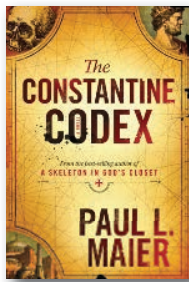


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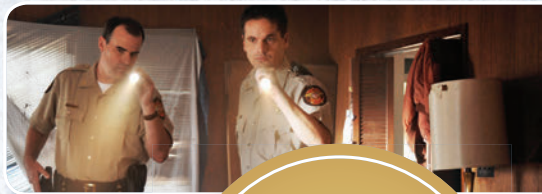
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REL MOLLET



Rel Mollet resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her movie-loving

husband and three book-loving daughters.
relreviewz.blogspot.com

CJ DARLINGTON



C.J. is the author of *Bound by Guilt* (Tyndale House) and co-founder of the

Christian entertainment site TitleTrakk.com.
cjdarlington.com

KATIE HART



Katie Hart spends her free time reading, connecting

with authors, and dreaming up new stories.
BladesofBetrayal.com

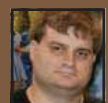
CHRISTA BANISTER



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

BladesofBetrayal.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 *Time Flyz* and *ArmorQuest*.
BenAvery.com

BrickbyBrick

We here at *FamilyFiction* are fast closing in on the end of our first year of the magazine. Time flies, doesn't it?

This time last summer, we were just a page on Facebook and an account on Twitter. Then in September we launched the email newsletter and the bimonthly digital magazine. We didn't even have a website until the beginning of this year!

All this time, we've continued to build up *FamilyFiction*—brick by brick, book by book, author by author. (And, um, movie by movie and comic book by comic book.) It's been a long road and we are nowhere near done—with something like 50 new Christian novels and DVDs coming out every month, our work is certainly cut out for us!

We're not the only ones who want to call your attention to great Christian storytellers: Coming up this summer and fall are two of the major honors in Christian fiction, the Christy Awards (handed out July 11) and the Carol Awards (handed out in September). We'll be telling you more about the Christy Awards next issue, and more about the Carol Awards in the following issue.



Meanwhile, as we reflect on the past six issues of the magazine, please take a moment to tell us how we're doing. What are the things we're doing right? What are the things that still need work?

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Well, editor
FamilyFiction
CWell@salempublishing.com

JULY/AUGUST 2011 ISSUE 6

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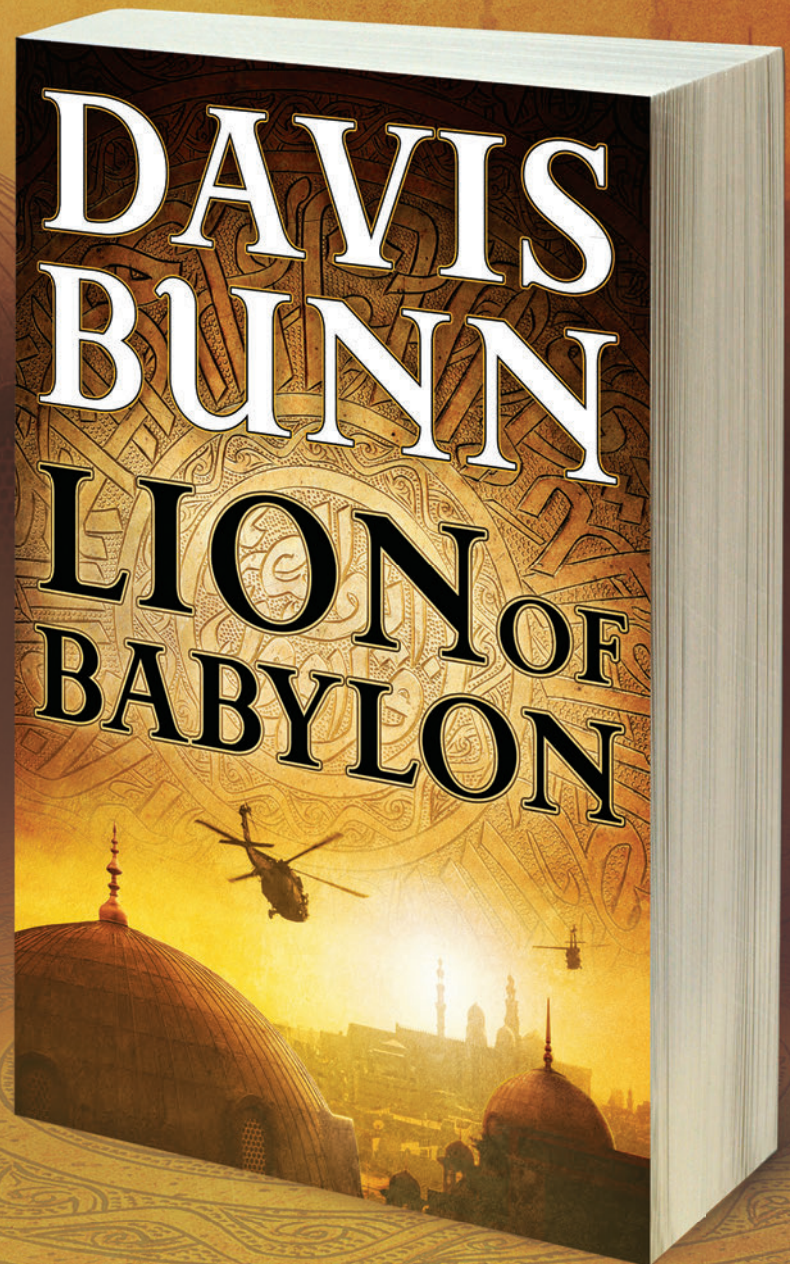
New Blockbuster Thriller from Davis Bunn!

“A phenomenal read—far more than simply a great thriller.”

—KEITH HAZARD,
Deputy Director (ret), CIA

When four people go missing in war-torn Baghdad, former CIA agent Marc Royce is deployed on a dangerous, off-grid mission to find them. As rumors of conspiracy swirl around the inaction of American and local officials, Royce discovers a trail of secret encounters between sworn enemies...and something that could transform the course of the Mideast forever.

Lion of Babylon by Davis Bunn



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Feedback



I am really enjoying the *FamilyFiction Weekly* email newsletter. The *FamilyFiction* digital magazine is also fun to read. Thanks for such a neat, colorful site. It totally meets my needs for Christian fiction. I have enjoyed getting the free books for Kindle for PC. God bless y'all for providing *FamilyFiction* to us who love to read Christian fiction.

Janice Culpepper,
Montezuma, GA

Thank you so much for all the hard work you put into this magazine. I enjoy it from cover to cover!

Hulah Gorby, via
[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

Glad to see that Wanda Brunstetter is Author of the Year. Love her books.

Carolyn M. Smith
Rock Hill, South Carolina

I really wish we had a hold-in-your-hands Christian book review and articles magazine!

I do appreciate this format and thanks for making it!

Lynda Doggett Pala,
Indianapolis, Indiana

Love *FamilyFiction*!

Jan Manville,
Greenwood, Indiana

Both of my boys read—but the problem is that there are not enough Christian fiction books for boys.

Lorna Clemente, via
[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

I'm hearing that bookstores are being hurt by e-books. That is so sad, and yet I do love my Kindle.

Sherry Scrutchin Ledet, via
[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

I really appreciate your website—you have increased my reading list significantly! Thanks so much!

Cheryl Olson,
Edgewood, Washington

CORRECTIONS: MAY/JUNE ISSUE

In the "2011 FamilyFiction Readers Choice Awards" article, we listed Julie Lessman's book *Winds of Change* as published by Bethany House. It was actually published by Revell Books.

In the article "10 New Voices of Biblical Fiction," the correct title of Mesu Andrews' upcoming book is *Love's Sacred Song*.

In the Historical Fiction news, the correct web address for author Jillian Kent is: JillianKent.com.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Has there been a Christian novel that really encouraged you?

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

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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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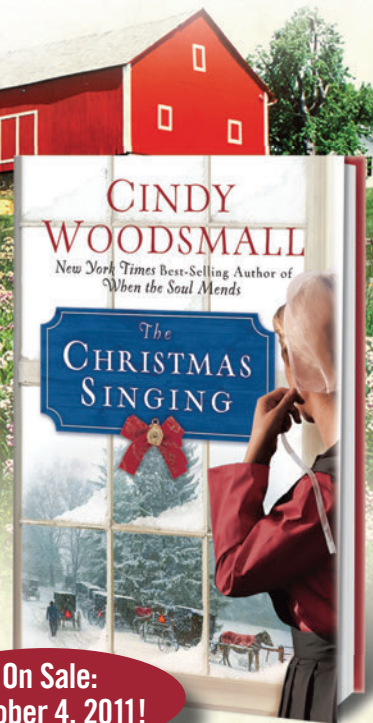
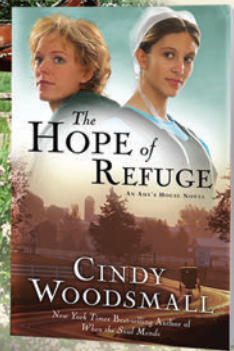
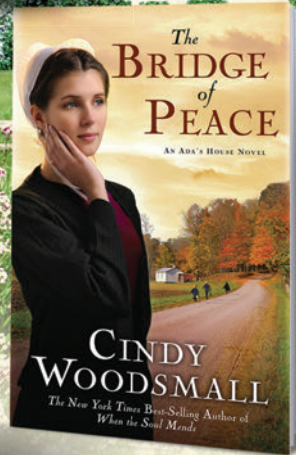
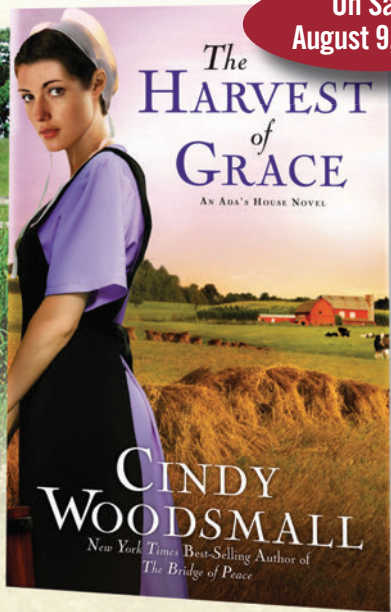
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Spend Your Summer with CINDY WOODSMALL in Amish Country!

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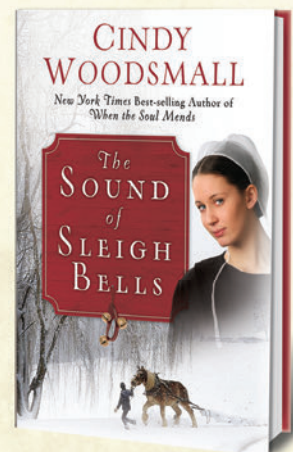
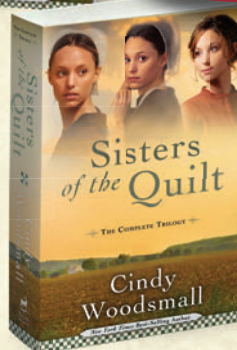
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This heartwarming novella explores a grieving Amish woman's second chance at love with a talented carver.

Dialogue

What are the best Christian novels to share with your non-Christian friends and family?



LAURA DYER HAMBY

If they like something out of the ordinary, especially dark novels, **Ted Dekker** has the dark feel but teaches about Jesus and His love.

MONIKA CHARTERS MACLEAN

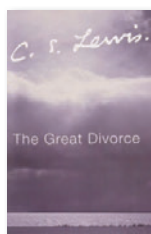
Anything by **Francine Rivers!** Especially her books *Redeeming Love* and *The Scarlet Thread*.

CHRISTINA DUNTON

Ahh, I love **Jannette Oke** books. I loved the movies, too.

SONYA LEE POWELL

Terry Blackstock, **Dee Henderson**, **Francine Rivers**, **Robert Whitlow**, **Stephen James** and **Chris Well!** Can't go wrong with any of these!



WOLFE H. MOFFAT

The Great Divorce by **C.S. Lewis**, most of **Ted Dekker's** work—and **Steven James** is getting even better than Ted!

MARTHA ARTYOMENKO

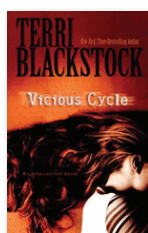
It depends what they are into. I had some of my friends really like **Lynn Austin**. **Tracy Bateman** would be another one; she is good chick lit.

CHRISTINA DUNTON

Redeeming Love is the best ever. *The Shack*, too.

ANGIE CARIGLINO DEMARCO

I am a huge fan of **Karen Kingsbury**, and always talk up her books to people who like to read. I tell them her books suck you in and make you feel you know the characters personally.



BECKY STEIDEL

If you are talking about sharing Jesus with friends, **Terri Blackstock** is great reading but she also has a great testimony. I try to steer clear of loaning books that aren't biblically correct. I don't want to confuse people.

HELEN HEVENER

Any of the Amish books—**Wanda Brunstetter**, **Beth Wiseman**, **Amy Clipston**, **Mary Ellis**, **Beverly Lewis** and **Jerry Eicher!** So many of these I've donated to the library, and they told me the books are constantly being checked out. Everybody loves the Amish fiction books!

SAMANTHA KWASNEY

The Left Behind series! And, of course, **Ted Dekker!**

PAT HINES

I think any book by **Tracie Peterson**, or **Lori Copeland**, and all the Amish fiction would be good for a non-Christian friend to read.

KAREN WELCH

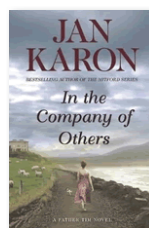
Deadline by **Randy Alcorn**.

LORI O'DELL

I have to say *The Wednesday Letters* by **Jason F. Wright!** That book is great!

SANDY FARRINGTON

The Mark of the Lion series by **Francine Rivers**.



LISA FERRELL

If you are looking for something that won't intimidate them, **Jan Karon's** books are good. They aren't classified as religious, so that may help your friends feel more at ease, yet they still convey the message you want them to hear.

HEIDI LOPEZ

I have a lot of friends who are intrigued by **Frank Peretti's** work.

ELLEN NEWTON

Anything by **Beverly Lewis** and **Wanda Brunstetter**.

VERLENE MILLS JOHNSON

Anything by **Liz Curtis Higgs**.

TERESA FLEMING

Jeanette Oke, Amish fiction, and **Lori Wick's** *Sophia's Heart*.

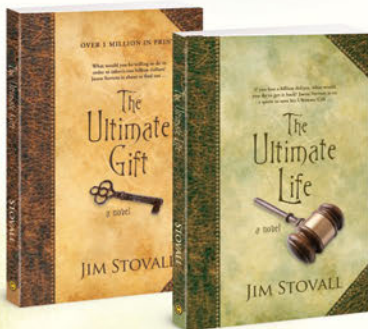
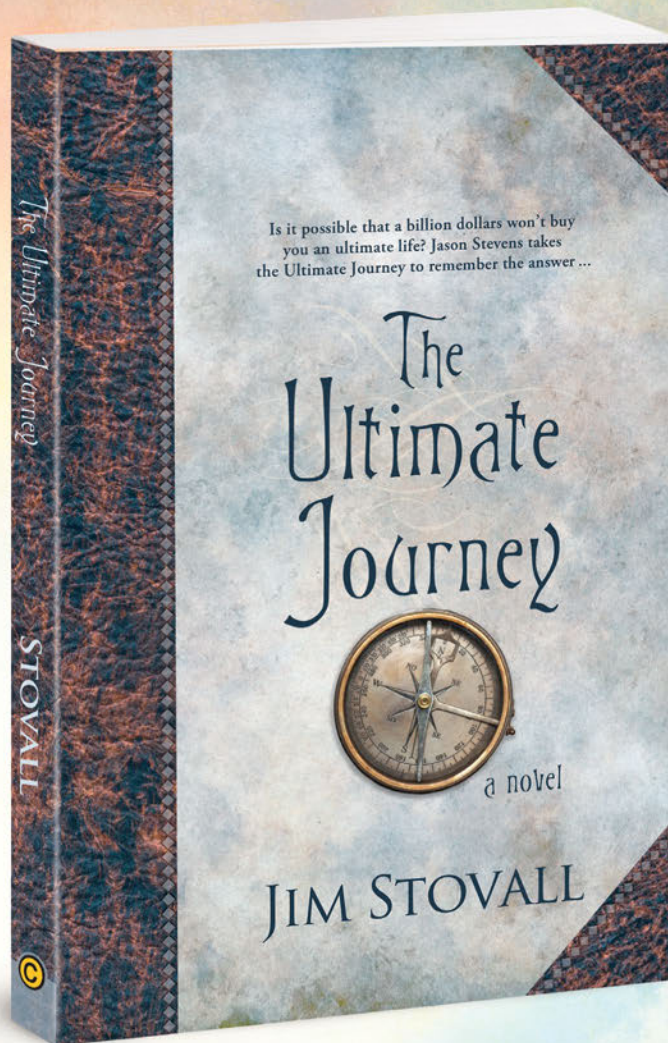
CAROL BLUE-GARCIA

Most of the **Karen Kingsbury** books would be good reading.

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Storytelling That Goes the Distance

CHRISTA A. BANISTER

Eighteen years after the first VeggieTales video released, talking tomatoes and squash are still making audiences smile. Showing no signs of slowing down any time soon, there are plenty of new adventures in store for Bob, Larry, Junior and the rest of the Veggie crew.

In a world where a tweet is practically obsolete after only a few minutes in cyberspace, it's certainly no small miracle when a motley crew of fictional characters not only grab the attention of the fickle masses—but hold it—for nearly two decades.

Even stranger is when those witty protagonists are talking vegetables who deliver laughs and biblical lessons in a fun, non-preachy format.

But that's exactly what VeggieTales has done for audiences of all ages since 1993, something that still surprises co-founder Mike Nawrocki, who

describes the series' longevity as nothing short of humbling.

"Maybe it's because vegetables were never really cool in the first place," Mike says with a laugh. "But you know, we [he and fellow co-founder Phil Vischer] had no idea that it would take off like it did, let alone have a long run."

In fact, Mike still remembers being excited about finishing a single, 30-minute video.

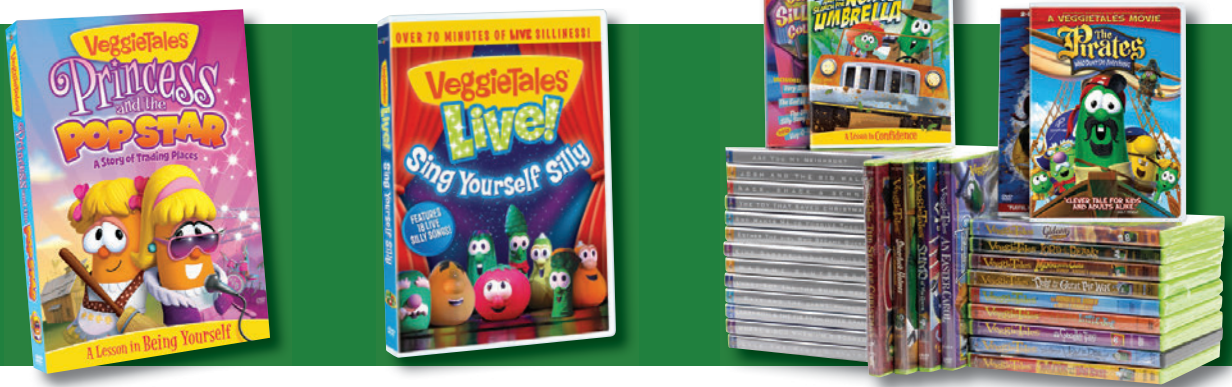
"When the first box art came in, I remember feeling such a sense of accomplishment, even if nothing more happened with it," he shares. "It was such a monumental thing for us at

the time. So when we had an opportunity to do a second show, then a third and just seeing it take off, well, it's been an absolute pleasure to see where God has taken us throughout the years. We've had lots of ups and downs, but it's been such an amazing journey."

THE SECRETS OF SUCCESS

From the very first episode, it's been Mike and Phil's goal to create characters that people care about who star in stories that are really worth telling.

"We wanted there to be a mix of earnestness and silliness while telling a story that parents



really appreciate with biblical values they want to pass on to their kids,” Mike shares. “So from the very beginning, we felt like there was a strong message behind what we wanted to do with our stories. And we felt like there was a real need for stories like that.”

And given how kids tend to

for five to ten minutes is an art that Mike and Phil are still perfecting.

“Most of our effort in making an episode is coming up with that script and incorporating the scenes where we want to teach. Then it’s a matter of working them into the story and making sure that theme

not to clobber viewers over the head with the message.

“I think that’s the challenge in telling a really good story,” Mike shares. “Things can feel preachy when you’re just saying them rather doing them. I think when you’re able to demonstrate what thankfulness is through the life of a character in the

“Things can feel preachy when you’re just saying them rather than doing them. I think when you’re able to demonstrate what thankfulness is through the life of a character in the story, you’re going to feel that, you’re going to understand that, you’re going to get it. And then you don’t really have to keep saying it.”

like to watch a show they love, over and over and over again, Mike says there’s no greater compliment than when they’ve also earned rave reviews from parents.

“We never wanted to make something where parents said ‘Oh, this is a great lesson about thankfulness, but I have to put it on and run out of the room once it starts.” Mike shares. “When parents can sit and laugh right alongside their kids, that’s the best feeling.”

When it comes to storytelling, Mike is the first to admit that it’s not always easy. Distinguishing the really great ideas from the ones that might sound good

is being supported and the viewer is staying interested in the characters along the way,” Mike says. “With Veggie Tales, we’ve often crafted them like mini movies. You see a classical three-act structure where you have the hero in the ordinary world with some sort of problem or dilemma. Eventually, he or she is transported into a different world where he/she comes up against the problem and by the end of the running time, he/she is able to solve it and go back to the regular world.”

In that storytelling process, however, it’s always been important for Mike and Phil

story, you’re going to feel that, you’re going to understand that, you’re going to get it. And then you don’t really have to keep saying it.”

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE VEGGIES

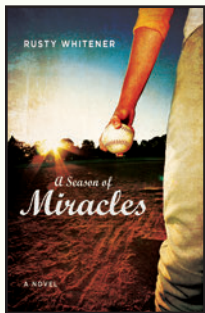
Continuing their prolific streak of offering new Veggie adventures for the masses, there are several new projects in the queue. In the same vein at last year’s *Sweetpea Beauty*, a story targeting girls who love Veggies, the upcoming *The Princess and the Pop Star* is a story of how God made everyone unique—a message that shines particularly bright in a culture

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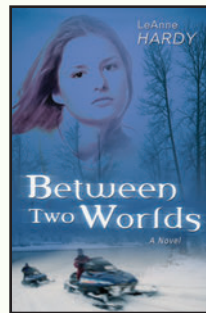
July Featured Selections for Young Adult and Teen Readers:



The 1971 Little League season will be life-changing for Zack Ross and his teammates.



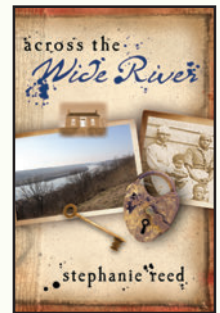
Can a 13-years-old homeless girl really fit in?



In a town where being different can be dangerous, can Cristina survive the attacks of the insiders?



In the fall of 1962, the world went crazy—and took a young girl with it.

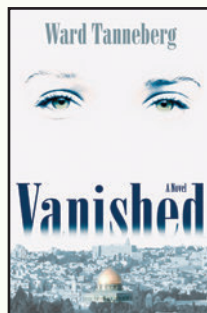


One Christian family risks their lives to help runaway slaves reach freedom.

August Featured Selections for Fans of Suspense:



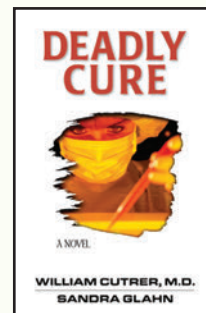
With ancient religious and political hatreds manipulating the world around him, John Cain's world is about to change forever.



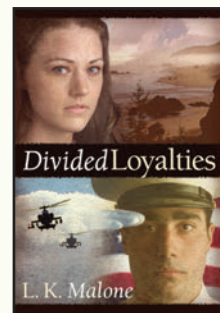
Held hostage in Israel by radical Islamic terrorists, Jessica Cain wonders if her father will find her in time.



Once a prominent doctor's secret genetic research is complete, what will be the lethal harvest?



Infected by a deadly biological agent, Dr. Ben McKay fights for his life. Could high-risk experimental procedures save him?

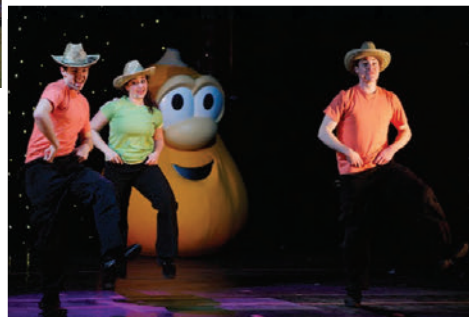
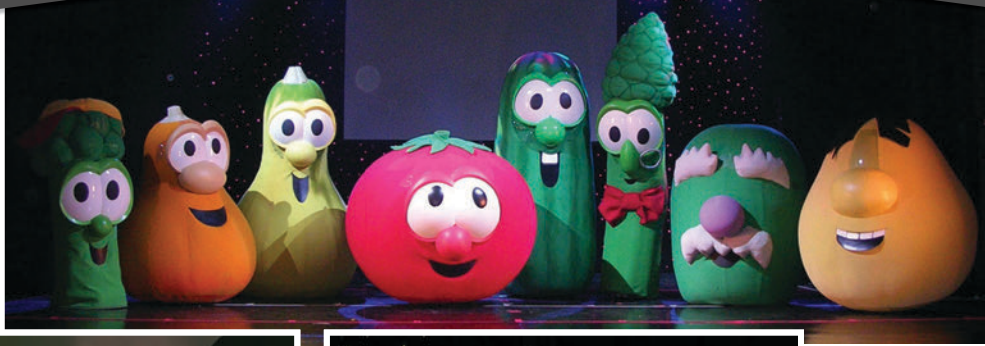


As Admiral Thaddeus Hardy prepares for Middle East peace talks, the terrorists will stop at nothing to halt the meetings.

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that's prone to conformity.

"We've based it very loosely on Mark Twain's *Prince and the Pauper*, so that's where the title comes from," Mike shares. "Sometimes we think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. So our two heroes look very much alike, one is Princess Poppyseed, a girl who lives on a farm, has a very large family and answers to her nickname, Princess. She's a big fan of Hannah Banana, who is a pop star. So we basically follow the very different lives of these two characters."

In addition to *The Princess and the Pop Star*, there's also a new Veggie Christmas project that's in production. A modern take on *The Little Drummer Boy*, Junior Asparagus and Grandpa Grape are the main characters in a story that eventually goes back to the birth of Christ.

"We're pretty faithful to the original story of the little drummer boy. We're using the original song, and we've done a couple of new songs to go along

with it," Mike says. "We're super excited about it. Junior Asparagus plays Aaron, and we've got a sheep and a donkey and a camel just like the original little drummer boy."

If that wasn't already enough to keep the VeggieTales crew up to their ears in deadlines, a new batch of silly songs have recently released with the *VeggieTales Live!: Sing Yourself Silly* video. Plus, the VeggieTales website, VeggieTales.com, has been given a complete makeover.

"Our old website, Bigidea.com was more informational for parents, and then we had Bigideafun.com that had more games," Mike says. "But we really wanted to make a much more child-friendly destination—a place where a child and parent could log on and spend some time having fun. So we've got a lot of games and fun activities and just stuff to really engage and connect with kids."

With all those projects in the works, and many more to come, it's safe to say that Mike is happy

that VeggieTales is continuing to flourish, even if the idea of talking vegetables wouldn't have naturally occurred to just anyone.

"Yeah, that initial pitch was very *Field of Dreams*—if you build it, they will come," Mike says. "But even through all the ups and downs, I'm so glad we did because it's been so much fun and thoroughly rewarding in the process." **FF**

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LOVE AND HONOR DURING WWII

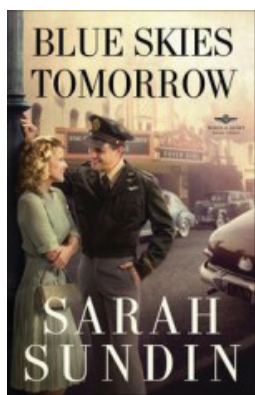
REL MOLLET

The years 1939 to 1945 will be forever marked in history as an era that produced men and women of great courage and patriotism, many of whom paid the supreme sacrifice to uphold freedom for generations to come. The following writers seek to honor their memories with moving and adventurous novels of the Second World War, in Europe and on the home front.



SARAH SUNDIN

Author of *Blue Skies Tomorrow* (Revell), Sarah Sundin says the era is a novelist's dream with so many dramatic stories and settings—the cute clothes and men in uniform are an added bonus! “This was a time when ordinary men had to do



extraordinary things, and when women first explored non-traditional roles—while remaining ladies,” shares Sarah. “As a pharmacy resident at a veterans’ hospital, I had the honor of caring for many of these men. As a rule, they were cheerful, kind, and chivalrous, with the solid strength of someone who has been tested—and passed. What more could you want in a hero?”

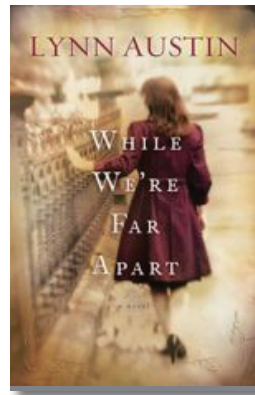
Blue Skies Tomorrow (Revell) is the third novel in the Wings of Glory series, which follows the three Novak brothers—B-17 bomber pilots with the U.S. Eighth Air Force stationed in England during World War II.

Sarah shares, “Lt. Raymond Novak prefers the pulpit to the cockpit, but at least his stateside job training B-17 pilots allows him the luxury of a personal life. As he courts Helen Carlisle, a

young war widow and mother who conceals her pain under a frenzy of volunteer work, the sparks of their romance set a fire that flings them both into peril.”

Sarah’s research on the home front was personally challenging. “In *Blue Skies Tomorrow*, the heroine experiences the Port Chicago Explosion, where 320 black sailors were killed in the largest U.S. home front disaster in the war. I thought I understood the explosion and the mutiny trial that followed, but my research changed my mind. I knew there was a great deal of racism and discrimination at the time, but the details of this disaster really brought it home to me.”

SarahSundin.com



LYNN AUSTIN

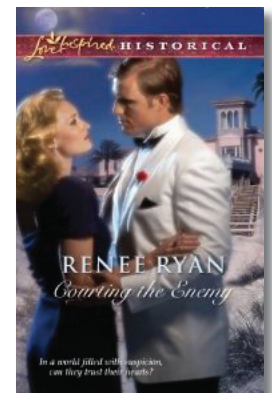
Prolific author Lynn Austin loves telling the stories of the ordinary heroes and heroines of the second World War, as depicted in her novels *A Woman’s Place* and *While We’re Far Apart* (Bethany). “World War II was truly a battle against evil,” she declares. “And the only way for that evil to be defeated was for ordinary men and women to stand up and fight against it. Everyone sacrificed for the same cause.

“Families said goodbye to their loved ones—fathers, husbands, brothers, sons—wondering if they would ever see them again. These courageous soldiers, many of whom had never traveled far from home before, fought in every corner of the globe at great risk to their lives. Meanwhile, people on the home front sacrificed in countless ways, working in the armament factories, growing victory gardens, gathering scrap metal, rationing food. In an amazing spirit

of togetherness, everyone played a part, big or small.”

While We’re Far Apart is the story of three people who live in the same apartment building in Brooklyn during World War II. Twelve-year-old Esther, whose father has enlisted; Penny Goodrich, who moves in to take care of Esther and her younger brother, and is in love with their widower father; and Jacob Mendel, their Jewish landlord. Drawn together through difficult circumstances, Esther, Penny, and Mr. Mendel help each other learn how to trust God, even when He is silent.

LynnAustin.org

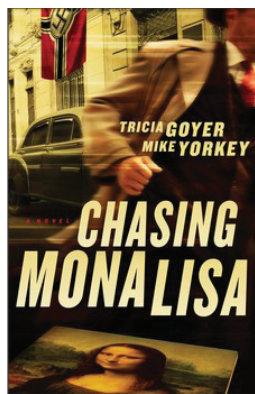


RENEE RYAN

Setting her story during World War II is very personal for *Love Inspired* author Renee Ryan, whose father is a WWII veteran. “I want to honor him,” she shares. “I so loved exploring this time period when patriotism was at its zenith in this country. Heroism was displayed daily, often in the most unexpected places and situations.”

Courting the Enemy (SteepleHill) is Renee’s second WWII novel. In 1943 on the northern coast of Florida, an American woman finds her loyalties divided when a Nazi war plot to sabotage U.S. shipyards pits the man she calls father against the man she loves. “I really wanted to explore what it takes to love flawed people, and maybe find out how far a person is willing to go when her loyalties are put to the test,” says Renee. “In times of war every decision matters on a grander scale, hence one of the reasons I decided to set this book in WWII.”

ReneeRyan.com



thrilling twists and turns, and to focus on the suspense and action.

His WW2 thriller *Chasing Mona Lisa* (Revell Books), co-written with Tricia Goyer, hits stores January 2012. Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring is looking for a way to escape, realizing Paris will soon be liberated. He believes possessing the famous portrait of Mona Lisa may be the only way to facilitate his escape to South America. “Gabi Mueller and Eric Hofstadler, a Swiss pair, are informed of this plot while on a secret mission to Paris just before the city’s liberation in August 1944,” explains Mike. “In their service to the American intelligence organization in Switzerland—the Office of Strategic Services, or OSS (and forerunner to the CIA)—they must rescue the Mona Lisa before it falls into German hands.”

MikeYorkey.com

MIKE YORKEY

From the home front to the streets of Paris, author Mike Yorkey is fascinated by the era. “Most people ‘get it’ when it comes to World War II,” he says, “who the bad guys were; what the stakes were; the sad, sad story of Jewish persecution and killings; and how the good guys eventually won.” This enables Mike to construct

WHAT DO YOU HOPE READERS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR STORY?

SARAH SUNDIN— “Fear can cripple you and keep you from the life God intends for you. I hope readers will see how they can find courage in the Lord and the strength to face whatever life throws at them.”

LYNN AUSTIN— “I hope this story will help readers know that we can trust God, even when He is silent, even when we can’t see Him working.”

RENEE RYAN— “I hope readers assess what they believe about heroism and loyalty after diving into these subjects with my characters. I hope they really consider the lessons we’ve learned in the past.”

MIKE YORKEY— “Sheer enjoyment. Everyone has heard of the Mona Lisa, knows what she looks like. We really did almost lose her a second time in World War II, as *Chasing Mona Lisa* describes.”

SUSAN MAY WARREN— “I wanted readers to hear the truth—that if they had made a mistake, they shouldn’t let it mold their lives. Let God set them free with His grace, His forgiveness and discover who they are when they let God take over.”



SUSAN MAY WARREN

Susan May Warren, author of *Nightingale* (Summerside Press) is immensely grateful to the men and women who lived and died during WWII. “That generation knew what it felt like to sacrifice, pull together and cheer for each other. I love the heroism of both men and women fighting in their own way – from victory gardens, to the WACS, to women serving in the Red Cross, to the men dropping their careers or education to enlist. I love the music, the fashion, the dancing—of course!—the great shoes, the hairstyles, the values and the season of courage.”

Nightingale tells the story of a young nurse, bound to marry a soldier following a regretful decision, when she receives a letter from another soldier enclosing her fiancé’s “last letter home.” Esther continues to correspond with this soldier named Peter, believing him to be a medic posted at a nearby base, unaware he is actually a German POW imprisoned in Wisconsin. “Peter’s story is a Daniel story of sorts, a prisoner sent into a foreign land to do good and hold onto faith,” shares Susan. “Esther’s story is that of the woman caught in sin...and set free to sin no more. Both of them have to surrender themselves into God’s hands, to let Him set them free and mold them into who He wants them to be.”

SusanMayWarren.com

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LEE STROBEL

TRUTH IN FICTION

C.J. DARLINGTON



Many know best-selling author Lee Strobel for his apologetic “The Case For” series. Now, the author has combined his experiences as an investigative reporter and pastor to create his debut novel.

“I’ve always been intrigued by fiction,” says Lee Strobel, veteran journalist and best-selling nonfiction author of books like *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for Faith*. So when his publisher and his daughter Alison, a novelist, encouraged him to give novel writing a try, Strobel saw it as a way to communicate truth to an audience who might not pick up his blatantly Christian

nonfiction titles. The result is his debut novel, the legal thriller *The Ambition* (Zondervan).

Of course, Strobel didn’t start out writing *New York Times* best-sellers. In kindergarten, he and a friend wrote and illustrated little books they peddled around for ten cents. Later, when he was a teen, Strobel started a neighborhood newspaper. “I printed two hundred copies in my basement on a mimeograph

machine,” he says. “At that time a guy who was the production manager of the *Chicago Tribune* heard about it. He came out to see my operation. Well, years later he became the publisher of the paper. I didn’t know this, but he had put a mention in his notebook that said: *In the year 1974, Lee Strobel, this kid who owns the neighborhood newspaper, is going to be graduating from college.*



“ My books really have a purpose behind them which I think comes from a strong faith in God and a sense that I’m fulfilling what He wants me to do. ”

Check up on him. So I’m at the University of Missouri and my journalism professor comes up and says, ‘I just got a call from the *Chicago Tribune*, and they want to talk to you!’ That’s how I landed my job at the *Tribune*, first as an intern and then as a reporter.”

Lee’s journalism background, in fact, informs his new novel. “There’s a corrupt judge, for instance,” he says, “who’s representative of some of the corrupt judges I knew, several of whom ended up in prison because of their corruption. There’s a cynical journalist, who’s not too dissimilar from myself when I was a reporter. He’s a spiritual skeptic and feels motivated to expose a megachurch because his girlfriend became a Christian through it and he wants to kind of get back at them. It all goes back to my work as a journalist covering the criminal and federal courts system, seeing what goes on in the shadowy

corridors of the courthouse.”

Of course, even though much of the novel is based on real life, Strobel’s imagination fueled the story, too. “It’s so liberating to be able to make stuff up!” he says with a hearty laugh. “Here I am, almost sixty years old, and I’ve spent my entire life as a journalist. I’ve tried my hardest to be as accurate and meticulously careful as I could be. To make up a story and have the freedom to create characters who take on a life, who have a will and decide things you don’t even anticipate is exhilarating. I really enjoyed it! More than I thought I would.”

With publishers constantly vying to be on the cutting edge of technology and the e-book revolution, Zondervan and Strobel give us a special treat with *The Ambition*. The e-book edition features QR codes (specialized bar codes) throughout the book that lead readers to video clips of Strobel expounding on many of the real

life stories he refers to through the novel, including a hair-raising account of how he was once threatened by notorious Chicago mob hit man, Harry Aleman.

The Ambition may be Lee Strobel’s first novel, but thankfully it won’t be his last. He’s recently signed on to write the sequel, which will be based on more real life cases, though it will also take what Strobel calls “flights of fantasy” into areas he’ll be researching. He can’t wait to hang out with his fictional creations again. “There’s a relationship an author has with his characters that is fun and nurturing and exciting,” he says. “I’m looking forward to picking up where I left off with them.” **FF**

FIND LEE STROBEL ONLINE

LeeStrobel.com

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Q&A: Denise Hildreth Jones

The inspirational fiction of Denise Hildreth Jones has been hailed as “smart and witty.” Her ability to express the heart of the Southern voice has led to her being featured twice in *Southern Living*, and receiving the accolades of readers and reviewers alike—but it is the simple joy of writing stories that keeps them coming back. Her previous books include the Savannah series and *Hurricanes in Paradise*. Her latest novel is *The First Gardener*.

Q: What would you like to tell us about *The First Gardener*?

The First Gardener is at times a heartwarming and heartbreaking story. The story takes place at the Governor’s mansion, where the Governor Gray London and his wife Mackenzie are in the middle of his first term. They have a beautiful daughter, Maddie, who is starting kindergarten, and they are in the midst of fertility treatments to try to have another child. In the middle of this term they suffer a heartbreaking loss.

Jeremiah Williams has been the gardener at the mansion for twenty-five years. He knows his own share of losses. And in his beautiful and gentle way, he helps them till the soil of their hearts back to life.

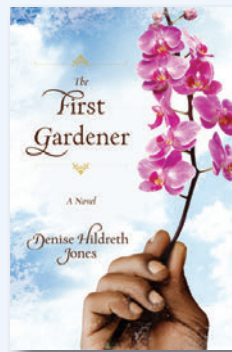
This might actually be the hardest story I’ve ever written. And it was actually a story that just came to me from out of the blue. There was no catalyst for it. No experience that launched it like my last three books. It was very much like my Savannah series in that it was just a story

that kind of settled in my soul.

To me, it is a story about so much, but it is mostly a story about deep relationships, how far they will travel, what they can handle, and how people who love you—truly love you simply won’t let you go.

It is a story about our doubts, our questions and our beliefs about God and how He should work in our lives. It is about surrender, and trusting when we can’t see. And realizing that in this life we are entitled to nothing. That we have anything good at all is simply because God is so inconceivably kind. So it really does dig down into some of the most challenging questions that we may have in this life.

Q: *The First Gardener* is described as a “Southern tale”—how much of that is a matter of the story’s location versus a particular tone or



state of mind?

I honestly think it’s both. There are aspects of setting, and nuance of voice or thought that seem to be uniquely Southern. As a Southerner when I travel to different places, West Coast, up North, I’m struck by some of my thought processes, or the foods I eat, or the things that I say that people look at me as if to say, “Child, what in the world?”

This is my first novel set in Tennessee, so there are things that are uniquely Southern in that way: crepe myrtles, azaleas, country music. There are pimento cheese sandwiches and sweet tea. All of these things are unique to the South. But there is also a pace about the South. A way of life. You can pat people you don’t know. You can call the waitress “baby” or “sugar” and she doesn’t think a thing about it. So I think it is both.

Q: You’ve written several novels at this point—how has your journey as an author changed your fiction over time?

I think my stories have changed

as the story of my own life has changed. And I think each one in some way has been something God was desiring to say to me about my own personal story.

My first three books were these lighthearted, southern tales about this abandoned heart wrapped up in a young woman named Savannah Phillips. Those books were such a gift to me, but I see them now as a tool of God's wooing. I believe He gave me those books to try to woo my childlike heart back to life.

Flies on the Butter was my next book and it really was the same way. Most of the scenes that were about Rose's, the main character's, childhood, were my childhood memories. Once again, I think God was trying to woo my shut-down heart back to this alive, childlike place.

Then things shifted. *The Will of Wisteria* was about a battle for your birthright. A fight for your heart. Which I was in a battle for and didn't even realize it.

And then *Hurricanes in Paradise* was such a healing book for me after the heartbreaking loss of my thirteen-year marriage.

And in my new book, *The First Gardener*, I think I was processing some of my personal

beliefs about my Heavenly Father and how He should do things as well as some of my pain from years of not having children of my own. So, it seems that my stories move as my heart moves. As God reveals things, changes things, uproots things, heals things, all of that becomes reflective in my writing.

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

Honestly, neither. My first goal is to write the story that I can't get away from. Because in that I feel like I am writing the story God has called me to write for that season. And then I trust that they will be both ministered to and entertained.

I will say that in *The First Gardener* I didn't originally have Eugenia, the mother-in-law of the Governor, as a main voice in the book. But as the book began to come out, it felt so heavy that I knew we needed something to lighten it up, so I gave Eugenia and her four crazy cohorts a voice. And for me that took the story to another level.

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

I always hope that my stories cause people to look into their own hearts. My hope is that through the stories of the



DENISE HILDRETH JONES

characters they might see an area of their own heart that needs to change, needs to heal, needs to surrender. If a reader can write me that something in my story has touched them in the deepest place of their soul, then I know I have written the story God has given me to write.

Q: What is the best thing anyone said about your books?

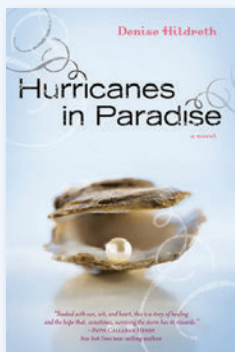
It has to be "Once I started reading this I couldn't put it down until I finished it." I tell people all the time that when they have picked up an author's book they have given them two of their most precious commodities—their time and their money. People don't offer either one of those things lightly. If I have been privileged enough to write a story someone can't put down then I know it has touched them on multiple levels.

DENISE HILDRETH JONES ONLINE:

DeniseHildrethJones.com

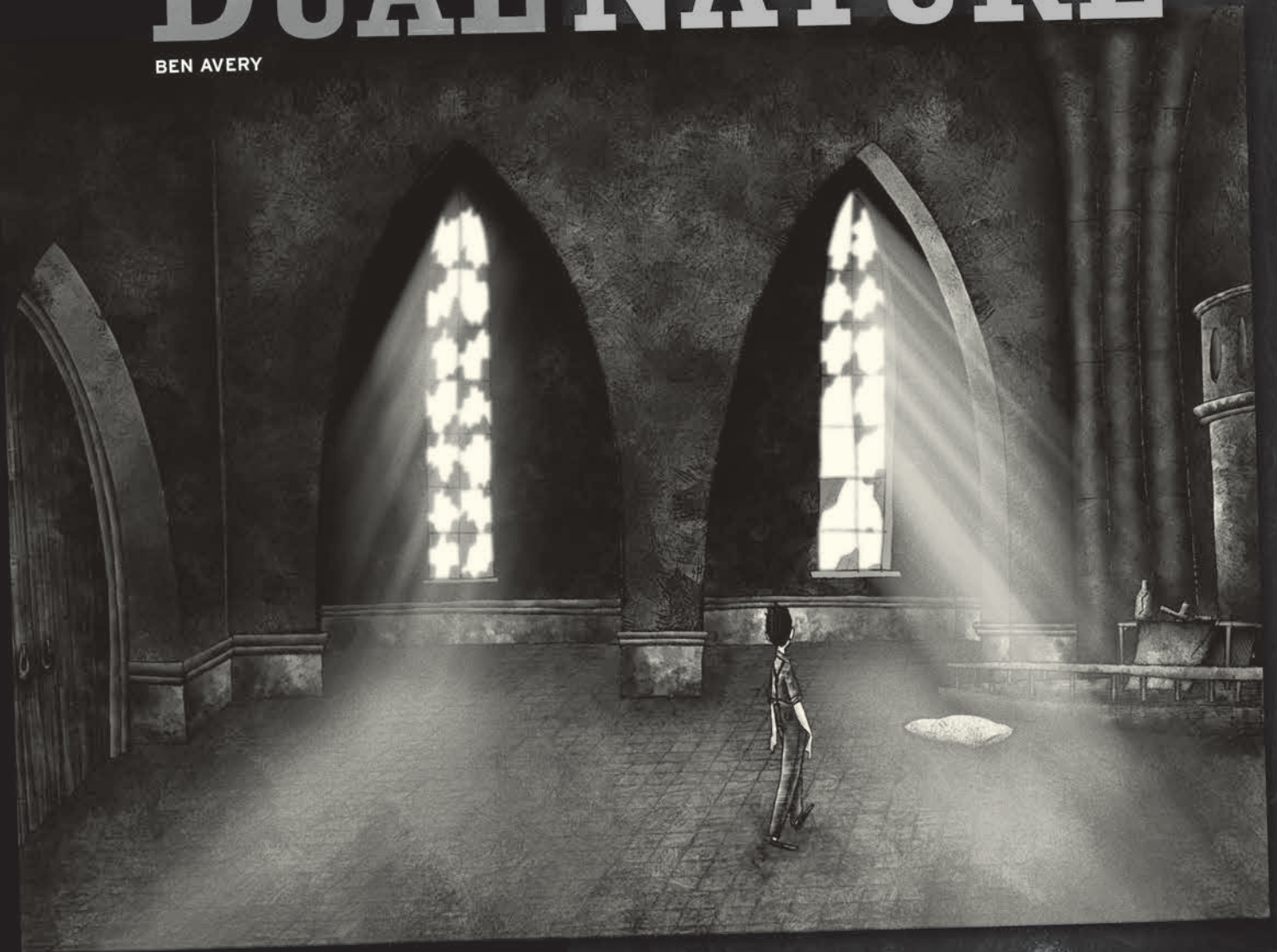
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DUAL NATURE

BEN AVERY





A motorcyclist and former rock band roadie turned Anglican minister, G. P. Taylor has been hailed as “hotter than Potter” and “the new C. S. Lewis” in the United Kingdom. Now the best-selling fantasy author continues to break new ground with his visually inventive *Dopple Ganger Chronicles*—an effort which required a whole team to bring it to life.

With a series title like *The Dopple Ganger Chronicles*, one would expect a twisting, turning plot and characters with dual natures—and the three books in the series deliver. The latest volume to hit shelves is *The Great Mogul Diamond* (SaltRiver).

The story centers around Sadie and Saskia Dopple (a pair of twins, identical except one has a purple right eye and one has a purple left eye) and Erik Ganger, a former thief who is now their friend. All three are orphans, but now they have a new life solving mysteries and righting wrongs.

But the plot and characters are

not the only things with multiple qualities. The very format of the books themselves mixes different mediums. Author and creator G.P. Taylor came up with the format after his many visits to schools teaching creative writing. “I was talking to kids in the school and they said they didn’t like reading. I asked them why and they said ‘There’s too many words.’ I said, ‘What do you want?’ and they said ‘We want books with pictures.’”

Taylor looked at countries like Japan, which has a very high reading age. “The children and young people continue to read a lot longer there, and

more children read.” He found those children started reading Manga—Japanese comics—and continued reading later on.

So he came up with the idea of the “illustro-novel.” He wanted it to be something different. “It wasn’t just an illustrated story. There’s more to it. It had to have not just text, it had to have graphics. And not just [comics]—it had to have more than that.”

Joseph Sapulich, the artist of the first *Dopple Ganger* book, *The First Escape*, loved that added element. “I was excited to work on this project when I realized that the format, simply

“I was talking to kids in the school and they said they didn’t like reading. I asked them why and they said ‘There’s too many words.’ I said, ‘What do you want?’ and they said ‘We want books with pictures.’”

put, combines a novel with an illustrated graphic novel.”

This fusion of comic books and chapter books required a complicated creative procedure. Erik Peterson came to the series at the beginning of book three, joining fellow Tyndale staff member Stephen Vosloo. Peterson was taking over Vosloo’s position of “designer” (Vosloo was the designer for book one and book two, *The Secret of Indigo Moon*, and had now stepped into the position of art director) and he found an intricate, although streamlined, process.

For the first step, Peterson and Vosloo storyboarded Taylor’s manuscript as if it was a movie. “The manuscript had normal storytelling narrative and sequential [comic book style] text written in a screenplay style,” Peterson explains. “We came up with the visuals and sketched ideas.”

The storyboards were then turned over to an illustrator and an “adaptor.” The illustrator worked on the single black-and-white illustrations, while the adaptor, an artist more familiar with comic book styled storytelling, drew

the full-color sequential pages. Then Peterson stepped in and worked on the design with the illustrations and text.

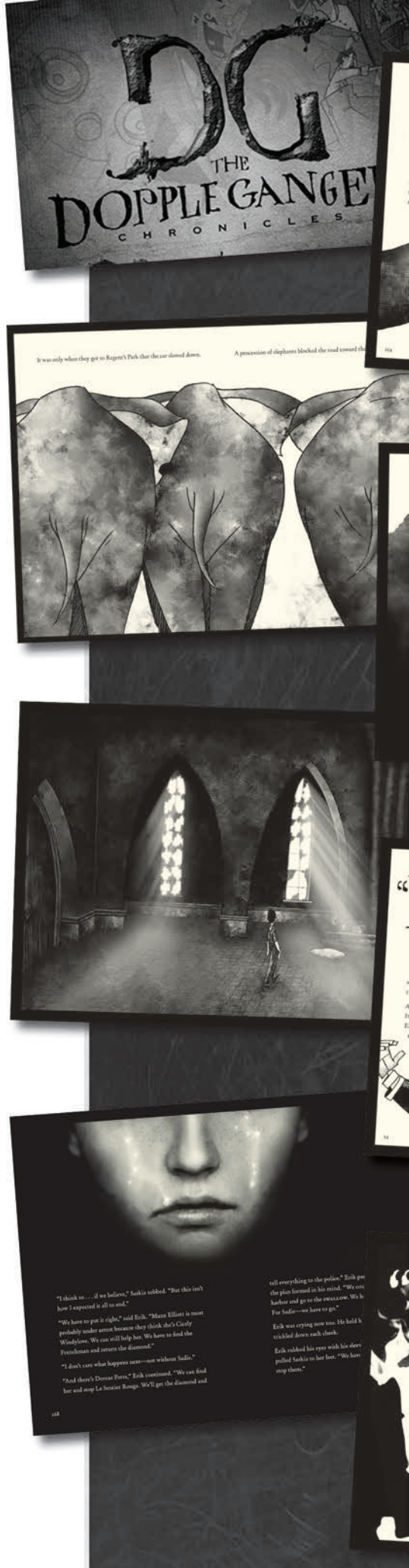
The end result is a book that alternates between pages of full text, pages that look like a comic book, pages that use photographs altered to look like an illustration, and pages that may even have a single word -- all used to tell the story and create a certain mood. “We were excited,” Vosloo says, “because it was so different. The typography itself, we wanted to be used as an art itself.”

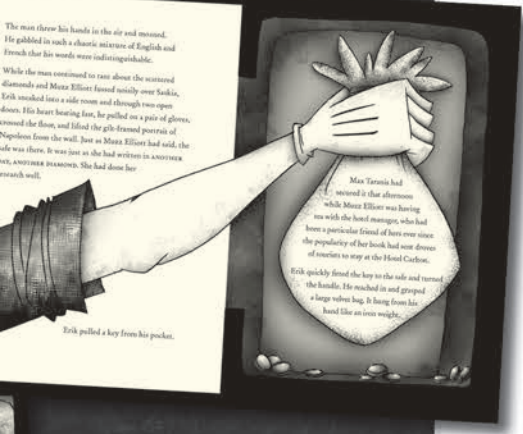
During the artistic process, Taylor was mostly absent. “I come up with storyline, I come up with plots, and I come up with characters,” Taylor says. “I provide them with a script from which they do their job. You know, they’re professionals and I would never tell them how to do their job. You spoil the recipe if you do that.”

As a result, Taylor says the final product has “always been a joyful surprise. When I opened the first page of book one it was just brilliant. And I’ve been surprised ever since. And the proof is that I get so many letters from schools where it has actually gotten children who have been reluctant readers back into books.”

He received many of these letters from teachers, parents and children. “Minds aren’t conditioned to think in words. Pictures are very important as far as learning.”

Growing up, he came from a working class background. “There were no chapter books in my house,” Taylor says. “Comic books were something I





just had. My favorite comic was called Sparky. I had a big pile of these Sparky comics by my bed, and I would read them, and they were very important to me as a young child."

Both Vosloo and Peterson shared similar experiences. As a kid, Vosloo was a very reluctant reader—but did read the French comics series *Asterix*.

Peterson didn't read comics, but enjoyed children's picture books. "One book in particular, *The Eleventh Hour* by Graeme Base, was just filled with elaborate images. That made an impression on me."

Peterson hopes the Dopple Ganger Chronicles will have the same effect on young readers today. "I like the idea of having a child discover things in an illustration," he says. "And I hope there's something about the story and art that lingers. I want the reader to have some sort of visceral reaction to the story and visuals."

Sapulich also hopes the format will help reluctant readers fall in love with reading. "But more importantly," he adds, "having Christian content within the story is what thrills me most."

Vosloo agrees. "I love seeing the faith journey of the characters and I love seeing them wrestle with what they're seeing and who they're hearing. We want to draw

the reader into the text and pull the reader in with an emotional response. We just constantly want to reinforce the text with that emotional experience."

Which is another dual nature of the series: In addition to the literacy aspect of the series, there is also a spiritual component as well. With each book, Peterson explains, there is a progression of the character's faith journey. "And as the faith element grows more prominent and as they meet the Christ figure..."

At this, Vosloo interrupts: "And we spent a lot of time developing the Man of Good-Bye Friday, which is ironic because he only appears once. So we spent an abnormal amount of time because we wanted him to be cool but not your traditional [metaphorical Christ-figure]."

"I don't seek to proselytize," Taylor says. "But the books do have spiritual value to them. I think in this day and age when faith is so low on the agenda of so many young people, I actually just want to put it back on the agenda and just get them to try and think about some of the bigger questions of life."

FF

FIND G.P. TAYLOR ONLINE
gptaylor.info
DoppleGangerChronicles.com
FamilyFiction.com/authors/g-p-taylor



ANGELA HUNT
SISTER ACT

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



With her latest novel, *The Fine Art of Insincerity*, author Angela Hunt unpacks plenty of family baggage when three sisters reunite at their deceased grandmother's beach house on St. Simon's Island.

It's often been said that authors should "write what they know," and Angela Hunt has definitely lived by this adage with her latest novel, *The Fine Art of Insincerity* (Howard).

Inspired by her own grandmother's life and having sisters herself, Hunt says the story isn't autobiographical by any means. But understanding

the family dynamics certainly helped the story come to life all the same.

"The three sisters are a lot like me and my sisters, but I have to say *clearly* that we are not Ginger, Penny and Rose," Angela shares. "But we all share some similar characteristics, and if you were to magnify those a hundred times, we might turn

into those fictional characters. Because I'm a firstborn, I do tend to be a bit bossy like Ginger . . . but let's hope the similarity ends there."

Interestingly enough, it's not just the people who make for interesting characters in *The Fine Art of Insincerity*. Even the grandmother's beach home that's full of cobwebs before Ginger,



Penny and Rose intervene is a bit of a protagonist in its own right. In fact, before Angela put pen to paper, she made her way to St. Simon's Island in Georgia's coastal region with her family for research and plenty of reconnection.

"My mother is one of four sisters, and they have remained the best of friends throughout the years—and I think that's a rare thing these days. In any case, they love to vacation on St. Simons Island. They talk so much about the place that I thought it'd be a great setting for this sister story," Angela says.

"So I rented a beach cottage for a week and invited the

family. The only people able to accept were my mom, my cousin and one of my aunts, but we went for about a week and had a great time trippin' around the island and just sitting on the couch and talking," she continues. "I learned a lot from hearing their stories—it's amazing how you can know people well and not really know them until you spend prolonged time with them. I loved learning more about their lives, and I learned that my cousin and I are extremely alike. We never knew that until that trip."

For anyone who hasn't checked out one of Angela's novels before, one of the things she strives for is giving readers an "unexpected experience," something she hopes will also ring true with *The Fine Art of Insincerity*.

"All of my books are different

from each other, and many of them are unlike anything else on the shelf, which is exactly how I like it," Angela says. "Another unique characteristic, perhaps, is that I love to do research—so while my primary intent is never to teach, readers usually end up learning something new anyway."

For more information on Angela, catch up with her online at AngelaHuntBooks.com. She says she "can't guarantee profundity every day, but can usually promise something interesting." **FF**

FIND ANGELA HUNT ONLINE

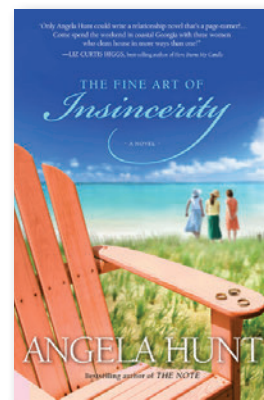
AngelaHuntBooks.com

[Facebook.com/pages/Angela-Hunt-Novelist/150579214980025](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Angela-Hunt-Novelist/150579214980025)

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

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Angela-Hunt

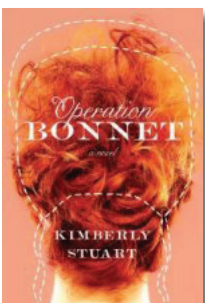
“While my primary intent is never to teach, readers usually end up learning something new anyway.”



10 ESSENTIAL VOICES IN ROMANTIC COMEDY

REL MOLLET

Love and laughter have always been good medicine, but finding writers who provide the perfect dose of humor, romance and faith can be difficult. Try one of the following authors but be warned, symptoms after reading may include bellyaches, sore facial muscles and a silly grin!



KIMBERLY STUART

According to Kimberly, if a good Christian girl can't craft, knit, or scrapbook then writing a book is her only option! It has worked out well for Kimberly as this year saw the release of her fifth book, *Operation Bonnet*

(David C Cook).

KimberlyStuart.com



LORNA SEILSTAD

Lorna Seilstad made a splash with her novel, *Making Waves* (Revell), combining history, romance and humor. The second book in her Lake Mawana series, *A Great Catch* (Revell) continues Lorna's love affair with the lake, her father's childhood home.

LornaSeilstad.com

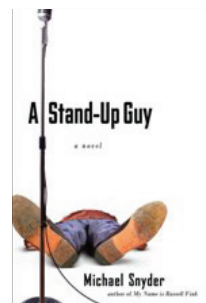


JENNY B JONES

Carol Award winner Jenny B Jones describes her writing this way, "I write Christian fiction with a few giggles, quite a bit of sass, and lots of crazy." Jenny releases two novels in 2011, *Save the Date* (Thomas Nelson)

and her standalone YA novel, *There You'll Find Me* (Thomas Nelson).

JennyBJones.com

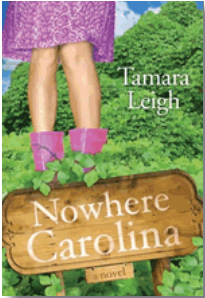


MICHAEL SNYDER

Michael Snyder's writing has been described as inventive, fun, clever and unpredictable. Look for Michael's character-driven novels, *My Name is Russell Fink*, *Return Policy* and his new release, *A Stand-Up Guy*

(Zondervan), about an aspiring comedian who injects a little too much truth into his comedy act.

MichaelSnyderWrites.com



TAMARA LEIGH

Tamara Leigh infuses humor and spiritual truth in her contemporary romance novels. Her novels include *Stealing Adda* (NavPress), *Splitting Harriet* (Multnomah) and, more recently, her Southern Discomfort series

(Multnomah).

TamaraLeigh.com



SANDRA D. BRICKER

Former publicist to daytime TV's hottest stars, Sandra D. Bricker now spends her time writing laugh-out-loud love stories. Readers can look forward to the sequel to *Always the Baker, Never the Bride* with the release of *Always the Wedding Planner, Never the Bride* (Abingdon Press), this October.

SandraDBricker.blogspot.com



KAREN WITEMEYER

A deacon's wife with a master's degree in psychology, Karen Witemeyer enjoys creating quirky characters. Her historical novels are filled with romance and wit in equal measure. Her latest release is *To Win Her Heart* (Bethany).

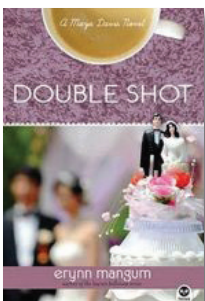
KarenWitemeyer.com



RAY BLACKSTON

Ray Blackston turned life into art when he sent his characters in *Lost in Rooville* (Revell) to the places he visited during his own trip to Australia. *Flabbergasted* (Revell), *Par for the Course* and *Last Mango in Texas* (Faith Words) all provide laughter and love to the final page.

RayBlackston.com

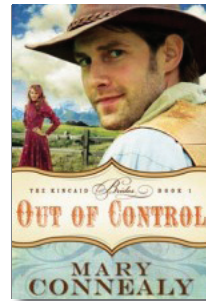


ERYNN MANGUM

Lauren Holbrook and Maya Davis are beloved characters from the pen of twenty-something author Erynn Mangum. As they look for love, hilarity ensues. Maya headlines *Cool Beans*, *Latte Daze* and *Double Shot* (NavPress).

August sees the release of Erynn's YA novel, *Sketchy Behavior* (Zondervan).

ErynnMangum.com



MARY CONNEALY

Mixing comedy with cowboys, Mary Connealy is well-known for her *Lassoed in Texas*, *Montana Marriages* and *Sophie's Daughters* series (Barbour). Look for her latest romantic comedy this August, *Out of Control* (Bethany).

MaryConnealy.com

FIND MORE ROMANCE AUTHORS ONLINE

FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/romance

FALL IN LOVE THE MENNONITE WAY

In her Plain City Bridesmaid series...

romance ripples through the tight-knit community of this small Ohio town...

and when the plain people and romance collide, beauty is never superficial.



LOVE IS RARELY PLAIN AND SIMPLE

Katy Yoder lives a simple, sheltered lifestyle ensconced in the traditions of the Conservative Mennonite church and holds a naive black-and-white world view. With her parents' approval, she moves in with a childhood friend. But after taking a temporary nanny position, gray begins to cloud her world and forces her to bend the rules.

On top of that, her friends clutter her mind with their progressive ideas—like ditching the prayer cap—forcing Kathy to delve into these issues herself. She emerges even more obstinate about her cherished traditions. And she turns judgmental toward those who believe differently...

...including former flame, Jake Byler, who has returned from sowing his wild oats to win back her heart. Certain he's not the man for her, Katy's not prepared when Jake's patience begins to wear a hole in the wall she's built around it. But this time, can bending keep her heart from breaking?

“...I fell in love with the characters of *Something Old*! Dianne Christner gives her readers a fascinating look at the Mennonite community and traditions clashing with modern life in this captivating story of friendship, forgiveness, and self-discovery.”

— Carol Cox, award winning author of 25 fiction titles

D I A N N E C H R I S T N E R

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY AT AMAZON.COM

SUMMER READING & ENTERTAINMENT 2011



Well, it's that time... the dog days of summer are here. Temperatures and humidity are unbearable more often than not. Mosquitoes have staked out your yard as their own private all-you-can-eat-buffet. And when do the kids go back to school??

But don't throw in the beach towel too quickly—there is still plenty of fun to be had in these waning summer days. On the following pages, we've compiled plenty of great books to keep you entertained until the leaves start changing colors and beyond!

So whether you're looking for a great book to take to the pool, the beach or to read in the cool indoors while your kids play in the sprinkler outside, keep this list handy. You might even find some titles that would make good Christmas gifts—it will be here before you know it! By the way, there are also some great books for kids and teens in case they get tired of that sprinkler!



Crazy Love: Enhanced eBook Edition

by Francis Chan

In this interactive edition, you are able to view embedded video and audio specific to each chapter

in the eBook. The ability to see and hear Francis present additional information related to the text gives you the feeling he is right there with you. Experience it today.

<http://www.novoink.com/crazylove>

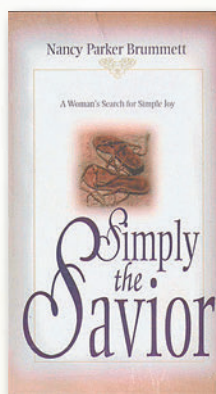


Somewhere Fast

by Bob Beltz

When all that's left of your life fits into the saddlebags of your Harley, maybe it's time to look for a new life. John Calvin had it all—the career, the wife, family and friends—and threw it all away for what exactly? Find out in *Somewhere Fast*.

<http://www.novoink.com/bobbeltz>



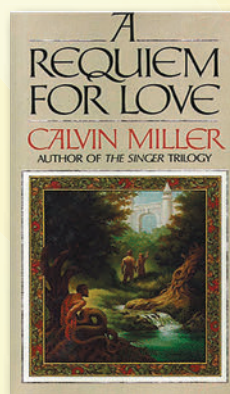
Simply the Savior

by Nancy Parker Brummett

How can you move from a fast-paced, hectic life to one filled with simple joy? The answer is simply the Savior. Jesus will help you choose priorities with eternal

significance and will keep you from yearning for more than you have. Get started today.

<http://www.novoink.com/nancyparkerbrummett>

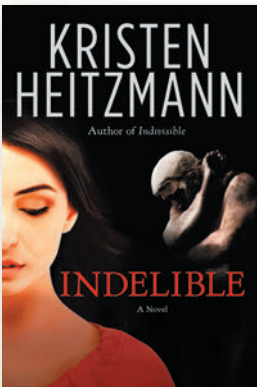


A Requiem for Love

by Calvin Miller

A Requiem for Love is a dramatic work in the tradition of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Ring Trilogy." It is a work that chronicles the death of innocence and the birth of a passionate and powerful love that survives for time and eternity. See more Calvin Miller titles here.

<http://www.novoink.com/calvinmiller>



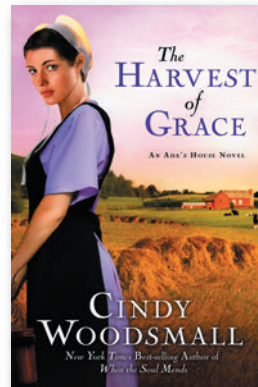
Indelible

by Kristen Heitzmann

Trevor's need to guard and protect is born of tragedy, prompting his decision to become a search-and-rescue volunteer. Natalie's gift of

sculpting comes from an unusual disability that seeks release through her creative hands. In each other they see strength and courage as they face an incomprehensible foe.

http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/03/25/sneak-peek-indelible-by-kristen-heitzmann/?ref=pdf_corp_IndelibleFF_wbmlt_ach



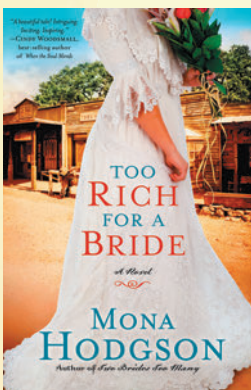
The Harvest of Grace

by Cindy Woodsmall

Sylvia flees from temptations on her father's farm and offers her expertise and loyalty to another family, whom she comes to love as

much as her own. But when the owner's prodigal son, Aaron, returns from rehab, his plans threaten to unravel the future she has envisioned for her life.

http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/06/03/sneak-peek-the-harvest-of-grace-by-cindy-woodsmall/?ref=pdf_corp_THOGFF_wbmlt_ach



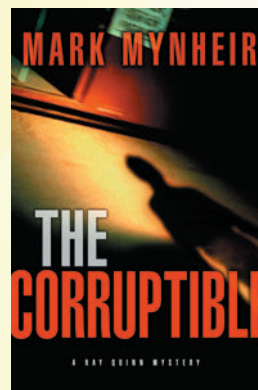
Too Rich for a Bride

by Mona Hodgson

Ida wants a career more than anything else, so she shrugs off the suitors and pointed "suggestions" that young ladies don't belong in business.

Will it take unexpected love—or unexpected danger—for Ida to realize where her priorities truly lie?

http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2010/05/10/video-mona-hodgson-too-rich-for-a-bride/?ref=pdf_corp_toorichFF_wbmlt_ach



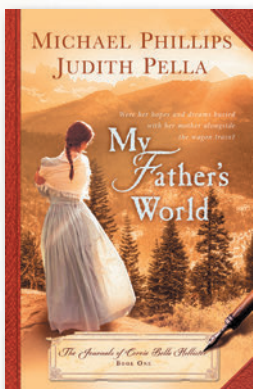
The Corruptible

by Mark Mynheir

Ray Quinn is retired from homicide by a barrage of bullets that crippled his leg and killed his partner. Now he's working as a private

investigator, working the cases that come his way—no matter who is behind the paycheck. Sometimes, though, the truth is more important than the paycheck.

http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2010/01/12/sneak-peek-the-corruptible-by-mark-mynheir/?ref=pdf_corp_corruptibleFF_wbmlt_ach

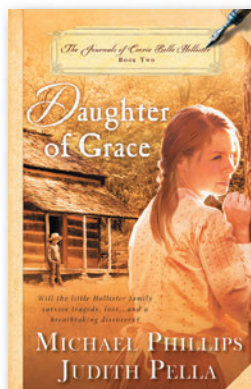


**My Father's World:
The Journals of
Corrie Belle Hollister,
Book 1**

by Michael Phillips
and Judith Pella

Their mother had perished on the journey west. Their father was long since gone—was he even still alive? With the help of the wagon master, 15-year-old Corrie and her siblings must find their way to the coast during the California Gold Rush.

<http://www.hendrickson.com>

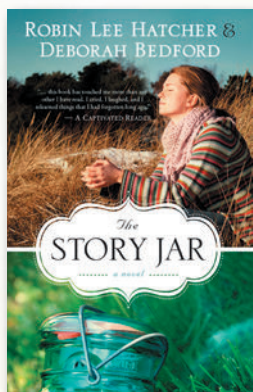


**Daughter of Grace:
The Journals of Corrie
Belle Hollister, Book 2**

by Michael Phillips
and Judith Pella

When Corrie and her siblings unexpectedly find their father in Miracle Springs, their shocking reunion is tentative at best. Pa Hollister must take on his role as father; and when he decides that the children need a mother's care, Corrie's world is shaken once again.

<http://www.hendrickson.com>



The Story Jar

by Robin Lee Hatcher
and Deborah Bedford

Two bestselling novelists combine their creativity and skill. In Bedford's *The Hair Ribbons*, a mother's love and strength is passed down to a daughter facing breast cancer. In Hatcher's *Heart Rings*, a mother and daughter learn to accept each other with love. Includes quotes about motherhood from Francine Rivers, Lori Copeland and more.

<http://www.hendrickson.com>



Nana's Gift

by Janette Oke

Introducing two heart-warming novellas in one by best-selling author Janette Oke. In *Nana's Gift*, a great-granddaughter receives her Nana's heirloom pearls, and readers will be reminded that some gifts in life are priceless. In *The Red Geranium*, a little boy becomes determined to revive the flame in his great-grandmother's heart. Charming illustrations included throughout.

<http://www.hendrickson.com>

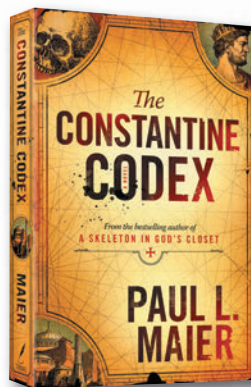


Fatal Loyalty

by Sue Duffy

Andie Ryborg is on the run. Her father's campaign for governor and work against the illegal drug trade has put a target on her head. Hiding out in a quiet bungalow in Miami, she hopes to find peace and quiet. But she just can't escape the powerful Francini crime family.

<http://store.kregel.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=2044>

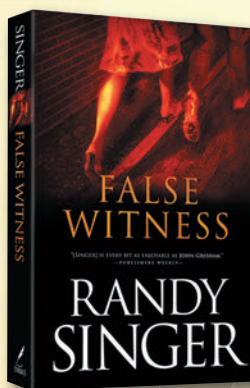


The Constantine Codex

by Paul L. Maier

An explosive new thriller from the best-selling author of *A Skeleton in God's Closet*. Lost scriptures. A discovery more sensational than the Dead Sea Scrolls. A deadly race to find the truth. Think *The Da Vinci Code*—only fantastic.

<http://www.tyndale.com/the-constantine-codex>

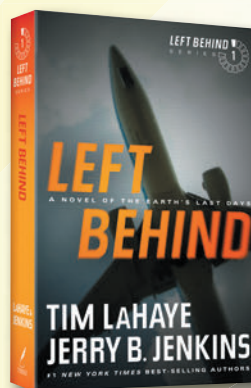


False Witness

by Randy Singer

An adrenaline-laced thrill ride, *False Witness* takes readers from the streets of Las Vegas to the halls of the American justice system and the inner sanctum of the growing church in India, with all the trademark twists, turns, and intrigue Randy Singer fans have come to expect.

<http://www.tyndale.com/false-witness>

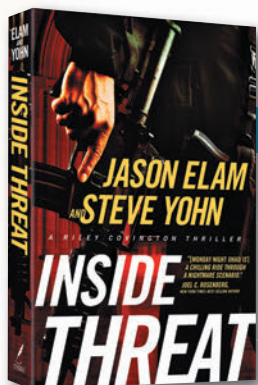


Left Behind Series

by Tim LaHaye
and Jerry B. Jenkins

What if the Rapture happened today? How would it play out in the media? The NEW covers for the "Left Behind" series will give readers a feeling of immediacy as if events were happening alongside today's headlines. New readers and longtime fans will love the new content and look.

<http://www.leftbehind.com>



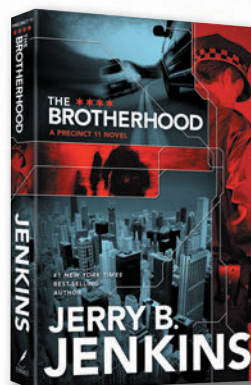
Inside Threat

by Jason Elam
and Steve Yohn

Riley Covington has always played by the rules; now he's about to break every one. NFL veteran Jason Elam and

Steve Yohn team up to deliver the hardest-hitting Riley Covington thriller yet, where the line between daring and deadly is thinner than ever.

<http://www.rileycovington.com>



The Brotherhood

by Jerry B. Jenkins

A thought-provoking police thriller from *New York Times* best-selling author Jerry B. Jenkins. A young Chicago cop buries himself in guilt and bitterness after a tragedy strikes. But, he realizes God is a God of second chances and can change the hardest heart and forgive the worst of crimes.

<http://www.tyndale.com/the-brotherhood>



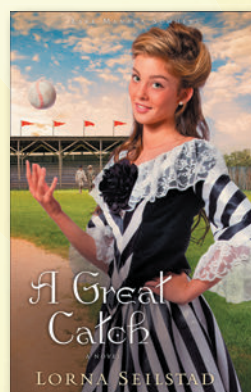
Fatal Judgment

by Irene Hannon

A U.S. deputy marshal... A federal judge who needs protecting... A killer on the hunt.

Jake Taylor's assignment is straightforward. His relationship with Judge Liz Michaels isn't. They have a past. But if he fails, they may not have a future. Book 1 in the "Guardians of Justice" series.

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3456-5>



A Great Catch

by Lorna Seilstad

"A *Great Catch* weaves humor, history, romance, and spiritual truths into a delicious story that will delight readers' hearts." –Laura Frantz, author of *The Colonel's Lady*

In this lighthearted historical romance set at a turn-of-the-century lake resort, an independent young woman doesn't think she needs a man until a brash young baseball player catches her eye.

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3446-6>



The Blessed

by Ann H. Gabhart

"From cover to cover, *The Blessed* captivates and challenges—an absolutely wonderful read." —Judith Miller, author of *A Bond Never Broken*

Bestselling novelist Ann H. Gabhart delivers a moving story set in a Shaker village in which a young mother and a widower encounter a crisis of faith and struggle to follow their hearts.

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3454-1>



Stars Collide

by Janice Thompson

Kat Jennings and Scott Murphy don't just play two people who are secretly in love on a television sitcom—they are actually head over

heels for each other in real life. When the lines between reality and TV land blur, they hope they can keep their relationship under wraps. Will their family and the media find out?

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3345-2>



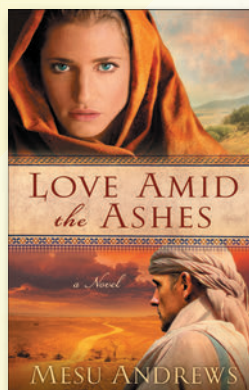
The Dawn of a Dream

by Ann Shorey

"Readers looking for a gentle story of love and honor should not miss it." —Amanda Cabot, author of *Tomorrow's Garden*

A moving story of tenacity and perseverance in the face of opposition, *The Dawn of a Dream* will inspire you to discover and follow your own dreams.

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3334-6>



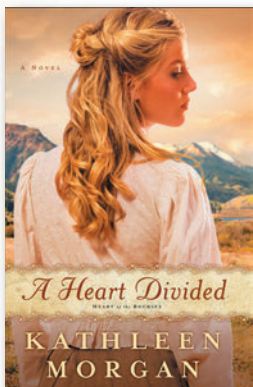
Love Amid the Ashes

by Mesu Andrews

An epic story of love and forgiveness, suffering and restoration.

Mesu Andrews weaves an emotional and stirring account of Job and Dinah. *Love Amid the Ashes* breathes life, romance, and passion into the classic biblical story of suffering and steadfast faith.

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3407-7>



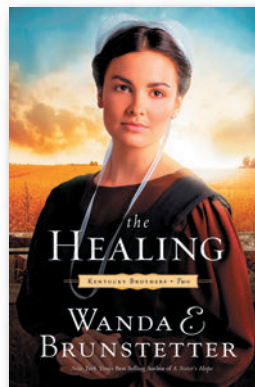
A Heart Divided

by Kathleen Morgan

“Be still my heart—Kathleen Morgan is back, and she’s better than ever!” –Julie Lessman, author, the “Daughters of Boston” series and *A Hope Undaunted*

Against the beautiful and wild backdrop of the Rocky Mountains comes this sweeping saga of romance, betrayal, and forgiveness from beloved author Kathleen Morgan.

<http://www.revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1884-8>



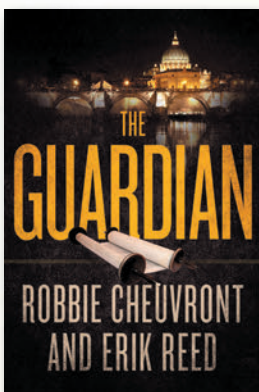
The Healing

by Wanda E. Brunstetter

Lancaster County’s Samuel Fisher, mired in grief following his wife’s death, looks for healing in Kentucky. Esther Beiler, who watches Samuel’s

children part-time, develops a crush on the widower. Will they find a future together in the land of tomorrow? Or will a series of misunderstandings keep them forever apart?

http://www.christianbook.com/the-healing-kentucky-brothers/wanda-brunstetter/9781602606838/pd/606830?item_code=WW&netp_id=881485&event=ESRCN&view=details



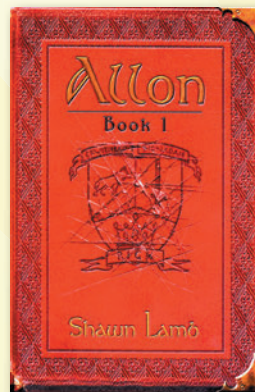
The Guardian

by Robbie Chevront and Erik Reed

An ancient document plunges Anna Riley into a world of deceit and corruption. Will she survive long enough to

unravel the secret of the scroll? Jason Lang suddenly finds himself in the role of Anna’s protector. Will his attraction lessen his ability to defend her against powers seen and unseen?

http://www.christianbook.com/the-guardian-robby-chevront/9781616262785/pd/262785?item_code=WW&netp_id=881494&event=ESRCN&view=details



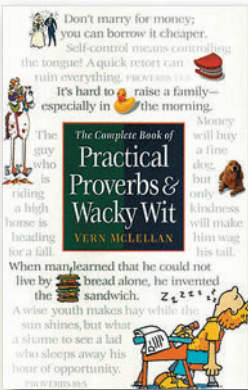
Allon, Book 1

by Shawn Lamb

For 500 years the Dark Way has ruled Allon, but a prophecy speaks of a time when the Guardians will return led by the rightful heir.

Sixteen-year-old Ellis must prove he is able to defeat the evil. Each event tests his character, his wisdom, his courage and—ultimately—his heart.

http://www.christianbook.com/allon-shawn-lamb/9781599798912/pd/798912?item_code=WW&netp_id=649310&event=ESRCN&view=details



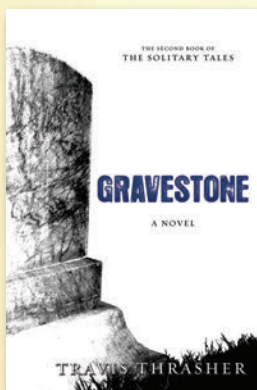
The Complete Book of Practical Proverbs & Wacky Wit

by Vernon McLellan

A great summer read! Wisdom to help you along life's road—and a smile to help you enjoy the journey! Here's a collection

of seasoned sayings to take to heart, practice well, and pass along! Topics from Achievement to Zeal feature the timeless wisdom of Bible proverbs.

<http://www.novoink.com/vernonmclellan>



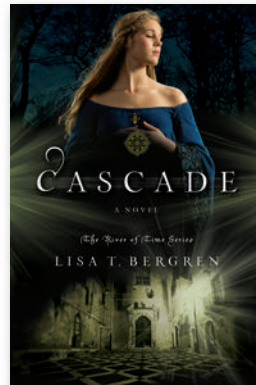
Gravestone

by Travis Thrasher

This second book in the "Solitary Tales" series continues Chris' journey toward finding out who he is and what his own role is in

the darkness suffocating his new hometown. This is a tale of a teenager thrown into a battle over a town, a secret and ultimately his own soul.

http://www.christianbook.com/gravestone-solitary-tales-travis-thrasher/9781434764195/pd/764195?item_code=WW&netp_id=867284&event=ESRCN&view=details



Cascade

by Lisa T. Bergren

American teenagers Gabi and Lia accidentally find themselves in 14th-century Italy. Knights of the realm. Political intrigue. The plague.

A romantic historical suspense novel for young adults. The "River of Time" series offers romance and suspense with characters teens can admire.

http://www.christianbook.com/cascade-river-of-time/lisa-bergren/9781434764317/pd/764317?item_code=WW&netp_id=867285&event=ESRCN&view=details



The Violet Flash

by Mike Mason

Nonstop action for kids from 9 to 12! 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.

http://www.christianbook.com/the-violet-flash-2/mike-mason/9781434765253/pd/765253?item_code=WW&netp_id=867287&event=ESRCN&view=details



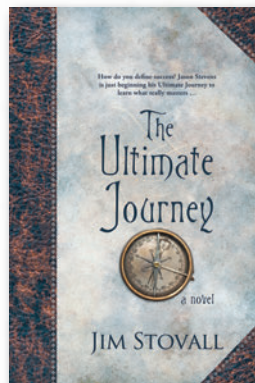
Bridge to a Distant Star

by Carolyn Willford

They all drove through the storm and onto the bridge, unaware of the danger ahead. Each one had a secret, a

heartache, a question, and each searched for grace. Who would find the answer, and who would survive the plunge into the churning bay?

http://www.christianbook.com/bridge-to-a-distant-star/carolyn-willford/9781434767035/pd/767030?item_code=WW&netp_id=867288&event=ESRCN&view=details



The Ultimate Journey

by Jim Stovall

Jason Stevens is just beginning to learn what really matters: life's journey is not about the destination, it's about how you get there.

Jim Stovall's gentle parables—*The Ultimate Gift* and *The Ultimate Life*—conclude with a lesson about how to live life to the fullest in *The Ultimate Journey*.

http://www.christianbook.com/the-ultimate-journey-jim-stovall/9781434703149/pd/703149?item_code=WW&netp_id=867282&event=ESRCN&view=details



Thief

by Linda Windsor

In Arthurian Scotland, a disgraced warrior meets his match in a lovely but larcenous minstrel. But it takes a stargazing princess,

an improbably beautiful eel fisherman, and their own yearning hearts to bring them both home in book 2 of Linda Windsor's addictive "Brides of Alba" series.

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=18872EB&item_code=WW&netp_id=932100&event=ESRCN&view=details



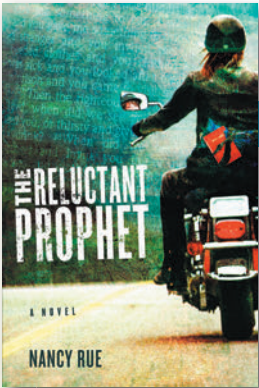
She Makes It Look Easy

by Marybeth Whalen

A novel for every woman who has looked at another woman's life and thought, *I want what she has*, Marybeth

Whalen's latest novel reminds us of the danger of pedestals and the beauty of authentic friendship.

http://www.christianbook.com/she-makes-it-look-easy/marybeth-whalen/9780781403702/pd/403702?item_code=WW&netp_id=867342&event=ESRCN&view=details



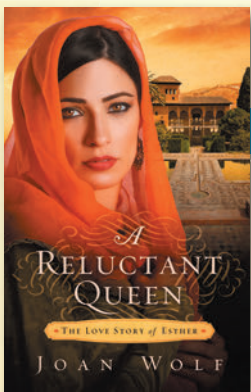
The Reluctant Prophet

by Nancy Rue

The first in a new trilogy from seasoned writer Nancy Rue, *The Reluctant Prophet* shows how one person's response to God's call can change a

community forever. The only thing more unlikely than Allison buying a motorcycle was becoming a prophet. Could God really be calling her to do both?

http://www.christianbook.com/the-reluctant-prophet-nancy-rue/9781434764966/pd/764966?item_code=WW&netp_id=800432&event=ESRCN&view=details



A Reluctant Queen

by Joan Wolf

You've read it as a biblical tale of courage. Experience it anew as a heart-stirring love story.

www.joanwolf.com

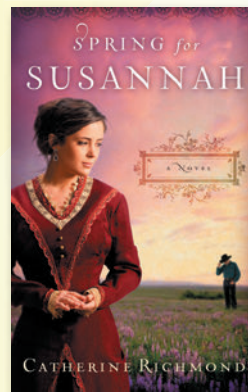


The Promise of an Angel

by Ruth Reid

Interrupting the ordered routine of the Mecosta County Amish settlement, an angelic visitor awakens Judith to a new faith.

www.ruthreid.com



Spring of Susannah

by Catherine Richmond

Hundreds of miles from home, Susannah faces an uncertain future as a mail-order bride on the untamed Dakota prairie.

www.catherinerichmond.com

Cindy Woodsmall

Inside Story

ANNA ROBBINS

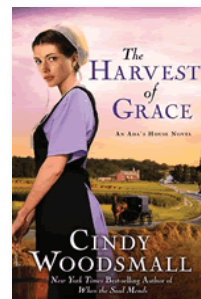


Many of the leading authors in Amish fiction have a personal connection to the Plain People—and Cindy Woodsmall is no exception.

In fact, the New York Times best-selling author's connection with the Amish community has been featured on ABC's *Nightline* and on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*. "Staying in the homes of my Plain friends definitely impacts the emotive journey of my characters," Cindy shares, "and I think my experiences add an authentic feel to the story. After earning the trust of some—perhaps many—in the Plain community, I'm honored to say that whenever I'm staying with my Plain friends, their friends and relatives stop by and share various events from their lives with me as an author."

In August, Cindy takes readers back to Dry Lake, Penn., with *The Harvest of Grace* (WaterBrook Press), the finale of her Ada's House series. In the novel, Sylvia Fisher and Aaron Blank are two broken people grasping for a new beginning. Will their conflicting efforts on the future of the farm mask the path to forgiveness,

“This series grew from a conversation I had with an elderly Old Order Amish man while visiting in his son's home.”



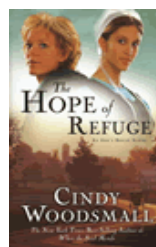
grace, and the promise of love?

"This series grew from a conversation I had with an elderly Old Order Amish man while visiting in his son's home," Cindy says. "We talked for a long time, and he shared things that are a part of each novel in this series."

Not that everything she hears goes in a book: "I'm in and out of the Plain community pretty frequently now, and those who know me have learned I protect their right to privacy like a guard dog. I know so much more than I'm allowed to share. Wherever I'm staying, Plain people will stop by with food in hand and a story they want to tell me. I make sure they understand how different the story will look once in print. I often discuss the various ways that event might look after I've written it. If they still want me to use their story, I try to do so."

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



THE HOPE OF REFUGE



THE BRIDGE OF PEACE

FIND CINDY WOODSMALL ONLINE

CindyWoodsmall.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Cindy-Woodsmall

News&Notes

ANNA ROBBINS



OLD IS NEW

In August, author Dianne Christner kicks off a new series with the Mennonite romance *Something Old* (Barbour Books), the first in her Plain City Bridesmaids series. “The common thread in the Plain City Bridesmaids series is a friendship between three little girls who make a pact at church camp,” says Dianne, who was raised a Mennonite. “Each book features a different friend. Timewise, it is a progression of the three friends’ lives. There are three books in this series, but I intend to keep writing about the Mennonites in the future.”

DianneChristner.net

WEDDING BELLES

Patricia Davids continues her Brides of Amish Country series with *The Farmer Next Door* (Steeple Hill Love Inspired): After losing his wife and son, Adrian Lapp vowed to never marry again. But the newest resident of the Amish community of Hope Springs, widow Faith Martin, captivates him from their first

meeting. Her fight to raise her six-year-old orphaned nephew in the Amish community brings her closer to the members of Hope Springs. If only Adrian can open his heart to the possibility of love again....

By the way, Patricia reports on her website that she, Karen Harper and Marta Perry are all contributing to an Amish anthology slated for release July 2012.

PatriciaDavids.com

FORBIDDEN LOVE

New from Ann H. Gabhart is the historical Shaker novel *The Blessed* (Revell Books), set in 1844. Lacey Bishop’s life is a tangled mess—estranged from her own family, married to a widowed preacher, and now dragged off to a Shaker village. Now living in a community that believes marriage is a sin, she finds herself drawn to a man who came to the Shakers after his young bride died. But of course any notion of love between them is only a forbidden dream. How will Lacey ever find true happiness?

AnnHGabhart.com

NEWRELEASES



THE BLESSED: A NOVEL
Ann Gabhart
(Revell Books)



A BABY FOR HANNAH (HANNAH'S HEART SERIES #3)
Jerry S. Eicher
(Harvest House)



THE AMISH NANNY (WOMEN OF LANCASTER COUNTY SERIES #2)
Mindy Starns Clark & Leslie Gould (Harvest House)



THE FARMER NEXT DOOR (BRIDES OF AMISH COUNTRY #4)
Patricia Davids
(Steeple Hill Love Inspired)



THE SURVIVOR (FAMILIES OF HONOR #3)
Shelley Shepard Gray
(Avon Inspire)



HEALING HEARTS: A COLLECTION OF AMISH ROMANCES
Beth Wiseman
(Thomas Nelson)



SOMETHING OLD (PLAIN CITY SERIES #1)
Dianne Christner
(Barbour Publishing)



THE HARVEST GRACE (ADA'S HOUSE SERIES #3)
Cindy Woodsmall
(WaterBrook Press)



VANISH IN PLAIN SIGHT (AMISH SUSPENSE)
Marta Perry
(HQN Books)



PROMISE OF AN ANGEL (HEAVEN ON EARTH #1)
Ruth Reid
(Thomas Nelson)

Laura Frantz

Dressing The Part

REL MOLLET



“When you don those clothes and hear the rustle of all that delicious silk, you get a glimpse of what it must have been like 200 years ago—for the gentry, anyway.”



THE COLONEL'S LADY | Revell Books

Laura Frantz's third historical novel, *The Colonel's Lady*, was inspired by an 18th century painting of Revolutionary war hero, George Rogers Clark.

“He was quite the man with his legendary height and those red locks,” says Laura of Clark. “But his life was tragic in many respects. He never married and struggled with alcoholism despite his many accomplishments. As I stood before that portrait, I thought that what he really needed was the love of a good woman and his Savior.” Laura’s hero, Colonel Cassius McLinn, was born. “Memorable heroes are such fun to create,” shares Laura, who writes her first drafts in longhand. “A great literary hero is willing to accept a challenge greater than himself and overcome great obstacles to master it, nearly failing, and then triumphing, perhaps sacrificing himself in the process.”

Laura also purchased a reproduction 18th-century gown and hat, pocket hoops, chemise and shoes to experience what it would have been like to dress like her heroine, Roxanna Rowan. “When you don those clothes and hear the rustle

of all that delicious silk, you get a glimpse of what it must have been like 200 years ago—for the gentry, anyway.”

Reading old diaries, letters and biographies, Laura discovered the 18th century was a very earthy, sensual period, seething with revolution and change. “Colonial women were very different than their Victorian sisters! I also found it surprising to see the vital role women played during the period *The Colonel's Lady* describes. Some became spies for the American side and died because of it. I’m sad that we’ve lost touch with so much of that noble history. Keeping it alive in readers’ heads and hearts is something I strive to do in my novels.

“My wish is to continue to write historicals till He calls me home, and then continue in heaven!” **FF**

ALSO AVAILABLE



THE FRONTIERSMAN'S DAUGHTER



COURTING MORROW LITTLE: A NOVEL

FIND LAURA FRANTZ ONLINE

LauraFrantz.blogspot.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Laura-Frantz

News&Notes



DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

Cliff Graham's debut novel, *Day of War* (Zondervan), introduces readers to King David's bodyguard, Benaniah, a mysterious and little-known warrior who eventually became the commander of Solomon's armies. Cliff hopes the story will show readers that the Bible is alive with passion and intensity. "The novel is an attempt to show the reader the blood, sweat and tears in the Biblical account of David's battles through the eyes of his 'band of brothers.'" The five-book *Lion of War* series will be complemented by a motion comic, documentary and feature film.

LionofWar.com

ANCIENT WORLD

Long fascinated by ancient history, T.L. Higley's passion shines in her latest novel, *Pompeii: City on Fire*. Disguised as a boy and sold to a gladiator troupe, Ariella meets Cato, a disillusioned Roman. Under the shadow of Vesuvius they

discover the truth about the man on the cross. Tracy shares, "I love giving readers a glimpse of what God has been doing throughout all of history, to call all people to Himself. I've found that believers in ancient cultures contended with the same issues we do today – trying to live as light in a dark world, trying to be part of their world for the sake of the kingdom and yet not destroyed by it."

NoPassportRequired.tlhigley.com

TEXAS TRAILS

Darlene Franklin launches Moody Publishers, six-book, multi-author Texas Trails series with *Lone Star Trail*. The series will span fifty years and four generations of the Morgan family. Darlene's hero, Jud Morgan, has seen his siblings grow to maturity after being thrust into his position as head of the Morgan family after his father's death in the Texas War of Independence. Says Darlene, "Jud looks forward to freedom from responsibility when a German immigrant family has an accident on his doorstep—threatening both his future and his country."

DarleneFranklinWrites.blogspot.com

NEW RELEASES



OUT OF CONTROL
Mary Connealy
(Bethany House)



THE COLONEL'S LADY
Laura Frantz
(Revell Books)



A RIVER TO CROSS
Yvonne Harris
(Bethany House)



BELONGING
Robin Lee Hatcher
(Zondervan)



LOVE BY THE BOOK
Cara Lynn James
(Thomas Nelson)



WINGS OF PROMISE
Bonnie Leon
(Revell Books)



DAUGHTER OF GRACE
Michael Phillips and
Judith Pella
(Hendrickson Publishers)



BLUE SKIES TOMORROW
Sarah Sundin
(Revell Books)

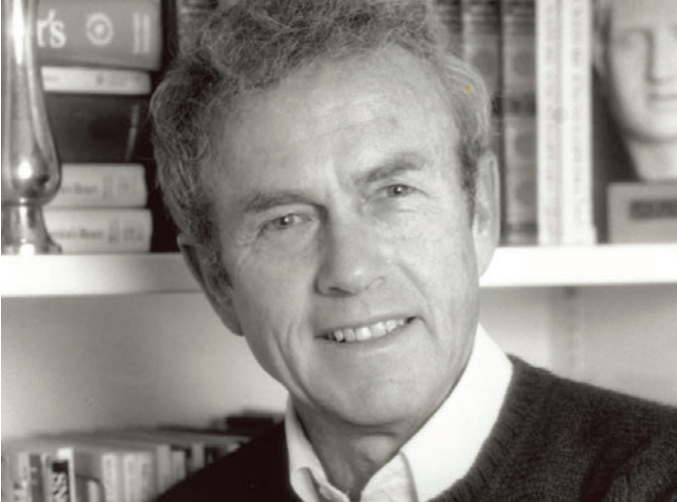


A MOST UNSUITABLE MATCH
Stephanie Grace Whitson
(Bethany House)

Paul Maier

Separating True From False

C.J. DARLINGTON

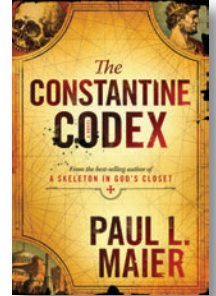


“There is no greater challenge to the faith today than Islam,” says Dr. Paul Maier, author of over 250 scholarly articles and reviews, as well as several best-selling books.

Having been a Professor of Ancient History for fifty years, Dr. Maier doesn't make that statement lightly. “One of my seminars is called ‘Christianity and the Competition,’” he says. “In it I survey the holy books of all the other competing world religious systems. There is no contest. Nothing even comes close. I have to admit the superiority of Christianity over Islam, and all the other world religions, I might add. There's only one other religious faith on earth that has the credentials we have, and that's our parent Judaism.”

The Christianity versus Islam debate is at the heart of Maier's new novel *The Constantine Codex*, but it's only one of the major plot threads. The other asks the question: How would the church react if another book of the Bible, the second book of Acts, and the lost ending of Mark were discovered? “The one thing I worry about

“ I have to admit the superiority of Christianity over Islam, and all the other world religions, I might add. ”

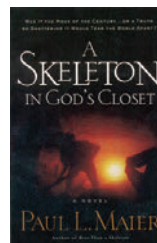


is that there's so much junk out today about the ‘lost gospels,’” Maier says. “I hope readers don't think this is another one in that list. No, this is totally different. This lost book of the Bible totally confirms the rest of the Biblical record.”

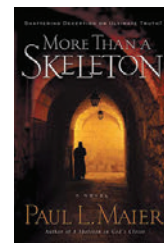
Dr. Maier's goal in all his work is to find the points of tangency between scriptural and secular historical records, and he often references Flavius Josephus as a prominent influence. That said, the foreground information in *The Constantine Codex* and its predecessors *A Skeleton in God's Closet* and *More than a Skeleton* is of course fictional. It's the backgrounds of archeology, identifying true from false, and the history of Eastern Christendom which are all very much real. Says Maier: “I hope readers are pleasantly informed.”

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



A SKELETON IN GOD'S CLOSET



MORE THAN A SKELETON

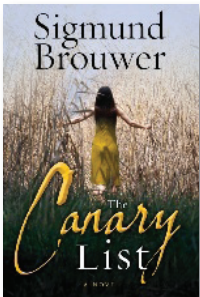
FIND PAUL MAIER ONLINE

PaulMaier.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Paul-L-Maier

News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



THE CANARY SINGS

Sigmund Brouwer's new novel *The Canary List* is making a splash amidst summer reads as a thrilling tale ala *The Da Vinci Code*. It too has a hefty dose of intrigue, the supernatural, and Vatican conspiracies. Says Brouwer: "I wanted the novel to be a compelling story that examines whether demons cast out by Jesus were real, as shown in the gospels, or simply mental afflictions, which leads to the slippery slope of then deciding what other truths of the gospel accounts should be rejected. And, as C.S. Lewis pointed out, if demons are real, do we willfully ignore them at our peril?"

SigmundBrouwer.com

ACED

What if a scroll written by Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, really existed? Would it contain evidence to rock the Christian faith? How far would you go to find it? In the vein of the Indiana Jones and National Treasure movies, **Ace Collins'**

Jefferson Burke and the Secret of the Lost Scroll has been called "a mystery as old as the Christian church wrapped in a modern-day thriller". Ace is the author of more than sixty books, including a biography of beloved canine Lassie, and he actually owns two collies that are sisters of Lassie VIII and Lassie X.

AceCollins.com

MARCHING ON

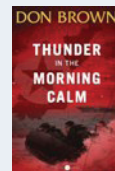
Author **J. Mark Bertrand** was a teenage detective. "Perhaps 'apprentice' is a better word," he says on his blog. "My duties mainly involved hanging out with a private eye and serving as a willing audience for his many stories. There was some surveillance, too, which was a lot like storytelling, only the stories were told while sitting in a car watching an apparently empty house." Bertrand evidently took notes as his Roland March mystery series features a homicide detective. In *Back on Murder*, March is given the chance to redeem his career, and in the just-released sequel *Pattern of Wounds*, he's crossing the line. Again.

JMarkBertrand.com

NEWRELEASES



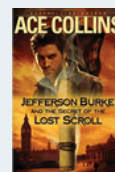
LION OF BABYLON
Davis Bunn
(Bethany House)



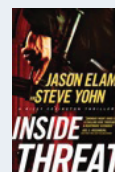
THUNDER IN THE MORNING CALM
Don Brown
(Zondervan)



PIECES OF LIGHT
Julie Cave
(New Leaf)



JEFFERSON BURKE & THE SECRET OF THE LOST SCROLL
Ace Collins
(Zondervan)



INSIDE THREAT
Jason Elam and Steve Yohn
(Tyndale House)



DANCING ON GLASS
Pamela Binnings Ewen
(B&H Books)



HOSTAGE IN HAVANA
Noel Hynd
(Zondervan)



WOLFSBANE
Ronie Kendig
(Barbour Publishing)



FALLEN ANGEL
Jeff Struecker & Alton Gansky
(B&H Books)



FREEDOM'S STAND
Jeanette Windle
(Tyndale House)

Robin Parrish

Superhero Stories

KATIE HART



Robin Parrish grew up with a strong love of storytelling. “I did some other things along the way, in marketing and retail, but my heart has always been in writing,” he shares.

One of the first authors to garner a traditional publishing contract because of his online writing, Robin views the internet as a great equalizer for writers. “I used it as a platform to launch that sort of a career, using websites, news reporting, and blogs.” He began writing for the Christian music industry, but soon wanted to express his own opinion rather than being simply an industry mouthpiece. That and a desire to tell stories led to the founding of Infuze Magazine, a website joining art and faith.

In addition to sharing news and others’ works, Robin began publishing a serial novel on Infuze. He was contacted by Bethany House, and they published that novel, *Relentless*, as well as two sequels in the Dominion Trilogy.

Robin’s latest novel for Bethany House, *Vigilante*, breaches some new territory for him as a writer. “It’s the first thing I’ve done that doesn’t

“It’s the first thing I’ve done that doesn’t have any fantasy or science fiction elements whatsoever.”



VIGILANTE | Bethany House

have any fantasy or science fiction elements whatsoever,” he says. The novel is, instead, a superhero origin story with a twist. The main character, Nolan Gray, already a decorated war hero, plans to become a symbol of hope to a violence-ridden city. With a small, dedicated team and an array of high-tech gadgets, Nolan fakes his own death and begins fighting crime and defending the helpless.

Comic book antics, a realistic setting, and a Christian worldview combine to make *Vigilante* a unique contribution to the superhero genre. “I think there’s something inside all of us that longs for rescue,” Robin shares. “Superheroes speak to that very deeply.”

Robin is currently working on a high-concept sci-fi novel for young adults, *Corridor*. He lives with his wife Karen and their two young children in North Carolina.

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



NIGHTMARE



RELENTLESS



OFFWORLD

FIND ROBIN PARRISH ONLINE

RobinParrish.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Robin-Parrish

News&Notes

KATIE HART



BREATH OF ANGEL

New in stores is **Karyn Henley's** debut novel, *Breath of Angel* (WaterBrook Press). The first in the Angelaeon Circle series, thrusts a young teen into the world of shapeshifters and angels trapped on earth. "*Breath of Angel* is a 'high fantasy' or 'epic fantasy,' " she told *The Chey Show Book Blog*. "The story takes place in a different astral world in our universe, in a setting that compares most closely to our ancient Rome, Greece, Palestine. So it's a complete escape from our contemporary setting." A book trailer, reader guide, map, and more are available on Karyn's website.

KarynHenleyFiction.com

GATES OF HEAVEN

C. S. Lakin has signed another contract with AMG/Living Ink for four more novels in the Gates of Heaven fantasy series, for a total of seven books. Book three of the series, *The Land of Darkness*, comes out fall 2011.

GatesOfHeavenSeries.com

GHOSTS AND KINGS

Wayne Thomas Batson has two books releasing in July 2011. *Ghost*, a supernatural thriller for older teens and adults, will be available in ebook format as well as trade paperback from CreateSpace. *Ghost* is a detective with heavenly ties on a mission to take down a mysterious killer called "Smiling Jack."

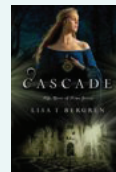
The sequel to *Sword in the Stars*, *The Errant King* (AMG/Living Ink) is the second novel in a seven-part epic teen fantasy series. Young King Lochlan Stormgarden, struggling with the demands and diplomacy of ruling the known world of Myriad, decides to leave the throne and go in disguise to live among his people.

Wayne is running a contest based on The Dark Sea Annals series, which challenges readers to create "Constellation Networks" and spread the word across the 50 stars and states. Prizes include Amazon Kindles and getting a real star named in the winner's honor.

Wayne has also signed with Focus on the Family to write Imagination Station books for elementary readers.

EnterTheDoorWithin.blogspot.com

NEWRELEASES



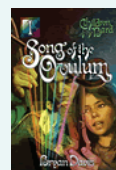
CASCADE
Lisa T. Bergren
(David C. Cook)



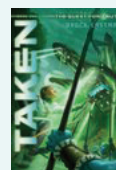
THE CANARY LIST
Sigmund Brouwer
(WaterBrook Press)



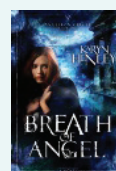
DIVINER
Bryan Davis
(Zondervan)



SONG OF THE OVULUM
Bryan Davis
(Living Ink)



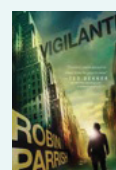
TAKEN
Brock Eastman
(P&R Publishing)



BREATH OF ANGEL
Karyn Henley
(WaterBrook Press)



THUNDER OF HEAVEN
Tim LaHaye and Craig Parshall
(Zondervan)



VIGILANTE
Robin Parrish
(Bethany House)



VEILED ROSE
Anne Elisabeth Stengl
(Bethany House)



THIEF
Linda Windsor
(David C. Cook)

MaryDeMuth

Coming To Terms

REL MOLLET



She has penned parenting books and a poignant memoir—but prolific author Mary DeMuth returns to fiction with *The Muir House*.

Published by Zondervan, it's a modern-day love story that is also a journey of brokenness and self-awareness for the twenty-something, Willa Muir. The loving and artsy Hale Landon has asked Willa to marry him, but she is unable to accept with so much of her childhood a haunting mystery. Driven by an insatiable need to know why she can't say yes to Hale, Willa returns to the Muir House Bed & Breakfast, a former funeral home in Rockwall, Texas, to discover the truth of her past. Mary explains, "Willa can't say yes to her potential fiance because she can't fully understand her past. The question becomes, 'Must we fully know and understand and uncover every aspect of our past to be able to live and breathe and make decisions today?'"

Mary believes the foundation for any great love story is angst, coupled with flawed but likeable characters that the reader empathizes or identifies with. Says Mary, "I also love to see

“ [Such people] don't feel worthy of love if they're flawed or needy or lonely or vulnerable. ”

the contrast of selfishness and self-sacrifice.” *The Muir House* reflects this contrast and also delves into the life-altering choices people make to keep their reputations intact. Reputation can be everything to some people and Mary believes, “[Such people] don't feel worthy of love if they're flawed or needy or lonely or vulnerable.”

Mary's deeply held faith flows authentically into the lives of her characters as they struggle with love and relationships. “Since it's me who is writing the story, it comes naturally from my own relationship with Jesus. I strive not to make the faith element heavy-handed, but woven intricately into the story as a part of the landscape.”

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



DAISY CHAIN



A SLOW BURN

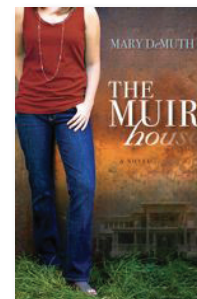


LIFE IN DEFIANCE

FIND MARY DEMUTH ONLINE

MaryDemuth.com

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



THE MUIR HOUSE | Zondervan

News&Notes

REL MOLLET



BURNED BY THE FIRE

In her second Hanover Falls novel, *Forever After* (Howard), **Deborah Raney** deals with grief, shattered dreams and survivor guilt. Lucas Vemontez's dreams were destroyed when he lost his father, his best friend Zach and his career as a firefighter in one disastrous day. When Zach's widow Jenna seeks support, Lucas wonders what he can offer her. Jenna thinks differently, as Deborah explains, "Lucas is vulnerable, transparent and honest. He's no threat to Jenna at a time when everything else in her life feels threatening. Lucas seems to have discovered the secret to being content whatever his circumstances. Add to all that the fact that Lucas is drop-dead gorgeous with his olive skin, dark hair and gold-flecked eyes!"

DeborahRaney.com

SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

Winding up her Southern Discomfort trilogy with *Restless in Carolina* (Multnomah),

Tamara Leigh focuses on the dreadlocked Bridget Pickwick-Buchanan of the North Carolina Pickwicks. Says Tamara, "She's an environmentalist, an animal lover, and a young widow. Or, to better fit the tone of the story, she's a tree-huggin' animal-lovin' ever-grievin' widow." Unbeknownst to Bridget, romance glimmers on the horizon with green property developer J.C. Dirk, the man she hopes will save her family's estate from a tacky theme park development.

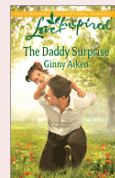
TamaraLeigh.com

CHEMISTRY 101

Chemistry is the essential ingredient in **MaryLu Tyndall's** romances. "Like people in real life, the hero and heroine must have an immediate physical reaction to one another. But that isn't enough to sustain the story (either in a novel or in reality!)," declares MaryLu. "To create a deeper, more lasting chemistry, and eventually love, you must create fascinating characters with great qualities, unreachable dreams, and a bundle of natural human flaws the reader can relate to." Enjoy watching the sparks fly between Cassandra Channing and town rogue and privateer, Luke Heaton in MaryLu's August release, *Surrender the Dawn* (Barbour).

mltyndall.com

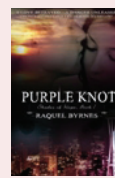
NEWRELEASES



THE DADDY SURPRISE
Ginny Aiken
(Love Inspired)



THE MISTAKEN IDENTITY
K. Dawn Byrd
(Desert Breeze)



PURPLE KNOT
Raquel Byrnes
(White Rose)



THE NANNY'S HOMECOMING
Linda Goodnight
(Love Inspired)



LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND
Diann Hunt
(Summerside Press)



PHOEBE'S GROOM
Deb Kastner
(Love Inspired)



CIAO, BELLA
Ryan M. Phillips
(Destiny Image)



A FAMILY FOR SUMMER
Lois Richer
(Love Inspired)



FIRST RESPONSE
Michelle Sutton
(Desert Breeze)



MOM IN THE MAKING
Kit Wilkinson
(Love Inspired)

Alison Strobel

Story with a Side of Theology

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



As an author, it's always been Alison Strobel's aim to explore what faith looks like in the real world.

With her latest novel, *The Heart of Memory*, she explores the uncomfortable tension between reason and human emotion on the journey of faith. “My biggest desire was to make readers contemplate the tension between the heart and the mind/emotion and logic when it comes to faith,” the author shares. “The Postmodern church has, in my opinion, overemphasized the role of emotion, and I worry that there are a lot of Christians out there who think their emotions are a good judge of truth. The problem is, the Bible is full of truths that simply don't sit well with us, because of our sinful nature. If we start judging them based on how they make us feel, we're in a lot of trouble.”

In *The Heart of Memory*, the protagonist is a beloved Christian writer and speaker named Savannah Trover, who is only days away from undergoing a heart transplant. Coming to terms with how her personal faith drastically differs from what she's always shared from the stage,

“The Bible is full of truths that simply don't sit well with us because of our sinful nature.”

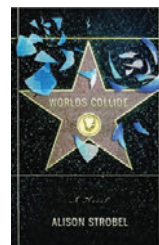


Savannah vows to her change her ways. So after renewing her relationship with Christ before going under the knife, it's a surprise to her when after surgery, she discovers her faith has left her altogether.

“In terms of what happens to Savannah after her transplant, the memoir of [another writer] Claire Sylvia—whose experience with cellular memories after a heart and lung transplant inspired me to write *The Heart of Memory* in the first place—played a big role in how I shaped Savannah's journey,” Strobel says. “But it was also fun to give Savannah some of my own approaches to writing. She used the mind mapping program I sometimes use and her love of coffee shops as a writing environment is definitely drawn from my own preferences.”

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



FIND ALISON STROBEL ONLINE

AlisonStrobel.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Alison-Strobel

News&Notes

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



GRACE AND JAZZ

As the follow-up to her award-winning debut novel, *Chasing Lilacs*, **Carla Stewart** spins an engaging tale of unexpected friendship with *Broken Wings* (FaithWords). “*Broken Wings* is a story of friendship, perseverance, and loss, but there is great hope in the characters,” Carla says. “And I’m nearly certain the jazz tunes I played nonstop while writing the story seeped into the pages.”

CarlaStewart.com

SEE THE LIGHT

Carolyn Williford’s novel *Bridge to a Distant Star* (David C. Cook) is an emotionally driven story of what happens in the aftermath of unspeakable tragedy, weaving together three characters’ journeys leading up to the fateful night Tampa Bay’s most famous bridge collapsed. “My fiction ideas always come from my personal devotions, and the beginnings of this book came from the verse about denying oneself,” Carolyn

says. “Because of the three-fold structure of the verse, I started envisioning a book that told the stories of three separate families.”

CarolynSWilliford.com

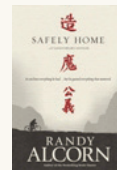
LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Gardening takes a lot of patience—something that **Jeremiah Williams**, the protagonist in Denise Hildreth Jones’ *The First Gardener* (Tyndale) understands all too well, as he’s been taking care of the gardens of the Tennessee governor’s mansions for more than 25 years. When tragedy rocks the first family’s home, Jeremiah becomes more than just a gardener—he’s a friend who understands the importance of tending hearts as well.

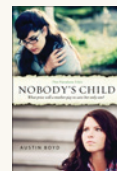
“My own struggles through the years have brought me to a mindset of gratitude—I’m blessed not because good things happen, but because anything good happens at all,” Denise shares. “That was the message I longed to leave readers with; there is always something in woven threads of our own personal stories that we can find to be grateful for.”

DeniseHildrethJones.com

NEWRELEASES



SAFELY HOME (10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION)
Randy Alcorn
(Tyndale House)



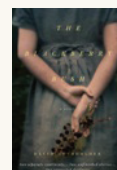
NOBODY'S CHILD
Austin Boyd
(Zondervan)



DANCING ON GLASS: A NOVEL
Pamela Binnings Ewen
(B&H Books)



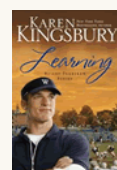
THE STORY JAR
Robin Lee Hatcher and Deborah Bedford
(Hendrickson Publishers)



THE BLACKBERRY BUSH
David Householder
(Summerside Press)



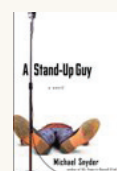
DESERT GIFT
Sally John
(Tyndale House)



LEARNING (BAILEY FLANIGAN SERIES #2)
Karen Kingsbury
(Zondervan)



WHEN SPARROWS FALL
Meg Moseley
(Multnomah Books)



A STAND-UP GUY
Michael Snyder
(Zondervan)



SHE MAKES IT LOOK EASY
Marybeth Whalen
(David C. Cook)

Brock Eastman

Futuristic Animation

KATIE HART



Brock Eastman wasn't a reader, much less a writer. Two things happened to change that.

The first was a conversation at work with a friend. "We got to talking about how death is portrayed so lightly these days on television and in other media," Brock shared. "So I set out to write a book where no one would die, or if someone did, it would not be taken lightly. As a Christian, I recognize that death should not be glossed over."

He intended to simply share the story with friends and family, but a job working for Focus on the Family to market *Adventures in Odyssey* connected him to content teams and publishers. He chose to go with P&R Publishing for his *Quest for Truth* series.

Taken, the first book in the series, follows the adventures of the four Wikk children after their parents are abducted. The futuristic tale is filled with spaceships, gadgets and mysterious creatures.

"I love the freedom you have when working on a world of your own imagination," Brock says. "Each word, character, place or creature

“ As a Christian, I recognize that death should not be glossed over. ”



is unique to the author's perspective, and the delight comes from the fans' enjoyment of your creation."

When he's not writing, Brock enjoys the Colorado outdoors and quality time with his wife Ashley and their two daughters. The value of family shows up in his books. "Kids need characters and stories that teach them solid moral principles. More often the media that kids consume has immoral and fanciful characters that mislead kids about right and wrong. Being a husband and father, I want to write stories that are family friendly and can encourage the importance of family."

Brock continues to work on the rest of his five-part series. "Readers can expect more non-stop action and a deeper mystery as they find they've only peeled back the first level of the conspiracy." **FF**

ALSO AVAILABLE



SHOWDOWN WITH THE SHEPHERD



HOWL SAGE

FIND BROCK EASTMAN ONLINE

BrockEastman.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Brock-Eastman

News&Notes

KATIE HART



FATHER AND DAUGHTER

New in stores is **Bryan Davis'** *Song of the Ovulum* (Living Ink), the first in the Children of the Bard series. Bryan is planning a nationwide tour this fall with daughter Amanda, whose debut, *Precisely Terminated* (AMG Publishers), comes out this September. Her novel tells the story of a young noblewoman hiding among the slaves of the Cantral palace. As the one person in the world without a chip implant, only she can free the slaves from the rule of the nobles and their computers.

"She has been attending writers' conferences for years—learning the writing craft in workshops, meeting editors and published authors for advice on writing, and polishing her work through countless hundreds of hours," Bryan said of his daughter on Facebook. "There are no shortcuts, no substitutes for working hard to be the best writer you can be."

DavisCrossing.com

ON HER OWN AGAIN

Melody Carlson's series Allison O'Brian on Her Own (Revell), rereleases in May as a two-volume set. The four novels, set in the late 1940s, are for ages 11 and up. She also has two new teen novels: *Double Take* (Revell) and *Ciao* (Zondervan), the final book in the On the Runway teen series. Melody also has been contracted for new YA series about teens and dating with Baker/Revell and a new historical series with Harvest House. Sign up for her newsletter for contests and check out her new website.

MelodyCarlson.com

SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

Thomas Nelson's latest signing is **Shannon Dittmore**, whose debut young adult series—a supernatural, romantic trilogy—launches with *Angel Eyes* in summer 2012. "I hope my stories remind readers that life is to be lived," Shannon says. "And while you may fall into dark places along the way, light is as close as the prayer on your lips."

ShannonDittmore.com

NEW RELEASES



CASCADE (RIVER OF TIME)
Lisa T. Bergren
(David C. Cook)



CIAO (ON THE RUNWAY)
Melody Carlson
(Zondervan)



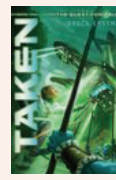
DOUBLE TAKE
Melody Carlson
(Revell Books)



DIVINER (DRAGONS OF STARLIGHT)
Bryan Davis
(Zondervan)



SONG OF THE OVULUM (CHILDREN OF THE BARD)
Bryan Davis
(Living Ink)



TAKEN (QUEST FOR THE TRUTH)
Brock Eastman
(P&R Publishing)



DEPARTURES: CHRISTY MILLER & SIERRA JENSEN
Robin Jones Gunn
(Multnomah Books)



BREATH OF ANGEL (ANGELAEON CIRCLE)
Karyn Henley
(Waterbrook Press)



SKETCHY BEHAVIOR
Erynn Mangum
(Zondervan)



GRAVESTONE (SOLITARY TALES)
Travis Thrasher
(David C. Cook)

Dan & Ali Morrow

Pray Without Ceasing

ANNA ROBBINS



As children learn to include a prayer as part of their bedtime preparations, sometimes they might get the idea that praying is just for bedtime.

In the children's book *That's When I Talk to God*, husband-wife writing team Dan and Ali Morrow and illustrator Cory Godbey tell the story of a child learning that one can talk to God anytime! Targeted to children ages 4-8, *That's When I Talk to God* teaches young readers (and listeners) to go to God with their fears, their joys, their questions and their desires. They will also learn the hows, whens and whys of praying to the Lord in a way they can easily apply to their own experiences. And adults will be reminded to communicate the benefit, simplicity and beauty of prayer.

"Young children's minds are open to new concepts in a way that older children's and adults' minds are not," says Ali. "Immersing them in the faith early on takes advantage of this. It's like teaching them their native language—we don't wait until children are older before we start talking to them. We start from the minute they're born, and we talk as if they understand everything we're saying. Talking about

“If we're not talking to God throughout our day, it's hard to model the kind of prayer life for our children that we want them to have.”

spiritual things should be no different.”

One problem the book addresses is how adults often forget to teach their children to talk to God throughout the day. "Adults are often so busy with life that they themselves don't think to talk to God except during mealtime or bedtime prayers," Ali says. "I struggle with this and I've been a Christian thirty years! If we're not talking to God throughout our day, it's hard to model the kind of prayer life for our children that we want them to have."

She says she's getting better about praying more often—and that sometimes it's her own daughters who remind her. "They're the ones who will say, 'Mom, look, a fire engine is going somewhere—we should pray that everyone is okay.' I only thought to suggest that once or twice myself, but they've really grabbed hold of that kind of mindset, and now they're very diligent and faithful to ask that we stop and pray for people whenever we see emergency vehicles out with their sirens going.

ALSO AVAILABLE



THAT'S WHERE GOD IS

"And whenever we do that, it brings God back to the forefront of my mind, and I'm more likely to remember to suggest that we pray for other things in the course of our day." **FF**

FIND DAN & ALI MORROW ONLINE

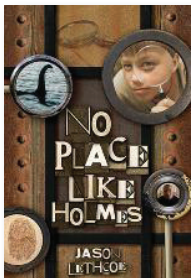
DanAndAliMorrow.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Dan-and-Ali-Morrow

THAT'S WHEN I TALKED TO GOD | David C. Cook

News&Notes

BEN AVERY



FROM B TO A

With his new middle school series, **Jason Lethcoe** takes young readers back to the days of Sherlock Holmes. In *No Place Like Holmes* (Tommy Nelson), it's summer 1903, and 12-year-old Griffin Sharpe is sent to stay with his uncle at 221A Baker Street in London. (That's right, next door to the famous detective.) When Griffin meets a woman with a case Holmes rejected—the woman claims her husband was eaten by the Loch Ness Monster—Griffin and his uncle offer to investigate. Along the way, Griffin shows his skeptical uncle what it means to have true faith in God...even when the case challenges his faith.

JasonLethcoe.com

TREASURED MEMORIES

As a child, the late **Arleta Richardson** listened to her grandmother tell stories about growing up in the 1800s on a Michigan farm. Those stories became the *Grandma's Attic* books, first published in the

1970s and now beloved classics with their themes of faith, Christian values and family. Richardson passed away in 2004, but David C. Cook is continuing her grandmother's legacy. This past April, they re-released the first two volumes, *In Grandma's Attic* and *More Stories from Grandma's Attic*. Books three and four, *Still More Stories from Grandma's Attic* and *Treasures from Grandma's Attic*, will be available in August.

AWESOME STORIES FROM THE GOOD BOOK

Sandy Silverthorne, author of *The Awesome Book of Bible Facts* and the series of *One-Minute Mysteries* and *Brain Teasers*, makes the timeless stories of the Bible relatable for modern kids with *The Awesome Book of Bible Stories for Kids* (Harvest House). The book teaches some of the Bible's truths by asking "what if?" For example, "What if Noah's ark was a cruise ship?" or "What if Samson was your PE teacher?" The wacky situations draw in kids, while the familiarity of the settings makes the lessons memorable for young readers.

SandySilverthorne.com

NEW RELEASES



MCKENZIE'S BRANSON BRAINTEASER
Shari Barr
(Barbour Books)



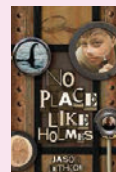
ALLISON O'BRIAN ON HER OWN: VOLUME 1
Melody Carlson
(Revell Books)



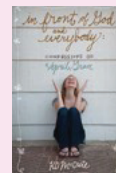
BRAVE YOUNG KNIGHT
Karen Kingsbury
Zonderkidz



THE MANDIE COLLECTION: VOLUME 7
Lois Gladys Leppard
(Bethany House)



NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES
Jason Lethcoe
(Thommy Nelson)



IN FRONT OF GOD AND EVERYBODY
K.D. McCrite
(Tommy Nelson)



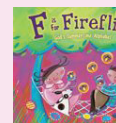
NEW KID CATASTROPHES
Bill Myers
(Tyndale House)



ALEXIS AND THE LAKE TAHOE TUMULT
Erica Rodgers
(Barbour Books)



KATE AND THE WYOMING FOSSIL FIASCO
Janice Hanna
(Barbour Books)



F IS FOR FIREFLIES
Kathy-jo Wargin
(Zonderkidz)

Alan Autry

A New Life

C.J. DARLINGTON



What do a former mayor of Fresno, California, a starting quarterback for the Green Bay Packers, and an actor who's worked with Charlton Heston have in common? Answer: they're all the same man.

Perhaps best known for his role as Lt. Bubba Skinner on the TV series *In the Heat of the Night*, Alan Autry had an encounter with God 25 years ago that changed his life forever. "For so many years I searched to be somebody in all the wrong places," he says. "I was more miserable than ever. I started drinking, doing drugs. Finally got to the point where I thought I was dying. I was trying to chase things you can never get in this world, things only God can give."

Autry cried out to the Lord, and He immediately answered, showing him what mattered in life. "He told me in my heart, 'Son, I don't make nobodies. Everybody is somebody in My eyes, because I created them.' That gave me such great peace." After becoming a Christian, Autry didn't abandon his acting career. God spoke to his



“ I was more miserable than ever. I started drinking, doing drugs. Finally got to the point where I thought I was dying. I was trying to chase things you can never get in this world, things only God can give. ”

heart that what he'd selfishly started for himself, he was going to finish for the Lord. "I realized how powerful storytelling and movie making can be. Instead of making it for me, I was to use the influence He'd given me to make films for Him."

The first of those is *Forgiven*, what Autry calls a "traditional, throwback Western."

As the co-writer, director, and star of the film alongside his wife Kimberlee, Alan's creative vision comes through loud and clear. "It's good family entertainment with a strong message of love and redemption," he says. "This movie shows you can't fall so far into the black hole that God can't get you out if you reach up and take His hand."

FF

News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



THE END IS NEAR

End-times thriller fans, head to the box office—*Jerusalem Countdown*, adapted from the novel by John Hagee, is in theaters. With the Middle East in turmoil, Israel's preeminent ally is thrust into an impending war—America is now the target as the battle for Jerusalem begins. Directed by Harold Cronk (co-producer of *What If...*) the movie stars David A.R White as an FBI agent with Lee Majors, Randy Travis, Stacy Keech and Jaci Velasquez in supporting roles. The Dove Foundation has called it “one of the best independent films we have seen all year” and gives it their highest, family approved rating.

JerusalemCountdown.com

SECRET'S OUT

A young college woman's (Ali Faulkner) life is shattered when her mother is tragically killed in a car accident. Will she be forced to sacrifice her dreams to keep the family bed and breakfast open? And could the

successful newspaperman (C. Thomas Howell) staying under her roof really be the father she's never met? *The Secret at Arrow Lake* is a family-friendly movie of the Hallmark Channel variety. Directed by Brad Keller, the film was shot in Texas and features some interesting twists and turns amidst a familiar storyline.

PureFlix.com

CHILLY POOCH

And you thought Lassie was cool. Move over, girl. German Shepherd “Rainy” is set to make a splash. When his beloved owner Jimmy (Jackson Pace) has to move to New York with his family, leaving Rainy behind, the dog takes matters into his own paws and in *Incredible Journey* style sets off to find his master. Along the way, he stows away on boats and a train, and even takes the wheel in a crazy drive through town. Oh, yeah. And he plays piano and harmonica too. Did we mention he's *really* cool? Kids will find much to love in *Cool Dog*, a new DVD for the whole family. Cameron Ten Napel (*A Christmas Snow*) also stars.

NEW RELEASES



HAPPINESS IS PEANUTS:
SNOOPY'S ADVENTURES



HOOP DOGS: GOD IS #1



THE LORD OF THE RINGS:
THE MOTION PICTURE
TRILOGY

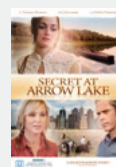
(Extended Edition + Digital Copy)



MARRIAGE RETREAT



MILLTOWN PRIDE



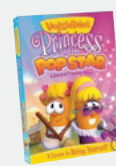
SECRET AT ARROW LAKE



SHAUN THE SHEEP:
ANIMAL ANTICS



VEGGIETALES: LIVE!
SING YOURSELF SILLY



VEGGIETALES: PRINCESS
AND THE POPSTAR



WITHOUT A FATHER

ScriptureShorts

Bucking The Trend

BEN AVERY



Scripture Shorts producer Timbuktoons got its start when founder Todd Hampson taught himself how to animate their first short cartoon.

"I hadn't even had any formal animation training," says Hampson. Since the company's beginning in 2003, Timbuktoons Studio has created more than 60 hours of 2D cartoons, with clients as diverse as Phil Vischer's Jellyfish Labs, ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, and Upward Bound Ministries.

That first short cartoon inspired a consistent part of Timbuktoon's output, though. Hampson recalls, "A friend of mine saw it and said, 'Hey, this would be great in a children's ministry environment.'" Thus was born *Scripture Shorts*, a series of fast-paced and comedic cartoons that illustrate Bible content. "We took a look at what kids were seeing and wanted to make cartoons that looked like the cartoons kids relate to and want to see over and over again."

They marketed the cartoons to churches and children's programs and built up a library. *Scripture Shorts* can be purchased on DVD or as individual downloads from Timbuktoon's website.

Now Timbuktoons is expanding beyond *Scripture Shorts* and work for clients. "We're developing content to be salt and light in the

“ We're developing content to be salt and light in the entertainment industry. ”

entertainment industry," Hampson explains, "trying to get content out there that's good for kids to watch."

With that in mind, they created *Fuzz Feud*. "We developed the concept when [creative director] Sean Copley had a number of squirrels in his yard getting into garbage and chewing wires." As they brainstormed the idea, the squirrels became the heroes: three squirrel brothers who protect the other local animals from the owner of a nearby house.

Timbuktoons is producing a pilot episode of *Fuzz Feud*, which they'll use to pitch the concept to networks. Follow *Fuzz Feud's* development on the company's blog. **FF**

SALT AND LIGHT



VACATION SURPRISE



WAVE OF WISDOM



FIND SCRIPTURE SHORTS ONLINE

ScriptureShorts.com

News&Notes

BEN AVERY



COMICS FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

NOVO Ink, a faith-based eBook supplier, is one of the pioneers making digital Christian comics and graphic novels available. NOVO Ink's graphic novel library includes RealBuzz Studio's series, as well as his *Goofyfoot Gurl* and *Couplers* graphic novels, Ted Dekker's *Renegade*, and Stephen Baldwin's *Spirit Warriors*. Currently, NOVO Ink books are readable on PC and Macintosh computers (using the Zinio reader), Android powered devices, and the iPad and iPhone.

NovoInk.com

"OH, DAVEY. . . YOU'RE FIFTY!"

Fifty years ago, a 15-minute short named "Lost in a Cave" introduced the world to Davey and his talking dog, Goliath. Developed by the Lutheran Church, which hired *Gumby* creators Art and Ruth Clokey, dozens of episodes were produced between 1960 and 1975. In celebration of *Davey and Goliath's* 50th anniversary,

Bridgestone Media Group has released new "restored" DVDs of the series. Each disc includes six episodes, including some "lost" episodes. Six DVDs have been released so far, and a box set is available. While *Davey and Goliath's* picture and audio have been restored for clarity, the message of faith, tolerance, charity and love remains the same.

DaveyAndGoliath.org

COMICS FOR THE KING

Kingstone Comics is making a big splash publishing faith-based comic books and graphic novels. "We're moving to a post-Christian society," laments Kingstone CEO Art Ayris. "We want to capture a younger audience with Biblical stories."

Kingstone has a handful of 32-page comics telling some of the Bible's important stories. The newest one will be *Jonah*, written by Art Ayris and drawn by Danny Bulanadi, who has also drawn for Marvel Comics.

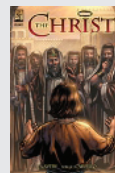
Also coming soon from Kingstone are two graphic novels written by *World Magazine's* Dr. Marvin Olasky: *Echoes of Eden* and *2048*. "*Echoes of Eden* is really an apologetics thriller," Ayris chuckles. "It's like Kingstone's answer to *The Da Vinci Code*."

KingstoneComics.com

NEWRELEASES



ALLEGIANCE OF THE BRIDE: FATEFUL ENCOUNTERS, PART 1
Grace Kim Kwon
(Creative House)



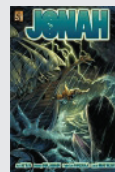
THE CHRIST VOL. 2
Kingstone Comics
(Kingston Media)



DAVEY AND GOLIATH VOL. 5: 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
(Bridgestone Multimedia)



HAPPINESS IS A WARM BLANKET, CHARLIE BROWN
Charles M. Schulz
(DVD, Warner Home Video)



JONAH
Kingstone Comics
(Kingstone Media)



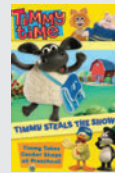
PAWS & TALES: SHOWING GRACE TO OTHERS
(Providential Pictures)



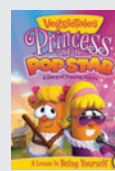
PILGRIM'S PROGRESS VOL. 1
Kingstone Comics
(Kingstone Media)



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS VOL. 2
Kingstone Comics
(Kingstone Media)



TIMMY TIME: TIMMY STEALS THE SHOW
(Lyons /Hit Ent.)



VEGGIETALES: PRINCESS AND THE POPSTAR
(Big Idea)

Remembering Stephen Bly

1944-2011



STEPHEN BLY

Christian Western novelist Stephen Bly passed away June 9 in Lewiston, Idaho, after a five-year battle with prostate cancer. He was 66.

A prolific author, Steve authored and co-authored with wife Janet numerous articles, short stories and cowboy poetry, plus more than 100 books for adults, teens and kids. He won the 2002 Christy Award for Western Novel for *The Long Trail Home* (B&H, 2001). Three more books were Christy finalists: *Picture Rock* (Crossway, 2001); *The Outlaw's Twin Sister* (Crossway, 2002); and *Last of the Texas Camp* (B&H, 2002).

He also received strong reviews for *Paperback Writer* (B&H, 2003), which Publisher's Weekly called "an amusing parody of the proverbial dime-store paperback novels." The Grande Ole Opry's Little Jimmy Dickens once wrote Steve a personal note: "Your book 'One Step Over The Border' is as good or better than Louis L'Amour's."

Recent novels included *Creede of Old Montana* (Center Point, 2009), *Cowboy for a Rainy Afternoon* (Center Point, 2010) and, published last spring, *Throw the Devil Off the Train* (Center

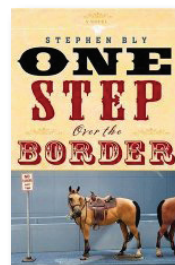
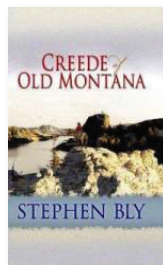
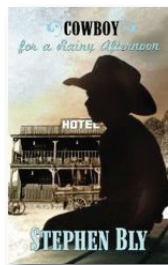
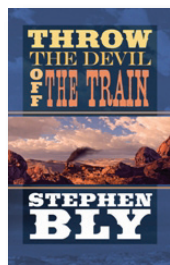
Point). Days before his death, he was dictating scenes for a new novel, Stuart Brannon's *Final Shot*. Janet and their sons hope to finish it for him for a 2012 release.

In addition to his career as a novelist, Steve pastored more than 20 years at the Winchester Community Church in Winchester, Idaho. He also served as the town's mayor from 1999 to 2007.

He was also a collector of antique Winchesters, and built the false-front Western village Broken Arrow Crossing. The site, built near his and Janet's home, was named after his first Stuart Brannon novel, *Hard Winter At Broken Crossing* (Crossway, 1991).

Steve and Janet traveled all over the U.S. and parts of Canada to speak at couples and family conferences, men's retreats, seminars, workshops for home-schoolers and writers conferences, as well as for a Young Writers Institute. They mentored many students for the Jerry B. Jenkins Christian Writers Guild.

Find more about Stephen Bly, and many of his books, at BlyBooks.com.





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