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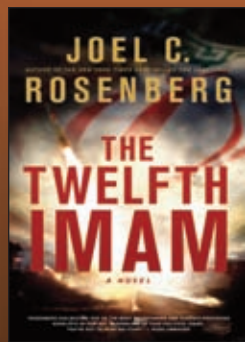
150+

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director
dallas jenkins
asks "what if...?"

get to know
donita k. paul

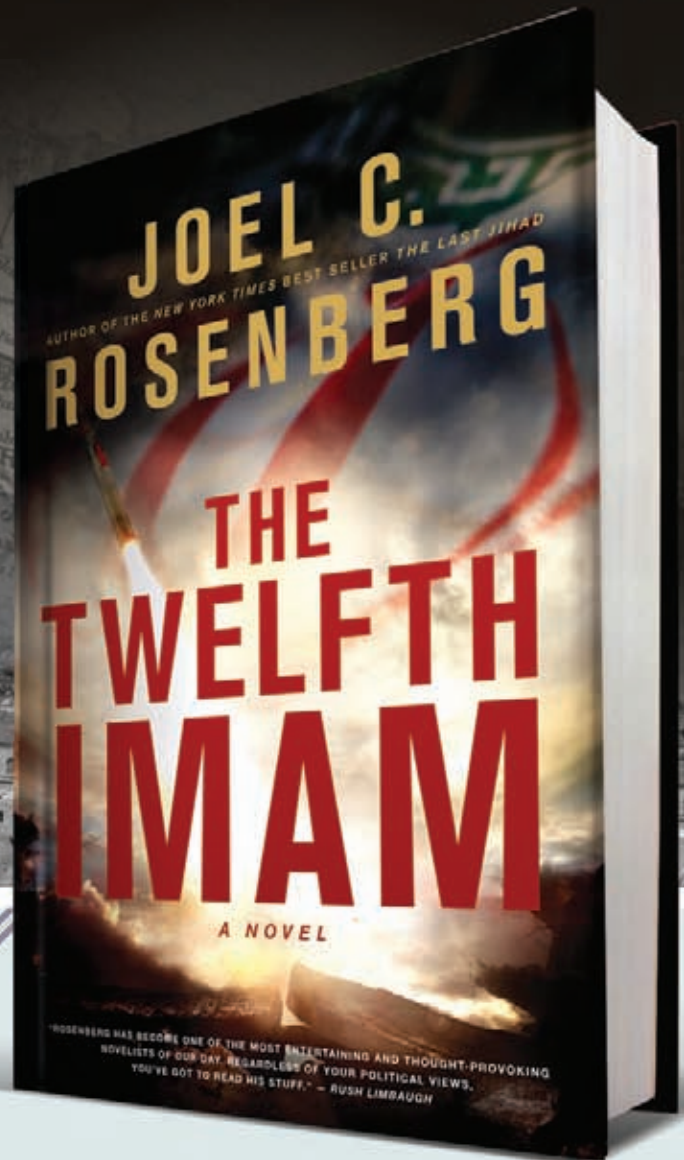
take 5
with
**karen
kingsbury**



Rising Tensions in the Middle East

NEW! From
New York Times
best-selling
author
JOEL C. ROSENBERG

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 19, 2010



THE TWELFTH IMAM

Joel C. Rosenberg

As the apocalyptic leaders of Iran call for the annihilation of Israel and the United States, CIA operative David Shirazi is sent into Tehran with one objective: disrupt Iran's nuclear weapons program—without leaving fingerprints and without triggering a regional war. As Shirazi infiltrates the Iranian government, news spreads of an obscure religious cleric hailed as the Islamic messiah known as the Mahdi or the Twelfth Imam. Rumors spread like wildfire of his miracles, healings, signs, wonders, and a new and horrific war. With the prophecy of the Twelfth Imam seemingly fulfilled, Iran prepares to strike Israel and bring about the End of Days. Shirazi must take action to save his country and the world, but the clock is ticking.

**AVAILABLE OCTOBER 19, 2010, AT YOUR FAVORITE
RETAILER OR AT WWW.JOELROSENBERG.COM.**



About the Author

JOEL C. ROSENBERG is a *New York Times* best-selling author and communications strategist who has worked for some of the world's most influential and provocative leaders, including Steve Forbes, Rush Limbaugh, and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A front-page Sunday *New York Times* profile called him a "force in the capital." A political columnist for *World* magazine, Joel's work has been published by *The Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, and *Policy Review*.



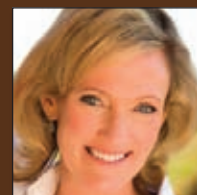
TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS

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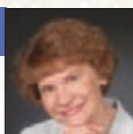


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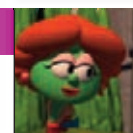
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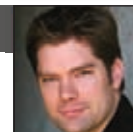
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Popular fantasy novelist Donita K. Paul answers YOUR questions about her writing process, how to answer critics, and the challenges of mixing real faith with made-up worlds.



Words to the Wise

First Things First

Welcome to first issue of *FamilyFiction* Digital Magazine! Believe me, this magazine—in fact, the entire idea of FamilyFiction—has been a very long time coming. Let me take a few words here to introduce you to our vision.

We believe, first and foremost, in the power of story. The Lord wired our brains to respond to stories. Think about it: The Lord revealed Himself to us through the form of a narrative. The Bible, while full of facts and history, is presented to mankind as a story—an overarching narrative that begins with the Creation of the universe and ends with the wedding of Christ and His Bride. What could have been a complex book of rules and appendices is full of adventure, poetry and philosophical discussion. The Lord could have revealed Himself to us in a spreadsheet. Instead, He told us a story.

When you study the ministry of Jesus, Scripture tells us it was like Father, like Son: **“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables”** (Matt. 13:34).

Consider the ministry of Paul. While one generally thinks of his sermonizing as being very practical, even Paul would draw lessons out of the popular culture of the day to make his points. (In fact, Paul’s admonition that “Bad company corrupts good character” was a direct quote from a comedy by an Athenian playwright.) So even he understood the ministry value of story.

The second part of our vision is that we want to support all the hard-working Christian fiction writers out there. While there are a handful of them you may know, the fact is there are dozens you don’t—and they really deserve for you to know them and their work.

No matter which flavor of fiction you want to explore, our goal is to make sure you know every new book or title coming out, and to introduce you to every author writing for a Christian publisher. It’s a big vision, and it may take some doing before we get there.

We’re just thrilled you’re coming with us on the journey.

Chris Well, editor
FamilyFiction



CHRIS WELL

family
fiction

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EXPERIENCE THE *Heart and Soul* OF AN AMISH FAMILY

New Series from
NY Times Bestselling Author
BEVERLY LEWIS!

In this riveting series debut, Beverly Lewis—the top name in Amish fiction—gives you an open door into the hidden world of the Lancaster County Amish.

As two Amish sisters find themselves on the fringes of their beloved community, will they find the love and acceptance they long for?

The Thorn by Beverly Lewis
THE ROSE TRILOGY # 1



“No one does Amish-based inspirationals better than Lewis.” —*Booklist*

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Kim Vogel Sawyer

Showing God's Fingerprints



For nearly 20 novels now, Kim Vogel Sawyer's readers have been drawn to her gentle stories and the spiritual truths within.

Her latest novel, *In Every Heartbeat* (Bethany House), follows three orphans pursuing their dreams even as the world teeters on the brink of World War I. Fans who loved Sawyer's *My Heart Remembers* will be glad to reconnect with some familiar characters as well. "Readers seemed to connect with the Gallagher siblings," the author says. "They clamored for another story so they could find out what happened next."

Rather than simply continue with the same characters, Sawyer built the new story around some children from the orphan school instead. She initially chose historical period for *In Every Heartbeat* simply to jump ahead a decade so "little street ruffian Petey" would be the right age to attend college.

"However, once I began researching college life and other events from the second decade of the 1900s, I discovered many historical bits and pieces that could be woven into the story's fiber. My favorite research find was a 1914 yearbook from a Missouri college—it really helped me see the campus where Libby, Petey, and Bennett spend a good portion of the story."

The core truth of *In Every Heartbeat* can be found in the title of the book itself. "God loves us so much, He thinks of us with every heartbeat," she says. "Each of these characters holds onto past hurts that hinder them from fully accepting the truth of God's love. As the characters chip away their self-built shells of unworthiness, resentment and anger, finally seeing how past events have molded them into the people they need to be today to serve God bravely and wisely, I hope readers might find the ability to see God's fingerprints on their lives—even in the hurtful moments." —Anna Robbins



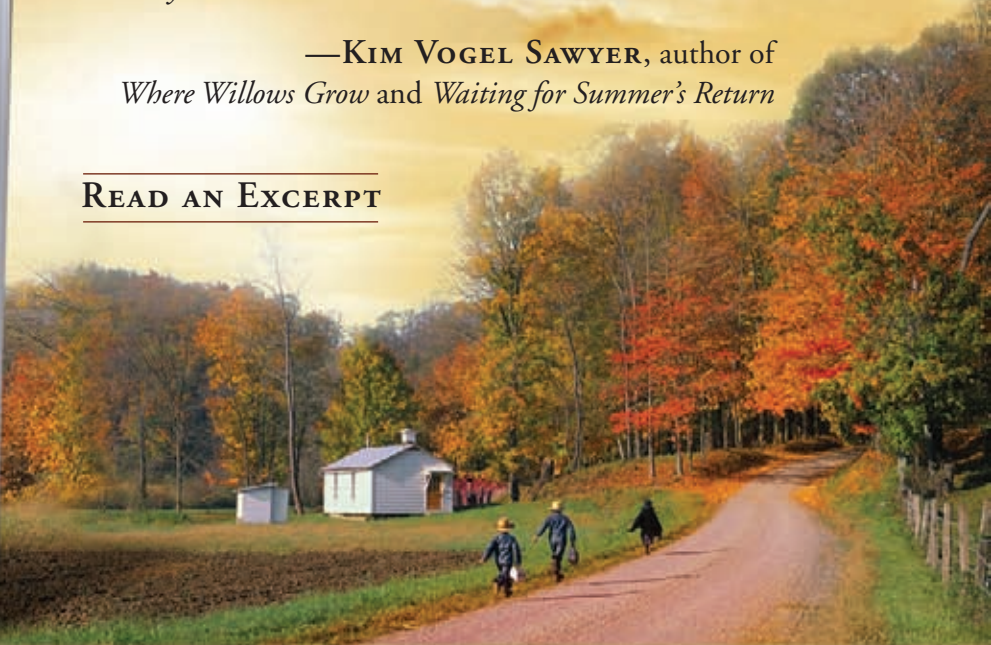
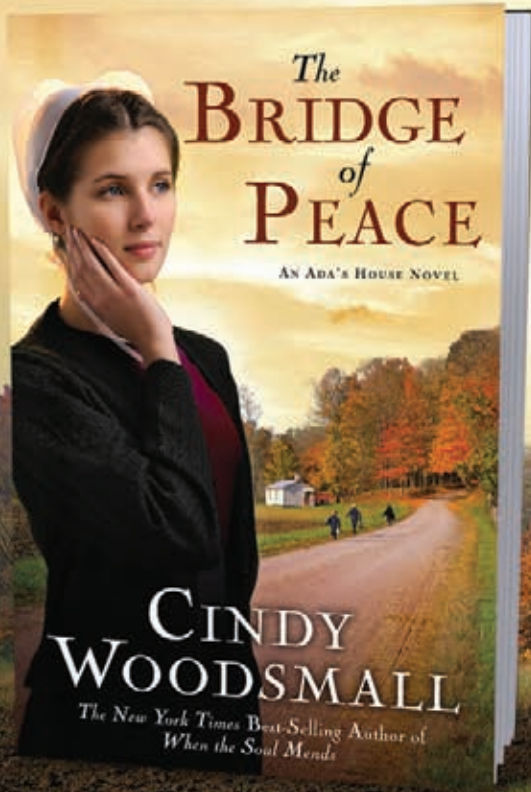
In Every Heartbeat
Kim Vogel Sawyer
Bethany House

Fiction *that* Won't Disappoint

"Cindy Woodsmall writes real—real people, real conflicts, real emotions. When you open her book, you enter her world and live the story with the characters."

—KIM VOGEL SAWYER, author of *Where Willows Grow* and *Waiting for Summer's Return*

[READ AN EXCERPT](#)



"Hickman's latest is quietly affecting. The well-drawn characters sneak into the reader's heart and the Southern setting places the reader in the midst of the story. Take time to savor the richly detailed plot."

—MELISSA PARCEL, *Romantic Times Book Reviews*



[READ AN EXCERPT](#)

"The pacing, perfection. Transitions between centuries, seamless. Capturing the nuances of relationship, flawless. Put anything written by Susan Meissner on your "must

read now!" list...I couldn't put this elegant novel of love and choice down. A completely satisfying read."

—JANE KIRKPATRICK, award-winning author of *A Flickering Light* and *An Absence So Great*

[READ AN EXCERPT](#)



 WATERBROOK PRESS

A woman in a black dress is walking on a stage, carrying a large, vibrant bouquet of flowers. She is holding a small object, possibly a book or a card, in her left hand. The background is dark, with a blue screen on the left and a wooden curtain on the right. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman and her bouquet.

Karen Kingsbury: Unlocked

No matter if it's part of an ongoing series or her latest stand-alone title, Karen Kingsbury's novels are always a big hit.

So what's the secret of success for one of Christian fiction's most successful authors? For Karen Kingsbury, it's all about connecting with her readers—on and off the page.

By Christa A. Banister

These days, you can tell a lot about someone from his or her Facebook page, and bestselling author Karen Kingsbury is no exception. Considering she's got more than 16 million readers and 107,421 Facebook fans at press time, you'd naturally expect to see plenty of high praise from her devoted readership on her wall.

But aside from all the love for Kingsbury's life-changing fiction, what probably began as just another place to discuss her writing has actually morphed into a tight-knit community of friends.

In what Kingsbury lovingly refers to as her "virtual living room," readers not only share their prayer requests and stories of what God's been doing in their lives, but their significant personal milestones as well, the birth of new grandchildren, the heartbreak of losing a job, the joys and sorrow of having your kid leave for college.

While the distance between authors and their readers has narrowed considerably since the social networking revolution, a promotional webpage with a decidedly personal touch is still surprising, especially from an author with such a busy schedule. But for Kingsbury, who logs on faithfully each and every day, this deep connection with her fans is an integral, essential part of being an author.

"I really do love my readers, and I enjoy getting to know them and praying for their needs," Kingsbury



says. "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."

Making the Connection

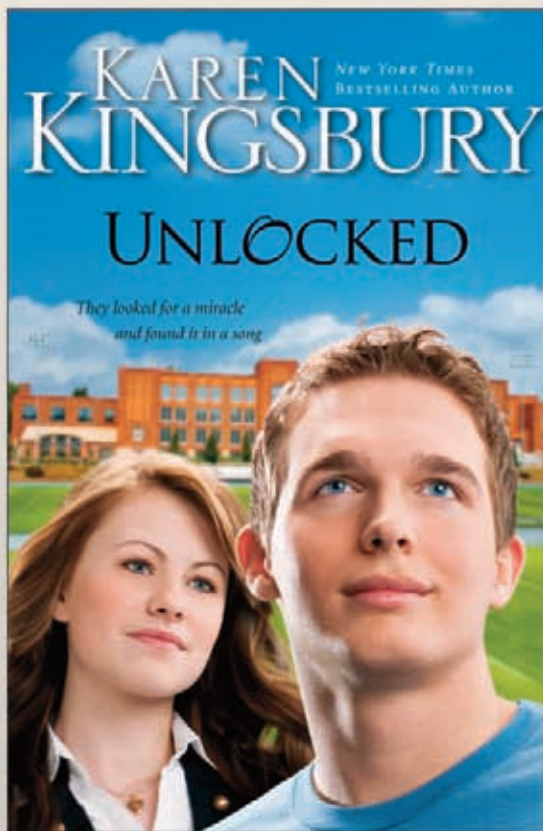
Long before Kingsbury's name appeared on the New York Times bestseller list, it was Karen's father who always reminded her to remember her fans, whether there's six or six thousand waiting to meet you.

"He would always tell me, 'Karen, there's no autograph lines in heaven,'" Karen remembers. "So from a really early stage, I would stand—not sit—whenever I signed books for people. And these days, even if it's a five-hour line, I do the same."

Another facet of Kingsbury's fan-friendly mentality has materialized through the popular Baxter Family Club and Baxter Family Reunion event. The former is a free fan club with special perks for those signed up (including extra chapters and other members-only exclusives), while the latter is an annual two-day event for readers to fellowship with other Kingsbury fans and connect with Karen herself.

Born as a natural outgrowth of Kingsbury's time spent with readers, both Baxter Family projects are close to her heart. "When I meet readers face to face, it's always very emotional," Kingsbury shares. "Some people will be shaking; others will have tears in their eyes. It's all very humbling and just a reminder of what God is orchestrating. It's nothing I can ever take credit for, of course, and I'm thankful for that. More





than anything, I'm always amazed that God can use me—and these stories—to help inspire and change people's lives."

Putting Pen to Paper

Of course, all that time spent with fans in cyberspace and beyond cuts into her actual novel-writing time, Kingsbury does admit. It's occasionally made penning those novels a little more complicated time-wise. Nonetheless, it's a sacrifice she's more than happy to make.

In fact, she's already excited to see how readers will respond to her latest novel, *Unlocked: A Love Story* (Zondervan). Describing it as a beautiful story of the agape love that Christ calls us to, it tackles a variety of relevant themes including bullying, suicide and the prison-like existence of someone suffering with autism.

"I love how *Unlocked* talks about themes of love, but it's not the type of love story everyone naturally thinks of—romance," Karen says. "Over the years, I've realized I have a lot more high school and college readers than people may know, so I felt like a book like this could help change the culture by emphasizing the importance of being kind."

Featuring a young protagonist named Holden Harris, who Kingsbury describes as one of the purest souls she's ever written, *Unlocked* is a heart-tugging story of the redeeming power of unconditional love and friendship.

When writing a story with such emotional beats, one can't help but wonder how Kingsbury manages to make it through without

continued

the master of multitasking

If being a wife, mother of six and best-selling author weren't already enough to keep Karen Kingsbury's already jam-packed schedule full—well, that's really only the beginning of what's in the pipeline.

This October, she hosts this year's Girls Get-a-way Cruise to Cozumel, where she'll get to mingle with people more than ever before. Karen is also speaking at several Women of Joy Events and at the Extraordinary Women gathering in Roanoke, Virginia.

And when she's not wearing her speaker hat, Karen—whose book *Like Dandelion Dust* (Center Street) was recently adapted for the big screen and stars Academy Award winner Mira Sorvino—is also dabbling in screenwriting herself. "Screenwriting is so much fun for

me because it's so visual," Kingsbury says. "Instead of so much exposition, you're able to show that with action. I love how you're really pared down to meaningful dialogue and meaningful placement of scenes in songwriting. I love, love, love writing like that."

As for seeing her work on the big screen, Karen says she's learned a thing or two in the process. "In terms of having books being made into movies, it's a mixed bag. I'm so excited about it, but I've learned to hold on loosely," Karen explains. "I have creative control in place on the contract, but there is going to be interpretation, which I'm okay with. I've learned not to be so excited about a film company, a producer or a studio. Instead, I've learned to be excited about what God's doing. Ultimately, the people involved are just the tools in His hands, anyway." **FF**



FALL INTO GREAT FICTION

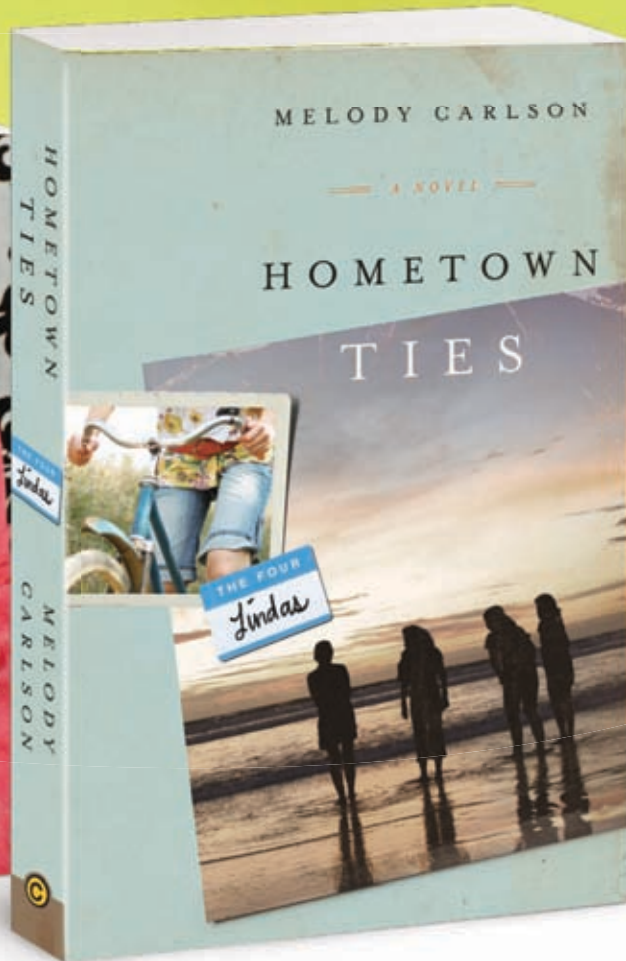


Reinventing Rachel

“A fascinating story of one woman’s search for God, of falling and rising and finding that we’re never alone. In Rachel’s struggles many will recognize their own.”

Lisa Wingate, best-selling author of *Beyond Summer*

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to learn more](#)



Hometown Ties

Reunited in their coastal hometown after decades apart, the Four Lindas discover that second acts aren’t always easy. Lively, touching, and very real—packs a poignant punch!

[CLICK HERE
to learn more](#)

crying herself. “Oh, I get choked up, no doubt about it,” Karen shares. “I fully allow myself to be drawn into the world I’m writing about, and I have to be for the story to ring true emotionally. I’m always crying when I write, and my family knows that’ll happen whenever I’m working on a new story.”

To set the proper mood, Kingsbury carefully chooses an appropriate instrumental soundtrack, puts her headphones on and immediately gets to work. “The right music always gets me into that place, whatever that

“I felt like a book like this could help change the culture.”

happens to be. If I were just listening to my kids talking in the background, writing would be almost impossible,” Kingsbury says. “Sometimes my husband will say, ‘Try and remember that you’re making it all up.’ But the funny thing is, I don’t feel like I’m making it up. I have to just give myself it, and I become sort of a slave to the story. When it comes right down to it, I actually feel like I’m merely serving the story, rather than creating it, which is always an incredibly rewarding experience.” **FF**

get me to the church on time

How Karen Kingsbury made one Missouri bride’s dreams come true

When Erica Dyer went about making her wedding website at *mywedding.com*, she did something that didn’t surprise her friends. Along with the rest of the wedding party, she listed Karen Kingsbury as her Matron of Honor. Dyer, 24, is a longtime Kingsbury fan and has quoted Kingsbury’s books frequently in a journal of letters to her future husband that she’s kept since she was 17.

So Dyer posted a photo of herself and Kingsbury taken at one of Kingsbury’s events, and beneath that she wrote simply: *Matron of Honor—Hopeful.*

For a while, everyone who knew Erica had a good chuckle over her wishful thinking. “About a month later, my mom told me I should write Karen and at least let her know that she was my Matron of Honor,” Erica says. “So I emailed Karen, but the whole thing was never meant to be serious. I knew Karen would never even have time to read my email.”

But that day, Kingsbury was sitting bedside

with her husband, who’d undergone surgery to repair a hole in his heart. “I had more time than usual to read letters from my reader friends,” she says. “Of course the subject line caught

my eye. ‘Matron of Honor?’”

Kingsbury showed her husband—who has since completely recovered—and he

noted that the wedding was smack in the middle of Kingsbury’s upcoming tour to promote her novel *Take Four*.

“You’ll be on the road, anyway,” he told her. “You should do it.”

Kingsbury has a mission statement when it comes to writing books and dealing with her fans: Always love and serve the readers. So it took only a minute for Kingsbury to fire off an email to Dyer.

Erica, I’m honored you would ask—even if this is all a little tongue-in-cheek, Kingsbury wrote. Still, you have to live outside the box sometimes, so maybe my husband is right. Where’s the wedding?

Within hours of receiving Kingsbury’s email, all of Odessa, Mo., knew about Dyer’s shock and disbelief: She writes a column for the local paper, where she detailed the saga



of events, and she teaches Spanish at the local high school—so literally she told everyone she knows. Aside from her column, Erica kept all of her friends, family and wedding party up-to-date on her website at *mywedding.com*.

On June 25 in an old church with stained-glass windows in Odessa, in front of 400 guests, Kingsbury made good on that promise.

As a gift to the bride and groom, Kingsbury’s publisher, Zondervan, and *mywedding.com* sponsored a three-day pre-honeymoon trip to New York City. Erica and her husband, Ryan Shippy, were able to go to Broadway shows, sightsee and enjoy time together.

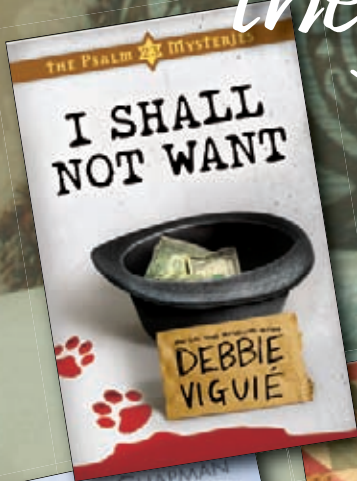
“It’s a dream come true,” Dyer says. “A day doesn’t go by I don’t tell someone the unbelievable news—my favorite author was my Matron of Honor!” **FF**





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Q & A: Chris Fabry

As if national radio host Chris Fabry weren't busy enough already (what with being on the radio all the time and all), he's also been making a name for himself in Christian fiction: first with his mysteries and end-times thrillers for young readers, and now with an award-winning series of novels for adults. His latest, *Almost Heaven*, is his third set in Dogwood, West Virginia.

Q: Your new novel ALMOST HEAVEN is your third trip (so far) back to Dogwood. What is it about this town that keeps bringing you back?

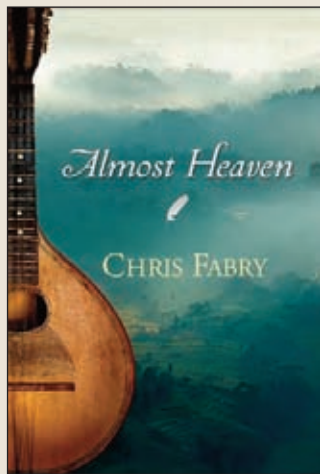
This is where I grew up and these are the people I know best and love most. How can you not want to go back?

Q: You've said this was your "most difficult novel to write" so far. What were the

challenges for you this time around?

The main character's life is so difficult and hardscrabble, and yet he holds onto God with not much evidence that God is there. Telling the story from the eternal and in the present and finding hope for him was difficult but worth it.

This story is for those who feel like God isn't using them. It's a book about dreams and failure and getting up again.



Q: What inspired you to write this story?

There was a man who ran a radio station in Lost Creek, W.Va., who died last year. I wrote it to honor him and encourage others.

Q: How much of yourself is in these characters?

There's always a lot of me in the main character. This guy loves radio and thinks it's important. That's me.

Q: Is your first goal to minister to readers, or entertain them?

My first goal is to draw them into the story so that I have an opportunity to encourage them.

Q: What do you most hope readers take away after reading your book?

I hope they'll see their failures and struggles as the proof that God is at work.

Q: What's the best thing anyone said about one of your books?

"I felt like I knew those characters and continue to look for them on the street."

Q: What's the worst thing anyone said about one of your books?

"Cute," or "lame." I see both of them as the same criticism.

Q: You also co-wrote Drew Brees' spots memoir COMING BACK STRONGER—for you, what are the pros and cons of writing fiction verses non-fiction?

Both are enjoyable and try to make a story understandable. I enjoy nailing a life on the page but I also enjoy telling the truth through a story I've cooked in my head. Find the author online at ChrisFabry.com. **FF**



CHRIS FABRY

inspiring ENTERTAINMENT

CHRISTIAN FICTION AT ITS BEST



Catching Moondrops

JENNIFER ERIN VALENT

Jessilyn Lassiter no longer has to convince people she's not a child. Having just turned 19 in the summer of 1938, her love for Luke Talley has never been more real. But their budding romance is interrupted when Tal Pritchett—a young, black doctor—comes to Calloway, stirring up the racial prejudice that has been simmering just beneath the town's surface.



Code Triage

CANDACE CALVERT

Dr. Leigh Stathos likes her ER shifts fast and furious—with no emotional complications. Her husband, police officer Nick Stathos, is a man who never gives up. He has seven days to reach Leigh's heart—and save their marriage. But when a desperate act of violence slams Golden Gate Mercy Hospital into lockdown, it changes everything.



Almost Heaven

CHRIS FABRY

Billy Allman is a hillbilly genius with a gift for playing the mandolin. People in Dogwood, West Virginia, say he was born with a second helping of brains but cut short on social skills. Despite enduring scorn and a brutal secret, he longs for purpose and significance. Each painful step he takes is a note added to a beautiful symphony that will change the lives of those who hear it.



Whisper on the Wind

MAUREEN LANG

In Brussels at the height of WWI, a small, underground newspaper is the only thing offering the occupied city hope. Edward Kirkland will do anything to keep it in print. Meanwhile, Isa Lassone, a Belgian-American socialite sneaks back into the country to rescue Edward and his mother. When Edward refuses to go, Isa is drawn into his secret life . . . And into his heart.



Pursuit of Justice

DIANN MILLS

Special Agent Bella Jordan is assigned to investigate a series of murders in West Texas that are linked to the Spider Rock Treasure. Threats on her own life and another murder convince her she's hunting an experienced killer. To catch the suspect, Bella must draw on her skill and instinct and finally gather the courage to face memories she's tried so hard to forget.



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Beverly Lewis

The Plain Truth



Best-selling author Beverly Lewis has garnered quite a readership for her memorable stories set in Amish farmland.

There's a reason her fiction resonates so deeply: Born in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, a keen interest in her mother's Plain heritage inspired the author to write many Amish-related novels. Her own family heritage is Old Order Mennonite, but she has many dear friends among Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana.

"I grew up near Amish farmland and still have many Plain relatives and friends there. I've stayed with two Amish families during two separate summers and visit Lancaster County quite often. I keep in touch by writing many letters—even some emails, believe it or not."

This fall, the former schoolteacher launches a brand-new series with *The Thorn* (Bethany House), the first novel in The Rose Trilogy. Taking place in the mid-1980s, it's a moving family saga set in southern Lancaster County among some of Pennsylvania's oldest order of Amish.

When the book opens, Rose Kauffman has just regained her freedom after caring for her invalid mother for several months almost singlehandedly. She's eager to return to the outdoors, and especially to her barn chores with favorite neighbor, Nick Franco, the bishop's foster son. When her married sister, Hannah, shows up for several visits, Rose worries something is terribly amiss with her now-English sister. The two girls had always been close, but when Hen married a worldly man, Rose just assumed she was lost to the Amish ways and the faith of their childhood.

"My inspiration for the series came from the Amish who take in English foster children or eventually adopt them," remarks Lewis. Another inspiration was the Fresh Air Program, "where children from NYC come to Lancaster County to spend part of the summer. These youngsters dress Plain and work alongside their "siblings" but are

“Even though the Amish live in a cloistered community, their struggles are similar to our own.”

considered outsiders until they join the church.”

Lewis’ tales set among the Amish heartland have resonated with readers as well as critics—she’s been featured in *Time* magazine, and her books are a consistent presence on the bestseller lists. Her novel *The Shunning* sold more than one million copies, and *The Brethren* won the 2007 Christy Award for excellence in Christian fiction. In fact, there are some 12 million copies of her works in print.

After publishing more than 80 books for adults and children, you’d think it would be hard to keep coming up with new story ideas. But not for Beverly Lewis: “New storylines are triggered in my mind when I read the *Lancaster New Era*, as well as *The Budget*, or

when listening to the unique—and sometimes humorous—tales told to me by Amish friends, as well as my readers,” she says.

“Most of all, my ideas come from having a creative imagination and an understanding that Amish people are

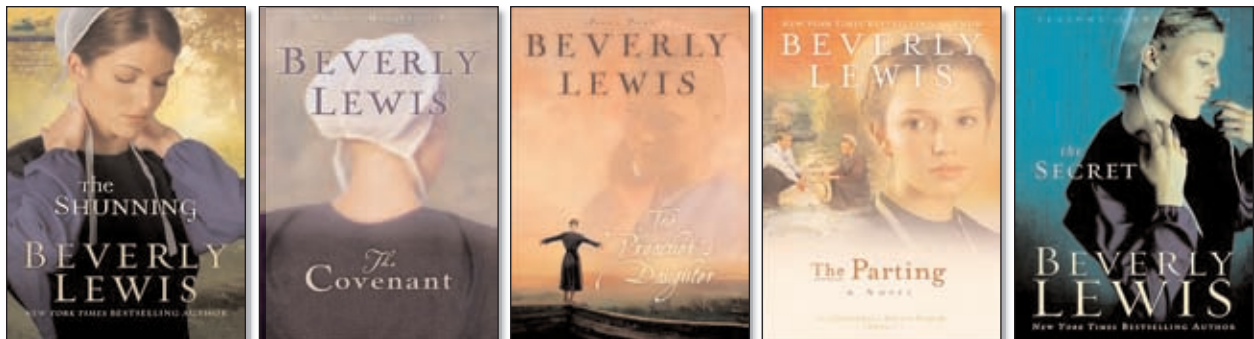
human, too. Even though they live in a cloistered community, their struggles are similar to our own, and readers can relate easily to them.”

—Chris Well



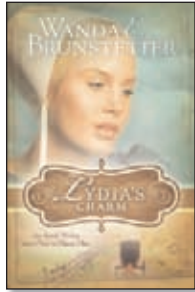
The Thorn
(The Rose Trilogy)
Beverly Lewis
Bethany House

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes

WANDA'S CHARM



With a brand-new novel in stores, *Lydia's Charm* (Barbour), author

Wanda E. Brunstetter has scheduled several book signing dates at local bookstores. (Go to WandaBrunstetter.com for an up-to-date schedule.) If you get to see her, maybe you'll also get to see her demonstrate her prowess as a ventriloquist.

"My husband and I had a puppet ministry, and for several years we traveled with our son and daughter to various churches in the Pacific Northwest to share our puppets," she told *TitleTrakk*. "Whenever I'm asked to do a speaking engagement to talk about my Amish-themed books, I take along my



little ventriloquist puppet, dressed in Amish clothes. Using the puppet is a great way to open my talk and set the stage for what I'm planning to say."

The author also has more Amish fiction on the way: In February 2011, watch for her three-in-one omnibus *Indiana Cousins Trilogy*. Then in April 2011 she kicks off the brand-new Kentucky Brothers series with *The Journey*.

WandaBrunstetter.com

WESTWARD HO!

This fall, **Beth Wiseman** takes Amish readers where they've never gone before—Colorado. The author was inspired by a 2009



news report that a handful of Amish families were migrating to Colorado to escape high land prices and overcrowding back East in more established communities.

"After visiting Monte Vista, Colo., I knew this was the perfect setting for a series—developing easily into the fictional town of Canaan," Wiseman says. "What an experience to take some of my key characters from the *Daughters of the Promise* series to Colorado, where they face the challenges of a new location and meet other Amish folks who have migrated to the area—somewhere much different than what they were used to in Lancaster County."

The groundbreaking *Land of Canaan* series debuts in October with *Seek Me with All Your Heart* (Thomas Nelson). BethWiseman.net



POWER OF THREE

In November, **Cindy Woodsmall's** *Sisters of the Quilt* trilogy is being published in a single



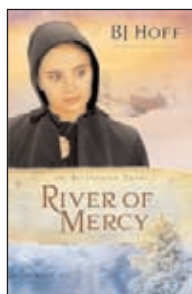
volume. The three-in-one omnibus includes *When the Heart Cries*, *When the*

Morning Comes and *When the Soul Mends*.

If you're hankering for some brand-new fiction from Woodsmall, that's coming, too: The *NYT*-bestselling author recently signed on with Waterbrook Multnomah for five more Amish-themed novels—two stand-alone titles, and a three-book series called Amish Threads. CindyWoodsmall.com

UNEXPECTED ROMANCE

Early next year, B.J. Hoff's faithful fans will delight in the heart-warming conclusion to her acclaimed Riverhaven Years



trilogy, *River of Mercy* (Harvest House). In the finale, hitting bookshelves March 2011, young Gideon Kanagy faces a life-changing challenge—and an unexpected romance with his young Amish friend Emma Knepp. Gideon's sister Rachel and the "outsider" Jeremiah Gant add to the drama with their own dilemma and its repercussions for the entire community of Riverhaven.

BJHoff.com

GATHER TOGETHER

Fans of all things Amish are flocking online to AmishLiving.com to discuss favorite Amish novels, share recipes, find products such as quilts and furniture, and get advice for planning a trip to Amish country. You also can meet new friends who share your interest in the simple life—and meet some of the authors who write the books you love so much.

AmishLiving.com

new releases

LOVE FINDS YOU IN SUGARCREEK, OHIO

Serena Miller

(Summerside Press)



SARAH'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Mary Ellis

(Harvest House)



AUTUMN'S PROMISE

Shelley Shepard Gray

(Avon inspire)



A PLAIN AND SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Amy Clipston

(Zondervan)



AN AMISH CHRISTMAS: EXPANDED EDITION

Wiseman, Fuller, Cameron, Long

(Thomas Nelson)



THE BRIDGE OF PEACE

Cindy Woodsmall

(WaterBrook Press)



LYDIA'S CHARM

Wanda E. Brunstetter

(Barbour)



SIMPLY SARA

Hillary Manton Lodge

(Harvest House)



A HAND TO HOLD

Kathleen Fuller

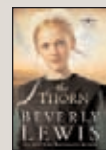
(Thomas Nelson)



THE THORN

Beverly Lewis

(Bethany House)



Bodie & Brock Thoene

World at War



Bodie and Brock Thoene's names have been synonymous with quality Christian Fiction for decades. And with almost 60 historical novels to their credit it's little wonder.

"History is as fresh and dramatic as today's news," says Bodie. "We research the actual events as they happened and then place our characters in the center of the whirlwind. Keeping characters fresh means understanding their reactions to what they are living through. Without the emotion and the conflict in the lives of our characters the history would be something like watching the weather channel on a sunny day—writing historical novels is more like living through an episode of *Storm Stories!*"

During the past few years, the Thoenes

have focused on the life and times of Jesus Christ in their highly commended *AD Chronicles*; but their newest series sees a return to the mid 20th century, where their stories first began.

With new publisher, Summerside Press, the *Zion Diaries* commences with *The Gathering Storm* set in Belgium and then England, in the midst of World War II. Readers will be thrilled to revisit many of their favorite characters from the *Zion Covenant* and *Zion Chronicles* series, including Elisa and John Murphy, Rachel Lubetkin and Moshe Sachar.

The Thoenes also promise much more: "We wanted our first novel in the *Zion Diaries* series to be fresh and new, with new characters carrying the first novel so that everyone can read this story, even if they have never read a Thoene novel," Bodie says. "While we will tell the stories of beloved characters, we intend to bring in the pathos and passion of new characters, as well."

The Thoenes are unsure how many books will be involved in this series but promise to take readers through the duration of the war, spanning the years 1939 to 1945.

While they've made their name in historical fiction, Brock & Bodie are always willing to try something new—the duo, with son Luke, recently penned contemporary political thriller *Icon*. Published as a serial ebook by FamilyAudioLibrary, it has been in the top 100 ebooks on Kindle. They are soon to start the sequel, *Effigy*.

“History is as fresh and dramatic as today’s news.”

The Thoene’s passion for literature extends beyond their own writing. With a heart to help others experience the power of words, they established the charity Shiloh Light Foundation. “Shiloh Light Foundation produces the highest quality audio books for those who are visually impaired,” Bodie says. “We also provide free books to U.S. Navy ship libraries, other military personnel and more than 200,000 prisoners.”

Whether a novel is set in the city of Jerusalem, aboard a migrant ship bound for New York, the battlefields of France or the streets of Berlin, the Thoene’s faith is evident. Researching and storytelling has deeply impacted their own faith. “We can answer truthfully that we are the most blessed of all as we write,” Bodie says. “There are often times when we sit down to work and think we are going to write one thing—then something entirely different and life-changing emerges from

the scene. We often feel the Lord is whispering actual events and showing us the hearts of real people as we write. This has changed our lives in ways beyond explanation. God’s truth shines through, touching us first, word by word, and line by line. There is hope and joy for every child of God. He intends for each of us to experience that joy even in the midst of this difficult moment in our own history. Like the characters in our novels, the Lord is the Author and Finisher of our faith.”

—Rel Mollet



The Gathering Storm
(Zion Diaries)
Bodie & Brock Thoene
Summerside Press

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



SHINING LIGHT

After years of writing contemporary suspense, **Colleen Coble** ventures into the world of historical fiction with her Mercy Falls series. October sees the release of the second volume, *The Lightkeeper's Bride* (Thomas Nelson). Says Colleen, “Writing historical romantic mysteries has been a delight for me! I’ve been able to blend my love of historical romance—where I got my start—with my love of mystery and suspense. The best of both worlds!”

ColleenCoble.com



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Jamie Carie’s Christmas novella

The Snowflake (B&H) sees

siblings determined to reach the Alaska gold rush. But when ice stalls their steamship, all seems lost, until wilderness guide Buck Lewis makes a decision: He’ll lead all who dare to follow on foot toward Dawson City. Look for it this

Fall. “It was [editor] Karen Ball’s idea to do

a novella,” Jamie says. “I showed her a short story I’d written back when I wrote *Snow Angel*, kind of my attempt at a more literary work. She loved it and asked me to turn it into a Christmas novella.” B&H Publishing will release Jamie’s next full-length novel—a romantic, high seas adventure—in 2011. JamieCarie.com



THE PILGRIM’S WIFE

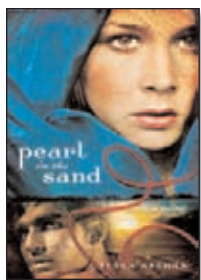
Arriving this October, **Jody Hedlund’s** debut *The Preacher’s Bride* (Bethany House)—inspired by the life of John Bunyan’s second wife—tells the tale of a young Puritan maiden determined to save a motherless baby and the grieving preacher who doesn’t want another woman in his life. Hedlund explains her fascination with Elizabeth Bunyan: “I ran across an excerpt about the brave way she defended John during one of his trials when he was arrested for ‘unlicensed’ preaching. Her strength to face a court of persecutors and her determination to faithfully support her husband touched me so deeply, I decided her little-known story needed to be told. *The Preacher’s Bride* is the fictionalized tale of her story.”

JodyHedlund.blogspot.com



A SCARLET CORD

Tessa Afshar tackles the intriguing biblical tale of Rahab and Salmone in her debut, *Pearl in the Sand*



(Moody). “The more I read about Rahab, the more amazed I became at

her destiny,” Tessa shares. “This Canaanite harlot married one of Israel’s leading men, a man as close to a Jewish aristocrat as you can get in a country without kings and princes. How was that possible? I wrote this story because I hope the reader of this story will come away with a deeper glimpse into her own soul, and a more profound understanding of God the Father.”

TessaAfshar.com

ABOLITIONIST AUTHOR

Kay Marshall Strom returns with her second Grace in Africa novel, *The*

Voyage of Promise (Abingdon Press), passionate about the still relevant



issue of slavery. “As a self-proclaimed 21st century abolitionist walking through an old slave fortress in West Africa, I was struck dumb at the sight of baby-sized manacles bolted to the wall. Godly Europeans were responsible for those manacles. The question: ‘How do good people become oppressors, blind and deaf to the suffering they cause?’” The trilogy concludes with *The Triumph of Grace* in 2011. KayStrom.com



REL MOLLET

Rel Mollet has been reviewing books since late 2006 at Relz Reviewz, her site dedicated to showcasing Christian Fiction and its writers by way of reviews, author interviews, character spotlights and more. Rel resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her movie-loving husband and three burgeoning book loving daughters. relzreviewz.blogspot.com

new releases

HOPE'S PROMISE

Tammy Barley
(Whitaker House)



LOVE FINDS YOU IN DEADWOOD, SD

Tracey Cross
(Summerside Press)



MASQUERADE

Nancy Moser
(Bethany House)



MISSION OF HOPE

Allie Pleiter
(Love Inspired Historical)



NAOMI AND HER DAUGHTERS

Walter Wangerin Jr.
(Zondervan)



PATCHWORK BRIDE

Jillian Hart
(Love Inspired Historical)



SEASIDE ROMANCE

Murray, Franklin, Sowell
(Barbour Publishing)



SERENDIPITY

Cathy Marie Hake
(Bethany House)



STILL HOUSE POND

Jan Watson
(Tyndale House)



SURRENDER THE HEART

Marylou Tyndall
(Barbour Publishing)



Joel C. Rosenberg

Posing the Questions



He's strategized for Rush Limbaugh, Steve Forbes and Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu. He's spoken at the White House and the International Spy Museum. More than a million copies of his books are in print.

Yet when he began writing his first novel, *The Last Jihad*, best-selling author Joel Rosenberg never had taken a class on writing. He barely even had

time to read novels during his 10 years in Washington, D.C., as a communications strategist.

Now his sixth novel, *The Twelfth Imam*, is hot off the press and reads like it's ripped straight from tomorrow's headlines. "When I wrote my nonfiction books, part of the story I was tracking was the end times theology held by the current leaders of Iran," Rosenberg says. "They believe the Islamic Messiah, known as the Twelfth Imam, is going to come at any moment and bring about the end of the world. They are supposed to help accelerate the end of the world by destroying Israel and the United States in the process. I asked myself, 'What if an Islamic messiah does come to earth?' Jesus said that false messiahs would come, so what would that look like?"

Rosenberg's main character in the novel, David Shirazi, is sent into Tehran to disrupt Iran's nuclear weapons program. Then the prophesied Twelfth Imam appears performing signs, miracles, and healings. Iran prepares to strike Israel, and Shirazi has to save his country and the world.

It's no accident Joel's novels resemble current events, but it's important to him to remain biblically accurate while still telling a compelling story. "I think about that a lot," Rosenberg says. "It doesn't come naturally. People can say, 'Just make it up. It doesn't really matter.' But it matters to me, because the premise [in all my books] is: What if the actual Bible prophecies come true? I don't want to

“People can say, ‘Just make it up. It doesn’t really matter.’ But it matters to me.”

cobble together what seems fun from the Bible and make a commercial story out of it. That’s not what I’m trying to do.”

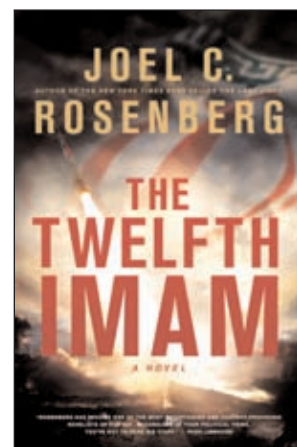
Yet in the first pages of Rosenberg’s novel *The Last Jihad* he described a terrorist attack on a major U.S. city using a hijacked airliner. This intrigued the national media—Rosenberg wrote the novel nine months before Sept. 11—and he was catapulted onto more than 160 radio and tv shows.

Eventually he caught the eye of Tyndale House. “Everyone on pub committee went crazy over his writing,” says Ron Beers, Tyndale’s senior vice president and group publisher. “Joel is not only an extremely talented writer, but he has an uncanny ability to write fiction that seems to coincide perfectly with events occurring in the season the book launches.”

Rosenberg is quick to point out he doesn’t claim to be a prophet. “I’m

writing about things God already has said in His scriptures will happen in the future, and I’m trying to imagine from my limited vantage point how we might get there.”

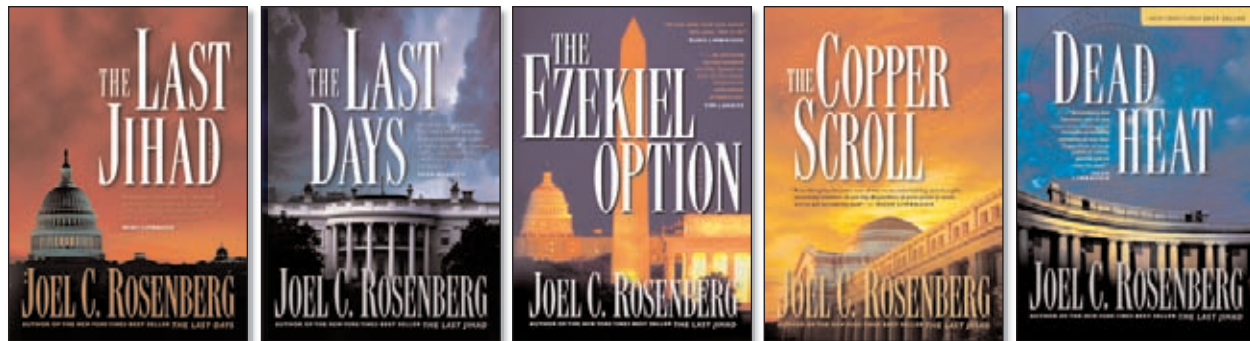
Through his books Rosenberg hopes to encourage people to ask the most important questions of all: “What if we’re getting closer to the coming of Jesus? How do I live my life differently because of that? That is my main goal—not to persuade people that something’s going to happen in a certain order, but to ask people: ‘Given what we’re seeing, how should we live differently?’”



The Twelfth Imam
Joel C. Rosenberg
 Tyndale House

—C.J. Darlington

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



NO COP OUTS

Best-selling author **Jerry B. Jenkins** recently underwent right knee replacement surgery, but it's certainly not slowing him down: Jerry's next novel is the first in a police trilogy. *The Brotherhood* (Tyndale House, February 2011) stars Boone Drake, a Chicago cop who follows all the rules—until everything in his personal life is destroyed.

(Little known fact: In 1962, Jerry's own soon-to-be-police-chief father drove presidential candidate John F. Kennedy in a local parade.)

JerryJenkins.com

THRILLING TIMES

B&H Fiction authors **James Rubart**, **Brandilyn Collins**,

Tosca Lee and **Robin Carroll** kept busy this summer on a book tour that culminated in New York City at ThrillerFest. All are excited about their upcoming projects:

Collins says her next Seatbelt Suspense book is the novel she was “made to write.” *Over the Edge* (May 2011) is about Lyme disease and the “Lyme wars.” She knows of what she writes: Crippled with the disease in 2002, Brandilyn experienced all the nightmares of Lyme before God miraculously healed her in 2003.

BrandilynCollins.com

The ideas behind Rubart's *Book of Days* (January 2011) came about when

his father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 10 years ago. “I began to wonder where his memories were disappearing to,” Rubart says. “Did they exist somewhere? Were they saved by God so they could be restored to my dad some day?” JamesRubart.com

Lee says her January 2012 book, *Iscariot*, is “one of the most intense things I've ever done, and one of the most personally meaningful, frightening and redemptive.” She's also co-writing *The Forbidden* series (Center Street) with Ted Dekker, which some think could rival the impact of his *Circle* series. ToscaLee.com

Robin Carroll's latest novel, *Fear No Evil*, was written

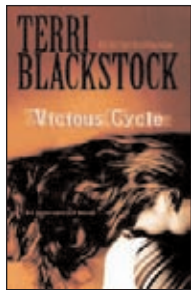


Robin Carroll, James Rubart, Tosca Lee, and Brandilyn Collins

to raise awareness about gangs. “As a mother, learning how gangs recruit children broke my heart.” Look for her March 2011 release, *In the Shadow of Evil*, a story set in Louisiana about a building rebound scam. RobinCarroll.com

A COMPELLING CYCLE

“After writing *Intervention*, I felt the need to say more than I was able to say in that book,” **Terri Blackstock** confesses



about *Vicious Cycle* (Zondervan, February 2011). “I decided [the subject of addiction]

deserved an entire series.” Interestingly enough, the cover for *Vicious Cycle* was actually one of the original cover options for *Intervention*. No title yet for the third book—Blackstock is still fleshing it out. TerriBlackstock.com

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Frank Peretti’s first book with his new publisher, Howard, could see a 2011 release. He says on his Facebook page: “It won’t be anything like the Darkness books. I’m going some fun new directions.” When pressed for details on the story and genre, Frank added, “Allegory, I suppose, of Christ and His Bride. A bit of a love story, a bit of sci-fi, lots of heart. A very honest work coming from deep inside me.” FrankPeretti.com



C.J. DARLINGTON

C.J. is the author of the award-winning novel *Thicker than Blood* (Tyndale House) and the upcoming novel *Bound by Guilt*. She is the co-founder of the Christian entertainment website TitleTrakk.com. Visit her online at cjdarlington.com.



new releases

ASSIGNMENT: BODYGUARD

Lenora Worth
(Love Inspired Suspense)



THE BISHOP

Steven James
(Revell)



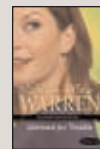
THE CONSTANTINE CONSPIRACY

Gary Parker
(Revell)



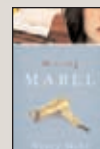
LICENSED FOR TROUBLE

Susan May Warren
(Tyndale House)



MISSING MABEL

Nancy Mehl
(Barbour)



PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Lynette Eason
(Love Inspired Suspense)



SILENT PROTECTOR

Barbara Phinney
(Love Inspired Suspense)



SOLITARY

Travis Thrasher
(David C. Cook)



VANISHING ACT

Liz Johnson
(Love Inspired Suspense)



ADVENT OF A MYSTERY

Marilyn Leach
(Barbour)



Stephen R. Lawhead

Back to His First Love



Stephen R. Lawhead is internationally known for his mythic retellings of history and legend.

His million-selling Pendragon Cycle was an extensively researched retelling of the Arthurian saga. His exploration of the Robin Hood legend, the King Raven Trilogy, took the beloved outlaw from Sherwood Forest to his more likely historic place, 11th century Wales.

Now, Lawhead embarks on his most ambitious work to date, The Bright Empires series. Beginning with *The Skin*

Map, he weaves epic adventure, alternate realities, vivid history, philosophy, and physics into a tale like no other:

Kit Livingstone's humdrum life takes a drastic turn when he cuts through a strange London alleyway on the way to his girlfriend's flat and is met by his long-presumed dead great-grandfather, Cosimo. Cosimo explains that the alley is one of hundreds of ley lines—pathways between times and places and realities—and Kit is one of the gifted few who can walk them...

The sprawling epic will span five volumes altogether. “I’ve had the idea for the Bright Empire series for more than 10 years,” Lawhead says. “In my mind, I’ve always thought of it as my ‘super-fantasy,’ as enthusiastic about it as I am. After years of indulging my passion for historical fiction, I’m keen to get back to my first love—High Fantasy.”

Of course, Lawhead’s famed foray into historical fiction wasn’t easy. Fascinated with the story of King Arthur since childhood, when Lawhead first approached his British publisher about the book, they scoffed at the idea of an American retelling the legend that had already been told many times before.

He continued to improve his writing skills and then moved his family to England for a year and a half to do research for *Taliesin*, the first book in his Arthurian series the Pendragon Cycle.

“After years of indulging my passion for historical fiction, I’m keen to get back to my first love—High Fantasy.”

It was during this first British sojourn that he discovered the Celtic connection that weaves through many of his novels, most notably the Song of Albion series.

Lawhead points out that another thread throughout his novels can be found in his characters themselves—the tenacity and perseverance of Aden in *Byzantium*; the strength of character in Merlin in the Pendragon Cycle and in Bran in the King Raven Trilogy. “It’s the hero strain coming through,” he says. “How does the human spirit respond to the difficult times we all go through?”

Although these difficult times don’t include the bulk of Stephen’s life, there have been hardships, including a serious struggle with cancer in 2006 and 2007.

While his life has changed in many

ways during his three decades as a novelist, his writing inhabits the same space and spirit it always has. Stephen keeps to a normal schedule, starting at nine and taking breaks for lunch and, living in Britain, tea.

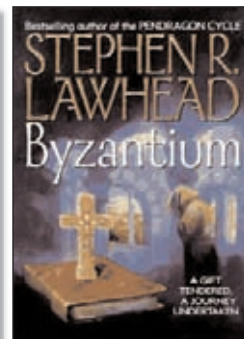
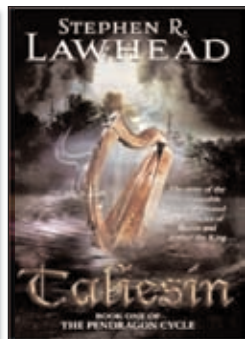
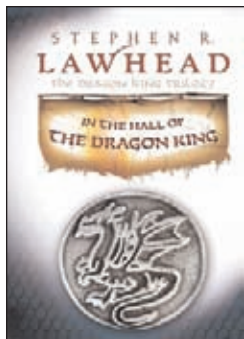
He loves chasing the sense of wonder, always making his books new and slightly different. Others may try to repeat the formula of a bestseller, but he doesn’t like doing the same trick over again.



The Skin Map
(Bright Empires)
Stephen R. Lawhead
Thomas Nelson

—Katie Hart

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes

RETURN OF FIREBIRD

Marcher Lord Press has added acclaimed author **Kathy Tyers** to its



growing list of excellent storytellers. Tyers is known for her ground-

breaking Christian science fiction—in addition to several contributions to the Star Wars universe, most notably the novel *The Truce at Bakura*.

“Kathy’s impact on Christian publishing is nearly unrivaled,” notes MLP’s Jeff Gerke. “We feel extremely blessed she has agreed to join our award-winning stable of authors.”

“I read several excellent novels released by Marcher



Lord Press,” Tyers says. “I decided this was the best place to finish the Firebird series. I’m

delighted to be part of a great and growing team.”



MLP plans to release a deluxe 3-in-1 edition of the beloved Firebird trilogy, followed by two brand new Firebird novels.

KathyTyers.com

TOURING THE BLOGS



Every month, the **Christian Science Fiction and Fantasy**

Blog Tour promotes a speculative book or website. In September, they toured *Venom and Song* by **Wayne Thomas Batson** and **Christopher Hopper**, and in October host *The Skin Map* (Thomas Nelson) by **Stephen Lawhead**. Visit the group’s website at csffblogtour.com.

HAUNT YOURSELF

Rob Stennett, author of *The Almost True Story of Ryan Fisher* and *The End is Now*, gives readers a chill with the November 2010



release *Homemade Haunting* (Zondervan).

Charlie Walker plans to write a horror novel. He doesn’t believe in God or the paranormal, but as a method writer he has to experience horror to write about it. As he begins to experiment with the supernatural, strange things start to happen around his house.

RobStennett.com

THEOLOGY WRAPPED IN STORY

Flight of the Outcasts (Zondervan), second in The Aedyn Chronicles by noted theologian **Alister E. McGrath**, releases January 2011: Peter and Julia return to Aedyn only to find it deserted and its people enslaved on a

distant volcanic island. Can they bring the people back to the Lord of Hosts before the volcano erupts?



SPECULATIVE CAROL

In September, the American Christian Fiction Writers handed out



the 2010 Carol Awards for excellence in Christian fiction—and the winner in the category of

“Speculative Fiction” was *Eternity Falls* by **Kirk Outerbridge** (Marcher Lord Press). Other nominees in the category were *The Vanishing Sculptor* by **Donita K. Paul** (WaterBrook), *The Word Reclaimed* by **Steve Rzasa** (Marcher Lord), *Starfire* by **Stuart Vaughn Stockton** (Marcher Lord), *The Muse*

by **Fred Warren** (Splashdown), and *By Darkness Hid* by **Jill Williamson** (Marcher Lord). ACFW.com

LEWISIAN READERS CHOICE

The winner of the first-ever Clive Staples Award for Christian Speculative Fiction is *Bones of Makaidos* by **Bryan Davis** (AMG). The readers’ choice award recognizes the best in the year’s Christian worldview SF/fantasy/allegory/futuristic/supernatural fiction. clivestaplesaward.com



KATIE HART

With more than 200 book reviews and two fiction manuscripts under her belt, Katie Hart spends her free time reading, connecting with authors, and dreaming up new stories. BladesofBetrayal.com



new releases

ANGEL SONG

Sheila Walsh, Kathryn Cushman
(Thomas Nelson)



DRAGONS OF THE VALLEY

Donita K. Paul
(WaterBrook Press)



THE FALLING AWAY

T.L. Hines
(Thomas Nelson)



HEADING HOME

John Robinson
(Sheaf House)



KONIG'S FIRE

Marc Schooley
(Marcher Lord Press)



THE MAYAN APOCALYPSE

Mark Hitchcock, Alton Gansky
(Harvest House)



THE SENDING

Matt Koceich
(Marcher Lord Press)



THE SKIN MAP

Stephen R. Lawhead
(Thomas Nelson)



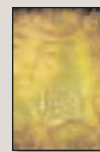
THE TENTH CRUSADER

Kirk Outerbridge
(Marcher Lord Press)



HAVAH

Tosca Lee
(B&H Publishing)



Trish Perry

Time for a Cup of Tea



It's always fascinating the varied career paths writers seem to take before they leap into the often perilous world of publishing—Trish Perry's is no exception.

Before she was the author of such Christian romantic comedies as *The Guy I'm Not Dating* and *Too Good to Be True*, Trish Perry was working for the Securities and Exchange Commission. Realizing she was more intrigued by people than money, Trish left the SEC and returned to school, completed a Psychology degree and began to dabble in writing.

"I don't see anything romantic about power and money," Trish admits. "Maybe that's why I tend to put my romantic leads in professions far removed from Wall Street and corporate America."

Trish always has enjoyed reading romance novels, so she soon turned to romantic comedies. "That was what I read or viewed when I wanted to have a good time," she says. "I'm still that way."

Following on from her debut novel and its sequel, Trish wrote *Beach Dreams* and *Sunset Beach*, meeting readers' desire for fresh and entertaining stories with multi-layered characters, often struggling with relationships in their lives.

"Because I've studied so much about how our minds and emotions drive our behaviors and decisions, it's easier for me to imagine what personalities would attract and repel each other," she says. "My studies have also helped me to understand dysfunctional romantic attractions, which comes in handy for creating conflict in my romances."

Trish's latest foray into romantic fiction is her Tea Shop Series, commencing with the brand-new *The Perfect Blend* (Harvest House) and in March 2011, *Tea for Two*.

The idea for a tea shop was planted by her editor at Harvest House, which bloomed into Milly's tea shop. "Milly is British and classy and sharp witted," Trish says. "She has great respect for people, love and the Lord. I'm having terrific fun with the series and my imaginary friends in Middleburg."

“I thrive on learning how my funny little romances touch people in a ‘God way.’”

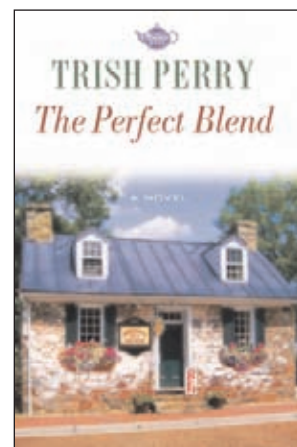
As the daughter of a Brit, Trish enjoys a good cuppa, either a comforting English Breakfast or when her sweet tooth calls, an exotic Chai; so it will be fascinating to see what Milly serves up!

So what can readers expect when they pick up *The Perfect Blend* or any Trish Perry romance? “Certainly the promise of a happy ending,” Trish says. “A swoon-worthy hero—not necessarily physically so, but most definitely with regard to his ultimately noble character and attractive personality. A heroine with faults, struggles, and a hungry heart—whether she realizes it or not.”

There’s no question Trish’s stories tap into readers’ desires for a sweet and funny romance, confirmed by reader responses she treasures. “I thrive on learning how my funny little romances touch people in a

‘God way.’”

After reading *The Guy I’m Not Dating*, the story of a young woman who decides to take the no-dating approach to romance, a reader shared with Trish, “I had read many resources and books on the subject. But your approach is my favorite...Thank you for your book, it just reminded me that God has different plans that work for different people and I just have to rely on his perfect timing and foreknowledge.”



The Perfect Blend
Trish Perry
Harvest House

—Rel Mollet

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



LOVE AND TRUST

Coming in November from **Lori Copeland**, *A Man's Heart* (Zondervan) finds a young woman struggling to salvage the family farm, honor her promise to a dead friend and win back the man whose heart she broke.

“When someone entrusts you with the heart, this is the most private and personal asset they possess,” Lori says. “When I finished *A Man's Heart*, I determined I was going to be more cognizant of the person who allows me access to their total being.”

LoriCopeland.com



KINDRED SPIRIT

Author **Alice Wisler** is living vicariously through the heroine in her October release *Hatteras Girl* (Bethany House). “What inspired me to write *Hatteras Girl* comes in the form of salty sea air and old homes,” Alice explains. “Over the decades, as I’ve visited the coastal towns of New Bern, Beaufort, Emerald Isle and Nags Head, the desire to have a bed-and-breakfast on the North Carolina shore has flourished. I’ll probably never be able to put wings on that dream; I decided to let my character, Jackie, hold that longing.”

Many readers will find a kindred spirit in Jackie, who desires only three things in life: a wonderful, honest man to marry; her own B&B in the Outer

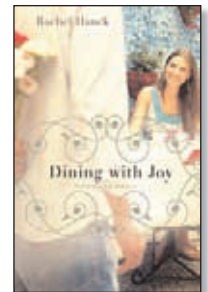


Banks; and no more blind dates set up by her family!
AliceWisler.com

SWEET TREATS

Rachel Hauck returns to the South Carolina Low Country when *Dining with Joy* releases from Thomas Nelson this November. A tale of a cooking show host with an inability to cook and an indebted chef paying his dues, readers may be surprised to discover what Rachel loved most about writing their story.

“Banana Bread,” she answers simply. “I made a lot of banana bread in the course of four months. I also love the romance between Joy and Luke, and the layers of a food theme. Feeding ourselves often requires more than



cooking meat and veggies. It requires reading and feasting on the Word of God.”

Look for Rachel’s other Low Country novels—*Sweet Caroline* and *Love Starts With Elle*—re-released with a new look. RachelHauck.com

HEART MEDICINE

Candace Calvert concludes her Mercy Hospital trilogy with *Code Triage* (Tyndale



House), with a marriage on the brink and a hospital in lockdown. “Nick and Leigh



Stathos’ story came most directly from my heart,”

Candace

shares. “I’m so very grateful for the blessing of second chances. I also loved that the *Code Triage* storyline included two of my favorite

passions—cooking and horses!”

Candace is at work on a proposal for a new medical drama series set in Texas. CandaceCalvert.com

AIN’T LOVE GRAND

Former park ranger turned author **Annalisa Daughety**



wraps up her Walk in the Park series with *Love is Grand* (Barbour), as Ainsley, Jake and Dustin negotiate love and the trails of the majestic Grand Canyon.



“I’m sad to say good-bye to characters I’ve grown to love,” says Annalisa. “It has been such fun to draw on my own experience as a park ranger.”

AnnalisaDaughety.com

—Rel Mollet

new releases

THE COWBOY’S SWEETHEART

Brenda Minton

(Love Inspired)



EXPOSING AMBER

Elizabeth Goddard

(Heartsong Presents)



FAITHFUL

Kim Cash Tate

(Thomas Nelson)



HOMECOMING HERO

Renee Ryan

(Love Inspired)



HOMETOWN PROPOSAL

Merilee Whren

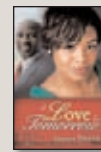
(Love Inspired)



LOVE FOR TOMORROW

Vanessa Miller

(Whitaker House)



THE PERFECT BLEND

Trish Perry

(Harvest House)



SIERRA WEDDINGS

Jeri Odell

(Barbour Publishing)



TREASURE CREEK DAD

Terri Reed

(Love Inspired)



WEDDING CAKE WISHES

Dana Corbit

(Love Inspired)



Leanna Ellis

More than Skin Deep



A natural-born storyteller, author Leanna Ellis loves spinning tales that explore unwavering faith in the real world. In her latest novel, *Facelift* (B&H), the author, wife and mother of two explores the price of beauty through the compelling story of a unique, can-do woman named Kaye.

Ellis' journey as a writer started "once upon a time," when she was a teacher who knew that teaching wasn't what she wanted to do forever.

"I was trying to figure out what exactly I wanted to do when my sister suggested I start writing, because I was 'always scribbling in a journal,'" the author says. "That seed took root and grew. At the end of the school year, I quit teaching to become a writer. So writing was never a hobby for me. From there it's been a long journey of almost 20 years. Quite an adventure!"

Starting out, Ellis wrote with a collaborator—but she soon found that she had so many ideas, she began to write more stories on my own. "I suffered numerous rejections," she says of that period. "But I was growing as a writer and learning."

She attended conferences and entered contests—and all the hard work paid off when she began to be noticed by editors and agents.

She began her career writing romances for the general market. Writing as Leanna Wilson, she sold more than a million romantic novels—and in the process won a Readers' Choice Award and the Romance Writers of America Golden Heart Award for her work.

But a few years ago, she felt God pulling her in the direction of Christian publishing. This new phase of her career was launched with *Elvis Takes a Back Seat*, the first book published under her married name.

“So many of us try to do it all and to do it well, and it’s an impossible task.”

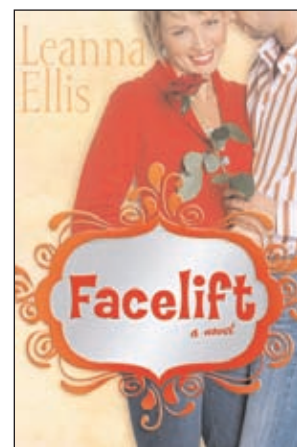
The storyline of her latest book, *Facelift*, couldn’t be more timely. There doesn’t seem to be a day that passes without hearing about some celebrity’s Botox regime or recent nips and tucks to his or her appearance.

But *Facelift* is about more than cosmetic surgery. “When I started working on Kaye’s story,” Ellis says, “the title seemed to fit as Kaye was needing an emotional facelift. I’m not sure anything specific inspired the story, just my wacky brain at work again. I wanted to explore how some things that happen in our lives don’t make sense and yet do.”

One theme of the book is that blessings often arrive in the strangest packages. Ellis hopes this book will make readers smile and laugh. “But

also, I hope they can relate to Kaye as she is trying to do everything perfectly,” she says. “So many of us try to do it all and do it well, and it’s an impossible task.”

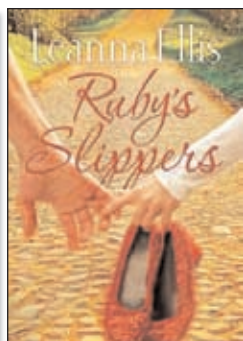
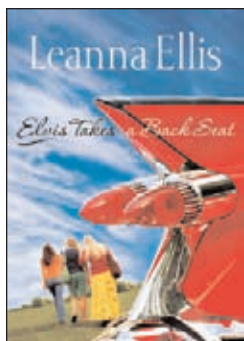
Ask Ellis what comes next, and the answer will surprise you. “After *Facelift*, I have another book that’s a bit different for me,” she says. “An Amish/vampire novel called *Forsaken*, which is scheduled for release in the fall of 2011.”



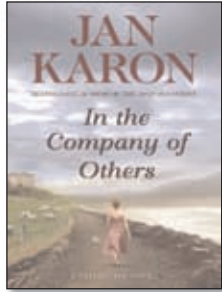
Facelift: A Novel
Leanna Ellis
B&H Publishing

—Christa A. Banister

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

Fans of **Jan Karon's** decidedly homespun writing will have plenty to celebrate this October with the release of *In the Company of Others* (Viking), the second novel in the the Father Tim series. Set in Ireland, *In the Company of Others* is a story about tracking down family history, which is exactly what Father Tim and Cynthia do through genealogical research and carefully hidden secrets from the past.

MitfordBooks.com

ONE RING, TWO WOMEN

In **Susan Meissner's** novel *Lady in Waiting* (WaterBrook Press), Jane Lindsay is forced to pick up the pieces and start over again after her

husband of 22 years bails on her—something she's not quite sure how she'll do. When Jane finds an antique ring with her name inscribed on it in Latin, well, her curiosity leads to an intriguing journey that not only reveals the ring's origins, but her own strength in the midst of trials.

"When I wrote *The Shape of Mercy* a couple years ago, I found I really enjoyed dovetailing a contemporary story with a historical event," Susan tells *FamilyFiction*. "History is always a looking glass—it reflects back to us what we revere as timeless. For *Lady in Waiting*, I blended the story of a modern woman, emotionally shipwrecked after her husband leaves her, with the true story of Lady

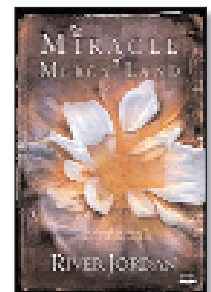


Jane Grey, who was queen of England in the 16th century for just nine days. Both women seemingly were in situations where they couldn't choose their own destiny. Of course, things aren't always what they appear. Not then, and not now."

SusanMeissner.com

STOP THE PRESSES!

Set in the 1930s, **River Jordan's** *The Miracle of Mercy Land* (Multnomah) is the story of Mercy Land, the daughter of a traveling preacher who's no longer content to spend her days in her small, rural community. Mercy goes to Bay City and starts work at the local paper. Mercy's on the lookout for a good scoop, so when a book surfaces that details the lives of everyone in Bay City—the good, bad and the ugly—Mercy can't help but wonder about its purpose and what



would happen if the prophecy written in its pages was actually fulfilled. RiverJordan.us

GETTING INSPIRED



Like many aspiring writers, Amy Gallagher is losing her confidence after

countless rejections in *Amy Inspired* (Bethany House), written by **Bethany Pierce**. After wondering how in the world she'll pay the bills, Amy accepts a job as an English professor in a small Ohio town. Adding additional fuel to her angst is a diminished relationship with her current boyfriend.

Just when hope is feeling especially grim, she meets an attractive, charming, unavailable man who really shakes things up in her life—for good and for bad, something she's forced to reconcile as she

investigates the state of her faith and dreams.

“Ultimately, *Amy Inspired* is about overcoming the fear of rejection and about redefining the nature of success from a biblical standpoint,” says Pierce. “As Amy nears 30, realizing she may never be the best-selling novelist she'd hoped to become—or the wife, or the mother, or the brilliant academic—she finally begins to look for counter-cultural ways to evaluate and define success.”

BethanyPierce.typepad.com



CHRISTA BANISTER

Christa Banister is a full-time freelance writer, specializing in music, movies and book-related reviews and interviews. She's also the author of two novels, *Around the World in 80 Dates* and *Blessed Are the Meddlers*. Based in Dallas, Texas, she also weighs in on various aspects of pop culture on her personal blog. ChristaBanister.typepad.com



new releases

ALWAYS THE BAKER, NEVER THE BRIDE

Sandra D. Bricker
(Abingdon Press)



CHARLOTTE FIGG TAKES OVER PARADISE

Joyce Magnin
(Abingdon Press)



DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

Charlene Ann Baumbich
(WaterBrook Press)



GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREEN

Judy Pace Christie
(Abingdon Press)



HOMETOWN TIES

Melody Carlson
(David C. Cook)



LOVE, CHARLESTON

Beth Webb Hart
(Thomas Nelson)



LOVE REMAINS

Kaye Dacus
(Barbour Publishing)



THE PIRATE QUEEN

Patricia Hickman
(WaterBrook Press)



REINVENTING RACHEL

Alison Strobel
(David C. Cook)



RESURRECTION IN MAY

Lisa Samson
(Thomas Nelson)



Melody Carlson

Truth and Consequences



Prolific doesn't begin to describe Melody Carlson. Having written more than 90 books for all ages, she's releasing a dozen books this year alone—and teen girls gulp down her novels as fast as she writes them.

Her latest series, *On the Runway* (Zondervan), dives into the world of fashion and reality shows. Paige and Erin Forrester are two normal teenage girls living in LA. Sure, their mom is a producer for a local news station, but that only gives Paige an occasional chance to practice her wannabe star skills in front

of the camera while Erin picks up tips from the camera crew. When Paige turns a boring segment about a theme park into a fashion critique, the girls are given the opportunity to host their own fashion reality show.

But the stories are about much more than designer shoes and glitzy stars. First, the books are narrated by Erin, who prefers comfortable secondhand clothes to haute couture. She loves to take in the action behind a camera and let her sister revel in the limelight. She's the only Christian in her family, and while reluctant to get into the backstabbing world of fashion and reality shows, she sees what God can do with this opportunity.

Second, as Melody points out, the books have much more meat than their *Gossip Girl* counterparts. "I love to show what I call truth and consequences. I want to show girls making decisions and what happens as a result of their choices. We see Paige making some crazy choices and some of them are devastating not only to her but to everyone around her. And Erin makes some mistakes, even in her own faith walk, but she's trying to live a little bit differently."

The sisters' differences have roots in Melody's own past. "In some ways the relationship between Paige and Erin is very similar to the relationship I had with my sister. My sister would have been more of the Paige and I would have been more of the Erin. I came to faith before she did and kind

“I want to show girls making decisions and what happens as a result of their choices.”

of helped her come along and eventually she came along! In my little teenage mind I saw her as being kind of shallow and superficial and making some silly choices. Though this is a different generation, some things never change.”

The fourth book in the series, *Spotlight*, takes the sisters to London as the growing fame of their increasingly popular show hits home. The final two installments of the series release in 2011.

Writing so many novels a year has its challenges for the author. She only writes one book at a time, and prefers standalone novels to series. But, she says, “I know girls love series. They become so attached—the characters are real people to them.”

That’s one reason characters from her Carter House Girls novels pop up in the On the Runway books.

Another challenge is coming up with new ideas. “A few years ago I thought, *I’m done writing for teens; I don’t think I can write anything else.* The response I was getting from the teens was, *You’re not done.* And then more ideas and more books came.”



Spotlight
(On the Runway)
Melody Carlson
Zondervan

—Katie Hart

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



ACTION AND TRUTH

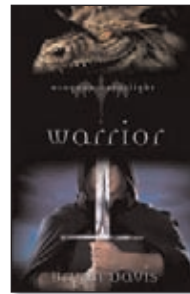
The Truth of the Matter (Thomas Nelson), third in **Andrew Klavan's** The Homelanders series, is coming this November:

Charlie West went to bed an ordinary high schooler and woke a year later in the clutches of terrorists and wanted by the police for the murder of his best friend. Now Charlie's found the one person who knows what happened during that missing year and can help him remember. Can he handle the truth?

This action-packed series has been described as "24 for teens." Summit Entertainment, makers of *Hurt Locker* and the *Twilight* movies, has optioned the Homelanders books for film. AndrewKlavan.com

DRAGONS FOR ALL

While **Bryan Davis'** first fantasy for adults comes out September (that would be *Masters & Slayers* from AMG), he still plans to keep his teen fans happy: January 2011 brings *Warrior* (Zondervan), second in the Dragons of Starlight series, where four teens struggle to save two worlds.



The action picks up with Jason and Koren traveling toward the mysterious Northlands while Elyssa and Wallace find a great secret located beneath the Zodiac. DragonsInOurMidst.com

ALTERATIONS ACROSS THE BORDER

January 2011 brings *Found in Translation* (Barbour), the first novel in a new mission-trip based series by debut author **Roger Bruner**. Doing construction in a

tiny village without plumbing or electricity isn't what 18-year-old Kim Hartlinger had in mind when she signed up for Mexico. Worse yet, the team is without a translator and Kim breaks her arm on their first day. Can God still alter hearts? RogerBruner.com



TWO MARYS

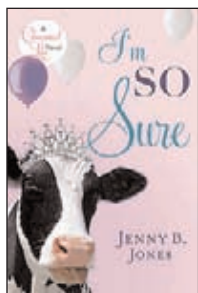
The latest from critically acclaimed author **Nikki Grimes**, *A Girl Named Mister* (Zondervan), brings together the stories of two young girls named Mary—one abandoned by her boyfriend, the other planning her Jewish wedding in Nazareth—whose lives are changed by a growing secret.



NikkiGrimes.com

YOUNG ADULT CAROL

In September, the American Christian Fiction Writers gave the 2010 Carol Award for Young Adult Fiction to *I'm So Sure* by **Jenny B. Jones** (Thomas Nelson).



The other finalists in the category were: *Who Made You a Princess?* by **Shelley Adina** (FaithWords); *Always Watching* by **Brandilyn & Amberly Collins** (Zondervan); *Unsigned Hype* by **Booker T. Mattison** (Revell); and *So Not Happening* by Jenny B. Jones (Thomas Nelson). ACFW.com

JET PACK ADVENTURE

J.S. Lewis, co-author of the bestselling Gray Griffins series, unveils his latest novel in

December 2010. *Invasion* (Thomas Nelson) is the first in the C.H.A.O.S. series.



“There has been a story calling to me for years,” Lewis says. “I finally had to stop everything and listen. The end result is this new trilogy about a young man who doesn’t realize one person can truly change the world. He wants to give up on life, but fate has something very different in store. Add some monsters, giant robots, and jet packs, and I couldn’t be more excited about the project.”



Visit the author online for news, art, teaching guides, and other resources. JonSLewis.com

—Katie Hart

new releases

A GIRL NAMED MISTER

Nikki Grimes

(Zondervan)



THE HEALER'S APPRENTICE

Melanie Dickerson

(Zondervan)



KATY'S DEBATE (KATY LAMBRIGHT)

Kim Vogel Sawyer

(Zondervan)



SIR QUINLAN AND THE SWORDS OF VALOR (KNIGHTS / ARRETHTRAE)

Chuck Black

(Multnomah)



SIR ROWAN AND THE CAMERIAN CONQUEST (KNIGHTS / ARRETHTRAE)

Chuck Black

(Multnomah)



DON'T KISS HIM GOOD-BYE (LONDON CONFIDENTIAL)

Sandra Byrd

(Tyndale House)



FLIRTING WITH DISASTER (LONDON CONFIDENTIAL)

Sandra Byrd

(Tyndale House)



MAGNA (SCENARIOS FOR GIRLS)

Nicole O'Dell

(Barbour Publishing)



TOURNAMENTS, COCOA AND ONE WRONG MOVE

Nancy Rue

(Zondervan)



THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER (THE HOMELANDERS)

Andrew Klavan

(Thomas Nelson)



VeggieTales

A Fresh Face for a Timeless Truth



The popular series VeggieTales regularly imparts biblical and moral lessons in a fun and engaging way. Now with *Sweetpea Beauty*, for the first time the lesson is directed specifically toward girls—teaching young viewers the truth about beauty.

For this project, Big Idea enlisted the help of singer-songwriter Nichole Nordeman, who contributes the end credits song, “Beautiful for Me.” The artist also performs the song in the music video, available as a bonus feature on the DVD.

Nordeman points to her favorite scene in *Sweetpea Beauty*: The title character is in the forest finding beauty in “all sorts of unconventional things that might not be considered beautiful to anyone else.” Prince Larry asks how she’s able to find beauty in everything; Sweetpea replies that she doesn’t—it’s God who sees beauty in everything. She just chooses to agree with Him.

“I thought that was a great way to look at ourselves,” Nordeman says. “God’s the One who sees us as beautiful, and we can either choose to agree and say, ‘Thank You, I feel cherished and loved,’ or disagree and work like crazy to improve on His work.”

The song “Beautiful for Me” is written from God’s perspective, which she admits is a tricky thing. “I so much wanted to capture that moment when a person realizes from the Lord’s vantage point how beautiful He really thinks she is,” Nordeman says. “How broken-hearted He must be when His own creation is so unhappy with the work He’s done and spends a lifetime trying to improve upon it. I just wonder if that doesn’t break His heart

“VeggieTales has a way of communicating things in an utterly unique way.”

a little bit. So I really wanted the song to capture how much He adores us and how we captivate Him because He made us in His image. I hope the song does that.”

Most importantly of all, *Sweetpea Beauty* speaks truth to girls and provides healthy influence for them. “The lesson itself is timeless and hardly new,” the songwriter says. “We’ve been talking about this as women and girls for years and years and years: true beauty, inner beauty, Godly beauty. But I think this will resonate deeply with a young audience because it’s VeggieTales, and they have a way of communicating things in an utterly unique way.

“For us moms, it’s a hugely important opportunity to sit with

your daughters and let this be a conversation starter. Sit down. Watch it together. Talk about maybe how you felt growing up. What were some things you weren’t crazy about the way you looked? And how do you feel about yourself now?

“I have always believed that moms who have healthy self-images have daughters who have healthy self-images.”



Nichole Nordeman

—Anna Robbins

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



THE BIBLE IN PICTURES, REDUX

Since 1979, *The Picture Bible* has brought the Bible alive. Now, David C. Cook brings the Bible alive for a new generation with *The Action Bible*, an updated version drawn by comic book artist **Sergio Cariello**. The artist recalls, “They called and asked, ‘Would you like to do *The Picture Bible*?’ I said, ‘Are you kidding? It’d be a lifetime achievement for me! I grew up with the *Picture Bible*!” The graphic novel took three years to complete, but for Cariello it was worth it to work on something, as he says, “relevant, with eternal value.”

TheActionBible.com



KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

Canadian author **Jenn Kelly** has woven together an *Alice in Wonderland*-type story about bubblegum-blowing birds, hairy-backed spiders, kangaroo meat and heroes—and she’s woven it out of... hair? Jackson Jones, the title character from *Jackson Jones: The Tale of a Boy, an Elf, and a Very Stinky Fish* (Zondervan), is about to get his greatest wish—to be a hero. But Jackson doesn’t enter a wardrobe or get taken away by a twister. No, he gets lost in his Aunt Harriet’s enormous hairdo. This fantasy is written in a tone reminiscent of Lewis Carroll or Lemony Snicket. JennKelly.com



TIMELESS TREASURE

Mandie and the Cherokee Treasure is second in the Mandie film series adapting the classic young adult mysteries by **Lois Gladys Leppard**. “The books have been around for about 30 years, which means they appeal to multiple generations,” producer **Owen Smith** explains. “We hear from a lot of mothers who read the books growing up and now share the books and movies with their own children.” MandieMovies.com



DON'T WAIT FOR THE MOVIE

With **C.S. Lewis’** *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* hitting theaters Dec. 10, HarperCollins has



a website encouraging young readers to “Read It Before You See It.” The site is filled with info about the individual Narnia books and C.S. Lewis, online games, trivia, and trailers for the movies, and even printable activities so you can “host your own *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* event.”

HarperCollinsChildrens.com/Feature/ChroniclesOfNarnia

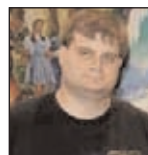
THREE TIMES THE POWER

Two new releases from Big Idea are the *Girl Power Triple Feature* and *Super Hero Triple Feature* DVDs. Each DVD showcases three previously released stories united by a common theme. *Girl Power* features Princess Petunia, Esther, and Madame Blueberry.

The *Super Hero* collection contains three classic Larry Boy adventures: *Larry Boy and the Bad Apple*, *Larry Boy and the Rumor Weed* and *Larry Boy and the Fib from Outer Space*.

Veggi-eTales also has two new audio CDs in October: *Bob and Larry Sing the 80s* and *Veggietales Christmas Sing Along*. For *Sing the 80s*—

follow-up to *Bob and Larry Sing the 70s*—the gang puts its spin on the likes of “Power of Love,” “Walk Like an Egyptian,” and “Gourds Just Want to Have Fun.” The *Christmas Sing Along* DVD features 10 holiday-themed songs from *The Toy that Saved Christmas* and *Saint Nicholas—A Story of Joyful Giving*. BigIdea.com



BEN AVERY

Ben Avery writes comic books, performs puppets, and plays Lego with his kids... and sometimes without them. He's the creator of the TimeFlyz series of graphic novels from Zondervan and the fantasy comic book series *ArmorQuest*. BenAvery.com

new releases

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS SHOW GOD'S LOVE

Mike and Jan Berenstain
(Zonderkidz)



THE BIG RED TRACTOR AND THE LITTLE VILLAGE

Francis Chan and Matt Daniels
(David C. Cook)



THE BOY WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Andy Andrews and Philip Hurst
(Tommy Nelson)



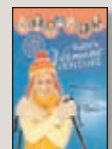
ALEXIS AND THE ARIZONA ESCAPADE (CAMP CLUB GIRLS)

Erica Rodgers
(Barbour Publishing)



KATE'S VERMONT ADVENTURE (CAMP CLUB GIRLS)

Janice Hanna
(Barbour Publishing)



THE DRAGON AND THE TURTLE

Paul, Denmark, Nguyen
(WaterBrook Press)



HALFWAY HERBERT

Francis Chan and Matt Daniels
(David C. Cook)



MY PRINCESS BIBLE

Andy Holmes and Sergey Eliseev
(Tyndale House)



ONE HAND, TWO HANDS

Max Lucado and Gaby Hansen
(Tommy Nelson)



SPINE CHILLERS MYSTERIES 3-IN-1

Fred Katz
(Tommy Nelson)



Dallas Jenkins

Scaling the Walls of the Culture



Storytelling runs in Dallas Jenkins' veins. The son of best-selling author Jerry B. Jenkins, he grew up surrounded by words. Although he hasn't followed in his father's footsteps as a novelist, Dallas is no less a teller of tales.

At age 25 he produced the \$2 million independent movie *Hometown Legend*. He's since produced or directed four feature films and two short ones, including *Midnight Clear* (starring Stephen Bald-

win) which won the Cinequest Film Festival's "Best First Feature" and "Audience Choice" awards. His latest movie, *What If...*, starring Kevin Sorbo, Kristy Swanson, Debby Ryan and John Ratzenberger, is already hitting select theaters.

As a believer, Jenkins is passionate about challenging the Christian community to become more involved in the entertainment business, but he resists the "Christian" label on his movies. "I'm not a fan of the terms *Christian* or *secular* for films," Dallas says. "They're purely marketing terms that I think come solely from the company that makes the film.

"However, I pretty much gave up the fight on *What If...* The film has a strong Christian tone and storyline throughout. Instead of trying to be cute about it, I just embraced all the Christian elements. Funny thing is, of all my films it's the one most liked by my non-Christian friends! I feel like God is smiling at me now, saying, 'All you had to do was relax and not worry about it.' I firmly believe non-Christian audiences don't care how explicit a movie is in its depiction of faith as long as it's good."

And *What If...* is remarkably good. A cross between *It's a Wonderful Life* and the TV-movie *Comfort and Joy*, it tells the story of Ben Walker (Sorbo), a man who has everything: the job, the car and the girl. He basks in his self-made success and isn't afraid to flaunt his toys. But what if he'd chosen a different path? What would his life have been like if he'd followed God's plan instead of his own?

“I firmly believe non-Christian audiences don’t care how explicit a movie is in its depiction of faith as long as it’s good.”

Making a movie is full of challenges, but Dallas and the crew experienced several on-set moments which can only be called “God stories.” Take the last night of filming: The crew was already behind schedule, and a rainstorm was coming. Filming was continuing indoors but they still had several outdoor shots to capture. They switched everything, hustled outside and got the shots in time to beat the rain.

“We ended up shooting longer than we’d expected and the sun came up just as we finished,” Dallas says. “A non-Christian crew member came up and said, ‘If it wasn’t for our fear of that rain storm, we wouldn’t have rushed outside, and we would have missed those outdoor night shots because the sun came up. Maybe God is helping us out here—this kind of thing has happened so many times.’”

Dallas tries to take it all in stride. “I learned so much about my relationship with God on this movie,” he says. “So many times I made a decision I was convinced was right, and then when it didn’t work out I was crushed. But the solution was so much better than my original idea every time. God really showed me how in control He is, and how His timing and plan is so much better than my own.”



What If...
Pure Flix Entertainment

—C.J. Darlington

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



LET IT SNOW

A Christmas Snow, the second feature film from Trost Moving Pictures, is now on DVD. **Catherine Mary Stewart** stars as a woman who finds herself stuck in her own home with two strangers during an unforgiving blizzard. Co-produced by **Jim Stovall** of *The Ultimate Gift* fame, a novelization (written by Stovall) will be published by Destiny Image. AChristmasSnow.com

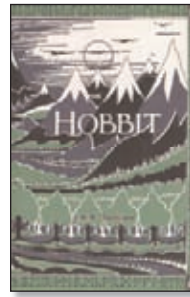
FAR, FAR AWAY

The epic works of **C.S. Lewis** and **J.R.R. Tolkien** are once again poised to return to



the big screen. Narnia fans have only to wait until December to watch the 3rd installment of their franchise, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Narnia.com

Tolkien fans will be waiting much longer: With the resignation of director **Guillermo Del Toro**, Warner Bros./New Line has once again asked **Peter Jackson** to return to Middle Earth for the two-film adaptation of *The Hobbit*. (As of press time, he hasn't said no.) If the deal works out, look for the films in 2012 and 2013. (One way or the other, they're reportedly already building the sets.)



BACK TO GENESIS

Could the Bible and science somehow both be right? A new movie named *The Genesis Code*, directed by **C. Thomas Howell** and starring

Catherine Hicks (*7th Heaven*), **Louise Fletcher** and former



Senator **Fred Thompson** seeks to answer this controversial question. The film opened in several test markets in August, and the moviemakers have been pleased with the response. Already garnering high praise from the Dove Foundation, we could see a nationwide release in the near future. TheGenesisCodeMovie.com

A NEW FRONTIER

Rebecca St. James' first feature movie *Sarah's Choice* was a huge success, and the musician-turned-actress has landed several new roles, including a part in the upcoming *Frontier Boys*.



With a sports/adventure storyline, the film revolves around four young guys on the brink of adulthood. Racism, loyalty, friendship, and faith are at the heart of the story. The trailer can be seen on the film's website. FrontierBoys.com

DISCARDED PICKED UP



Suspense author **Ronie Kendig's** novel *Nightshade*, first in the

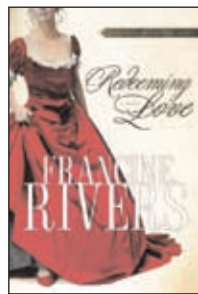
Discarded Heroes series, has been optioned by **Brad Keller** of Fireside Entertainment. *Romantic Times* says of the novel, "Heart-pounding action, intrigue, and handsome, fearless heroes combine as readers crisscross the globe following the exciting missions of the *Nightshade* team."

Plans are underway to pitch it as a TV military drama series with *Lori Twichell* of Beyond the

Buzz Marketing as primary writer. RonieKendig.com

A MOVIE REDEEMED

For years fans have asked **Francine Rivers** when a movie adaptation



of perennial best-seller *Redeeming Love* will be made. Finally, an answer—a film based on the book is in development with **Christy Lee Taylor** of Abba Productions. She's working with producer **Ralph Winter** to bring it to the big screen. They're still trying to pull together funding, but already have a well-known scriptwriter interested.

You can sign up for e-mail updates through their website, and stay up to date on Twitter and Facebook.

AbbaProductions.com

FrancineRivers.com

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

—C.J. Darlington

new releases

A CHRISTMAS SNOW
(Publisher)



ADVENTURES IN BOOGA BOOGA LAND
(Tommy Nelson)



LIKE DANDELION DUST
(Downes Brothers)



MANDIE AND THE CHEROKEE TREASURE
(Lost World Pictures)



MUCH ADO ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL
(Elevating Entertainment)



NIKKI & BABS: DOS AND DOUBTS
(Cloud Ten Pictures)



TO SAVE A LIFE
(New Song Pictures)



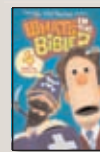
VEGGETALES: IT'S A MEANINGFUL LIFE
(Big Idea)



WHAT IF...
(Pure Flix Entertainment)



WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE: BATTLE FOR THE PROMISED LAND
(Tyndale Kids)



Robert Liparulo

Sending Readers Through Time



For six volumes now, readers of Robert Liparulo's Dreamhouse Kings series have been caught up in the adventures of the King family, a knuckle-whitening rollercoaster ride through different time periods and cultures.

The series recently wrapped up with *Frenzy*, out in paperback this November. Although marketed to teens, the books have struck a chord with readers young and old. "I believe adults like the books because I didn't try to

write for kids, as much as about them," the author told *The Big Thrill*. "I vowed to not 'write down' to young readers."

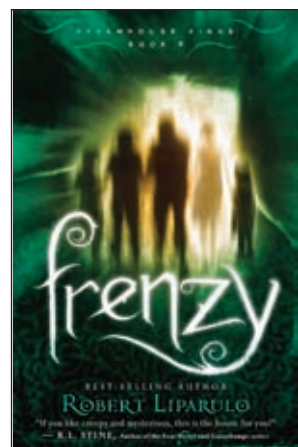
To make the time travel, Liparulo made a point to keep the rest of story grounded in reality: Everything the kids go through to rescue their parents—from the physical hurts to the emotional turmoil of their ordeal(s)—is realistic. The result is a pulse-pounding adventure that keeps readers turning the pages. "I hear over and over again from kids, especially boys, who say they hate reading but can't put these books down," Liparulo says.

Not only did books fly off shelves, but also led to a fan-penned music soundtrack; games inspired by the series; and a motion picture development deal.

Liparulo's next YA series, *Hunter*, features two teens trying to survive in a world in which most of mankind has been wiped out by a virus. "They have to find the cure before it mutates and kills everyone else—and before a band of bad guys finds it," Liparulo says. "Of course, it'll have a lot of adventure and suspense."

Don't think that means the end of the Kings: Each *Hunter* book will include a Dreamhouse Kings short story. Then, after *Hunter*? "I'm planning on writing another Dreamhouse series," Liparulo says. "Long live the Kings!"

—Anna Robbins



Frenzy
(Dreamhouse Kings)
Robert Liparulo
Thomas Nelson

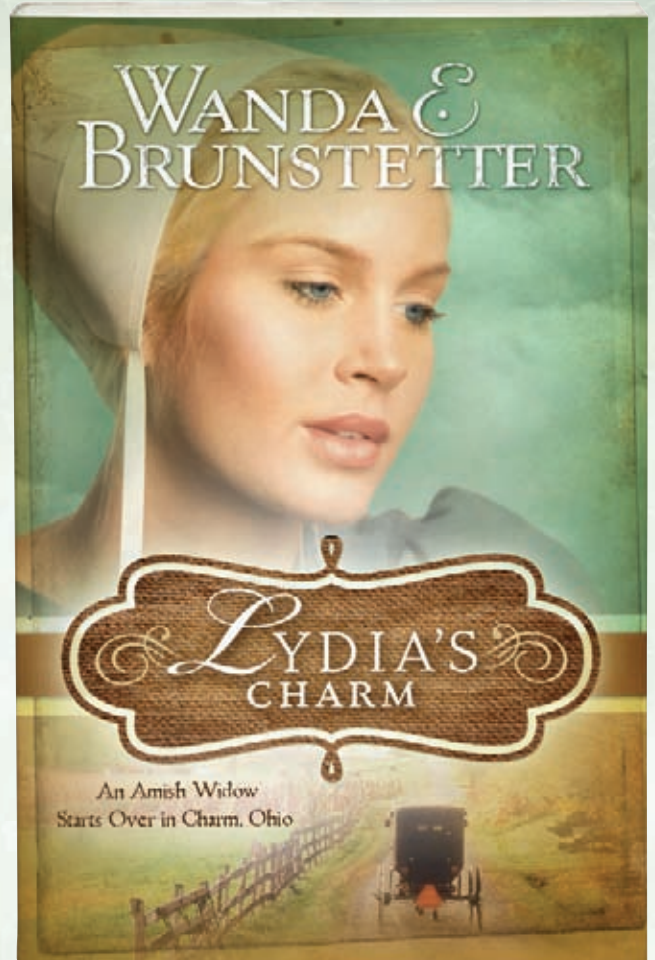
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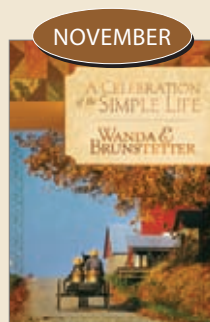


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Ask the Author: Donita K. Paul

After retiring early from teaching, Donita K. Paul began a second career as an award-winning author—best known for expertly weaving fantasy, romance and Biblical truths throughout her DragonKeeper Chronicles. Her latest books include *Dragons in the Valley*, the children's book *The Dragon and the Turtle*, and the change-of-pace *Two Tickets to the Christmas Ball*. The following questions were submitted through [Facebook.com/FamilyFiction](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction).



DONITA K. PAUL

“How did you come up with Amara, and the races, and different kinds of dragons and their abilities? And how many more books will you be writing?”

— Hannah Blessing Breckenridge

I'll answer the last question first. I will continue writing as long as God gives me ideas and a clear brain to process them into stories.

A lot of the process involves “what if?” One minute my mind is kind of drifting through a treasure trove of unrelated entities, then boom—several cluster together and become the germ of a novel. Something strikes me as interesting and I add or subtract from it.

The kid getting on the school bus is cute. Behind her a taller, older student has to give her a boost up to the first step.

(What if I added a snapping dog to this scene? What if I took away the helpful kid? What if the little girl is from a small race of people? What if they are getting on a boat instead of a bus? What if instead of a snappy dog, there is a warrior type snapping orders at the children?)

Her name should be simple. The boy's should be something that changes according to the time of day—in the morning he is *Ohimeo*, at noon he is *Himeo*, at night he is *Oemiho*. It has to do with his with his worship of the sun.

“How would you answer critics who say Christians should not read science fiction books? Is there a scriptural inspiration for each of your books?”

— Teri-Lynn Hook

I usually don't answer those critics. It depends on his or her tone of voice. Some of them reveal they only asked the question so they can enter a debate and “prove” their case.

If the questioner is legit, I will probably ask on what they base their views. Then I can usually say that I look at it differently and am confident God has blessed my ministry.

“Have you always had an interest in dragons?”

— Kimberli Campbell

Not at all. I was more interested in fairies as a little girl. We had a hollyhock stand in the backyard. My Grandma and I would pick hollyhocks and make them into fairy dolls. I don't like nasty, sharp-toothed, destructive dragons at all. But I do like dragons representing the different gifts that God gives people.

“How difficult is it to mix in the faith that is real (of our world) with the fantasy worlds you create in your novels, and make the perfect blend of truth amid fantasy?”

— Deena Ward Peterson

I started teaching Sunday school

when I was 13, so I have had a lot of practice in taking bits of doctrine down to the simplest terms for young people to understand. The funny thing is that when a teacher has to crystallize a concept to present it, that concept is deeply learned by the teacher.

I like to tell stories, so the Bible beliefs integrated themselves into the fantasy tales. I sometimes have someone check a concept to make sure I didn't miss the mark. Usually a pastor or Bible class leader. I'd hate to put a faulty twist on something that is meant to bless the reader and therefore confuse him or her.

“I heard once you wanted to write a time travel book. Any plans for that soon?”

— CJ Darlington

It sits very comfortably on the shelf in a half-done status. To tell you the truth, I don't have time right now. I am busy being the dragon lady. Perhaps when I am making a living at writing I'll feel more comfortable writing something just because I want to write it. Don't get me wrong—I love my dragon stories.

But last year after I finished *The Vanishing Sculptor*, I took six weeks off and just wrote what I wanted. That turned out to be *Two Tickets to a Christmas Ball*, a Christmas fantasy novella. **FF**



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