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# family fiction

May/June 2011

Because everyone deserves a good story.

**WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER**

2011 Family Fiction Readers Choice Awards

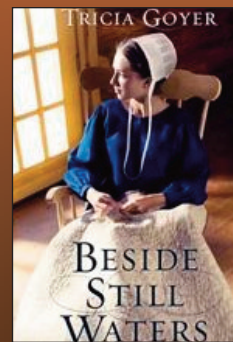
**AUTHOR OF THE YEAR**

**TERRI BLACKSTOCK**

10 New Voices in Biblical Fiction

**LOVE FINDS YOU**

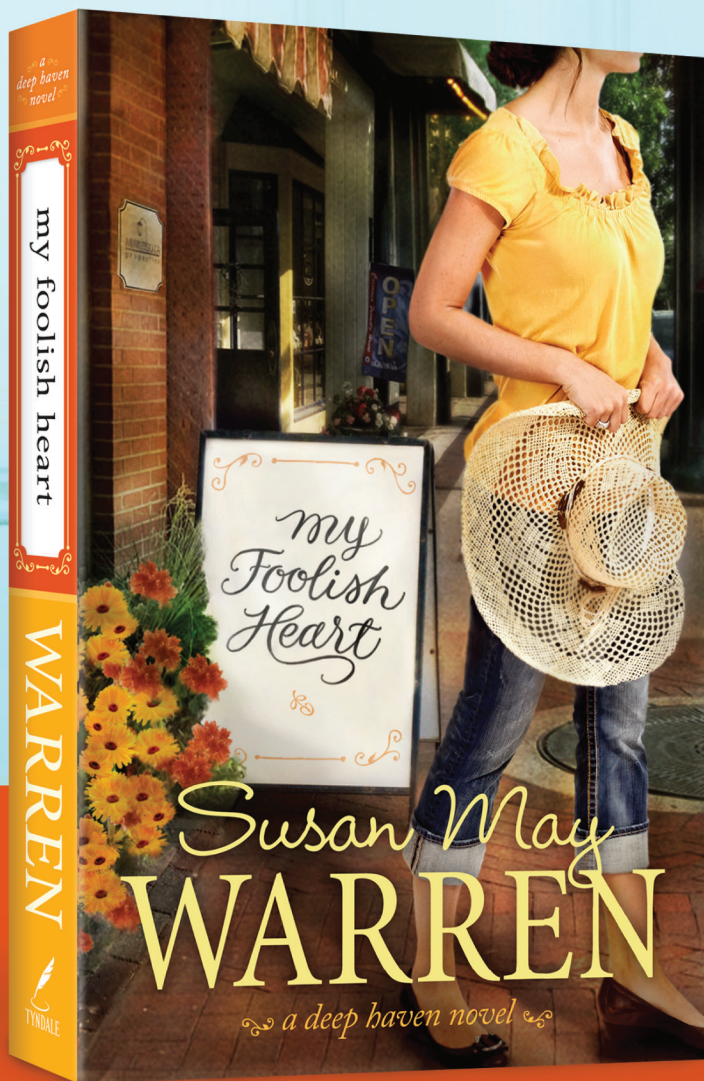
In Towns Across America





# Her perfect Romance right next door...

The star host of a talk radio show breaks all her own rules when she falls for a caller—a man she doesn't realize is the neighbor she's been trying to avoid since he first moved in. A story of first impressions and second chances, *My Foolish Heart* demonstrates the power of love to break us free from prisons of our own making.



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## DEPARTMENTS

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**Tricia Goyer**

PLUS: Beth Wiseman, Mary Ellis and Kelly Long



### Historical

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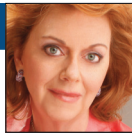
PLUS: Maureen Lang, Penny Zeller, Jill Eileen Smith and Jillian Kent



### Suspense

**Brandilyn Collins**

PLUS: Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, Tim Downs and Mike Dellosso



### Speculative

**Mitchell Bonds**

PLUS: Bryan Litfin, Bill Myers and Travis Thrasher



### Romance

**Julie Carobini**

PLUS: Denise Hunter, Missy Tippens and Kathleen Morgan



### Contemporary

**C.J. Darlington**

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### YA/Teen

**Nancy Rue**

PLUS: Shellie Neumeier, Heather and Lydia Munn, Lauraine Snelling and Diana Greenwood



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**Melody Carlson**

PLUS: Bill Myers, Sheila Walsh and Karen Kingsbury



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PLUS: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *The Encounter* and *The Potential Inside*



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**Phil Vischer's What's In The Bible?**

PLUS: *Faithboy*, *Happiness is a Warm Blanket*, *Charlie Brown* and *Rabbi Encounters*



### REL MOLLET

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

[relzreviewz.blogspot.com](http://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](http://cjdarlington.com)



### KATIE HART

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

[BladesofBetrayal.com](http://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.

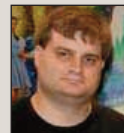
[ChristaBanister.typepad.com](http://ChristaBanister.typepad.com)



### 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](http://BenAvery.com)





# Words to the Wise

## And The Award Goes To...

Hello, friends! Once again we're thrilled to bring you another issue of *FamilyFiction Digital Magazine*. This issue is chock-full of interviews and news featuring many great authors—whether your taste in Christian fiction runs from Amish and historical or you're more inclined to read thrillers and speculative fiction.

This issue also marks a first: We present the 2011 Readers Choice Awards. We put out the call for *FamilyFiction* readers to tell us their favorites in several categories, including favorite author, favorite novel, favorite movie and more!

We're continuing to strive to bring you news and information about all kinds of Christian fiction and its authors. Our website now has more than 500 authors, more than 1300 Christian fiction books, more than 150 Christian and/or family friendly movies and DVDs, and nearly 300 book trailers. And we're adding new entries every week! Check out our progress online at **FamilyFiction.com**.

And be sure to come back every issue of *FamilyFiction Digital Magazine* for more—more authors, more books, more interviews, more news...more everything! The Christian fiction sector continues to grow, and our goal is to be your news source to keep track of all the new stories coming out.

As always, tell us how we're doing. You're welcome to email me personally at [cwell@salempublishing.com](mailto:cwell@salempublishing.com). You can also contact us through our page on Facebook at

**Facebook.com/FamilyFiction.**



CHRIS WELL

Thanks for stopping by—and happy reading!

Chris Well, editor  
*FamilyFiction*  
[CWell@SalemPublishing.com](mailto:CWell@SalemPublishing.com)

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fiction

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Nashville, TN 37217-2509  
Phone: 615.386.3011  
Fax: 615.312.4266  
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### Publisher

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### Associate Publisher

Rick Edwards

### Editor

Chris Well

### Design

Allie Krukowski

### Production & Operations Director

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### Contributing Editors

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

### Advertising Sales

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

### Account Executives

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

### Advertising Traffic Manager

Carol Jones

### Assistant Advertising Traffic Manager

Leah Totty

### Cover

Barbour Books

### Advertising Information

Salem Publishing  
402 BNA Drive, Ste. 400  
Nashville, TN 37217-2509  
Phone: 615.386.3011  
Fax: 615.386.3380  
[CCMMediaServices.com](http://CCMMediaServices.com)

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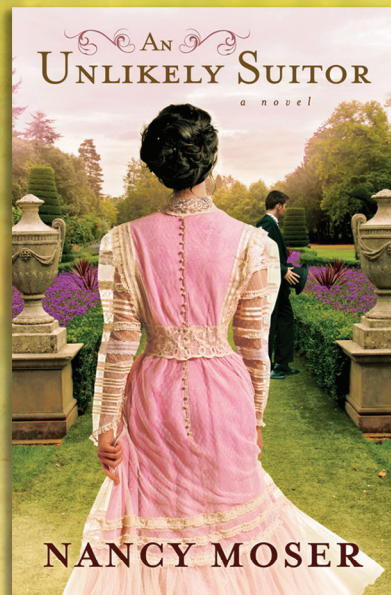
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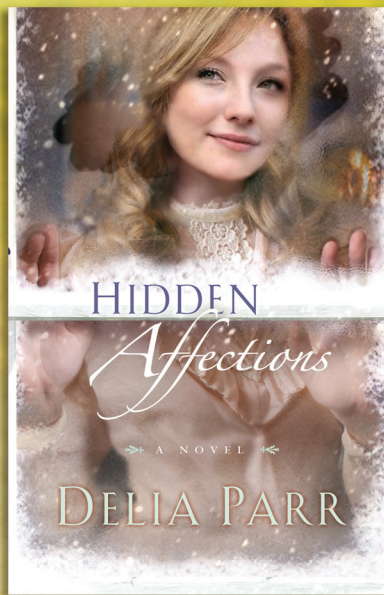


# Be Swept Away by the ROMANCE of HISTORY



Will three unlikely friends sacrifice their secrets to help each other find their heart's desires?

*An Unlikely Suitor*  
by Nancy Moser



Alone, and still reeling from a painful betrayal, Annabelle's life is turned upside down—and then the unexpected happens.

*Hidden Affections*  
by Delia Parr



Eden Spencer prefers books over suitors. But when a tarnished hero captures her heart, will she deny her feelings or create her own love story?

*To Win Her Heart*  
by Karen Witemeyer

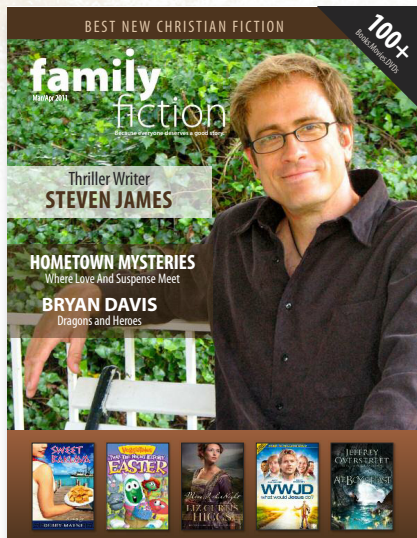
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# Feedback



*FamilyFiction* is really a beautiful magazine—bright and colorful. You have done a wonderful job! Thank you for all your hard work, it is a blessing. It has introduced me to some new authors.

—KIMBERLI CAMPBELL, VIA [FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

I saw Steven James in *FamilyFiction* and read *The Pawn* that weekend! I just finished *The Rook* and my heart is still racing! So good...can't wait to read the next two and then wait for the newest release in September!

—MERIDETH ROBERTS OLSON, KATY, TEXAS

Steven James' books are nothing short of incredible—they are just as good or better than any James Patterson, Michael Connelly and other thriller writers on the general market bestseller list. Pay attention to this man! He's got talent, and he's got a great message in every book he writes.

—WOLFE MOFFAT, FRANKLINVILLE, NEW YORK

Steven James' novels are really great suspense, but I was turned off by the gruesomeness. I can't decide whether to read the rest or not.

—H. A. TITUS, VIA [FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

I haven't read any of Steven James' books yet, but sure will pick them up now!

—TAMMI SNYDER BREWSTER, VIA [FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

I've read the first five books in the Hometown Mysteries series and have the next four on my shelf. I think my favorite so far is *Missing Mabel* by Nancy Mehl; I love Hilde and all the unique characters in the book, and I love how Hilde has a career of something that would make most people leery, and she makes a ministry out of it. Having lots of laughs and a bit of romance doesn't hurt either!

—JENNIFER STUTESMAN CREVIER, VIA [FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

In future issues of your magazine, I wish you'd share more of the personal testimonies of the Christian writers.

—SHERRY HEFNER, CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

I'm glad to see FamilyFiction.com have a list of authors—because I don't know many of them by name.

—GINA CURTIS, VIA [FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFICTION](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Has there been a Christian novel that really encouraged you?

<http://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150172675283666>

Who's your favorite Christian novelist that you got to meet in person?

<http://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150154194548666>

What genre of Christian fiction just does NOT put out new titles fast enough for you?

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

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## KEEP IN TOUCH!

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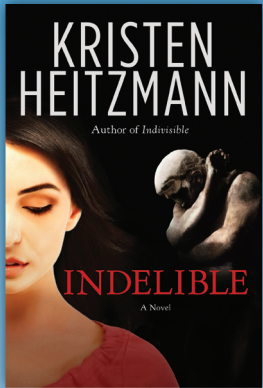
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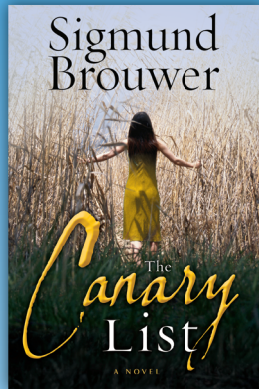
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# Start your summer reading with one of these compelling novels!



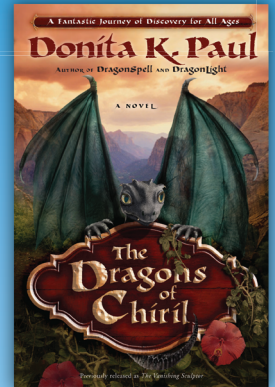
A high country outfitter and a sculptor can't foresee how the rescue of a toddler will thrust them into a duel between light and darkness.



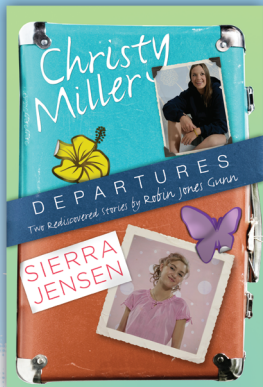
Crockett Grey and Jaimie Piper are running from their pasts and running for their lives, as a global conspiracy of Evil hunts them at every turn.



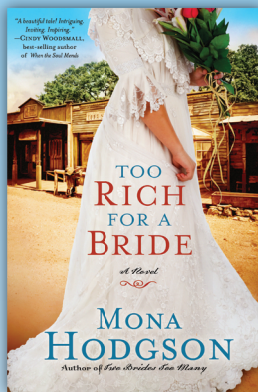
Melaia is only a young priestess until she stumbles upon a stranger—with wings. Angels, shape-shifters, and mythical creatures collide as her destiny unfolds.



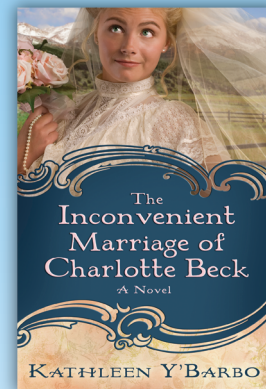
Before DragonSpell, there was Tipper, a young emeraldian whose mistake has put the fate of the world in the hands of her ragtag band of friends.



Christy Miller and Sierra Jensen cross paths on their way to summer vacations that reveal what a gift it is to have a true Forever Friend.



Ida Sinclair came to Cripple Creek for business, not romance, but when she's pursued by two very different men, she can't help falling for one of them.



Despite craving independence, Charlotte Beck agrees to a marriage of convenience. But when her marriage suddenly becomes very inconvenient indeed, will romance thrive in the most unlikely of situations?

## Get to know debut author,

*Meg Moseley!*

Coming May 3, 2011!



"The storyline in this book feels so real; something I could pick up the newspaper and read about. I found myself rooting for Miranda, of course, and while there weren't a lot of surprises along the way, I couldn't put the book down—I wanted to know what was going to happen next."

Excerpted from review on ThePioneerWoman.com



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Read the rest of the review

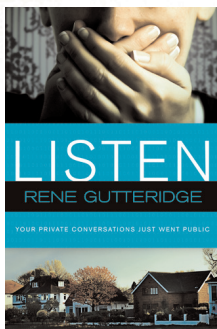
Article from Meg

Read this book now!



# Dialogue

## Has there been a Christian novel that made you see the world differently?



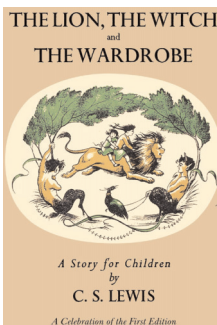
**KittyJo Pierce**  
*Listen* by **Rene Gutteridge** made me stop and think about what comes out of my mouth. What if my private conversations were posted for all the world to see?

### **Penny Cogburn**

*Unlocked* by **Karen Kingsbury** has taught me to see autism in a whole new light!

### **Tracey Bateman**

Every time I read *A Voice in the Wind* by **Francine Rivers** and both sequels, God reveals a new part of Himself to me.



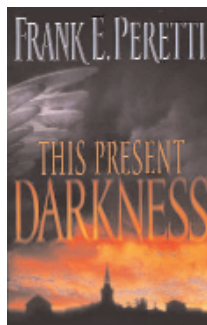
**Jill Harrison Stengl**  
The Chronicles of Narnia at age eight—I fell in love with Aslan/Jesus Christ, and that love has only deepened with time!

### **Diane Teffeteller**

I love **Jane Kirkpatrick's** books about real women!

### **Kim Glendon Thorne**

*Deadline* by **Randy Alcorn** completely changed the way I see Heaven.



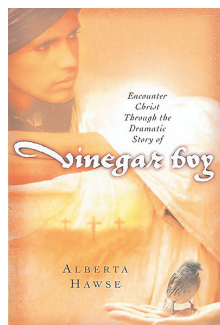
**Pat Fleisher Bowers**  
*This Present Darkness* by **Frank Peretti** was the first Christian novel to make me see the world differently: The novel brought into focus for me the fact that spiritual warfare is a real fact of life.

### **Shannon Dittmore**

The first Christian novel I ever read was *Piercing the Darkness* by **Frank Peretti** and it absolutely changed my world as a junior higher.

### **Melissa Durham Ortiz**

Pretty much everything I've ever read by **Karen Kingsbury** or **Brock & Bodie Thoene** has tweaked something in my outlook that needed tweaking.



**Judy Mazetier**  
*Vinegar Boy* by **Alberta Hawse** helped me see Jesus as being wholly/holy human while He was here on earth. Very touching, very raw book about a young boy and Jesus on the cross.

### **Elizabeth Liberty Lewis**

*The Restorer* and others by **Sharon Hinck**—her messages are so simple, but poignant and very powerful.

### **Stephanie S. Rose**

*Redeeming Love* by **Francine Rivers**: You won't be able to read without tears of thankfulness for God's unending love and forgiveness.

### **Tiffany Crull**

**Lori Wick's** books always seem to strengthen my daily walk and my faith. I just have to be in the right mood for them, since many of them are not set in our day and time...

### **Anita Stanfill**

The Baxter family series by **Karen Kingsbury** has helped me grow stronger in the Lord.

### **Melissa Durham Ortiz**

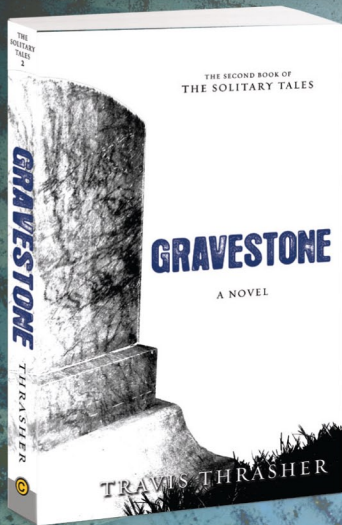
**Tracey Bateman's** "I Love Claire" series changed the way I look at divorce, remarriage and family blending in the church.

See all the responses at:

<http://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150172000773666>



# A LITTLE ROMANCE, MYSTERY, AND FANTASY



## GRAVESTONE BY TRAVIS THRASHER

Filled with shocking twists, this second book in the Solitary Tales is a tale of a teenager thrown into a battle over a town, a secret—and ultimately his own soul.

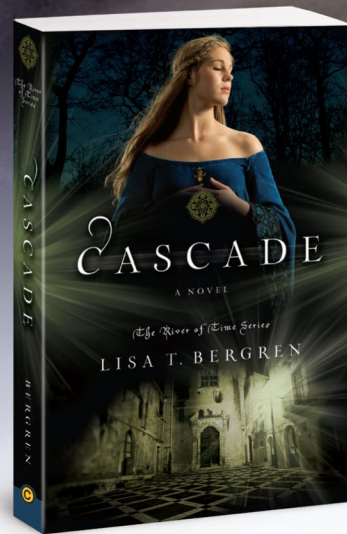
Also Available: Book 1 *Solitary*



## CASCADE BY LISA T. BERGREN

Every girl wants a guy who will fight for her honor. The River of Time series offers romance and suspense with characters teens can admire.

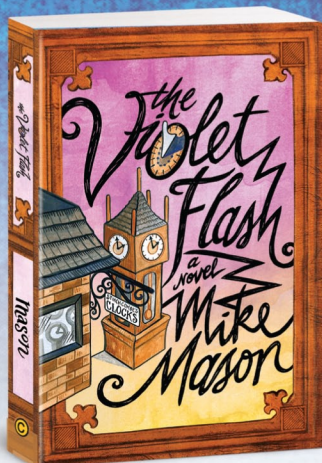
Also Available: Book 1 *Waterfall*



## The Violet Flash by Mike Mason

In this exciting sequel to *The Blue Umbrella*, Mike Mason portrays the spiritual journey of a boy who witnesses the love of God, and in turn learns to love his family as never before.

Also Available: Book 1 *The Blue Umbrella*



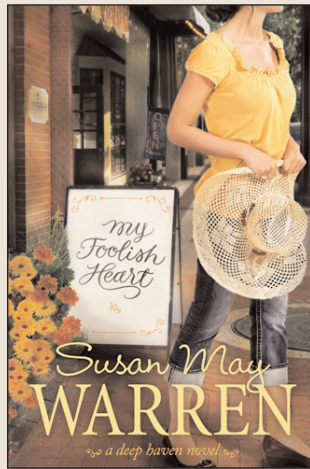


# Q & A: Susan May Warren

The RITA Award-winning author of more than 30 novels, Susan May Warren served with her husband and four children as a missionary in Russia for eight years before they returned home. She now writes full-time as her husband runs a lodge on Lake Superior in northern Minnesota, where many of her books are set. In this interview, the author discusses the latest volume in her Deep Haven series, *My Foolish Heart* (Tyndale House).

**Q: What would you like to tell us about *My Foolish Heart*?**

I'm very excited about *My Foolish Heart* because it represents a return to Deep Haven, where my first novel, *Happily Ever After*, was set. It's a small town in northern Minnesota, set on Lake Superior, and is a town very much like the one I currently live in. More than that, it has all my favorite things in the story—football, donuts, a dog ... plus secrets, betrayal, surprises and sweet romances. It's a story about second chances and the power of perfect love. I hope readers will enjoy this fresh take on *You've Got Mail* set in a small town.



**Q: This is your fourth trip back to Deep Haven—what is it about this town that keeps bringing you (and readers) back again and again?**

I think it is the community, the dream of a simpler life, the beauty of the north shore, and the delicious romances. It's like a familiar vacation—you know what to expect, but each time you come away with sweeter memories.

**Q: One of your characters in the book, Caleb Knight, is a veteran who is now hiding his disability. What inspired you to include this angle in your romance?**

I kept thinking about the different online communications and how easy it might be to share your heart with someone if you didn't have the vulnerability of looking in their eyes as you shared your heart. What if you were hiding something, and it was something that made you "difficult" to know, like Caleb's disability, or Issy's private world? What if you found someone online that understood you—would you have the courage to face them with the truth of your secrets? I think there is always a fear about meeting someone you've gotten to know online—will they be as perfect in person?

I also wanted to show how Caleb, as well as Coach Presley, were amazing, capable people despite their disabilities. I think sometimes people with physical challenges can get forgotten, as if their opinions and skills aren't valuable anymore, and I wanted to show the fallacy in this.

**Q: When Caleb needs romantic advice, he seeks help from a call-in show—which leaves him more confused than ever. What inspired the "call-in show" complication in your novel?**

I was intrigued by these people who have spent years in their homes, yet have



online friends and a rich online life. Also, I wanted to have my hero and heroine get to know each other in a way that was intimate, but not face to face. Finally, I am always intrigued by people who give advice to strangers—how it affects the callers life, and wanted to explore this concept. Who are these callers? Does the advice the “therapist” gives nag at them? Do they worry about callers after they hang up?

**Q: How much of yourself is in your characters?**

An author always must pull from their own lives to create a realistic character, or realistic emotions for the characters. I pulled from feelings of being trapped, or afraid while living in Russia to create Issy, and feelings of frustration and pain from when I broke a bone in my neck and had to wear a neck brace for six month to create Caleb. (Although that wasn't near his challenges, I tried to tap into the emotion of being limited in physical capabilities.) I tapped into my feelings of lost love to create Polly, and the sense of wanting to be a hero in my hometown to create Seb. I also put into all the characters my love for football.

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

My goal is to tell a great story. A great story is always about a truth journey of a character—but that must be entertaining! I start out with the question—what would I like to read? Then I discover the characters, and ask them what lie they believe to discover the truth journey they are on. I never write to agenda, but I do find that every great book has a story-question, and a truth behind it. It's that universal truth that ministers to readers.

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

That it changed their lives and brought them back into a relationship with the Lord, or a family member.

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

That they can trust in God's perfect love for them regardless of what happens in life. It's a hard concept that we have to hold onto, but one that, I believe, can change the way we see our lives.

**Q: Why do you think story is such a powerful way to share truth?**

Jesus told stories—sometimes called parables!—and they stick with us because we see ourselves in them. I hope that in my books people both see themselves...as well as see truth that can change their lives. **FF**



SUSAN MAY WARREN  
SusanMayWarren.com

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# JUST LIKE US

Award-winning, best-selling author Wanda E. Brunstetter became fascinated with the Amish way of life when she first visited her husband's Mennonite relatives living in Pennsylvania. Her novels have since appeared on many bestseller lists, including the *New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, Evangelical Christian Publisher's Association and more—last fall, she surpassed 5 million book sales. Her latest series, *Kentucky Brothers*, launched in April with *The Journey*. By C.J. Darlington



As a little girl, Wanda Brunstetter always had a book in her hand. “I was either reading, or I was writing,” she says. “I grew up in a dysfunctional home, so it was great to pretend and take myself to other places. I immersed myself in books.”

Now she's the one creating the stories, and readers can't get enough of her best-selling Amish novels. In a way, she credits her tough upbringing with her desire to write about the simple life. “Because of what I went through as a kid, I have more empathy for people and their problems,” Wanda says. It's also helped her to tap into the emotions of her characters. “Sometimes my writing moves me to tears. I can feel the pain of the character.”

But even though her childhood wasn't stable, her mother did take her to church, and it was there Wanda found the Lord through a caring Sunday School teacher. “I was so desperately seeking something to hang onto,” Wanda says. “I was very open to the plan of salvation when she shared it with our class. I was young, six or seven, but it really hit home with me. It was

exactly what I needed—a heavenly father that I could count on. Through my teen years I was active in our teen group. I kind of walked away from it a little bit during my older teen years trying to find myself, but never to the extremes some people do. I always knew God was right there with me. Thank God He was. “Some of what I went through I've brought out in a few of my novels,” Wanda says. “Those have been the most difficult books to write. When my husband and I got married, we both decided we were going to change the mold and do things differently for our children. Not that we were perfect parents, but we really tried. We put effort into making our kids have a normal life with stability. I wanted my kids to feel safe, to know when they came home that Mom and Dad would be there.”

It was actually her husband's Mennonite relatives who first showed Wanda how beautiful the love of a family could be. “Four of his brothers married Mennonite girls,” Wanda adds. “I felt so different when I was with that part of his family. They gave me a sense of



*“I think people have a deep desire to get back to the basics. The Amish are an example to us in that respect.”*

peace and belonging like I'd never had. It was their faith and the way they spoke to me and each other. There was just a peacefulness about their countenance. When I'm with our Amish friends, I come away feeling so blessed, like I've been ministered to because they have such a wonderful family unit. They care so much about each other. You can just feel it.”

This is something Wanda strives to weave into her stories. She believes people are hungry for change in their lives. “We're all looking for some way to get back to the simple life, to family! For me, being with the Amish, I see them put God first and family second. So many of us Englishers have our priorities mixed up. We're so caught up in the world and our goals and everything that's expected of us. I think people have a deep desire to get back to the basics. The Amish are an example to us in that respect. Not that they're perfect; they'd be the first to admit they're not. Knowing the Amish as I know them, I understand their lives aren't always slow either. They can be pretty busy going a hundred different directions, but they still have that peaceful way about them.”

Wanda has written novels that take place in several different Amish communities, but it was a visit to Kentucky that inspired her to write the Kentucky Brothers trilogy, which begins with *The Journey*. “We discovered that the Amish in the Hawkinsville area are actually implants from Lancaster County,”

Wanda says. “We felt like we were in Lancaster because there were the same gray buggies, and the clothing was the same too. But this community is much smaller, and there aren't a bunch of tourists and places selling Amish things. They're a little more withdrawn. You have to really work at getting to know them. I think they want it that way. They've moved there for a reason, to pull away from being the center of attention. I felt I needed to set a story there. It's beautiful country.

“I also have some Amish friends whose daughter recently moved from Indiana to an Amish community in Oklahoma due to her husband losing his job. I watched the impact her move had on the family. It kills them when their family leaves. I thought that would be a good topic to deal with: how do Amish parents deal with their kids leaving home? They feel like we do, only it hits them even harder because they are so close as a family.”

One of the main characters in *The Journey* is a young woman who's taken up carpentry, a profession usually reserved for men, especially among the Amish. This at first seems unusual, but Wanda explains how it's not as unusual as it might appear. “I've seen Amish women do things that surprise you,” she says. “One lady I know owns a store with her husband where they make and sell windows. She's very active in the business. Amish women are becoming more independent in that they can have a business. They often run or oversee them.” And while the novels in the Kentucky Brothers trilogy do stand alone, they're tied together by the fact that three brothers from Lancaster County end up moving to Kentucky for different reasons. *The Journey* follows Titus, an identical twin who feels he's living in his brother's shadow. He needs a fresh start, and going to Kentucky is his answer. “At least he thinks it is!”

**Wanda E. Brunstetter Online**

[WandaBrunstetter.com](http://WandaBrunstetter.com)

[Facebook.com/pages/Wanda-E-Brunstetter/119136496242](https://Facebook.com/pages/Wanda-E-Brunstetter/119136496242)

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/wanda-brunstetter/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/wanda-brunstetter/)



# Meet April Grace.

She's smart, and sassy, and sure to make you laugh!

APRIL GRACE is about to experience a summer she'll never forget. She has a sister obsessed with being glamorous, a grandma just discovering make-up, hippie friends who never shower, and brand new neighbors from the city who test everyone's patience. But in spite of all the loony characters in her life, April Grace is able to learn from her parents as they share the love of God—to even the craziest of characters!

From disastrous dye jobs to forced apologies and elderly date tagalongs, you'll laugh 'til you cry as you read the *Confessions of April Grace*!



To read a chapter sample  
and view the video, visit  
[www.kdmccrite.com](http://www.kdmccrite.com)



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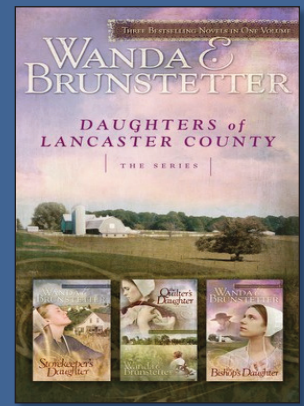
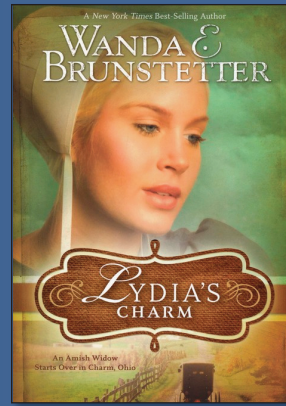
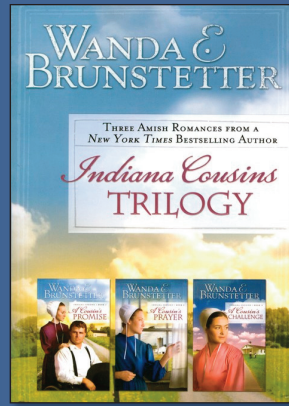
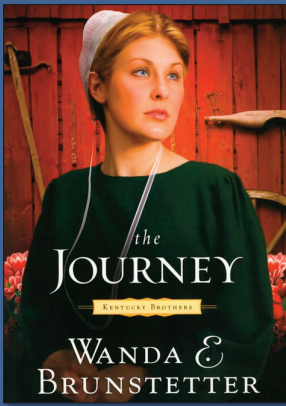


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Wanda says with a smile.

Writing is most definitely Wanda's passion, but just like her characters, sometimes she might surprise you. She's written nine children's books (with a brand new kids series coming out next year), has a historical novella coming out in a Christmas collection, and is a professional ventriloquist. Yes, that's right. When she and her husband wanted to add something to their puppet ministry, her husband learned how to make twisty balloon animals and Wanda picked up a book and studied ventriloquism.

"I've always been interested in ventriloquism," she says. "I practiced in front of a mirror and determined to do it without moving my lips." She's gotten so skilled she's even taught classes and written articles on the subject. "The biggest key besides the art of not moving your lips is sound substitutions," Wanda says. "There are certain letters in the English language you can't say without moving your lips. You have to learn those substitutions and put your tongue in a certain spot in your mouth so they actually come out right. It was just a matter of practicing that over and over and over and finding the positions that worked best for me. All the kids were just in awe when I did it in an Amish schoolhouse. They thought I must have a tape recorder. I have two little puppets who are dressed up in Amish clothes too, and the kids love it!"

Wanda's love for the Amish comes through in everything she says and writes, but there's one thing she wishes the Amish would embrace from their English friends—electricity! "How am I going to curl my hair?" Wanda says, chuckling. "Charge my laptop and cell phone? I would like to see them take advantage of more modern things, and yet I know that if they do they might end up in the same whirlwind we're in, where we can't let go of them and they become idols."

The Amish and their ways can often seem enigmatic to those of us on the outside, but through stories like Wanda's we can begin to see the Amish as people just like us. Most importantly, Wanda wants us to realize they're our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Some people feel like the Amish aren't Christian," she says. "We get that misconception because they're so different. To know the Amish as we know them, you would know they are definitely Christians. One of our Amish friends is a minister in the Amish church, and when he was asked if Amish is his religion, he said, 'No. Amish is our way of life. Jesus Christ is our religion.'

"That sums it up perfectly. I'm not saying every Amish person is a born again believer any more than every person who attends a Protestant church is a born-again believer. But many of them are, and I don't think people realize that. The Amish just don't proclaim it to the world like we do. They feel their actions are an example to the world." **FF**



The new resident in 221A Baker Street is about to give Sherlock Holmes a run for his magnifying glass!



Find out more at  
[www.jasonlethcoe.com/holmes](http://www.jasonlethcoe.com/holmes)



When Griffin is sent to stay with his detective uncle at 221A Baker Street for the summer, he is certain that his uncle must be the great Sherlock Holmes! But Griffin is disappointed to discover that Holmes lives next door at 221B Baker Street. When Griffin meets a woman who claims her husband was eaten by the Loch Ness Monster, he and his uncle team up to prove monsters aren't real – or are they?



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## 2011 READERS CHOICE AWARDS

The people have spoken! In January, we put out the call for your favorite Christian stories and storytellers of 2010—in all genres, including Amish, Historical, Suspense, Speculative, Romance, Contemporary fiction and more. On the following pages, see how FamilyFiction readers voted! And if some of your favorite authors didn't make the list this year, fear not—there's always next year ...

### AUTHOR OF THE YEAR



#### **Wanda E. Brunstetter**

Award-winning, best-selling author Wanda E. Brunstetter became fascinated with the Amish way of life when she first visited her husband's Mennonite relatives living in Pennsylvania. Wanda

and husband Richard live in Washington State, but take every opportunity to visit Amish settlements throughout the States, where they have several Amish friends.

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/wanda-brunstetter/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/wanda-brunstetter/)

- 02 Karen Kingsbury
- 03 Julie Lessman
- 04 Francine Rivers
- 05 Ted Dekker
- 06 Beverly Lewis
- 07 Terri Blackstock
- 08 Beth Wiseman
- 09 Bryan Davis
- 10 Jay Blevins

### NEW AUTHOR OF THE YEAR



#### **Tessa Afshar**

Born in a nominally Muslim family in Iran, Tess Afshar's conversion to Christianity in her mid-twenties changed the course of her life forever. Tessa holds an MDIV from Yale

University where she served as Co-Chair of the Evangelical Fellowship at the Divinity School. She currently serves as the leader of Women's and Prayer ministries at a church in New England.

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/tessa-afshar/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/tessa-afshar/)

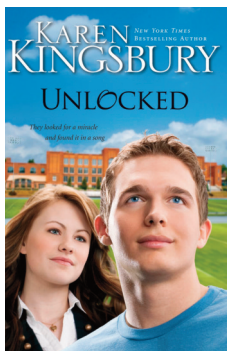
- 02 Jay Blevins
- 03 Ronie Kendig
- 04 Julie Cave
- 05 Karen Witemeyer
- 06 James L. Rubart
- 07 Sarah Sundin
- 08 Kelly Long
- 09 Melanie Dickerson
- 10 Gina Holmes

**More authors here!**

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/)



## NOVEL OF THE YEAR



***Unlocked***  
**Karen Kingsbury**  
Zondervan

Holden Harris is locked in a prison of autism, bullied by kids who don't understand his quiet, quirky ways. Ella Reynolds, star of the school drama production, takes an interest in Holden after she catches him listening to her rehearse for the school play. Will friendship, faith, and the power of song be enough to unlock the miracle that Holden needs?

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/karen-kingsbury/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/karen-kingsbury/)

02 *Lydia's Charm*  
Wanda E. Brunstetter  
Barbour Publishing

03 *Her Mother's Hope (Marta's Legacy #1)*  
*Her Daughter's Dream (Marta's Legacy #2)*  
Francine Rivers  
Tyndale House

05 *A Hope Undaunted (Winds of Change)*  
Julie Lessman  
Revell Books

06 *Seek Me with All Your Heart (Land of Canaan #1)*  
Beth Wiseman  
Thomas Nelson

07 *The Last Fall*  
Jay Blevins  
OakTara

08 *Nightshade (Discarded Heroes #1)*  
Ronie Kendig  
Barbour Publishing

09 *Pearl in the Sand*  
Tess Afshar  
Moody Publishers

10 *Deadly Disclosures (Dinah Harris Mystery #1)*  
*The Shadowed Mind (Dinah Harris Mystery #2)*  
Julie Cave  
New Leaf

**More books here!**

[FamilyFiction.com/books/](http://FamilyFiction.com/books/)

## BOOK TRAILER OF THE YEAR

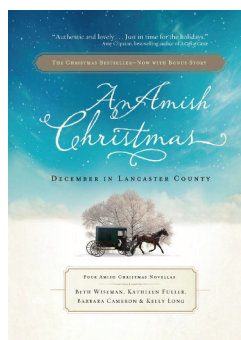


01 *Unlocked* Karen Kingsbury  
02 *The Healer's Apprentice* Melanie Dickerson  
03 *Immanuel's Veins* Ted Dekker  
04 *Lydia's Charm* Wanda E. Brunstetter  
05 *To Darkness Fled* Jill Williamson

**More book trailers here!**

[FamilyFiction.com/books/trailers/](http://FamilyFiction.com/books/trailers/)

## COLLECTION OF THE YEAR



01 *An Amish Christmas: December in Lancaster County: Expanded Edition*  
Beth Wiseman, Kathleen Fuller, Barbara Cameron and Kelly Long  
Thomas Nelson

02 *An Amish Love*  
Beth Wiseman, Kathleen Fuller and Kelly Long  
Thomas Nelson

03 *A Prairie Christmas Collection: 9 Historical Christmas Romances from America's Great Plains*

*America's Great Plains*

Tracie Peterson, Tracey Bateman, Deborah Raney, Pamela Griffin, JoAnn A. Grote, Maryn Langer, Darlene Mindrup, Janet Spaeth and Jill Stengl  
Barbour Publishing

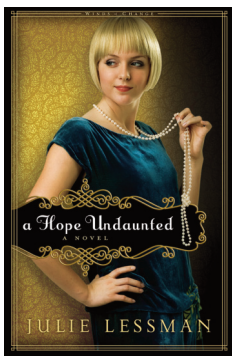
04 *Christmas Mail-Order Brides (Romancing America: Wyoming)*

Susan Page Davis, Vickie McDonough, Therese Stenzel and Carrie Turansky  
Barbour Publishing

05 *A Door County Christmas: Four Romances Warm Hearts in Wisconsin's Version of Cape Cod (Romancing America)*

Becky Melby, Eileen Key, Rachael Phillips and Cynthia Ruchti  
Barbour Publishing

**SERIES OF THE YEAR**



01 *Winds of Change*

Julie Lessman  
Bethany House

02 *Dragons of Starlight*

Bryan Davis  
Zondervan

03 *Above the Line*

Karen Kingsbury  
Zondervan

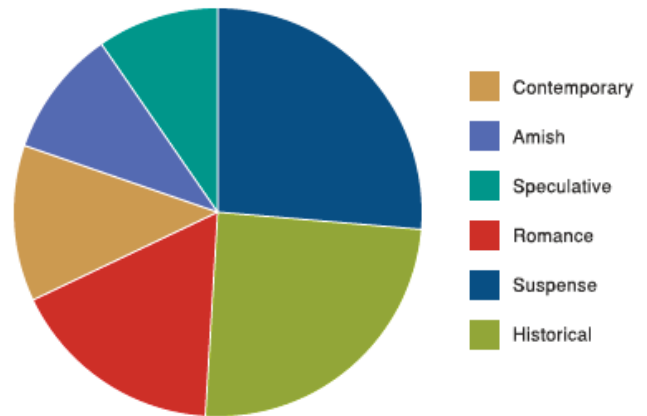
04 *Daughters of the Promise*

Beth Wiseman  
Thomas Nelson

05 *Patrick Bowers*

Steven James  
Revell Books

**FAVORITE GENRE**



**Suspense 22-percent**

Historical 21-percent

Romance 14-percent

Contemporary 10-percent

Amish 9-percent

Speculative 8-percent



**AMISH FICTION  
AUTHOR**

01 Beverly Lewis

02 Wanda Brunstetter

03 Beth Wiseman

04 Cindy Woodsmall

05 Amy Clipston

**More Amish fiction authors here!**

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/amish/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/amish/)





**HISTORICAL FICTION  
AUTHOR**

- 01 Francine Rivers
- 02 Mary Connealy
- 03 Tracie Peterson
- 04 Julie Lessman
- 05 Bodie & Brock Thoene

**More historical fiction authors here!**  
[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/historical/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/historical/)



**ROMANCE FICTION  
AUTHOR**

- 01 Julie Lessman
- 02 Tracie Peterson
- 03 Denise Hunter
- 04 Debbie Macomber
- 05 Rachel Hauck

**More romance fiction authors here!**  
[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/romance/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/romance/)



**SUSPENSE FICTION  
AUTHOR**

- 01 Terri Blackstock
- 02 Ted Dekker
- 03 Brandilyn Collins
- 04 Colleen Coble
- 05 Steven James

**More suspense fiction authors here!**  
[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/suspense/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/suspense/)



**CONTEMPORARY FICTION  
AUTHOR**

- 01 Karen Kingsbury
- 02 Jan Karon
- 03 Neta Jackson
- 04 Angela Hunt
- 05 Gina Holmes

**More contemporary fiction authors here!**  
[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/contemporary/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/contemporary/)



**SPECULATIVE FICTION  
AUTHOR**

- 01 Ted Dekker
- 02 Tim LaHaye & Craig Parshall
- 03 Bryan Davis
- 04 Jill Williamson
- 05 Donita K. Paul

**More speculative fiction authors here!**  
[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/speculative/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/speculative/)





### YA FICTION AUTHOR

- 01 **Jenny B. Jones**
- 02 Melody Carlson
- 03 Bryan Davis
- 04 Melanie Dickerson
- 05 Robert Liparulo

- 06 *Toy Story 3*
- 07 *Amish Grace*
- 08 *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry*
- 09 *Love Comes Softly*
- 10 *What If...*

### More movies and DVDs here!

[FamilyFiction.com/movies/](http://FamilyFiction.com/movies/)

### More YA fiction authors here!

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/young-adult/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/young-adult/)



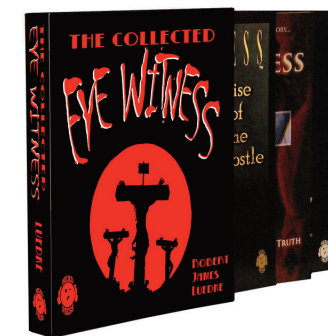
### CHILDRENS BOOK CREATORS

- 01 **Max Lucado and Gaby Hansen**
- 02 Donita K. Paul, Evangeline Denmarl and Vincent Nguyen
- 03 Sheila Walsh and

Meridith Johnson

04 Jan and Mike Berenstain

05. Karen Kingsbury and Dan Andreasen



### COMICS/GRAPHIC NOVEL OF THE YEAR

- 01 *The Collected Eye Witness Slipcased Set*  
**Robert James**

**Luedke (Head Press)**

02 *The Action Bible*

Sergio Cariello, illustrator; Doug Mauss, editor (David C. Cook)

03 *The Lost Books: The Visual Edition*

Ted Dekker, Various (Thomas Nelson)

04 *Priscilla #1-3*

Peter Gonzales and Jamie Cosley (Crown of Life Junior Comics)

05 *The Cardinal*

K.J. Kolka (Comics Sherpa)

### More children's book creators here!

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/childrens/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/childrens/)



### MOVIE/DVD OF THE YEAR

- 01 *Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- 02 *Like Dandelion Dust*
- 03 *The Blind Side*
- 04 *To Save a Life*
- 05 *Letters to God*

### More comics here!

[FamilyFiction.com/genres/comics-animation/books/](http://FamilyFiction.com/genres/comics-animation/books/)



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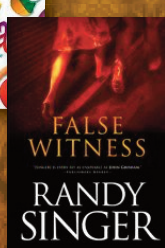
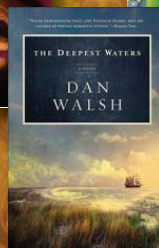
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**STEP 4:** Enter that week's drawing. (Enter once per drawing, but enter as many drawings as you like!)

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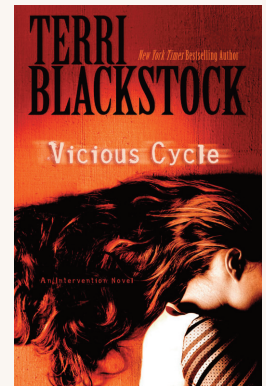
# Set The Captives Free

By Christa A. Banister



*I wanted to show the level that people are in bondage are willing to stoop, in order to finance their habits.”*

different perspective than when she penned *Intervention*, which released back in September of 2009. “In this book, I deal with a girl who’s a crystal meth addict, but she comes from a family where everyone is addicted. Her mother has been addicted since she was a little girl, and drugs have been in her house as she’s grown up,” Terri shares.



In author Terri Blackstock’s perfect world, readers would stay awake until the wee hours of the morning just to finish her latest novel. And that simply-can’t-put-it-down quality is exactly what she’s aiming for whenever she’s writing.

These days, Terri has spent countless hours putting pen to paper. Not only did she release *Predator*, the chilling account of a woman’s quest for justice after her teen sister’s murder by an online stalker, but she immediately went to work on *Vicious Cycle*, the second offering in the “Intervention” series.

As Terri continues to tackle the many facets of addiction, she wrote from a decidedly

“I wanted to show that not everyone comes from a pristine background, and that we don’t start our lives at the same level. At 15, Jordan gives birth to a baby that her mother wants to trade to baby traffickers in exchange for drug money. I wanted to show the level that people who are in bondage are willing to stoop, in order to finance their habits.”

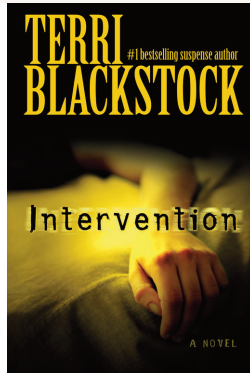
After Jordan turns to a Christian friend for help, namely Lance Covington from *Intervention*, her best intentions go seriously awry. “But even then Lance tries to do more than just rescue her baby from these evil



people,” Terri continues. “He also tries to rescue Jordan from the generational cycle of addiction, and show her that there's a better way.”

Through the power of story, Terri hopes to make a difference in the lives of anyone who's faced—or contemplated the path to—addiction.

“I've painted drug abuse in such a negative light that I hope those who've never used will avoid it, and that those who are caught in the grips of addiction will be inspired by Jordan's victory, and realize that with Christ, they too can be free,” Terri shares. “Isaiah 61:1 says, ‘The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.’ Jesus later repeated that Scripture, declaring it His purpose to do just that. Can you imagine that? He can bind up the brokenhearted! Set captives free! I hope *Vicious Cycle* illustrates that passage in a profound way and has a great impact on my readers.” **FF**



## Terri Blackstock Online

[TerriBlackstock.com](http://TerriBlackstock.com)

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

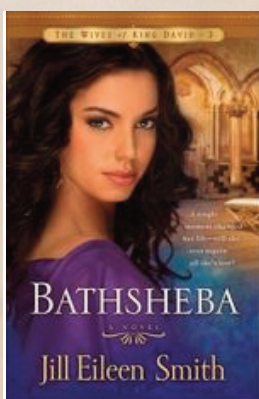
[Twitter.com/TerriBlackstock](https://twitter.com/TerriBlackstock)

[FamilyFiction.com/authors/terri-blackstock/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/terri-blackstock/)

# 10 New Voices in Biblical Fiction

By Rel Mollet

Brock & Bodie Thoene, Francine Rivers, Davis Bunn and Janette Oke are names synonymous with biblical fiction—but here are 10 new writers bringing Bible characters to life through thorough research and adept storytelling.



## JILL EILEEN SMITH

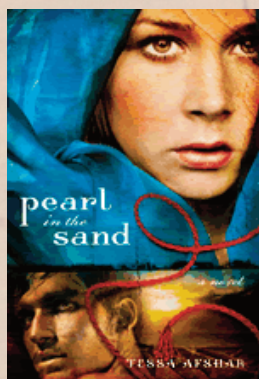
*Bathsheba* (Revell) completes Jill Eileen Smith's feted Wives of King David series. 2012 sees the release *Rahab*, the first in the Brides of the Promised Land series to also include Deborah, Ruth and

Hannah (Revell). [JillEileenSmith.com](http://JillEileenSmith.com)



## CLIFF GRAHAM

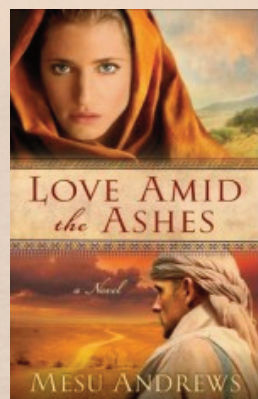
With a degree in Political Science and Military Science, it is little wonder Cliff Graham has written *Day of War* (Zondervan), about King David and his Mighty Men. A major motion picture franchise of the series is in progress with producer Grant Curtis (*Spider-Man* trilogy). [LionOfWar.com](http://LionOfWar.com)



## TESSA AFSHAR

Raised a nominal Muslim, Iranian born Tessa Afshar came to Christ in her mid-twenties. Her debut novel, *Pearl in the Sand* (Moody) is the powerful retelling of Rahab and Salome's marriage.

[TessaAfshar.com](http://TessaAfshar.com)

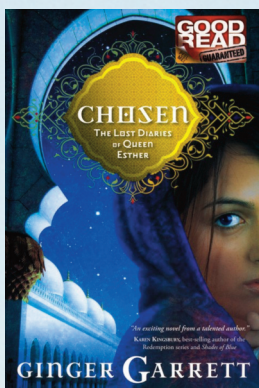


## MESU ANDREWS

Chronic illness has not kept author Mesu Andrews from her love of writing. Her debut novel, *Love Amid the Ashes* (Revell), tells the story of Job and *Love in a Sacred Song*, the story of young King Solomon, releases in 2012.

[MesuAndrews.com](http://MesuAndrews.com)

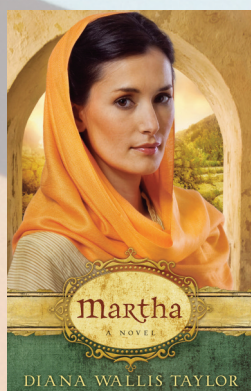




### GINGER GARRETT

Critically acclaimed author of *Chosen: The Lost Diaries of Queen Esther* (David C. Cook) and *Dark Hour* (NavPress), Ginger Garrett is an expert in ancient women's history. This October, Ginger turns her attention to Samson in

*Desired: A Novel of Samson & Delilah* (David C. Cook). [GingerGarrett.com](http://GingerGarrett.com)



### DIANA WALLIS TAYLOR

Poet and speaker Diana Wallis Taylor was inspired by Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman in her debut novel, *The Woman at the Well* (Revell). Diana's June release *Martha* (Revell) sheds light on the sister of Lazarus.

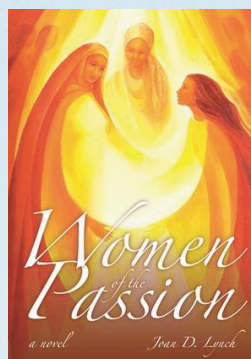
[DianaWallisTaylor.com](http://DianaWallisTaylor.com)



### TOSCA LEE

Garnering a starred review from Publishers Weekly, Tosca Lee's *Havah: The Story of Eve* (B&H Publishing) has received significant acclaim. Her highly anticipated story of Jesus' betrayer, *Iscariot*, (B&H Publishing) hits

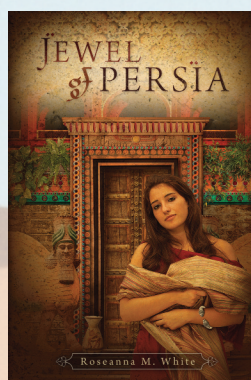
shelves in January, 2012. [ToscaLee.com](http://ToscaLee.com)



### JOAN D. LYNCH

A Professor Emeritus, Joan Driscoll Lynch, is well equipped to have written *Women of the Passion* (MSJ Press), a story told through the eyes of Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene, Susanna and Joanna.

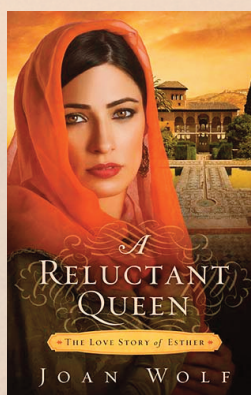
[WomenOfThePassionANovel.com](http://WomenOfThePassionANovel.com)



### ROSEANNA M. WHITE

Wife, mother, reader, reviewer and writer, Roseanna White's days are full but she has found the time to write two Biblical novels, *A Stray Drop of Blood* and her latest, *Jewel of Persia* (WhiteFire Publishing), extrapolated

from the story of Esther. [RoseannaWhite.com](http://RoseannaWhite.com)



### JOAN WOLF

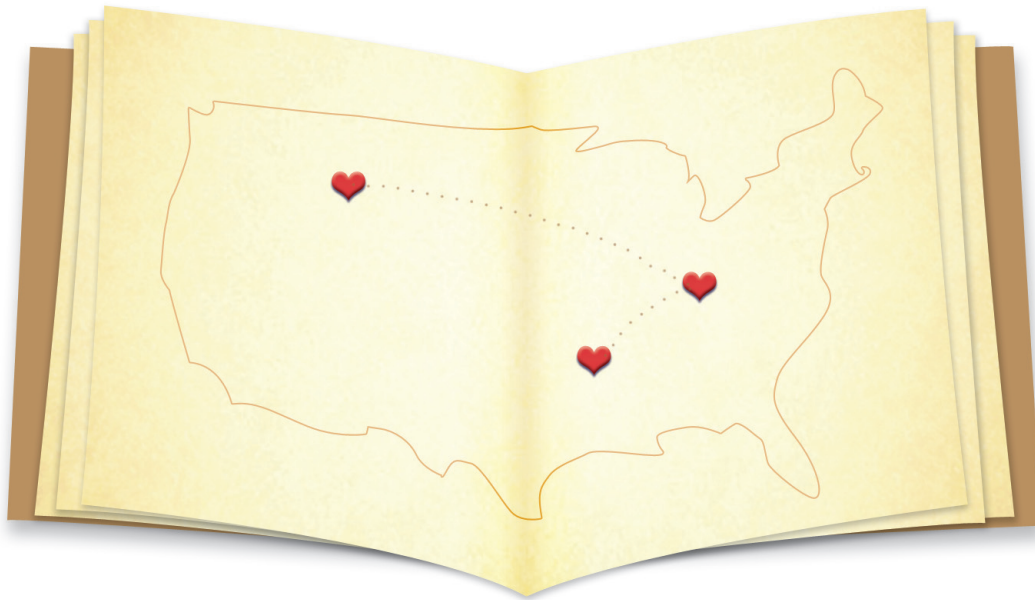
A miraculous healing turned general market author, Joan Wolf, back to her faith and resulted in her writing the stories of Esther and Mary Magdalene for her new publisher. *A Reluctant Queen* (Thomas Nelson) is

available now. [JoanWolf.com](http://JoanWolf.com)

**More historical fiction authors here!**  
[FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/historical/](http://FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/historical/)



# ROMANCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY



The “Love Finds You” series of inspirational romance novels celebrates a country full of towns and cities with great names, neat personalities, and colorful histories. **Rel Mollet** talks with some of the authors behind these books.

Summerside Press was a small publisher with a big dream when it unveiled the first books in its regional romance line: *Love Finds You in Miracle, Kentucky* by Andrea Boeshaar and *Love Finds You in Snowball, Arkansas* by Sandra D. Bricker. Combining travel, romance and faith, the Love Finds You™ series draws on the fascinating history or the unique character of a town in the United States, often with a quirky name. With published or contracted novels set in 33 American states, Summerside Press is well on its way to its goal of publishing at least one novel in each of the 50 US states.

Summerside’s Fiction Editorial Director, Rachel Meisel, explains the unique qualities of the Love Finds You series. “Unlike traditional regional romance, The Love Finds You series features inspirational romance novels set in actual towns and cities across

North America; they combine the best of what readers love—romance and travel—in one package. Each novel draws on the compelling history or unique character of a real place, giving readers a taste of local life across this wonderfully diverse country. The stories are in fact quite educational; many libraries and schools are picking them up because they provide a fun way for readers to explore the nooks and crannies of North America.”

Two new Love Finds You books release every other month and are a mixture of contemporary and historical stories set in towns such as Romeo, Colorado; Hershey, Pennsylvania; and Groom, Texas. The series is intended to be both spiritually uplifting and intellectually engaging, and as Rachel Meisel shares, “The appeal of Love Finds You is that, for the price of a paperback, readers



can be transported to exotic locales they'd love to visit in person—or different centuries they never will. It's an appealing promise at a time when many of us are having to downsize our vacation budgets."

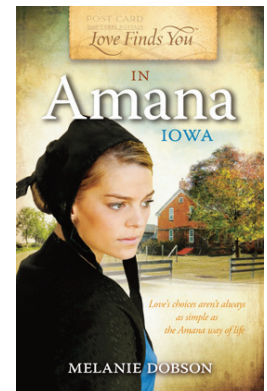
Readers will recognise well known authors in the LFY lineup including Andrea Boeshaar, Tricia Goyer, Bodie Thoene and Janice Hanna (aka Janice Thompson) alongside newer names in Cerella D. Sechrist and Gwen Ford Faulkenberry. Embracing the idea of writing a romance set in their hometown or a place dear to their hearts, a number of the LFY authors share their experiences writing regional romances for Summerside Press:



## MIRALEE FERRELL

Miralee Ferrell's *Love Finds You in Last Chance, California* was the fifth LFY book to release in early 2009 and the first of three she has now written. Says Miralee, "It was a brand new concept when I started. I loved the idea that we could do contemporary, historical, suspense, chic lit, etc., as long as it had a strong romantic thread. What fun to choose the style that best fit my voice, while setting it in a place that actually existed." Visiting the locations and discovering actual events has been a bonus for Miralee. Regarding her latest story, *Love Finds You In Tombstone, Arizona*, Miralee shares, "I unearthed a story about a woman shot in the arm during a stage robbery who promised

one of the robbers not to reveal his identity if he took off his mask and bound up her arm—the mask kept slipping around and he couldn't see well enough to tend to her arm. She kept his secret the rest of her life, even when badgered by a Wells Fargo agent to turn the man in. My heroine, Christy, was also shot on her way into Tombstone when the Wells Fargo payroll was stolen, and she too agreed not to reveal the outlaw's identity." [MiraleeFerrell.com](http://MiraleeFerrell.com)

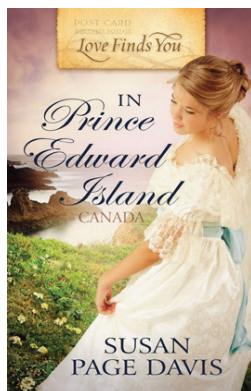


## MELANIE DOBSON

With a story already percolating in her mind, Melanie Dobson was thrilled to discover the LFY line. "I was so excited because I'd been wanting to write a historical novel about a Quaker woman who ran a station on the Underground Railroad and thought it might be a good fit for this new line. When I first connected with Rachel Meisel, she was enthusiastic about this idea as well and suggested I research a town like Liberty, Indiana. Liberty turned out to be the perfect setting since it was a main stop on the Underground Railroad." Since *Love Finds You In Liberty, Indiana*, Melanie has added *Love Finds You in Homestead, Iowa* and her June release, *Love Finds You in Amana, Iowa*, loving every minute of the research required. "When I researched for the Liberty book, I was invited into people's homes to explore the secret spaces that had once hidden runaway slaves. When I wrote the

books for Homestead and Amana, I felt like I stepped back in time as I explored the Colonies by foot and bicycle and then tasted the wonderful food and pastries baked in the open hearth—it's hard work doing all this research! I love meeting the people, reading the old newspapers, and discovering the legacy of each town.”

**MelanieDobson.com**



**SUSAN PAGE DAVIS**

“I wanted to write for this line from the first time I heard about it.”, shares multi-published author, Susan Page Davis. “The

Love Finds You books are so appealing. The covers are beautiful, the settings are intriguing, and the authors they've chosen do a great job of capturing a story that fits the location.” When Summerside decided to expand the series to include all of North America, Susan was thrilled to write the first LFY book set outside the United States, *Love Finds You in Prince Edward Island, Canada*. “Rachel had talked to me a couple of times about possibly writing a LFY novel set in Maine, my home state. But when the fiction committee decided they would cross the border and do some stories set in Canada, she asked me if I'd consider doing one set in Prince Edward Island. *Would I?* Of course I jumped at the chance.” Set in 1860, with the British royal family visiting Prince Edward Island, a romance between a royal servant and a poor Canadian girl is bound to set hearts aflutter.

**SusanPageDavis.com**

## WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE LOVE STORIES?

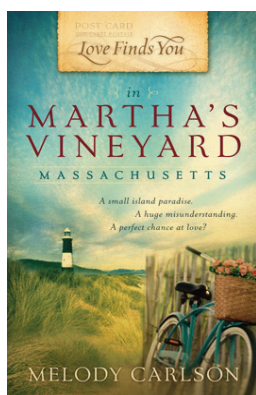
**Miralee Ferrell:** “*Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers. She masterfully depicts God's redemptive love for His children while weaving an unforgettable romantic tale set in my favorite era—the Old West. I've read it three times now, and gain something new each time. It's definitely at the top of my recommendation list!”

**Melanie Dobson:** “It's hard to narrow it down but one of the stories that has stayed with me for a few years is *Marlo Schalesky's Beyond the Night*. This story is about an enduring love that lasted for decades until it was time for the main character to go home. I still get teary-eyed thinking about it.”

**Susan Page Davis:** “Deanne Gist's *Maid to Match*. When I read it, I was doing some research on domestic servants, and her characters were spot on historically, as well as well rounded and believable. Of course, the love story was terrific, too.”

**Melody Carlson:** “George MacDonald's love stories (*Fisherman's Lady*, *Marquis' Secret*, etc.). MacDonald seemed to capture the honest sacrificial spirit of true love—the kind of love that went against all odds and was willing to face the hardest challenges in the name of love. He was a master storyteller.”

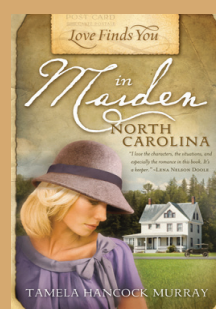
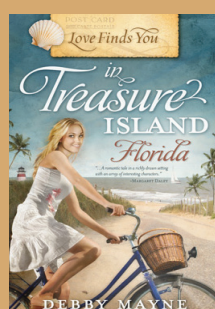
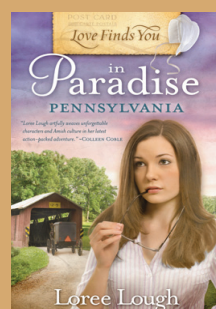
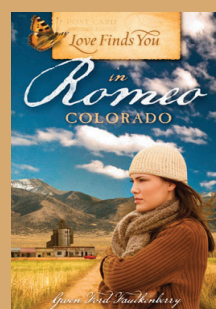
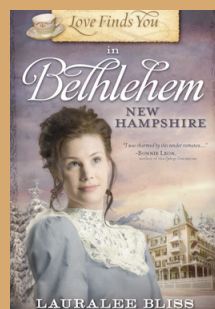




## MELODY CARLSON

Much-loved author Melody Carlson was delighted to have the opportunity to write about her hometown of Sisters, Oregon. “When they [Summerside] invited me to write about the town where I live, I couldn’t resist. We live in a sweet little town with some fun events and surrounded by some gorgeous scenery, so it seemed natural to write about it.” In Melody’s just-released, *Love Finds You in Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts*, artist Waverly Brennan contemplates her art and future in beautiful Martha’s Vineyard, charmed by the hope of a fresh start and local man Blake Erickson. As with each LFY story, alongside the location, the romance is key to the story and an element Melody delights in writing. “I’ve always liked creating stories about characters who’ve endured difficulties or faced hard life challenges. But it’s even more fulfilling when I can “reward” a long-suffering character with a delightful and unexpected love story. Something about taking a heroine through some dark days then delivering the love of her life is so much fun. Kind of like playing Fairy Godmother—who can resist?” [MelodyCarlson.com](http://MelodyCarlson.com)

Other recent titles in the series include *Love Finds You in Groom, Texas* and *Love Finds You in Camelot, Tennessee* by Janice Hanna, *Love Finds You in Hope, Kansas* by Pamela Griffin and *Love Finds You in Sun Valley, Idaho* by Angela Ruth. **FF**



# Tricia Goyer

## Unexpectedly Amish



While there's no doubt that Amish fiction is really hot right now, popular Christian fiction author Tricia Goyer *never* expected to hop on the bandwagon.

But when someone asked Tricia if she ever considered writing in that genre, well, the idea “hung around in her mind” for a while. After running into a friend of her daughter’s whose parents grew up Amish, the idea grew into something more. She began to write *Beside Still Waters: A Big Sky Novel*.

Not that this is really all that different from her past fiction. “I try to find amazing, true stories and then I craft the novels around those stories,” Tricia shares. “As protagonists, the Amish are amazing individuals. They are so much more complex than you’d imagine. As a group of people they work hard to keep the traditions of their ancestors, but each of them has their own challenges, their own dreams, their own

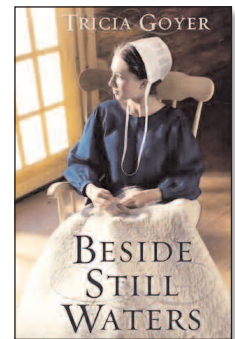
*“I try to find amazing, true stories and then I craft the novels around those stories.”*

motivations. The research and the interviews I do are what I feel set my novels apart. I appreciate my novels being true to life, and I have a feeling readers won't be disappointed.”

One thing that makes *Beside Still Waters* different is that it's set in a small Amish community in northwest Montana.

“Many Amish books take place on farms in the midst of large Amish communities. The community in West Kootenai, Montana is set

among logging and log homes and rugged mountains and majestic lakes,” Goyer continues. “Amish move to that community from all over the United States and it's a place of adventure. I hope in *Beside Still Waters* readers will see a different side to the Amish. They'll see them interacting more with an *Englisch* community, discovering they have much to learn as they also model a quieter way to live.”



*Beside Still Waters*  
B&H Books  
[TriciaGoyer.com](http://TriciaGoyer.com)

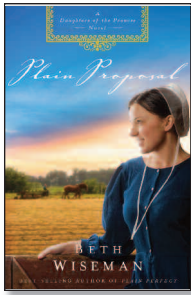
—Christa A. Banister

### ALSO AVAILABLE





# News&Notes



## PROMISE ME

Author **Beth Wiseman** returns with the fifth book in her Daughters of the Promise series, *Plain Proposal* (Thomas Nelson). “It is a different kind of Amish story,” Beth told *A Christian Writer’s World*, “and I loved writing it.”

In the story: Miriam vows to follow Saul no matter what the future holds—but she never thought that future might take them away from their Amish community. God starts revealing things to Miriam that make her think twice about what it means to make a home. **BethWiseman.com**

## HOPE PREVAILS

**Mary Ellis** launches her new Wayne County series with *Abigail’s New Hope* (Harvest House): When a difficult delivery takes a devastating turn, a heartless judge confines Amish midwife Abigail Graber to county jail for her mistakes. Her sister Catherine comes

to care for her children while Daniel works his fields. Catherine meets Daniel’s reclusive cousin, Isaiah, who’s deaf and thought to be simple-minded by his community. She endeavors to teach him to communicate and discovers he possesses unexpected gifts and talents. **MaryEllis.wordpress.com**

## LIFE AND LOVE

**Kelly Long** continues her Patch of Heaven series with the second volume, *Lilly’s Wedding Quilt* (Thomas Nelson). Local Amish schoolteacher Lilly Lapp is tired of weddings, afraid of horses, and immersed in caring for her depressed mother. But when a handsome horse breeder rescues her from a dangerous accident, Lilly discovers a renewed interest in life and the possibility of love.

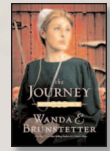
“I truly believe that [Amish fiction] is the emergence of a new literary subgenre—not just the hottest thing,” Kelly told *Southern Belle Writer*. “What Stephen Crane did for the western and Poe did for horror, writers like Beverly Lewis are doing to build the foundations of an enduring expansion in literature.”

—Anna Robbins

## new releases

### THE JOURNEY

**Wanda E. Brunstetter**  
(Barbour Books)



### A TIME TO HEAL

**Barbara Cameron**  
(Abingdon Press)



### ABIGAIL’S NEW HOPE

**Mary Ellis**  
(Harvest House)



### WHAT THE HEART SEES

**Kathleen Fuller**  
(Thomas Nelson)



### BESIDE STILL WATERS

**Tricia Goyer**  
(B&H Books)



### THE CAREGIVER

**Shelley Shepard Gray**  
(Avon Inspire)



### THE JUDGMENT

**Beverly Lewis**  
(Bethany House)



### LILLY’S WEDDING QUILT

**Kelly Long**  
(Thomas Nelson)



### SARAH’S GIFT

**Marta Perry**  
(Berkley)



### PLAIN PROPOSAL

**Beth Wiseman**  
(Thomas Nelson)



# Ginger Garrett

## Revealing the Face of Tragedy



Ginger Garrett's latest historical novel is based on actual German witch trials in the early 1500s—but her focus is not on witchcraft.

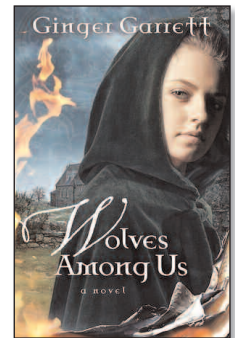
Instead Ginger hopes to reveal how the tragedy came to be. “Every moral disaster, I believe, begins with a small twist on a biblical truth,” Ginger says. “The more we twist it, the less we recognize the truth, and the further away we get from grace. We begin to worship ideas instead of God.”

A double murder results in a zealous Inquisitor arriving in Dinfoil, Germany, quickly cultivating fear, guilt and distrust amongst the villagers. Suspicion soon falls on the sheriff's wife, Mia, who is struggling in a loveless marriage and hiding her past connection to the martyred William Tyndale. Mia is motivated by her uncertainty of what

*“For every word on every page in Wolves Among Us, a woman or girl was burned to death on suspicion for being a witch.”*

the truth is, but her belief that it exists. Adds Ginger, “She also has a strong desire for love, but when that desire is answered by the wrong man, she has to choose. Will she deny herself and her needs? Or will she take the happiness he seems to offer, and a chance for a better life?”

Faith drives Ginger's writing, as it does her life, and accordingly her characters' spiritual beliefs are an integral part of her novels. Says Ginger, “I want readers to consider what is said and judge for themselves who is right and wrong. I don't always make the bad guys have a

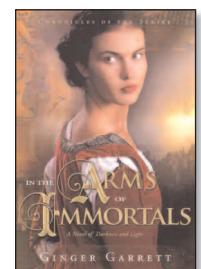
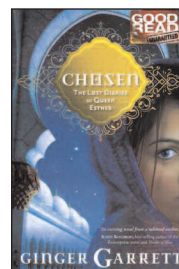


*Wolves Among Us*  
David C. Cook  
[GingerGarrett.com](http://GingerGarrett.com)

bad philosophy, and my heroines aren't always sure of the truth. Everyone makes mistakes and has bad days, even in my novels. But again, I want readers to be sure of only one thing: the source of all truth, as expressed through Scripture.”

—Rel Mollet

### ALSO AVAILABLE





# News&Notes



## WAR STORIES

**Maureen Lang** is thrilled with the cover of her latest Great War novel, *Springtime of the Spirit* (Tyndale). “It’s the prettiest one yet,” she says, “and that’s an achievement since I’ve loved them all.” Inside the covers, readers will find political intrigue, social upheaval and changed relationships, as Germany struggles to overcome the shame and devastation following their loss in World War I. [MaureenLang.com](http://MaureenLang.com)

## A DETERMINED HEROINE

At the heart of **Penny Zeller’s** historical novels are themes of forgiveness, hope, and redemption. In her second Montana Skies novel, *Kaydie* (Whitaker House), the heroine is fiercely determined to put aside her mistakes and past errors in judgment. “Relying on God and her recently found sister,” the author says, “Kaydie forges ahead and realizes that God

truly can take something bad and use it for good.” [PennyZeller.com](http://PennyZeller.com)

## BATHSHEBA’S STORY

**Jill Eileen Smith** completes her Wives of King David series with *Bathsheba* (Revell). Says Jill, “What makes a woman give in to a man who is not her husband? Granted, King David could have commanded her obedience, but I don’t see it that way. Neither do I see her as a temptress.”

Jill points out that the men and women of the Bible are just the same as us. “We can all fall prey to the same temptations, the same sins. And yet God’s grace extends to us in spite of these things, if we will accept it.” [JillEileenSmith.com](http://JillEileenSmith.com)

## RAVENSMOORE CHRONICLES

A stint at Oxford University instilled in debut author **Jillian Kent** a love of England and all things Austen. It is therefore no surprise Jillian’s debut novel, *Secrets of the Heart* (Realms) is set in the Regency period, the first story in the Ravensmoore Chronicles. [JillianHart.com](http://JillianHart.com)

—Rel Mollet

## new releases

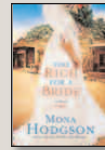
**DEEP TROUBLE**  
**Mary Connealy**  
(Barbour Publishing)



**FAIRER THAN MORNING**  
**Rosslyn Elliott**  
(Thomas Nelson)



**TOO RICH FOR A BRIDE**  
**Mona Hodgson**  
(WaterBrook Press)



**A HEART DIVIDED**  
**Kathleen Morgan**  
(Revell Books)



**AN UNLIKELY SUITOR**  
**Nancy Moser**  
(Bethany House)



**HIDDEN AFFECTIONS**  
**Delia Parr**  
(Bethany House)



**SONS OF ENCOURAGEMENT (5-in-1)**  
**Francine Rivers**  
(Tyndale House)



**THE LAWMAN CLAIMS HIS BRIDE**  
**Renee Ryan**  
(Love Inspired Historical)



**A GREAT CATCH**  
**Lorna Seilstad**  
(Revell Books)



**TO WIN HER HEART**  
**Karen Witemeyer**  
(Bethany House)



# Brandilyn Collins

## Torn From Real Life



With her thriller *Over the Edge*, Brandilyn Collins takes the saying “write what you know” literally.

In 2002-2003 she suffered a debilitating case of Lyme disease. God miraculously healed her, but she hasn’t forgotten its devastating effects. This helped her write *Over the Edge*’s main character, Janessa McNeil, who is purposely infected with Lyme by someone and given an ultimatum—convince her doctor husband to publicly reverse his stance on Lyme, or their young daughter will be infected next.

But Janessa’s husband doesn’t believe she even has Lyme, like many real-life doctors and their patients, according to Collins. This disbelief in the severity of the disease isn’t fiction for Lyme sufferers, to which Collins can also attest. Only when she was reinfected in 2009 (she’s since recovered) did she know it

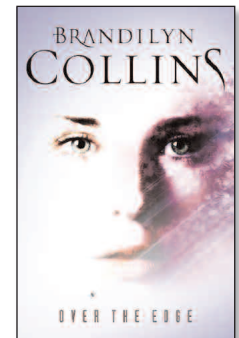
*“I remember slumping in the waiting room of my doctor’s office, so sick I could not remain sitting in the chair.”*

was time to pen a novel that would bring to the forefront what has become known as the Lyme Wars, a struggle between Lyme literate doctors and powerful organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control. “I remember slumping in the waiting room of my doctor’s office in 2003, so sick I could not remain sitting in the chair,” Collins says.

Mocking her on the wall was a framed medical journal article explaining how Lyme is never chronic and is easily treatable.

“Even my family members and close friends, who saw me suffer from Lyme, have commented that after reading *Over the Edge*

their eyes were opened to the suffering caused by Lyme,” Collins says. And that’s her goal with this novel—to shine a spotlight on the challenges those in the Lyme community face through a story that will keep you on the edge of your seat.



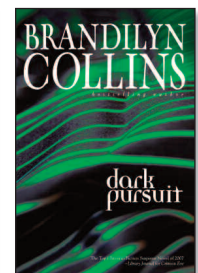
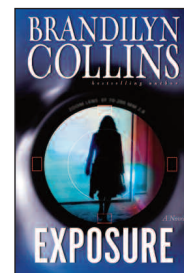
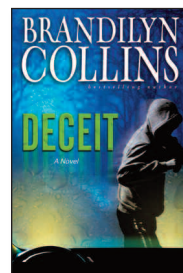
*Over The Edge*

B&H Books

[BrandilynCollins.com](http://BrandilynCollins.com)

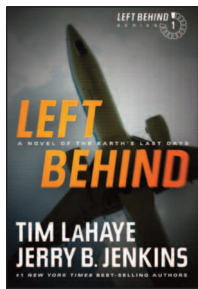
### ALSO AVAILABLE

—C.J. Darlington





# News&Notes



## END TIMES MAKEOVER

The best-selling and much loved *Left Behind* series by **Jerry B. Jenkins** and **Tim LaHaye** recently got a new look. Each cover has been re-designed to resemble what it would look like if the *Tribulation* were broadcast on the evening news. The technology has been updated throughout the novels, and there will also be added back matter such as a section called “In the Meantime” which will look at events that have occurred since the books were first released. The series began publication in 1996 and has sold over 65 million copies.

[LeftBehind.com](http://LeftBehind.com)

## KEEPING UP ON DOWNS

**Tim Downs'** latest novel *Nick of Time* (Thomas Nelson) is hot off the press! This book finds forensic entomologist Nick Polchak, aka “The Bugman”, about to tie the knot with another favorite character—

cadaver dog trainer Alena. But of course things don't go as planned. Soon Nick finds himself on the run, and it might take a team of dogs to find him. Downs has created in Nick a quirky character readers love, and if you can't get enough of him, you can sign up at Downs' website for “Moments with Nick”, a weekly excerpt of the wit and wisdom of Dr. Nick Polchak.

[TimDowns.net](http://TimDowns.net)

## DELLOSSO FOLLOWS

On the heels of his successful novel *Darlington Woods*, author **Mike Dellosso** brings us another intriguing tale in *Darkness Follows* (Realms). The story focuses on Sam Travis, who lives in a Civil War era farmhouse in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He awakens one morning to find an old journal with an entry by a Union soldier, Lt. Whiting—written in Sam's own handwriting. “It's suspenseful, mysterious, scary, even creepy,” Dellosso noted in a recent interview, “but after all is said and done, it's a love story.”

[MikeDellosso.com](http://MikeDellosso.com)

—**C.J. Darlington**

## new releases

### OVER THE EDGE

**Brandilyn Collins**  
(B&H Books)



### THE PRIEST'S GRAVEYARD

**Ted Dekker**  
(Center Street)



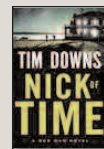
### DARKNESS FOLLOWS

**Mike Dellosso**  
(Realms)



### NICK OF TIME

**Tim Downs**  
(Thomas Nelson)



### A KILLER AMONG US

**Lynette Eason**  
(Revell Books)



### INDELIBLE

**Kristen Heitzmann**  
(WaterBrook Press)



### SNITCH: A NOVEL

**Booker T. Mattison**  
(Revell Books)



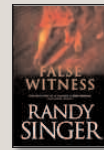
### THE RELUCTANT DETECTIVE

**Martha Ockley**  
(Monarch Books)



### FALSE WITNESS

**Randy Singer**  
(Tyndale House)



### 40: A NOVEL

**Travis Thrasher**  
(FaithWords)



# Mitchell Bonds

## Heroic Puns and Mischief



### Mitchell Bonds fell into writing a bit accidentally.

As he puts it, “I got too old to be wandering around in the wood with my friends, swinging sticks at each other, pretending they were swords.” He turned those boyhood adventures into a short story about superheroes and villains. That story turned into a novel, which became a trilogy, *The Hero Complex*.

The series good-naturedly pokes fun at fantasy and superhero stereotypes, from quests after unique objects to monologuing villains. “The third book,” Mitchell says, “has a young wizard in training so I will get to make ever so much fun of *Harry Potter* in it.”

Marcher Lord Press published the first book, *Hero, Second Class*, as part of its debut lineup. Book two, *Hero in Hiding*, releases in April 2011. Cyrus Solburg, now a Hero in all but paperwork, heads back to his uncle’s house in disgrace after the forces of good receive a crushing defeat in battle. But a peaceful life on

*“Whether it’s just my turn of phrase or the really bad puns, I live to make people laugh.”*

the island of Starspeak isn’t an option with Evil now having the upper hand, and Cyrus is soon pulled back into the conflict. Toss in singing pirates, a talkative ninja, breakdancing communist dwarves, and a secret organization of villains and mercenaries going after an arch-villain and his army, and there’s sure to be adventure.

That adventure is the heart of his books, Mitchell says, but adds that the spleen of his novels is comedy. “Whether it’s just my turn of phrase or the really bad puns I put in, I live to make people laugh.”

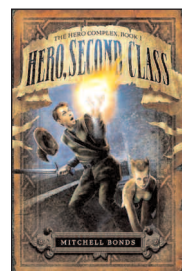
Mitchell is currently making an intermittent attempt to get words on pages as he balances a full course load at the University of Idaho, a part-time job, and writing the final book of the trilogy.

—Katie Hart



*Hero in Hiding*  
Marcher Lord Press

### ALSO AVAILABLE





# News&Notes



## LITFIN'S GIFT

*The Gift* (Crossway) by **Bryan Litfin** released in April 2011. Bryan shares a bit of what readers can expect from the second book in his trilogy: “*The Gift* is a quest story throughout. A goal is articulated early and becomes the focal point of the plot: to find the New Testament. The characters are ‘away from home’ the entire time as they seek the goal of their quest.”

**Chiveis.com**

## MYERS MANIA

Following the fall 2010 release of his latest novel, *The God Hater* (Howard), **Bill Myers** is bringing his work to readers in new and unexpected ways. He republished his best-selling novel *The Face of God* with StoneHouse Ink, and began serializing the full novel on [billmyersblog.com](http://billmyersblog.com). For younger readers, the next two installments in

Bill’s TJ and the Time Stumblers series release in May 2011. The series revolves around the lives of two 23rd century kids who travel back to the present time to learn about the great leader TJ Finkelstein, only to find out she’s in seventh grade and they can’t get back to their own time.

And Bill’s popular teen speculative series, *Forbidden Doors*, is being adapted as a video web series.

**BillMyers.com**

## THRASHER'S LATEST

*40: A Novel* (FaithWords) by **Travis Thrasher** releases May 2011. Nine months before he turns 40, Tyler Harrison begins having dark hallucinations. Then, he is approached by a man claiming to be an angel, who tells Tyler he will die on his 40th birthday. Tyler’s initial doubt morphs to anger and then fear as the days bring him ever closer to his impending death.

**TravisThrasher.com**

—Katie Hart

## new releases

### THE FINAL SUMMIT

**Andy Andrews**

(Thomas Nelson)



### HERO IN HIDING

**Mitchell Bonds**

(Marcher Lord)



### REALITY'S DAWN

**R.L. Copple**

(Splashdown Books)



### THE GIFT

**Bryan Litfin**

(Crossway Books)



### TJ AND THE TIME STUMBLERS: NEW KID CATASTROPHES

**Bill Myers**

(Tyndale House)



### THE ALE BOY'S FEAST

**Jeffrey Overstreet**

(WaterBrook Press)



### THE SERAPH SEAL

**Leonard Sweet and Lori Wagner**

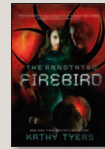
(Thomas Nelson)



### THE ANNOTATED FIREBIRD

**Kathy Tyers**

(Marcher Lord)



### THE STONE OF DESTINY

**Jim Ware**

(David C. Cook)



### FROM DARKNESS WON

**Jim Williamson**

(Marcher Lord)



# Julie Carobini

## Back to the Beach



Romance writer Julie Carobini takes the responsibility of incorporating her faith into her stories seriously.

“If I’m going to add a faith thread into my books then I must be in prayer,” the author says. “I must also seek wise counsel—Proverbs 1:5.”

Julie’s latest beachside novel, *Fade to Blue* (B&H Books), tells the story of single mom and artist, Suz Mitchell, a woman whose faith is evident when confronted with her ex-husband, newly released from jail. “One Sunday morning as I wrestled with the right, godly answer to the heroine’s situation,” Julie says, “my pastor ‘happened’ to preach on the very topic. Yay, God!”

Returning readers to fictional Otter Bay on the Californian coast, Julie incorporates

*“This book is for you dreamers, the ones who hold on and never let go of that dream—no matter what.”*

the magnificent Hearst Castle in her tale, with Suz employed to restore original artwork in the castle, planning to leave her heartache in the past and enjoy a new beginning for herself and her young son.

*“Fade to Blue* is for the dreamer in us all,

This book is for you dreamers, the ones who hold on and never let go of that dream—no matter what.”

Look for more Californian seaside stories from Julie, one set in the northern beaches and one in the south. If that isn’t enough sea and sand for you, Julie has

more: “I’ve also just re-

released my first novel, *Chocolate Beach*, on Kindle and Nook—with recipes and other bonus content!”

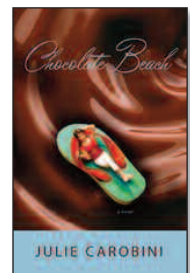


*Fade to Blue: An Otter Bay Novel*  
B&H Books

[JulieCarobini.com](http://JulieCarobini.com)

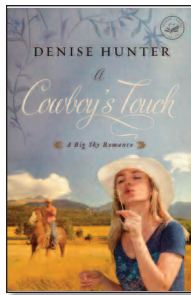
### ALSO AVAILABLE

—Rel Mollet





# News&Notes



## RODEO ROMANCE

While **Denise Hunter** struggles to even stay in the saddle, in *A Cowboy's Touch* (Thomas Nelson), a Woman of Faith selection, her newest hero is a former rodeo celebrity, hiding away in Moose Creek, Montana. Says Denise, "I'm definitely intrigued by rodeos and the cowboy way of life in general. I've only attended one rodeo—in Jackson Hole, Wyoming—but it was so much fun to watch the cowboys and cowgirls show their stuff. I admire their skills."

[DeniseHunterBooks.com](http://DeniseHunterBooks.com)

## FAITH & FAMILY

Watching widower cop Gabe Reynolds struggle with parenting on his own tugs at the heartstrings of coffee shop owner Faith Hagin—and is almost too much for her to bear. And narrowing down her favorite scene in their story, *A Family for Faith* (Steeple Hill), is too much of a challenge for

**Missy Tippens.** "I'd actually have to choose two, because they're so different. One would be the rafting scene: It was a really exciting action scene, and I got to base it on my fears from the first time I went white water rafting. Plus, it was a big turning point for Gabe and was emotional. The other scene would be their first kiss: I don't want to give any spoilers, but ahhhh, I love to write those first kiss scenes!"

[MissyTippens.com](http://MissyTippens.com)

## BELOVED AUTHOR RETURNS

Following a three year hiatus, beloved author **Kathleen Morgan** relaunches her writing career with another historical romance, *A Heart Divided* (Revell), a sweeping saga of romance, betrayal, and forgiveness and the first in the Heart of the Rockies series. In 1870s Colorado, Sarah Caldwell and Cord Wainwright find their hatred of each other turning to an inconvenient attraction. Well aware their feuding families will not tolerate any relationship between them, the young couple face a dilemma which has no peaceful solution.

[KathleenMorgan.com](http://KathleenMorgan.com)

—**Rel Mollet**

## new releases

### BIG SKY REUNION

**Charlotte Carter**

(Love Inspired)



### THE ART OF ROMANCE

**Kaye Dacus**

(Barbour Books)



### WYOMING WEDDINGS

**Susan Page Davis**

(Barbour Books)



### AN UNLIKELY MATCH

**Arlene James**

(Love Inspired)



### HOME TO STAY

**Annie Jones**

(Love Inspired)



### MIRIAM'S HEART

**Emma Miller**

(Love Inspired)



### TEA FOR TWO

**Trish Perry**

(Harvest House)



### THE DEEPEST WATERS

**Dan Walsh**

(Revell Books)



### MY FOOLISH HEART

**Susan May Warren**

(Tyndale House)



### KAYDIE

**Penny Zeller**

(Whitaker House)



# C.J. Darlington

## Turning the Page



For C.J. Darlington, a used bookstore is a veritable treasure trove—in fact, hanging out in these dusty confines is a passion that dates back to her teen years.

As such, it's no surprise that rare books make their way into her second novel, *Bound By Guilt* (Tyndale House). “When I began writing, I started with this scenario,” C.J. says. “What if a character stole rare books from unsuspecting bookstores and then sold them for a profit? Interestingly enough, this idea is based on real-life book thievery that occurred in California.”

This clever book-lover posed as a customer, returning to a bookstore several times. “He also managed to get into locked

*“The wonderful thing is, God can not only forgive our sins, but He can forgive the guilt of our sins, too.”*

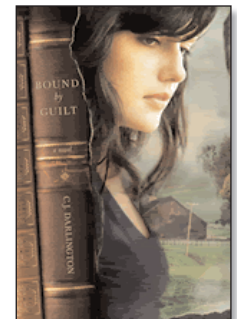
display cases. Sometimes he purchased a low-value book while hiding a stolen book under his shirt. He hit bookstores all over the country, and because of his All-American good looks, quiet manner, and knowledge about antiquarian books, he didn't arouse suspicion from owners—just like some of my characters.”

The theme running through the pages of *Bound by Guilt* is the need for forgiveness.

“There are characters in the story who

desperately need to forgive, and there are

those who desperately need to receive forgiveness,” the author shares. “The wonderful thing is, like the Scripture one of my characters shares, God can not only forgive our sins, but He can forgive the guilt of our sins, too.”



**Bound By Guilt**  
Tyndale House  
[CJDarlington.com](http://CJDarlington.com)

—Christa A. Banister

### ALSO AVAILABLE





# News&Notes



## WHEN LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS...

Appearances can be deceiving—at least that's what Ariel Baxter learns when she moves into the neighborhood of her dreams in **Marybeth Whalen's** second novel *She Makes it Look Easy* (David C. Cook).

"I loved the lyric from Fleetwood Mac's song 'Gypsy'—*She is dancing away from you now, She was just a wish, She was just a wish,*" Marybeth says. "Stevie Nicks wrote that lyric about herself, the gypsy she used to be that she can never re-capture. That's what I wanted to communicate in this book—we can never totally lay hold of that self we dream of being. It's better to just accept who we are right now." [MarybethWhalen.com](http://MarybethWhalen.com)

## SAIL AWAY WITH KAREN

In what's certainly one of the highlights of her always-busy schedule, the next **Karen Kingsbury & Friends**

cruise will set sail from Miami to Key West, Florida and the Bahamas from March 5-9, 2012. Joining in the fun will be several musicians including Matthew West, Mandisa and more.

In addition to touring exotic beaches, hearing great music and connecting with Karen, the cruise ship will also be the site of the second annual Baxter Family Reunion. For more information on the cruise, including specifics on pricing, the itinerary and what fun events are in store, check out the official website. [KarenKingsburyCruise.com](http://KarenKingsburyCruise.com)

## THREE SISTERS, ONE ISLAND

In *The Fine Art of Insincerity* (Howard Books), **Angela Hunt** transports readers to St. Simon's Island where three middle-aged sisters convene to clear the cobwebs from their recently deceased grandmother's home.

Of course, the cobwebs are more tangled than any of them ever imagined when Ginger, Penny and Rosemary begin digging deeper into their grandmother's colorful life—not to mention their own struggles, heartbreaks and failures in relationships. [AngelaHuntBooks.com](http://AngelaHuntBooks.com)

—Christa A. Banister

## new releases

### THE GLORY OF GREEN

Judy Christie  
(Abingdon Press)



### THE MUIR HOUSE

Mary E. DeMuth  
(Zondervan)



### WHO IS MY SHELTER?

Neta Jackson  
(Thomas Nelson)



### LEAVING

Karen Kingsbury  
(Zondervan)



### PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Kathi Macias  
(New Hope)



### GRISELDA TAKES FLIGHT

Joyce Magnin  
(Abingdon Press)



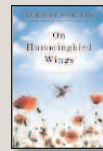
### UPON THIS ROCK

Kendra Norman-Bellamy  
(Urban Christian)



### ON HUMMINGBIRD WINGS

Lauraine Shelling  
(FaithWords)



### HOMETOWN SWEETHEART

Lenora Worth  
(Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



### THE HEART OF MEMORY

Alison Strobel  
(Zondervan)



# Nancy Rue

## Making Truth Relevant



Nancy Rue wanted to be a writer at a young age, but her degree in English led to a job teaching high school students.

“It was there that I really began to love teens,” the author says. “What an exciting place they are in their lives and what incredible people they can be.”

Her first book series was actually for preteens—the Christian Heritage series grew to 30 novels, and Nancy continued writing for middle school readers with her Sophie and Lily books. As her readers moved into their teens, they began asking Nancy to write books for them, and the Real Life series was born.

The focal point of the series is a mysterious book each girl finds at a critical point in her life. The characters realize the book is sharing Biblical stories and truths in

*“My audience is always before me when I’m writing.”*

relevant ways. Nancy was inspired by other Bible paraphrases and people who leave books they love in public places for others to find and read. “When we need the Word, God will go to great lengths to make sure that we hear it,” she says.

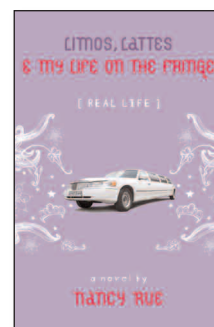
The latest book in is *Limos, Lattes & My Life on the Fringe*. Tyler Bonning is nominated for prom queen as a joke, but she finds unexpected passion and obstacles when she decides to turn her nomination into a cause to help make the prom affordable for everyone.

“My audience is always before me when I’m writing,” Nancy says.

“There are so many influences out there; I want to be a good one.”

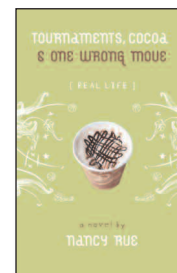
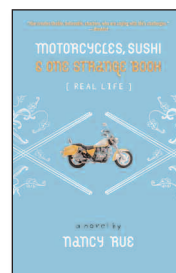
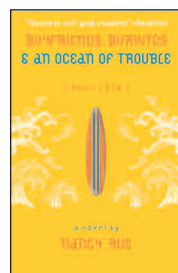
Nancy lives with husband Jim in Tennessee and enjoys riding their Harley and spending time with their new granddaughter. She’s currently working on a teen time-travel series set in ancient Ireland.

—Katie Hart



*Limos, Lattes & My Life on the Fringe*  
Zondervan  
NancyRue.com

### ALSO AVAILABLE





# News&Notes



## DRIVEN APPEARANCES

Author **Shellie Neumeier**, who debuts with the Screwtape-like twist on teen fiction *Driven* (Risen Books), says that writing fiction never occurred to her until recently. “English class gave me a headache,” Shellie told the blog *Reflections In Hindsight*. “But I’ve learned that writing is not just about the commas, it’s about the story and the characters. When they come to life in your imagination, that’s a whole lot more fun than punctuation.”  
[ShellieNeumeier.com](http://ShellieNeumeier.com)

## TEENS IN WWII

In *How Huge the Night* (Kregel), mother/daughter writing team **Heather** and **Lydia Munn** bring us WWII France through the eyes of a 15-year-old boy. “One of the reasons this period of history fascinates me is choices,” Heather says. “In France under the Nazis, people made all kinds of choices—some,

like this village in central France, chose to focus on those in the deepest need and danger, and protect them from harm.”

## HIGH HURDLES

**Lauraine Snelling’s** beloved *High Hurdles* series (Bethany House) has been rereleased as 5-in-1 collections. The series follows fourteen-year-old DJ Randall as she works to make her dream of becoming an Olympic show jumper come true. Whether she’s mucking out stalls to earn money for her first horse or adjusting to her ever-changing family situation, DJ relies on God to triumph over every obstacle.  
[LauraineSnelling.com](http://LauraineSnelling.com)

## INSIGHT AND ART

**Diana Greenwood**, whose debut novel is *Insight* (Zondervan), was just appointed Director to Rebuild Southern Africa Association, a U.S.-based nonprofit that supports orphans in South Africa. She developed an arts program as a fundraiser for schools where classrooms profit while also contributing to projects RSAA supports.  
[DianaGreenwood.com](http://DianaGreenwood.com)

—Katie Hart

## new releases

### WATERFALL

**Lisa T. Bergren**

(David C. Cook)



### SHATTERED: A DAUGHTER'S REGRET

**Melody Carlson**

(NavPress)



### ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

**Amy Clipston**

(Zondervan)



### DEPARTURES

**Robin Jones Gunn**

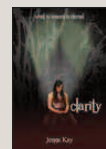
(Multnomah Books)



### CLARITY

**Jenna Kay**

(RJP Publishing)



### HEIR APPARENT

**Shawn Lamb**

(Allon Books)



### DRIVEN

**Shellie Neumeier**

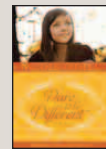
(Risen Books)



### DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

**Nicole O'Dell**

(Barbour Books)



### HIGH HURDLES COLLECTION 1

**Lauraine Snelling**

(Bethany House)



### THE GREAT MOGUL DIAMOND

**G.P. Taylor**

(SaltRiver)



# Melody Carlson

## Visiting the Past



**The Allison O'Brian series is a glimpse into the past in more than one way.**

It's an adventure set against a post-World War II backdrop—but it's also a glimpse into the early writing of Melody Carlson, the prolific and popular writer of more than 200 books, from the critically acclaimed *Finding Alice* to children's picture books to teen series like *Diary of a Teenage Girl*.

"Allison O'Brian's story was my second book to write," Carlson reflects. "The first one was written longhand on a legal pad and that book remains safely tucked away."

While the story of Allison O'Brien's search for love and family (she never knew her father and her mother is a glamorous movie star) was originally written at the beginning of Carlson's career, she believes because they're semi-historical, the books are timeless. She chose to set the books just after World War II for a couple reasons. "I felt that was an interesting and romantic era," she says, "a time when servicemen were coming

*"Allison has such a longing for family, heritage, craving a space where she will 'fit in.'"*

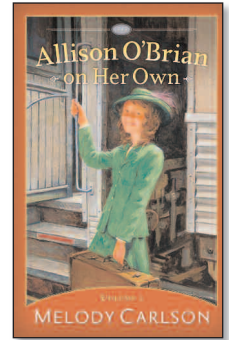
home and life was returning to normal. Because they were set in my mother's era, they hold a special place in my heart. I queried her and my aunt for information about the late '40s and they both read all four books, giving me helpful feedback."

Melody wants the books to hold a special place in her readers' hearts as well. "I hope readers simply enjoy the story for the adventure it is, but I also hope they'll bond with Allison. She has such a longing for family, heritage, craving a space where she will fit in. In some ways not so different from pre-teens today.

Also, she has her own spiritual awakening when she learns to trust God for her otherwise shaky sort of life."

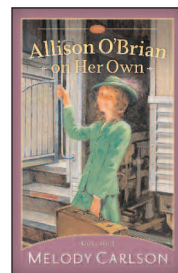
While Melody Carlson's books tend to be for older teens and adults, *Allison O'Brian On Her Own Volume 1* and *Volume 2* (Revell) are aimed at readers 9-12.

—Ben Avery



*Allison O'Brian On Her Own Volume 1*  
Revell  
[MelodyCarlson.com](http://MelodyCarlson.com)

### ALSO AVAILABLE





# News&Notes



## STUMBLING THROUGH TIME... AND JUNIOR HIGH

**Bill Myers**, best-selling writer of *Forbidden Doors* and *McGee and Me!*, has a unique perspective on his writing: He wants to teach core character values to our young people without getting caught.

This commitment is the driving force behind Myers' newest series, *TJ and the Time Stumblers*—launching with *New Kid Catastrophes* (#1) and *AAAARGH!!!* (#2), both from Tyndale House. “If I can create stories so funny and engaging that kids don’t notice they’re learning,” Bill says, “then I’ve done my job.”

[BillMyers.com](http://BillMyers.com)

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

**Sheila Walsh's** *God's Little Princess* series has spawned DVDs, dolls, devotional books, and now a how-to manual. In keeping with the theme of the other books—in which Gigi

discovers what it means to be the daughter of the Greatest King of all—*How to be God's Little Princess: Royal Tips on Manners and Etiquette for Girls* (Thomas Nelson) gives young girls royal tips about how to wear a tiara and how to make pink cookies, along with advice for how to help Mom and, most importantly, how to follow Jesus.

[SheilaWalsh.com](http://SheilaWalsh.com)

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD KNIGHT?

What makes a knight? Strength? Wit? Speed? **Karen Kingsbury**, author of numerous best-selling books, answers the question in her new picture book, *Brave Young Knight* (Zonderkidz). This fantasy tale tells the story of a young knight who enters a competition to find the greatest knight. The prize? The winner will become a prince.

Readers will learn, along with the brave young knight, that it is strength of character, not strength of arms, that makes the greatest knights.

[KarenKingsbury.com](http://KarenKingsbury.com)

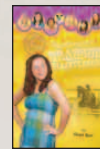
—Ben Avery

## new releases

### MCKENZIE'S BRANSON BRAINTEASER

**Shari Barr**

(Barbour Books)



### ALLISON O'BRIAN ON HER OWN: VOLUME 1

**Melody Carlson**

(Revell Books)



### BRAVE YOUNG KNIGHT

**Karen Kingsbury**

(Zonderkidz)



### THE MANDIE COLLECTION: VOLUME SEVEN

**Lois Gladys Leppard**

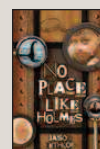
(Bethany House)



### NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES

**Jason Lethcoe**

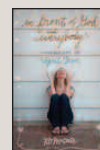
(Tommy Nelson)



### IN FRONT OF GOD AND EVERYBODY

**K.D. McCrite**

(Tommy Nelson)



### NEW KID CATASTROPHES

**Bill Myers**

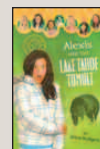
(Tyndale House)



### ALEXIS AND THE LAKE TAHOE TUMULT

**Erica Rodgers**

(Barbour Books)



### KATE AND THE WYOMING FOSSIL FIASCO

**Janice Hanna Thompson**

(Barbour Books)



### F IS FOR FIREFLIES

**Kathy-jo Wargin**

(Zonderkidz)



# Soul Surfer's Sarah Hill

## Shattered Dreams



When a shark attack left teen Bethany Hamilton without an arm, she didn't lose her faith.

Her story has recently been told in the inspiring movie *Soul Surfer*, but you might not know that, years earlier, Bethany's youth leader Sarah Hill (played by Carrie Underwood in the film) also suffered a life-changing surfing accident. "I went to duck dive under a wave," Hill says. "I got tossed backwards and landed on my head. The impact was as if I hit cement. I broke my neck and back. I was 1/16th of an inch away from being paralyzed."

Hill's dreams were shattered as she questioned God's plan. "I had never really experienced the Lord speaking to me in my life," she says. "I did the church thing with my family, but it was never a personal relationship with the Lord. He began to show me that even though I had a tough life coming from an abusive home, He never allowed anything to overcome me and take me out. I recommitted my life to the Lord, and I've walked with Him ever since."

*"Even though I had a tough life coming from an abusive home, God never allowed anything to overcome me and take me out."*

That walk eventually led her to Kauai, Hawaii. One summer at a youth camp she met Bethany Hamilton. "Through being a youth leader to Bethany, God allowed us to develop a really close friendship, like a sistership," Hill says. "As I was on my way to the hospital the day Bethany was attacked I was praying,

'Lord, how do I minister to this family? What do I say to them?' That still small voice popped the verse from Jeremiah into my head that's used in the movie: 'For I know the plans I have for Bethany, plans of good and not of evil, to give her a future and a

hope.' It brought back to my memory that He had always used Bethany as a light in a dark industry, and now He was going to use her as a voice. That was the Lord's promise to Bethany and the Hamiltons."



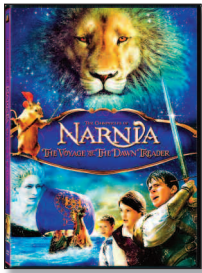
**Soul Surfer**  
[SoulSurferTheMovie.com](http://SoulSurferTheMovie.com)

—C.J. Darlington





# News&Notes



## MAGICAL NARNIA

Now that *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* is on DVD, speculation abounds on which Narnia book will be adapted next. Walden Media's **Micheal Flaherty** has all but officially announced *The Magician's Nephew* as their pick. He recently told *Christianity Today*, "We just think the origin tale of *The Magician's Nephew* is a great one, and it brings back the characters that have proven to be the most popular—a lot of Aslan and the White Witch." Does this mean Tilda Swinton will reprise her role as the Ice Queen? The actress has seemed open to the idea in interviews, so we can hope. [Narnia.com](http://Narnia.com)  
[Walden.com](http://Walden.com)

## A STRANGE ENCOUNTER

**Bruce Marchiano**, best known for his portrayal of Jesus in *The Visual Bible*, recently reprised the Divine role in the new Pure Flix Entertainment movie *The*

*Encounter*—only this time he takes off his sandals and dons an apron as a modern-day Jesus who owns a diner. When five strangers take refuge in his establishment, they must decide whether to trust this strange man who claims to be Jesus. Christian music artist **Jaci Velasquez** and professional wrestler **Steve "Sting" Borden** also star as two of the patrons. [PureFlix.com](http://PureFlix.com)

## GREAT POTENTIAL

Few films have been made that feature the sport of cycling, but *The Potential Inside* gives viewers an inside glimpse into the world of elite bicycle racing. The movie stars **Scotty Curlee**, a semi-pro cyclist and the film's director, as a retired veteran cyclist who's given an opportunity to train a rookie cycling prodigy. Preoccupied with battling his own inner demons, Curlee's character reluctantly acclimates the prodigy to the fast paced world of bicycle racing. The Liberty University alum shot much of the film in and around Lynchburg, Va., and includes race scenes through some of the most treacherous courses on the East Coast. [ThePotentialInside.com](http://ThePotentialInside.com)

—C.J. Darlington

## new releases

### THE BILL COLLECTOR



### FORGIVEN



### JOHNNY



### KJB: THE BOOK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



### KNOCKOUT



### PAWS & TALES: SHOWING GRACE TO OTHERS



### THE PENNY



### WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE: ISRAEL GETS A KING!



### A WRINKLE IN TIME



### YOUR LOVE NEVER FAILS



# Phil Vischer

## Cartoons, Puppets, and Theological Concepts



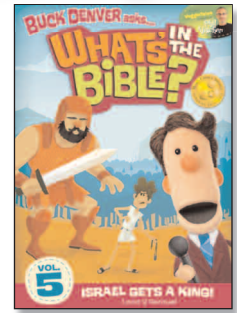
Phil Vischer started his latest series after research showed how little most Christian kids know about their faith—and how many walk away from the church after high school.

The *VeggieTales* creator wondered, *What if we could take that information and put it into a format that whole families could sit down and enjoy together?* Vischer's response was the new puppets-and-animation series DVD series, *What's in the Bible?*

Starting in Genesis with the first DVD, Vischer and team are working through the Bible chronologically using puppets, songs and animation to make the Bible accessible, understandable, and entertaining for kids and

*"We've heard from kids who love the humor, but also from parents amazed at what their kids are learning."*

parents. "If *VeggieTales* made you laugh, *What's in the Bible* will make you laugh, too," he says. "What's different is that whereas *VeggieTales* presented key Bible stories, *What's in the Bible* presents the entire Bible. The whole thing."



*Israel Gets a King!*

Jellyfish Labs/Tyndale House

[WhatsInTheBible.com](http://WhatsInTheBible.com)

The concepts of sin and salvation are front and center in volume five, *Israel Gets a King* (Tyndale), focusing on King Saul, King David, and King Solomon. "We've heard from kids who love the humor," Vischer says, "but also from their parents who are amazed at what their kids are learning. Pastors have written to say our explanations of some of these key theological concepts are the clearest, most effective they've ever heard. The end goal is we're trying to create a resource that, like a good study Bible, can be used by almost everyone."

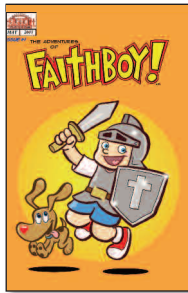
—Ben Avery

### SAMPLE PAGES





# News&Notes



## FROM BOBBLEHEAD TO COMIC

*Faithboy* started as a plastic toy meant to remind people that God protects and empowers his children. Now, writer **Brian Bradley** and artist **Jamie Cosley** bring the concept to life in the comic book *Faithboy* (Kingdom Comics).

“David Goldsmith came up with the idea for the Faithboy bobble head,” Brian says. “After hearing about Faithboy from a mutual friend and learning we actually attend the same church, David and I believed this was destined.”

[KingdomComicsOnline.com](http://KingdomComicsOnline.com)  
[Faithboy.com](http://Faithboy.com)

## HAPPINESS IS A NEW DVD, CHARLIE BROWN

After a six-year hiatus, Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang are back in a direct-to-DVD movie, *Happiness Is a Warm Blanket, Charlie Brown* (Warner Home Video). Like all Peanuts cartoons produced since Peanuts

creator **Charles Schulz**’ death, the story is based on classic Peanuts comic strips and the animation based on the classic character designs. This is the first special made without the involvement of Lee Mendelson Productions and Bill Melendez Productions, directed instead by **Andy Beall** (*Up, Ratatouille*) and **Frank Moleri** (*SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*). The story also appears in a new comic book adaptation from Kaboom Studios, plus a picture book from Running Press Kids.

[Peanuts.com](http://Peanuts.com)

## NEW ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

Cartoonist **Rob Woodrum**’s webcomic *Rabbi Encounters* presents the story of Christ in a unique way: it places Jesus in the modern Middle East. “The stories I’m retelling have been told many, many times before,” Woodrum says. “My hope is that readers will get a fresh perspective on the Rabbi. To read his stories from the vantage point of a present world, I hope new applications of His truth can begin to grow.”

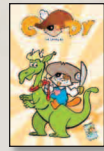
[RabbiEncounters.com](http://RabbiEncounters.com)

—Ben Avery

## new releases

### CODY THE CAVALIER

**Jamie Cosley**  
(Crashland Studios)



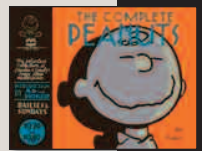
### UNKNOWN GOD (EYE WITNESS #4)

**Robert James Luedke**  
(Head Press)



### THE COMPLETE PEANUTS 1979-1980 (VOL. 15)

**Charles Schulz**  
(Fantagraphics)



### DAVEY AND GOLIATH VOL. 5: 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

(Bridgestone Multimedia)



### FOUR PANELS: A PRAYER PUPS COMPILATION

**Jeffrey Smith**  
(Lulu)



### THE GREAT MOGUL DIAMOND (DOPPLE GANGER #3)

**G. P. Taylor**  
(SaltRiver)



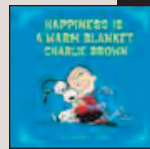
### HAPPINESS IS A WARM BLANKET, CHARLIE BROWN

**Charles M. Schulz**  
(DVD, Warner Home Video)



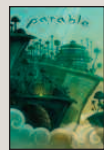
### HAPPINESS IS A WARM BLANKET, CHARLIE BROWN

**Charles M. Schulz**  
(Book, Running Press Kids)



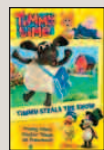
### PARABLE: VOLUME 1

(Lamp Post)



### TIMMY TIME: TIMMY STEALS THE SHOW

(Lyons / Hit Ent.)



# 5 Questions: Dan Walsh

Dan Walsh is the award-winning author of *The Unfinished Gift*, *The Homecoming* and *The Deepest Waters*. A member of American Christian Fiction Writers, Dan served as a pastor for 25 years. He lives with his family in the Daytona Beach area, where he's busy researching and writing his next novel.



DAN WALSH

## Tell us about *The Deepest Waters*.

I watched this documentary about a paddlewheel steamship which sank after a hurricane in September 1857. Tons of gold went to the bottom of the sea, along with over 400 souls. Among the few survivors there was a honeymoon couple who thought they'd been parted forever. How this couple survived and the way they were reunited was nothing short of miraculous. So *The Deepest Waters* is inspired by these true events.

But as I began to write, a new main character emerged named Micah. He's an old, illiterate Negro slave who has this abounding joy and Christ-like demeanor, even though his life is filled with suffering and loss.

## How long did it take you to get to this place as a writer?

I began my first novel in 1997, got about halfway through, then set it aside for 10 years. Didn't write a thing that entire time. In the summer of 2007, at my wife's urging, I finished *The Unfinished Gift* and got signed, almost immediately, with my agent. She

had a contract with Revell in a few months.

## After one of your books comes out and you see the response, does that affect how you approach the next book?

If anything, it has only strengthened me to "stay the course." The responses I've received with my first two novels, and already from *The Deepest Waters*, have touched me deeply.

## What part of a story do you find hardest to write?

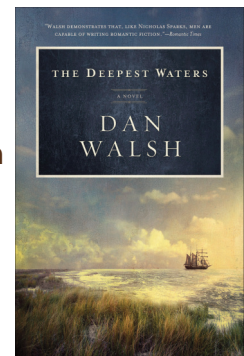
When I have to put my characters through heartbreak and suffering. I know it must happen. It's part of life and what makes the story relevant and gives it meaning. I even know as I write these difficult parts that, down the road, all things "will work together for good." But still, it's hard. The characters become almost real to me. I wish I could yell to them, "Hold on, don't give up hope."

When I do finally get to write the scenes where these tragedies resolve, I often cry. I've cried numerous times writing all of my books. I'm sure I look

like an idiot when this happens. I've learned not to write these scenes in public places.

## What aspect of God do you most hope readers get from reading your work?

I want my readers to be thoroughly entertained—but I also want them to experience a quiet revelation of God's nature in the story, too. His beauty, kindness, mercy and incredible patience. I don't want to be preachy in my books, but I am always on the lookout for creative and subtle ways to help us catch glimpses of this magnificent Savior. **FF**



*The Deepest Waters*  
Revell Books  
[DanWalshBooks.com](http://DanWalshBooks.com)

## Dan Walsh Online

[DanWalshBooks.com](http://DanWalshBooks.com)

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