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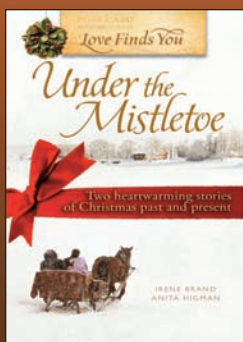
BACK TO NARNIA

Bringing Dawn Treader to the big screen

10 NEW VOICES IN CHRISTIAN FANTASY

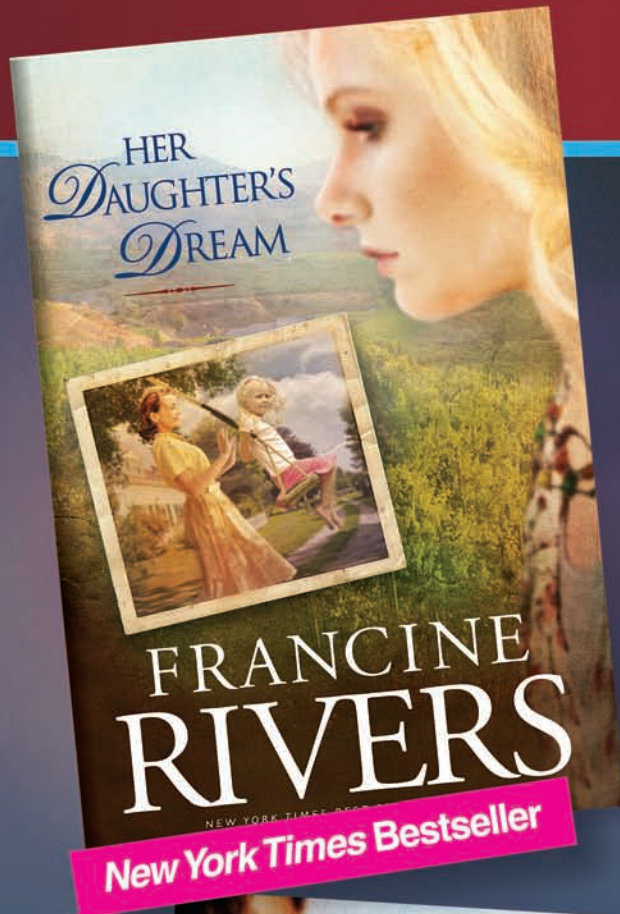
Ask the Author
BRANDILYN COLLINS

BERENSTAIN BEARS
Go To Church

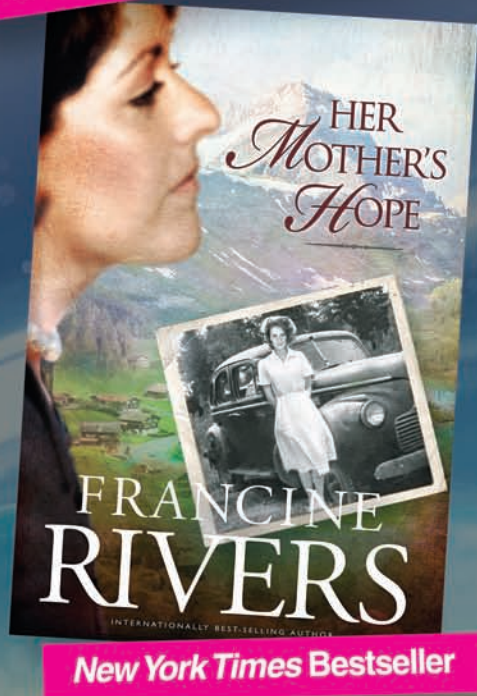


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Table of Contents

Words to the Wise	04
Feedback	06
Cover Story: Voyage of the Dawn Treader	10
Q & A: Randy Singer	18
Spotlight: Mesu Andrews	20
Christmas Gift Guide	21



DEPARTMENTS

26 Amish

Mindy Starns Clark

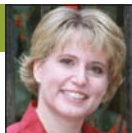
PLUS: Dale Cramer, Barbara Cameron, Amy Clipston, Beverly Lewis and more!



30 Historical

Karen Witemeyer

PLUS: Susan May Warren, Cathy Marie Hake, Lyn Cote, Susan Page Davis and more!



34 Suspense

Irene Hannon

PLUS: Travis Thrasher, Susan Sleeman, Rene Gutteridge, Mike Delloso and more!



38 Speculative

Jonathan Rogers

PLUS: Matt Koceich, Stephen Lawhead, Bryan Davis, INSPY nominations and more!



42 Romance

Rachel Hauck

PLUS: Lenora Worth, Elizabeth Goddard, Girls Write Out and more!



46 Contemporary

Don Reid

PLUS: Lisa Wingate, Sara Evans and Rachel Hauck, Nicole Baart and more!



50 Young Adult

Chuck Black

PLUS: Sandra Byrd, Eric Reinhold, Robert Liparulo, Melanie Dickerson and more!



54 Children's

Mike Berenstain

PLUS: Camp Club Girls, VeggieTales, Tales from the Back Pew and more!



58 Movie & DVD

Tracy J Trost

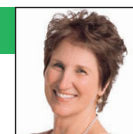
PLUS: *No Limit Kids: Much Ado About Middle School*, *Rust*, *Jerusalem Countdown* and more!



62 Christmas

Season's Readings

Francine Rivers, Melody Carlson, Donita K. Paul, Irene Brand and more!



ask the author! brandilyn collins

66

Popular suspense novelist Brandilyn Collins answers YOUR questions about how her Christian faith impacts the way she writes about good vs. evil, how she gets help with research, and more!



Words to the Wise

We Love to Hear From You!

As you flip through these digital pages, you may notice the addition of our Feedback section. This includes some of your responses to our debut issue, as well as a vigorous discussion captured from our page on Facebook. In fact, if you haven't been to our page on Facebook lately, you may have missed out on some of the topics of conversation:

"Who's your favorite author?"

"What qualifies a book as 'Christian Fiction?'"

"What books do you recommend in [Amish, Science Fiction, Historical, you name it] fiction?"

The fact is, there's pretty much something to discuss on our Facebook page nearly every day—because there's something new to talk about nearly every day. A piece of author news. A new book video trailer. An updated list of Christian fiction new releases coming out next month (or even next year).

On top of that, FamilyFiction try to stay active on Twitter as well. We send out updates several times (nearly) every day. Links to author news, author blogs, publisher updates – there's a lot of stuff to keep track of, and we do our best to share it with you 140 characters at a time. (Give or take.)

And, lest we forget, there's also our free email newsletter, **FamilyFiction Weekly**. It comes out—you guessed it—every week. Each issue is chock-ful of news, links, free downloads and more!

How to sign up for our newsletter: Go to **FamilyFiction.com**, find the appropriate box and type in your email address. How to find us on Facebook: Point your browser to **Facebook.com/FamilyFiction**. How to find us on Twitter: Click on over to **Twitter.com/FamilyFiction**.



CHRIS WELL

The fact is, *FamilyFiction* is all about getting you the news about Christian fiction. There's a lot of news, and we offer a lot of ways for you to hear about it. Be sure to join us!

Chris Well, editor
FamilyFiction

family
fiction

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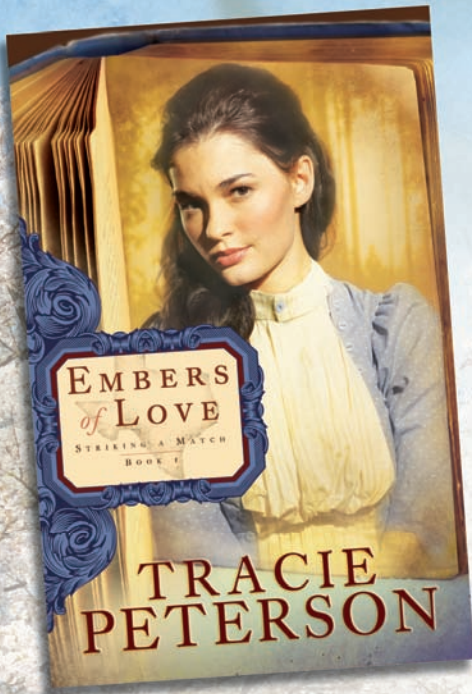
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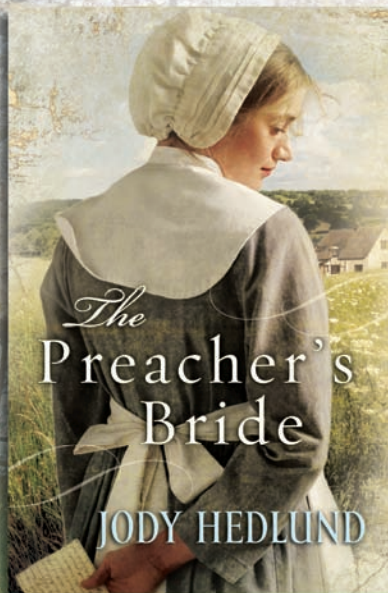
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Experience the Romance OF DAYS GONE BY

When Deborah Vandermark meets the new town doctor, conflicting desires awaken within her. Is it the man—or his profession—that has captured her heart?

Embers of Love by Tracie Peterson, STRIKING A MATCH # 1



She was determined to help a wounded family. He was determined to preach the truth. Neither expected to fall in love. But will following their hearts cost them everything?

The Preacher's Bride by Jody Hedlund



A world at war again. A horrific accident. And three lives forever intertwined. In the midst of God's silence, can faith and hope survive?

While We're Far Apart by Lynn Austin



When Adelaide Proctor, a recovering romantic, goes to work for a handsome Texas ranch owner, her heart's not the only thing in danger!

Head in the Clouds by Karen Witemeyer

THE TOP NAME
in *Inspirational Historical Fiction*

 BETHANYHOUSE

Feedback



I'm super impressed with the digital magazine and I love it! I definitely will be sharing it with my readers as new issues come out. You guys are doing a great job!

—MARGARET CHIND,
CREATIVEMADNESSMAMA.COM

I love it. It is a great publication and very informative. Thanks for the great job. You guys rock!

—KAREN PELPHREY-TURNER,
PORT ORANGE, FL

I liked that everything that everything was organized by genre. So, I didn't have to weed through titles I was not interested in, to titles I did like.

—BETH STONE, VIA
FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

I absolutely LOVE your magazine! Keep up the great work!

—DIANE HALE MOODY,
NASHVILLE, TN

Great new addition to the Christian reading community. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Congratulations. Looking forward to the 2nd issue.

—IAN ACHESON, VIA
FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Wonderful magazine, folks. Very informative!

—JOHN ROBINSON, CINCINNATI,
OH

Beverly Lewis was the very first Amish author that I read, and that has led to soooo many others. I think I now have an addiction to Amish fiction and haven't found an author yet that I don't love.

—SANDRA KACZANOWCKE, VIA
FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

I'd like it if there more fiction books on mid-life people. It seems so many are about very young adults!

—GAYLE LOGAN BROWN, VIA
FACEBOOK

I like the digital magazine, it just keeps playing the movie trailer over, and then the pages of the magazine are too small to read, even with zooming!

—ELSABE VENTER BUELL

An exciting new concept! Wishing you the best with this marvelous new online mag!

—MISTY TAGGART,
TRAILERTOTHESTARS.COM

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Where do you usually get your books?

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/149832935060704

What Christian fiction author was the most exciting discovery for you?

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/102380229828698

How do you find out about new Christian fiction releases?

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/110134129047758

Tell us YOUR favorite historical fiction and authors!

Facebook.com/topic.php?uid=236526068665&topic=13117

What authors and titles do you recommend for fans of speculative fiction, science fiction, or fantasy?

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KEEP IN TOUCH!

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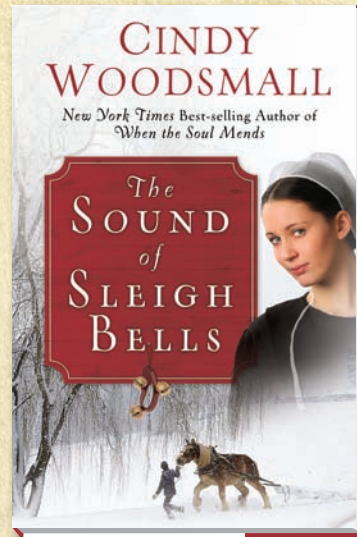
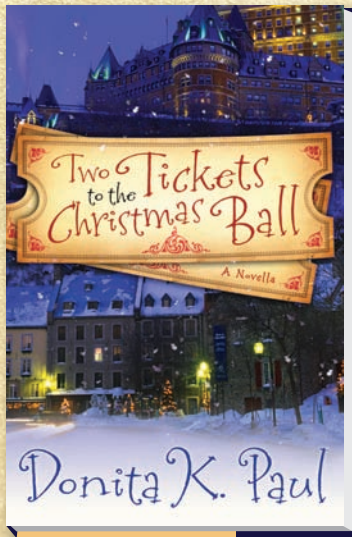
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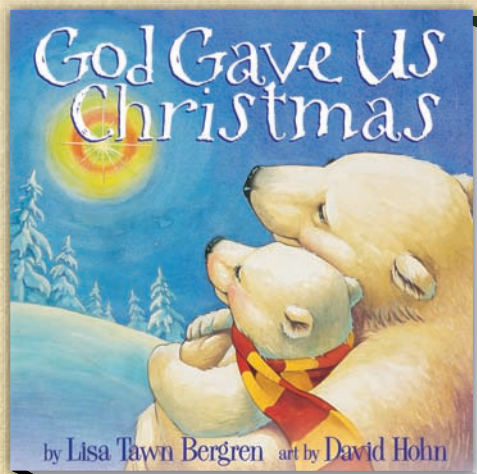
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These holiday novellas
will boost your Christmas spirit—

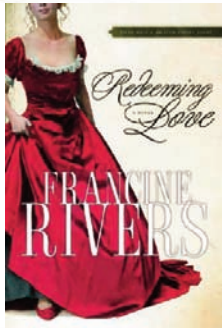


Gifts for everyone on your list—
no fruitcake-making necessary!

DIALOGUE

“Does Christian fiction need graphic language and/or content to make it more realistic?”

Cathy Schmunk Van Vliet



It depends on what you mean by “graphic.” Francine Rivers has some graphic scenes in *Redeeming*

Love and her Mark of the Lion series, and the books would not have had the same impact without them. If you have a gift like Francine you will know how to write powerfully without being overly graphic.

C.E. Moore, TheChristianManifesto.com

If Christianity is “the answer,” then the stories we tell should be grounded in the gritty reality of this world. We must not forget that fiction/parables can be used as an entry point for people to consider very real realities about who God is in this world.

Kym McNabney

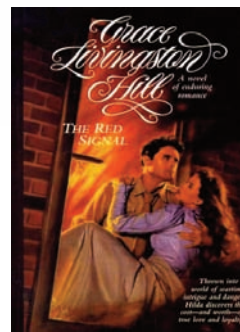
It needs to be realistic but done in a tasteful way that would honor God—in such a way that if my child picked up my book (as they often do) and started to read it, although they may not understand it, I wouldn’t have a problem with

it. It could actually lead to some important topics to be discussed.

Kylee Jo Hartzler

It’s the way it’s said, not what is said.

Bernadette Benkert Bingham



Grace Livingston Hill “implied” things. There’s such a thing as too much information.

Cynthia McCord

There are a few CF authors pushing the boundaries and I don’t read them anymore.

Buzz Dixon

Is it okay if Christian fiction is as graphic as the Bible itself?

Terri Whittington-Haynes

Fiction is to mirror real life, but it doesn’t have to be exactly like it.

Andi Newberry

There is a difference between “graphic” or “foul” language and realistic content. If authors didn’t write about these kind of issues, how do

you think we’re going to reach those who are hurting or not Christians? Don’t you think they deserve to know there is hope and healing out there?

Susan Fryman

Christian fiction should edify us not tear us down. We should all limit the “bad” input into our lives as much as possible. We are much better people for it.

Lisa Reber



I think of *The Passion of the Christ*: It will probably be the closest reflection of the

crucifixion we get, but I won’t let my kids see it until they are ready.

Wayne White

Read 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings for graphic depictions that are still biblically sound!

See all the responses at:

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/141332845913804

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A Strange, Beautiful New Narnia



Making the “Chronicles of Narnia” movies has been no easy feat. In fact, it’s basically consumed 15 years of Douglas Gresham’s life. But the keeper of all things Narnia, who is also C.S. Lewis’ stepson, clearly loves what he does, and all that hard work will come to fruition with the December 10th release of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. **By Christa A. Banister**

Narnia is about to get a whole lot weirder—and even more beautiful—for *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the third chapter in the popular C.S. Lewis series.

Not wanting to give away too many secrets before the film hits theaters nationwide on December 10, Douglas Gresham will say this: “I think what people can expect from the third Narnia movie is excitement and beauty. It’s a very beautiful film to look at.”

Beyond developing the film’s rich aesthetic quality, Gresham says the beauty isn’t just skin deep, though. What’s always been the hallmark of C.S. Lewis’ writing is the way that faith is subtly but meaningfully worked in.

“There are a lot of extremely valuable lessons this time around, particularly in regard to temptation,” Gresham shares. “Basically, it does what Narnia does best. It transmits the essential, life-affirming messages that everyone needs to learn in an entertaining story.”

Describing himself as “sort of a Narnia watchdog or policeman,” it’s Gresham’s

responsibility to be the sole guardian of his stepfather’s work, a task that’s certainly not been easy. Still, it’s a challenge he’s been proudly invested in.

“My biggest job is to make sure Narnia remains Narnia onscreen in these movies. I try to ensure that everything appears onscreen in Narnia is a genuine Narnian possibility or event,” Gresham says. “And I think this film, that Narnian feel is very much there.”

VOYAGE TO NARNIA

Centering around the two younger Pevensies, Edmund and Lucy, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* marks a few firsts in the Narnia series. Not only is it the first in the series that will utilize 3-D technology, but it’s the first that will feature a slew of magical creatures including dwarfs, dragons and merpeople.

Picking off where *Prince Caspian* left off three years after Caspian became king, Lucy (played by Georgia Henley) and Edmund (Skander Keynes) are staying with their rather annoying, unpleasant cousin Eustace Scrubb (Will Poulter) while their older sister





Susan (Anna Popplewell) is traveling through America with their parents and their older brother Peter (William Moseley)

is studying for university exams.

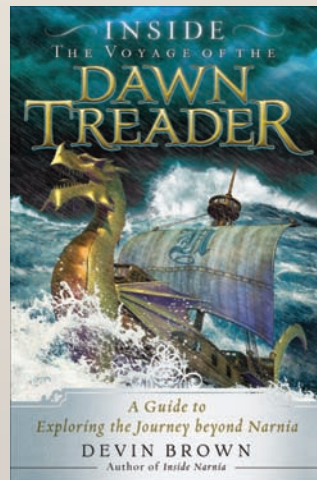
Then when seems like a routine visit with family abruptly changes when Lucy, Edmund, and yes, even ol' Eustace are captivated—and eventually drawn back to Narnia—by a neglected picture of a ship at sea that had been given to Eustace's family as a gift.

Although Eustace never believed in Narnia before, he quickly becomes a believer when the children land in the ocean near that pictured boat, The Dawn Treader. As it turns out, the ship belongs to Caspian, the new King of Narnia.

But Narnia wouldn't be Narnia without a battle between good and evil, and *Voyage of*

continued

NARNIA'S NEWEST EDITIONS



For anyone hoping to revisit the Narnia series (or may be reading for the first time), there are new versions of the beloved series (including *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*) being released in conjunction with the new film.

Utilizing artwork from the movie, the original novel with different packaging will likely draw in a new generation of C.S. Lewis devotees.

Readers wanting a deeper look at the faith that anchors Narnia will probably also enjoy author Devin Brown's *Inside the Voyage of the Dawn Treader: A Guide to Exploring the Journey Beyond Narnia* (Baker).

As a C.S. Lewis scholar who teaches classes about his work as Asbury University and has been regularly writing and lecturing about Lewis for 15 years, Brown not only helps untangle the deeper meaning behind the pages, but provides supplemental information on Lewis's life and other writings.

In the book's endorsement section, Michael Flaherty, the president of Walden Media who has been key for getting the Narnia series to the big screen says this: "If Edmund were to finally receive a belated gift from Father Christmas, he would be lucky if it were a copy of my good friend Devin Brown's book. Like Lewis, Devin is somebody who adores great stories and effortlessly weaves them throughout his book. As a result, upon finishing Devin's book the reader is hungry not only to read more of Lewis, but to read more great literature. This book will surely be banned at Experiment House." **FF**

FALL INTO GREAT FICTION



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

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the Dawn Treader definitely follows suit. Even though Narnia is peaceful when the story begins, it doesn't take long for things to grow corrupt when the Narnians begin falling prey to less than Narnia ideals, particularly with slave trade.

"What's always been one of the most important parts of what I do is to make sure the themes of these books reappear in the film," says Gresham. "And this time around, the message of trying to live a right life couldn't be more relevant. One of the things that I think often gets lost in modern times is the understanding that one never knows how strong temptation can be once you've met it and defeated it, and that's the message of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*."

PRAYING IT OUT

So how did Gresham prepare himself for such an arduous task, one that's scrutinized and debated regularly about on online message forums, Facebook and the like?

"Well, I pray a lot," says Gresham with a laugh. "With the books, everything is done verbally with words, of course, and with

movies, everything must translate visually. So the transition from one medium to the other is a difficult process."

Even more complicated is writing the screenplay, which goes through several incarnations before shooting even begins. "You don't even want to know how many different drafts there are," Gresham says. "But the end result makes it absolutely worth all the work and deliberation."

As for how he thinks he's fared with the Narnia movies, something he's dreamt about since he first read *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* at age nine, he hopes that C.S. himself would be happy with what he's done.

"If he wasn't, I would've basically wasted 15 years of my life," Gresham says matter of factly. "But aside from maybe a couple of minor, minor things that you can't help but notice later on, I think he'd really be happy with it and love to see how far technology has come since his day."

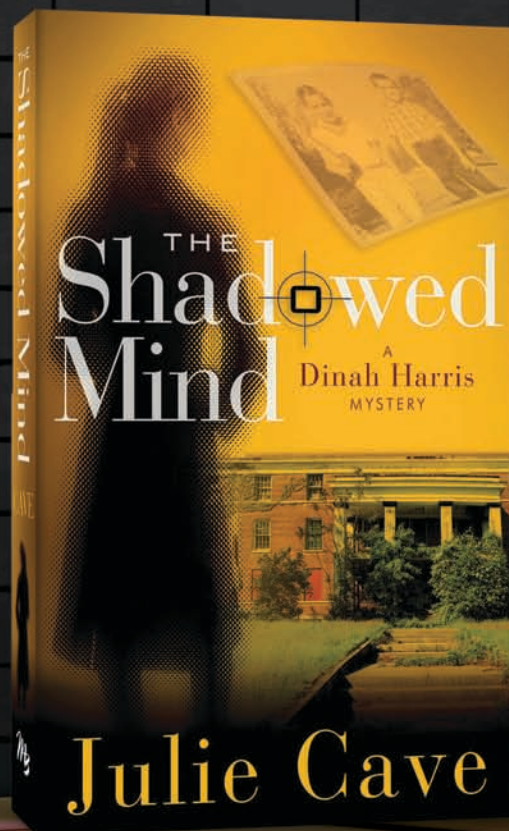
For more information about how the Narnia stories and faith intersect, check out NarniaFaith.com. **FF**

WHO SHOULD LIVE WHO SHOULD DIE.

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10 NEW VOICES IN CHRISTIAN FANTASY

Although the epic fantasies *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Lord of the Rings* cast a large shadow over the field, there are actually several fine authors in the field today writing fantasy fiction with a Christian worldview. Here are 10 notable examples.

Bryan Davis



Author of the *Dragons in Our Midst* and *Oracles of Fire* series, Bryan Davis won the 2010 Clive Staples Award for *The Bones of Makaidos* (AMG). His latest books are *Masters & Slayers: Tales of Starlight* (AMG) and *Warrior:*

Dragons of Starlight (Zondervan).
DavisCrossing.com

Donita K. Paul



Donita K. Paul's popular *DragonKeeper Chronicles* series includes the 2005 Christy Award-nominee *DragonSpell*, the 2007 ACFW winner *DragonKnight*, and the 2009 Clive Staples Award winner *DragonLight*. Her

latest fantasy is *Dragons of the Valley* (WaterBrook). DonitaKPaul.com

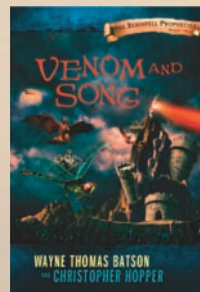
Wayne Thomas Batson



A middle school reading teacher, Wayne Thomas Batson's novels include *Isle of Swords*, *Isle of Fire*, and *The Door Within* Trilogy. His latest book is *Sword in the Stars* (AMG), book one in *The Dark Sea Annals* series.

EnterTheDoorWithin.blogspot.com

Christopher Hopper



A modern day renaissance man, Christopher Hopper is an author, recording artist, youth pastor, discipleship school president and motivational speaker for schools across the US and Europe. His latest fantasy, co-written with

Wayne Thomas Batson, is *Venom and Song* (Thomas Nelson).

ChristopherHopper.com

Jonathan Rogers



Author of the acclaimed **The Charlatan's Boy** (WaterBrook), Jonathan Rogers grew up in Georgia, where he spent many happy hours in the swamps and riverbottoms on which the wild places of *The Charlatan's Boy* are based. He

holds a Ph.D. in seventeenth-century English literature from Vanderbilt University.

Jonathan-Rogers.com

Jill Williamson



A prolific webmaster, Jill Williamson maintains a number of popular Web pages. Her fantasy *By Darkness Hid* (Marcher Lord), won the 2010 Christy Award for Visionary fiction.

JillWilliamson.wordpress.com

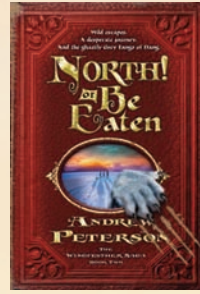
Jeffrey Overstreet



An award-winning film critic and columnist, Jeffrey Overstreet's Auralia Thread series launched with *Auralia's Colors*, a thrilling adventure twice-nominated for a Christy Award. His latest fantasy is *Raven's Ladder* (WaterBrook).

LookingCloser.org/Fiction

Andrew Peterson



Critically acclaimed singer/songwriter/author Andrew Peterson was honored with a 2010 Christy Award for Young Adult Fiction for *North! Or Be Eaten* (WaterBrook), the second book in The Wingfeather Saga series.

Andrew-Peterson.com

Anne Elisabeth Stengl



An art teacher, Anne Elisabeth Stengl made her fiction debut novel with the acclaimed *Heartless* (Bethany House), the first volume in the Tales of Goldstone Wood. Its follow-up, *Veiled Rose*, will be available summer 2011.

AnneElisabethStengl.blogspot.com

C. S. Lakin



C. S. Lakin is a novelist and professional copyeditor. Her fantasy series The Gates of Heaven launched in August with *The Wolf of Tebron* (AMG). Soon to follow are *The Map across Time* and *The Land of Darkness*,

allegorical fairy tales drawing from classic tales we all read in our childhood.

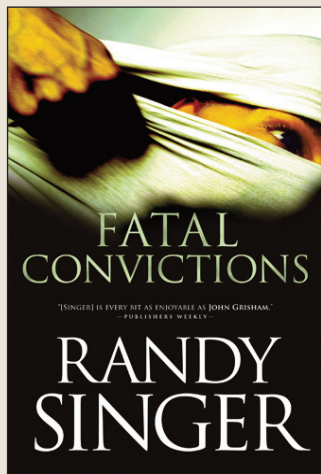
CSLakin.com **FF**

Q & A: Randy Singer

Randy Singer splits his time between being a critically acclaimed author, veteran trial lawyer, and ministry leader—and regularly calls upon all three facets for his fiction. His latest legal thriller is *Fatal Convictions* (Tyndale House).

Q: What inspired you to write FATAL CONVICTIONS?

My idea for the book came when I asked this question: *What makes To Kill A Mockingbird the best legal thriller of all time?* My answer: Because Atticus Finch performed the highest duty of a lawyer, representing a man he believed was innocent, a man nobody else would defend. Then I asked a related question: *What would that look like today?* My answer was *Fatal Convictions*: a Christian lawyer defending a Muslim imam accused of honor killings?



Q: How much of yourself do you put in these characters?

When a lawyer/pastor writes a story about a lawyer/pastor, such as in *Fatal Convictions*, readers probably assume that many aspects of the main character track my life. That assumption would be incorrect. Other than our occupations, Alex Madison and I have little in common. Among other things, I'm not as theatrical and gimmick-driven as he is. I certainly don't engage in the same shameless solicitation of clients—I'd prefer to keep my law license.

However, there are often details about my life and cases that show up in my books. For example, I recently represented the victim's daughters in a case where their stepmother had poisoned their father with liquid morphine and other narcotics (the stepmother was a hospice nurse). Some of the things I learned about forensic toxicology in that representation showed up in *The Justice Game*. Also, my stories typically take place in Virginia Beach (where I live) so the "slice of life" scenes tend to be based on the patterns of my life.

Q: You are a novelist AND a pastor AND a lawyer—aside from making for a crowded business card, to what extent do these three facets of your professional life complement each other, and how often do they get tangled up?

Actually, though they seem very different, these three occupations work together quite well. I love being a lawyer and a pastor and there is a lot more similarity in skill set than it seems on the surface. For example, both involve advocacy (we call it preaching in church) and counseling. Also, our church believes in a concept called the priesthood of believers. There is no spiritual hierarchy with pastors at the top and lawyers at the bottom. When I go to work on Monday (like my parishioners do), it helps symbolize that our workplace is ministry. My law practice is just as much a ministry as being a pastor.

As for the writing side of my life, good trial lawyers are good storytellers. You also meet a lot of interesting people as clients. And, since the life of a trial lawyer is a life of constant conflict, incorporating tension into my stories seems pretty natural for me.

The main difficulty comes in trying to find balance. Seems like there is always a crisis

brewing someplace. And then there's the tendency to feel guilty. When I'm at the law office, I think I should be at the church and vice versa. And, of course, I don't get a lot of sleep. I can do that when I'm dead.

Q: When starting a story, which of those three facets tends to start the process first? (At what point of the process do the other two facets join in?)

Interesting question. Sometimes the process starts with my involvement in or my exposure to an interesting legal case and I build the story from there. Sometimes, the story starts because I'm intrigued with a certain spiritual concept and I build the legal framework around that.

For example, *Fatal Convictions* began with the question of how best to illustrate a lawyer's duty to advocate for an unpopular client even if that costs the lawyer his reputation, career and prestige. On the other hand, in *By Reason of Insanity*, I began with the question of whether God still speaks to people through visions and dreams. I thought the best way to approach this was through a legal thriller dealing with somebody who proclaimed to be a recipient of visions from God about serial murders. The defense attorney—not a believer—had to wrestle with the question of whether they were truly visions from God or just the delusional rantings of a woman with a Dissociative Identity Disorder.

Q: From the get-go, FATAL CONVICTIONS probably presses a lot of buttons for readers. When you write your fiction is your first goal to minister to your readers, to entertain them, or to make them think?

It's a blend of all three. My ultimate hope is to entertain readers while confronting them with biblical truths on controversial issues. However, I know that writing an

entertaining book is the price of admission. If the book doesn't entertain, nobody will read it and the other goals will never materialize.

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

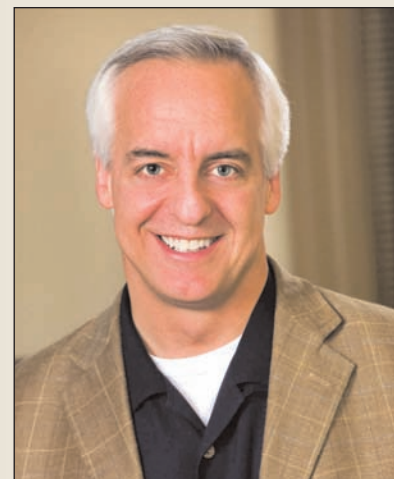
One, a better understanding of the Islamic faith. Two, a better understanding of why a lawyer might represent a person that the public has already condemned as guilty. Three, the differences between Islam and Christianity. And fourth, for Christian readers, a thankfulness that Christ became our advocate even though we were guilty under the law.

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

For *Fatal Convictions*, I love two comments from reviewers. One said that it helped him understand the Christian ideas of love and grace. Another said that it made her search her heart for any prejudices towards persons of other faiths.

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

Since authors always like to think of themselves as being creative, this review hurt a little bit: "Same old routine format with a bit of idiocy thrown in." But since I'm a glass-half-full type of guy, I comforted myself by noting that I didn't only give readers the "same old routine format." I was at least creative enough to throw in a bit of idiocy as well. **FF**



RANDY SINGER
RandySinger.net

Mesu Andrews

Looking for Mrs. Job



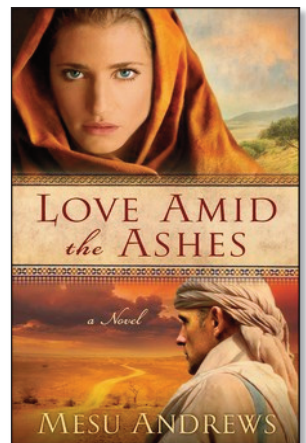
Readers often think of Job sitting on the ash heap, his life in shambles. But how did he get there? What was Job's life like before tragedy struck? What did he think as his world came crashing down around him? And what was life like after God restored his wealth, health, and family?

An old-fashioned case of curiosity is exactly what propelled Mesu Andrews' latest novel, *Love Amid the Ashes* (Revell), into motion.

After searching through a slew of Bible commentaries for details about Job's wife, Mesu not only began wondering why she wasn't mentioned in more detail, but also started investigating a bit more about Job himself. "I tried to find out if anyone named Job's wife, because there are certain mysterious women mentioned in Scripture that are made even more mysterious by their anonymity," Mesa shares. "Job's wife is one of those women.

"As I delved further into Job's story, I became more intrigued with his attitude—and God's response to his attitude. I have struggled with fibromyalgia since 1997 and daily migraines since 2005, so I know a little bit about suffering. As I let Scripture teach me, I learned some encouraging truths about God's intimate relationship with those who suffer."

In *Love Amid the Ashes*, the story of stalwart faith in the midst of trying circumstances is woven together by using Job's story, along with the account of those in Esau's tribe and Jacob's daughter, Dinah, the focal point for this fascinating story that explores familiar biblical passages in a new way.



Frenzy

Mesu Andrews

Revell

MesuAndrews.com

—Christa A. Banister



'TIS THE SEASON

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR! The holidays are fast approaching, and if you're like many people, you could use a bit of inspiration when it comes to shopping for the friends and family on your list. Never fear! We've rounded up some of the year's hottest gifts for your consideration right here.

Former editor of *McCall's* magazine and *The Ladies' Home Journal* Lenore Hershey once prodded, "Do give books—religious or otherwise—for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal." Books are the perfect Christmas gifts, and from Bibles to biographies, we've got a wonderful selection. And should you have a music lover to buy for, we can help on that front, too.

Read on through this gift guide to find the perfect items to fill your stockings and wrap under the tree. **HERE'S WISHING YOU AND YOURS A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS!**





Casting Crowns
Until the World Hears LIVE

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

IF YOU HAVE A MUSIC LOVER ON YOUR LIST THIS YEAR, YOU'RE IN LUCK! THE DOVE AWARDS' REIGNING ARTIST OF THE YEAR, **CASTING CROWNS**, RECENTLY RELEASED THEIR NEW LIVE PROJECT, *Until the Whole World Hears LIVE*, GIVING MILLIONS OF FANS A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO EXPERIENCE THEIR PLATINUM-SELLING MUSIC AND DISCIPLESHIP.

RECORDED AT THE GREENSBORO COLISEUM, IN GREENSBORO, N.C., EARLIER THIS YEAR with additional footage from shows at North Charleston Coliseum (North Charleston, S.C.) and the Von Braun Center (Huntsville, Ala.), *Until the Whole World Hears LIVE* captures the band's unforgettable 2009/2010 "Until the Whole World Hears" national concert tour, during which Casting Crowns entertained and worshiped with over 350,000 fans in 82 cities. As did the tour, this live two-disc set shares the heart and story of such songs as "If We've Ever Needed You," "Glorious Day" and the No. 1 hit single "Until the Whole World Hears."

The 54-minute *LIVE* concert DVD includes an additional 80 minutes of behind-the-scenes content and features Casting Crowns' new "Until the Whole World Hears" music video. The music video spotlights fan-submitted clips of audiences singing the anthemic song, literally all across the globe. Additionally, DVD highlights include "Mark Hall's Teaching Video Series" and the "Adopting Hope" story, which details the Halls' heartwarming journey to bring home their 33-month-old daughter, Meeka Hope, from China. The five devotional-styled video lessons led by lead singer/songwriter, author and pastor Mark Hall, give viewers a deeper look at the biblical studies and personal stories that have inspired the band's message-driven songs for the family.

Casting Crowns also reveals secrets of the road, with a peek into the

creative daytime activities of the seven band members in clips titled "Laser Tag" and "Cornhole." Remaining chapters provide new interviews with the band and "The Crew," a look at the growing family in "Crowns' Kids," an introduction to Brian Scoggin in "Our New Drummer" and the last word with "Inside Scoop: Two Minutes with Mark's Parents."

Appearing on the *LIVE* CD are eight live versions of the band's new songs: "Until the Whole World Hears," "If We've Ever Needed You," "Glorious Day," "Mercy," "To Know You," "Holy One," "Blessed Redeemer" and "At Your Feet."

As many Christian music fans already know, GRAMMY, AMA, and Dove Award-winning Artist of the Year, Casting Crowns is headed by frontman/principal songwriter Mark Hall. Despite an unprecedented six-year career with Casting Crowns, the seven band members remain active in student ministry in the Atlanta area and tour part-time around their local church duties. Serving his 18th year in youth ministry, Hall is the student pastor at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Atlanta.

A remarkable fact fans may not readily know is that Casting Crowns performed for a second time in North Korea in April 2009, in partnership with Global Resource Services, as the band continues to forge invaluable relationships with the people in the D.P.R.K. Also, the band's tours are responsible for uniting more than 50,000 children with sponsors through humanitarian outfit World Vision.





CASTING CROWNS

UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD HEARS...LIVE ON DVD+CD

EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC AND MINISTRY OF CASTING CROWNS

SEE THE UNFORGETTABLE CONCERT EXPERIENCE

GO BACKSTAGE AND MEET THE FAMILY OF CASTING CROWNS

HEAR THE HEART AND STORY AND TEACHINGS OF MARK HALL

DVD+CD



WWW.CASTINGCROWNS.COM
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @CASTINGCROWNS OR @MARKHALLCC

Tommy Nelson CHILDREN'S BOOKS

BABES IN TOYLAND

CHARLES DICKENS ONCE OBSERVED, "IT IS GOOD TO BE CHILDREN SOMETIMES, AND NEVER BETTER THAN AT CHRISTMAS, WHEN ITS MIGHTY FOUNDER WAS A CHILD HIMSELF." AND TOMMY NELSON HAS A COLORFUL SELECTION OF WHOLESOME, ENTERTAINING BOOKS, BIBLES AND VIDEOS FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE, BE THEY YOUNG OR OLD.



At the top of each parent's wish list for their little ones this Christmas are titles from bestselling authors, such as Andy Andrews and Max Lucado. Andrews knows that every parent believes their child will change the world, and the truth is every child can! **The Boy Who Changed the World** reveals the incredible truth that everything YOU do matters—what you did yesterday, what you do today, and what you will do tomorrow. Every choice you make, good or bad, can make a difference. In this engaging tale, bestselling author Andy Andrews shows children that every action, however big or small, can have a ripple effect around the world.



Also part of the *Outlive Your Life* campaign, **One Hand, Two Hands**, by Max Lucado, is a delightful way to show little ones how their hands are a blessing from God that they can use to help others. Written in rhyming text and charmingly illustrated, this simple message of God's blessing of hands not only entertains but also conveys an important message: Even the smallest children can use God's gift of hands to show their love for Him by helping others.



Does your little one know all the wonderful things God has promised them? **God's Promises for Boys** and **God's Promises for Girls** by Jack Countryman and Amy Parker help your children hide God's word in their hearts. These books communicate the promises God made just for them: to offer comfort and encouragement when he or she is feeling afraid, lonely, worried, angry, dissatisfied, discouraged, sad, rebellious, impatient or sick; to be there when they need reassurance of God's protection, love, forgiveness and help; and to listen when they pray. Presented in adorable editions created just for little girls and boys with charming illustrations, they won't want to turn the page!



Based around his newest book for adults, *Outlive Your Life*, Max Lucado's **You Were Made to Make a Difference** was co-written with his daughter, Jenna Lucado Bishop. This book for tweens and teens inspires and offers ideas for making a difference in the world right now and is full of practical tips and scripture to back them up, along with real-life stories about some who have done just that. Teens learn that God can use them to make a difference right now. He wants to use them today, without waiting for them to be older, stronger, richer or even more "together." God can use their minds, their spirits and their hands and feet to make permanent change for His kingdom. Teens will learn that their role in life is bigger than themselves, and that they're not too young to make a difference for God.



Introducing the **Big Red Bible 3D**, the Bible kids will want to read. Chock-full of brand new 3D video game-inspired art, the classic Bible stories in the Big Red Bible come to life like never before for today's young readers. Kids will love having a Bible to take to church that's not only easy-to-read and understand, but a blast to look at as well!



Books Available in stores now!

Kids who are readers will become leaders! Give the gift of reading for Christmas!

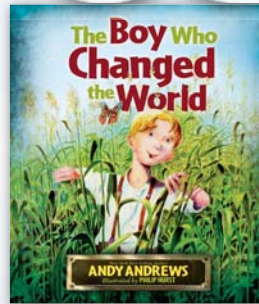


New Bibles for children of all ages! Perfect gifts for your loved ones!

Share God's Promises with the little ones you love the most!



A wonderful, inspiring story of how one small boy made a huge impact!



Bestselling author Max Lucado teaches kids how they can make a difference!



For little ones ages 3-8

New releases from our bestselling children's brands!



READ AND SHARE



For your tween or teen!



Find out more at www.TommyNelson.com!

Mindy Starns Clark

Following Her Curiosity



When you pick up a novel by Mindy Starns Clark, it's likely you're going to learn something new.

A prolific writer of textbooks, stage musicals and nonfiction books, even her mysteries are often built around ideas that require a lot of research—including household hints (her Smart Chick Mysteries series), non-profits organizations (Million Dollar Mysteries), and now with her latest novels, Amish country.

“I follow my curiosity when it comes to plotting,” she says, “putting into my stories elements that would make for a

great tale and that I find fascinating and want to study further. That means that I always end up doing a *ton* of research for every book.”

However, she points out, one risk of the process is the possibility of biting off too much: For example, her complex plot for *Shadows of Lancaster County* required a full understanding of Amish life, genetics and DNA manipulation, and Napoleonic history. “Any one of which would’ve been a challenge,” Mindy admits, “but all three at once nearly killed me! I managed to do it, but not without plenty of all-nighters, not to mention a few new gray hairs.”

Her latest novel, *Secrets of Harmony Grove* (Harvest House), is a romantic mystery set in Amish country.

Although set in the present day, it still required the author to learn all about World War II and the Holocaust for the backstory.

“The genesis for *Secrets of Harmony Grove* actually came from my research about the Amish, both for *Shadows of Lancaster County* and for my nonfiction book *A Pocket Guide to Amish Life*. The more I learn about the Amish, the more I really respect and understand them.

“But one element of their faith I have trouble comprehending is their stance on nonviolence, especially as I read about Amish conscientious objectors during times of war. Certainly, I know Jesus’ words about turning the other cheek, but my question became, *What*

“I always end up doing a ton of research for every book.”

if it's not your cheek that needs turning? Are you supposed to remain nonviolent even when it's someone else being persecuted?”

Her questions got her to thinking about the Holocaust—wondering how conscientious objectors justified not taking up arms against Hitler. “Suddenly, I had this image of an Amish man being present at the liberation of a concentration camp, seeing the horrors perpetrated there, and asking himself those same questions. The whole story grew up from that.”

The character she envisioned ended up being her protagonist's grandfather, an Amish man who served as a WWII non-combatant army medic and helped care for the prisoners liberated from Buchenwald. “Though we never experience

things through his eyes in the book, the impact of what he saw and how it changed him has had long-lasting effects through subsequent generations of his family. Even the hidden treasure in this story ties in with Nazi Germany.

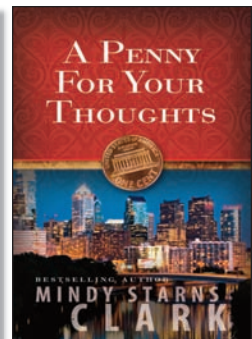
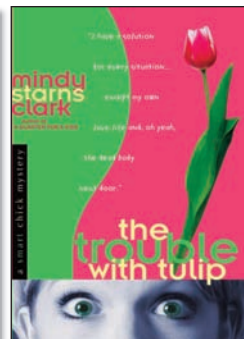
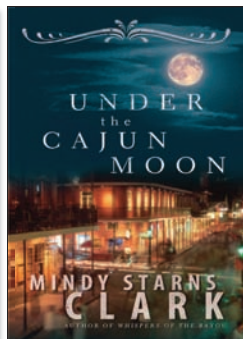
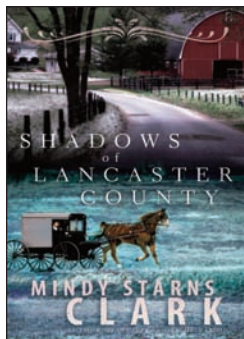
“It was one of the most emotionally-difficult research topics I've ever faced, but also one of the most rewarding stories I've ever written.”



Secrets of Harmony Grove
Mindy Starns Clark
Harvest House
MindyStarnsClark.com

—Chris Well

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS



Hitting stores in January, **Dale Cramer's** *Paradise Valley* (Bethany House)

details the drama of an Amish family seeking sanctuary in the wilds of 1921 Mexico. Amazingly, the story is inspired by actual events.



"I do want to be careful not to give the impression that the events in Mexico are all historically accurate," Cramer says. "They did have trouble with bandits, but the specifics have been lost, so a lot of what happens in the book is speculation, at best. The characters are entirely my own creation, as are many of their stories."

DaleCramer.com

SIMPLE TRUTHS

New from **Barbara Cameron** is *A Time To Love* (Abingdon Press), the first in her Quilts of Lancaster Series: In the story, war correspondent Jennie King—who was injured in a car bomb attack—is recuperating in her grand-



mother's Amish community when she crosses paths with the man she had a crush on as a teen. She thought her visit was just temporary, but now wonders if God has other plans ...

A prolific author and scriptwriter, Barbara's entry into Amish fiction was inspired by a visit to the Amish community in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. "My initial visit exposed me to people of a different religion and culture than mine," Barbara says. "I found the



Amish to be very spiritual and kind people who are living their lives in a simpler way than us in order to focus on their faith and family."

Her Quilts of Lancaster County series continues next year with *A Time to Heal* (February 2011) and *A Time for Peace* (August 2011). Her next Amish series, *Stitches in Time*, kicks off in 2012.

BarbaraCameron.com

KEEPING BUSY

Amy Clipston's Kauffman Amish Bakery series continues this December with *A Place of Peace* (Zondervan). Although it's the third volume, the the series is especially new-reader friendly as each book stars a different member of the Kauffman family.

"Each book features different family and life issues," Amy says, "but all of the books encompass the themes



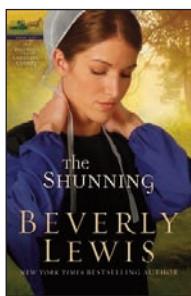
of faith, forgiveness, and second chances. The book timelines are sequential. However, they are stand-alone stories that can be read out of order.”

Amy certainly keeps the bakery busy: Expect a Kauffman Christmas novella next September, plus more volumes in the Amish bakery series in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

AmyClipston.com

PRINT-TO-SCREEN

Cameras are rolling on an original Hallmark TV movie based on **Beverly Lewis'** bestseller *The Shunning* (Bethany House), the story of a young woman who discovers her identity and comes to peace with her parents' faith.



Michael Landon Jr is directing and serves as one of the producers. Production began in North Carolina Nov. 8.

Published in 1997, *The Shunning* was the first

volume in Beverly's Heritage of Lancaster County series. The book has since gone on to win the Gold Book Award (500,000 copies sold) and the ECPA Platinum Award (1 million sold).

BeverlyLewis.com

I HEART AMISH FICTION

Next time you're online, click on over to the Amish Hearts blog, where you can spend some time with four popular Amish fiction authors: **Beth Wiseman** (*Seek Me with All Your Heart: Land of Canaan Series*), **Kathleen Fuller** (*A Hand to Hold: Hearts of Middlefield*), **Barbara Cameron** (*A Time to Love: Quilts of Lancaster County*) and **Amy Clipston** (*A Place of Peace: Kauffman Amish Bakery*).

On the blog, the authors take turns sharing musings about the Amish, book releases, authentic recipes, and a host of other topics related to the fascinating world of the Plain People. AmishHearts.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)



Karen Witemeyer

Characters Welcome



Karen Witemeyer has fallen in love with writing historical romance novels.

“I admit it—I’m a sap,” the author says. “I love rugged heroes, charming heroes, dark heroes, wounded heroes, take-charge heroes. Oh—ahem—and the heroines, too.”

The author finds something “so alluring” about that short window of time where two people meant to share a life together discover one another and fall in love. “I’ve been married nearly 20 years and am living out my own happily-ever-after,” she says. “But I can still remember those early weeks and months when my husband courted me.”

Karen’s debut historical novel for Bethany House, *A Tailor-Made Bride*, revealed her talent for bringing such stories to life. *Publisher’s Weekly* agreed: “Witemeyer’s debut will grab fans in the historical romance crowd. She blends lively writing, storytelling prowess, and enough romance to keep readers satisfied. ... Thought-provoking and entertaining faith-based fiction for sure.”

Watching old Hollywood musicals as a teen, including *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Singing in the Rain*, influenced Karen’s writing choices, preferring historical-setting stories infused with light-hearted humour.

“For me, there is nothing more romantic than travelling to the past,” Karen explains. “And when times are hard, like we’ve experienced over the last few years with our nation’s economy, the need to escape drives our entertainment choices. The farther one can escape, the better.” She hopes her readers experience a world far different and less complicated than their own while reading her stories.

Karen’s latest novel, *Head in the Clouds*, transports readers to Texas in the 1880s and blends regency romance with the American West—by bringing an English nobleman to Texas. Gideon Westcott hires Adelaide Proctor, a young woman escaping a humiliating husband-hunting debacle, as governess to his niece, Isabella.

“I wanted to write about a woman with big dreams who grows impatient when God doesn’t seem to answer her

“It is only when she learns to wait on the Lord that He begins to work in her life.”

prayers,” Karen says. “The longer God is silent, the more confused and frustrated she becomes until she finally takes matters into her own hands and pursues her dreams in the way she thinks best. It’s only when she learns to wait on the Lord that He begins to work in her life to bring about blessings she never imagined.”

With degrees in Psychology, Karen utilises her education to create unique characters in her stories. *A Tailor-Made Bride* includes a secondary character so chained by grief he subconsciously holds people at bay by allowing his personal hygiene to deteriorate to the point no one wants to get near him. In *Head in the Clouds*, little Isabella suffers from elective mutism as a result of traumatic events in her recent past.

“I have no doubt my studies in psychology subconsciously influence my writing,” says Karen. “Would these

characters have come about if I didn’t have a background in psychology? I don’t know. But I believe having this background gives me insight into my characters I wouldn’t have otherwise.”

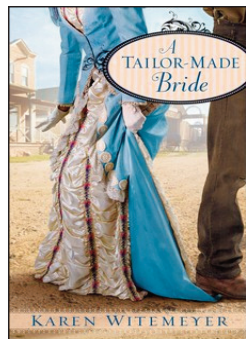
Karen believes finding joy in life gives strength and endeavours to pass that on to her readers through humour. “I want action and drama, too, but if a witty turn of phrase can make me smile or a character’s reaction can elicit a chuckle loud enough for the people around me to stare, that’s even better.”



Head in the Clouds
Karen Witemeyer
Bethany House
KarenWitemeyer.com

—Rel Mollet

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



PAST HISTORY

Susan May Warren

returns to the battlefields of World War II in *Nightingale* (Summerside Press). Wolfgang Jager—raised in America but serving in the German Army—is captured and returned to a Wisconsin POW camp where he begins to correspond with Nurse Esther Lang, a woman grieving the death of her fiancé.

“The key to writing a great historical is getting the details right,” says Susan.



“Everything from clothing to music to the mindset of the time needs to seep through the pages. It takes me twice as long to write a historical because of all the research to get it

right. But there’s nothing better than feeling as if you’ve been transported back in time to another era, to live in their world, consider their choices and understand their lessons.”
SusanMayWarren.com

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Love at first sight has its pitfalls, and **Cathy Marie Hake** makes the most of the awkwardness that ensues when a hasty marriage between Texas farmer Todd



Valmer and perfume maker Maggie Rose loses its shine. Humor has always been a key ingredient in Cathy’s historical romances and *Serendipity* (Bethany House) is no exception. Cathy shares one of the funny moments from her new release:

“Having been a lone woman amidst men, Maggie wholeheartedly

befriends the first woman she meets upon coming to Gooding. Todd Valmer did promise his bride friends... but he never expected Maggie to latch onto Linette—the man-hungry gal every bachelor dreads. That’s bad enough, but Maggie starts playing matchmaker—between Linette and his best friend!”
CathyMarieHake.com



STRONG WOMEN, BRAVE STORIES

With more than 25 books published since her 1997 debut, **Lyn Cote** continues to provide readers with historical stories of hope and courage. Her latest novel, *Her Healing Ways* (Steeple Hill), features an unconventional heroine—Mercy, who served as a



nurse alongside Clara Barton in the Civil War and has become a physician. “She goes west to find a town who will accept a female doctor and her adopted daughter who is a nurse and former slave,” Lyn says. “Mercy is a strong woman whose greatest gift is compassion and mercy. That is what makes her irresistible to Lon Mackey, a footloose gambler.”



LynCote.com

GUN-TOTING HEROINES

The Blacksmith's Bravery (Barbour) is the final installment in Susan Page Davis's unique Ladies Shooting Club series. “I wanted to write about a group of women who supported



each other,” Susan says, “and who did something that was perhaps considered politically incorrect at the time.”



Former saloon girl Vashti Edwards grapples with her past in light of her newfound faith and Griffin Bane, a gruff blacksmith, finds himself saddled with a woman he can't ignore. “[Vashti's] inner conflicts over the past are as compelling as her outer conflicts with Griffin and the bandits,” Susan says. “I hope readers will love Vashti as much as I do.”

SusanPageDavis.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

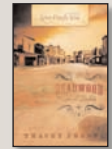
(Whitaker House)



LOVE FINDS YOU IN DEADWOOD, S.D.

Tracey Cross

(Summerside Press)



MASQUERADE

Nancy Moser

(Bethany House)



MISSION OF HOPE

Allie Pleiter

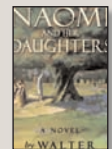
(Love Inspired Historical)



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

Marylly Tyndall

(Barbour Publishing)



Irene Hannon

All in the Family



When best-selling author Irene Hannon was a little girl, she discovered a series of books that changed her life: Amateur sleuth Nancy Drew was the perfect role model for the budding writer.

“I couldn’t read the books fast enough,” Irene says. “The concept of a capable, intelligent heroine, along with a touch of romance, was—and still is!—a perfect combination as far as I’m concerned.”

Perhaps Nancy Drew inspired Hannon more than she realized. At the tender age of 10, right around the same time she began reading the series, she received her first publishing credit when she was an honoree in a complete-the-story contest put on by *Jack and Jill* magazine. “I still have the very faded certificate in a cabinet in my office.”

Romantic suspense has always been Irene’s first love, thanks in part to Ms. Drew and later Emilie Loring, but without the law enforcement background to add depth to her stories, she felt she couldn’t do justice to that type of novel. Instead she became successful writing contemporary romance, winning the RITA (the most prestigious award for romance writers).

However, after reading Dee Henderson’s *The Guardian* Irene knew she had to give romantic suspense another try. She wrote all three books in her Heroes of Quantico series on spec, eventually drawing a glowing endorsement from Henderson herself.

Now Irene is set to hit the publishing world by storm once again with her new series, Guardians of Justice. Starting with *Fatal Judgment*, the series is about three siblings—all in justice-related professions. “There’s a family dynamic going on in these books that wasn’t in my first series,” Irene says. “One brother is a U.S. marshal, the other a police detective, and their sister is a children’s service worker with Social Services.”

“Every book I write is infused with hope.”

Writing isn't Irene's only creative outlet, however. A veteran of the stage, she's played the leading roles in many musical theater productions, including *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, *South Pacific*, and *The King and I*. "I think I was born with greasepaint in my blood," she says. "My maternal grandparents were both wonderful singers and performed in many local musical productions. As far back as I can remember, I've loved stage work. As a kid, I used to write, produce and direct neighborhood shows. I studied ballet and tap for many years. In college I began taking voice lessons and trying out for community theater musicals. I put in my time in the chorus."

It's challenging to make time for both, but Irene feels her work onstage complements her writing by helping her pace her stories, create realistic dialogue, and get into the mindset of a variety of characters. She'll never turn down a great part, but writing comes first.

"This is my job, not a hobby," Irene says. "I hit my page count goal every day—even if that means I'm at my computer until midnight because I played hooky during the day."

But Hannon's top priority is creating stories of hope. "Every book I write is infused with hope," she says. "I always want to leave people with a belief that no matter how tough life gets, a happy ending is always possible. And I also want people to close the last page with a better appreciation for the tremendous power of love to transform lives."



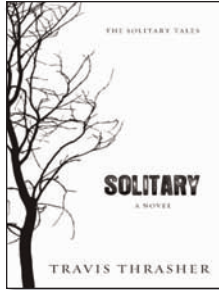
Fatal Judgment
(Guardians of Justice)
Irene Hannon
Revell Books
IreneHannon.com

—C.J. Darlington

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



IT'S A GIRL ... AND A GIRL!

Travis Thrasher and wife Sharon welcomed twins Mackenzie Grace and Brianna Joy into the Thrasher clan Sept. 3. Mackenzie clocked in at five pounds, Brianna at three pounds 13 ounces. “Both are beautiful like mommy,” Travis says.

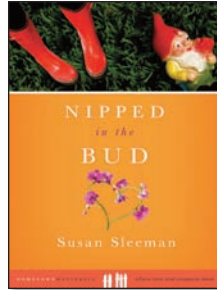
When he’s not busy changing diapers, Travis is pounding away at the keyboard: He’s set to release four novels in 2011 alone—including *Gravestone* (David C. Cook), the follow-up to his latest book, *Solitary*.

TravisThrasher.com

HOME BASE

Author **Susan Sleeman** has just signed on with Steeple Hill for her next romantic suspense novel, *Behind the Badge*, set to release June 2011.

Her previous release, *Nipped in the Bud*, was one of the first titles



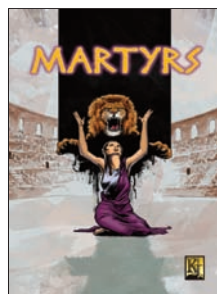
in Barbour Publishing’s Hometown Mysteries series. (Our very own **Chris Well’s** *Nursing A Grudge* was the first.) Keep your eyes peeled for a new batch of these cozies, including Well’s *Burying the Hatchet*, in 2011.

HometownMysteries.com
SusanSleeman.com

COMIC RELIEF

Rene Gutteridge...comic book writer?

It’s true—Rene’s extensive experience writing sketches and

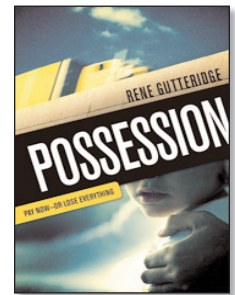


scripts has landed her the chance to script a graphic novel about the martyr Perpetua. The name of the project is *Martyrs: Volume 1*.

“It’s a very dramatic and sometimes dark tale,” shee says. More info online at KingstoneMedia.com.



But don’t think she’s given up on novel writing:

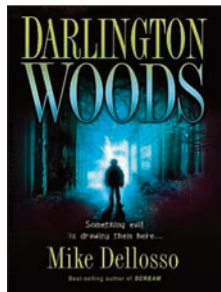


Those who loved *Listen* will be happy to know her January 2011 release, *Possession* (Tyndale House), is stylistically similar. “I wanted to explore the idea of what it means to lose everything,” Rene says, “and what, if any, good can come out of it.”
ReneGutteridge.com

INTO THE WOODS

Darlington Woods (Realms), the eery and suspenseful novel from author **Mike Delloso**, has been optioned for film by Roma Roth

of Reel World Management. Work on the screenplay should begin soon, and Dellosso is excited about the possibilities.



“The producer and I have a synopsis done, and it is being submitted. We’re also working on the treatment,” Dellosso reports. A thriller in the vein of Dekker and Peretti, *Darlington Woods* blends suspense, symbolism, and the supernatural into a compelling story. In other news, Mike and wife Jen are expecting their fourth child! Baby Dellosso should join the family March 12, 2011.

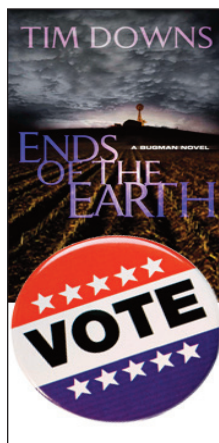


MikeDellosso.com

THE RETURN OF NICK POLCHAK

The Bug Man is coming back! After a short

departure writing the unique *Wonders Never Cease* (Thomas Nelson), Tim Downs has just started writing another novel featuring beloved forensic entomologist Nick Polchak. The quirky character has starred in four books thus far, including *Ends of the Earth*, which ended with a cliff hanger. Downs allowed readers to vote for the ending on his website—and the results have been posted.



TimDowns.net



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

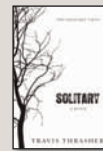
(Love Inspired Suspense)



SOLITARY

Travis Thrasher

(David C. Cook)



VANISHING ACT

Liz Johnson

(Love Inspired Suspense)



ADVENT OF A MYSTERY

Marilyn Leach

(Barbour)



Jonathan Rogers

Frontier Fantasy



Growing up in Georgia, Jonathan Rogers played in the swamps and river bottoms and worked with a guy who captured wild boar for fun.

So it's no wonder when Jonathan reimagined the story of King David in his Wilderking Trilogy, he populated it with *feechiefolk*—swamp-dwelling, rowdy, fun-loving creatures. Now in *The Charlatan's Boy* (WaterBrook Press), he takes you to a time where no one believes in feechies anymore.

That's bad for con man Floyd and the boy he passes off as a feechie, Grady. When the two hit upon a plan for revitalizing the feechie trade in Corenwald, hijinks ensue.

Grady narrates this distinctively American fantasy (think C.S. Lewis meets Mark Twain) in his own hilarious, mournful way: *A couple of times Floyd told me my real mama give me to him because I was too ugly to keep.*

"Grady sort of came to me," Jonathan says. "It's like he knocked on the door and said, 'Here I am!' And Floyd is an amalgam of all those great frontier hucksters." Yet underneath all of the flimflams and fun of the book is a deep truth. "The idea that this world is full of people who are beautiful and don't know it. People who think they are unlovely, but they truly are loved, more than they know."

After getting his PhD in literature, Jonathan spent five years working for a technology company before returning to his first love—stories. "I had my annual review at work and it was not very good. The same week, my mother was diagnosed with lymphoma, and I was really struck with how short life was. It seemed like such a waste to spend so much of it doing something I wasn't very good at, and so far from what I believed my gifts and my calling to be. So I quit."

Like most authors, Jonathan writes more than just his own fiction to make a living, especially since he has six children, ranging in age from 6 to 14.

“In the end, it’s grace and love that really prevail, not the sadness and the hurt and the loneliness.”

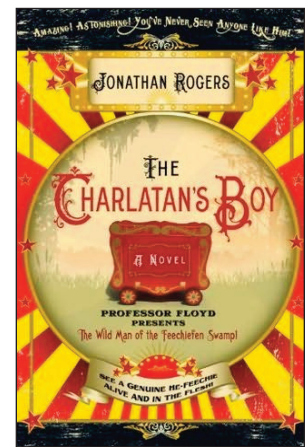
His kids are a big part of the audience he writes for—but not the only one. “Sometimes, when I’ve got a funny part I’m considering putting in, I try it on them first, and if they think it’s funny, I put it in. Sometimes they don’t think it’s funny, but I think it’s funny, so I put it in anyway.”

Jonathan is currently writing a sequel to *The Charlatan’s Boy* (in stores fall 2011) as well as sharing funny stories and fechie sightings on his blog, Jonathan-Rogers.com. He also contributes to a website called The Rabbit Room, a group of authors, songwriters and artists who share creative vision and spur on each other.

And it is vision and worldview that Jonathan hopes to pass along to readers. “I always hope to expand a reader’s vision

of what the world might look like,” he says. “For all the tragic things we see around us, the universe, in the end, isn’t a tragedy, but a comedy. Which is to say, it ends better than we could have ever hoped it would end. In the end, it’s grace and love that really prevail, not the sadness and the hurt and the loneliness. I think that’s the vision of the universe that can fuel a whole career for a writer.”

—Katie Hart



The Charlatan’s Boy
Jonathan Rogers
WaterBrook Press
Jonathan-Rogers.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



AFRICAN SENDING

When Marcher Lord Press author **Matt Kocceich** and wife Cindi went to Ethiopia this year to adopt their son, Samuel Yacob, they didn't expect God to call them to serve there. All proceeds from Matt's new novel *The Sending* will go toward paying off their adoption fees and funding their return to Africa for full-time ministry. You can read more about their adoption story on their blog: ToSuchAsThese.blogspot.com

LAWHEAD TOUR

Stephen Lawhead

recently finished a seven-city tour for the launch of the Bright



Empires series. The nationwide treasure hunt celebrating the launch of *The Skin Map* (Thomas Nelson) continues online: BrightEmpires.com/Hunt

SPECULATIVE INSPY

The short-lists are out for the brand new INSPYs Award (the Bloggers' Award for Excellence in Faith-Driven Literature)! The five speculative titles shortlisted are: *Green* by **Ted Dekker** (Thomas Nelson), *The Last Christian* by **David Gregory** (WaterBrook), *A Star Curiously Singing* by **Kerry Nietz** (Marcher Lord), *Eternity Falls* by **Kirk Outerbridge** (Marcher Lord), and *Rooms* by **James L. Rubart** (B&H). The winner will be announced Dec. 13. Inspys.com



DRAGON SIGNINGS

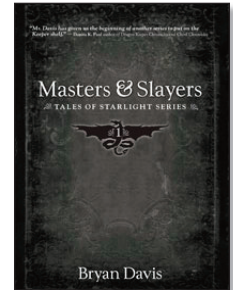
In addition to a recent contest with a grand prize

of an Amazon Kindle, **Bryan Davis** is hitting the road for some

book signings to promote his new novel, *Masters & Slayers* (AMG).

In the novel, expert swordsman Adrian Masters attempts a dangerous journey to another world to rescue human captives enslaved there by dragons. He is accompanied by Marcelle, a sword maiden of amazing skill with ideas that conflict with his own.

The slaves—in bonds for generations—have no memory of their origins, making them reluctant to believe the two would-be rescuers. And, of course, the dragons will crush any attempt to emancipate the slaves. Set on two worlds separated by a mystical portal, this story is packed with action, mystery, and emotional turmoil. DavisCrossing.com



THEIR NAMES IN PRINT

Marcher Lord Press recently gave its newsletter subscribers a chance to see their names in a novel. The winners—Andrew Terry, Mary Hawkins and Kimberly Peterson—each got to see their name appear in one of Marcher Lord's October releases:



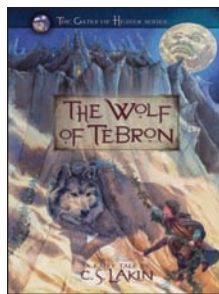
The Sending by **Matt Koceich**, *Konig's Fire* by **Marc Schooley** and *The Tenth Crusader* by **Kirk Outerbridge**.
MarcherLordPress.com

BLOG TOUR!

In December, the Christian Science Fiction and Fantasy Blog Tour features *The Charlatan's Boy* (Waterbrook) by **Jonathan Rogers**. Then in early January, participating bloggers feature *The Wolf of Tebron* (AMG), a fairy tale by **C.S. Lakin**.

The story: All Joran wanted was to live a peaceful life in his forest village of Tebron. But when his wife, Charris, is captured by the Moon in a whisk of magic, he must go on a grueling journey to the four corners of the world to rescue her. On his way, he befriends a wolf named Ruyah who becomes a trusted companion while he solves riddles and eventually battles the Moon to save his wife.

To learn more about CSFF, visit them online at their official website: csffblogger.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)



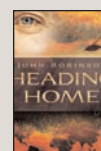
THE FALLING AWAY

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)



HAVAHA

Tosca Lee
(B&H Publishing)



Rachel Hauck

Authentic Faith



There is no doubt in Rachel Hauck's mind that she was born to write.

From her first story as a 10-year-old about a girl and her horse to her latest release, *Dining With Joy* (Thomas Nelson), Rachel's passion for writing has not ebbed. "I love it and writing is deeply satisfying. I remind myself an excellent spirit gets the job done, well and on time. My core values of honor, love and character motivate me."

A corporate career as a software trainer followed a degree in journalism and Rachel found herself travelling the United States and the world, constantly taking note of the sights, sounds and

hearts of people she met, providing plenty of writing inspiration.

The seed of *Dining with Joy* was sown years ago while brainstorming story ideas. "Foodies and the Food Network were really starting to take hold of American culture," she says, "and I thought of a cooking show book but added the twist—what if she can't cook?"

The heroine is in hot water when her local cooking show is picked up by a major network—and her inability to cook is set to be exposed. When she meets a former restaurateur struggling to regain his reputation in the elite foodie world, they mix like oil and water. If they can find a way to work together they just might salvage their careers and rediscover joy.

Rachel's faith permeates her stories, and making it sound realistic is always at the forefront of her mind. "Church foyer conversation or quick prayers with friends don't always translate well in a novel," she says. "I might say to a friend, 'We have to live Ephesians 1:17,' but how does that translate in story? I try to make the spiritual journey as authentic to the character as possible."

While she writes contemporary romance, Rachel weaves supernatural aspects into her novels reflecting her own faith experiences in her characters. "Caroline smelled a strong fragrance of the Lord. Elle saw feathers. A surfer character in *Georgia On Her Mind* saw Jesus during a shark attack. So, I work to add aspects of the Lord outside the 'logical' mind."

“I try to make the spiritual journey as authentic to the character as possible.”

When publisher Thomas Nelson invited Rachel to collaborate with singer/songwriter Sara Evans on her Songbird series, Rachel was honored. “It’s been fun to have another storyteller on the job! While she brainstorms the stories, I do the writing. Then she takes it from there. It’s been a good partnership. She lets me do my thing, I let her do hers.” The four-book series so far includes *The Sweet By and By*, the newly released *Softly & Tenderly* and the just-completed *Love Lifted Me*.

Rachel’s next story, *The Wedding Dress*, is a story of destiny and God’s love. It features a young woman on the verge of marriage who discovers an old wedding dress. “The moment she touches it, something comes alive in her heart. This sends her on a journey to discover the

dress’ history, and ultimately her own. I’m really excited about this book.”

Passion for the written word and sharing God’s love are not the only things that motivate this talented writer. Her greatest joy as a writer is hearing from her readers. Rachel explains, “I love when a book impacts a reader, encourages them, reminds them they have a destiny and a God who is passionate about them.”



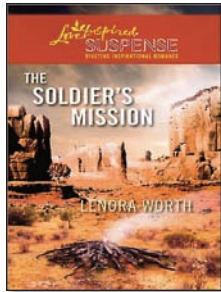
Dining with Joy
(Low Country Romance)
Rachel Hauck
Thomas Nelson
RachelHauck.com

—Rel Mollet

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



DREAM HERO

Lenora Worth woke up crying when her latest hero came to her in a dream, “He was standing there in his camouflage, his helmet in his hand. He said, ‘My father died in Vietnam, my brother was wounded in Desert Storm and I just got back from the Middle East. I need to talk to someone.’ I thought, *This is Luke’s story*. I hope my readers will see the goodness I saw in his soul. And I’m glad that my heroine wanted to help him, too.”



In *The Soldier’s Mission* (Steeple Hill), returned soldier Luke Martinez’s desperate cry for help is answered by social worker Laura Walton, who aims

to help him manage his post-traumatic stress disorder. She never anticipated she would find herself at the mercy of terrorists—relying on a damaged soldier to protect her.

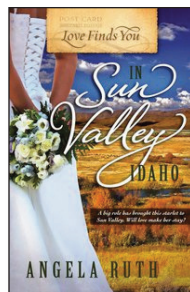
LenoraWorth.com

STUNTS IN SUN VALLEY

After taking a trampoline class in college, **Angela Meuser** was intrigued that some of her classmates went on to become stuntmen—and now she’s turned that fascination into her novel *Love Finds You in Sun Valley, Idaho* (Summerside Press).

Actress Emily Van Arsdale returns to her hometown to film a movie and meets rafting guide and stunt consultant Tracen Lake. Tracen doesn’t think much of “Hollywood types” but Emily may just change his mind.

Angela took a few rafting



trips as practical research for the novel. “The times I flew out of the raft



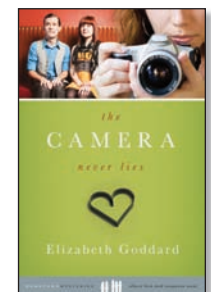
were not orchestrated ahead of time,” she says, “but they were great research for the stuntwork Emily has to do in my book.”

AngelaMeuser.com

CAMERA SHY

Elizabeth Goddard’s

goal is to write what she loves to read—which includes adventure and



spiritual truth. Her romantic mystery *The Camera Never Lies* (Barbour) contains both.

“Polly Perkins discovers she has the uncanny ability to read emotions when looking through her camera lens,” Beth shares. “It comes in handy when

she's trying to solve a murder. But like many of us—she can't see love when it's staring her in the face. She's afraid to trust her feelings when it comes to love."



ElizabethGoddard.com

GIRLS WRITE OUT 2012

Beloved writers **Colleen Coble**, **Denise Hunter**, **Kristin Billerbeck** and **Diann Hunt** will collaborate on a romantic novella collection for Thomas Nelson.

Smitten will feature the fictional town of Smitten, Vermont, struggling for survival in difficult

economic times. Hoping to boost their small town, four friends propose the idea of making Smitten into the Romance Capitol of America. During the course of their first transitional year, each woman finds a love of her own.



Denise Hunter shares: "As you might imagine, we're thrilled to be writing a collection together, and you can expect some aspects of our personalities to come shining through our heroines." The authors blog regularly at GirlsWriteOut.blogspot.com

—Rel Mollet



Denise, Diann, Kristen and Colleen with agent Karen Solem

new releases

THE COWBOY'S SWEETHEART

Brenda Minton

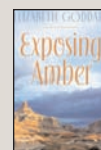
(Love Inspired)



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)



Don Reid

Another Outlet



After 40 years leading the travel-filled life as a member of the wildly successful group the Statler Brothers, Don Reid is thoroughly enjoying his life's latest chapter. And for once, his stories no longer have to rhyme.

For the past 40 years, Don Reid has been a master of the three-minute story format—better known as the song. As lead singer for the Statler Brothers, he's had about 250 of them recorded over the years.

But as much as Don has enjoyed telling his stories (and making them rhyme) for four decades, the now-retired musician is loving the “supreme” luxury of a much-larger word count. In fact, he had always looked forward to the day he'd get to actually write a novel.

“I think the Statler Brothers fans who think of me as a singer are probably surprised at all the books, but those who know me as a songwriter see it as just another outlet,” Don says. “If I didn't have that outlet, my head and heart would probably explode and spew untold masses of words all over the treetops. So I thank God for blank pages that I truly love to fill.”

Now with enough time to pursue his passion, Don recently penned *One Lane Bridge* (David C. Cook), the story of a man named J.D. who shares something in common with the writer himself—namely, a love for unwinding by putting the top down and riding through the country with no particular destination in mind.

“It's a beautiful and perfect way to clear all the cobwebs away and release the pent-up spirit,” Don shares. “I was on one of these late evening ventures a few years ago when I came upon a

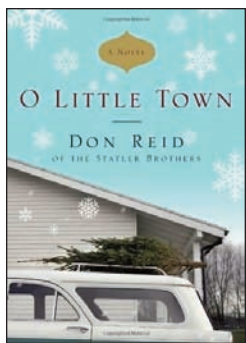
“Those who know me as a songwriter see it as just another outlet.”

large, looming one-lane bridge out in the middle of nowhere on a desolate country road. I sat there in the middle of the bridge with no traffic coming in either direction and listened to the stream below me and marveled at the countryside around me. In those moments, the entire story came to me.”

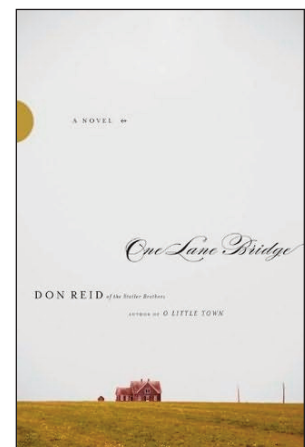
With a theme of how God often works in mysterious ways, something that J.R. experiences on this leisurely roadtrip, Reid hopes readers will inevitably be reminded that God is not only in charge of our lives, but He’s the architect of all our hopes and dreams.

And for Reid, that truth plays out vividly in his new everyday existence. Since his life has often been filled with extensive travel, he loves the empty suitcase life and stays close to home as much as possible.

ALSO AVAILABLE



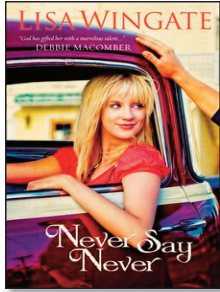
“I absolutely love this new season where I can share my stories and spend more time with my family,” Reid shares. “There’s just something blissful about staying in my office at home and having the solitude it takes to get your head and your soul inside a book. And I hope everyone enjoys this journey with me when they read as well.”



One Lane Bridge
Don Reid
David C. Cook
DonReid.net

—Christa A. Banister

News&Notes



GOODBYE TO THE GYPSY LIFE?

In **Lisa Wingate's** latest novel *Never Say Never* (Bethany House), Kai Miller is a girl who's constantly on the go. Feeling a little twitchy if she stays in one place too long, she's always been reluctant to put down roots. Well, until a hurricane evacuation leads to an unexpected pilgrimage to Daily, Texas, just the sort of place the strong-willed heroine wouldn't expect to fall in love with.

Like the best romantic comedies, there are plenty of twists and turns (and yes, they involve a charming hometown boy), but what ultimately made it such a joy for Wingate to write is the story's strong takeaway value.

"Some book ideas you search for and some just

blow in on the wind," Lisa shares. "Dating back to Hurricane Katrina, we in Central Texas have been the recipients of hurricane evacuations. These massive exoduses of people, pets and belongings are frightening, frustrating, challenging, and at times oddly wonderful.

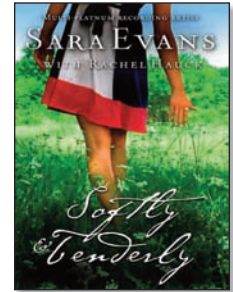
"When so many are on the road seeking shelter, the worst, but also the best qualities of humanity come to the surface. Hurricane evacuations truly provide times when we ask the question, *Am I my brother's keeper?* In answering that question, we've enjoyed amazing moments of friendship and fellowship, family reunions, and chances to share food and space with strangers from other parts of the state. We've traded stories and recipes, laughter and tears."

LisaWingate.com



A SECOND CHANCE

Picking up where *The Sweet By and By* left off, *Softly and Tenderly:*



A Songbird Novel (Thomas Nelson) is the second collaboration by country singer/author **Sara Evans** and Christian novelist **Rachel Hauck**.

This time around, Jade and Max, a happily married couple, get a bombshell when they discover that Max has an illegitimate son that he hopes Jade will help him raise. Not sure how to cope with the news, Jade flees to her childhood home in Iowa, where she begins to question everything she thought she knew about family, love and motherhood.

"Sara and I saw the potential of Jade and Max," Rachel says, "and a second book gave us room to delve deeper



into their life issues. Jade's character was complex

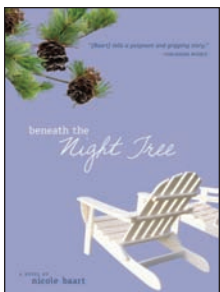
enough to let us do that, and I hope reads will be inspired to trust God—even in their darkest moments. He is the light at the end of the journey.”

RachelHauck.com

SURPRISE ENDINGS

Feeling the story of her character Julia DeSmit seemed “unfinished,” author **Nicole Baart** had a blast writing *Beneath the Night Tree* (Tyndale House). Truth be told, even the story's ending was “a surprise” for her.

This time around, Julia's life, albeit unconventional, has never seemed more normal or enjoyable. As a single mother to her son and young brother, she works at the



local grocery store while wrapping up her college studies.

But her favorite time of day is whenever she's hanging with her family, which also includes her grandmother and boyfriend of five years.

Just when everything in her life seems perfect, an e-mail from her ex-boyfriend—who happens to be her son's father—turns her world upside down. After leaving her in the college parking lot six years before, she's never heard from him until now. So how will this new development affect the state of life as she knows it? We'll never tell.

NicoleBaart.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)



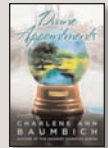
CHARLOTTE FIGG TAKES OVER PARADISE

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)



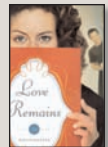
LOVE, CHARLESTON

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)



Chuck Black

Raising the Sword of the Spirit



A homeschooling father of six and a former F-16 fighter pilot, Chuck Black wasn't looking to become a writer. He just wanted to help his kids grasp the significance of their faith.

A middle-of-the-night story about a Prince who saves His people from the Dark Knight mesmerized his children. At first it disappointed Chuck. He wondered, *Why should a fictional story capture my children's hearts the way I want the Gospel to?*

But then he realized Jesus also told fictional stories with deep spiritual significance. Encouraged by wife Andrea,

Chuck shared the story with other families. It soon grew to a self-published series of books of six novels. Those books, the Kingdom series, retell the Bible story from Genesis to Revelation, setting it in a land of knights and castles. As the books' popularity grew, it became difficult to handle alone, and Multnomah stepped in.

Chuck's current series, *The Knights of Arrethtrae* (Multnomah), tells of the brave warriors who take the Prince's story to the far reaches of Arrethtrae and fight the Dark Knight's evil schemes. Rather than base this second series on actual events, Chuck focuses on common issues with which teens struggle—like greed, apathy, and escapism.

"The Bible says that we believers have the ability to tear down high places," Chuck says. "So often we forget about that spiritual battle and fail to participate in it. So that's really my goal, to open their eyes to the spiritual warfare and to get them excited about being warriors for Christ."

One of the most powerful books in the series, *Sir Dalton and the Shadow Heart*, grew out of Chuck's own struggles with doubt as a young adult—something often overlooked by families today. At a homeschool convention where Chuck spoke to more than 500 parents, all admitted they struggled with doubt and likely their children did too. Almost none of them had talked to their kids about it.

"You do not want your children leaving home with unresolved doubt," Chuck cautions. He cites John the

“Even though we have periods of doubt, God’s love reaches through that and pulls us to His truth.”

Baptist as an example of a godly man who wrestled with doubt. “Even though we have periods of doubt, God’s love reaches through that and pulls us to His truth.”

The final two books of the series released in October: *Sir Quinlan and the Swords of Valor* tells of an inexperienced warrior whose actions bring calamity to an elite fighting group. When the Prince calls, can Quinlan lead the men he let down? *Sir Rowan and the Camerian Conquest* brings the tale of a tournament knight who is kidnapped and left for dead. Can Rowan overcome his pride to serve a higher calling in a distant land?

Chuck’s writing has grown into a family business. Several of them travel around the country for conventions, and all help with marketing and promotion. His daughter, Emily, composed nearly 100

songs for the audio drama versions of all 12 books.

Chuck also has a huge heart for parents connecting with their kids. “I want to help our young people understand that being a Christian isn’t just going to Sunday school and church,” Chuck says. “It’s about daily understanding that spiritual warfare happening around them, and that they are called to be part of that.”



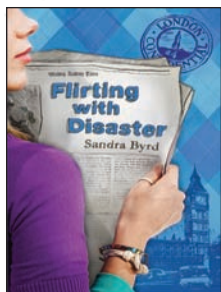
Sir Rowan & the Camerian Conquest (Knights of Arrethtrae)
Melody Carlson
Multnomah Books
Perfect-Praise.com

—Katie Hart

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



BRITAIN AND BOYS

This past September saw the release of the final two books in **Sandra Byrd's** fresh new London Confidential series: *Don't Kiss Him Goodbye* and *Flirting with Disaster* (Tyndale). London Confidential takes teen and tween readers alongside Savvy Smith as she finds her place in her new English home, dealing with fashion, guys, and friendships along the way.

In creating the series, Sandra was inspired by the fact that she loves to travel—and thinks a lot of teens would love to travel, especially to Europe. “We share a common history and language with Britain, so that makes it easier for us to understand one



another,” she told *Novel Teen*, “and yet we’re distinct in many ways, which makes things fun. London seemed so fun—a beautiful place, fashion and shopping, great theater, kind people.

“I also wanted to show that how, even though we have many nationalities, Christians from all places have the most important thing in common: Jesus Christ. He is the same everywhere.”

SandraByrd.com

FLORIDA FANTASY

Headed to the big screen in 2011 is **Eric Reinhold's** *Ryann Watters and the King's Sword* (Creation House). Set in the quaint town of Mount Dora, Fla., Ryann Watters, the hero of the adventure, and his best friends, Liddy and Terell, are challenged to a quest for the King's Sword hidden inside the strange and beautiful world of



Aeliana. Filming is currently wrapping up in Florida, and further details can be found at Movie.KingsSword.com

DREAM DATES

Robert Liparulo's

fantasy series *Dream-house Kings* is getting set to be retold in a couple



new ways. First off, all six volumes are coming out as a series of unabridged audiobooks from Blackstone Audio, with actor **Joshua Swanson** narrating. The first volume comes out November, with each subsequent book in one-month intervals.

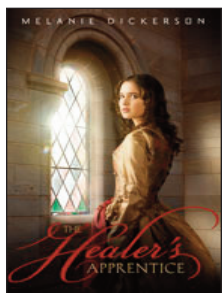
The same series has also been optioned by novelist, producer and screenwriter **Eric Garcia** (*Repo Men* and *Matchstick Men*). He's currently working on the script for the first movie (with three movies planned).

January, Robert travels to Houston to talk to the students at Second Baptist School about Dreamhouse Kings, his career as a writer, and finding your passion. RobertLiparulo.com DreamhouseKings.com



FAIRY TALES RETOLD

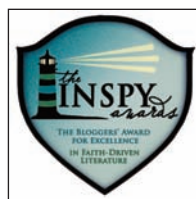
Melanie Dickerson's debut novel, *The Healer's Apprentice* (Zondervan), retells Sleeping Beauty in a historical romance for teens. She's working on another medieval romance, this time based on the story of Snow White. MelanieDickerson.com



YOUNG ADULT INSPY

The shortlists are out for the brand new INSPYs Award (the Bloggers' Award for Excellence in

Faith-Driven Literature)! The five YA titles shortlisted are: *A Little Help From My Friends* by **Anne Dayton** and **May Vanderbilt** (FaithWords); *This Gorgeous Game* by **Donna Freitas** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux); *So Over My Head* by **Jenny B. Jones** (Thomas Nelson); *Beautiful* by **Cindy Martinusen Coloma** (Thomas Nelson); and *Once Was Lost* by **Sara Zarr** (Little, Brown). The winner will be announced Dec. 13. Inspys.com



KLAVAN @ STORY

Andrew Klavan received a standing ovation at his talk at September's STORY convention in Chicago. *The Truth of the Matter*, the third installment in The Homelanders series, releases in November. AndrewKlavan.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

Chuck Black
(Multnomah)



SIR ROWAN AND THE CAMERIAN CONQUEST

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)



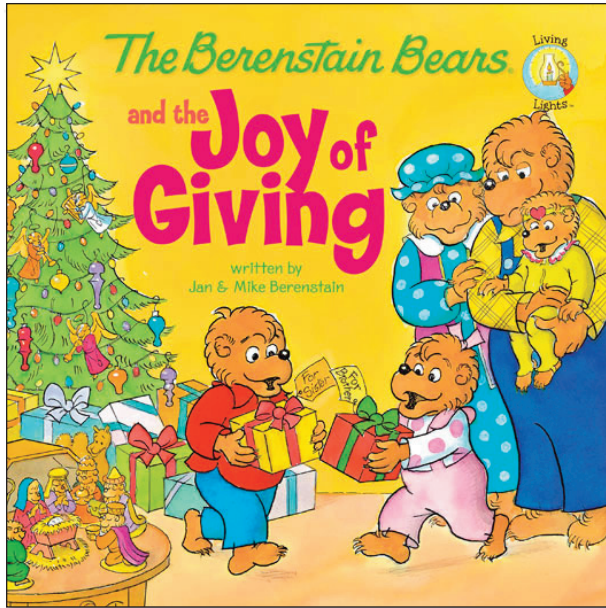
THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER (THE HOMELANDERS)

Andrew Klavan
(Thomas Nelson)



Mike Berenstain

Everyday Spirituality



In 1962, a book titled *The Big Honey Hunt* introduced the world to the Bear family. Some 50 years—and more than 300 books—later, the Berenstain Bears are still encouraging kids to read and teaching families how to deal with everyday issues. And, since 2008, the Berenstain Bears have encouraged families to deal with spiritual matters as well.

Bear Country's many inhabitants were created by Stan and Jan Berenstain, who met each other in art school. They found inspiration for their family-focused work in their two sons, Mike and Leo.

But they also inspired their children, their youngest son Mike Berenstain recalls. "Obviously, growing up with my parents, I saw the whole process. They talked about it the whole time. In high school I knew I wanted to be an artist, but I didn't know what kind."

Mike went to the same art school as his parents and eventually figured out what he wanted to be: an author and illustrator of children's books. After getting a job as a designer for the children's book department of a major publisher, he started getting freelance illustration jobs. "I did a lot of books about dinosaurs and fantasy books. I was a bit of a jack of all trades."

In the mid-1980s, the Berenstain Bears books were becoming so popular that Stan and Jan Berenstain started to feel overwhelmed. "There was a huge wave of demand for the paperback books," Mike says. "They asked me for help and I started helping them more and more. We were doing all the illustrations together."

Mike even helped his father with some of the writing. This continued until 2005, when Stan Berenstain passed away. "After my father passed away, I began doing all the writing. My mother and I still do most of the illustration together."

“Our most enthusiastic feedback came from readers with traditional family values.”

As an adult Mike became a Christian. “I wanted to incorporate that into my work. Our most enthusiastic feedback came from readers with traditional family values, and many of them are Christians. We moved from Random House to HarperCollins, and part of HC publishing group was [Christian imprint] Zondervan and that was intriguing to me.” As early as 2004, Mike began speaking with his parents and HarperCollins about doing a parallel series to be published by children’s imprint, Zonderkidz.

Finally, in 2008, *The Berenstain Bears and the Golden Rule* appeared. “We always try to think of a subject that families deal with. For example, in *The Joy of Giving*, they witness the gift of the Magi in a church

pageant and relate that to Christmas giving and the origin of Christmas giving.”

In nearly 50 years of publishing, much has changed—but the primary emphasis of the books has not.

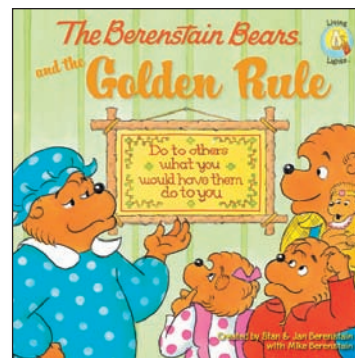
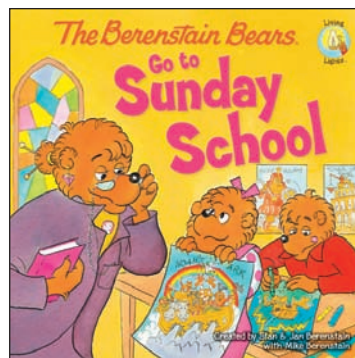
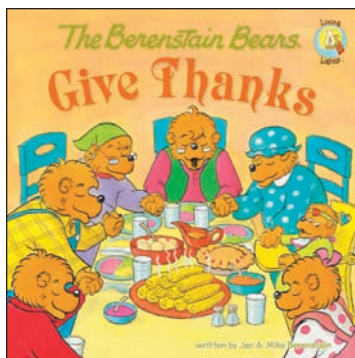
“The books people have come to appreciate are the books that deal with everyday life,” Mike says. “Readers identify with those books and love them and we want to serve our audience in that respect, providing them books that help in child rearing.”

—Ben Avery



Mike Berenstain
BerenstainBears.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



SIX GIRLS, ONE SERIES

The Camp Club Girls series follows six girls from diverse backgrounds who meet at a camp and form a tight friendship. But while the series unites six different characters within its pages, it also unites six different writers as creators of the stories. “We all created character sketches for our individual characters,” explains **Shari Barr**, who writes the volumes that star McKenzie. “Then as we wrote our books, we used these sketches as guidelines to keep the characters consistent throughout the series.”

Barr’s latest contribution, *McKenzie’s Oregon Operation* (Barbour), puts the club on the trail of some

missing sea lion pups. “I would like young readers to hopefully not only read a great mystery,” Barr says, “but also to take away a Christian message that can help them deal with similar situations.” CampClubGirls.com



IT'S A VEGETABLE LIFE

The new VeggieTales Christmas DVD *It's a Meaningful Life* explores how we can be content in the plans that God has for our lives and helps us discover the beauty of how our lives affect those around us. Its easy to see where its inspiration comes from—the Jimmy Stewart Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. But it was also inspired by Jeremiah 29:11: *For I*



know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

BigIdea.com

FROM THE BLACK LAGOON TO THE BACK PEW

Mike Thaler targets the Christmas season with his unique sense of humor in *The Three Wise Guys*, illustrated by **Jared Lee**—the latest book in their Tales from the Back Pew series from Zonderkidz. Known in classrooms across America for his Black Lagoon books, Thaler describes Tales from the Back Pew as “the Black Lagoon goes to church.” Using his trademark jokes and puns, Thaler not only pokes fun at misconceptions children (and perhaps some



adults) have about spiritual matters, but he also illuminates spiritual truths. Other topics the series has tackled include mission trips (*Mission Trip Impossible*), baptism (*Walking the Plank to the Baptism Tank*), and VBS (*Vacation Bible Snooze*).

The Three Wise Guys takes on the church Christmas pageant, deconstructing the pageantry while discovering the story of Christ's birth.

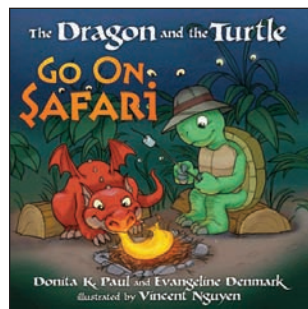
MikeThaler.com



Evangeline Denmark return to their picture book series with *The Dragon and the Turtle Go on Safari*, in stores this January.

Illustrated by **Vincent Nguyen**, this follow-up to the mother/daughter writing team's *The Dragon and the Turtle* sees Roger the turtle and his best friend Pdraig the dragon on an imagination-filled camping trip that starts out as good fun but, as night falls, forces them to learn a lesson about fear and friendship.

DragonAndTurtle.com



THE MOTHER & THE DAUGHTER

Fantasy author **Donita K. Paul** (*Dragonkeeper Chronicles*) and



BEN AVERY

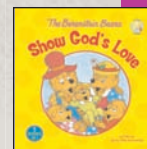
Ben Avery writes comic books, performs puppets, and plays Lego with his kids... and sometimes without them. He's the creator of the TimeFlyz series of graphic novels from Zondervan and the fantasy comic book series *ArmorQuest*. BenAvery.com

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)



Tracy J Trost

Pursuing the Dream



Ever since he saw the first Star Wars movies as a kid, Tracy J Trost dreamed of making movies.

He and a childhood friend even made their own short, goofy films using an 8mm projector camera. “We would point guns at each other, and then we would actually go scratch into the positive of the film so you would see this lightning bolt come out of the gun,” Tracy recalls with amusement. “I guess I was a storyteller back then and didn’t know it.”

When he got older Tracy became involved in live performance, doing lights

and sound for bands and creating effects for stage plays. He never forgot his dreams, but they took a back burner to life as a husband, father, and owner of his marketing company, Trost Consulting—until a routine staff meeting re-kindled his movie-making desires.

Every week Tracy and his staff gathered to discuss a book they were reading together as a company. One of those books had a chapter about pursuing dreams, and through the prodding of his staff Tracy realized it was time to step out. Almost two years later Trost Moving Pictures released their first feature film, *Find Me*.

Wasting no time, the crew immediately began work on their next movie, *A Christmas Snow*, on DVD in time for the holidays. “I wanted to make something that had an evergreenness to it, and I like Christmas movies personally,” Tracy says. “I knew I had a good story when I pitched the idea to my wife and at the end she was crying.”

The film stars Catherine Mary Stewart as Kathleen, a forty-something restaurant owner who’s been called “the gourmet grinch” for her aversion to celebrating Christmas. “Everyone of us at some point in our lives has had something happen that affected us in a negative way,” Tracy says in describing the story. “Kathleen’s father left her at Christmastime when she was 10 years old. To protect herself she tries to control every aspect of her life and keeps people at a distance.

“Our goal here at Trost is to put family back into family movies.”

“Then she meets a little girl and an old man—during a storm they get stuck together in a house, and [Kathleen] starts to realize she has limited her life by this pain and unforgiveness she’s carried against her father and mother.”

Asked about his vision as a “Christian filmmaker,” Tracy is quick to point out he doesn’t want to be labeled as such. “Not that I’m against being a Christian and being a filmmaker, but the problem I have is people then automatically pigeonhole you. I’d rather say I’m a filmmaker who creates entertaining films that leave you with an impacting message.”

If the stories of lives touched by *A Christmas Snow* are any indication, he’s well on his way to reaching that goal. From the young woman who realized it was okay to forgive and let go of bitterness

and anger, to the 7-year-old girl who finally understood it wasn’t her fault that her mom left the family.

“Our goal here at Trost is to put family back into family movies,”

Tracy says. “One issue I have with a lot of movies is they’re entertaining but don’t leave you with anything worth having. If I’m going to make a movie, I want to not only entertain you, but I want to leave you with something. *A Christmas Snow* is one of those kinds of movies.”

—C.J. Darlington

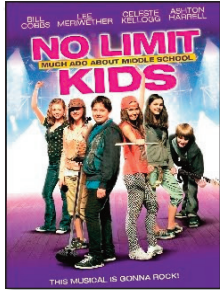


A Christmas Snow
Trost Moving Pictures
AChristmasSnow.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes

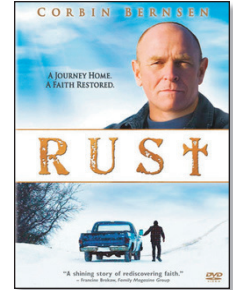


NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK
No Limits Kids: Much Ado About Middle School is the latest release from Elevating Entertainment Motion Pictures, a company founded by father/son duo **Dave and Josh Moody**. With a script written by Josh, the film stars **Bill Cobbs** (*Night at the Museum*) and **Lee Meriwether**, (*Mission: Impossible, Barnaby Jones*) along with several talented young actors. The film focuses on a group of kids full of doubts and fears

about entering middle school and the lessons they learn trying to save an abandoned theater. “*No Limit Kids* is an inspirational story,” Josh told *Devozine magazine*. “It speaks to people of all ages and inspires them to do their best, using their God-given talents in whatever ways they can.” NoLimitKidsMovie.com

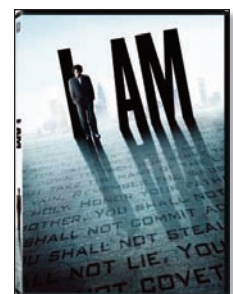
TIES THAT BIND
Corbin Bernsen (*L.A. Law, Psych*) is making a name for himself as writer, director, and producer of independent films. His newest film, *Rust*, is about a pastor in the midst of a midlife crisis of faith who goes back to his hometown and finds hope where he least expects it. It’s an

uplifting drama with important life themes about faith, family, loyalty, the past—and understanding the ties that bind a community together. RustMovie.com



NEW COMMANDMENT
I Am is a film that could cause viewers to see God in an entirely new light. Screened in more than 2500 churches in October, it was funded entirely by its producers, former major league baseball player **Todd Zeile** (also an actor in the movie) and **John Ward**, who got the acting bug when his little sister was photo double for Drew Barrymore.

Says Ward: “We wanted to show on film that God is always in



pursuit of us regardless of our circumstances. We wanted to make a movie that creates conversation, but doesn't give you the answer. [*I Am* is] a great study of the 10 Commandments themselves." Look for it on DVD now.

IAmTheMovie.com

HOLIDAY HUSTLE

After losing his job in 2008, director **George Johnson** was inspired to make *Homeless for the Holidays*. It's a story about an uncaring executive who falls from the corporate ladder and learns how difficult it can be to find work in today's economy.

"Once I finished writing the screenplay," Johnson says, "with God's amazing provision, we were able to assemble more than 550 volunteers to create this film in the middle of a recession."

The movie has



struck a chord with audiences, selling out its first theatrical showings. Talks have even begun with TV networks to bring the movie to the small screen.

HomelessForTheHolidaysMovie.com

COUNTDOWN TO RELEASE

PureFlix is in post production on *Jerusalem Countdown*, a fictional movie based on the nonfiction book by **John Hagee**. "It's an action, adventure, political thriller," says producer **Michael Scott**. "Two FBI agents learn about a plot where someone is trying to bring seven nuclear bombs in to destroy the USA."

David A.R. White stars as one of the FBI agents alongside **Lee Majors** as a washed-up arms dealer. Also appearing are **Randy Travis** as the CIA Deputy Director, and **Stacy Keach** as a converted Israeli Mossad agent. Christian music artist **Jaci Velasquez** also has a small part.

JerusalemCountdown.com

—C.J. Darlington

new releases

A CHRISTMAS SNOW

(Trost Moving Pictures)



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)



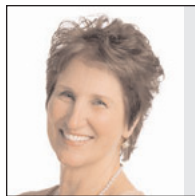
Season's Readings



IN THE BOX

Tyndale House is releasing an all-new edition of **Francine Rivers'** classic Christmas novella *The Shoe Box: A Christmas Story*. The unforgettable story of a foster child with a very special and mysterious shoe box, the updated edition includes Francine's favorite holiday recipes and Christmas traditions, and the complete Christmas story from the New Living Translation.

Francine explains how this story came to be: "When I first became a Christian, one of the hardest things for me to do was to give my burdens to the Lord. I would worry over all kinds of things. I remember a friend talking



about putting prayers in a lunch bag, and that got me thinking. One of the many jobs I had held was that of a secretary, and I remembered the in- and out-boxes. From that memory came the idea of a 'God box.'

"I took an ordinary cardboard container with a lid and covered it with beautiful wrapping paper. Whenever something was bothering me greatly and I couldn't let it go, I would write out a prayer about it and tuck it in the God box.

"Every few months I'd open the box and read the prayers. What I found was a source of great joy and comfort, for many of the prayers were answered, often in completely unexpected ways."

FrancineRivers.com

CHRISTMAS MELODY

This Christmas, author **Melody Carlson** has *three* seasonal books hitting shelves.

First up is *Christmas at Harrington's*: Christmas is approaching, and Lena Markham finds herself penniless, friendless, and

nearly hopeless. She is trying to restart her life, but jobs are

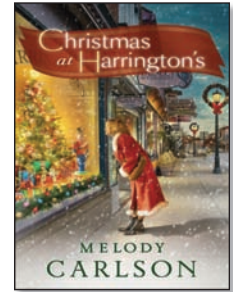
practically nonexistent. When a secondhand red coat unexpectedly lands her a job as Mrs. Santa at a department store, Lena finally thinks her luck is changing. But can she keep her past a secret?

Also new from Melody are two three-in-one volumes collecting past classics: *The Joy of Christmas* 3-in-1 includes *An Irish Christmas*, *All I Have to Give* and *The Christmas Dog*.

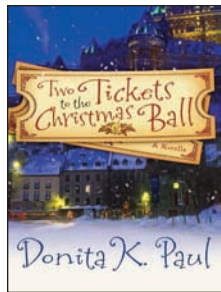
The Treasure of Christmas 3-in-1 includes *The Christmas Bus*, *The Gift of Christmas Present* and *Angels in the Snow*. MelodyCarlson.com

GOLDEN TICKET

New from **Donita K. Paul** is the Christmas romance *Two Tickets to the Christmas Ball* (WaterBrook Press). In a



sleepy, snow-covered city, Cora Crowder is busy preparing for the



holiday season. Searching for a perfect gift, a trip to a most unusual bookshop leads to an unexpected encounter with co-worker Simon Derric—and the surprise discovery of a ticket for a truly one-of-a-kind Christmas Ball...

DonitaKPaul.com

BACK IN COURT

Author, lawyer and pastor **Randy Singer** is back this holiday season



with a new edition of *The Judge Who Stole Christmas* (Tyndale House)—and the plot sounds more timely than ever: When a federal judge rules that the live nativity display in a small

Virginia town square is “unconstitutional,” local man Thomas Hammond refuses to abide by the court order—and winds up in jail. From the courtrooms of Virginia to the talk shows of New York City, the battle escalates into a national media spectacle.

Caught in the middle is a law student assigned to represent Thomas as part of her school’s legal aid clinic. Only a surprising series of events can reconcile a stubborn father, a crusading law student, and a recalcitrant judge.

“*The Judge Who Stole Christmas*, like many



of my books, takes place at that intersection between law and religion,” Randy tells *FamilyFiction*. “Many of the most controversial aspects of our culture are decided in a court of law: *When does life begin? What role should religion play in public life? How do you define marriage?* All

new releases

THE SNOWFLAKE

Jamie Carie

(B&H)



A PLAIN AND SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Amy Clipston

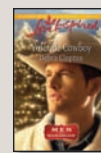
(Zondervan)



YULETIDE COWBOY

Debra Clopton

(Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



CHRISTMAS BODYGUARD

Margaret Daley

(Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)



A DAUGHTER FOR CHRISTMAS

Margaret Daley

(Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



AN AMISH CHRISTMAS

Patricia Davids

(Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



SARAH'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Mary Ellis

(Harvest House)



GRACE (CHRISTMAS SISTERS OF THE HEART)

Shelley Shepard Gray

(Avon Inspire)



ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Thomas Kinkadee, Katherine Spencer

(Berkley)



A WISH FOR CHRISTMAS

Thomas Kinkadee, Katherine Spencer

(Berkley)



Season's Readings

these questions are hybrids between law and religion. But under the rule of law in America, most are determined by lawyers and judges and juries. When I write legal thrillers, I try to incorporate some of these big issues that touch on religious themes in my storylines.”

RandySinger.net

SIXTEEN ROMANCES

Barbour offers up no fewer than *four* new four-in-one books with Christmastime romances—with stories from different times and places to suit many a romance reader.

Christmas Mail-Order Brides: Ride the transcontinental railroad as marriage arrives by mail-order just in time for Christmas—but

the results are unpredictable...

A Door County Christmas: Go behind the scenes of a Wisconsin tourist town gone dormant for the winter season. A year ago, a Door County innkeeper promised four single women that love would come to each of them when the Christmas cactus bloomed again.

But as this Christmas nears in the sleepy tourist town, none of the women are holding their breath in anticipation of romance—not yet...

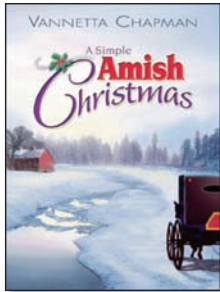
A Riverwalk Christmas: A vivid setting, rich in cultural history, Christmastime along the San Antonio Riverwalk is a delightful setting for four modern romances. Ecko finally meets the

right kind of guy, but can he trust her motives? Valerie hires an old flame to revive her business, but will he stick around? Gabriela has a chance to forgive and find love, but can she? Sienna's job brings her the chance of a lifetime, but will her rowdy family spoil it?

A Woodland Christmas: Experience a nostalgic Christmas in the Piney Woods of East Texas where a traveling wood-carver dispenses wisdom that brings four couples to realize the gift of love.

Can Bridget show Seth how to forgive? Will Mary see Joseph live up to his promise? Can Seth steer Emma away from the need for vengeance? Will R. C. help Gabriella find her grandfather?





HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Debut novelist **Vannetta Chapman** offers *A Simple Amish Christmas* (Abingdon Press). In the book, Annie Weaver always planned to return home, but the 20-year-old RN has lived in Philadelphia for three years now. Her time of rumschprunge about to come to an end, Annie returns home and finds herself face-to-face with a budding romance with an Amish farmer. Now, Annie has several important choices to make ...
VannettaChapman.com

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

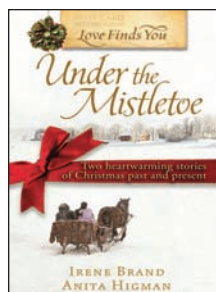
For the new volume *Love Finds You under the Mistletoe* (Summerside Press), authors **Irene Brand** and **Anita Higman** created two

brand-new a Christmas novellas—one historical, one contemporary—that are interconnected.

“We had a brainstorming session by phone and by email and figured it out,” Anita explains. “Irene’s historical novella ‘An Appalachian Christmas’ is tied to my contemporary novella ‘Once Upon a Christmas Eve.’ They are connected through the passing of a mistletoe ball through the generations.”

Irene adds, “After we’d each read the other’s manuscript, I provided Anita with the information necessary for continuity, and she did the same for me. It was easy to insert the other story line into my novella.”

AnitaHigman.com
IreneBrand.com



new releases

ADVENT OF A MYSTERY

Marilyn Leach
 (Barbour Books)



HOLIDAY HAVOC

Terri Reed, Stephanie Newton
 (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)



YULETIDE DEFENDER

Sandra Robbins
 (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)



SAINTS AMONG US

Anne Marie Rodgers
 (Guideposts)



THE CHRISTMAS RESCUE

Laura Scott
 (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)



THE CHRISTMAS EDITION: JOURNEY TO PARADISE

Robin Shope
 (White Rose)



AN AMISH CHRISTMAS, EXPANDED EDITION

Wiseman, Fuller, Cameron, Long
 (Thomas Nelson)



A PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Peterson, Bateman, Griffin, etc
 (Barbour Books)



ONE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS/HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Irene Hannon
 (Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



SUGAR PLUMS FOR DRY CREEK/AT HOME IN DRY CREEK

Janet Tronstad
 (Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



Ask the Author: Brandilyn Collins

This best-selling novelist writes harrowing crime thrillers that leave her readers breathless. Her novels have won the ACFW Book of the Year (three times), Inspirational Readers' Choice, and Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice. Her latest Christian thrillers include *Deceit* (Zondervan) and the upcoming *Over the Edge* (B&H), a suspense novel based on the author's own experience with Lyme Disease. The following questions were submitted through [Facebook.com/FamilyFiction](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction).

"How does your faith affect the way you approach murder and good vs. evil?"

— Kathy Cassel

My faith infuses my tales of murder with the message of God's grace. As I write my Seatbelt Suspense® and push my characters into situations I'd never want to endure, every time I end up before the face of God. When my characters face death, questions about God and eternity naturally arise. My readers may be reading for sheer suspense, but truth is woven through that tension. Some of the truth is on the surface. Other truth flows beneath the surface plot, where discerning readers love to swim.

"How do you find the people willing to help with research?"

— Sherry Ledet

Start with who you know. For example, a suspense author who needs to interview a forensic technician may not know one, but she may know a policeman—who'll know a homicide detective, who'll know forensic techs. Once you've talked to one expert, ask him or her where to go next. When you call person No. 2, you can use person No. 1's name. Once you start making the rounds of experts, it's easier to get others to talk to you.

Also, if you're on email loops, Twitter, Facebook, etc.—put the word out. Don't be afraid to be specific: "Anyone know a historian

who can tell me what breed of rats were in Wisconsin in the 1800s?"

"Do you have to begin with the end and work backward to get all the scenarios in place?"

— Glynda McDaniel Shaw

First, I know my premise. Then I figure out the end so I can know where I'm going. My Seatbelt Suspense® is known for twists. In order to write the red herrings and real clues, plus layer in the assumptions I want my readers to believe (so I can pull those rugs right out from under 'em, heh-heh), I have to know the ending. The middle is a little fuzzy. The middle is why I kick cabinets. (By the way, it's untrue that we remodeled our kitchen last year because I'd kicked in all the cabinets. I'd only kicked in half of them. Some of them were too high.)

"What real-life experiences have you had that inspired your writing?"

— Britta-Marie Kilby

I've never really killed anyone. Let's get that straight right up front. I did get the idea for the infamous scene in the opening of *Violet Dawn* while sitting in our own hot tub. And the premise for *Eyes of Elisha* came to me as I went out to dinner to "look over" the V.P. candidate my husband wanted to hire for his company. I thought, *Hmm, what if I told hubby I was just sure the guy had killed someone?* There are real life ex-

periences I haven't written about. Like being stranded in the middle of sugar cane fields in

Hawaii, and those big guys with the bloody machete. Maybe some day...

"Have you ever written a novel so suspenseful you scared yourself while writing it?"

— Deena Ward Peterson

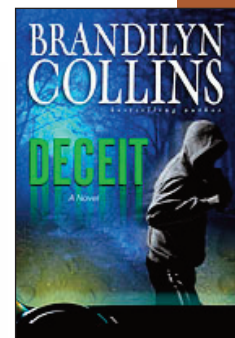
Not anymore. I guess I've grown used to my twisted self. However, when I was writing my first suspense, *Eyes of Elisha*, sometimes I'd write all night. Ooh, those dead-of-night hours. Sometimes in the most tense scenes, I'd start getting these frissons down my back. That barest of touches. A wraith's fingernail drawn down the spine.

I'd slowly turn my head to the right. Nothing. Turn my head to the left. Nothing.

But right. Dead. Center. Behind me. You just never know. **FF**



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