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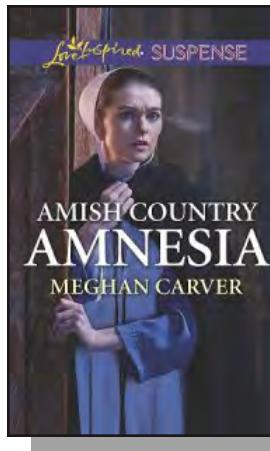
### A VAST AND GRACIOUS TIDE

Lisa Carter

Gilead Publishing

**Genre:** Suspense/Romantic

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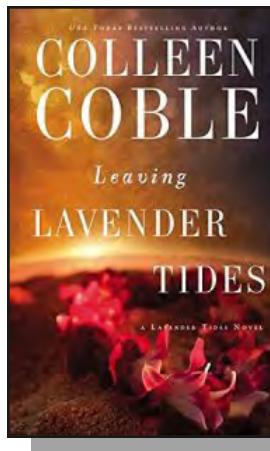
### AMISH COUNTRY AMNESIA

Meghan Carver

Love Inspired Suspense

**Genre:** Suspense/Romantic

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### LEAVING LAVENDER TIDES

A Lavender Tides Novella

Colleen Coble

Thomas Nelson

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### **HER FEAR**

*Amish of Hart County #5*

Shelley Shepard Gray

Avon Inspire

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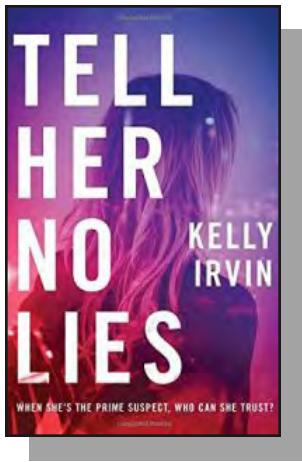
### **A SECRET TO DIE FOR**

Lisa Harris

Revell

**Genre:** Suspense/Romantic

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### **TELL HER NO LIES**

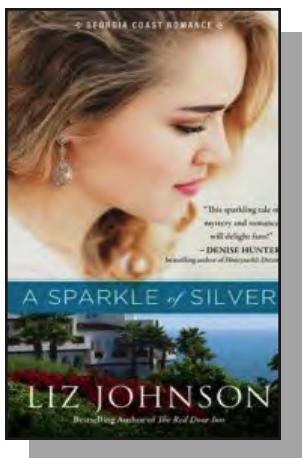
Kelly Irvin

Thomas Nelson

**Genre:** Suspense/Romantic

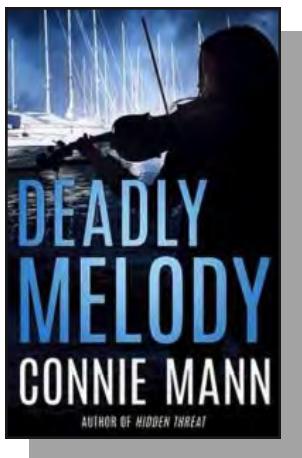
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**A SPARKLE OF SILVER**  
*Georgia Coast Romance #1*  
Liz Johnson  
Revell  
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**DEADLY MELODY**  
*Safe Harbor #3*  
Connie Mann  
Waterfall Press  
**Genre:** Suspense/Romantic

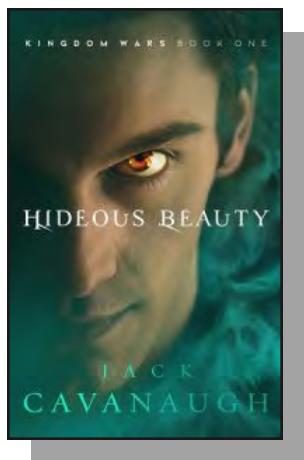
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**THE COST OF BETRAYAL**  
Dee Henderson, Dani Pettrey,  
Lynette Eason  
Bethany House  
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### **HIDEOUS BEAUTY**

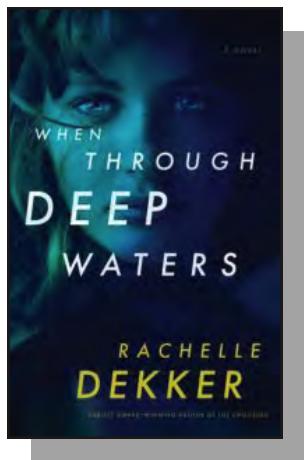
*Kingdom Wars #1*

Jack Cavanaugh

Enclave

**Genre:** Suspense/Speculative

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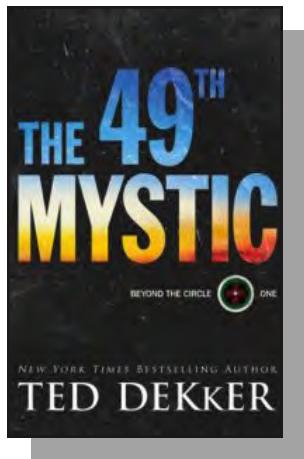
### **WHEN THROUGH DEEP WATERS**

Rachelle Dekker

Tyndale House

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### **THE 49TH MYSTIC**

*Beyond the Circle #1*

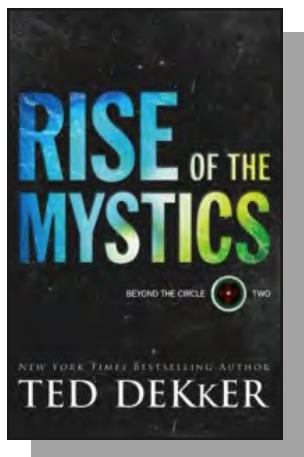
Ted Dekker

Revell

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### **RISE OF THE MYSTICS**

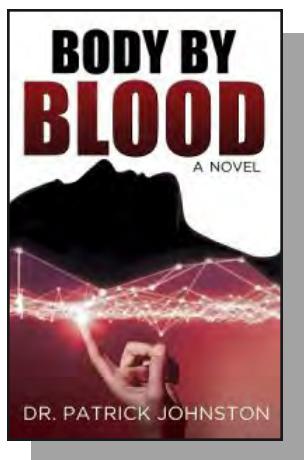
*Beyond the Circle #2*

Ted Dekker

Revell

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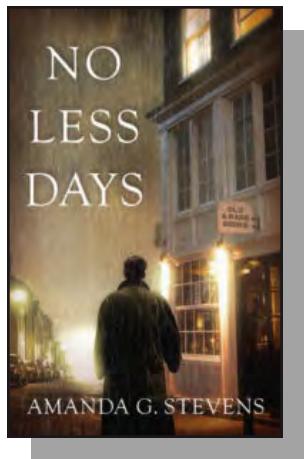
### **BODY BY BLOOD**

Dr. Patrick Johnston

Ambassador International

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### **NO LESS DAYS**

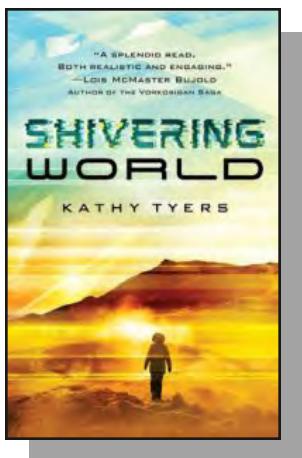
Amanda G. Stevens

Shiloh Run Press

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Kathy Tyers

Enclave

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