

family fiction

Jan/Feb 2011

Because everyone deserves a good story.

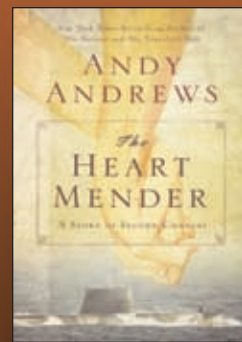
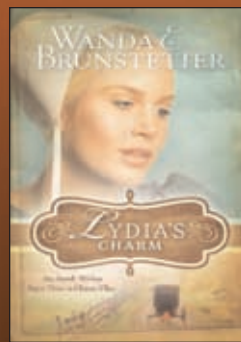
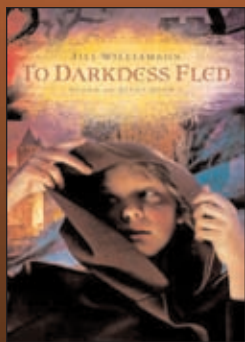
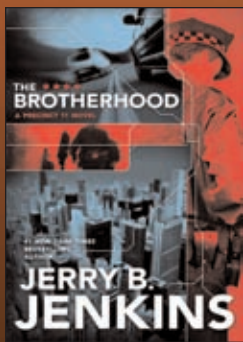
FRANCINE RIVERS

Hope Springs Eternal

The Trial

Robert Whitlow's legal thriller comes to the screen

What makes you purchase a book by an author you don't know?





A THOUGHT PROVOKING POLICE THRILLER FROM NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR JERRY B. JENKINS

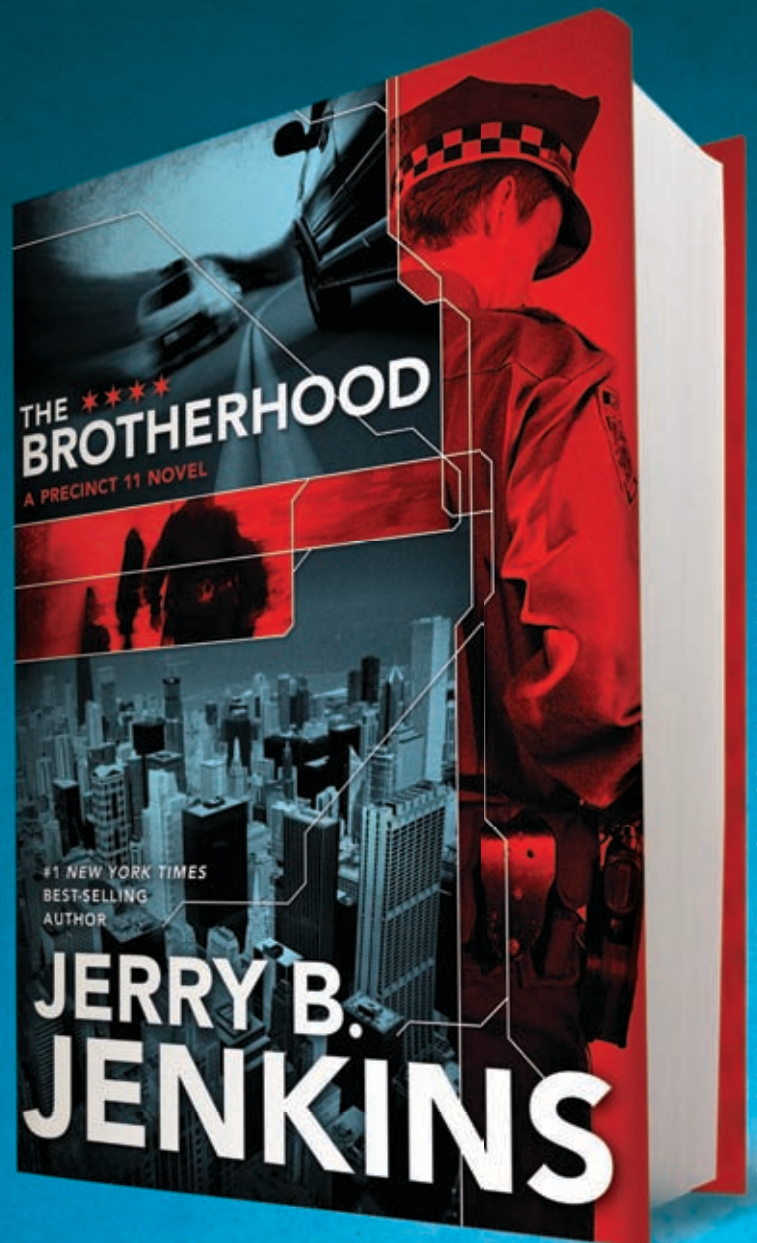
With his personal life nearly destroyed, a Chicago Cop is mired in guilt and bitterness as his life spins out of control. But when he comes face to face with the most vicious gang leader Chicago has seen in decades, he learns that God is a God of second chances and can change the hardest heart and forgive the worst crimes.



As a longtime Chicagoan, the son of a police chief, and the brother of two cops, I found this writing a labor of love.

JERRY JENKINS

AVAILABLE NOW
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
ONLINE RETAILER OR
WWW.TYNDALE.COM



ISBN HC 978-1-4143-0907-1 ISBN SC 978-1-4143-0922-4

Table of Contents

Words to the Wise	04
Feedback	06
Cover Story: Francine Rivers	10
Feature: Robert Whitlow's <i>The Trial</i>	16
Spotlight: Julie Klassen	18
5 Questions: Nicole O'Dell	38



DEPARTMENTS

20 Amish

Wanda E. Brunstetter

PLUS: Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould, Beverly Lewis, Michael Landon Jr., and Kim Vogel Sawyer!



22 Historical

DiAnn Mills

PLUS: Laurie Alice Eakes, Janelle Mowery, Davis Bunn and Janette Oke!



24 Suspense

Jerry B. Jenkins

PLUS: Kathy Herman, Lorena McCartney and Steven James!



26 Speculative

Jill Williamson

PLUS: Donita K. Paul, Rob Stennett, Kerry Nietz and Wayne Thomas Batson!



28 Romance

Jenny B. Jones

PLUS: Janice Thompson, Tia McCollors and Susan May Warren!



30 Contemporary

Andy Andrews

PLUS: Erin Healy and Kristin Billerbeck!



32 Young Adult

Andrew Klavan

PLUS: Nicole O'Dell, Melody Carlson, Roger Bruner and Chuck Black!



34 Children's

Chuck Swindoll

PLUS: Donita K. Paul and Evangeline Denmark, Carol Hamblet Adams and more!



36 Movie & DVD

Kyle Prohaska

PLUS: *The Grace Card*, *Blue Like Jazz* and *Left Behind* (again!)



REL MOLLET

Rel Mollet resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her movie-loving husband and three book-loving daughters.

relzreviewz.blogspot.com



C.J. DARLINGTON

C.J. is author of *Bound by Guilt* (Tyndale House) and co-founder of the Christian entertainment site TitleTrakk.com.

cjdarlington.com



KATIE HART

Katie Hart spends her free time reading, connecting with authors, and dreaming up new stories.

BladesofBetrayal.com



CHRISTA BANISTER

Christa Banister is the author of *Around the World in 80 Dates* and *Blessed Are the Meddlers*. Based in Dallas, Texas, she weighs in on pop culture on her blog.

ChristaBanister.typepad.com



BEN AVERY

Ben Avery writes comics, performs puppets, and plays Lego with his kids (and sometimes without them). He's the creator of *TimeFlyz* and *ArmorQuest*.

BenAvery.com



Words to the Wise

A New Beginning

The start of a new year is upon us, bringing with it all the wonderful things that it implies—a new beginning, a chance to put the past behind us, a chance to look forward to all the new challenges and all the new triumphs and all the new potential the new year may bring.

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul told his readers that he was “forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.” (Phil 3:14). And while we should follow this example all year-round, the change of the calendar from one year to the next becomes an annual reminder that we should all press ahead toward the goal of serving Jesus Christ.

And one of the ways to help bolster one’s faith is to keep reading Christian fiction: While it is no substitute for the Bible, a Christian novel uses an imaginary situation to reinforce eternal truths. A good story told well will encourage us, comfort us, teach us—or even challenge us.

In the new year, we at *FamilyFiction* encourage you to try a new novelist. Write a thank-you note to an author who has touched you. Thank your local booksellers who carry Christian fiction; tell them how much it has meant to you.

Thank you for all the support you’ve shown us during our launch these past few months. May God richly bless you and your family in 2011!

Chris Well, editor
FamilyFiction



CHRIS WELL

family
fiction

January/February 2011 Issue 3

A publication of Salem Publishing,
a division of Salem Communications
Corp. [Nasdaq: SALM]

402 BNA Drive, Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37217-2509
Phone: 615.386.3011
Fax: 615.312.4266
FamilyFiction.com
Facebook.com/FamilyFiction
Twitter.com/FamilyFiction

Publisher

Salem Publishing

Associate Publisher

Rick Edwards

Editor

Chris Well

Design

Martina Ahlbrandt & Ross Cluver

Production & Operations Director

Ross E. Cluver

Contributing Editors

Ben Avery, Christa Banister, CJ Darlington,
Rel Mollet, Katie Hart

Advertising Sales

Executive Director of Advertising
Jerry Charles, 615.312.4244
Senior Director of Advertising
DeDe Donatelli-Tarrant, 805.987.5072

Account Executives

Pat McAbee, 770.237.5400
Gary Miller, 970.203.0417
Lindsey Kirkendall, 615.367.2210 x206

Advertising Traffic Manager

Carol Jones

Assistant Advertising Traffic Manager

Leah Totty

Cover

Walden Media

Advertising Information

Salem Publishing
402 BNA Drive, Ste. 400
Nashville, TN 37217-2509
Phone: 615.386.3011
Fax: 615.386.3380
CCMMediaServices.com

find us online

write to us

402 BNA Drive, Ste. 400, Nashville, TN 37217-2509

website FamilyFiction.com

facebook facebook.com/FamilyFiction.com

twitter twitter.com/FamilyFiction

STORIES FOR THE HEART *and* SOUL

Inspired by a
**TRUE
STORY!**



When new laws take away their freedom, one Amish community seeks religious sanctuary in Mexico. But is the road ahead more dangerous than what they left behind?

Paradise Valley by Dale Cramer
THE DAUGHTERS OF CALEB BENDER # 1



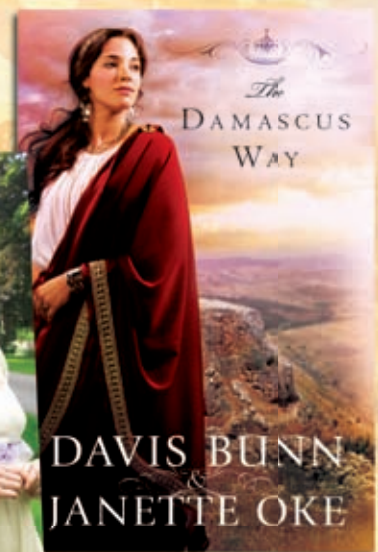
Miss Amsel is ready for her new teaching position at a one-room schoolhouse. But with her modern ideas and fancy language, is this little prairie town ready for her?

Courting Miss Amsel
by Kim Vogel Sawyer



An ambitious captain, a beguiling outcast, and a mysterious gatehouse... Will he risk his plans—and his heart—for a woman shadowed by scandal?

The Girl in the Gatehouse
by Julie Klassen



When Jacob risks his life to deliver secret messages between groups of believers, an earthshaking encounter on the way to Damascus changes everything he thought he knew.

The Damascus Way
by Davis Bunn and Janette Oke
ACTS OF FAITH # 3

THE TOP NAME
in Inspirational Historical Fiction

 BETHANYHOUSE

www.bethanyhouse.com • Available from your sales rep or call Bethany House Publishers (800) 877-2665.

Bethany House Publishers is a division of the Baker Publishing Group

Feedback



I love the new *Family Fiction* magazine! That said, is the intent to only make this available online? Because I would have *really* liked to have a hard copy. I would definitely subscribe to this type of magazine. But reading 56 pages online is just too much, I like to have a magazine I can throw in my purse and read when I can. Thanks!

—AMELIE MARCH, VIA EMAIL

I would like to see Bryan Davis in a future issue of the magazine.

—CAMERON P THOMAS, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

I would like to see Christine Lynxwiler in a future issue of the magazine, please. She is an amazing woman and author.

—SUSAN COSTIN NEDROW, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Please feature Dee Henderson—she is my favorite author and just disappeared from the writing world a few years ago.

—BRITTANIE TERRELL, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Please feature Ted Dekker in a future issue of your magazine!

—ARIEL MRUGACZ, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

In future issues of your magazine, I hope to see more sci-fi. Is there Christian sci-fi? Not fantasy, not legal thrillers, but sci-fi.

—BARBIE MCNUTT, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Please feature Deanne Gist, Tamera Alexander, Karen Witemeyer, Julie Klassen, Cathy Marie Hake! They are some of my favorites!

—ANDRANAE SOBERALSKI, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Please feature Amy Clipston, Kathleen Fuller, Barbara Cameron, Beth Wiseman and Suzanne Woods Fisher

—SANDRA KACZANOWCKE, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Please feature Patti Lacy!

—DEANNA WARNOCK GERMANY, VIA FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

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?

Facebook.com/topic.php?uid=236526068665&topic=13046

KEEP IN TOUCH!

FamilyFiction

402 BNA Drive, Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37217-2509

cwell@salempublishing.com

FamilyFiction.com

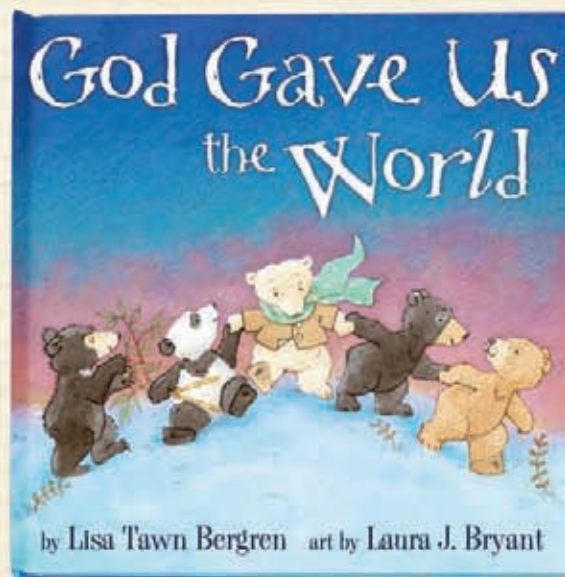
Facebook.com/FamilyFiction

Twitter.com/FamilyFiction

Start the New Year off with great fiction for all ages



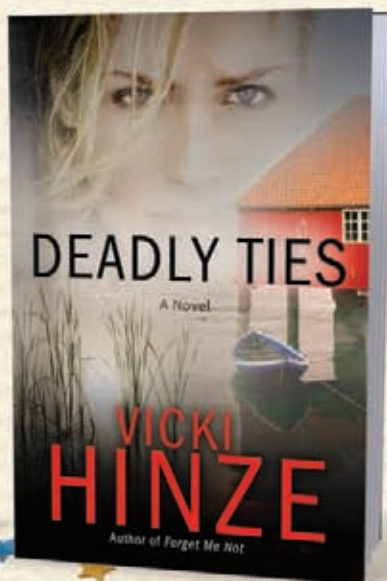
When Pdraig the dragon and Roger the turtle use their imaginations to camp out all night, they learn their friendship is stronger than their fear of the dark.



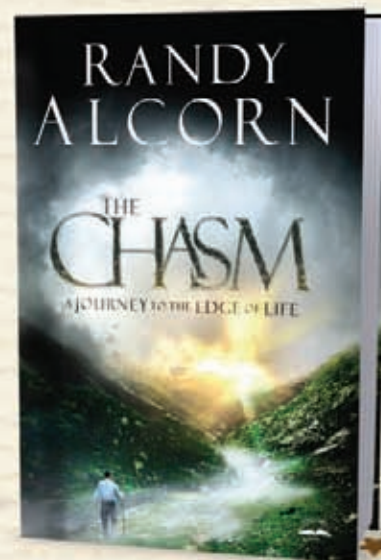
Little Cub is learning about all the different bears in God's big world, and asks Mama Bear to help her understand God's creativity and her unique place in his creation.



Only a miracle can save the ale boy from death, King Cal-raven from despair, and his people from a curse. But as The Auralia Thread series concludes, miracles will happen.



Lisa struggles to save her mother from an abusive monster. Mark fights to save Lisa from certain death. Together they must stop an international conspiracy and find love and true faith.



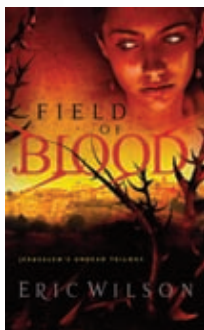
The most profound episode in Randy Alcorn's fiction portrays a man caught in another world—where he discovers a truth we all must someday face.



Dialogue

What makes you purchase a book by an author you don't know?

Brandon Shawn Hannon



Plot. I was introduced to **Eric Wilson's** Jerusalem's Undead Trilogy by reading a Lifeway sale bill on Thanksgiving day—and liked the plot so much I had to have it. (The cover helps, too.)

Jessica Kane

Its all kinds of things—but usually I either read about it, or think the cover is so pretty or the title sounds neat I have to read it!

Erica Camp

One of my favorite ways to find out if I would like a book is to see the reviews from popular authors I read. Another way is by the summary. If I feel like the summary is too cliché or predictable I will go to the next book. Certain authors need to get better summaries for their books—sometimes they just don't do the author or book justice. (I also look at the last page to see whether it's a happy ending or not.)

Cassandra Beers

Plot: I always go by the synopsis on the back of the book cover (or posted online). I never put stock

in reviews. Word of mouth might get me to know about the book, but that would only cause me to read the synopsis—it's all back to plot.

Karla Hanns

Usually, the plot. I read the synopsis on the back of the book, but sometimes I see a review of a book that intrigues me.



Jon Hetzel

If it received a Christy Award.

Leah Colson

Word of Mouth, popularity (if I find a lot of people reading the book or author I may check it or him or her out), cover, reviews, subject, availability of book.

Doris Fournier Mapes

Plot, word of mouth, just a “feel” from the summary—and sometimes a great buy at a garage sale or used bookstore makes it even more worth the try! Also if the book is in a favorite genre, such as Amish.

Ronie Kendig

- 1) Word of Mouth
- 2) Cover and back-cover copy
- 3) If I like the cover and the copy, I'll go to an online retailer or the publisher's site to see if there are sample chapters.
- 4) Bargain shelves (I've found three new favorite authors that way.)

Ryan Rafferty

Anything with chapters 10 pages or longer turns me away—unless I have heard good things about it.

Kimberly Guffey Laursen

If I am online, I enjoy book trailers and reviews, descriptions and suggestions. At the bookstore, I look at the spine, and then the back. I want to get a good idea of what the plot and time frame are.

Becky Wheeler Guinn

If the opening chapter catches me, I'll buy it. If I've read everything by my favorite authors, I'll look for someone similar to their writing style.

See all the responses at:

<http://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/154060541303285>

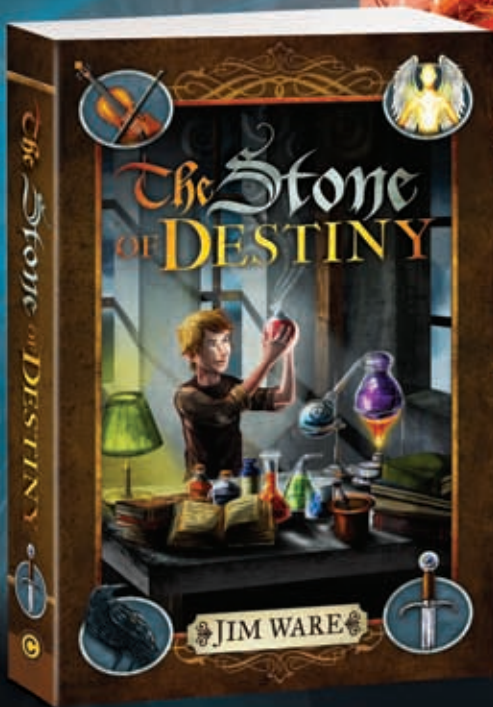
A FAMILY OF FICTION



For Grownups

Operation Bonnet by Kimberly Stuart

When Nellie goes undercover in the local Amish community the results are as surprising as they are hilarious.



For Middle Schoolers

Stone of Destiny

by Jim Ware

Morgan hates middle school, but he loves reading old books about alchemy—maybe they can help him find a magical way to cure his mother's cancer...



For Teens

Waterfall

by Lisa T. Bergren

An American teenager accidentally finds herself in fourteenth-century Italy with a Prince. A romantic historical suspense novel for young adults.



Hope Springs Eternal

In her 20-plus years of writing award-winning Christian fiction, **Francine Rivers** has certainly spun her fair share of engaging tales. But as diverse as the storylines of her span-the-genre novels are, the tie that inevitably binds her work together is always hope. **By Christa A. Banister**

Even though she's written 25 novels since she officially made her Christian fiction debut with *Redeeming Love* in 1991, Francine Rivers still gets a little nervous whenever her latest release date rolls around.

And once *Her Daughter's Dream* (Tyndale House), the sequel to the *New York Times* bestseller *Her Mother's Hope*, hit store shelves, she still couldn't help wondering how her readers would respond.

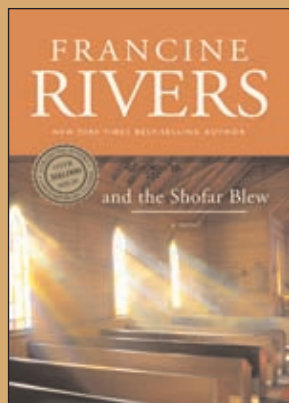
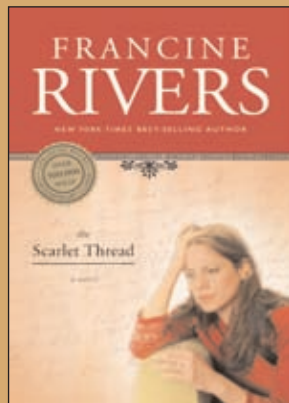
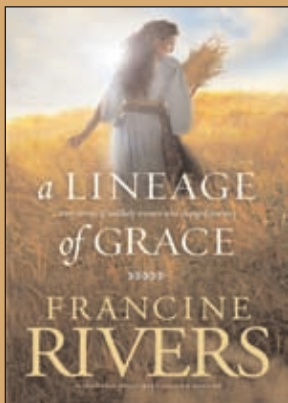
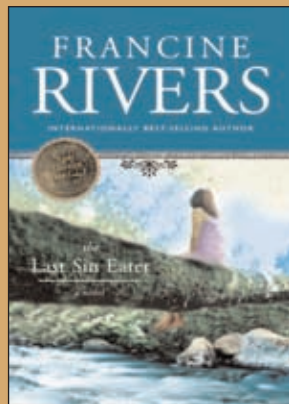
"I still get butterflies—lots of them," Francine confesses. "I guess I'm never sure how readers will take a new project or I've rendered the story fully. I always start with a question about something in my faith walk or an issue I need to work through. I'm on a personal quest to find God's perspective."

Through that process, she's waiting for that "epiphany moment" when she realizes what God is trying to teach her through that particular story. "But that doesn't necessarily mean readers are going to be pleased with the final product," Francine says. "All I can do is hope readers will be along for the journey and will come away encouraged at the end."

THE LATEST CHAPTER

Given the longevity of her career in the always-fickle fiction marketplace and the warm reception she consistently receives from critics and on countless fan pages, Francine doesn't exactly have to worry about what people will think. But her commitment to her craft and her fervency in communicating about matters of faith pushes her to do better.

In both *Her Mother's Hope* and *Her Daughter's Dream*, the story sprang from Rivers' questions of why her own mother and grandmother were "somewhat estranged" at the end of her grandmother's life. "My mother's feelings were deeply hurt by the situation, and she tried to work things out," Francine shares. "It was difficult to write, and the first draft—which was 1,200 pages long—didn't work. It wasn't until I allowed the characters Marta and Hildemara to become 'real' in and of themselves and not try to force them into molds of my grandmother and mother that the story began to work. What I learned through the process is we need to know the background and experiences that shaped our parents' lives."



In *Her Daughter's Dream*, Rivers talks about how history does have the tendency of repeating itself from generation to generation. "Unless we recognize what we're doing wrong, we can't change," Rivers says. "Repentance comes from a broken and contrite heart, but in the end builds us up rather than tearing us down. What I hope readers will take from this story is a deep desire to know their family members, to listen intently, to say 'I love you' openly and without fear—or expectations. I hope the story will encourage generations to build bridges and share their life experiences."

FROM THE 1950S TO THE MODERN AGE

This time around, readers benefit from the perspective of Hildie's daughter Carolyn Arundel in *Her Daughter's Dream*, which is set in multiple decades—ranging from the 1950s to the modern age. Basically, when Carolyn's mother is sick with tuberculosis and quarantined to her room until she gets better, Carolyn starts bonding with her grandmother Marta, who steps in and helps with the household duties in Hildie's absence.

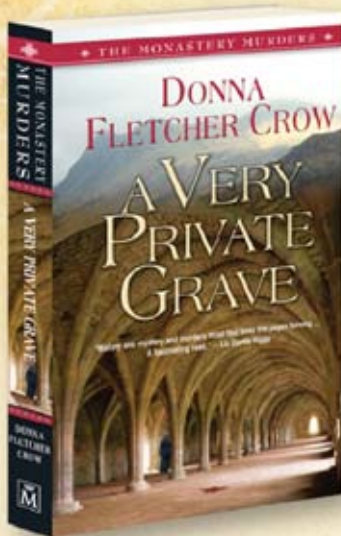
Like those modern-day instances where too much time with family starts a major rift, Hildie and Marta start getting into it, and Carolyn thinks she's the one to blame. Lo and behold, once Carolyn has a daughter, the sick cycle starts again. But after learning what happened in her family's past, she's determined to be a bridge, rather than the person who tears her family apart again.

"If they're willing to work at it, families *can* draw closer," Francine says. "Hardships come in all sizes, but when we trust in the Lord and follow His ways, the difficult things in life don't have to tear us apart. They can actually make our faith stronger, and equip us to help one another. We can pull together, especially if we're willing to share our experiences and hope."

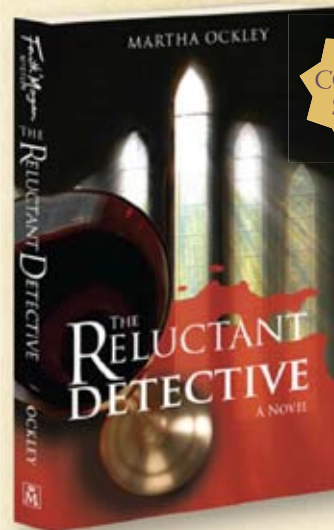
CLUES & CROSSES

CHRISTIAN MYSTERIES FROM MONARCH BOOKS

Romantic Suspense

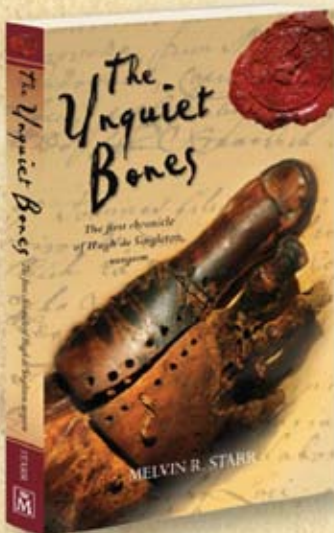


A VERY PRIVATE GRAVE
[READ AN EXCERPT]

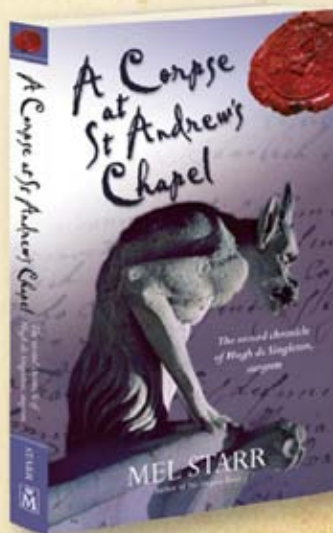


THE RELUCTANT DETECTIVE
[READ AN EXCERPT]

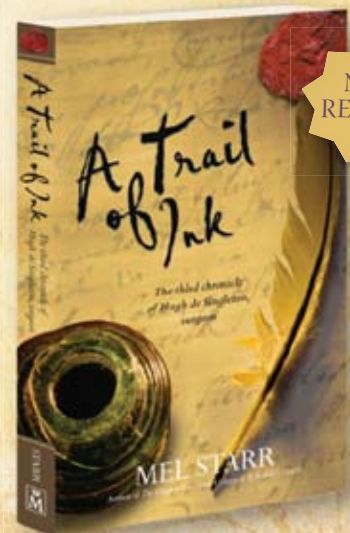
Historical whodunits—The Chronicles of Hugh de Singleton, Surgeon



BOOK 1: THE UNQUIET BONES
[READ AN EXCERPT]



BOOK 2: A CORPSE AT ST ANDREW'S CHAPEL
[READ AN EXCERPT]



BOOK 3: A TRAIL OF INK
[READ AN EXCERPT]

Monarch Books are distributed in North America by Kregel Publications
www.kregel.com • 800-733-2607

WE CAN WORK IT OUT

As for how to make this happen when the going gets tough, Francine looks to the Bible for inspiration. “I don’t believe ‘venting’ is a good thing,” Francine says. “Feelings can be shared openly as long as we do so with mutual respect. It’s not easy to come close to someone who has hurt you, but it is possible. Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you.” It wasn’t a suggestion. *Love one another* is a commandment. Love isn’t a feeling—it’s action. It isn’t just what we say, but how we say it and what we do. I pray readers will reach out to estranged family members. The best relationships are not built on the worldly idea of ‘what’s in it for me,’ but on faith in Jesus. Even if a relationship cannot be restored, we can be healed. We can forgive. We can move on without regrets and still keep doors open.”

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Now that the “Marta’s Legacy” series has drawn to a close, the Northern California native is in the very, *very* beginning stages of figuring out what she’ll work on next. But in the meantime she’s enjoyed reading a biography of Maria Edgewood, a family antecedent on the Rivers’ side of the family who was a writer of great reputation. Not only was Edgewood said to be Queen Victoria’s favorite novelist, but her work also had an impact on Sir Walter Scott and Jane Austen.

“I love mixing it up with what I read and enjoy many genres,” Francine says. “And right now I’m loving this biography.”

As for whether she’s climbed on the social networking bandwagon, the renowned writer says she’s been better at keeping up with family online than anything else. “Email has enabled me to ‘talk’ frequently with my brother, children, grandchildren, one cousin, and a few close friends,” Francine says. “I’m still learning about blogging. I’m always



Top: Francine Rivers (in blue jacket) meets five Samford University coeds at her book-signing in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bottom: A mother and daughter meet Francine on her launch tour for *Her Daughter's Dream*. The mother (seated) already had a large print edition of the novel loaded on her Nook!

worried I’m wasting people’s time. I find it very difficult to stay up to date with groups—especially writers’ groups. Writers love to write! And I’m a slow reader. Time is very precious and I have to make decisions on how best to use it. I’m usually a week or more behind in answering readers’ letters.”

For more information on Francine and what’s next for her writing-wise, please visit FrancineRivers.com. **FF**

IT'S **CCM.**

IT'S A COOL NEW FORMAT.

IT'S COMPLETELY FREE.

AND NOW IT'S MONTHLY!

CCMDIGITAL.COM

Sign up to receive email alerts when a new digital issue is posted.

Plus, we'll send you our weekly *IN TUNE* newsletter filled with the latest Christian music news for FREE!



DAY IN COURT

Bestselling author Robert Whitlow and filmmaker Gary Wheeler discussing bringing Whitlow's *The Trial* to the screen By C.J. Darlington



When attorney Robert Whitlow was growing up, he had no ambition to be a novelist. He only realized he wanted to be a lawyer in college. But almost fifteen years ago an idea for a story came to him while driving—it became his novel *The List*,

the first of his books to be made into a movie by North Carolina producer/director Gary Wheeler of Level Path Productions.

Now Team Whitlow/Wheeler have come together again to make a movie based on Whitlow's second novel, *The Trial* (Thomas Nelson). But how do you distill a 400 page novel into a 90 page script without losing the story's essence? "We asked ourselves, *What's the story we want to tell?*" Wheeler shares.

"Robert wrote the novel years ago, and the element of dealing with grief was just a portion of the novel. But we realized that was what the theme of the movie was going to be."

There's a reason they chose that theme. "Two-and-a-half years ago our daughter-in-law died of leukemia," Whitlow says. "She was pregnant with our first grandson, and we lost both of them."

Add Wheeler: "What Robert thought he knew about the grief process, he basically had to walk through with this. What he learned was that grief is like a river. Those lines from the movie that really aren't in the book, that's what he learned about grief through this tragedy."

"It's a collaborative effort," Whitlow says. "The rule we try to apply is if we come up with an idea or a little nuance, that I wish I'd put in the novel, it goes in the movie."

Wheeler agrees. "Robert doesn't hold his books precious. He believes in the power of film to transform. I'd say 80-percent of the movie is from the book, but that only represents about 20-percent of the novel."

A courtroom drama in the vein of Wheeler's favorite film, *To Kill A Mockingbird*,

The Trial is based on experiences Whitlow had early in his career. “There’s nothing like going into a courtroom when someone’s life has been taken, and somebody’s life is on the line,” Whitlow says solemnly. “It’s just inherently dramatic.”

In the case of *The Trial*, a young woman has been murdered and the accused—the last person to see her alive—has no memory of what happened. It’s up to attorney Mac Maclain to fight for the life of his client. He’s also fighting for his own will to live in the face of losing his wife and son in a car accident that happened while he was behind the wheel.

A fight was in store for the filmmakers, too. Wheeler’s first choice for the actor to play Mac—Matthew Modine—wasn’t available during the casting process because he was doing a play. Then, two weeks before they were supposed to begin shooting the movie, the financing fell through.

It took six months to re-raise it. Eight days before filming was to start again, the part of Mac still wasn’t cast—but God provided in the eleventh hour: “The next morning I woke up and we got a call from Matthew Modine’s agent saying he’d finished his play and was going to read the script,” Wheeler says. “Because of the delay when we lost our financing, Matthew was now available. He wrapped his play on a Sunday and was on a plane Monday to shoot on Tuesday.”

Overall, the goal of Wheeler and Whitlow is to make movies that are artistically excellent and spiritually powerful. “With *The Trial* we wanted to make a movie that ninety-nine percent of the audience would say was a great movie,” Wheeler says. “And then I hope the one percent of people who need help moving on from a place of pain and grief, who need a touch, will get it.” **FF**



Julie Klassen

Jane Austen, Meet Your Match



Among the first to pen Regency-set novels for the inspirational market, Julie Klassen offers a fresh take on Christian historical romance—paving the way for others. Recognition this past year from four major literary awards, including the coveted Christy, proves her efforts are making an impact in the Christian market and beyond.

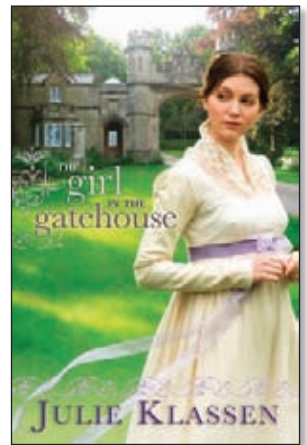
For her upcoming novel *The Girl in the Gatehouse* (Bethany House), the author was inspired by one of her literary heroes, the great Jane Austen: “My heroine is a lot like Jane, whose name did not appear on any of her books during her lifetime,” Julie says. “She’s also a secret author at a time when novel-writing was considered improper for ladies.”

No longer welcome at the only home she’s ever known, Mariah Aubrey not only lives in seclusion in an abandoned gatehouse, but she’s got plenty of intriguing secrets to boot, including the fact that she (gasp!) moonlights as a writer.

Of course, things get really interesting once Captain Matthew

Bryant arrives on the scene and starts leasing the estate. Intrigued by the beautiful woman living nearby, he has to figure out whether her scandalous past can ever lead to a promising future for the two of them.

But beyond the intriguing storyline, Julie ultimately hopes that readers will be reminded that second chances are available to anyone. “We all stumble and make mistakes,” the author says. “But through Christ, God offers us forgiveness, love and second chances. And that’s exactly what I wanted to convey in *The Girl in the Gatehouse*.”



The Girl in the Gatehouse

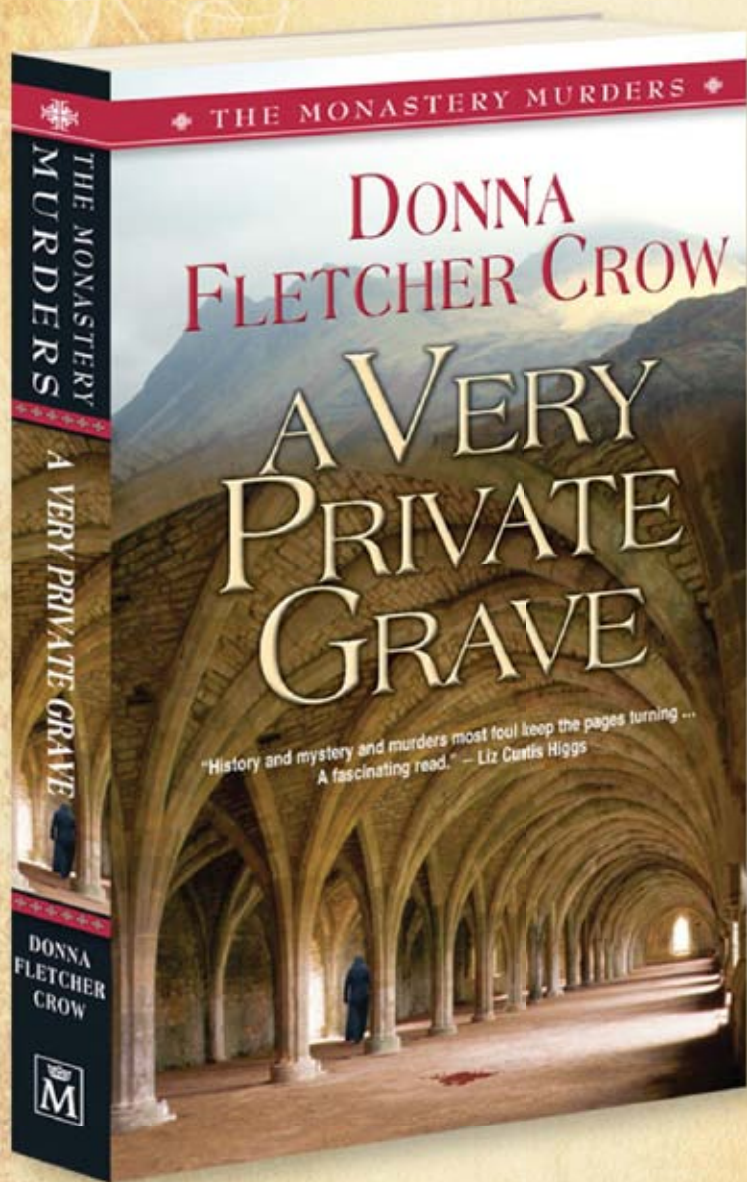
Julie Klassen

Bethany House

JulieKlassen.com

—Christa A. Banister

Felicity came to the monastery to prepare for her future—but stumbled instead into a world of ancient deadly secrets



“A sweeping, page-turning quest served up with dollops of Church history and lashings of romance. Donna Fletcher Crow has created her own niche within the genre of clerical mysteries.”

—Kate Charles,
author of *Deep Waters*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Donna Fletcher Crow is author of more than thirty-five novels. She has twice won first place in the Historical Fiction category from the National Association of Press Women, and has also been a finalist for “Best Inspirational Novel” from the Romance Writers of America. She is a member of The Arts Centre Group, and Sisters in Crime.

A VERY PRIVATE GRAVE

[READ AN EXCERPT]

Wanda E. Brunstetter

Ring of Truth



When it comes to Amish fiction, few names are as big as Wanda Brunstetter, who has sold more than 5 million copies of her books.

Her award-winning Amish bestsellers portray a simpler, more peaceful life—something the author feels we all need in our complicated world. “I believe Amish fiction is popular because in our fast-paced, modern world, most people are seeking to slow down and find meaning in relationships rather than things,” Wanda says. “There are many things we can learn from the Amish way of life and then incorporate into our own way of living. One of those is strengthening family ties and spending

“I try to depict the Amish as close to the way they live as possible.”

more time in prayer and meditation, which strengthens our faith in God.”

One reason Wanda’s books remain favorites of Amish fiction readers is that her novels ring with truth—thanks in part to her connections to the Amish community through her family heritage.

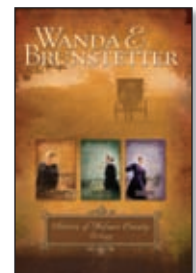
“I try to depict the Amish as close to the way they live as possible. Someone reading my books will not only learn

about the various customs of the Amish, but [also] that the Amish are like us in many ways and experience the same kinds of feelings when faced with trials and temptations. I hope my readers will also learn to incorporate some of the Amish ways into their own lives.”—[Anna Robbins](#)

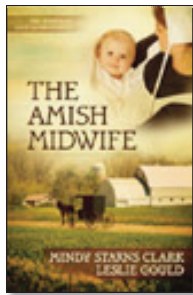


Lydia's Charm
Barbour Publishing
WandaBrunstetter.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



PARTNERS

Authors **Mindy Starns Clark** and **Leslie Gould** team up for the new Amish series, *The Women of Lancaster County*. The first volume is *The Amish Midwife* (Harvest House), a compelling story about a search for identity and the ability to trust that God securely holds our whole life—past, present and future.

“I’m a history major—I want things to be as accurate as possible,” notes Leslie. “I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to get Amish fiction anywhere close to right. But my agent suggested Mindy and I write a novel together. She lives in Pennsylvania. She’d already written Amish fiction. I thought it was a great idea!”

So Leslie and her husband packed up the family for a research trip to Pennsylvania—and to meet her new co-author. “From the first Amish farm we drove by, I was absolutely hooked.”

LeslieGould.com

SAVE THE DATE

As we mentioned last issue, a film based on the **Beverly Lewis** novel *The Shunning* is set to be a Hallmark Channel original movie.

Danielle Panabaker stars alongside **Sherry Stringfeld**, as director **Michael Landon, Jr.** takes the wheel.

“*The Shunning* is a powerful coming-of-age tale of a young woman discovering her identity and coming to peace with the faith of her parents,” Landon says. “It’s a universal story that will resonate in every household and in every family, even though it’s set in the world of the Amish.”

HallmarkChannel.com
Believe-Pictures.com

CHOOSE WISELY

Kim Vogel Sawyer returns teen readers to the world of Katy Lambright with the third in the series, *Katy’s Homecoming* (Zondervan). Katy’s life outside her Old Order Mennonite sect becomes more complicated when she has a big decision to make—will she follow her heart and attend the homecoming dance, or follow the beliefs of her sect?

—Anna Robbins

new releases

WHEN STRAWBERRIES BLOOM

Linda Byler
(Good Books)



A TIME TO LOVE (QUILTS OF LANCASTER COUNTY)

Barbara Cameron
(Abingdon Press)



A PLACE OF PEACE (KAUFFMAN AMISH BAKERY)

Amy Clipston
(Zondervan)



PARADISE VALLEY (DAUGHTERS OF CALEB BENDER)

Dale Cramer
(Bethany House)



THE SEARCH (LANCASTER COUNTY SECRETS)

Suzanne Woods Fisher
(Revell)



SIMPLE DECEIT (HARMONY SERIES)

Nancy Mehl
(Barbour Publishing)



KATY’S HOMECOMING

Kim Vogel Sawyer
(Zonderkidz)



SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART (LAND OF CANAAN)

Beth Wiseman
(Thomas Nelson)



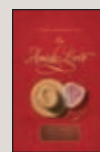
SISTERS OF THE QUILT: COMPLETE TRILOGY

Cindy Woodsmall
(WaterBrook Press)



AN AMISH LOVE

Wiseman, Fuller, Long
(Thomas Nelson)



DiAnn Mills

Expect an Adventure



Publishing her first story in 1998, DiAnn now has more than 50 books to her credit across multiple genres—including historical, suspense and non-fiction, with book sales in excess of 1.5 million.

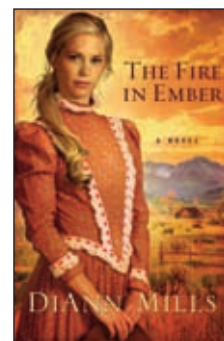
Of all those genres, however, DiAnn finds the historical novels easiest to write. “Historical novels involve a slower pace. Although the facts about the people and the setting are sometimes hard to find, history is unchanging. A contemporary story involves the latest technology, world happenings, politics, and a complex world that changes moment-by-moment.”

“Although the facts are sometimes hard to find, history is unchanging.”

DiAnn’s latest historical novel is *The Fire in Ember* (Zondervan), set in Colorado in the late 1880s. Ember Farrer runs away from her outlaw family only to find herself strung up as a horse thief. Rescued from the noose by Deputy Marshal and rancher John Timmons, Ember is fearful of revealing her true identity to the man who believes her to be a young boy.

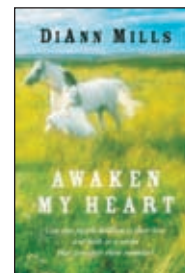
“Ember dreamed of a life free of physical and mental pain,” DiAnn says. “She found the courage to escape her family’s abuse, but running didn’t release the shackles that kept her chained to her past. Ember had to reach deep inside for the faith and courage to face her problems and be rid of her fears forever.”

—Rel Mollet

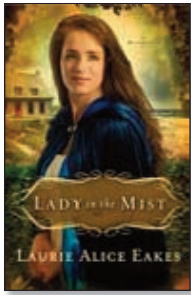


The Fire in Ember
Zondervan
DiAnnMills.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



WOMEN OF HONOR

Dominick Cherrett is a man with a secret: Midwife Tabitha Eckles is the keeper of many. Tabitha and Dominick are lead on a twisted path through kidnappings, death threats and public disgrace.

Laurie Alice Eakes' *A Lady in the Mist* (Revell) has been percolating for ten years, ever since she first studied midwives in graduate school. "Without social rank or money, they held positions of honor and respect in their community," Laurie says. "They often appeared in court at a time when women were kept far from proceedings, even ones affecting them."

LaurieAliceEakes.com

WILD WEST ADVENTURE

Janelle Mowery's *When All My Dreams Come True* (Harvest House) is inspired by her fascination with the Wild West. "I can't help but admire the men and women

who had a vision, braved the unknown, and attempted to tame the wild," Janelle shares. "It's the rancher and the rough and tumble cowboy that holds the biggest attraction. With brawn, grit, and sheer willpower, they came to represent the very image of strength and freedom."

JanelleMowery.com

ACTS OF FAITH

The dynamic writing duo of **Davis Bunn and Janette Oke** return to Jerusalem with their third Acts of Faith novel, *The Damascus Way* (Bethany House), the backdrop being the apostle Paul's dramatic conversion. "The most unique challenge to writing this series came from the need to see the world and teachings of Jesus from a Jewish believer's perspective," shares Davis. "I gained a great deal through working with an Orthodox rabbi who has become a secret follower of Jesus. He now leads underground churches for other Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem. The rabbi took me under his wing and taught me how an early Judean might view the teachings of Jesus."

DavisBunn.com

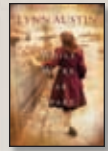
—Rel Mollet

new releases

WHILE WE'RE FAR APART

Lynn N. Austin

(Bethany House)



BRIDES OF ARKANSAS

Janet Lee Barton

(Barbour Publishing)



UNEXPECTED LOVE

Andrea Boeshaar

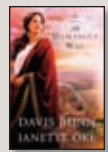
(Realms)



THE DAMASCUS WAY (ACTS OF FAITH)

Davis Bunn and Janette Oke

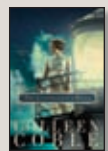
(Bethany House)



THE LIGHTKEEPER'S BRIDE (MERCY FALLS)

Colleen Coble

(Thomas Nelson)



LOVE FINDS YOU IN HOPE, KANSAS

Pamela Griffin

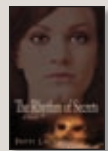
(Summerside Press)



THE RHYTHM OF SECRETS

Patti Lacy

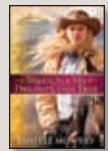
(Kregel Publications)



WHEN ALL MY DREAMS COME TRUE

Janelle Mowery

(Harvest House)



THE GUNMAN'S BRIDE

Catherine Palmer

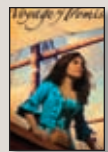
(Steeple Hill Love Inspired Historical)



THE VOYAGE OF PROMISE (GRACE IN AFRICA)

Kay Marshall Strom

(Abingdon Press)



Jerry B. Jenkins

Family Ties



“I worked as an undercover narcotics buyer,” Jerry B. Jenkins says in his usual matter-of-fact way.

The statement might cause some to pause when they look at the soft-spoken author of nearly 200 books, including the best-selling *Left Behind* series. But you wouldn't be as surprised if you knew Jerry's two brothers were cops and his father a police chief. “It was just before I married in 1971,” Jerry says. “Very dangerous, scary work. That was enough for me.”

Despite the “blue blood” running in his family, Jerry has been a writer since before he could drive. Maybe he didn't get the law enforcement gene, but that hasn't kept him from writing about cops. His novel *The Brotherhood* delves deep into the personal

“You can evoke the darker side without smashing it into someone's face.”

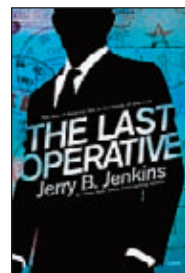
and professional life of Chicago cop Boone Drake. “He's mostly fictitious,” Jenkins says, “but many of the police episodes are based on stories from my dad and brothers and other relatives who have been cops. Whenever Dad came for show-and-tell at school or spoke in uniform at church, I basked in his stardom. I loved it. I was proud of my dad.”

The first in a trilogy, *The Brotherhood* takes readers inside the Chicago police and gang wars—but Jenkins is a master at capturing the gritty without dragging readers through the gutter. “I have always believed you can evoke the darker side of life without smashing it into someone's face,” Jenkins says. “They know what you're talking about. I can write that a character swore without quoting language that would distract the reader from the story.”—**C.J. Darlington**

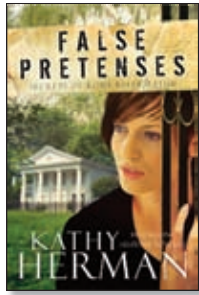


The Brotherhood
(*Precinct 11*)
Tyndale House
JerryJenkins.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



TASTY THRILLER

Kathy Herman adds a hearty shake of Cajun flavoring to *False Pretenses* (David C. Cook), book one in her suspense series *Secrets of Roux River Bayou*. She wrote the novel to show the importance of accountability and how a person reaps what he sows. Herman is satisfied the story does that—but wonders whether she overdid the authentic touch. “I craved gumbo the entire time I wrote this story,” she says. “And I have 10 extra pounds to show for it.” KathyHerman.com

LIMO NO LONGER IN LIMBO

After writing *Her Chariot Awaits*—the cozy mystery featuring 60-year-old Andi McConnell, who inherits a limousine—author **Lorena McCourtney**



wasn't sure when the second book would release after the series was cancelled by the publisher. The wait is over! *Here Comes the Ride* is now available exclusively on Amazon.com as a Kindle download for only \$2.99.

Amateur sleuth Andi finds herself in trouble once again during a five-day, live-in gig transporting a wedding party and Hollywood guests in her limousine. Will Andi wind up with more bullet holes in her limo—or in her? LorenaMccourtney.com

OH, THE DRAMA!

CBS is developing a drama series based on the bestseller *The Pawn* by **Steven James** (Revell). In association with ABC Studios, the project will be produced by **Michael Goldstein** and **Michael Larkin**, with a script by **Charles Murray** (*Criminal Minds*, *Castle*). James has written four thrillers thus far in the Patrick Bowers series, following the FBI agent as he uses geospatial investigative techniques to track high profile crimes. No word yet on a timeline for the show. StevenJames.com

—C.J. Darlington

new releases

WHEN THE DEVIL WHISTLES

Rick Acker

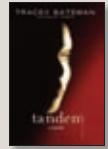
(Abingdon Press)



TANDEM

Tracey Bateman

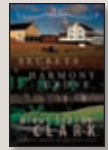
(WaterBrook Press)



SECRETS OF HARMONY GROVE

Mindy Starns Clark

(Harvest House)



DON'T LOOK BACK (WOMEN OF JUSTICE)

Lynette Eason

(Revell)



DIGITALIS (DISCARDED HEROES)

Ronie Kendig

(Barbour Publishing)



ANGEL HARP

Michael Phillips

(FaithWords)



THE TWELFTH IMAM

Joel C. Rosenberg

(Tyndale House)



I SHALL NOT WANT (PSALM 23 MYSTERIES)

Debbie Viguie

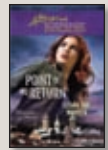
(Abingdon Press)



POINT OF NO RETURN (MISSIONS OF MERCY)

Susan May Warren

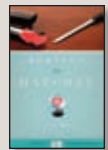
(Steeple Hill)



BURYING THE HATCHET (HOMETOWN MYSTERIES)

Chris Well

(Barbour Books)



Jill Williamson

Drawn to Fantasy



Award-winning novelist Jill Williamson discovered her love for writing almost by accident.

After leaving the fashion industry and becoming a stay-at-home mom, Jill began researching motivational speaking, which she felt would perfectly complement her husband's career as a youth pastor. She heard that writing articles could help her get started, and soon was pulled into the world of writing. "I was completely naive to think it was easy," she admits. "If I had known how difficult it was, I probably would have run screaming!"

Short stories in teen magazines and the debate over Harry Potter turned her attention toward fiction, specifically teen novels. Initially, she wasn't sure of this new

"Was I turning my back on what God wanted me to do because this was more fun?"

path. "I wanted to be a teen mentor, and speak to teens and encourage them, and [writing] felt like a hobby. Was I turning my back on what God wanted me to do because this was more fun?" Her pastor encouraged her, stating that fiction could reach teens as well.

After several years spent learning the craft and finishing her first novel, a spy teen story, she connected with Jeff Gerke over a mutual love of "weird fiction." A year later, she showed him the first chapter of what became *By Darkness Hid*, which is published by Jeff's company Marcher Lord Press.

The final book in the trilogy, *From Darkness Won*, releases in April 2010.

—Katie Hart



*To Darkness Fled
(Blood of Kings)*

Marcher Lord Press

JillWilliamson.wordpress.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



DRAGON TOUR

Donita K. Paul's latest fantasy title, *Dragons of the Valley* (WaterBrook Press), will take cyberspace by storm this January with the Christian Science Fiction Fantasy blog tour.

About the book: *With an invasion of her country imminent, Tipper Schope is drawn into a mission to keep three important statues from falling into the enemy's clutches. Her friend, the artist Bealomondore, helps her execute the plan, and along the way he learns to brandish a sword rather than a paintbrush.*

ACSFF promotes a speculative novel or website every month to raise awareness for this genre. CSFFblogtour.com

HAUNTING'S NEW HOM

Check out **Rob Stennett's** new website, RobStennett.com. Rob's third novel, *Homemade Haunting* (Zondervan) releases March 2011.

SPACE EPICS

Both of **Kerry Nietz's** novels, *A Star Curiously Singing* and *The Superlative Stream* (both Marcher Lord), are finalists for the 2011 EPIC Award in the Science Fiction category. The EPIC Award, the premier contest in the eBook and ePublishing world, was created to recognize excellence in eBooks of all genres. "Now the hard part is deciding which of my 'kids' I'd like to win the contest more," Kerry says. "Thankfully, that decision is in the hands of fully capable judges and not me."

The winners will be announced March 2011. Nietz.com

SWORDS AND GHOSTS

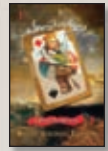
Wayne Thomas Batson's book *Isle of Swords* (Thomas Nelson) recently received the Silver Moonbeam Award for YA Fiction. Wayne is currently working on an ebook-only novel—*Ghost*, a thriller with mystery and supernatural elements. Aimed for ages 16 and up, it should release on Amazon in early 2011.

enterthedoorthrough.blogspot.com
—Katie Hart

new releases

THE SWORD IN THE STARS (DARK SEA ANNALS)

Wayne Thomas Batson
(Living Ink)



SIR QUINLAN AND THE SWORDS OF VALOR

Chuck Black
(Multnomah Books)



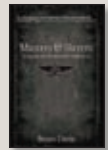
SIR ROWAN AND THE CAMERIAN CONQUEST

Chuck Black
(Multnomah Books)



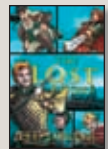
MASTERS & SLAYERS (TALES OF STARLIGHT)

Bryan Davis
(Living Ink)



THE LOST BOOKS: THE VISUAL EDITION

Ted Dekker, various artists
(Thomas Nelson)



THE SENDING

Matt Koceich
(Marcher Lord Press)



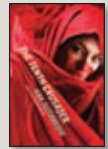
MAP ACROSS TIME (GATES OF HEAVEN)

C.S. Lakin
(Living Ink)



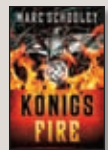
THE TENTH CRUSADER

Kirk Outerbridge
(Marcher Lord Press)



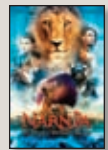
KONIG'S FIRE

Marc Schooley
(Marcher Lord Press)



VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER (MOVIE TIE-IN)

C.S. Lewis
(HarperFestival)



Jenny B. Jones

Bridging Two Worlds



Jenny B. Jones writes Christian fiction with equal parts wit, sass and hilarity. An educator by day and writer by night, Jenny B. Jones recognises the contrast between her chosen professions.

“Writing is a very solitary job,” she says. “It’s just you, the computer and the M&Ms. So I love that teaching gets me around people, even if most of them are only fourteen.

“But I like that writing is something I can do at my own pace for the most part. And while I might have the occasional review that smarts, at least I don’t have 150 sets of parents I have to keep up with.”

In Jenny’s latest contemporary romance, *Save the Date* (Thomas Nelson), former NFL star Alex Sinclair is a man who has it all—except the votes he needs to win his bid for Congress. Despite their mutual dislike, Alex makes Lucy a proposition: pose as his fiancée in return for the money she desperately needs to save her girls’ home.

“My favorite plot device is where an unlikely man and woman are forced to marry or pretend to be a couple,” says Jenny. “It’s just instant sizzle and always reels me in.”

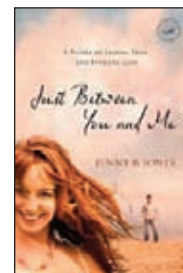
On the other hand, it wasn’t so easy for Jenny to write about her hero’s football career. Despite her fascination with sports culture, Jenny had to call on the help of a friend when researching for *Save the Date*. “I am clueless about football. I love the drama in the athletic world, but I can’t tell you what a ‘quarterback sneak’ is. Fortunately, I have a good friend who lives and breathes it and she helped me a lot.”

—Rel Mollet



Save The Date
Thomas Nelson
JennyBJones.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE

Actors Kat Jennings and Scott Murphy are secretly in love, both on- and offscreen. When Kat's Grandma Lenore, a former Hollywood starlet, mistakes their TV engagement for the real deal, Kat and Scott find themselves at the mercy of the paparazzi and wondering whether their real life romance will survive.

Janice Thompson's romantic comedy *Stars Collide* (Revell) was inspired by a summer spent in Los Angeles and her love of sitcoms. "I am a huge fan of *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and had it in mind as I wrote," Janice says. "Another huge inspiration was *42nd Street* with Ruby Keeler; I wanted Grandma Lenore to have that 'old Hollywood' feel about her."

JaniceAThompson.com

STEPPIN' OUT

Author **Tia McCollors'** life didn't quite measure up to her original plan to be

married with three children by 28. "I got married when I was 30," she says, "had my first child at 32, and my second child two years later. Was that my plan? No. But did it turn out to work perfectly for my life? Yes!"

Tia hopes to reflect that in *Steppin' Into the Good Life* (Lift Every Voice). Her character, Sheila Rushmore, has been chasing "the good life" since high school—but it's left her with no home, no man and no money. Looking for closure by attending her former boyfriend's wedding, Sheila encounters God in an inexplicable way.

"Sheila soon finds out that steppin' into the good life is much more than wearing designer stilettos," says Tia. "Sometimes it takes steppin' out on faith!"

TiaMcCollors.com

MERCY MISSIONS

Susan May Warren's Love Inspired Suspense series *Missions of Mercy* hits shelves in January with *Point of No Return*, followed in March with *Mission: Out of Control*. Gear up for strong characters finding love in dangerous and exotic places.

SusanMayWarren.com

—Rel Mollet

new releases

HARBOR HOPES (ROMANCING AMERICA)

Lynn A. Coleman
(Barbour Publishing)



A MAN'S HEART

Lori Copeland
(Zondervan)



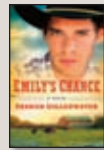
LOVE IS GRAND (WALK IN THE PARK)

Annalisa Daughety
(Barbour Publishing)



EMILY'S CHANCE (CALLAHANS OF TEXAS)

Sharon Gillenwater
(Revell)



JERSEY SWEETS (ROMANCING AMERICA)

Janice Hanna
(Barbour Publishing)



COWGIRLS DON'T CRY (MCCORD SISTERS)

Christine Lynxwiler
(Barbour Publishing)



A SEASON FOR FAMILY (LOVE INSPIRED)

Mae Nunn
(Steeple Hill)



HAWAIIAN DREAMS (ROMANCING AMERICA)

Carole Gift Page
(Barbour Publishing)



LOVE FINDS YOU IN SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

Angela Ruth
(Summerside Press)



SEEKING HIS LOVE (LOVE INSPIRED)

Carrie Turansky
(Steeple Hill)



Andy Andrews

Back in Circulation



Blending allegory and fiction with a strong takeaway value, Andy Andrews hopes readers will be challenged and encouraged when reading his work.

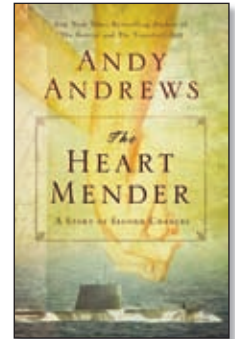
“I want people to understand there are answers to the questions we face—God does not teach us to swim in order to watch us drown,” Andy says. “Seeking wisdom is an important part of becoming what God intended us to be. I’ve heard people say, ‘Oh, come on, things are not that simple.’ And my response is always, ‘Oh, come on, things are not that complicated.’ When you finally see the truth about a situation you face and embrace that answer, life is never the same again.”

“My response is always, ‘Oh, come on, things are not that complicated.’”

In 2011, Andy has two new books hitting shelves—the paperback edition of *The Heart Mender* (a re-release of his 2005 book *Island of the Saints*), and coming up this May, the continuation of his popular novel *The Traveler’s Gift* with *The Final Summit*.

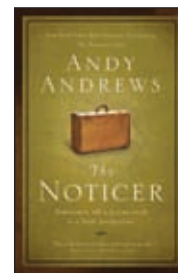
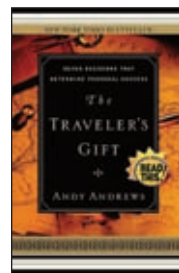
The author is especially thrilled that *The Heart Mender* is in circulation again. “It’s my favorite book of all the ones I’ve written,” Andy says. “Unfortunately, the first time it was released, it barely saw the shelves of bookstores for a variety of reasons—the few people that did find it, however, became raving fans! Now released with a more appropriate title, the backing of a happy publishing company, and a few rabid supporters who still call it their favorite, it’s finally ready to go.”

—Christa A. Banister



The Heart Mender
Thomas Nelson
AndyAndrews.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



WHAT DOES ETERNAL LIFE REALLY MEAN?

In Erin Healy's *The Promises She Keeps* (Thomas Nelson), Promise is a talented young vocalist whose destiny is to die young because of a terminal disease. Meanwhile, an aging art collector and witch named Porta is searching for the proverbial Fountain of Youth. Things get even stranger when Promise survives a series of freak accidents—and Porta believes that Promise is the person she's been searching for all along.

“For both Christians and non-Christians, our pursuit of everlasting significance often leads to destructive ends,” Erin says. “The apostle Paul said love is one of only three things that will last forever, and that it's most important. What would our lives look like if we set our sights on eternal love rather than on eternal life? I love the possibilities.”

“I DO OR I DON'T?”

Kristin Billerbeck serves up another dose of romantic comedy with *A Billion Reasons Why* (Thomas Nelson). The novel's leading lady, Katie McKenna, has a fulfilling career, a fabulous apartment and the love of the seemingly perfect guy—but she's having a hard time with the engagement. While there's probably a billion good reasons she should marry him, there's one crucial reason she probably should not: She doesn't actually love him. Further complicating matters—she runs into her ex, now a millionaire. So how does she eventually decide who to spend her life with?

“Life has become so complicated, and I longed for the romance of yesterday when roles were easier to understand,” Kristin says. “While the story is thoroughly modern, *A Billion Reasons Why* is my love letter to the romance of the 1940s when intimate moments and music pushed away dark thoughts of war. It helped us to remember what's really important in the world. I hope readers want to reconnect with those they love. Love is our earthly reminder that God is always with us.”

—Christa A. Banister

new releases

SNOW DAY: A NOVEL

Billy Coffey

(FaithWords)



FACELIFT: A NOVEL

Leanna Ellis

(B&H)



SOFTLY AND TENDERLY (A SONGBIRD NOVEL)

Sara Evans and Rachel Hauck

(Thomas Nelson)



POSSESSION

Rene Gutteridge

(Tyndale House)



IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS (FATHER TIM)

Jan Karon

(Viking)



UNLOCKED: A LOVE STORY

Karen Kingsbury

(Zondervan)



RED INK (EXTREME DEVOTION)

Kathi Mills-Macias

(New Hope)



AMY INSPIRED

Bethany Pierce

(Bethany House)



ONE LANE BRIDGE

Don Reid

(David C. Cook)



THE RELUCTANT PROPHET

Nancy Rue

(David C. Cook)



Andrew Klavan

Getting to the Truth



From the time he outgrew aspiring to be a cowboy or an astronaut, Edgar Award-winning author Andrew Klavan wanted to tell stories.

Raised in Judaism, he lived most of his life as an agnostic before converting to Christianity. “When I started wrestling with faith I was afraid it would make me unrealistic, that I would have this rosy, silly, magical view of life,” Klavan says. “Instead, it enhanced my sense of reality, my sense of human motives, my sense of what was happening in the world.”

A quest for truth also plays a key role in Andrew’s latest novel, *The Truth of the Matter*. While his character Charlie West is

“When I started wrestling with faith I was afraid it would make me unrealistic.”

not autobiographical, a strong Christian faith is not the only thing Andrew has in common with the hero of his series: Both have black belts in karate (a skill that makes Charlie’s escapes a little more plausible) and both are fervent patriots. “I lived overseas for seven years,” Andrew explains, “and I came back realizing that America is special. We’re a nation based on an idea—the idea that all men are created equal, that our rights come from our Creator, not our government, that our rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, among others. I came back a patriot, not to this particular piece of earth, not to the specialness of us as human beings, but to that idea.”

—Katie Hart



The Truth of the Matter
(*The Homelander*)
Thomas Nelson
AndrewKlavan.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



CHOICES RADIO

Scenarios series author **Nicole O'Dell** hosts a weekly hour-long radio show, *Teen Talk Radio*. Recent guests have included **Robin Jones Gunn** and **Sandra Byrd**. "The memory of my own teen years has created a passion within me," Nicole says, "to reach out to teens and help them muddle through the confusion and pressure that life throws at them."

Meanwhile, Nicole's Scenarios series will be released as 2-in-1 editions April 2011.

ChoicesRadio.com
NicoleODell.com

CAREER AWARD

Melody Carlson is nominated for a Career Achievement Award in inspirational fiction by *RT Book Reviews*. The award honors an authors for his or her entire body of work throughout their career. Melody's latest novel for

teens is *Never Been Kissed* (Revell).
MelodyCarlson.com

BRUNER SHORT

The short story "Coupon Girl," by novelist **Roger Bruner**, was in November's *Christian Fiction Online*. Read the story online here: tinyurl.com/352xwbz.

His debut novel, *Found in Translation* (Barbour), is the first in the mission-trip based *Altered Hearts* series.
RogerBruner.com

ARRETHTRAE AUDIO

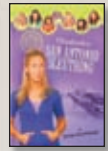
All six books of **Chuck Black's** *Knights of Arrethtrae* series are now available in fully dramatized audio versions. Chuck hired an acting team from England to do the voices, and his daughter Emily composed and performed dozens of original songs for the soundtracks. "The whole family's been involved with it," Chuck shares. "They helped with the production, the composition, the performance, marketing, and advertizing."
Perfect-Praise.com

—Katie Hart

new releases

ELIZABETH'S SAN ANTONIO SLEUTHING (CAMP CLUB GIRLS)

Renae Brumbaugh
(Barbour Publishing)



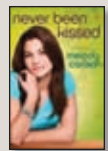
FOUND IN TRANSLATION

Roger Bruner, Kristi Rae Bruner
(Barbour Publishing)



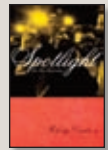
NEVER BEEN KISSED

Melody Carlson
(Revell)



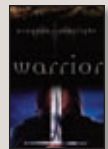
SPOTLIGHT (ON THE RUNWAY)

Melody Carlson
(Zondervan)



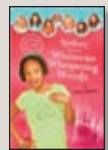
WARRIOR (DRAGONS OF STARLIGHT)

Bryan Davis
(Zondervan)



SYDNEY AND THE WISCONSIN WHISPERING WOODS

Jean Fischer
(Barbour Publishing)



THE SECRETS BENEATH (MYSTERIES OF MIDDLEFIELD)

Kathleen Fuller
(Thomas Nelson)



TRUTH OF THE MATTER (HOMELANDERS)

Andrew Klavan
(Thomas Nelson)



INVASION (C.H.A.O.S.)

Jon S. Lewis
(Thomas Nelson)



FRENZY (DREAMHOUSE KINGS)

Robert Liparulo
(Thomas Nelson)



Charles Swindoll

Telling a Tale



“I am continually amazed at the impact a simple, carefully worded story can have on young lives. Nothing quiets them more quickly or so completely captures their curiosity.”

Author, pastor, and Insight for Living founder Charles Swindoll has teamed up with Providential Pictures and Tyndale House to produce the new animated series *Paws & Tales*, the latest variation on Swindoll’s 1995 storybook *Paw Paw Chuck’s Big Ideas in the Bible* (Thomas Nelson). In the book, the author used friendly forest animals to make Bible stories and concepts relatable for young children. The idea spawned a radio series in 2001, *Paws & Tales*, which has aired on more

than 450 radio stations. The animated series was introduced last summer on TBN’s children’s network Smile of a Child.

In each *Paws & Tales* story, the cast of creatures takes part in fun adventures and relatable situations in their community of Wildwood, teaching young children important Biblical truths. “Laying a good spiritual foundation in your children is essential,” Swindoll explains. “And even better when it’s reinforced early and often. *Paws & Tales* is a great tool for helping you build godly character into your kids.”

The first of 13 planned DVDs, *God Cares for You* is based on Psalm 23:1 and Proverbs 10:25. Each DVD will include two stories, catchy songs, music videos, an ebook, activities and a parent’s guide.

Notes Swindoll: “Our hope and prayer is that every episode of *Paws & Tales* will provide families with more opportunities to discuss the really important things in life.”

—Ben Avery



Paws & Tales: God Cares For You
Providential Pictures
Insight.org/PawsAndTales

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



FLAME ON

Fantasy author **Donita K. Paul** (*The Dragonkeeper Chronicles*) and daughter **Evangeline Denmark** return to their picture book series with *The Dragon and the Turtle Go on Safari* (WaterBrook Press).

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

HEARING IS BELIEVING

In their award winning *I See the Rhythm*, author **Toyomi Igus** and illustrator **Michele Wood** took readers on a tour of the history of African American music. Now, in *I See the Rhythm of the Gospel*

(Zonderkidz), they team up again to teach young readers the history of African Americans. Using a combination of vivid folk art, poetic text, and gospel music, *I See the Rhythm of the Gospel* covers history from the beginning of slavery in the 1500s to the present day. An included CD contains five songs from different eras and styles of Gospel music, including tracks by **Mahalia Jackson** and **CeCe Winans**.

SHELL GAMES

Author and motivational speaker **Carol Hamblet Adams** takes her message of hope and self-esteem to a new audience with the book *Sammy, the Little Broken Shell* (Harvest House). Illustrated by **Linda Clearwater**, the story relates the drama of Sammy, a shell whose imperfection is a source of mocking from the other sea creatures—but may also be the only hope for a friend in danger. Adams shows children that our uniqueness is a gift from God.

CarolHambletAdams.com

—Ben Avery

new releases

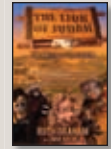
THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE FORGIVING TREE

Jan & Mike Berenstain
(Zondervan)



THE LION OF JUDAH: THE MOVIE STORYBOOK

Ruth Graham with Mae Archila
(Carpenters Son)



I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH

Hodges, Buchanan, Bendall-Brunello
(Zonderkidz)



ONE HAND, TWO HANDS

Max Lucado and Gaby Hansen
(Tommy Nelson)



ANNISON'S RISK (ADV. IN ODYSSEY PASSAGES)

Paul McCusker
(Tyndale House)



GLENNALL'S BETRAYAL (ADV. IN ODYSSEY PASSAGES)

Paul McCusker
(Tyndale House)



THE DRAGON AND THE TURTLE GO ON SAFARI

Paul, Denmark, Nguyen
(WaterBrook Press)



VEGGIETALES: PRINCESS PETUNIA'S SWEET APPLE PIE

Karen Poth
(Zonderkidz)



THE MANDIE COLLECTION VOLUME FIVE

Lois Gladys Leppard
(Bethany House)



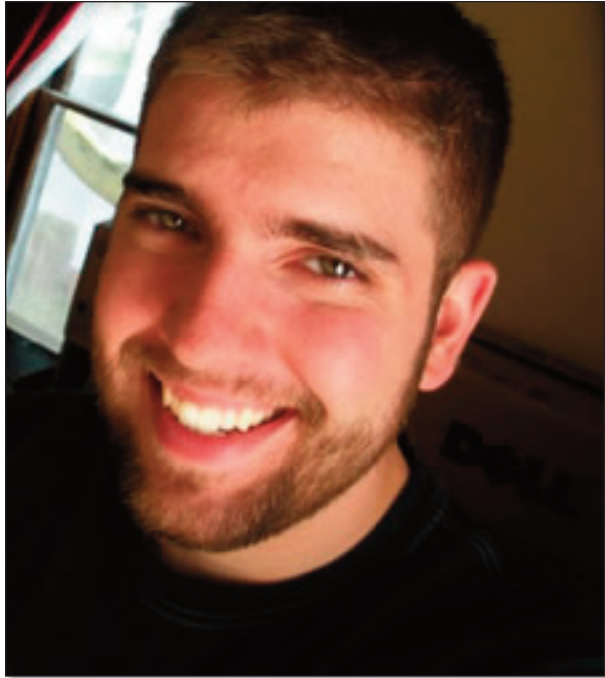
THE MANDIE COLLECTION VOLUME SIX

Lois Gladys Leppard
(Bethany House)



Kyle Prohaska

“The Gospel Wins”



At only 22, filmmaker Kyle Prohaska already has the experience of a man twice his age.

Not only has he written, directed and produced the feature film *Standing Firm* on a shoestring budget, he's also an accomplished website designer. However, things haven't always come easily for this self-taught man. While making *Standing Firm* he and his crew faced many challenges, and found themselves on their knees more than once. God always came through—take, for example, the day their entire camera setup fell over in the mud and an important adapter quit working. Miraculously, after everyone prayed, it was fixed.

With a ministry model similar to Sherwood Pictures, Kyle and his team at Praise

“I don’t intend to be a ‘filmmaker who’s a Christian’. I fully intend to be a Christian filmmaker.”

Pictures believe church involvement is a must. Though their company is run independently from the church, all the actors in *Standing Firm* but one were church volunteers.

Inspired by the Casting Crowns song “American Dream,” Kyle wrote the script for *Standing Firm* based on the idea of a father struggling with what happens when worldly things overtake what's really important. The movie focuses on a man working himself into the ground after the death of his wife. Foreclosure looms, and his son Steven is desperate to reach him in any way possible.

But what's really important to Kyle is proclaiming the Gospel in his movies.

“I don't intend to be a ‘filmmaker who's a Christian’,” he says. “I fully intend to be a Christian filmmaker. While media is incredibly powerful, the Gospel wins in that fight. The Word of God pierces the heart of a man in a way no amazing story ever could, because it's eternal truth. It has the power to leave an eternal impact *The Blind Side* would never leave on someone.”



Standing Firm
Praise Pictures
StandingFirmMovie.com

—C.J. Darlington

News&Notes



AMAZING GRACE

Following in the footsteps of Sherwood Baptist Church (*Facing the Giants*, *Fireproof*), Calvary Church of Memphis is partnering with Graceworks Pictures for a gritty cop story of racial reconciliation called *The Grace Card*. The film was directed and produced by **Dr. David Evans**, an optometrist who for 15 years has been writing, producing, and directing the Passion Play at Calvary. **Louis Gossett, Jr.** stars with **Michael Joiner** and **Michael Higgenbottom**. Look for it in February. TheGraceCardMovie.com

FANS ARE JAZZED

Two dedicated fans recently saved the movie adaptation of the best-selling book *Blue Like Jazz* by **Donald Miller**. After seeing the news on Miller's blog that the film was put on hold due to lack of funding, **Zach Prichard** and **Jonathan Frazier**

helped raise more than \$345,000 in 30 days to keep the movie going. Directed by **Steve Taylor**, the film will star **Marshall Allman** (*True Blood*, *Prison Break*) as Miller. Principle photography began last fall in Nashville and Portland. SaveBlueLikeJazz.com

LEFT BEHIND AGAIN

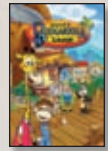
Cloud Ten Pictures—the makers of the three low-budget movies based on the best-selling Left Behind series—are producing a big-budget theatrical release based on the original *Left Behind* novel. They're developing a script and compiling a team for the film. "We're very proud of the previous Left Behind films," says Cloud Ten's **Andre Van Heerden**. "They touched and entertained millions. But just as the book impacted the Christian book industry, and our films the DVD world, we know that the story can have an even bigger impact as a bigger-budget end-times thriller on the big screen. We can't wait to bring it to audiences around the world." cloudtenpictures.com

—C.J. Darlington

new releases

ADVENTURES IN BOOGA BOOGA LAND

(Tommy Nelson)



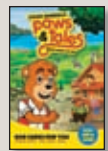
AMISH GRACE

(20th Century Fox)



GOD CARES FOR YOU: CHUCK SWINDOLL'S PAWS & TALES

(Tyndale House)



KARLA FAYE TUCKER: FOREVERMORE

(Forevermore Film Group)



LIKE DANDELION DUST

(Downes Brothers Entertainment)



MOLLY PICKENS AND THE RAINY DAY CASTLE

(Abingdon Press)



NO LIMIT KIDS: MUCH ADO ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Elevating Entertainment)



RUST

(Team Cherokee Productions)



TO SAVE A LIFE

(New Song Pictures)



VEGGIETALES: HAPPY TOGETHER

(Big Idea)



5 Questions: Nicole O'Dell

Written for tween girls faced with difficult decisions and lots of peer pressure, Nicole O'Dell's Scenarios for Girls series lets readers test their decision-making abilities in an eye-opening but safe way. Each book follows a character up to the point where she has to make an important, life-changing decision—then it's the reader's turn to choose!

When did you discover your love for writing?

When I was in fourth grade, I entered a district-wide literary contest. I had to take a blank, white, hardcover book and write a story with illustrations to fill it. My book, *The Girl on the Runaway Pogo-Stick*, took first place. It was printed and placed in the school libraries in my district. I was hooked from that moment.

I remember the process of writing that book. I was sitting on my bedroom floor, leaning against the side of my bed. As I was writing about the girl bouncing her way through town, passing all of the businesses and waving hello to various townspeople, I realized she'd need to pass them in reverse order on the way home. Something in me clicked, and I realized that things like that didn't just happen by accident in books; someone did it on purpose. Suddenly, I wanted to be that person—the one who made things happen and told the story.

What drew you to writing for the YA market?

When I was a young girl, my mom was my hero. I really believed she could do anything and that she knew everything. Somehow, when I entered my early teen years, that all changed; I became angry and really gave her a hard time. I regret much of those years now that I see the truth of them. My mom is now my very best friend. I wish I had known then what I know now and had some kind of grasp on just how temporary all of that angst and confusion really was.

Ever since I had my daughters, I have feared those years. My parenting has really been shaped by my desire

to avoid as much of that destruction as possible. My heart's desire is to reach hormonal, confused, pre-teen girls, and to protect them from themselves, and their families from the confusion that can ensue as the girls face those life changes.

For newcomers, how do you explain the Scenarios books?

In the Scenarios series, each main character is faced with many choices and moral dilemmas. Eventually, they find their choices have led them into a situation that requires them to make a very difficult and potentially life-altering moral decision. When the story has fully unfolded, and the main character arrives at that moment of truth, the reader makes the big decision for her and then turns to the corresponding section in the book where the resulting circumstances unfold.

This format places the responsibility for those decisions squarely on the reader's shoulders, in hopes she will learn from personal experience as she lives through the eyes of the book's character. She will learn the importance of good decisions as well as the truth about forgiveness and grace. Even when poor choices are made, the redemptive power of Christ is evident as forgiveness is sought, offered and received.

What are your goals for the future?

More than anything, I hope to grow this ministry for teen girls. I have a real passion for them and for the mother/daughter relationship; our enemy seeks to destroy the family, and one way he does that is by affecting teens through temptations and

emotions they aren't ready to face.

It seems that mothers and daughters often have the most difficult time during those years. On the horizon, I have speaking events and outreaches where I intend to bring a message of hope and promise to women and girls who are facing those difficult years.

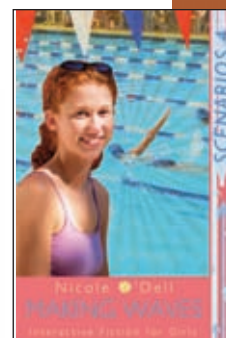
What all can readers find on your website?

You'll find info about my books, upcoming events, media options, book reviews, etc. You'll also find a link to my blog where there's something for everyone: Monday is always a message to parents; Tuesday is the Girl Talk advice column, in which my two daughters and I answer a reader's question or dilemma; Wednesday is always a post about writing or books; Thursday is a devotion or thought-provoking post of some kind; and Friday is for fun.

Check out the giveaways! I've always got books, gift cards and some kind of novelty item offered. You can enter by filling out the contact form on the website. Drawings are held at the end of each month. **FF**



NICOLE O'DELL



Nicole O'Dell Online

NicoleODell.com

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

[Facebook.com/NicoleODell](https://facebook.com/NicoleODell)

CREATE The Premiere Songwriter Search

presented by **CCM Magazine** & Today's **Christian Music Radio Network**

Enter today for your chance at the grand prize—

A one-song publishing contract from Provident Music Group, one-on-one coaching from Michael W. Smith and an all expense paid trip to Nashville to go inside the music industry and learn all you need to launch your career to the next level!

Plus tons more great prizes soon to be announced!

Enter by Jan. 31
for a discount
and free CD!

Top 50 entries will be evaluated by Provident Music Group A&R, the very people who are always on the lookout for great songs for artists like Brandon Heath, Jars of Clay, Third Day and many more with winning song selected by Celebrity Judge, Michael W. Smith.

Three levels of entry:

- \$50 - submit your song to be considered for the grand prize
- \$75 - submit your song for a professional critique and to be considered for the grand prize
- \$100 - submit your song to be considered for the grand prize, receive a professional critique and to be posted on CCMMagazine.com for all the world to hear!



All entries must be received no later than March 31, 2011 and must include audio, lyrics and payment in full. [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)



If you are serious about making an impact on today's youth ...
you need YOUTHWORKER JOURNAL!

YOUTHWORKER JOURNAL is the best professional resource available for today's youth ministry leaders. It is packed with new columns—Youth Culture Update, On the Radar, Tech Talk, and many more —aimed at serving your biggest needs as a youth leader. YOUTHWORKER JOURNAL provides honest articles, expert guidance, as well as the latest resources for your personal and professional growth as an effective, well-managed youth leader.



Subscribe Today!

Call 1-800-527-5226, or visit
youthworkerjournal.com