

family fiction

Mar/Apr 2011

Because everyone deserves a good story.

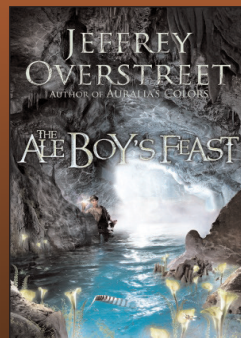
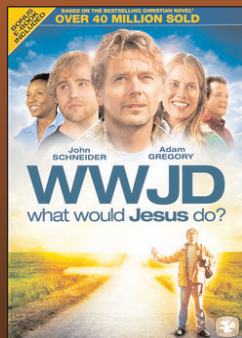
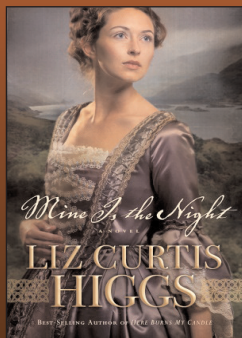
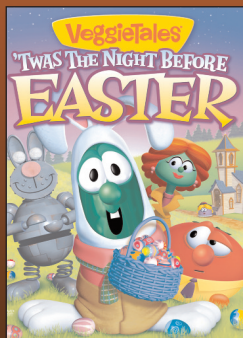
Thriller Writer
STEVEN JAMES

HOMETOWN MYSTERIES

Where Love And Suspense Meet

BRYAN DAVIS

Dragons and Heroes



NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING

LEFT BEHIND
SERIES



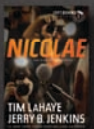
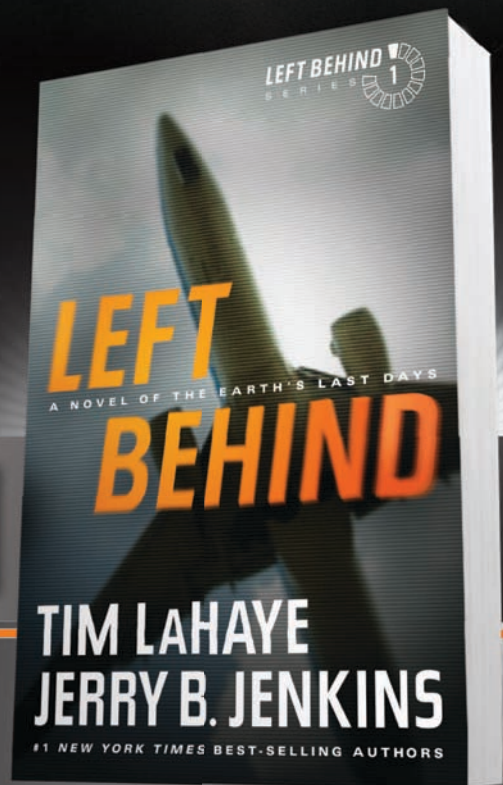
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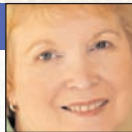


DEPARTMENTS

Amish

Marta Perry

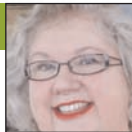
PLUS: Shelley Shepard Gray, Jerry S. Eicher and Kathleen Fuller



Historical

Liz Curtis Higgs

PLUS: Martha Rogers, Henry McLaughlin, Lisa Harris and Karl Bacon



Suspense

Mark Mynheir

PLUS: Kim and Kayla Woodhouse, Sibella Giorello and Ronie Kendig



Speculative

Jeffrey Overstreet

PLUS: Jill Williamson, Kathy Tyers, Sharon Hinch, Brian Reaves and Ted Dekker



Romance

Debby Mayne

PLUS: Kendra Norman-Bellamy, Michael Phillips and Kristin Billerbeck



Contemporary

Kimberly Stuart

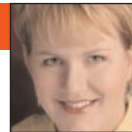
PLUS: Ginny L. Yttrup, Jackie Macgirvin and Brandy Bruce



YA/Teen

Lisa T. Bergren

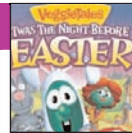
PLUS: Nancy Rue, Rebecca Kenney, Melanie Dickerson and Jon S. Lewis



Children's

VeggieTales: 'Twas the Night Before Easter

PLUS: Francis Chan and Jim Madsen, Max Elliot Anderson and Andy McGuire



Movie & DVD

John Schneider

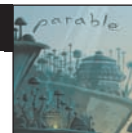
PLUS: *The Ten Commandments*, *Soul Surfer* and *The Penny*.



Comics & Animation

Parable: Volume 1

PLUS: Max Lucado, Robert James Luedke and Kevin Frank



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 the 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.

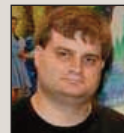
ChristaBanister.typepad.com



BEN AVERY

Ben Avery writes comics, performs with 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

Love in Any Language

I recently heard about a TV producer who went to Moscow to develop American-style reality television shows for Russian audiences. The experiment was a dismal failure. Ultimately, the producer learned that the differences between Americans and Russians go so much deeper than a simple change in alphabet.

It made me wonder how we in the church sometimes consider the mission field. How often must we remind ourselves we send out the Gospel—not our culture? While the truth of the Gospel is the same everywhere, how we *articulate* the Gospel has to be tailored to the listening audience. When Jesus told parables, many in the crowd were fishermen and farmers—so He told parables about fishing and farming.

This continues to be true of Christian storytelling today: There are all kinds of Christian fiction, in all genres, written for all kinds of readers. For some of us, a contemporary novel is an opportunity to consider questions of faith, with just enough arm's length so we can be objective. For others, a historical romance or a science fiction drama serves as a reminder that Jesus is Lord of ALL—there is no time or place or territory not under His Lordship. A thriller, a children's book, an Amish romance—whatever Christian fiction title you pick up, it expresses some biblical truth in the vernacular the intended audience can understand.

Some books are for you. Some are not. All are written for the glory of God and to further His Kingdom. Thank God for variety!



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family
fiction

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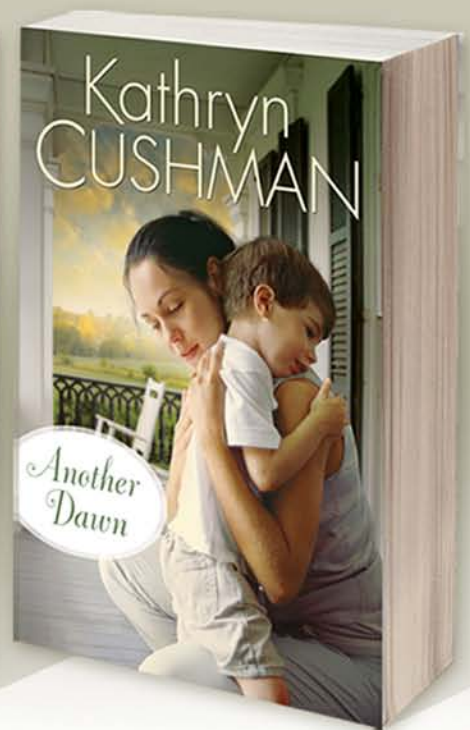
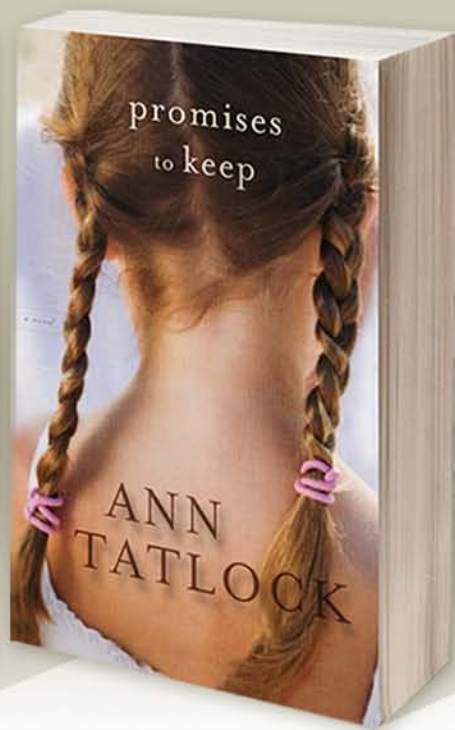
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STORIES THAT GLOW WITH

Faith & Hope

When a mysterious little girl is suddenly seen with the town recluse, Andrea and Mart's search for the girl's identity has far-reaching consequences neither of them expected.

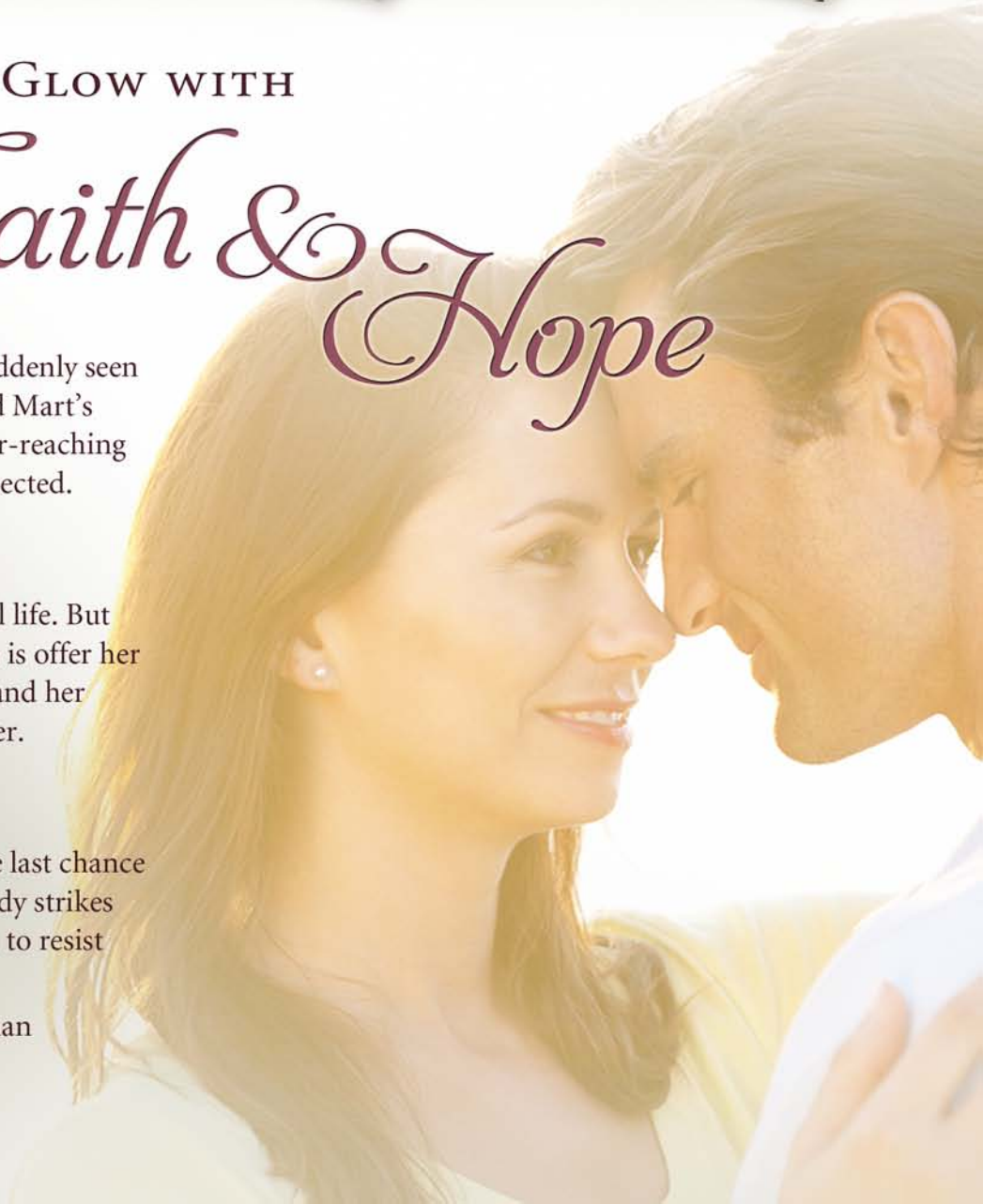
Larkspur Cove by Lisa Wingate

Tillie Monroe has lived a long, full life. But the greatest thing she may ever do is offer her selfless love to protect a little girl and her family from an unspeakable danger.

Promises to Keep by Ann Tatlock

Grace Graham has been given one last chance to redeem herself. But when tragedy strikes her son, will she have the strength to resist running and stand strong?

Another Dawn by Kathryn Cushman



Feedback



I just finished the Mark of the Land series from Francine Rivers, and I have to say they were some of the most beautiful depictions of Christ's utter love for us that I have ever read; outside of our ultimate love letter, that is, the Bible. These three books were so wonderful and really ministered to my soul.

—MEGAN GOINGS, VIA
FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Anytime, Christian Fiction is ALL I read—mostly the Amish-based stories, but I also like Jan Karon, Karen Kingsbury, and the series Grace Chapel Inn. Very inspirational stories!

—HELEN HEVENER,
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

I am so tired...I was up 'til 4 a.m. reading *Wrangler in Petticoats*! You have to tell everyone about Mary Connealy's books—her writing is funny, fresh, and full of twists and turns you don't expect. I love her

strong female characters, with real thoughts and feelings.

—CHERI HORGAN,
HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Phil Vischer's *What's in the Bible* DVD series is great, and not just for kids—I have also learned from watching them with my nephew. Phil also has a great website, jellytelly.com, with a daily video and games for the kids. There's a new memory verse every week. Check it out!

—MARIE BERRY, VIA
FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

I'd love to read the magazine, but I can't make it fit the computer screen. It's either tiny or four times too big—so I'm having to move the mouse all over the screen to try to read it. Very frustrating.

—DAWN BYNUM,
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Hi, Dawn—if you're having problem with the flash version of the magazine, try downloading the PDF onto your computer—then you can pick your own page size. Just go to the link at familyfiction.com/magazines/

I had the honor of meeting Wanda Brunstetter and her husband last fall. Such nice people.

—SANDRA KACZANOWCKE, VIA
FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION

Beverly Lewis is one of my favorite Amish authors. I love her books.

—BONNIE DENNY SCHOENEMAN,
MANTUA, OHIO

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Where do you usually get your books?

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/149832935060704](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/149832935060704)

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

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/102380229828698](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/102380229828698)

How do you find out about new Christian fiction releases?

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/110134129047758](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/110134129047758)

Tell us YOUR favorite historical fiction and authors!

[Facebook.com/topic.php?uid=236526068665&topic=13117](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=236526068665&topic=13046)

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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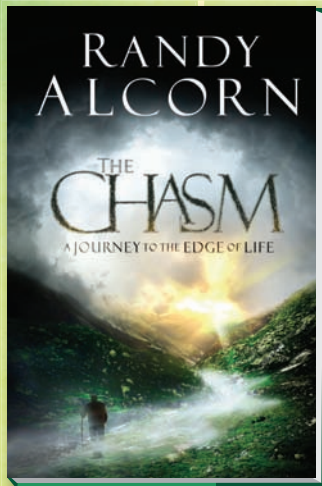
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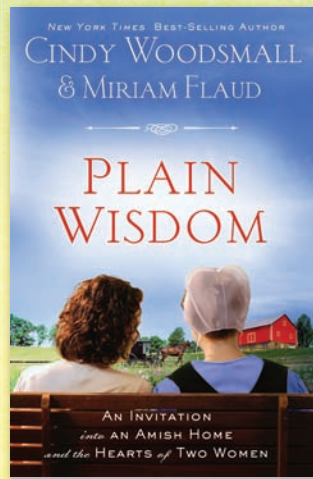
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Spring into THE PAGES OF A GOOD BOOK



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.



New York Times best-selling author Cindy Woodsmall and Old Order Amish woman Miriam Flaud celebrate women and faith through their unlikely friendship in the pages of *Plain Wisdom*.

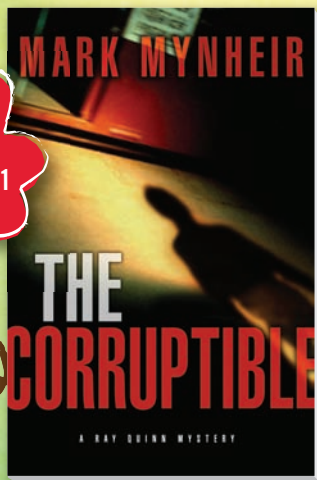
[watch an author video](#)



On sale
March 15, 2011

The heartrending journey that begins with *Here Burns My Candle* soars to a glorious finish in *Mine Is the Night*, a timeless saga of love, loss, and redemption in eighteenth-century Scotland.

[watch video trailer](#)



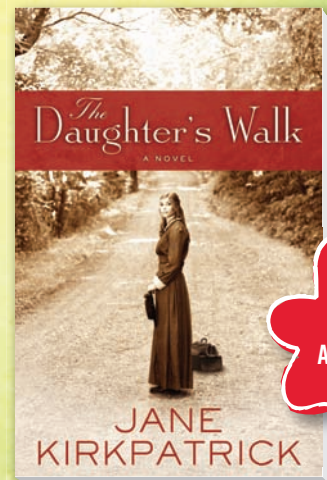
On sale
April 5, 2011

Ray Quinn is a tough, quick-witted PI hired on a case of corporate theft that quickly turns into a murder investigation—and an exploration of his soul.



On sale
April 5, 2011

The Roaring Twenties come vividly to life in this charming tale of a lost and confused flapper, a disillusioned soldier, and a road trip that just might heal them both.



On sale
April 5, 2011

From award-winning author Jane Kirkpatrick comes a fact-based tale of a young woman's journey to free herself from the past, accept a present joy and seek a brighter future.

[watch an author video](#)



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Dialogue

Who do you consider the most UNDERRATED Christian novelist?



Jerry Howell
Bob Phillips—he collaborated with **Tim LaHaye** on the last three novels in the *amazing* “Babylon Rising” series.

Wolfe H. Moffat

Rick Acker, **Dale Cramer** or up-and-comer **J. Mark Bertrand**.

Jennifer Prince Myers

T.L. Hines, **Travis Thrasher**, **Robin Parrish**, **Mark Mynheir**, **Melanie Wells**.

It seems like there are a few big names that get all the spotlight, and people forget about the other really good authors who also deserve recognition.

Rachel Heinly Savage

Rachel Hauck and **Mark Mynheir**.

Ruthie Lewis

Two very new ones: **Stefne Miller** and **Tamara Lyon**.

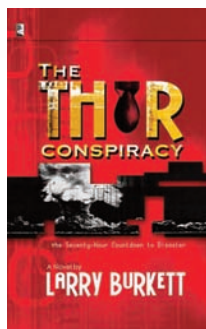


Chris Jager
Dale Cramer, **Eric Wilson**, **Tosca Lee**, **Nicole Sietz**, **Ann Tatlock**, **Linda Nichols** ... I could go on. For every big

name there are bunches of lesser-known authors. Think outside the box.

Carlson Cson Triebold

J. R. Parker! He's so new that hardly anyone knows he exists, yet his book *Kestrel's Midnight Song* is epic!



Tim Wilson

Larry Burkett—that's right, the financial guy. He wrote two great Christian thrillers, *The Thor Conspiracy* and *The Illuminati*. He also collaborated with **Davis Bunn** on one novel, *Kingdom Come*.

Tiffany Crull

Karen Ball: I wish someone would take her book *Wilderness* and reprint it—my copy is about to fall apart!

Martha Artyomenko

Susan Meissner and **Tricia Goyer**.

Rel Mollet

Ronie Kendig, **Laura Frantz**, **Tom Davis**, **Jenny B. Jones**,

Rachel Hauck, **Candace Calvert**, **Christa Parrish**, **Jim Rubart** and more.



Eric Wilson

I've reviewed books online for the past 10 years, trying to promote good Christian fiction. I keep wondering why

Claudia Mair Burney, **Dale Cramer**, **Randy Singer**, **Rick Acker**, **Melanie Wells**, **Chris Well**, **Tricia Goyer**, **Brian Reaves**, **Kathryn Mackel**, **Tom Morrissey**, and many more don't get more attention. Yes, we're glad to have **Ted Dekker** and **Karen Kingsbury**, but people, there really are other authors out there.

I should add **Sibella Giorello**, **Robin Parrish**, **Brandt Dodson**, **Ray Blackston**, **River Jordan**, **Tim Downs**, **Tosca Lee**, **T.L. Hines**, **Golden Keyes Parsons**, **Sharon Carter Rogers**...

Oh, the list just goes on.

See all the responses at:

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/106890922720318](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/106890922720318)

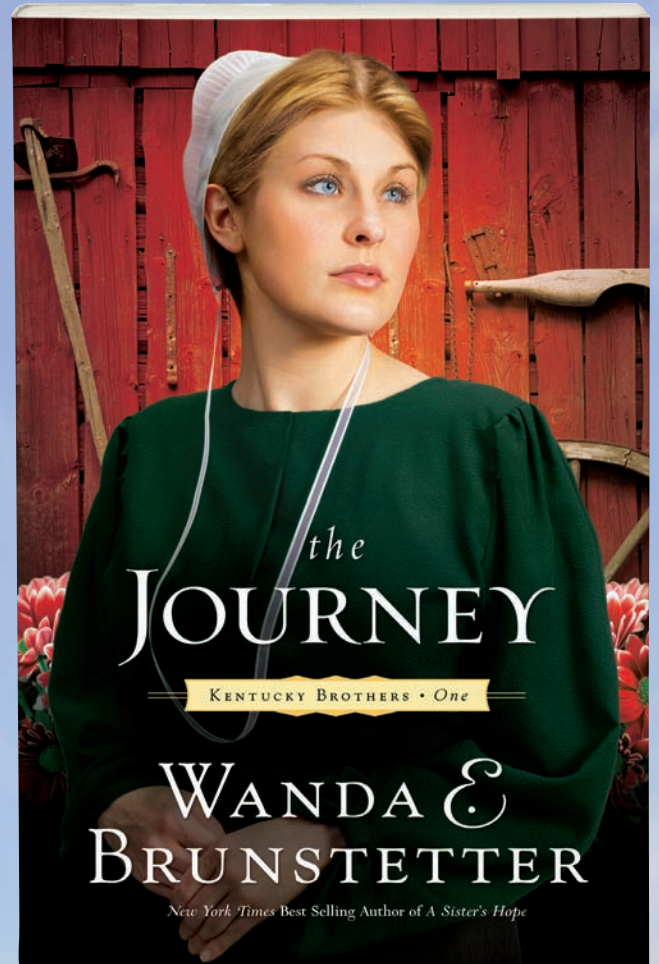
FROM *New York Times* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

WANDA & BRUNSTETTER

HEARTS ARE MENDED IN *Rural Kentucky*

Discover along with Titus Fisher how life can begin anew in Christian County, Kentucky. Moving from Pennsylvania, finding rewarding work, and leaving a broken romance behind is the best decision Titus ever made. But is he ready to consider love again when he meets two women: one who seems perfectly suited for any Amish man and one who challenges long held ideas of the woman's role.

*Who will Titus choose, and will it be
the right choice?*



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CHECKMATE

Thriller writer Steven James has made a name for himself with the pulse-pounding adventures of FBI Agent Patrick Bowers—and proves to have a few surprises in store for readers. By C.J. Darlington



Pass the bespectacled Steven James on the street, and you might think he's a cool college professor, or a musician on his way to practice with the band. You probably wouldn't guess this man spends his days plotting murders and how to evade FBI agents. But that's exactly what Steven James does—in his novels, of course.

James has always been a storyteller. As a kid he was a school crossing guard and would pass the time telling himself stories. "I was always making stuff up," James says, "but I never thought I could be a writer."

Everything changed when he felt God's calling and disregarded the naysayers who said it could never happen. Soon his articles started selling. For many years he wrote mostly nonfiction, though even then he used storytelling techniques.

"At the heart of humanity is this God-given desire to tell and listen to stories," he says. "Through stories we can approach the

overwhelming truths of life. Grief is overwhelming for us, but if we watch a movie or we read a novel where someone is working through grief, maybe then we cry.

"In Haiti 250,000 people were buried alive. We hear that, but it's overwhelming. We don't cry. But if your dog is hit by a car in front of your house, you will grieve. How could that be? We know human life is more valuable than an animal. We know that a quarter of a million people being buried alive is much more tragic, but emotionally we don't connect with that because it's overwhelming. But if you hear about one woman digging through the rubble for her lost baby, maybe then you would cry and it would hit home. Stories allow us mental or emotional space to experience these things."

Which is probably why for many years James longed to pen novels. "I really wanted to write fiction," he says. "So I started work on a detective novel. People always say there

“I don’t think I could be honest about evil without really making people disturbed by looking at it.”

should be something unique about your character, so my lead was going to be a one-handed detective. His left hand was going to be blown off or something. But I realized I needed to work on making him unique in some way other than just a random physical disability. I was doing research on profiling and criminal investigation and stumbled across this whole geospatial investigative approach. So I ended up giving my character Patrick Bowers a very unique niche in the literary world. And he ended up getting to keep both hands.”

Revell Books offered James a three-book contract for the series—which has since expanded into eight. The first novel, *The Pawn*, hit shelves in 2007 followed by *The Knight*, *The Rook*, and *The Bishop*. In each book, FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers has to not only keep himself and those he loves alive, but he also must wrestle with deep, moral questions. But it’s his geospatial investigative techniques that really do set him apart from his literary contemporaries.

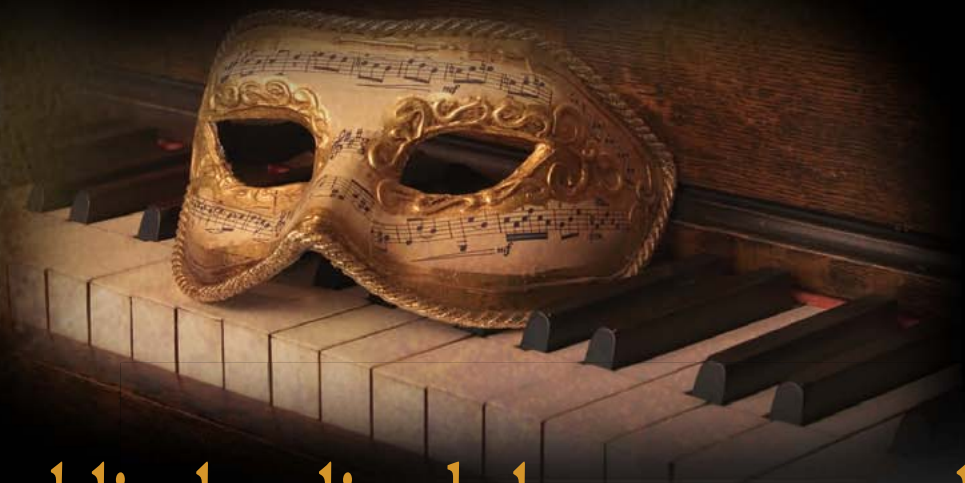
“Everyone forms a mental or cognitive map of the region they’re familiar with, the area where they live,” James explains. “If you lived in Pittsburgh, Pa., and I said, ‘Draw a map of Pittsburgh,’ you could do that. But it would be skewed toward the places you’re most familiar with, and you would leave

large parts of the city unmapped because you just never go there. Killers do the exact same thing. Their routes through a city would have certain patterns defined by the places where they work, go to church, where they visit friends, or shop. Let’s say there were a series of murders. By understanding the locations of where the bodies were found, where the victims lived, or maybe where they were abducted or killed, and then understanding the victims’ travel patterns through that area, you can look backward to try and figure out the most likely location where the killer would have left from, his home base.

“This technique is all based on logic. Eighty-percent of murders happen within a mile of the offender’s home. Somebody commits a crime, they have to get away. Most likely they’d commit a crime in a place they’re familiar with to be able to escape without being detected.”

It’s these crimes James describes in his novels, often in graphic detail, that have a few readers squirming and wondering how the Patrick Bowers series can be classified as “Christian” fiction. “I don’t believe there is such a thing as ‘Christian fiction’—just like I don’t believe there’s ‘atheist fiction’ or ‘Buddhist fiction’ or ‘materialist fiction,’” James says. “I think there’s fiction of excellence and fiction of mediocrity. There is fiction that glorifies God and fiction that doesn’t. Fiction that celebrates the things He celebrates, and fiction that celebrates things He abhors.

“In my books I never glamorize evil and make it look alluring. But I do make you look at it and say, *This is how far people have fallen. This is what our world is like. But guess what? There’s a Redeemer who’s bigger than the evil we’re capable of.* I think you show the worth of something by showing how much pain is caused when it’s lost. I don’t think I could be honest about evil without really making people disturbed by looking at



Sheila Franklin has lived three, separate lives...

The precocious daughter of avant-garde parents in colorful 1940s New Orleans.

A teen desperate for love and acceptance.

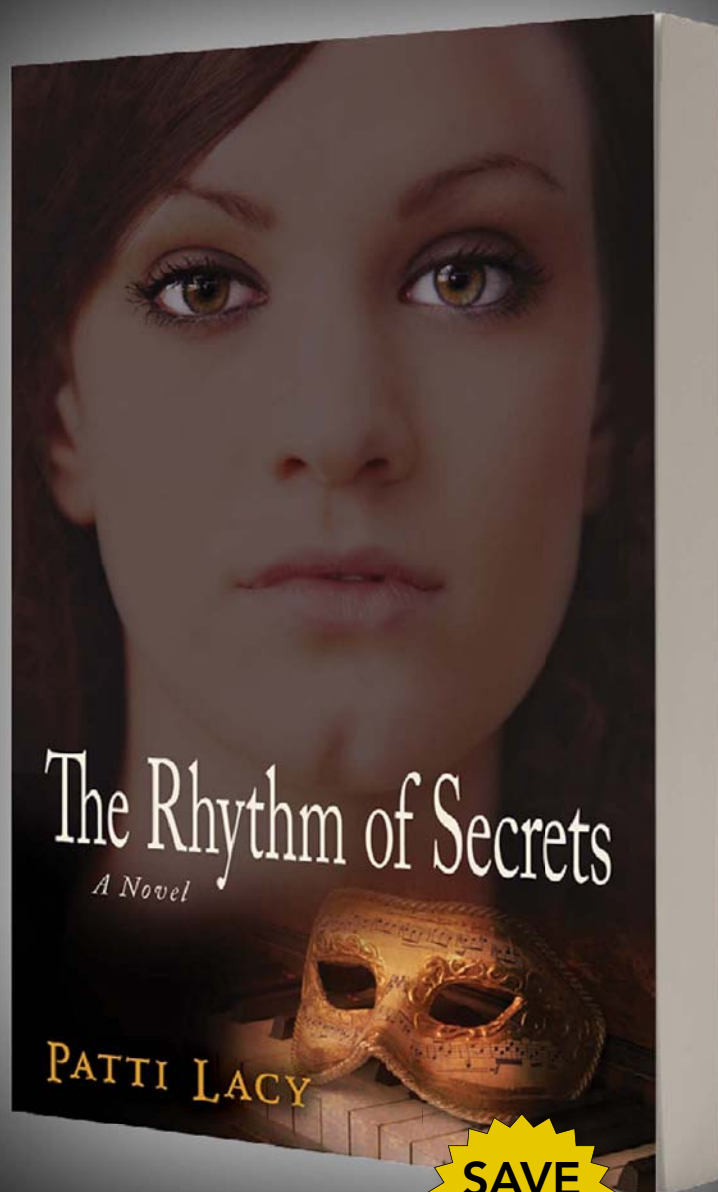
An unwed mother sent North with her shame.

After marrying Edward, Sheila artfully masks her secrets. Then then one phone call from a disillusioned Vietnam veteran destroys her cover . . .



“No longer a ‘well-kept secret,’ Patti Lacy is a master storyteller who speaks to the soul with a powerful and unique rhythm.”

—Julie Lessman, author of *A Hope Undaunted*



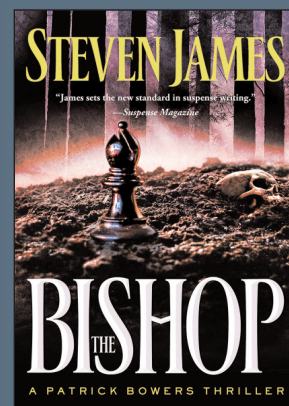
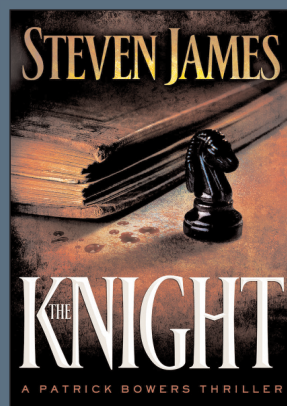
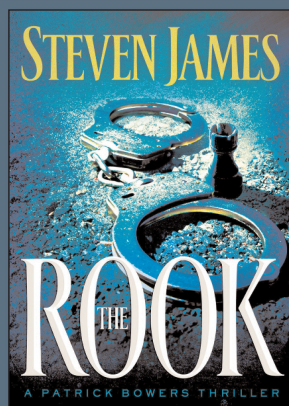
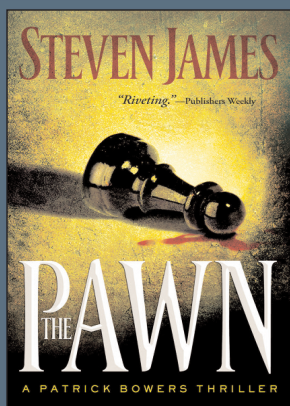
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it. Someone will ask, *Why doesn't anyone get converted in your novels?* Well, nobody got converted in the stories Jesus told either. Someone else will mention that I don't talk about God very much in my novels. Did you know the book of Esther doesn't mention God? Ever. Not once. Is it Christian? Were Jesus' stories Christian?"

No matter how you classify his books, James has clearly mastered the art of developing a leading man over the span of a series. Patrick certainly grows and changes, but not so much that he becomes someone else. "In each book Patrick becomes more fully human," James says. "He begins to realize different aspects of human nature and grow in that respect. I look at the whole series as his character arc, but in each book I try to keep him consistent as far as his thought process."

With fans already salivating for *The Queen*, which releases in August, you'd think it would be safe to assume the next entry in the series would be *The King*. But James has another plan up his sleeve—a prequel by the title of *Opening Moves*. "I'm actually planning to do *Opening Moves* next instead of waiting until the end. The story is about Patrick and happens 10 or 12 years before *The Pawn*, before he's joined the FBI. He's still a detective in Milwaukee, and this will cover one of his dramatic cases back in his early days. It'll be a lot of fun, where I can

show the genesis of his character and the traits he has. I can bring up some questions and foreshadow some of the things I can then deal with in *The King* and *Checkmate*."

Now that the series is officially a grand success and has won numerous awards (including a Book of the Year nod by *Suspense Magazine* for *The Bishop*)—not to mention, a possible TV series for CBS—you might wonder how many houses Steven James owns, or how many cars he drives. When we bring up the subject of financial return for a novelist, he's quick to discount the myth that being a best-selling author equates to being enormously wealthy.

James explains that if you bought a \$20 hardcover copy of one of his novels, he receives about \$1.20 of that. "You've got to sell an awful lot of books before you're going to put your kid through college," James says. "If you want to be rich, you *might* make it as a writer. But all of the full-time writers I know make about what a teacher makes, much less than someone would ever imagine. We work hard, and we write a lot."

Which is exactly what James is doing now. He's currently writing the sixth book in the series and gathering ideas for the seventh. "And I'm still intrigued with Patrick Bowers," he says. "I'm not sick of him at all. I'm planning to do eight books, and then that's all. But who knows? If he doesn't want to go away, then maybe we'll keep going." **FF**

NEW SPRING STORIES

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SOME COZY READING

Meet some of the authors who write under the banner of Hometown Mysteries—where love and suspense meet ... By C.J. Darlington



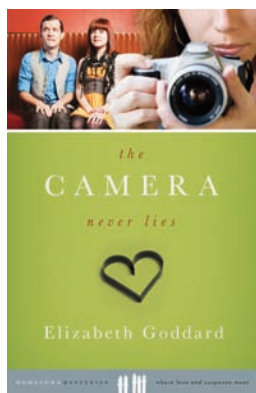
The moniker “cozy mystery” evokes images of amateur sleuths, small towns, and eccentric characters. It’s a category with a long history of success in the general market, from the golden age of Agatha Christie’s Miss Marple to the modern sleuthing of *Murder She Wrote*’s Jessica Fletcher.

Now, cozies are taking the Christian market by storm—thanks in part to Barbour Publishing’s Hometown Mysteries series, which also include a pinch of romance. “The brand promises a small town setting, with characters who are like any average person, but who suddenly find themselves in the middle of a puzzling mystery,” explains

Rebecca Germany, Senior Fiction Editor at Barbour. “The mystery is cozy, and each plotline also includes a sweet romance thread that is so popular with our reader base. Also at least one character relies on their Christian faith to get through their challenge.”

Each book in the series written by a different author, the line debuted July last year. Barbour has released a book a month since then.

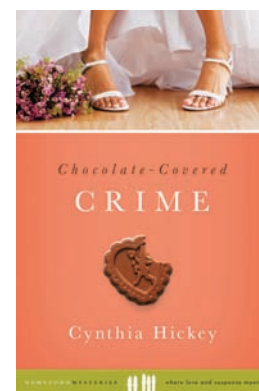
But what exactly defines a cozy? Several HM novelists took the time to answer this question and share the inspiration behind their latest titles in the Hometown Mysteries series:



Chesterton's Father Brown Mysteries. They should also be 'charming', full of fun and offbeat characters. In my novel *Blown Away* it seemed right to start off with a murder. But how to make this murder interesting? How about the murder of a clown? And what if I put him in full costume in someone else's grave? The grave of another deceased clown? Those two thoughts meshed together to give me the idea for the rest of my plot."

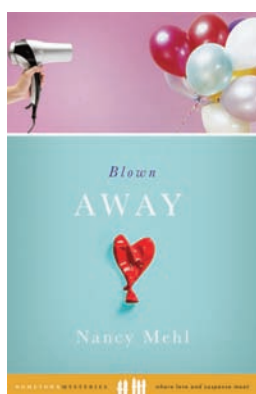
ELIZABETH GODDARD

"A cozy usually involves an amateur sleuth whom the police don't take seriously," says Elizabeth Goddard (*The Camera Never Lies*). "They're fun to read and include a puzzle to solve—the murder mystery—with plenty of twists and turns. In a cozy, the mystery is the thing! The author must write pure, unadulterated mystery, with clues, red herrings, and an amateur detective who is forced to solve the crime and bring the villain to his just desserts. After visiting Crater Lake National Park, I knew I wanted to set a story there involving a photographer. But it wasn't until I began living life in the story world through my character Polly that I even realized she had a gift of reading people through her camera lens and that it would assist her in sleuthing."



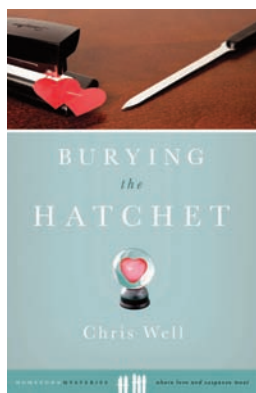
CYNTHIA HICKEY

Cynthia Hickey had the general idea for her mystery *Chocolate-Covered Crime* when she started—but didn't yet know who her villain would be. "I thought I did," she says, "but as the story progressed, someone else came forward with a much better motive." All the author knew for sure was that her character Summer would be planning her wedding. It wasn't until Cynthia reached the half-way point in the manuscript that she decided on the final details and made sure her clues lined up. "Summer is by far my favorite character in all three of my books," Cynthia says. "She's gutsy, ditzy, big-hearted, and loves fashion. But most of all, she loves Ethan Banning and solving mysteries. The scrapes she gets herself into are always worth a laugh." And, as far as Cynthia is concerned, that humor is part of what makes a cozy. "They're a rollicking good time as you follow clues to solve a mystery. Leaving the gore and violence behind, the reader can still match wits against the villain."



NANCY MEHL

"A good way to describe a cozy is that it is a 'gentle' mystery," Nancy Mehl says. "They're reminiscent of Agatha Christie or G.K.



Chris was inspired to write *Burying the Hatchet* by a mystery from the 1930s called *The Three Coffins*. “It’s considered one of the classic examples of a ‘locked room’ or ‘impossible crime’ scenario,” he says. “The body is found inside a locked room and the murderer could not possibly have gotten out of the room—yet he or she did. The solution to *The Three Coffins* was so outrageous the reader has to either hate it or embrace it—and I was so enamored with the author’s audacity I had no choice but to put both arms around that book, so to speak, and hold tight. As far as I know, my novel could be the very first locked room/impossible crime mystery written for Christian readers.

“In *Burying The Hatchet*, the variation on the ‘impossible crime’ is that every scrap of evidence makes a minister look guilty—yet, our senior sleuth—and the reader—knows that somehow, inexplicably, the minister couldn’t have committed this horrible crime. The mystery challenges Earl to examine his beliefs, as he separates the possible from the impossible.”

CHRIS WELL

“A cozy mystery is a whodunit,” notes Chris Well, author of *Nursing A Grudge* and *Burying the Hatchet* says. (He is also the editor of this very magazine.) “All the suspects are in some confined space or location, they know each other, and everything is done without gratuitous language, violence or racy content. Some would also say a cozy requires an amateur sleuth, but I’d hate to rule out Hercule Poirot and Ellery Queen on a technicality—of course, Poirot is a retired policeman and Queen is a policeman’s son, so maybe they aren’t exceptions after all.”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MYSTERY OF ALL TIME?

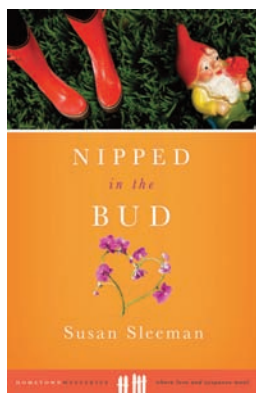
Nancy Mehl: “*The Player on the Other Side* by Ellery Queen. It’s perfectly written and perfectly plotted.”

Cynthia Hickey: “My favorite mysteries go all the way back to Nancy Drew. I read the entire collection as a child.”

Chris Well: “My favorite mystery series would be the Nero Wolfe books; what Rex Stout did as an author was brilliant.”

Elizabeth Goddard: “That’s easy: *Your Chariot Awaits* by Lorena McCourtney. She has a way with words that completely fascinates me.”

Susan Sleeman: “The Nancy Drew mystery series. If I hadn’t picked up a Nancy Drew book, I may never have discovered that reading is fun and then of course, I would never know the joy of creating stories for others to read and that being an author is the coolest job anyone could have.”



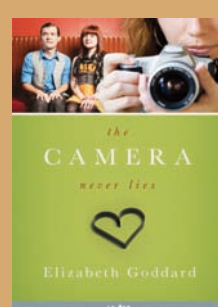
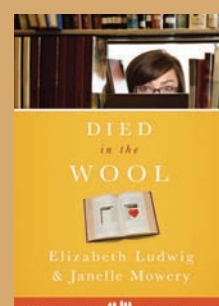
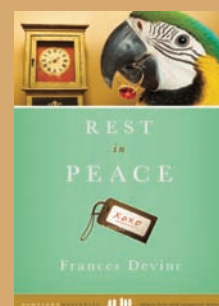
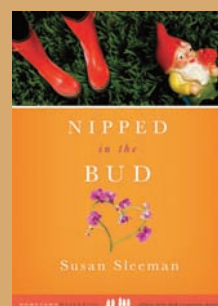
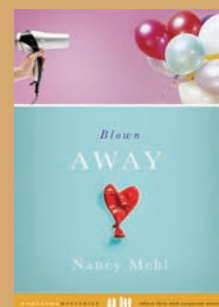
SUSAN SLEEMAN

“The sleuth is often an amateur detective,” says Susan Sleeman, author of *Nipped in the Bud*. “And they might even be a bit quirky with a great sense of humor—there’s no better place for humor than in a cozy mystery.”

The author is a gardening fanatic, so it was a no-brainer for her protagonist to share that interest. “I wanted to write a book that included gardening tips told in a humorous way,” Susan says. “As the book developed it became clear Paige Turner was single-minded in her gardening efforts. She often thought of people in terms of the plants they resembled, so I let her run wild with it.

“I knew who the murderer was from the start; what I *didn't* know was how they'd be caught and how that would tie into my main character Paige's love of gardening and the town's annual Pickle Fest celebration. I'm quite happy with how the novel ends, and readers tell me they don't know who the killer is until he or she is revealed.”

The Hometown Mysteries sleuths live in nursing homes, dress hair in funeral parlors, photograph weddings in National parks or even shelve books in libraries. But the eccentric characters aren't limited to the two-footed variety: One of Elizabeth Goddard's favorite characters in *The Camera Never Lies* is Murphy, her lead's Jack Russell terrier. And similar to mainstream author Lilian Jackson Braun's felines, a parrot takes center stage to help find the murderer of a pet store owner in Frances Devine's April release *Rest in Peace*. **FF**



BRYAN DAVIS: Dragons and Heroes

By Katie Hart

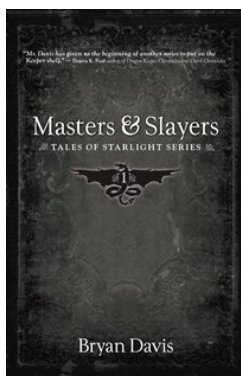


His books sell like blockbusters. Readers of all ages tell him how his books have changed their lives and brought them closer to Christ. Yet starting out, Bryan Davis garnered more than 200 rejections over eight years before finding a publisher

for his first novel, *Raising Dragons* (AMG).

Now with more than a dozen novels in print and eager readers clamoring for more, Bryan spends his days writing, editing and marketing his books, sometimes visiting more than a hundred different venues a year. “My main focus in promoting is visiting schools and homeschool groups,” he says. “I travel across the country and speak for free, hoping to demonstrate that I really believe in and live by the standards I write about. I also have a good Internet presence—blog, Facebook, email newsletter and message forum. I make frequent updates to these outlets and keep my readers informed about news and tour updates.”

Most of Bryan’s books are contemporary fantasies—stories set in our current world with strong fantasy elements. His two current series, however, take readers to entirely new places: the human planet of Major Four, and the faraway planet where dragons keep humans as slaves, Dracon. Jason Masters, a young swordsman, finds a



portal to Dracon in *Starlighter* (Zondervan), and teams up with a slave girl, Koren, to rescue those kept in bondage. Jason’s older brother, Adrian, finds another route to Dracon, but his plans are destroyed by the impetuosity of swordmaiden Marcelle in *Masters & Slayers* (AMG).

The books also stretch Bryan’s skills in other ways beyond new worlds. While the *Dragons of Starlight* series (Zondervan) is written for Bryan’s typical teen audience, his companion series *Tales of Starlight* (AMG) is written for adults.

One wonders whether two series with two different publishers might force him to compete with himself. “It might be too early

to make a judgment, but I haven't seen a problem so far," Bryan says. "I think readers of either series will want to read the other series to get a full picture of the story world. So far, both have sold well. I think they complement each other."

Bryan often hears from parents concerned about fantasy literature. "Parents are right to watch what their children read, because there's a lot of damaging material on the market," the author says. "I'm a conservative homeschooling father of seven children, and I would not put anything into their hands that isn't trustworthy. I'm not going to write any messages outside of traditional Christian values."

Homeschooling his children was actually what turned Bryan toward writing. Unable to find a curriculum for writing that met his family's needs, he began crafting a story to demonstrate the process, and the story grew into a novel. That was 16 years ago.

Today, his family still plays a large role in his writing in their Tennessee home: His wife, Susie, edits his books while his children provide ideas and feedback. Bryan loves that he can set his own schedule and be home with his family while writing full-time.

But his favorite part of being a writer is the ability to make a difference in the lives of his readers. "The heart of all my novels is selfless sacrifice," he says. "I try to create heroes and heroines who rise above the mediocrity that so many find to be acceptable and normal. My stories tell readers that they can be courageous; they can conquer their fears and doubts; they can rise up and be all that God has called them to be." **FF**



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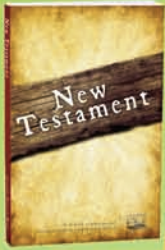
All entries must be received no later than March 31, 2011 and must include audio, lyrics and payment in full. [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Easter/Spring Gift Guide 2011

Traditionally, Spring is considered a time of new beginnings, as we witness nature awaken from her sleep of winter. As Christians, we have a deeper appreciation for new beginnings, as we have all been offered a clean slate through accepting Jesus' gift of eternal life through His death and resurrection. Every Spring we celebrate this amazing gift of God's love at Easter, and what better time to share this gift with others—whether non-Christians or long-time believers.

On the following pages, you'll find many great products that will help you and those you love experience a deeper faith walk or discover Christ's love for the first time. While the kids enjoy celebrating Easter with egg hunts, give your family and friends these gifts designed to inspire and encourage you in your daily journey with God.





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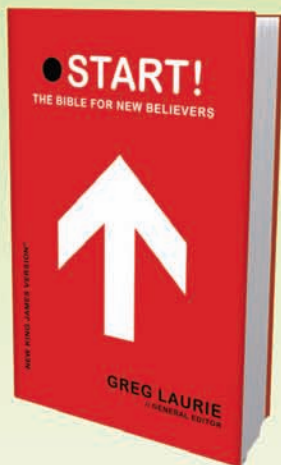
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WaterBrook/Multnomah
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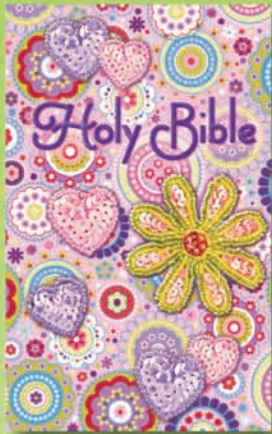
—Charles F. Brown

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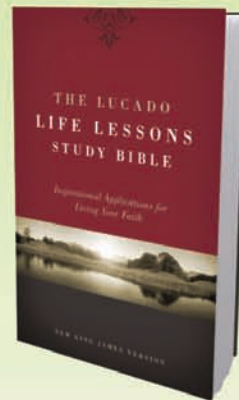
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Marta Perry

Twice the Amish Drama



Can an Amish midwife earn her community's trust and bring the joy of new babies to Pleasant Valley?

In the latest volume in Marta Perry's Pleasant Valley series, *Sarah's Gift* (Berkley), Amish midwife Sarah Mast moves to Pleasant Valley for a fresh start. Although this is the fourth book in the series, Marta promises quite a bit more to come—her publisher has now contracted her to write at least nine volumes.

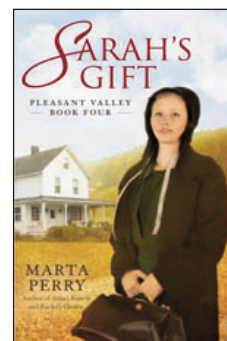
“Since the series is about a community instead of a single family,” Marta says, “I can bring in a new romantic couple for each book, but still include previous characters in secondary roles. As a reader, I love going back and visiting with characters I've already met, and I hope other people do as well.”

“As a reader, I love going back and visiting with characters I've already met.”

In addition to Pleasant Valley, Marta also has an Amish suspense series with HQN Books. “It can be tricky doing two different series at the same time for two different publishers,” she says, “but somehow we've made it work!”

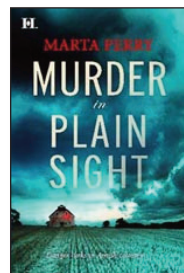
Murder in Plain Sight, the first in a planned trilogy, came out last fall. *Vanish in Plain Sight* will follow in June and *Judgment in Plain Sight* in early 2012. HQN will also bring out an e-book novella, *Lost in Plain Sight*, on their website in May as an intro to the second book. “In this series, there is an overarching mystery to be resolved,” Marta says, “and the same family is involved—but the romantic leads are a different couple in each book.”

—Anna Robbins

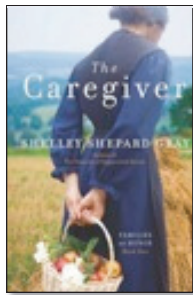


Sarah's Gift
(Pleasant Valley)
Berkley Books
MartaPerry.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



TRAIN TO WIN

Shelley Shepard Gray has a brand-new Amish romance in stores—*The Caregiver* (Avon Inspire), the first volume in her new Families of Honor series.

When their train breaks down outside of Cleveland, Lucy Troyer and Calvin Weaver realize they are the only two Amish people aboard and join together to find a place to stay for the night. Soon personalities clash and their fragile truce falls apart when they get to Middlefield—but neither can completely forget the bond forged on that train ...

“I like to write stories filled with characters who just happen to be Amish,” the author says on her website. “People who are just like you or me or your kids or your parents. I like to write stories about people who have a strong faith, a quieter way of life, but aren’t perfect.”

ShelleyShepardGray.com

HOPE FOR THE HURTING

Jerry S. Eicher kicks off his new Little Valley series with *A Wedding Quilt for Ella* (Harvest House). In the first book, young Ella Yoder is looking forward to her upcoming wedding with Aden Wengerd and the building of their dream house—but when Aden is taken from her suddenly, Ella begins to doubt God’s love. Can healing come through a house ... a quilt ... a community?

A Wedding Quilt for Ella is in stores now. Volume two, *Ella’s Wish*, hits stores this spring.

EicherJerry.com

THIRD TIME’S THE CHARM

A new compilation pulls together three Amish novellas from **Kathleen Fuller**. *What the Heart Sees: A Collection of Amish Romances* (Thomas Nelson) includes: “A Miracle for Miriam,” originally published in the anthology *An Amish Christmas*; “A Place of His Own” from *An Amish Gathering*; and “What the Heart Sees” from *An Amish Love*.

A similar collection from **Beth Wiseman** is on the way this summer.

—**Anna Robbins**

new releases

THE JOURNEY (Kentucky Brothers #1)

Wanda E. Brunstetter
(Barbour Publishing)



A TIME TO HEAL (Quilts of Lancaster County #2)

Barbara Cameron
(Abingdon Press)



A WEDDING QUILT FOR ELLA (Little Valley #1)

Jerry S. Eicher
(Harvest House)



ABIGAIL'S NEW HOPE (Wayne County)

Mary Ellis
(Harvest House)



WHAT THE HEART SEES: AMISH ROMANCES

Kathleen Fuller
(Thomas Nelson)



BESIDE STILL WATERS

Tricia Goyer
(B&H Books)



THE CAREGIVER (Families of Honor #1)

Shelley Shepard Gray
(Avon Inspire)



LILLY'S WEDDING QUILT (Patch of Heaven #2)

Kelly Long
(Thomas Nelson)



A ROSE REVEALED (Amish Farm Trilogy #3)

Gayle Roper
(Harvest House)



PLAIN PROPOSAL (Daughters of the Promise)

Beth Wiseman
(Thomas Nelson)



Liz Curtis Higgs

Another Time, Another Place



Liz Curtis Higgs' latest historical novel, *Mine Is the Night*, is the dramatic conclusion to her Scottish retelling of the biblical love story between Ruth and Boaz.

Creating believable characters that parallel their ancient Biblical counterparts, yet live and breathe in 18th century Scotland, is a lengthy process—including studying dozens of Bible translations in addition to Scottish history books—but one this talented author loves.

Liz believes the story of Ruth demonstrates what it means to trust in a Sovereign God who supports, guides, and restores people throughout trials and tribulations.

“Both women come to a place of peace in their relationships with each other and with the Lord, yet their spiritual journey is not an easy one.”

“We often forget that, at the start of their story, Ruth was a pagan who worshiped false gods and Naomi was a bitter, discouraged widow. As their story unfolds, both women come to a place of peace in their relationships with each other and with the Lord, yet their spiritual journey is not an easy one.

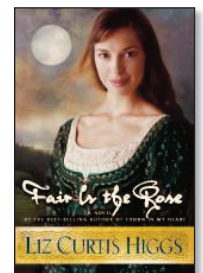
“In the same way, Marjory and Elisabeth Kerr—my Naomi and Ruth—have their faith shaped and tested by the circumstances of their lives. I hope my readers will find connecting points with the heartaches and joys these women experience, and fall in love with our kinsman-redeemer, as I have.”

—Rel Mollet

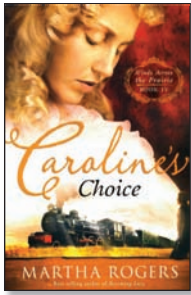


Mine Is the Night
WaterBrook Press
LizCurtisHiggs.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



DREAM OF A LIFETIME

At 73, **Martha Rogers'** life-long dream was realized with the sale of her debut novel, *Becoming Lucy*. Her fourth—*Caroline's Choice* (Realms)—has just been published. “I love history and delving into the lives of people who lived 100 to 150 years ago,” Martha shares. “My father gave me copies of letters my great-grandfather had written to my great-grandmother during the Civil War and that got me started.”

MarthaRogers.com

JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

Henry McLaughlin, 2009 winner of Christian Writers Guild's Operation First Novel, believes his college major in American History helped him accurately reflect an 1870s man in his novel *Journey to Riverbend* (Tyndale). “Knowing the culture and the history gave me clues about how he would think, how he would see himself and others. I wrote his biography, interviewed

him, did a character sketch and even ran him through Myers-Briggs.”

HenryMcLaughlin.com

AFRICAN CULTURE

Lisa Harris' uncle passed away in 2010 after working in Africa more than 40 years. Old books she discovered in his library inspired *An Ocean Away* (Summerside Press). “They were fascinating cultural studies on life in Northern Rhodesia—now Zambia—and dealt with everything from the people's religious beliefs to what they ate for dinner to how they were given in marriage, and in turn gave me the pieces to the backdrop of my story.”

LisaHarrisWrites.com

TRIAL OF FAITH

In **Karl Bacon's** debut, *An Eye for Glory* (Zondervan), a Union soldier is confronted by the faith of a dying Confederate soldier. “Too often,” the author shares, “when Christians are confronted by life's ordeals and trials of faith, we look within ourselves in hope of a cure. May we instead, by God's grace, look to Him and learn to rest more fully upon His mercy.”

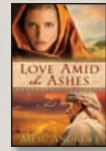
—**Rel Mollet**

new releases

LOVE AMID THE ASHES

Mesu Andrews

(Revell Books)



THE LINEN QUEEN

Patricia Falvey

(Center Street)



SPRINGTIME OF THE SPIRIT (Great War Series #3)

Maureen Lang

(Tyndale House)



JOURNEY TO RIVERBEND

Henry McLaughlin

(Tyndale House)



A BOND NEVER BROKEN (Daughters of Amana #3)

Judith Miller

(Bethany House)



A HEART MOST WORTHY

Sir Mitchell

(Bethany House)



BATHSHEBA (Wives of King David #3)

Jill Eileen Smith

(Revell Books)



THE TRIUMPH OF GRACE (Grace In Africa #3)

Kay Marshall Strom

(Abingdon Press)



AGAINST THE WIND (Zion Diaries #2)

Bodie & Brock Thoene

(Summerside Press)



SURRENDER THE NIGHT (Surrender to Destiny #2)

MaryLu Tyndall

(Barbour Publishing)



Mark Mynheir

Breaking The Case



To look at him now, you'd never guess Mark Mynheir—author and veteran police detective—was a high school drop out.

But the Florida native hated school—in particular, putting words on paper. Only later in life did he discover why: He is dyslexic and dysgraphic.

Of course, God has a way of using us despite our weaknesses—and Mark is no exception. After a stint in the Marines and five years into his successful career in law enforcement, he became a Christian—and soon felt the Lord leading him to write. It made little sense to Mark, but he obeyed, spending the next 10 years learning the craft. His first novel didn't sell, but his

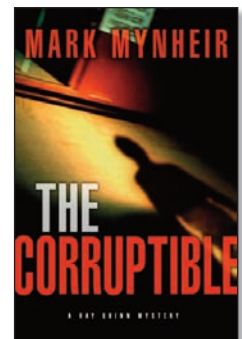
“There were a lot of different spiritual and emotional issues I wanted to examine.”

second did. “I look back now and have to laugh at how God works things out.”

Mynheir's latest book, *The Corruptible* (Multnomah), is his fifth published novel, and another suspenseful read starring disabled ex-homicide detective Ray Quinn. “This novel was born out of a case I worked on a couple of years ago that really impacted me,”

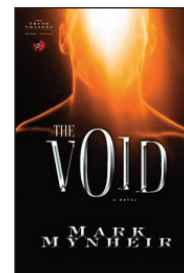
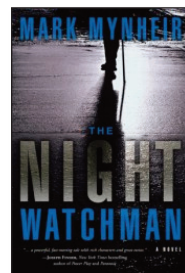
Mark says. “We had a particularly gruesome murder, and the victim had alienated his entire family to the point that no one seemed to care he'd been killed. Very sad, but it sparked the idea for the story. There were a lot of different spiritual and emotional issues I wanted to examine with this book.”

—C.J. Darlington



The Corruptible
Multnomah Books
CopWriter.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

The thriller *No Safe Haven* (B&H) is the debut of mother/daughter writing team **Kim and Kayla Woodhouse**. “I wrote the adult characters’ points-of-view,” says Kim. “Kayla wrote the 12-year-old viewpoints—she was also 12 at the time. Her main character, Andie, has the same rare nerve disorder Kayla has.”

The first in a series, much of the novel takes place on Alaskan mountain Sultana, which is steeper and more treacherous than Denali. “Maybe 20 people a year climb it,” Kim says. KimberleyWoodhouse.com

CRUISIN’

Sibella Giorello’s Raleigh Harmon—the intriguing FBI agent specializing in forensic geology—sets sail again in *The Mountains Bow Down* (Thomas Nelson). The book takes

place on a cruise to Alaska, so Giorello took the cruise for research. The cruise director, also a Christian, was happy to help out the author. “When I told him I was researching a novel, his enthusiastic response surprised me,” the author says, “especially since I told him the research was for a murder mystery. ‘Hey, that’s great,’ he said. ‘There are so many ways to kill people on a cruise ship.’ For the next seven days he showed me every potential danger, from top deck to the engine room. I’m convinced that guy was a gift from God!”

SibellaGiorello.com

A DOG’S DAY

Ronie Kendig has just signed with Barbour to publish her three-book war dogs series, *A Breed Apart*, about a tactical group of retired military war dogs and their human handlers. They’ve banded together with their unique skills to tackle situations otherwise deemed hopeless. The first book is set to release mid-2012. “I’m super-excited to write this series,” Ronie says.

RonieKendig.com

—C.J. Darlington

new releases

IN THE SHADOW OF EVIL

Robin Carroll

(B&H Books)



SHADOW OF REALITY

Donna Fletcher Crow

(Stonehouse Ink)



THE MOUNTAINS BOW DOWN (Raleigh Harmon)

Sibella Giorello

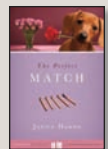
(Thomas Nelson)



THE PERFECT MATCH (Hometown Mysteries)

Janice Hanna

(Barbour Publishing)



BLOOD COVENANT (Mission Hope)

Lisa Harris

(Zondervan)



FALSE PRETENSES (Secrets of Roux River Bayou #1)

Kathy Herman

(David C. Cook)



DEADLY TIES

Vicki Hinze

(Multnomah Books)



A TRAIL OF INK (Hugh de Singleton, Surgeon)

Mel Starr

(Monarch Books)



LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES (Psalm 23 Mysteries #3)

Debbie Viguie

(Abingdon Press)



SHROUDED IN SILENCE

Robert Wise

(Abingdon Press)



Jeffrey Overstreet

Colors and Fairy Tales

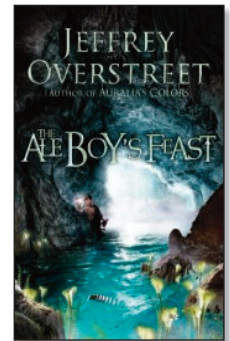


As a young boy, Jeffrey Overstreet would bring home library books and copy down their entire text. Soon he was making changes to the stories—and by age seven writing his own adventure fiction.

The one genre that particularly captured his imagination was fairy tales. Jeffrey recalls a conversation about fairy tales he had years ago with then girlfriend (now wife) Anne: “She mentioned that most people seem to reach an age when they’re kind of done with make-believe and fold up their imagination in a closet. When she said that, I got a picture of a kingdom drained of color, where the people are forced to put away all their imaginative expressions, all their creative projects, all their colors.”

“There are a lot of mysterious things about the world and about God, and we try and cast a net around those mysteries with art.”

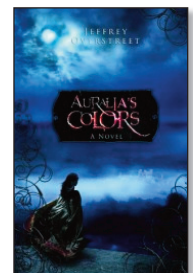
Little did Jeffrey know the next 15 years of his life would be dominated by trying to bring this world to life in what would become the Auralia’s Thread series. The finale is revealed in *The Ale Boy’s Feast* (Waterbrook Press), as the survivors of House Abascar must decide whether to merge with House Bel Amica or make a final desperate journey to find their own home. “There are a lot of mysterious things about the world and about God,” Jeffrey states, “and we try and cast a net around those mysteries with art. That’s why I think fairy tales have a very unique place in art and literature, as they are exploring and asking questions about things that more literal or realistic forms of storytelling can’t.”



The Ale Boy’s Feast
WaterBrook Press
LookingCloser.org

—Katie Hart

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



MARCHER LORD MADNESS

Marcher Lord Press is bursting with news this season. Most timely is the April lineup of novels: The conclusion to **Jill Williamson's** epic Blood of Kings trilogy, *From Darkness Won; Hero in Hiding*, the sequel to **Mitchell Bonds' Hero, Second Class**; and the special annotated three-in-one version of **Kathy Tyers'** beloved Firebird trilogy.

Marcher Lord has also acquired the rights to re-release two more award-winning speculative series: *Oxygen* and *The Fifth Man* by **Randy Ingermanson** and **John Olsen**, and the Sword of Lyric series by **Sharon Hinck**. "While it's great to get the books back in print," notes Sharon, "I'm especially excited about adding some bonus scenes, behind-the-scenes notes, and other surprise features that will make the new editions extra special." MarcherLordPress.com

THE OTHER PATH

After a wait of some five years, **Brian Reaves** follows up 2006's *Stolen Lives* (RiverOak) with the fast-paced sequel, *Chase the Shadows* (CreateSpace). This time around, he's publishing exclusively through Amazon—as a Kindle title and print-on-demand.

"Independent publishing has come a long way since my first book came out in 2003," Brian shares. "The cover and interior illustrations were designed by my son—who is a graphic artist—and I had complete control over every aspect of the book again." BrianReaves.net

DEKKER'S CIRCLE

Thomas Nelson has published a special 4-in-1 edition of **Ted Dekker's** Circle Series—complete with an alternate ending to *Green*. The series has sold more than one million copies to date. Ted stays connected with his numerous fans through his Facebook page, where readers have chosen covers and voted on which book Ted should tackle next. Facebook.com/TedDekker

—Katie Hart

new releases

SWORDS OF THE SIX (Sword of the Dragon #1)

Scott Appleton
(AMG Publishers)



THE CIRCLE SERIES (4-in-1)

Ted Dekker
(Thomas Nelson)



THE RESURRECTION

Mike Duran
(Realms)



THE PROMISES SHE KEEPS

Erin Healy
(Thomas Nelson)



ANGELS OF HUMILITY

Jackie Macgirvin
(Destiny Image)



FLIGHT OF THE OUTCASTS (Aedyn Chronicles #2)

Alister McGrath
(Zondervan)



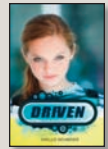
THE STRANGE MAN (Coming Evil Trilogy #1)

Greg Mitchell
(Realms)



DRIVEN

Shellie Neumeier
(Risen Books)



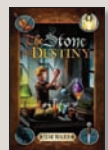
HOMEMADE HAUNTING

Rob Stennett
(Zondervan)



THE STONE OF DESTINY

Jim Ware
(David C. Cook)



Debby Mayne

The Heart of Everything



Eleven years after her debut, Debby Mayne continues to pen romance novels—because, she says, romance is at the heart of everything.

“Without romance, we wouldn’t have families, and family means everything to me,” she says. “Romance novels offer hope and joy with the ultimate reward for the reader at the end of each book.”

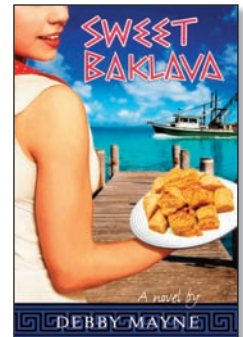
Her latest release, *Sweet Baklava* (Abingdon Press), is set in the large Greek community of Tarpon Springs, Florida. “I wanted to set my story in this delightful place because it has so many romantic elements,” Debby says, “from the gorgeous sunsets on the Gulf of Mexico to the

delightful Greek culture I love to share with people who visit.”

In the novel, Alabama girl Paula Andrews is working in a candle store in Tarpon Springs when her life is turned upside down by the return of soldier Nick Papadopoulos, her childhood sweetheart—and a man unwilling to put down roots.

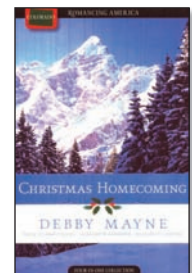
Paula’s desire to settle down reflects Debby’s own experience: “My dad was in the Air Force, so I grew up never knowing how long I’d live in any one place. I longed for stability, but I still enjoyed knowing people from all the different places I lived. Like Paula, I take pleasure in everything related to the Greek community—particularly the food.”

Debby’s sweet tooth is responsible for the book’s title. “I especially enjoy all of the Greek desserts found in the bakeries on the Sponge Docks of Tarpon Springs. No matter where I start out during visits, I wind up at a Greek bakery with baklava or some other delectable Greek pastry.”—**Rel Mollet**

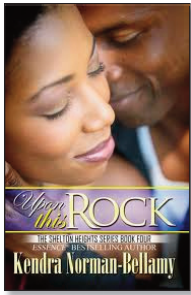


Sweet Baklava
Abingdon Press
DebbyMayne.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



ROCKY GROUND

A former prison inmate named Rocky is the lead character in *Upon This Rock* (Urban Books), the final installment of **Kendra Norman-Bellamy's** Shelton Heights series.

Notes Kendra, “I desired to take a person that society would label as ‘worthless’ and build a story around him that showed that no one—regardless of background or how many mistakes they had made in life—was hopeless in God’s eyes. In fact, sometimes they are His cream of the crop.”

KendraNormanBellamy.com

MUSIC & LOVE

Widowed at 34, amateur harpist Marie “Angel” Buchan realizes at 40 that her life and dreams are slowly slipping away. A summer in a small coastal village in Scotland finds her unexpectedly drawn into a love triangle

involving the local curate and the local duke.

Prolific author **Michael Phillips** says a period of solitude at his Scottish fisherman’s cottage produced his latest novel, *Angel Harp* (FaithWords). “I was there for about a month prior to my wife Judy’s arrival. I suppose I was feeling the loneliness of being without her and decided to write a story set right there in our village about a harpist—my wife is a harpist.”

WHY NOT?

In *A Billion Reasons Why* (Thomas Nelson), Katie McKenna has chosen a man who offers stability. In doing so, she rejects the only man she has ever loved, billionaire Luc DeForges. Readers will connect instantly with **Kristin Billerbeck's** heroine in her latest romance. “Katie was born in the wrong era,” shares Kristin. “She lives for swing dancing and the romance of the ’40s era. Or she used to—now she’s practical, a teacher of special needs kids who knows romanticizing another time has only brought her heartache.”

KristinBillerbeck.com

—Rel Mollet

new releases

THE PROPER WIFE

Winnie Griggs

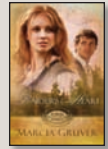
(Steeple Hill Love Inspired Historical)



RAIDER'S HEART (Backwoods Buccaneers #1)

Marcia Gruver

(Barbour Publishing)



RUGGED AND RELENTLESS (Husbands for Hire #1)

Kelly Eileen Hake

(Barbour Publishing)



A COWBOY'S TOUCH (Big Sky Romance #1)

Denise Hunter

(Thomas Nelson)



SAVE THE DATE

Jenny B. Jones

(Thomas Nelson)



HEART OF LIES (Irish Angel #2)

Jill Marie Landis

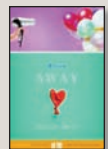
(Zondervan)



BLOWN AWAY (Hometown Mysteries)

Nancy Mehl

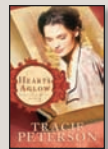
(Barbour Publishing)



HEARTS AGLOW (Striking A Match Series #2)

Tracie Peterson

(Bethany House)



OHIO BRIDES (Romancing America)

Cara Putman

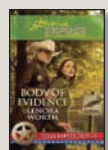
(Barbour Publishing)



BODY OF EVIDENCE (Texas Ranger Justice)

Lenora Worth

(Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)



Kimberly Stuart

Throwing a Curve



In one succinct sentence, author Kimberly Stuart describes her latest novel like this: “*Operation Bonnet* is a story about love, family, aging and catching life’s fastest curve balls.”

Basically, *Operation Bonnet* (David C. Cook) is a big ol’ slice of modern life with a memorable character in the driver’s seat. “I began with Nellie, the protagonist, who has christened herself the town genius and aspires to be a private investigator. I saw wild red hair, a sassy sense of humor and a surprising gentleness with her aging grandmother,” Kimberly shares. “Sometime during my early musings, I heard someone in the book industry comment wryly on

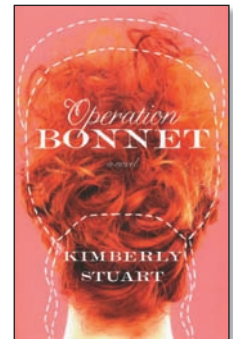
“I thought, What could possibly be funny about the Amish? Wait—unless...”

readers’ fascination with the Amish. He said all I needed to do with my next book was slap a bonnet on the cover.

“I laughed, knowing I was not cut out for Amish fiction. I thought, *What could possibly be funny about the Amish? Wait—unless...*

“So, I got to thinking about what would happen with Nellie and an Amish family in the same room. Girl with inflated view of herself goes ‘undercover’ for her debut detective case and infiltrates a people known for their humility. I know I’m onto an idea that can work if I giggle when I think about the synopsis. I plopped Nellie next to an Amish community and *Operation Bonnet* was off and running.”

—Christa A. Banister

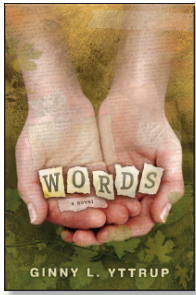


Operation Bonnet,
David C. Cook
KimberlyStuart.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



HOOKED ON WORDS

Ginny L. Yttrup debuts with *Words* (B&H), the story of a 10-year-old sexual abuse victim named Kaylee Wren. In the aftermath of the ongoing cycle of abuse at the hands of her mother's boyfriend—not to mention dealing with her drug-addicted mother's total abandonment—Kaylee has actually lost her voice, finding solace in the words she keeps in a box in her mind.

“As soon as I could read, I escaped the pain of abuse by losing myself in stories,” Ginny shares. “I had no idea God would use my written stories for His glory or my pain to help comfort others.”

GinnyYttrup.com

ANGELS WATCH OVER US

Exploring how the unseen world of angels and demons plays into the life of two very different believers—a young seminary grad at his new

post as interim pastor of a small-town church, and a 71-year-old widow and new Christian—**Jackie Macgirvin's** *Angels of Humility* (Destiny House) is a fast-paced read with plenty of food for thought.

“By examining Paul and Sarah, we understand what will cause us to suffer loss or bring us incredible eternal rewards when our life on earth is over,” Jackie says. “In order to be great in the world you need beauty, money, a name, a talent, etc. God's kingdom is the only kingdom where everyone has the opportunity to be great.”

LOVE ACROSS THE POND

For her debut, *Looks Like Love* (WestBow), **Brandy Bruce** was inspired by romantic comedies where travel abroad is integral to the story. “I went to London several years ago and just loved it,” she says. “When this story of this broken-hearted girl popped into my head, I thought wouldn't it be fun to write a book about a girl rediscovering what love looks like in her life—and who gets to travel to London in the process? The rest is history.”

BrandyReneeBruce.wordpress.com

—Christa A. Banister

new releases

THE CHASM: A JOURNEY TO THE EDGE OF LIFE

Randy Alcorn
(Multnomah Books)



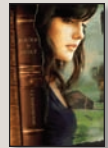
THE GLORY OF GREEN (Green Series #3)

Judy Christie
(Abingdon Press)



BOUND BY GUILT

C.J. Darlington
(Tyndale House)



LOVE ME BACK TO LIFE

Missy Horsfall, Susan Stevens
(Barbour Publishing)



WHO IS MY SHELTER? (Yada Yada House of Hope #4)

Neta Jackson
(Thomas Nelson)



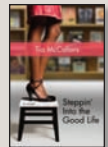
LEAVING (Bailey Flanigan #1)

Karen Kingsbury
(Zondervan)



STEPPIN' INTO THE GOOD LIFE

Tia McCollors
(Lift Every Voice)



THE HEART OF MEMORY

Alison Strobel
(Zondervan)



PROMISES TO KEEP

Ann Tatlock
(Bethany House)



LARKSPUR COVE

Lisa Wingate
(Bethany House)



Lisa T. Bergren

Captivated By Italy



Already well-known for her historical and contemporary adult fiction, Lisa T. Bergren takes on new challenges in a time travel series for teens.

In *Waterfall* (David C. Cook), the first volume in the River of Time series, readers meet two daughters of archeologists, Gabi and Lia, who anticipate a boring summer at a Tuscany dig—until they place their hands on an ancient tomb and Gabi finds herself in 14th century Italy. When she emerges from the tomb amidst a fierce battle between knights of two noble families, a young nobleman rescues her and takes her back to his family’s castle. Gabi struggles to adapt to medieval intricacies—like riding sidesaddle and eating without forks—but her greatest struggle will be not falling for the dashing knight who lives in a time not her own.

“She experienced how a book can capture the imagination.”

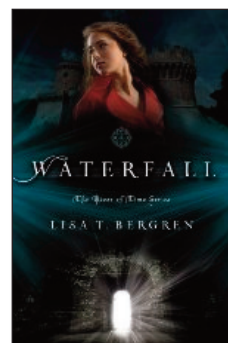
“I had a teen who was a reluctant reader until I found the Twilight series for her,” Lisa says. “They really made her a reader for the first time, because she experienced how a book can capture the imagination.”

Lisa decided to write a series portraying that same romance and adventure, and she set the novels in the Italy she loves. “The heart of [the story] is a desire to find true love and identity,” the author shares. “Because they’ve been thrown into such wild circumstances, it really pushes them to ask those big questions about purpose.”

To help her teen characters sound realistic, Lisa relies on a group of teen girls she calls her River of Time Tribe.

“They don’t hesitate to set me straight on my characters’ dialogue.”

—Katie Hart

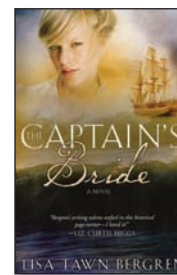
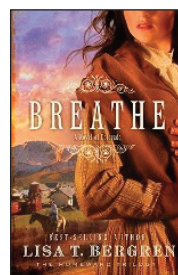


Waterfall
(River of Time)

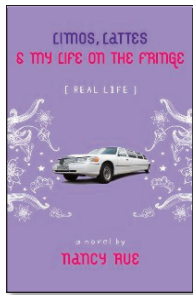
David C. Cook

LisaTawnBergren.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



RUE IN REAL LIFE

In April, Nancy Rue continues her Real Life series for teen girls with *Limos, Lattes and My Life on the Fringe* (Zondervan). Moving from the basketball hoops of *Tournaments* to prom dresses, *Limos* follows a girl on the fringe who's been nominated for high school prom queen—and finds out her nomination was part of a prank to humiliate her. Hurt, but not dejected, she vows to use her new status to put an end to the inequality at her school.

Meanwhile, the author connects with her readers through her blog, *In Real Life*. More than just a blog, the site has become a community for teen girls to discuss life issues and growing more like Christ.

tweenyouandme.typepad.com/in_real_life/

KENNEY BABY

Rebecca Kenney, author of teen novels *Where I Belong* and *The Silent* (BJU Press),

just became a proud mom! Rebecca and husband **Tristan** welcomed **Jaden Riley Kenney** Dec. 13, 2010. The healthy baby boy weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 22.25 inches long. RebeccaKenney.com

FOLLOWING AN APPRENTICE

Melanie Dickerson's teen historical romance *The Healer's Apprentice* (Zondervan) has at least sequels in the works: The second book in this series of fairy tale-based stories, *The Merchant's Daughter* (reimagining the story of Beauty and the Beast), releases in late 2011. Melanie has also mentioned plans for continuing Rose's story with a book about her children.

MelanieDickerson.com

CONTEST C.H.A.O.S.

Jon S. Lewis, who just launched his C.H.A.O.S. series with *Invasion* (Thomas Nelson), is running a contest online for youth groups and leaders. Prizes include shirts, books, naming a character and a visit with the author.

ChaosNovels.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)



GLAMOUR (On the Runway Series #5)

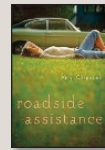
Melody Carlson
(Zondervan)



ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Amy Clipston

(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)



HIGH HURDLES COLLECTION 1 (Books 1-5)

Lauraine Snelling
(Bethany House)



HIGH HURDLES COLLECTION 2 (Books 6-10)

Lauraine Snelling
(Bethany House)



VeggieTales

An Easter Twist



Seven years ago, Big Idea gave a classic Christmas story an Easter twist with *An Easter Carol*. And this year they're doing it again.

'Twas the Night Before Easter explores the real meaning of Easter, from Mark 10:45: *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

In addition to the familiar cast, the project also introduces a new character—voiced by American Idol top finalist Melinda Doolittle. “We hatched *'Twas The Night Before Easter* as a holiday surprise for families,” said Leslie Ferrell, General Manager of Big Idea Entertainment. “It was truly a rewarding experience working with Melinda Doolittle, and we think fans are going to love her character, Cassie Cassava, just as much as her wonderful singing!”

'Twas the Night Before Easter challenges viewers to serve others. In one of the DVD's many extras, Bob and Larry present a special

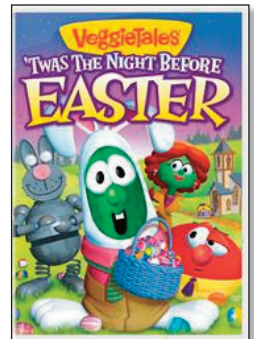
“It was truly a rewarding experience working with Melinda Doolittle.”

message about World Vision, sharing with viewers a real-world example where they can help and serve. Children and their families will be presented with a chance to help the people of the world through this Christian charity, which provides food, clean water and other necessities to children around the world.

Other features on the disc include an audio commentary, the silly song “The Hopperena,” a behind-the-scenes featurette with Melinda Doolittle, and an interactive game.

Through the months of March and April, more than 2,000 churches will host “Easter Egg-stravaganza” viewings of the video. Coinciding with the DVD release is a CD of worship music, *VeggieTales: Hosanna! Today's Top Worship Songs For Kids*, featuring Mark Hall of Casting Crowns and Amy Grant.

—Ben Avery

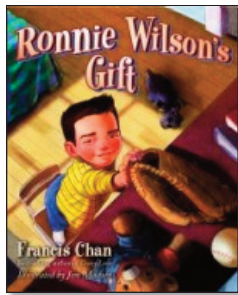


'Twas the Night Before Easter
Big Idea
VeggieTales.com

ALSO AVAILABLE



News&Notes



GIVE NOW

With his third children's book, *Ronnie Wilson's Gift* (David C. Cook), best-selling author and speaker **Francis Chan** gives children and their families a tale about compassion and giving generously. "I hope this story introduces a powerful concept to children," Chan explains, but cautions it can't be taught to a child simply by reading a book to them. "[Children] can only internalize this lesson as they learn to give generously along with their parents. It's our responsibility to care for those in need, but also a joy." *Ronnie Wilson's Gift* is illustrated by **Jim Madsen**. FrancisChan.org

GETTING BOYS TO READ

Max Elliot Anderson wants boys to read. "I grew up hating to read, despite the fact my father was a successful author," he says.

"I decided to look into why I hadn't enjoyed reading as a child—what I found caused me to explore writing the kinds of books I would've liked as a kid."

His latest, *Barney and the Runaway* (Comfort Publishing), is about a boy who pretends to run away from home to teach his parents a lesson—only to learn some lessons himself when his plan goes horribly wrong. Anderson wrote the book to encourage both children and parents: "The main point to the story is that parents discipline their children because they love them."

MaxBooks.9k.com

THE WHOLE TRIUTH

In *Eleanor the Hippo Learns to Tell the Truth* (Harvest House), author and illustrator **Andy McGuire** shares a parable about dishonesty that stars whimsical animal characters. *Eleanor the Hippo* is the follow-up to *Remy the Rhino Learns Patience*, and both books feature a story told in rhyme, watercolor artwork, and a solid character lesson for readers.

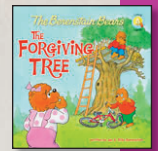
Andy-McGuire.com

—Ben Avery

new releases

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE FORGIVING TREE

Jan & Mike Berenstain
(Zondervan)



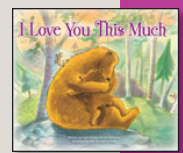
THE LION OF JUDAH: THE MOVIE STORYBOOK

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)



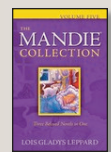
VEGGETALES: PRINCESS PETUNIA'S SWEET APPLE PIE

Karen Poth
(Zonderkidz)



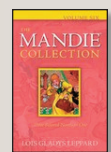
THE MANDIE COLLECTION VOLUME FIVE

Lois Gladys Leppard
(Bethany House)



THE MANDIE COLLECTION VOLUME SIX

Lois Gladys Leppard
(Bethany House)



John Schneider

Following the Lord



Just one look and it's likely you'll recognize actor John Schneider—whether from his stint as Bo Duke on the '70s hit *The Dukes of Hazzard*, his turn as Pa Kent on the current hit *Smallville*, or from his work in a variety of other projects.

He also stars in the new film *WWJD*, based on the 1896 novel *In His Steps* by Charles M. Sheldon. The book still sells an average of 100,000 copies per year and has never been out of print.

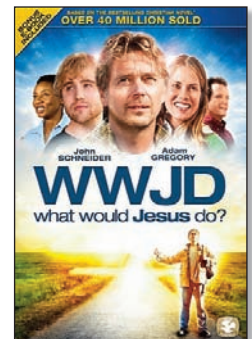
The film modernizes the story, set in a town that has hit on hard times. A local

“When times are tough, isn't that when people need the Lord the most?”

politician is determined to turn things around by tearing down a small church and building a casino. But when *The Drifter* (played by Schneider) arrives, everything changes—and the church's pastor, along with five others, decide to make a difference and ask themselves, *What would Jesus do?*

“I think a common need brings people together,” Schneider says of the film. “But you don't hear about that. Although this movie depicts people as being greedy when they get in trouble, it also challenges people to turn outward and see if they can help their fellow man rather than taking advantage of a bad situation.

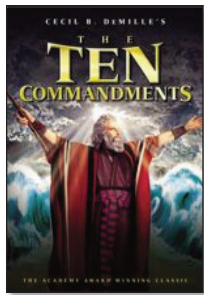
“I'm a part of the Children's Miracle Network, and what I've found is quite the opposite of what people think—people actually give more to our organization in this economy, they're more caring, more philanthropic. When times are tough—and this is something I say in my film dialogue—isn't that when people need the Lord the most? I believe this movie will actually cause those who disbelieve this to [apply that principle] to their own lives and perhaps be that way themselves.”



WWJD
Nasser Entertainment
WWJDmovie.com

—C.J. Darlington

News&Notes



55 YEARS OF THE BIG TEN

In March, Paramount marks the 55th anniversary of **Cecil B. DeMille's** 1956 epic *The Ten Commandments* with a fully restored version presented for the first time ever in high definition. The film is available in a limited edition six-disc Blu-ray/DVD Combo gift set, as well as in a two-disc Blu-ray and two-disc DVD. Filmed in Egypt and the Sinai with one of the biggest sets ever constructed for a motion picture, DeMille's last motion picture made **Charlton Heston** a superstar and remains a perennial fan-favorite.

SURF'S UP!

Soul Surfer, based on the book by **Bethany Hamilton**, hits theaters nationwide April 15. It tells the true story of how the teen surfer lost her arm in a shark attack—but courageously overcame all

odds to become a surfing champion again through sheer determination and unwavering faith. Starring **AnnaSophia Robb** as Bethany and **Dennis Quaid** and **Helen Hunt** as her parents, *Soul Surfer* also features **Carrie Underwood** in her film debut. “My family and I are honored to be the subject of such an amazing film,” Bethany says. “My hope is that the story continues to inspire people around the world to overcome the challenges that face them.” SoulSurferTheMovie.com

GOOD CENTS

The San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival awarded ‘Best Feature Film’ to drama *The Penny*, directed and produced by **Nathan Webster** of Filmweavers. The movie follows a series of disconnected strangers whose lives collide in what proves to be more than just a coincidence. “We are both honored and humbled to have won this award,” says Webster. “Our prayer is that this will be a springboard to reach many more audiences.” *The Penny* comes out on DVD in May. ThePennyFilm.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)



THE GRACE CARD

(Affirm Films)



LIKE DANDELION DUST

(Downes Brothers Entertainment)



MOLLY PICKENS AND THE RAINY DAY CASTLE

(Bridgestone Group)



NO LIMIT KIDS: MUCH ADO ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Elevating Entertainment)



RUST

(Team Cherokee Productions)



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (1956)

(Paramount Home Entertainment)



VEGGIETALES: 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE EASTER

(Big Idea)



Parable: Volume 1

Bold Comics Anthology



Comics artist Mike Maihack saw a problem: An absence of quality, faith-driven comic work in independent comics.

He set out to remedy that by putting out a call to artists. “I was fortunate to already have a very small presence on the web because of a webcomic I was working on at the time,” Maihack recounts. “So, thankfully when I started pitching the idea of a Christian comic anthology, people knew I was serious.”

The result is *Parable: Volume 1* (Lamp Post Inc.), a 200-page anthology with contributions from more than 20 comics writers and artists, including talent who’ve worked for Marvel Comics, Disney, Zonderkidz, Image Comics and Big Idea.

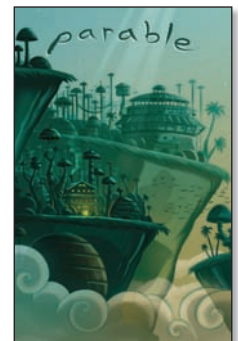
What attracted many of the artists was Maihack’s approach to the kind of material he wanted. “I wanted to emphasize the value of Christianity rather than an evangelistic approach that had previously kept a lot of publications from reaching a

“It was a reason to use our joy of comics to celebrate our love of Christ as well as fellowship with other creators.”

wider market. At its root though, it was a reason to use our joy of comics to celebrate our love of Christ as well as fellowship with other creators.”

Maihack hopes the anthology will show the outside market that Christian comics can be fun, entertaining and well-drawn. “Likewise I hope to introduce the Christian market to a variety of different comic styles they might not be used to,” he says. “Mainly though, I hope it’ll bring readers to a richer and fuller understanding of Christianity.”

—Ben Avery



Parable: Volume 1
Lamp Post Inc.
ParableComic.com

SAMPLE PAGES



News&Notes



WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

Youngsters can revisit **Max Lucado's** Hermie the caterpillar and his insect friends with *Hermie and Friends: A Bug Collection Volume 3* (Tommy Nelson), a value-priced box set with three classic episodes. Using warm animation and gentle humor and characters, including voice acting by **Tim Conway** and **Don Knotts**, the Hermie series offers life lessons to children.

THE REST OF THE STORY

The 400-page, four-volume Eye Witness graphic novel series has been a nearly ten-year long labor of love for **Robert James Luedke**, who wrote and illustrated each of those 400 pages. Luedke took on this huge task "to open the eyes and hearts of young adult readers about Jesus and the roots of the Christian faith." Described as "part Indiana Jones and part *Mission: Impossible*," the full story is

now available in a slipcase edition with all four volumes. The Eye Witness slipcase can be purchased through booksellers, but Headpress Publishing also offers a limited signed and numbered edition to anyone who orders through their site.

HeadPress.info

SUNDAY FUNNIES

Comic strip distributor King Features Syndicate has quite a stable of titles—including the likes of *Family Circus*, *Flash Gordon* and *Hi and Lois*. They also distribute **Kevin Frank's** faith-based comic *Heaven's Love Thrift Shop*. This latest series from the veteran cartoonist is set in a thrift shop, where the humor centers around the staff's interactions with customers.

According to King Features: "One of the main goals of *Heaven's Love Thrift Shop* is to make readers smile and maybe help them view the world in a more redemptive or open and giving way."

Ask your local newspaper to carry it in their comics section.

KevinFrank.net

—Ben Avery

new releases

THE GREAT MOGUL DIAMOND

G. P. Taylor, Various
(SaltRiver)



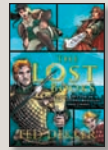
THE COMPLETE PEANUTS 1979-1980 (VOL. 15)

Charles M. Schulz
(Fantagraphics)



THE LOST BOOKS: THE VISUAL EDITION

Ted Dekker, Various
(Thomas Nelson)



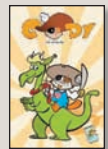
UNKNOWN GOD (Eye Witness #4)

Robert James Luedke
(Head Press)



CODY THE CAVALIER

Jamie Cosley
(Crashland Studios)



FOUR PANELS: A PRAYER PUPS COMPILATION

Jeff Smith
(Lulu)



PRISCILLA #3

Peter Gonzalez, Jamie Cosley
(Crown of Life Junior Comics)



THE ACTION BIBLE

Sergio Cariello
(David C. Cook)



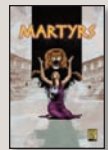
MANGA MELECH

Various
(Tyndale House)



MARTYRS

Various
(Kingstone Comics)



5 Questions: Eric Wilson

Eric Wilson often uses his fiction to explore earth's tension between heaven and hell. His books include the *New York Times* bestsellers *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*, as well as eight suspense novels, including *Dark to Mortal Eyes* and *The Best of Evil*. He broke new literary ground with his Jerusalem's Undead trilogy, which mined some surprising territory in Scripture—and sent more than one reader scrambling for their home Bibles to double-check that, *Yep, that passage was right there all along*. His next novel, *One Step Away*—which promises a new twist on an ancient story—comes out this fall.



ERIC WILSON

Your Jerusalem's Undead trilogy is steeped in serious biblical and early church history. Did the research lead to the story, or did the story lead to the research?

I have a bachelor's degree in theology, and that did play a part in this trilogy. There were still things I had to study, though. For example, I wanted my Collectors—demonic and vampiric beings—to have a theological basis for their desire to pervert mankind's senses.

While exploring this, I realized that in the Bible we never see demons affecting the physical realm unless through a host, human or animal, while angels are shown interacting in the physical realm on numerous occasions. This led to some deep theological concepts about the results of sin and the Fall.

You traveled all the way to the Holy Land to see these sites in person. How important was that in helping you set the stage on paper?

It was huge. In my books, physical location has always been a "character," so to speak, and I really needed that confidence of walking the land myself.

My last day in Jerusalem, I met the lady who originally crawled through the tombs of the Field of Blood, when they were first

unearthed in 1989. She said, "I hope your book is scary, because it was a very scary place."

Your novels range from mysteries to supernatural thrillers to contemporary fiction—do you have to do anything different as a writer to approach a different genre?

My personal tastes range from classical music to hard rock. I love smash-mouth sports, and I love chess. I love reading books, and I love hiking in the mountains. For me, it's quite natural to write in different genres, because it simply taps into different parts of my personality and interests.

Strategically, though, as a writer, I should've picked one genre and stuck with it. People who see I wrote *Fireproof* are often suspicious of my ability to pull off a vampire novel, for example.

In addition to your original fiction, you also wrote the novelizations for *Facing the Giants* and *Fireproof*. Was there any collaboration with the movies' creators in that process?

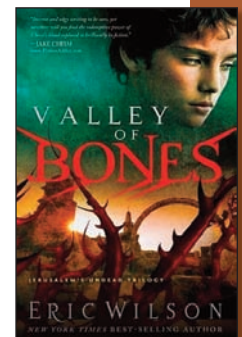
I've done three novelizations with the Kendricks, based on their original screenplays. They insisted that everything in the movies be in the books, but then they gave me freedom to explore

back-stories and subplots. They were great to work with, and they truly understand the ability of storytelling to communicate truth. I had a blast working with them.

Why do you think story is important?

I've never been a woman in Afghanistan, but I felt the pain and struggle they go through while reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. I've never been to war, but I shared the fears and horrors of that while reading *Matterhorn*. I've never listened in on the strategies of demons, but I got a sense of their cunning while reading *The Screwtape Letters*.

Story has the power to engage our hearts and minds in ways they would otherwise resist. It's a powerful tool, and it's no mistake that Jesus used parables to share truths with the average people of his day. **FF**



Eric Wilson Online

WilsonWriter.com

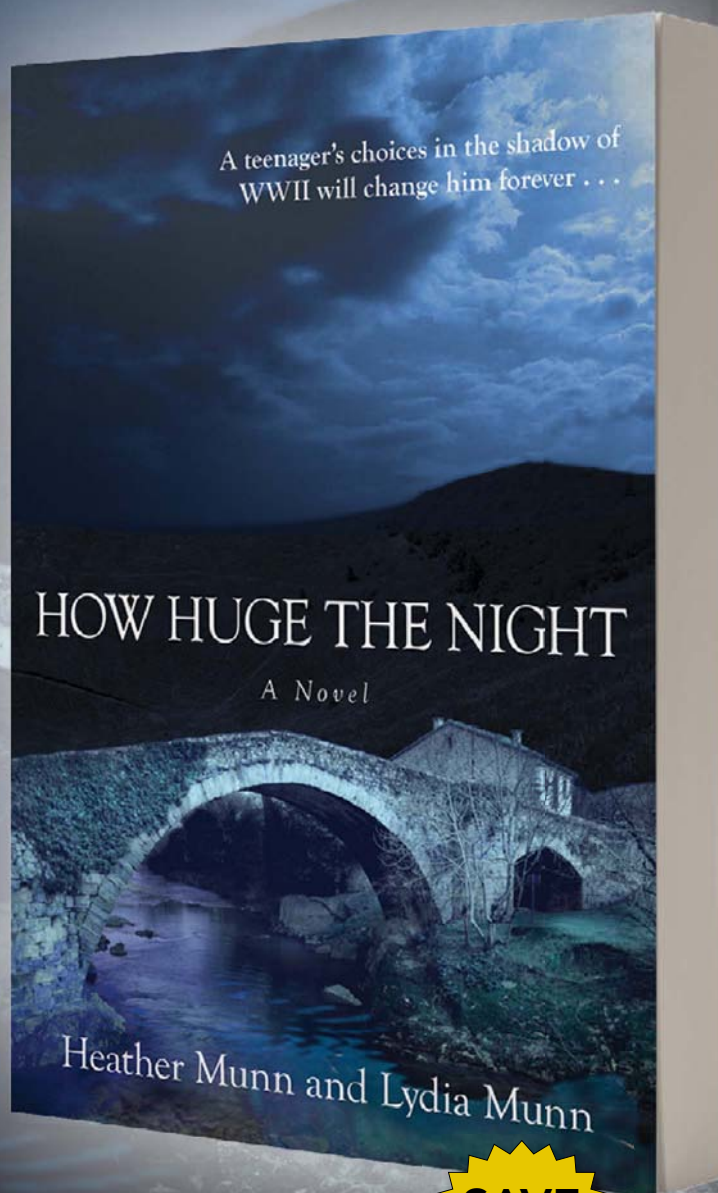
[Facebook.com/WilsonWriter](https://www.facebook.com/WilsonWriter)

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

WHEN HAD GOD EVER STOPPED A WAR BECAUSE A TEENAGER ASKED HIM TO?

After fifteen-year-old Julien Losier and his family relocate to southern France to outrun Hitler's menace, they immediately open their house to a Jewish boy needing refuge. Then Julien meets another Jew—a young Austrian girl named Nina whose situation is grave—and Julien suddenly realizes the enormity of having someone's life or death depend on... him.

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Remembering Leisha Kelly (1963-2011)

Leisha Kelly was the author of 11 books, among them a best-selling inspirational historical fiction series centered around the Wortham and Hammond families, set in Southern Illinois. At times a waitress, cafe manager, tutor and EMT, Leisha was active in her church and served many years on her local library board, bringing good reads and educational opportunities to her community.

Leisha Kelly, 47, was killed in a car accident on January 25 near Fowler, Illinois. Her son, 16-year-old Justice, was also killed in the crash. Kelly, a resident of nearby Clayton, Ill., was the author of 11 books, among them a best-selling inspirational historical fiction series centered around the Wortham and Hammond families, set in Southern Illinois. Her most recent book, *The House on Malcolm Street*, was published by Revell in September 2010.

Kelly leaves behind her husband, K. J., and a daughter, Hosanna. Kelly home-schooled her two children and served as a children's ministry director and a youth minister at her family's church. The couple had also recently become foster parents.

Vicki Crumpton, Executive Editor for Revell, who worked with Kelly since her first book, *Julia's Hope*, was published in 2001 said, "I remember receiving Leisha's first proposal in 2001. I read what her agent sent and called him that day to ask to read more of the

manuscript. When I presented the proposal to our publishing committee, the team read the proposal and a few sample chapters. The first thing people asked was, 'When can we read the rest?' And every time we received a new proposal from Leisha, people always asked, 'When can I read more?' Leisha's fans felt the same way. They always wanted to know when her next book would be out.

"Leisha Kelly was an amazing talent," Crumpton said. "More than that, she was an amazing person, loved by family, friends, and her fans. Her unique writing voice will be greatly missed."

Twila Bennett, Senior Director of Marketing for Revell, remembers a story Kelly told her once. "She had a vivid memory of one of her first writing experiences that has stayed with me after all this time. She was young, it was the year that Mount Saint Helens erupted and she had heard the news stories about how the ashes might fall on other states.



LEISHA KELLY

She felt a story burning in her and went out to her front porch and wrote and wrote. And then, the ashes from Mount Saint Helens really did indeed begin falling on her paper like snow.

"I keep seeing that young Leisha now and look in wonderment at this girl," Bennett said, "who overcame so much and gained the world on Tuesday with her son at her side."



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