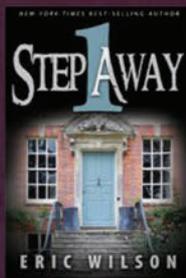


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September/October 2011

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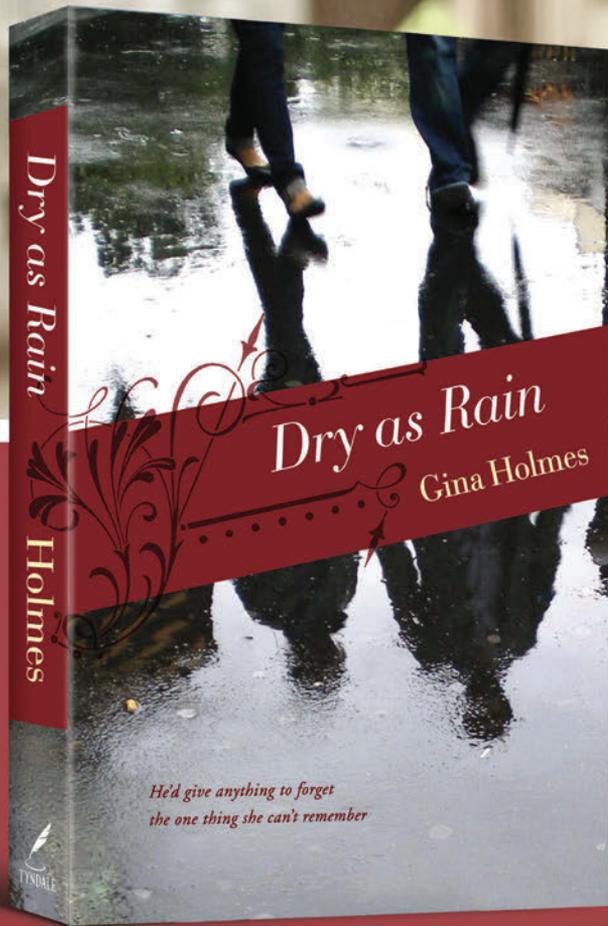
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#### COMICS/ANIM. // WELCOME TO HOLSON

PLUS: Susan K. Leigh, *Jesus: He Lived Among Us*, and Reverend Fun

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# Who We Are



## CHRIS WELL (EDITOR)

Chris Well is the editor of *FamilyFiction*. Although maintaining a website, weekly newsletter and bimonthly magazine keeps him pretty busy, he still has hopes of getting back to that novel.

(Don't even ask how long his agent has been waiting.)

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



## REL MOLLET (ROMANCE DEPT., HISTORICAL DEPT.)

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

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



## CJ DARLINGTON (SUSPENSE DEPT., MOVIES/DVDS DEPT.)

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

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



## KATIE HART (SPECULATIVE FICTION DEPT., YA/TEEN DEPT.)

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

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



## CHRISTA BANISTER (CONTEMPORARY/GENERAL FICTION DEPT.)

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.

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



## BEN AVERY (CHILDRENS DEPT., COMICS/ANIMATION DEPT.)

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](http://BenAvery.com)

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# Feedback



I found the VeggieTales cover story [July/August 2011] delightful! I love VeggieTales and I'm excited to see the newest movie, *The Princess and the Pop Star*, with my granddaughters. To learn the story of how VeggieTales came about and took off was wonderful. I love how God works in the lives of his followers. To top it off, I'm excited about showing the VeggieTales website to my daughter and granddaughters. Veggie Tales has been a part of my granddaughters lives and we know and love all of the songs and movies!

A funny story to share: While sitting at a red light, listening to a VeggieTales CD and singing along, my daughter and I in the front seats, my granddaughters in the back, the car next to us was playing loud, booming rap music and we couldn't hear our music. All the windows and the sunroof were open, so I forewarned everyone and turned up the sound really loud. The woman passenger in the other car leaned

forward and turned the music off in their car and she and the driver turned to look at us. My daughter was embarrassed, but my granddaughters and I were delighted and continued to sing along. It was great! Yay, VeggieTales!

Joanne Sgrignoli Boyd  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

I look forward to my weekly email and the newsletter. Thanks for keeping us informed with good clean reading and great authors.

Lois Shroyer Linamen  
Auburndale, Florida

Just discovered your lists of books (especially historical and Amish fiction)... Wonderful!

Lois Shroyer Linamen  
Auburndale, Florida

*Soul Surfer* is my favorite movie in the last couple of months. Can't wait until it comes out on DVD so the rest of the family can see it!

June Spencer Hickenlooper  
via Facebook.com/FamilyFiction

I found out that I shouldn't read Steven James' books at night and hope to sleep...each book has kept me reading and reading...and not sleeping!

Livija Ford  
Stacy, Minnesota

Just finished Dale Cramer's *Paradise Valley* this morning! Great book! Can't wait for the next one!

Dawn Yost  
Youngsville, Pennsylvania

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

**What books are on your "to be read" pile?**

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150298228763666

**Which do you like better: Little House or The Waltons?**

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**What are your favorite books by Karen Kingsbury?**

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**Who are your favorite authors who write YA fiction?**

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/1015026795778666

**If you could ask your favorite author one question—who is the author and what is the question?**

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150259844113666

**What's your preference—hardcover, paperback or ebook?**

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150248460478666

**Seen any good movies lately?**

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150289268148666

**How many different books are you in the middle of right now?**

Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150288254458666

**What is your favorite Bible storybook for kids?**

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## KEEP IN TOUCH

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“Simply put, *Redeeming Love* is the most powerful work of fiction you will ever read.”

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bestselling author of *Thorn in My Heart*



# Celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Redeeming Love*!

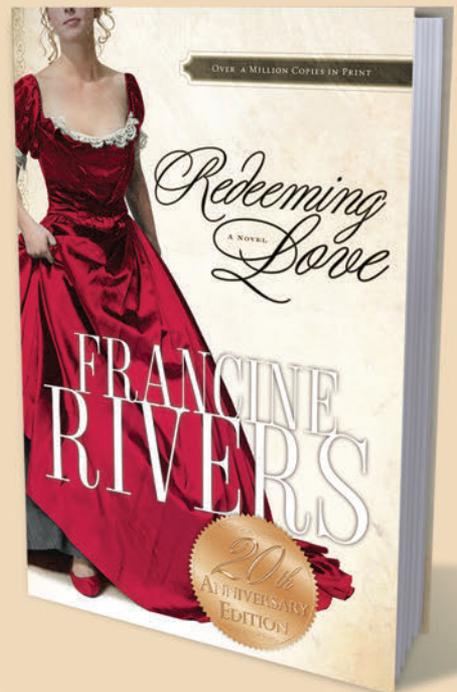
**California's gold country, 1850. A time when men sold their souls for a bag of gold and women sold their bodies for a place to sleep.**

Angel expects nothing from men but betrayal. Sold into prostitution as a child, she survives by keeping her hatred alive. And what she hates most are the men who use her, leaving her empty and dead inside.

Then she meets Michael Hosea, a man who seeks his Father's heart in everything. Michael obeys God's call to marry Angel and to love her unconditionally. Slowly, day by day, he defies Angel's every bitter expectation, until despite her resistance, her frozen heart begins to thaw.

But with her unexpected softening comes overwhelming feelings of unworthiness and fear. And so Angel runs. Back to the darkness, away from her husband's pursuing love, terrified of the truth she no longer can deny: her final healing must come from the One who loves her even more than Michael does...the One who will never let her go.

A powerful retelling of the story of Gomer and Hosea, *Redeeming Love* is a life-changing story of God's unconditional, redemptive, all-consuming love.



© Elaina Burdo

Shortly after becoming a born-again Christian in 1986, **Francine Rivers** wrote *Redeeming Love* as her statement of faith. First published by Bantam Books, and then re-released by Multnomah Publishers in the mid-1990s, this retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea set during the time of the California Gold Rush is now considered a classic work of Christian fiction and continues to be one of the Christian Booksellers Association's top-selling titles; it has held a spot on the Christian bestseller list for nearly a decade.

Francine and her husband Rick live in Northern California and enjoy the time spent with their three grown children and every opportunity to spoil their five grandchildren.

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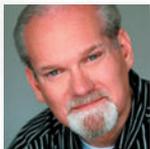
Become a fan of *Redeeming Love* on Facebook

Enter to win a trip for two to San Francisco!

Tell us how *Redeeming Love* changed you

# Dialogue

## Who's your favorite Christian novelist that you got to meet in person? (When? Where?)



### CONNIE RENNARD

I spoke to **Jerry Jenkins** on the phone when he was on my local Christian radio station. I finally got to thank him—and sent my thanks to **Tim LaHaye**—for the wonderful *Left Behind* series!

### STELLA MIZE

My fave is when I met **Allison Pittman**. Picked her up at the Indianapolis airport for the American Christian Fiction Writers convention. She's super nice and so very funny! We met first online.

### DORIS HOWARD

**Beth Wiseman** at Calico Hens in Columbus, Texas, in 2009.

### RONIE KENDIG

I feel like I'm geeking out to admit this, but **Robert Liparulo**. Got to meet him at my local Barnes & Noble last fall.



### CANDACE BURGESS KUYKENDALL

**Karen Kingsbury!** We met in Greenville, S.C., at the Extraordinary Women Conference. We had already begun an email friendship and it was wonderful to meet her in person.

### SHERRY JACKSON GREENE

I've met both **Beverly Lewis** and **Wanda Brunstetter** in Holmes County, Ohio.

### MARION LAIRD

I was really blessed to meet **Tim LaHaye**, long ago in San Diego, and a couple years ago to meet **Carla Stewart**, **Margaret Daley**, and **Vickie McDonough** at a meeting of Writers of Inspirational Novels branch of ACFW in Tulsa. All my other writer friends I know only online, so far.

### LINDA PIRAINO

**Wanda Brunstetter**—met her in Indiana and Ohio a few times. I have also met **Beverly Lewis**.



### C.J. DARLINGTON

**Frank Peretti**. I was so nervous! Could barely even speak and had to pretty much just hand him my copy of *The Oath* to sign. (It was at a signing where I met him.) Very, very humble guy. Would love to meet him again.

### MAENDI ASTLEY

**M.B. Weston!** She is incredibly friendly and our family has enjoyed her *Elysian Chronicles* series.

### SHEILA SCHAFFER GROVES

**Suzanne Woods Fisher**, New Philadelphia, Ohio. This past February. Was also a thrill to meet **Mary Ellis** at the same time. I also met **Wanda Brunstetter** a couple of years ago in Wheeling, West Virginia.

### PAMELA BINNS BLAZ

I have been fortunate to meet both **Wanda Brunstetter** and **Suzanne Woods Fisher**. Both of these beautiful ladies came to Holmes County, Ohio. What a blessing it was for me!



### JANET WORTHINGTON PECORELLA

I met **Amy Clipston** after sending her an email of how much I love her books; it turns out we live just down the road from each other. She's a great writer, and an even better friend.

### BRENDA HENDRICKS

**Francine Rivers**. I met her at Sandy Cove Christian Writers Conference several years ago.

### SHARON SATHER CARALLI

**Francine Rivers** at the Christian bookstore in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

### CECILIA SIMS COFFINO

**Ronie Kendig**—she is actually a friend! I've known her since she was teen. I saw her at a book-signing in central Texas, where she grew up.

### TABITHA A

**Ted Dekker!** Last Spring at a book signing at a Borders right outside of Chicago!

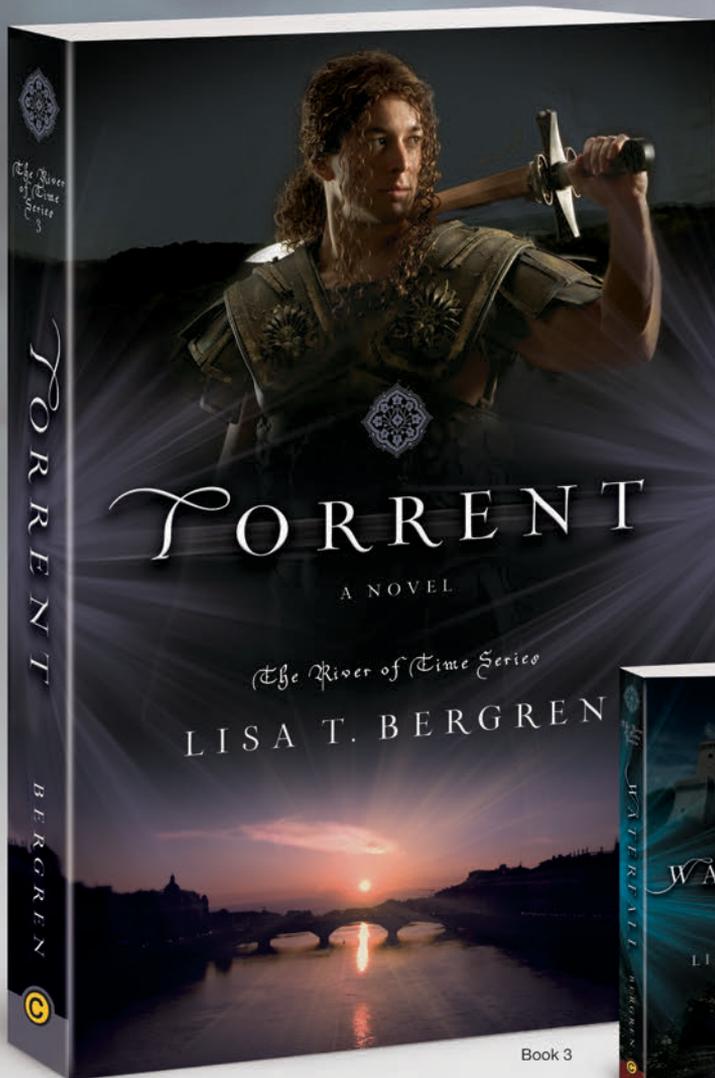
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WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR  
**KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR**  
LIVES, LITERALLY, IN A DIFFERENT WORLD?



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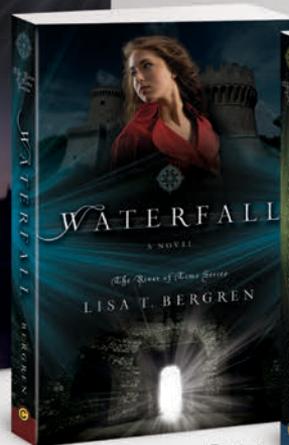
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## Q&A: HILLARY MANTON LODGE

"Fiction is, first and foremost, about telling a good story, about drawing characters who engage the reader in a way that evokes an emotional and/or intellectual response."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/hillary-manton-lodge/features/q-a-hillary-manton-lodge/>



## Q&A: BRANDT DODSON

"I had the good fortune of having teachers and professors tell me that I should be a writer and that if I didn't, I would regret it the rest of my life."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/brandt-dodson/features/q-a-brandt-dodson/>



## Q&A: ROBERT JAMES LUEDKE

"I hope that the series might spark an interest in the Bible by those who might have been resistant to it's message before."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robert-james-luedke/features/q-a-robert-james-luedke/>



## Q&A: MARY CONNEALY

"I think I create characters who are like I wish I was, rather than who I am. I have a pretty good sense of humor, but I mostly keep it to myself—to the relief of all who know me."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/mary-connealy/features/mary-connealy-old-west-love-stories-spiced-with-humor-and-suspense/>



## Q&A: JULIE CAVE

"I hope that when people are finished reading my books that they can't stop thinking about them, that they have been touched emotionally or intellectually in some way."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/julie-cave/features/q-a-julie-cave/>



## Q&A: GREG MITCHELL

"*The Strange Man* is, at its core, the story of someone overcoming his own doubts, fears, and limitations to share his faith with someone else. It's about living out what you say you believe—no matter the consequences."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/greg-mitchell/features/greg-mitchell-fear-no-evil/>



## Q&A: BRIAN REAVES

"I want readers to finish my novels, close the book, and say, 'Man, that was fun!'"

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/brian-reaves/features/q-a-brian-reaves/>



## Q&A: LACY WILLIAMS

"I truly believe that the only way we as human beings can be completely content is through a strong relationship with God and I hope that shows in my characters, struggles and all."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lacy-williams/features/q-a-lacy-williams/>



## Q&A: SANDRA BYRD

"I want to write books that whisk my readers away to another time and place where they can lose themselves, willingly, in the lives of characters they love."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/sandra-byrd/features/q-a-sandra-byrd/>



## Q&A: AARON PATTERSON

"I believe that by telling a story is one of the most powerful ways to reach people."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/aaron-patterson/features/q-a-aaron-patterson/>

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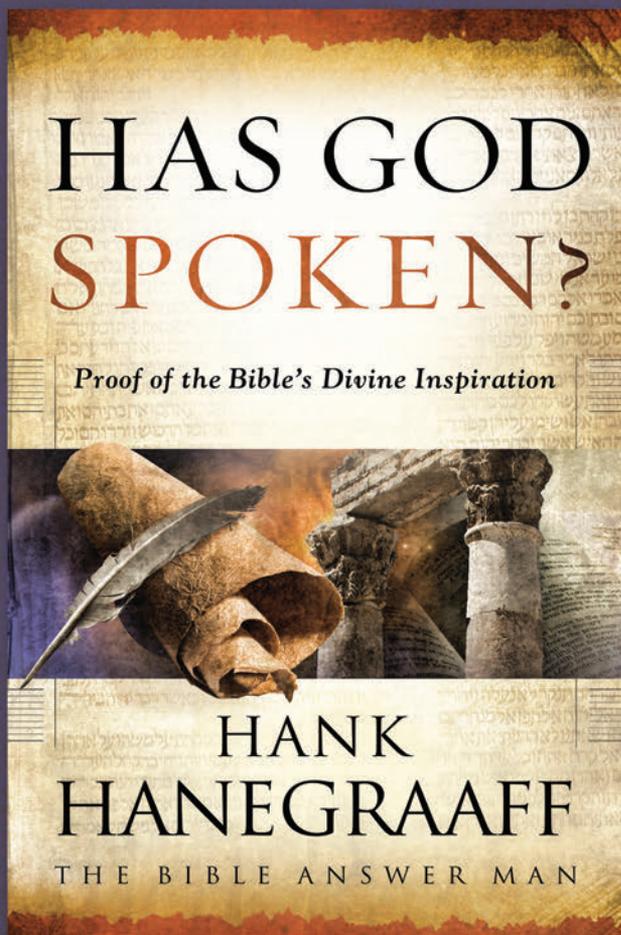
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*a  
sense OF  
BELONGING*

C.J. DARLINGTON



**Born in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, Beverly Lewis has authored more than eighty books—published in eleven languages worldwide. A keen interest in her mother’s Plain heritage has inspired Beverly to write many Amish-related novels, beginning with *The Shunning*, which sold more than one million copies and was made into an Original Hallmark Channel movie. Her latest novel is *The Mercy*, the third volume in her Rose Trilogy.**

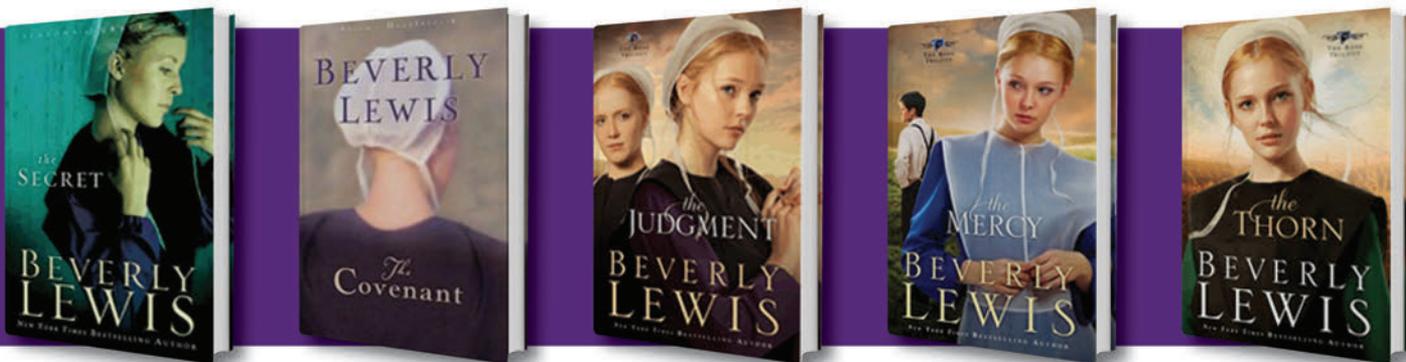
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Writing started as a coping mechanism for Beverly Lewis. “My mother was dying of cancer when I was little,” Lewis says. “The doctors said she had only six months to live, and I was always writing my thoughts in little journals. I would create these stories about exotic places, the different worlds I was juxtaposed against growing up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and being around the Amish families my dad knew.”

But what could’ve been a tragic childhood, God turned around for good. Beverly’s mother lived to be eighty-four

(the miracle story went into her book *The Sunroom*), and her curiosity with the Amish has spawned numerous best-selling books including *The Shunning*, *The Redemption of Sarah Cain*, and her latest series The Rose Trilogy. Before she was ever published in book-length, however, she wrote on assignment for magazines. “I loved it,” she says. “I was also doing short fiction for kids and teens in the *Brio* and *Breakaway* days. Back then being published in *Highlights for Children* was a big goal of mine. It took lots of attempts, but I finally [achieved it].”

Beverly’s first published book was a novel for teen girls. Nineteen months after she submitted it to Zondervan’s slush pile, she got a call saying they wanted to publish it, but they wanted a whole series. This surprised Beverly, but she readily agreed. *Best Friend, Worst Enemy* was released in 1993 and became book one in the fourteen volume Holly’s Heart series, now published by Bethany House. “I didn’t have an agent,” Beverly adds. “I actually sold my first sixty books on my own, with the help of my husband who eventually became my agent and manager.”



It wasn't too long before Beverly's pen turned to writing stories about the Amish. First came her Summerhill Secrets series, set near where she grew up in the small town of Neffsville, PA. But then the story which had been simmering in her heart since she was eleven had to be told.

"Many of my stories are based on the spunkiness of my maternal grandmother," Beverly says. "She was raised Old Order

blockbuster Amish fiction novels and selling well over a million copies. Beverly knew it was special early on. "This warm, amazing feeling would come over me whenever I would work on it," she says. "I felt it was something to be protected and taken care of, to be held close to me until it was ready to be released."

One of the things that originally fascinated Beverly about the Amish was their

all their dear spiritual values and attitudes toward their tradition—a lot of them really are strong believers. Others are just embracing what they know, but they're the most honest, kindhearted, generous people you will ever want to meet. We can learn a lot from them."

Most authors dream of seeing just one of their books made into a movie, but Beverly has been blessed to have two turned into feature films. 2007's *Saving Sarah Cain* was based on her novel *The Redemption of Sarah Cain*, but the filmmakers freely adapted many aspects of the story to better fit the big screen. Beverly understood this needed to be done and had the chance to approve everything.

When it came time for *The Shunning* movie to be made, she expected there would be many surprises in it too, but there weren't. They stuck very closely to the novel because it read like a movie script in the minds of the filmmakers, which Beverly takes as a compliment.

"Michael Landon Jr. sent us the uncut edition," she says. "I was trying to be open-minded and not love it too much. I tried to come at it like a typical viewer, but that's kind of impossible to do because I'm so

“ I TRY TO KEEP MY PLOTS NICE AND FRESH. JUST BECAUSE I KEEP WRITING AMISH SETTINGS DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO BE THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD. ”

Mennonite and eventually was ex-communicated and shunned when she didn't marry the man her father and the bishop thought she should. She was incredibly courageous for following her heart and what she believed was God's call in her life. *The Shunning* is loosely based on her story. I think the books that simmer in me the longest are the best," she adds with a laugh.

*The Shunning* changed the face of Christian publishing, becoming one of the first

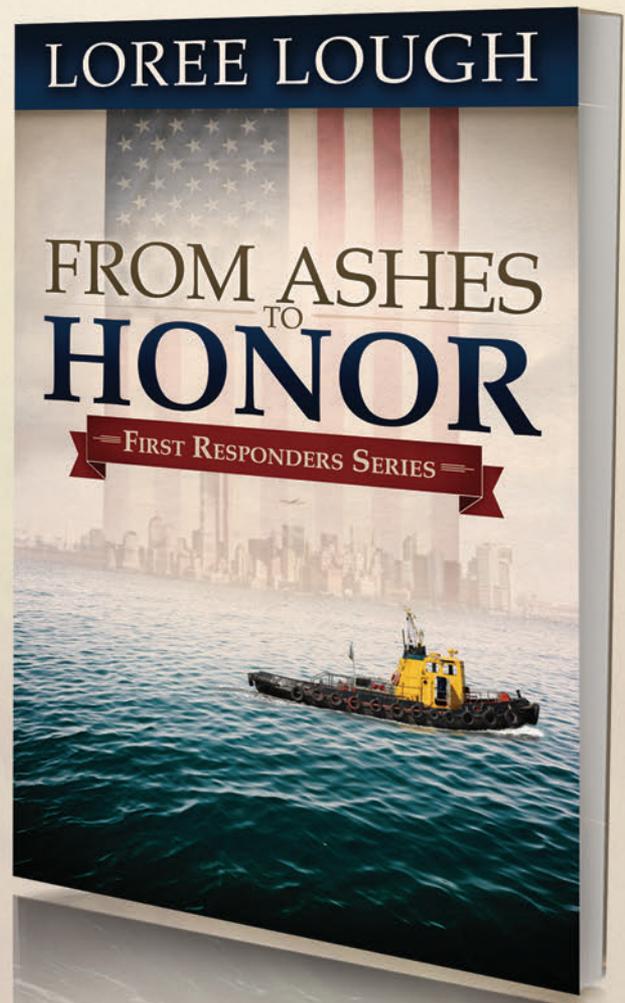
great sense of belonging. "Every child is absolutely adored and loved," she says. "There's a lot of cherishing going on, even when there are children who are born disabled or with special needs. They have a sense of community amidst the fragmented world we live in. Everyone has a group mentality, loving and caring and going to church. An example would be when the women work together canning. They don't say, 'Oh, we're going to hurry up and get our work done so we can go play.' Their work is play. And



IN ONE MORNING,  
*everything* changed

Minutes before two jumbo jets changed history, NYPD officer Austin Finley ignored the call from his brother. Mercy Samara, who cost Austin his job after 9/11, leaves the city to work as a school counselor.

When Mercy and Austin cross paths again, will their common—and painful—memories finally bring them closer or drive them further apart?





close to the story. I remember being so incredibly moved. ‘That’s my Katie!’ I said, so excited. I had to hold myself down when I wrote back with my comments. It was surreal. My husband has watched it ten times on Hallmark!”

Beverly’s new series, *The Rose Trilogy*, which concludes with *The Mercy*, again takes readers into the heart of Amish country with a storyline stemming from two separate ideas. “The concept of foster care among the Amish community intrigued me,” she says. “There are Amish families who have actually been able to adopt Englishers children and raise them in the Amish church and faith. Also, there aren’t many of them, but there are some young Amish women who have impulsively married outside their communities and regretted it, especially

after having a child and then experiencing the push and pull of how to raise the child to mesh with their traditional, conservative upbringing when the father, their husband, is pushing for a worldly influence. These two storylines were really strong in me. I try to keep my plots nice and fresh. Just because I keep writing Amish settings doesn’t mean they’re going to be the same old, same old.”

When it comes to the actual process of writing, Beverly is thoroughly devoted. She admits to often working until she falls off the chair into bed. “I’m just crazy!” she says, laughing. “I start in the morning and edit

everything that doesn’t look great in the light of day. In the afternoon I work on marketing, answering fan mail, Facebook, and even snail mail. Then in the evening or later afternoon I try to outline what I’m going to write next. I set aside about two and a half months to do my writing marathon. Then I have a week off. After that I go on tour for two weeks and come back to do revisions, take a little break, and then start again. I do this every six months.

“I don’t know if I’ll ever live to write all the stories I have,” she concludes. “Not all of them are Amish. I have to write what’s passionate for me. I never wrote for the market; I wrote my heart.”

**FF**

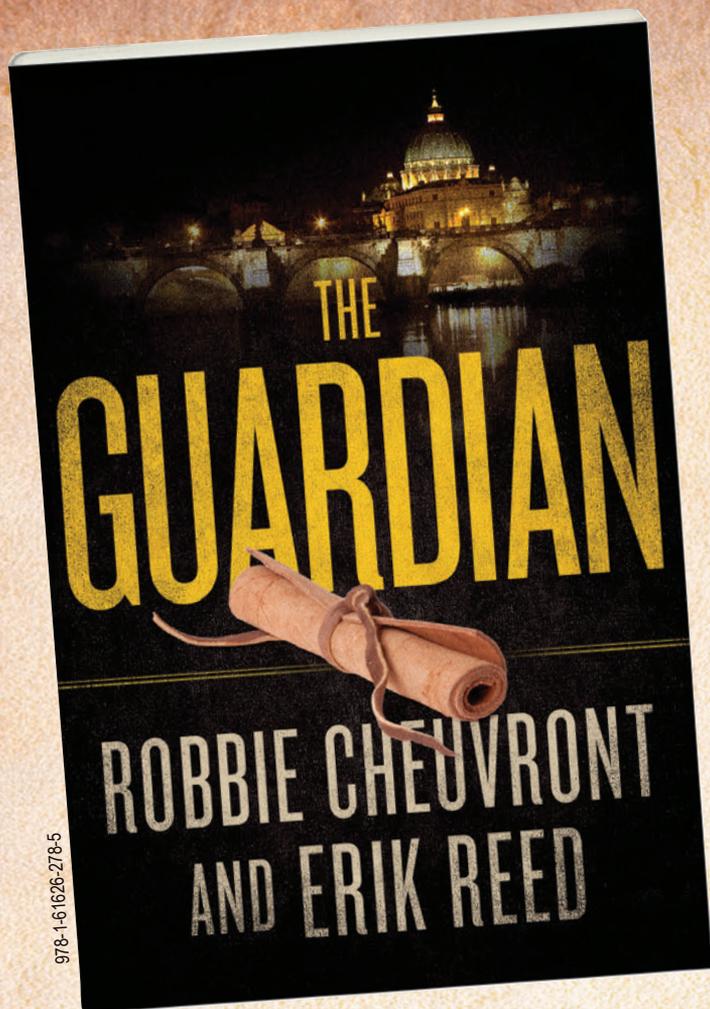


**FIND BEVERLY LEWIS ONLINE**

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

**“The plot is captivating. The characters are believable. The pace is fast. You absolutely must read this book.”**

**—Ben Stroup, writer, blogger, and consultant, [TheContentMatrix.com](http://TheContentMatrix.com)**



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 **BARBOUR PUBLISHING**



# To Serve And Protect

C.J. DARLINGTON

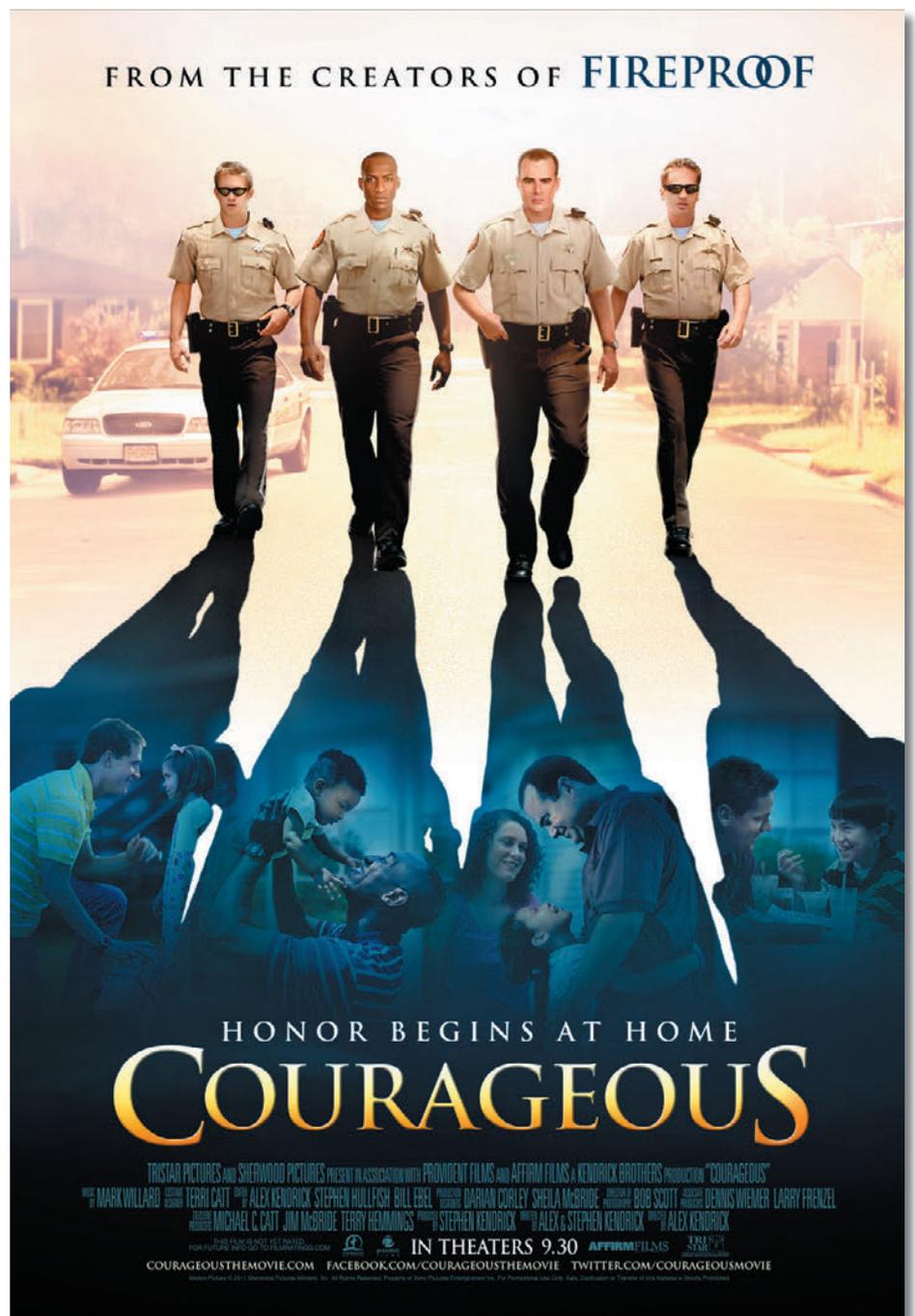
*Courageous*, the latest film from Sherwood Pictures, aims to do for fatherhood what their film *Fireproof* did for marriage.

When Alex and Stephen Kendrick made their first movie *Flywheel* for \$20,000, they had no idea their little film would change the face of Christian moviemaking. They didn't even know if they'd shoot another movie. But since 2003 God has led the brothers and their church, Sherwood Baptist, to release ground breaking films like *Facing the Giants* and *Fireproof*, which became the highest grossing independent film of 2008. Now Sherwood Pictures is set to impact culture once again with the theatrical release of *Courageous*, a cop drama about four police officers who get a crash course in fatherhood.

Ken Bevel, who plays Officer Nathan Hayes in the film, explains Sherwood's approach to filmmaking. "Every idea is bathed in prayer," he says. "We're trying to stay away from the stereotype that we're cranking out movies and aren't really interested in the impact they're making. There is such a thing as a good idea and a God idea. A good idea for everybody else is for Sherwood to

make more movies, but we always ask ourselves if God wants us to."

Thankfully for viewers, the resounding answer after *Fireproof* was "yes." The result is a film Sherwood hopes will turn the hearts of men to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Fatherhood is a subject that especially hits home for Bevel whose dad started abusing alcohol and drugs when he was young, sending him into a tailspin. "There was no one there to help me be a man," Bevel says, "or show me how to be a husband and father. No one to tell me about the principles of God and how He can be our sustainer.





“Everything in this movie is pointing people to the cross.”

“I’ve seen the effects bad marriages and bad relationships can have on a child. I’ve lived it. I can identify with this movie on that level and as a father myself now too. Often you’re going through life thinking you’re a good dad. But do you really understand what a good dad is? Do you really know what God says about being a father?”

Which isn’t to say *Courageous* is only a movie for dads. “We all need to ask ourselves about our purpose,” Bevel points out. “What has God called you to, and what does Scripture say about it? Everything in this movie is pointing people to the cross.”

“Some see our movies and think the church is raking in all this dough,” Bevel adds. “But this process takes an enormous amount of commitment and people staying on their knees praying. I know I’m one of the people who’s seen on the screen, but there are thousands of people in the background. It’s a huge undertaking, but the great thing about this is the unity of the group. People are coming together because they believe God has ordained this and has allowed the church to do this for a season. There’s no jealousy. Everybody’s bringing together their gifts and talents to glorify God.”

FF

#### FIND COURAGEOUS ONLINE

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

[Facebook.com/CourageousTheMovie](https://Facebook.com/CourageousTheMovie)

[Twitter.com/CourageousMovie](https://Twitter.com/CourageousMovie)

## BOOK ‘EM



Want more *Courageous*? Best-selling author Randy Alcorn was tapped to write a novel based on the film in just four months. “I ended up cutting only one scene from the movie,” Randy says. “Besides that, 100 percent of the movie is in the

book, including 100 percent of the dialogue. But I did write a lot of things that weren’t in the movie at all. I created some brand new characters. I kind of reverse-engineered a novel out of a screenplay by asking myself, what would this novel have looked like if they’d extracted the screenplay out of it?”

FF

## READY TO WEAR



Kerusso has launched an exclusive line of shirts and caps inspired by the film *Courageous*. Spreading the film’s themes of a father’s duty to serve and protect, the *Courageous* products are available through

more than 5,000 retail outlets worldwide.

“Kerusso and Sherwood Pictures are a great partnership,” Kerusso founder and CEO Vic Kennett says. “We both want to share vital biblical truths through channels we know well, film for Sherwood and apparel for Kerusso. We couldn’t be more excited to help extend the important message of *Courageous*.” According to Kennett, the average messaged t-shirt gets read about 3,000 times over the garment’s life—making Kerusso shirts a powerful extension of the vital theme of godly fatherhood in *Courageous*.

FF



## TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

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BEST-SELLING AUTHOR TED DEKKER AND NOTED UP-AND-COMER TOSCA LEE HAVE TEAMED UP FOR A NEW SPECULATIVE FICTION TRILOGY CALLED THE BOOKS OF MORTALS. THE TWO SHARE HOW THEIR DIFFERENT STRENGTHS CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE ONE UNIQUE READING EXPERIENCE.

KATIE HART



In a world where every emotion but fear has been eradicated, and the primary objective of every person is to follow Order, a vial of blood holds the key to life. From the minds and hearts of Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee comes *Forbidden* (Center Street), the first novel in The Books of Mortals series—a sweeping saga set in a grim, medieval future.

Already a best-selling author many times over, Ted writes adrenaline-packed thrillers and allegory-filled fantasies. “I’ve upped the ante and written this epic with Tosca Lee,” Ted says. “The result speaks for itself. We both wrote every chapter, which took twice the time, something I’ve never done before.”

Tosca’s novels *Demon* and *Havah* (B&H) shattered barriers in Christian publishing and she quickly gained a following. She says it’s the duo’s complementary strengths that make this partnership work. “Anyone who reads Ted’s books knows he’s particularly brilliant when it comes to pacing, plot, action,” she says. “Those are very classic Dekker trademarks. The things that I’m known for tend to be language, prose, description.”

“Her stunning prose with my native, no prisoners storytelling has created a singular voice,” Ted adds.

“It’s very difficult for us, even now, to go back and say, ‘I wrote this. I wrote this sentence, this is mine,’” Tosca put in. “Every now and then I can see a phrase or a word, and I can remember penning it, but it’s very, very difficult anymore to know who wrote what.”

Tosca shares how this unique collaboration came about: “If you look at the kind of things he’s

interested in thematically, they’re very similar to the kind of things that interest me. The same kinds of stories move us.” Emails about their writing led to the suggestion of writing a series together. “The idea was to do something that neither one of us could produce alone. Otherwise, what’s the point?”

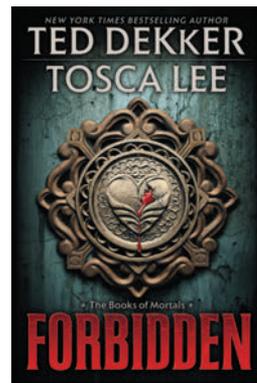
The adventure they created commences when a young artisan is given an ancient vial of blood and a cryptic vellum. Forced to flee, Rom drinks the blood and is flooded by unfamiliar passions. Wonder. Sorrow. Love. He realizes the rest of the world is dead, feeling only fear, and begins a journey to bring back that which is forbidden: true life.

“At the very beginning of this project, we started with the theme,” Tosca says—but each author came at the same theme from slightly different angles. “I know that this series is a chance for Ted to examine God’s greatest creation, which is humanity. What does it mean to be made in God’s image? For me, it was: What does it mean to be fully human? What does it mean to be truly alive?”

Ted elaborates on the series title, The Books of Mortals. “Mortal simply means ‘Alive’ and as such belonging to the world of the living, not the dead. It’s a provocative word, because it also can mean ‘severe’ or ‘dangerous’ and being truly mortal is a dangerous thing.”

“I am so grateful to Ted’s readers, for embracing me and this project,” Tosca says. “One note from one reader will carry me for days.”

The next two books in the series, *Mortal* and *Sovereign*, come out in 2012. “Initially we intended on delivering the series over three years,” Ted says, “but the enthusiasm has grown so quickly behind closed doors that the publisher called us, begging us to allow them to release all three in one year.” **FF**



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#### FIND TED DEKKER & TOSCA LEE ONLINE

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

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

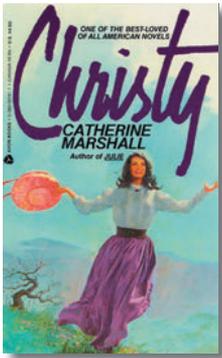
[ToscaLee.com](http://ToscaLee.com)

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*The Christy Awards: Honoring  
Exceptional Christian Fiction*

KATHI MACIAS



*The Christy Awards were handed out July 11 in Atlanta, Georgia. Named after the groundbreaking novel by Catherine Marshall, the awards honor the best in Christian fiction.*

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The popularity of Christian fiction has exploded in recent years—but the concept is certainly not new. In the Bible, the prophet Nathan used a fictional story about a family’s favorite lamb to confront King David with his sin. Jesus, like many rabbis of his time, used fictional stories, known as parables, to teach and challenge His listeners, setting the example for Christian novelists today. And then there’s the first modern-day Christian novel—*The Pilgrim’s Progress* by John Bunyan—published in February 1678, and still a popular read.

Though Christian fiction isn’t new, it has gained not only in popularity but in respectability as well. And for the past eleven years, The Christy Awards have been doing their part to raise that profile. The Christy Awards were handed out Monday, July 11, at the International Christian Retail Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

The idea for the awards came up in 1999 when an editorial meeting at Bethany House

Publishers turned to discussing the need for an award to recognize memorable fiction that might not attain bestseller status. Soon, those present were exploring ways to also bring further awareness to the breadth and quality of novels published for the Christian market, and to nurture and encourage creativity and quality in the writing and publishing of Christian novels.

Carol Johnson, then VP of Editorial at Bethany House and a founding member of the Christy Advisory Board, chaired that original meeting. “We thought Catherine Marshall’s *Christy* would provide a good headline as representative of the genre,” she says, explaining the name behind the annual fiction awards. Following that meeting, she called some industry friends at other publishing houses. “And we met that year for a discussion of the possibilities.”

An advisory board was made up of representatives of Christian publishers and

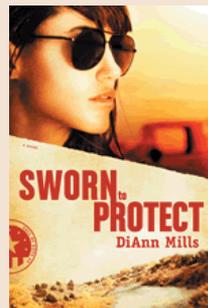
retailers to guide and expand the initiative. The first Christy Award banquet was held the following summer, during the Christian Booksellers Association retail show in 2000. That first banquet honored books in six categories.

“The Christy Awards acknowledge the unique role that storytelling has in communicating deep truths

“ *The Christy Awards acknowledge the unique role that storytelling has in communicating deep truths about God and His love and interaction with humankind throughout history.*  
*—Donna Kehoe, executive director of the Christy Awards* ”



*Christy Award 2011  
 Winners and Finalists*

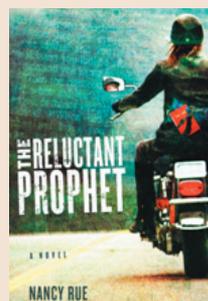


*Contemporary Romance:*

**Sworn to Protect**  
 by DiAnn Mills  
 (Tyndale House)

*Blood Ransom*  
 by Lisa Harris (Zondervan)  
*Indivisible*

by Kristin Heitzmann (WaterBrook Press)



*Contemporary Series,  
 Sequels, and Novellas:*

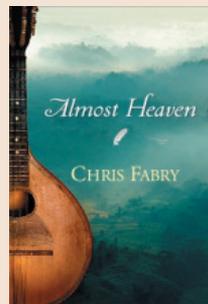
**The Reluctant Prophet**  
 by Nancy Rue  
 (David C. Cook)

*The Thorn*

by Beverly Lewis (Bethany House)

*The Waiting*

by Suzanne Woods Fisher (Revell Books)



*Contemporary  
 Stand-alone:*

**Almost Heaven**  
 by Chris Fabry  
 (Tyndale House)

*Lady in Waiting*

by Susan Meissner (WaterBrook Press)

*A Season of Miracles*

by Rusty Whitener (Kregel Publications)

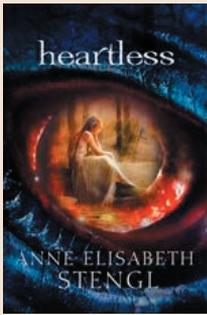
about God and His love and interaction with humankind throughout history,” says Donna Kehoe, tapped by the founding group to run that first program. Eleven years later, Kehoe serves as executive director of the Christy Awards. “When a panel of judges gives a novel a Christy Award, they’re saying that the author has skillfully interwoven

characterization, plot, theme, and other criteria for a good novel in this work—and that’s something to celebrate.”

Over the years, the Christy Awards has grown into a gala event that is one of the highlights of the annual International Christian Retail Show. In fact, it is nearly impossible today to imagine ICRS without the Christy

Awards. “Among the awards for excellence in Christian fiction,” notes Cynthia Ruchti, author and board member of American Christian Fiction Writers, “the Christy Awards hold a revered spot.”

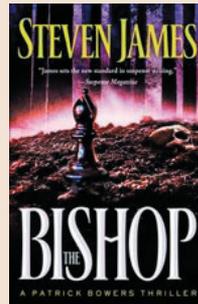
ACFW president Margaret Daley agrees. “The Christy Awards are the industry’s way of acknowledging exceptional Christian fiction.” **FF**



*First Novel:*

**Heartless**  
by Anne Elisabeth Stengl  
(Bethany House)  
*Crossing Oceans*  
by Gina Holmes (Tyndale House)

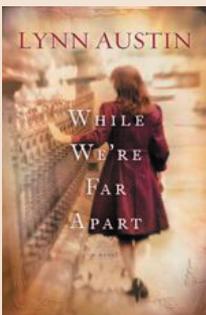
*A Season of Miracles*  
by Rusty Whitener (Kregel Publications)



*Suspense:*

**The Bishop**  
by Steven James  
(Revell Books)  
*The Bride Collector*  
by Ted Dekker (Center Street)  
*Predator*

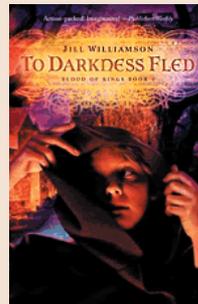
by Terri Blackstock (Zondervan)



*Historical:*

**While We're Far Apart**  
by Lynn Austin  
(Bethany House)  
*Chosen: The Lost Diaries of Queen Esther*  
by Ginger Garrett

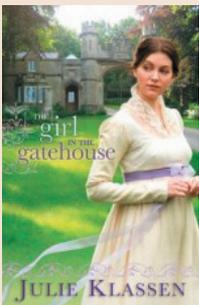
(David C. Cook)  
*For Time & Eternity*  
by Allison Pitman (Tyndale House)



*Visionary:*

**To Darkness Fled**  
by Jill Williamson  
(Marcher Lord Press)  
*Konig's Fire*  
by Marc Schooley (Marcher Lord Press)

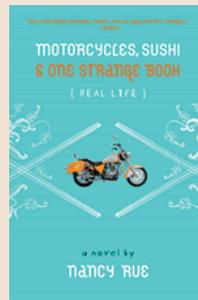
*The Last Christian*  
by David Gregory (WaterBrook Press)



*Historical Romance:*

**The Girl in the Gatehouse**  
by Julie Klassen  
(Bethany House)  
*She Walks in Beauty*  
by Siri Mitchell (Bethany House)

*Within My Heart*  
by Tamera Alexander (Bethany House)



*Young Adult:*

**Motorcycles, Sushi, and One Strange Book**  
by Nancy Rue (Zondervan)  
*The Charlatan's Boy*  
by Jonathan Rogers  
(WaterBrook Press)

*The Healer's Apprentice*  
by Melanie Dickerson (Zondervan)

KATHY TYERS

# SPACE FIRE

BY KATIE HART



**With her original Firebird trilogy, author Kathy Tyers is said to have invented the Christian science fiction genre in the modern era. Following a long sabbatical, she returns to fiction—and to the Firebird story.**

For Christians who are fans of science fiction, author Kathy Tyers made history in 1986. That was the year she launched a groundbreaking science fiction epic with *Firebird*, followed quickly by *Fusion Fire*.

A space opera with parallels to ancient Israel, the titles were originally published by general market publisher Bantam Spectra—but when Kathy took the books (along with the third volume, *Crown of Fire*) to Christian publisher Bethany House, she found the freedom to revise the books and tell the story exactly how she

wanted. “Writing for Bethany House gave me the opportunity to bring forward the spiritual undertones that had always been there,” Kathy shares. “The Firebird series always was a conversion story.”

More than two decades after *Firebird*’s original publication, Marcher Lord Press has published *The Annotated Firebird*, a special three-in-one volume with added material, maps and notes from the author. “All along I have kept a very fat notebook of brainstorming ideas,” Kathy says. “Family trees, cultural ideas, Hebrew

word derivations and such. I went through and reread the Bantam and Bethany House versions of *Firebird*, *Fusion Fire*, and *Crown of Fire*, and just took notes of little things that popped into my head as I was reading it, memories from writing, and where nearly all the names came from.”

## REACHING INTO SPACE

Kathy has enjoyed reading science fiction since she was a bright fifth grader looking in the junior high section of the public library. “I brought home a copy of Ben Bova’s *The Star*

*Conquerors*. I read it in one day, and just couldn't believe I had found something so new and wonderful."

Many years later, as a young mother, Kathy decided to try writing a science fiction novel of her own.

Her first book was *Firebird*—and she was already working on the sequel when she made her first sale.

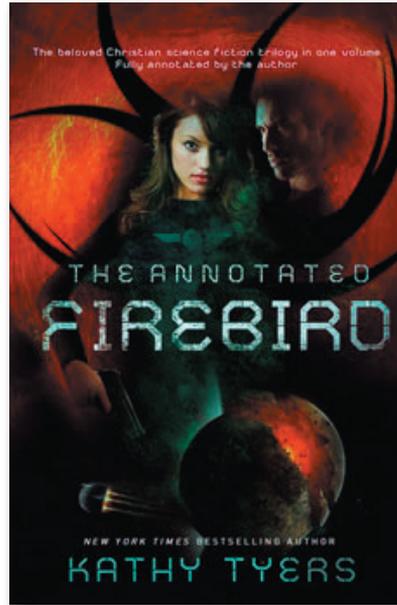
After writing four novels for Bantam Books, Kathy was invited to write a *Star Wars* novel. Kathy eventually wrote two *Star Wars* novels, *The Truce at Bakura* and *Balance Point*.

But not everything was rosy. "My late husband was pretty much convinced that my writing secular science fiction was part of the problem. So I backed off, stopped reading it, stopped writing it, and told God if He was ever going to have me write science fiction again, He was going to have to make it plain to me and my husband."

He did. Kathy took a proposal for a contemporary women's series to a Christian writers' conference, but the very first editor she met with, Steve Laube, turned out to be a long-time fan of her science fiction novels. He championed her *Firebird* series and another rewritten novel, *Shivering World*, at Bethany House.

## RETURN TO WRITING

Widowed in 2004, Kathy headed in 2006 to school for her



THE ANNOTATED FIREBIRD

“ I was being encouraged about writing in general. It was the perfect environment for me. ”

master's degree in Christianity and the arts. "I went to Regent College needing a rest, but also needing a kickstart if I was ever going to be writing again. One reason I chose Regent was that I could write a new novel as essentially my master's thesis."

Returning to novel writing was initially frightening. "Within a couple of weeks I pounded out one of the scenes for the first time, and I really was lost. Who was I to think that I could write?"

But she remembered that same doubt plagued earlier novels, and kept writing. "It was wonderful to have it confirmed at Regent College that all the arts, all of the things we do creatively, come to

us from our Creator, and they are good gifts for the building up of other people, besides just entertainment. So I was being encouraged about writing in general as I was writing. It was the perfect environment for me."

## REBIRTH OF FIREBIRD

Now Kathy's *Firebird* series has found new life at Christian speculative fiction publisher Marcher Lord Press. Book four in the series, *Wind and Shadow*, releases fall 2011. "It's the next generation. I started with the assumption that *Firebird's* twin sons would follow very different paths, and sure enough, they did. It was fun to put them in an adventure together, along with

a young woman who grew up on the conquered world of Three Zed. She has a very evil background, but she was raised among Sentinels, so she is an interesting character." Book five is scheduled for 2012.

"The heart of my books is the characters," Kathy says. "I believe that every character is more complex than you could possibly put in a book. To find the aspect of that character that brings her or him to life and drives the plot forward is the spark of every book." **FF**

## FIND KATHY TYERS ONLINE

KathyTyers.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Kathy-Tyers



*Far*  
AND  
*Away*

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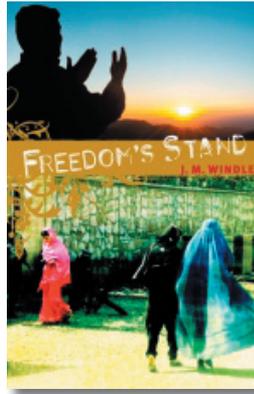
REL MOLLET



*Meet three  
writers—Lisa  
Harris, Kathi  
Macias, and  
Jeannette Windle—  
who write stories  
about the power  
of the Gospel  
in other lands.  
Written by our  
own international  
correspondent,  
Rel Mollet.*

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Fiction has long been an avenue readers use to escape for a few hours, to be entertained, amused or thrilled. Yet for some authors their burning desire to spiritually challenge, educate and inspire infuses their storytelling with an added dimension. A home-schooling mum and missionary, a Harley-loving former newspaper columnist and a Spanish speaking magazine editor are three such authors devoted to challenging their readers to do extraordinary things for God.



## JEANETTE WINDLE

As the daughter of American missionaries growing up in the Colombian guerrilla zones and subsequently serving with her husband in the Bolivian mission field and on all five continents, Jeanette Windle has spent her whole life in the world of international missions. It comes as no surprise that her fiction is missions focused and grounded in her real life experiences. Jeanette's early adult novels, including *Crossfire*, *Firestorm* and *The DMZ* (Kregel), are set in South America with her most recent offerings, *Veiled Freedom* (Christy and CBA award finalist) and *Freedom's Stand* (Tyndale), in Afghanistan. Of her mission field experience Jeanette says, "I have been blessed to experience, in the darkest places, the overriding sovereignty of a loving God and the shining light that is the body of Christ. The stories I encountered along the way were so incredible that fiction was the only real way to bring them to life."

*Veiled Freedom* introduces a disillusioned Special Forces veteran, an idealistic relief worker, and an Afghan refugee whose stories continue in *Freedom's Stand*. Jeanette shares, "The three main characters are representative of the three main players I have encountered so often in this drama: the international military/State Department world, the international aid/humanitarian world, and the Afghan people themselves. I wanted readers to get a glimpse into each of these worlds, their point of view, and the interweaving issues as these worlds clash."

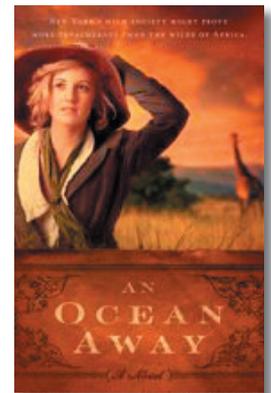
Jeanette's fiction reveals her desire to support her Christian brothers and sisters who are imprisoned or persecuted for their faith, not only in Afghanistan but across the planet, and she prays her readers will finish the book with an understanding of the true source of freedom. "Bottom line, when enough

*What reader feedback have you received that touched you?*

*Lisa Harris* – What really touches me is when I hear from readers who were profoundly moved by reading the series, because it helped them to look at their own lives differently and realize that they, too, can make an impact on the world wherever they are.

individual hearts change from hate to love, cruelty to kindness, greed to selflessness, their society will be transformed as well."

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



## LISA HARRIS

Working with her family with African Outreach Ministries in Mozambique, Lisa Harris writes romantic suspense and historical romance with a missions flavour. Says Lisa, "Living and working within a culture different than my own has changed the way that I look at the world. It's given me a greater understanding into the lives of other people. I believe that looking into the heart of other cultures can, in turn, change the way we look at the world in a positive way." Lisa's Mission Hope series (Zondervan) are adventurous stories set against the backdrop of what are day-to-day struggles in Africa. *Blood Ransom* sheds light on modern day slavery and *Blood Covenant* takes place in an overcrowded refugee camp, so prevalent now in a continent plagued with political upheaval. *Blood Covenant's* Paige Ryan comes to the realization that she has to admit her weaknesses and fears and rely

Enter the

# Beverly Lewis: <sup>THE</sup> Rose Trilogy

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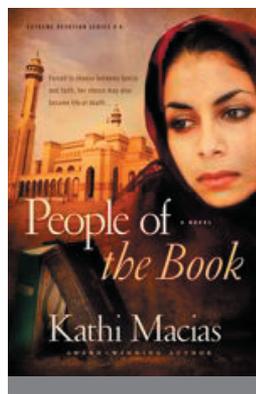
*Kathi Macias* – A 17-year-old came up to me after a book signing and said, “Mrs. Macias, I love the books in this series. They make me want to lead a noble life.” I nearly wept to think that God had touched this young man so deeply through my words.

*Jeanette Windle* – One letter came from a humanitarian aid worker across the border in Tajikistan who actually wrote me that she'd been motivated to found a similar outreach for women as my character Amy had started, due to reading *Veiled Freedom*.

only on God's strength to make a difference in the refugee camp. Lisa's historical novel, *An Ocean Away* (Summerside) reflects the same belief that faithfulness to God can move mountains. “There are numerous examples in the Bible of men and women who God called to serve Him in an extraordinary way through His power,” shares Lisa. “God calls us in the middle of our ordinary, run-of-the-mill, take-out-the-trash and drive-the-kids-to-school routine. So stop and ask yourself this one question. How do you see God calling you to make a difference in your world?”

Lisa hopes her novels remind readers they can have a positive impact for God no matter where they are living. “We are not all called to live overseas as missionaries, but we all can see those living near us who need God's grace, forgiveness and love. It might be a hurting neighbour down the street, a lonely teen in your youth group, or a tired young mother in your apartment building. God can and does use ordinary people like you and me to do extraordinary things.”

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



Kathi Macias acknowledges her talent for writing as a gift from God and has devoted that talent to pursuing God's calling to every believer to “go into all the world and preach the gospel.” New Hope Publishers fiction line, “Fiction with A Mission”, aimed at reaching the lost and encouraging believers through story, was a perfect match. Those aims, and Kathi's long time partnership with Voice of the Martyrs, fused and the Extreme Devotion series was born, four books dedicated to the persecuted church entitled *No Greater Love* (South Africa), *More Than Conquerors* (Mexico), *Red Ink* (China) and *People of the Book* (Saudi Arabia). *Red Ink*, the 2011 Golden Scroll Novel of the Year, was inspired by the life of Li Ying, a Chinese woman who is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence for printing and distributing unapproved Christian literature. *People of the Book* tells the story of Farah, a devoted Muslim who comes face to face with the Prophet Isa (Jesus). “What I hope readers learn is that each of us must come to a place where we are willing to lay down our lives, if need be, to follow Jesus. Farah has to decide if she truly is willing to risk everything—her family, her comfortable home, even her very life.”

Kathi admits it has been a tough series to write. “The research is extensive and the emotional investment daunting. Yet I am certain that God has called me to do this, and there is great joy in knowing that you're fulfilling God's purpose by using His gifts as He has called you to do.” Her desire for her readers to walk away with more than just a few hours of entertainment is heartfelt. “More than anything I want readers to come away with a fresh challenge and commitment to serve Christ...at any cost. I want them to understand that the admonition in Hebrews to ‘remember those who are in chains as if chained with them’ is more than a suggestion. We not only need to make a complete heart commitment to our own faith, but we need to pray for and help those who are suffering as believers any way we can.”

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

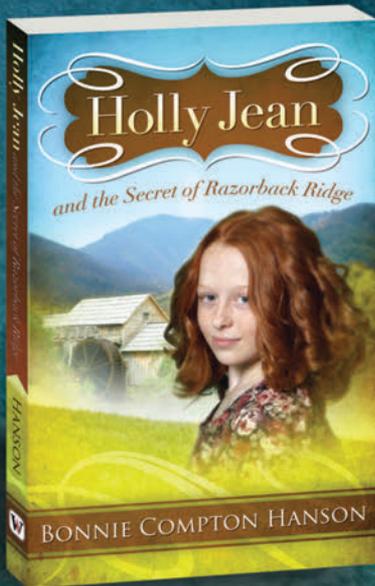
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**KATHI MACIAS**

# TWEEN & TEEN FICTION

from  Warner Press



## HOLLY JEAN AND THE SECRET OF RAZORBACK RIDGE

by Bonnie Compton Hanson 9781593174316 SUG Rtl. \$7.99

When her father is drafted during World War II, motherless Holly Jean Roberts must leave her big city life behind and head to rural Kentucky to live with her grandma. This exciting story of mystery and intrigue demonstrates how Holly Jean's reliance on God helps her adjust to a new life in a world very different from her own. Ages 8+

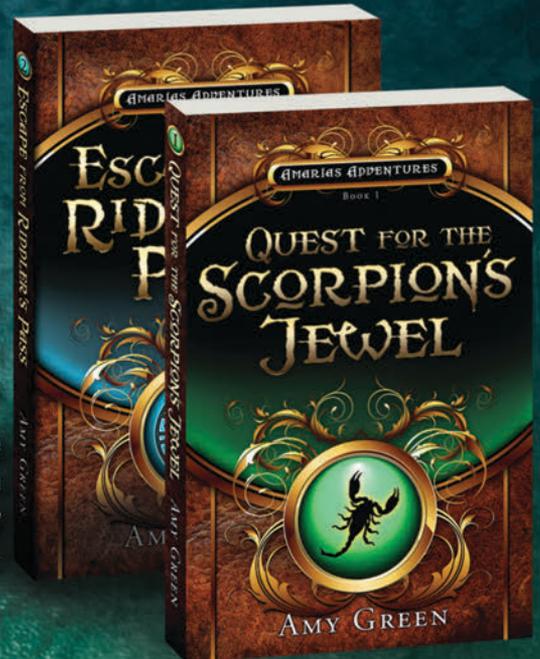
## AMARIAS ADVENTURES™

by Amy Green

BOOK 1: *Quest For the Scorpion's Jewel* 9781593174323 SUG Rtl. \$7.99

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The *Amarias Adventures* begin when 15-year-old Jesse is asked to join the Youth Guard, an elite fighting force, on a mission for the king. But an unknown adversary seeks to end their mission before it has even begun. Who is this enemy and how can they defeat him? Ages 8+



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Join Hunter Brown on an exciting journey that takes him to the land of Solandria where his harrowing adventures leave him fighting for his very soul! This trilogy, inspired by John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, is a must read for any adventure lover! Ages 10+

 Warner Press

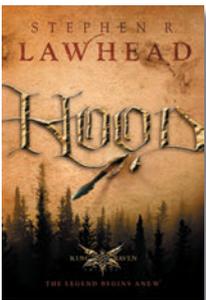
[www.warnerpress.org](http://www.warnerpress.org)

10 ESSENTIAL VOICES IN

# Medieval Fiction

REL MOLLET

Chivalrous knights, devout priests, and courageous peasants. Swordplay, adventure, danger and superstition. Medieval history is fertile soil for storytellers and the following authors make the most of those great elements in their books.



**STEPHEN LAWHEAD**

Stephen Lawhead has been penning medieval stories since the 1980s including the beloved *Pendragon Cycle* and *The Celtic Crusades*. Most recently he took on medieval legend Robin Hood, in the King Raven trilogy (Thomas Nelson) of *Hood*, *Scarlet* and *Tuck*.

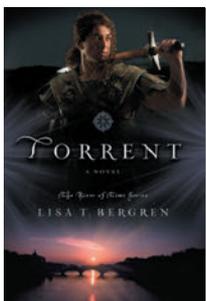
[StephenLawhead.com](http://StephenLawhead.com)



**DEANNA JULIE DODSON**

DeAnna Julie Dodson's 1990s medieval romance series is available to a new audience. Look for *In Honor Bound*, *By Love Redeemed* and *To Grace Surrendered* (Crossway Books), now available on Kindle.

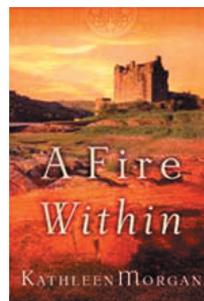
[DeAnnaJulieDodson.com](http://DeAnnaJulieDodson.com)



**LISA T. BERGREN**

Prolific author Lisa T. Bergren first ventured into medieval fiction with her Gifted series (Berkley) and has returned to 14th century Italy with her excellent YA River of Time series including *Waterfall*, *Cascade* and *Torrent* (David C. Cook).

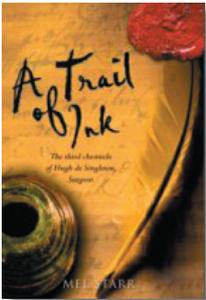
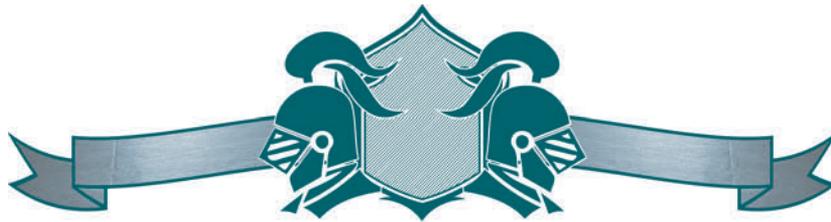
[LisaTawnBergren.com](http://LisaTawnBergren.com)



**KATHLEEN MORGAN**

Award winning author Kathleen Morgan has been an enthusiastic writer of Scottish medieval romances including her These Highland Hills trilogy and stand-alone novels, *As High As the Heavens* (Revell), *Embrace the Dawn* and *Consuming Fire* (Tyndale).

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

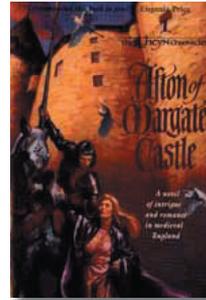


### MEL STARR

Medieval medicine, murder and mystery mark each of Mel Starr's novels featuring medieval surgeon, Hugh de Singleton. *A Trail of Ink*, the third in this intriguing series is available now from Kregel with *Unhallowed Ground* to release

in January, 2012.

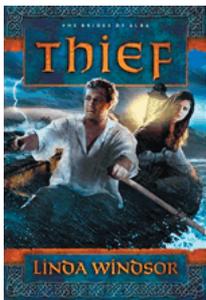
[MelStarr.net](http://MelStarr.net)



### ANGELA HUNT

Angela Hunt's Theyn Chronicles series (Tyndale), set in medieval England and Ireland, is now available on Kindle. *Afton of Margate Castle*, *The Troubador's Quest* and *Ingram of the Irish* combine history, romance and adventure.

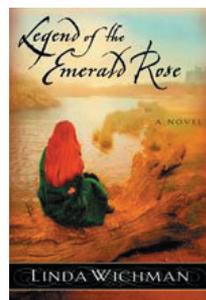
[AngelaHuntBooks.com](http://AngelaHuntBooks.com)



### LINDA WINDSOR

Fascinated by medieval history, Linda Windsor penned her Gleannmara series (Waterbrook Multnomah) a decade ago and has followed up with the excellent Brides of Alba series (David C. Cook) including *Healer*, *Thief* and *Rebel* (2012).

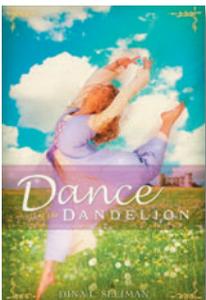
[LindaWindsor.com](http://LindaWindsor.com)



### LINDA WICHMAN

Linda Wichman's *Legend of the Emerald Rose* (Kregel), a take on the Arthurian legend, was ACFW Book of the Year, a Christy nominee and RWA Faith, Hope and Love finalist. Shadoe and Rayn battle evil and each other in an effort to save the Isle of Might.

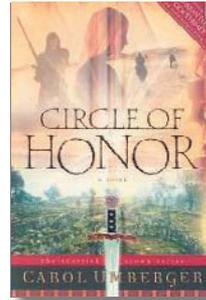
[LindaWichman-TheRainbowConnection.blogspot.com](http://LindaWichman-TheRainbowConnection.blogspot.com)



### DINA SLEIMAN

Debut novelist Dina Sleiman has penned a medieval coming-of-age story about a young girl yearning for more than her peasant upbringing can deliver. *Dance of the Dandelion* (WhiteFire) is available now.

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



### CAROL UMBERGER

Set in 14th century Scotland during the reign of Robert the Bruce, Carol Umberger's Scottish Crown series celebrates adventure, history, courage and love. The four book series includes *Circle of Honor* and *The Promise of Peace* (Integrity).

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

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# Q&A: Randall Wallace

**Randall Wallace is the author of seven novels, including the New York Times bestseller *Pearl Harbor*. He has written four feature films—*We Were Soldiers*, *Pearl Harbor*, *The Man in the Iron Mask* and the 1995 Academy Award-winner *Braveheart*. For his work on *Braveheart*, he received the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay. Wallace is the founder of Hollywood for Habitat for Humanity.**

**Q: What inspired you to write *The Touch*?**

I was inspired while writing *The Touch* with the idea of having a gift. *Braveheart* was my first feature film and when it became a success story, I also understood that success could be one of the most dangerous challenges I'd ever faced; that to have a gift, even if the gift is of where you happen to be in your life—not even a question of your own talent—but to have that gift of time and place means that God has entrusted you with something. And the question was how freely you could give it, whether you could keep it by trying to hold back or whether you gained it by giving. As the Bible says, you gain your life by losing it.

I wanted to explore that part of life. In my other stories—*Braveheart*, *Pearl Harbor*,

*We Were Soldiers*, even in *Secretariat*—there's a sense of struggle and tragedy. I wanted to have this story be one of affirmation, be one of joy, be a story that when we read it, it was as if we were hearing "Ode to Joy" sung by a great choir.

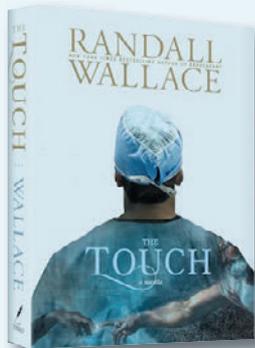
**Q: What do you hope most readers will take away after reading *The Touch*?**

What I hope most readers will take away after reading *The Touch* is, first of all, an emotional experience. I want them to feel something. My father once said to me, "People will remember almost nothing of what you say and only slightly more of what you do, but all their lives, they'll remember the way you made them feel." Well, I want readers to feel something in *The Touch*. I want them to have the experience of life and love, and faith lost and faith found. That's what I hope they'll experience, and I hope they'll take away not only that experience, but also an idea in their lives that to give when no one else knows, to give

in the way that would create—like Lloyd C. Douglas, who was the pastor of the church that we're sitting in right now—like what Lloyd C. Douglas wrote in *Magnificent Obsession*, that if you give when no one else knows you gave—not even the person who receives knows that you were the giver—that that will create in you an obsession to give again, a satisfaction deeper than you've ever known in your life, because what you've really experienced is unselfish love.

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

Storytelling is the best form humans have ever found for conveying what really is true. Philosophy sits in the realm of ideas. Philosophy is thin and we can argue ideas, but a story strikes to our hearts. A story strikes to our identity. A story shapes who we are. And a story is not only created by the storyteller; it's created by the audience. An audience listens to the tale and responds



in a certain way, and that changes what the storyteller is telling. You know, we create the metaphors of our life and they become our guideposts of what is possible when we give a narrative of this life, this character that we believe could do this. And if they could do that, then maybe I can be like him or like her—I can love more, I can believe more, I can feel real joy. And this is in the realm of what I wanted *The Touch* to be. When I wrote *The Touch*, I wanted it to be kind of a gift from me to myself, a gift that I could give to others. I wanted to give not an idea but an experience—an experience of hope, an experience of life, an experience of love lost and love found. I wanted it to be a gift of joy.

**Q: Does being a screenwriter inform your fiction when writing for the page?**

Being a screenwriter has helped me with my novels. It's interesting that I became known as a screenwriter before I was widely known as a novelist, but I was a novelist before I was a screenwriter. I write in a visual way, but I also make movies in an internal and an emotional way. When I'm doing a film like *Braveheart*, I want to find those moments that give me goose bumps, that make me weep or make me laugh, that make me feel joy and victory. And to do that, I think we've got to experience all the elements of a human life. Well, that's the way I write a story when I'm writing a novel like *The Touch*.

I want to take the reader through the life of the character. I want them to know what that character is going through even when they're not saying a word, what the character's heart is doing, and let the reader have that insight into the secret life of the character so that they can feel what a young surgeon is going through when he knows that the only thing between life and death for that patient is as narrow as the blade he's holding in his hand. And for a young woman who looks at this guy and knows that the life she's trying to hold on to is worthless unless she has love and faith, and she finds it through him, a gift even greater than life.

**Q: Your screenplays are primarily historical military epics whereas *The Touch* is a contemporary medical drama. When approaching a project, how do you decide which story you want to tell and how you decide which is the best medium for your story?**

I'm often asked why I tell stories that involve war and battles, and I always say, "I don't write war stories. I write love stories." I want to know what you love enough that you'd give your life for it, and I want to know what is sacred to

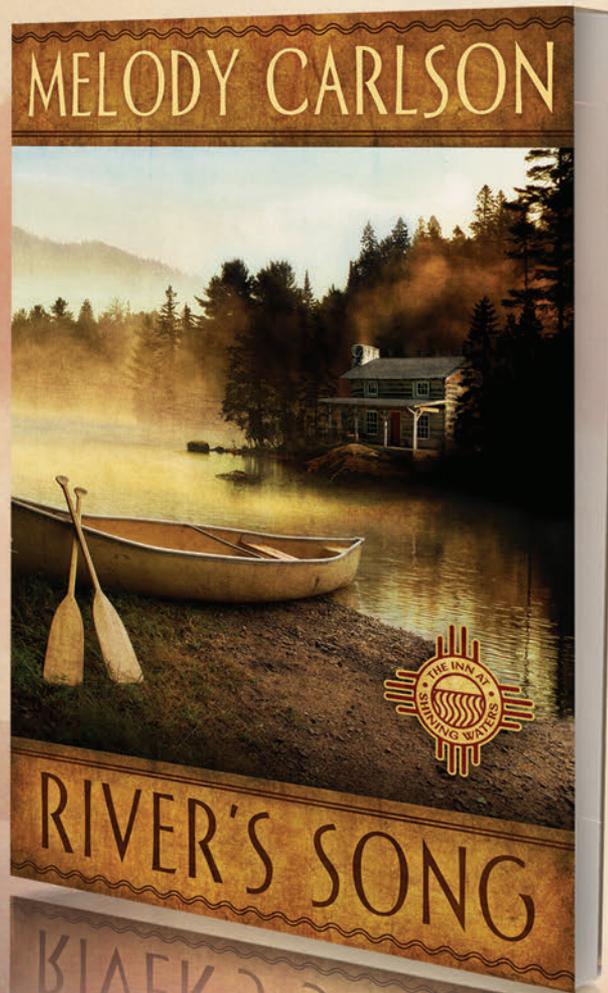


**RANDALL WALLACE**

you so much that it's even more sacred than your heartbeat. And when I'm writing that kind of story, I think it really doesn't matter whether it's a movie or a book. I believe someday *The Touch* is going to be a wonderful movie, but it'll be a different experience to watch this story as a movie than it will be to read it. For me, I've always found novels to be the most intimate form of storytelling because in a novel, it's all occurring inside me. The characters are living behind my eyes instead of just in front of them, and that kind of story has the power to change me. When I was a young man, I would come out of a movie or close a book when I had finished reading it, on rare occasion, and think, *My life will never be the same because of what I've just experienced in that story.* And that's the kind of story I wanted *The Touch* to be.

**FF**

Sometimes when we  
look back, we are able  
to see *ahead*.



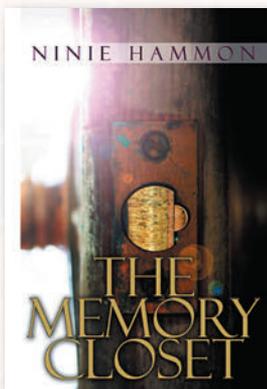
Following her mother's funeral, Anna Larson returns to her old family home along the banks of the Siuslaw River to sort out her parents' belongings, as well as her own turbulent life.

As she transforms the home into the Inn at Shining Waters, will Anna also begin to transform her own life and experience peace, grace, and healing?

# FALL READING & ENTERTAINMENT 2011

A woman with reddish-brown hair is lying on her back on a bright red blanket. She is wearing a white sweater with a grey geometric pattern and a red scarf. She is holding an open book and looking towards the camera. The background is a grassy area covered with fallen brown leaves. The entire scene is framed by a red and black plaid border.

With a slight autumn chill in the air, is there anything better than curling up with a good book? In the following pages, we've got something for everyone—from prairie romance, to sci-fi, to Christmas tales, to mystery and intrigue. We've even thrown in a couple of DVDs for the kids! We've got everything you need right here for some great escapes from reality—and also some great ideas for Christmas gifts!

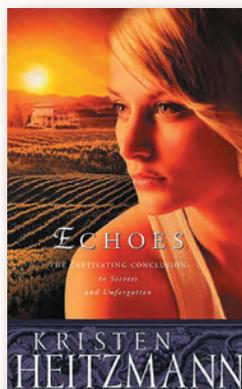


## THE MEMORY CLOSET

by Ninie Hammon  
(NOVO Ink)

Anne Mitchell goes back to try to re-discover 10 years of her life she has forgotten, not knowing that the cost of her memories could be her life.

[novoink.zinio.com/browse/publications/index.jsp?productId=500616659](http://novoink.zinio.com/browse/publications/index.jsp?productId=500616659)

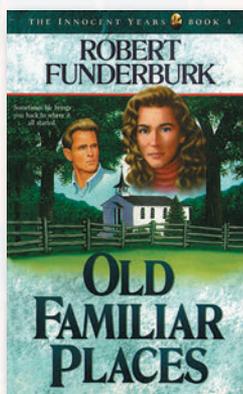


## ECHOES

by Kristen Heitzmann  
(NOVO Ink)

Sofie Michelli feels alone. For too long, she has been caught in a net of loss and despair. Sofie hears the words, "Where there's life, there's hope," and feels the familiar words penetrate and awaken something. She is alive. It is time to let go, to start again.

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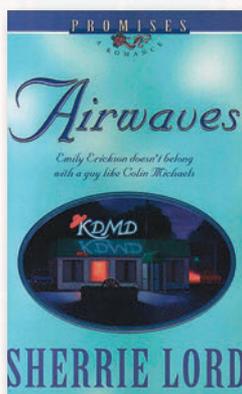


## OLD FAMILIAR PLACES

by Robert Funderburk  
(NOVO Ink)

After seeing Elvis perform, Jessie sets out to become a singing star when she meets a street preacher named Billy Pilgrim who grew up with Elvis. Pilgrim's success as an evangelist begins to skyrocket, and he and Jessie embark on a whirlwind tour of the South, preaching and singing.

[novoink.com/bobbyfunderburk](http://novoink.com/bobbyfunderburk)

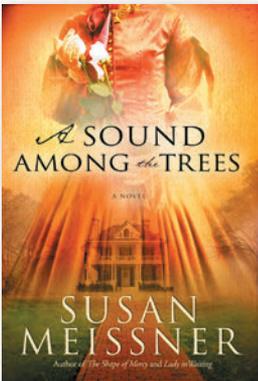


## AIRWAVES

by Sherrie Lord  
(NOVO Ink)

So what if Colin Michaels is traffic-stopping gorgeous? So what if he represents every sin she knows to flee? Emily Erickson wants the job Colin offers at Diamond Country KDMD. It's far from home, away from Daddy's stare, the echo of Mother's call, and a sin that can't be forgiven.

[novoink.com/sherrielord](http://novoink.com/sherrielord)

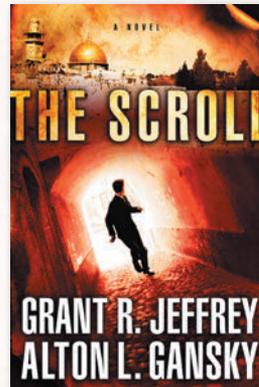


## A SOUND AMONG THE TREES

by Susan Meissner  
(Waterbrook)

Adelaide McClane has lived at Holly Oak, her historic Fredericksburg house, for all of her 83 years; so when Marielle Bishop marries into the family, Adelaide is quick to warn her of Holly Oak's troubled past. Can Marielle find the truth without losing herself in the painful past surrounding her?

[waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/04/13/sneak-peek-a-sound-among-the-trees-by-susan-meissner/?ref=pdf\\_corp\\_ASATFFFallIRG\\_wbmlt\\_ach](http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/04/13/sneak-peek-a-sound-among-the-trees-by-susan-meissner/?ref=pdf_corp_ASATFFFallIRG_wbmlt_ach)

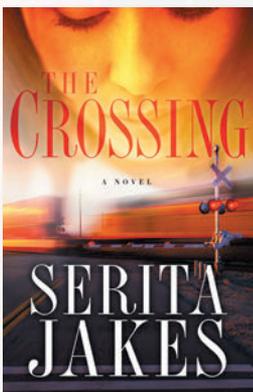


## THE SCROLL

by Grant R. Jeffrey  
and Alton L. Gansky  
(Waterbrook)

Dr. David Chambers, famed biblical archaeologist, is ready to walk away from it all. And then an old friend invites him to undertake one last dig. What he discovers on his final dig may change everything, altering the course of human history.

[waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/02/17/sneak-peek-the-scroll-by-grant-r-jeffrey-and-alton-l-gansky/?ref=pdf\\_corp\\_ScrollFFFallIRG\\_wbmlt\\_ach](http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/02/17/sneak-peek-the-scroll-by-grant-r-jeffrey-and-alton-l-gansky/?ref=pdf_corp_ScrollFFFallIRG_wbmlt_ach)

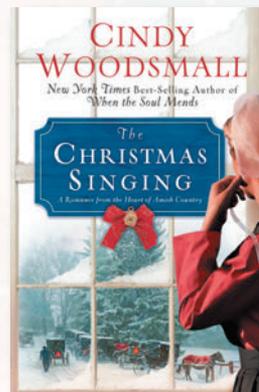


## THE CROSSING

by Serita Jakes  
(Waterbrook)

An unsolved, decade-old murder holds two witnesses hostage to their memories and trapped in destructive patterns. After 10 years of pain, a determined prosecutor with his family on the line has decided the gunman will hold them captive no longer. One day at the crossing fractured their lives. Only God's grace can redeem them.

[waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/07/08/sneak-peek-the-crossing-by-serita-ann-jakes-2/?ref=pdf\\_corp\\_CrossingFFFallIRG\\_wbmlt\\_ach](http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/07/08/sneak-peek-the-crossing-by-serita-ann-jakes-2/?ref=pdf_corp_CrossingFFFallIRG_wbmlt_ach)

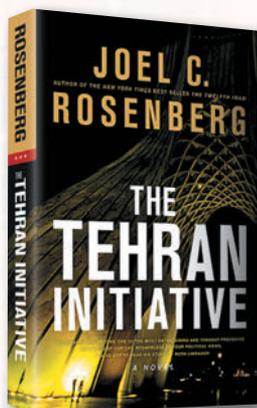


## THE CHRISTMAS SINGING

by Cindy Woodsmall  
(Waterbrook)

When Gideon said he longed to be free of his promise to marry her, Mattie moved to Ohio to pour her energy into becoming a cake decorator. Three years later an unforeseen setback sends her home, and she discovers Gideon has deceived her. She doubts she can ever trust him again—but can she be truly happy without him?

[waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/06/08/sneak-peek-the-christmas-singing-by-cindy-woodsmall/?ref=pdf\\_corp\\_TCSFFFallIRG\\_wbmlt\\_ach](http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/2011/06/08/sneak-peek-the-christmas-singing-by-cindy-woodsmall/?ref=pdf_corp_TCSFFFallIRG_wbmlt_ach)

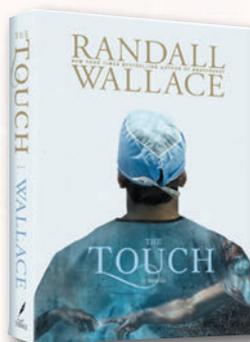


## THE TEHRAN INITIATIVE

by Joel C. Rosenberg  
(Tyndale)

Is it fiction or is it real? *New York Times* bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg returns with his most exhilarating political thriller to date, a pulse-pounding tale of international intrigue that will keep you on the edge of your seat and wondering what if this worst-case scenario comes true.

[joelrosenberg.com/tehraninitiative.asp](http://joelrosenberg.com/tehraninitiative.asp)



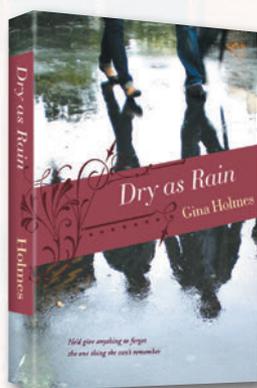
## THE TOUCH

by Randall Wallace  
(Tyndale)

From the writer of *Braveheart* and director of the Disney film *Secretariat*, master storyteller

Randall Wallace pens a powerful story of hope, courage, and love. Young surgeon Andrew Jones denies his God-given gift—The Touch—after a fatal tragedy. As he rebuilds his life, he discovers that love survives against all odds.

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

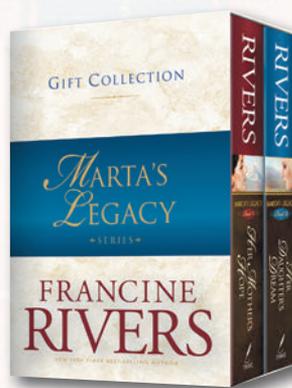


## DRY AS RAIN

by Gina Holmes  
(Tyndale)

Behind every broken vow lies a broken heart. From the bestselling author of *Crossing Oceans* comes a richly engaging story of betrayal and redemption that tests the limits of love and illuminates the surprising truth of what it means to forgive.

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

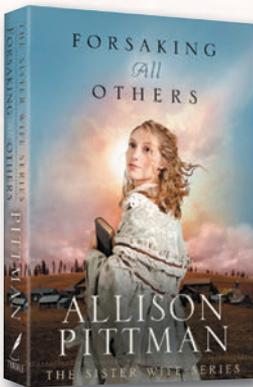


## MARTA'S LEGACY BOXED SET

by Francine Rivers  
(Tyndale)

Now available in a limited-edition hardcover boxed set, *Her Mother's Hope* and *Her Daughter's Dream*—the two volumes of this unforgettable *New York Times* bestselling saga—tell the story of four generations of women in one family, exploring the sacrifices mothers make for their daughters and the very nature of unconditional love.

[tyndale.com/Marta's-Legacy-Boxed-Set/9781414360096](http://tyndale.com/Marta's-Legacy-Boxed-Set/9781414360096)



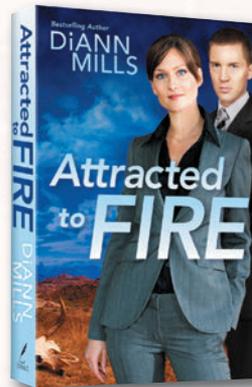
## FORSAKING ALL OTHERS

by Allison Pittman  
(Tyndale)

In the dramatic conclusion to *For Time and Eternity*, Camilla Deardon has left

everything behind to escape the Mormon faith just as her husband takes a second wife. Determined to be reunited with her children, nothing could prepare her for what she discovers when she returns to Salt Lake City.

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



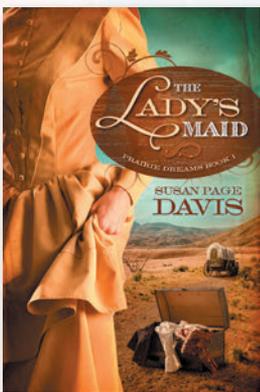
## ATTRACTED TO FIRE

by DiAnn Mills  
(Tyndale)

From bestselling author DiAnn Mills comes a riveting new story filled with romance, suspense, and betrayal.

Special Agent Meghan Connors never imagined that working with Ash Zinders would be as hard as protecting the vice president's rebellious daughter. But when threats escalate, the two must work together to expose a deadly conspiracy.

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



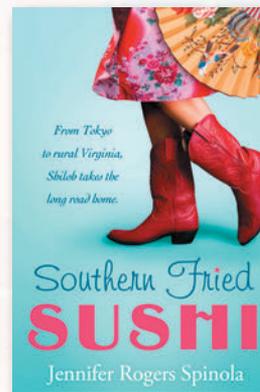
## THE LADY'S MAID

by Susan Davis  
(Barbour Publishing)

Lady Anne Stone is determined to find the new Earl of Stoneford who disappeared into America's

Wild West. Her maid, Elise Finster, has resolved to be her chaperone, no matter where Lady Anne goes. Will these women succumb to the dangers of their quest or survive to find dreams fulfilled?

[christianbook.com/ladys-maid-prairie-dreams/susan-davis/9781616264390/pd/264390?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=881498&event=ESRCG&view=details](http://christianbook.com/ladys-maid-prairie-dreams/susan-davis/9781616264390/pd/264390?item_code=WW&netp_id=881498&event=ESRCG&view=details)



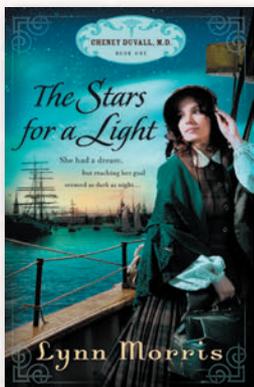
## SOUTHERN FRIED SUSHI

by Jennifer Rogers Spinola  
(Barbour Publishing)

Displaced from all she once coveted, Shiloh Jacobs is on a mission in rural Virginia to

find the secret that changed her estranged mother's life so powerfully before her death that she became a different woman. Can it make a difference for Shiloh as well?

[christianbook.com/southern-fried-sushi-jennifer-spinola/9781616263645/pd/263645?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=881495&event=ESRCG&view=details](http://christianbook.com/southern-fried-sushi-jennifer-spinola/9781616263645/pd/263645?item_code=WW&netp_id=881495&event=ESRCG&view=details)

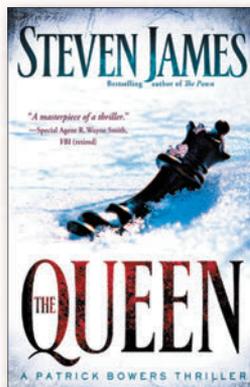


**THE STARS FOR A LIGHT**

Volume 1,  
Cheney Duvall, M.D. series  
by Lynn Morris  
(Hendrickson)

Fresh from medical school in the 1860s—and a woman at that—Dr. Cheney Duvall must care for two hundred brides-to-be on a voyage from New York to Washington Territory. Accompanied by an unlikely nurse, Cheney faces an arduous voyage and dangers for which her medical training didn't prepare her.

[hendrickson.com/html/product/567380.trade.html?&category=all](http://hendrickson.com/html/product/567380.trade.html?&category=all)

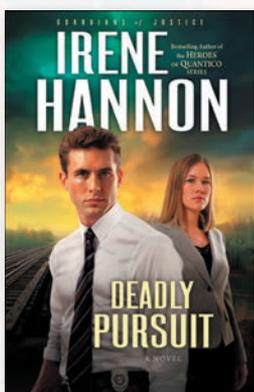


**THE QUEEN**

by Steven James  
(Revell)

While investigating a double homicide in an isolated northern town, Special Agent Patrick Bowers uncovers a plot that will put his skills to the ultimate test.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3303-2](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3303-2)

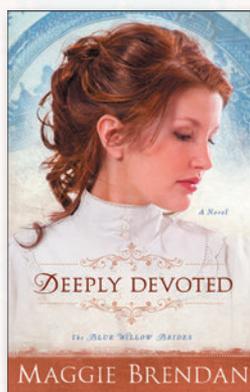


**DEADLY PURSUIT**

by Irene Hannon  
(Revell)

When a stalker with deadly intent puts Children's Services worker Alison Taylor in his sights, her police-detective brother and his ex-Navy-SEAL partner make her safety their top priority. Keep the lights on for this one!

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3457-2](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3457-2)



**DEEPLY DEVOTED**

by Maggie Brendan  
(Revell)

A mail-order bride comes to the American West with hopes of a good life and a fresh start in this gentle prairie romance. Readers will love negotiating the clash of cultures and class as a highborn European and a Western wheat farmer learn to love one another and trust God with both the past and the future.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3462-6](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3462-6)



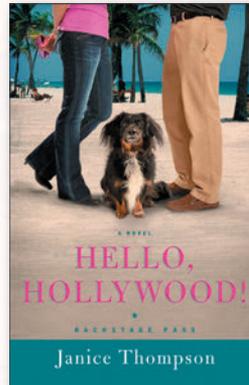
## A HEART REVEALED

by Julie Lessman  
(Revell)

A young woman healing from a broken past catches the eye of a confirmed bachelor. Will she give love a second chance?

Filled with intense passion and longing, deception and revelation, *A Heart Revealed* will hold readers in its grip until the very last page.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3416-9](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3416-9)



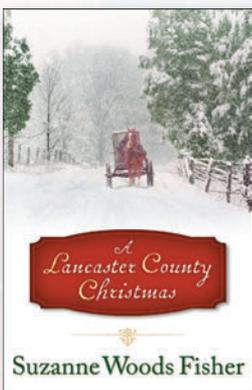
## HELLO, HOLLYWOOD!

by Janice Thompson  
(Revell)

With humor and a Hollywood-insider viewpoint, *Hello, Hollywood!* delivers lots of laughs as the characters

discover that not being in control of the plot of their lives might just be the best thing that ever happened to them.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3346-9](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3346-9)



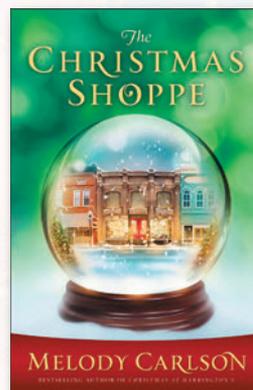
## A LANCASTER COUNTY CHRISTMAS

by Suzanne Woods Fisher  
(Revell)

When a young couple on the road at Christmas find themselves stranded at an

Amish farm, they discover there is more than one way to be rescued. Suzanne Woods Fisher creates a beautiful Christmas story that is perfect for gift giving or for you.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1995-1](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1995-1)



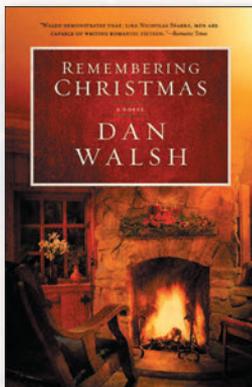
## THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

by Melody Carlson  
(Revell)

The small town of Parrish Springs is not quite ready for Matilda Honeycutt. A strange

woman, Matilda keeps busy stocking and arranging her new shop on the town's quaint Main Street. When rumors start to fly about what might be going on behind the papered-up windows and locked door, the image-conscious residents start looking for a way to get this woman and her wares out of their town before Christmas. But Matilda has a little something for each one of them sitting on those cluttered shelves, just waiting to be discovered.

[bakerpublishinggroup.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1926-5](http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1926-5)

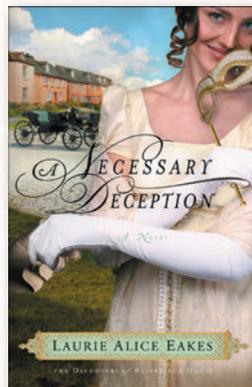


## REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS

by Dan Walsh  
(Revell)

In this contemporary story, a family crisis brings an estranged son home for the holidays where he rediscovers the true meaning of Christmas and family.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1979-1](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1979-1)

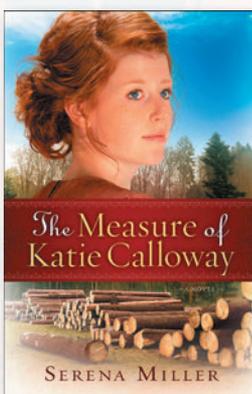


## A NECESSARY DECEPTION

by Laurie Alice Eakes  
(Revell)

Readers will enjoy being drawn into this world of elegance and intrigue, balls and masquerades. Author Laurie Alice Eakes whisks readers through the drawing rooms of London amid the sound of rustling gowns on this exciting quest to let the past stay in the past and let love guide the future.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3466-4](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-3466-4)

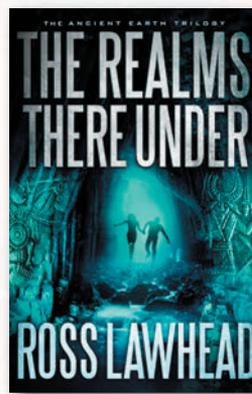


## THE MEASURE OF KATIE CALLOWAY

by Serena Miller  
(Revell)

With grace and skill, Serena Miller brings to life a bygone era. From the snowy forest and the warm cookstove to the rowdy shanty boys and the jagged edges of the saw, every detail is perfectly rendered, transporting the reader back into time. Readers will have a hard time leaving the Northwoods when they turn the last page.

[revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1998-2](http://revellbooks.com/Book.asp?isbn=978-0-8007-1998-2)

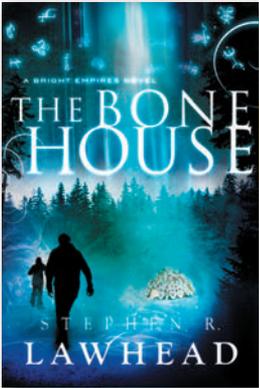


## THE REALMS THEREUNDER

by Ross Lawhead  
(Thomas Nelson)

Ancient legend tells of an army of knights that will remain sleeping until the last days. The knights are waking up. The mythical world is now bleeding into our reality—a dark spiritual evil that is manifesting itself in forgotten corners of the British Isles.

[thomasnelson.com/consumer/product\\_detail.asp?sku=1595549099&title=An\\_Ancient\\_Earth\\_#1\\_:\\_The\\_Realms\\_Thereunder](http://thomasnelson.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?sku=1595549099&title=An_Ancient_Earth_#1_:_The_Realms_Thereunder)

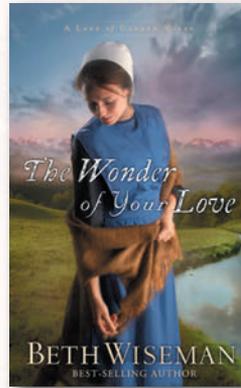


## THE BONE HOUSE—BOOK 2

by Stephen R. Lawhead  
(Thomas Nelson)

One piece of the skin map has been found. Now the race to unravel the future of the future turns deadly. Kit Livingston's on the run and trying to understand the impossible mission he inherited: to restore a map that charts the hidden dimensions of the multiverse.

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

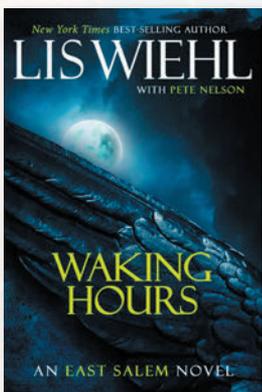


## THE WONDER OF YOUR LOVE

by Beth Wiseman  
(Thomas Nelson)

Katie Ann lost the love of her life. But in Canaan, God offers her a new beginning. Then widower Eli Detweiler arrives in Canaan from Ohio, to attend his niece's wedding. A meddling English woman plays matchmaker for Katie Ann and Eli, and they find themselves facing an unexpected and hopeful future.

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



## WAKING HOURS

by Lis Wiehl with Pete Nelson  
(Thomas Nelson)

All towns have secrets. Some have demons. Welcome to East Salem. A sleepy town with a history older than America, where the supernatural bleeds into the everyday. Townsfolk soon realize that there's more to the mystery than murder—and more to the evil they are facing than a mere human killer.

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



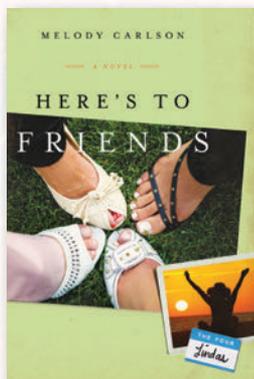
## COMPOSING AMELIA

by Alison Strobel  
(David C. Cook)

"From the first page until the last, I was caught up in Marcus and Amelia's world, unwilling to stop reading. A beautiful love story, you'll see God's grace through unconditional love. Alison Strobel is quickly proving she has what it takes to be a bestselling author."

—Ane Mulligan, *Novel Journey*

[christianbook.com/composing-amelia-alison-strobel/9781434767738/pd/767738?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=904817&event=ESRCN&view=details](http://christianbook.com/composing-amelia-alison-strobel/9781434767738/pd/767738?item_code=WW&netp_id=904817&event=ESRCN&view=details)



## HERE'S TO FRIENDS

by Melody Carlson  
(David C. Cook)

Melody Carlson's Four Lindas face the holidays. A family Christmas. New Year's on the beach. A betrayal, a disappointment, a creative crisis, and a reluctant prodigal, plus a cruise to Mexico that rocks everyone's boat. Before it's over, they'll rediscover that friendship is more than just fun. It's a necessity!

[christianbook.com/heres-to-friends-four-lindas/melody-carlson/9781434764911/pd/764911?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=904813&event=ESRCN&view=details](http://christianbook.com/heres-to-friends-four-lindas/melody-carlson/9781434764911/pd/764911?item_code=WW&netp_id=904813&event=ESRCN&view=details)



## TORRENT

by Lisa T. Bergren  
(David C. Cook)

Lisa Bergren's "River of Time" series concludes when Gabi and Lia accidentally find themselves in the 14th century—swords, castles, and battles to the death—their knights in shining armor. But the Black Plague will soon advance across Europe. What if in choosing life and love—they die?

[christianbook.com/torrent-river-of-time/lisa-bergren/9781434764294/pd/764294?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=904812&event=ESRCN&view=details](http://christianbook.com/torrent-river-of-time/lisa-bergren/9781434764294/pd/764294?item_code=WW&netp_id=904812&event=ESRCN&view=details)

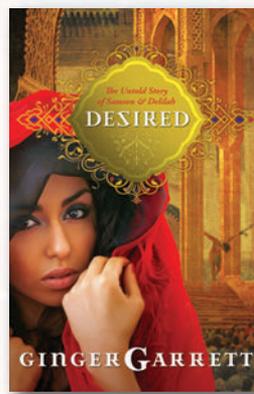


## DANGEROUS MERCY

by Kathy Herman  
(David C. Cook)

The chilling sequel to *False Pretenses*. One of Adele's handymen is a suspect in a string of murders, but she refuses to believe he's guilty. Kathy Herman pens a psychological thriller that illustrates the effect of unconditional kindness on a wounded—and dangerous—soul.

[christianbook.com/dangerous-mercy-secrets-roux-river-bayou/kathy-herman/9780781403412/pd/403412?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=904850&event=ESRCN&view=details](http://christianbook.com/dangerous-mercy-secrets-roux-river-bayou/kathy-herman/9780781403412/pd/403412?item_code=WW&netp_id=904850&event=ESRCN&view=details)

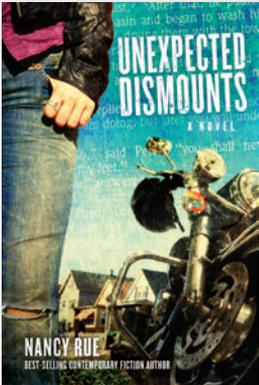


## DESIRED

by Ginger Garrett  
(David C. Cook)

The story of Samson as you've never experienced it before, told through the voices of the Jewish mother who relentlessly nags her son, the young bride who marries a foreigner, and the seductress who desires only death. Meet Samson through their eyes, and you'll never read the story the same way again.

[christianbook.com/desired-lost-loves-of-the-bible/ginger-garrett/9781434768001/pd/768001?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=904818&event=ESRCN&view=details](http://christianbook.com/desired-lost-loves-of-the-bible/ginger-garrett/9781434768001/pd/768001?item_code=WW&netp_id=904818&event=ESRCN&view=details)



## UNEXPECTED DISMOUNTS

by Nancy Rue  
(David C. Cook)

"If you leave the church the same as you entered it," Allison Chamberlain says,

"what is the point?" But she's still struggling to follow God's call—and to help others feel it—as one roadblock after another is thrown in her way in Book 2 of the "Reluctant Prophet" series.

[christianbook.com/unexpected-dismounts-reluctant-prophet/nancy-rue/9781434764928/pd/764928?item\\_code=WW&netp\\_id=904814&event=ESRCN&view=details](http://christianbook.com/unexpected-dismounts-reluctant-prophet/nancy-rue/9781434764928/pd/764928?item_code=WW&netp_id=904814&event=ESRCN&view=details)

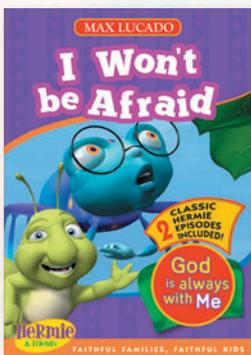


## I AM SPECIAL HERMIE/SKEETER 2-IN-1 DVD

(Thomas Nelson)

God made each of his children special, even if they don't always think so! These two beloved Hermie & Friends stories (*Hermie, a Common Caterpillar* and *Skeeter and the Mystery of the Lost Mosquito Treasure*) illustrate just how much God loves and values each of us because we are different and unique!

[maxlucado.com/Hermie](http://maxlucado.com/Hermie)

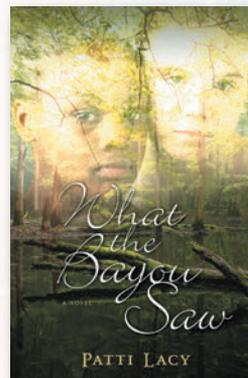


## I WON'T BE AFRAID WEBSTER/STANLEY 2-IN-1 DVD

(Thomas Nelson)

It's easy to feel alone when times are tough or you are afraid, but God is always with you listening to your prayers! These two beloved Hermie & Friends stories (*Webster, the Scaredy Spider* and *Stanley the Stinkbug Goes to Camp*) illustrate God's constant love for us.

[maxlucado.com/Hermie](http://maxlucado.com/Hermie)



## WHAT THE BAYOU SAW

by Patti Lacy  
(Kregel)

Since leaving her home in the South, Sally Stevens has held the secrets of her past at bay, smothering them in a sunny disposition and sugar-coated lies. No one, not even her husband, has heard the truth about her childhood. But when one of her students is attacked, Sally's memories quickly bubble to the surface unbidden, like a dead body in a bayou. As Sally's story comes to light, the lies she's told begin to catch up with her. And as her web of deceit unravels, she resolves to face the truth at last, whatever the consequences.

[store.kregel.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=1307](http://store.kregel.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=1307)

# Kathleen Fuller

## Back To Middlefield

ANNA ROBBINS



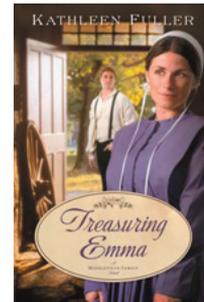
**Many authors use personal experience to inform their fiction—but for Kathleen Fuller, the writing was especially difficult this year.**

Kathleen takes readers back to Middlefield with two new books: *Treasuring Emma* (Thomas Nelson), the first volume of the Middlefield Family series; and the young reader title *Hide and Secret* (Tommy Nelson), the third in her Mysteries of Middlefield.

In the Amish romance *Treasuring Emma*, the title character has put everyone else first in her life. Now nearly 25, has she missed her chance at marriage? A family saga and a story of forgiveness, the novel is a peek into the tightly knit community of the Amish.

The story is also driven by the author's personal trials: During the writing of *Treasuring Emma*, Kathleen was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. "As with most of my books, *Treasuring Emma* is about forgiveness," Kathleen wrote for *Romantic Times*. "But it's also about anger and resentment, emotions I dealt with as I was going through the process of understanding my cancer and undergoing treatment." While the novel is not about cancer, she says it touches on the universal emotions anyone

“ I was able to conquer my own anxiety by reminding myself that God never abandons us, even through times of extreme trial. ”



feels during different seasons of their lives.

It was a challenge to write *Treasuring Emma*, but Kathleen found that developing the characters helped her during her battle with cancer. "Through the character of Leona, I was able to conquer my own anxiety by reminding myself that God never abandons us, never forsakes us, and is always with us, even through times of extreme trial."

Kathleen's fiction is also featured in two recent collections: *What the Heart Sees*, with three of Kathleen's Amish romances together for the first time; and this December's *An Amish Wedding*, which stars three Amish women yearning for the perfect wedding. That collection includes novellas by Kathleen, Beth Wiseman and Kelly Long.

Kathleen continues to be treated for thyroid cancer. September is Thyroid Cancer Awareness month—for more information, visit [thyca.org](http://thyca.org). **FF**

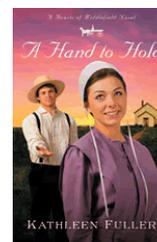
### ALSO AVAILABLE



HIDE AND SECRET  
MYSTERIES OF MIDDLEFIELD #3



WHAT THE HEART  
SEES: A COLLECTION  
OF AMISH ROMANCES



A HAND TO HOLD HEARTS  
OF MIDDLEFIELD SERIES #3

### FIND KATHLEEN FULLER ONLINE

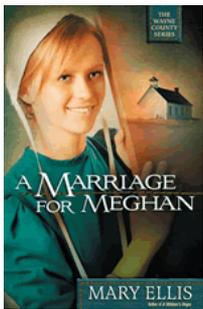
[KathleenFuller.com](http://KathleenFuller.com)

[Facebook.com/pages/Kathleen-Fuller/81836200502](https://Facebook.com/pages/Kathleen-Fuller/81836200502)

[Twitter.com/Kathy\\_Fuller](https://Twitter.com/Kathy_Fuller)

# News&Notes

ANNA ROBBINS



## THE MARRYING KIND

In book two of the Wayne County series from best-selling author **Mary Ellis**, *A Marriage for Meghan* (Harvest House), Meghan Yost is eager to prove herself as a teacher. But when handsome FBI agent Thomas Mast investigates recent crimes against their Amish community, Meghan questions everything about love, faith, and the true cause of the disruptions.

The author gets her Amish research locally: She grew up close to the eastern Ohio Amish community of Geauga County, where her parents often took her to farmers' markets and woodworking fairs. "My husband and I now live within the largest population of Amish in the country—a four-county area in central Ohio," she says. "We love to take weekend getaways to purchase farm produce and other goodies, stay with Amish families in bed-and-breakfasts, attend country auctions and enjoy the simpler way of life."

## BROTHERLY LOVE

**Wanda E. Brunstetter** returns with the second volume

in her Kentucky Brothers series, *The Healing* (Barbour Books): Amish widower Samuel Fisher journeys to Bluegrass Country, hoping to find relief from the grief he's carrying. Will this single father, burdened by yesterday's memories, discover a new life in Kentucky, the land of tomorrow? Esther Beiler, who helps watch Samuel's children, develops a crush on Samuel and a true affection for his kids. Can she win his heart, or has she already lost it to an English woman? How will God untangle star-crossed lovers when jealousies and misconceptions threaten to tear them apart?

## ON THE CASE

**Vannetta Chapman** launches her new Shippshewana Amish Mystery series with *Falling to Pieces* (Zondervan). In the Amish community of Shippshewana, two women—one Amish, one English—reluctantly join forces for a short-term business venture. Neither is looking for friendship, but when the town's newspaper editor is murdered, and an unexpected prime suspect is identified, the women form an unlikely alliance to solve the mystery.

Chapman blends the familiar components consumers love in Amish books—faith, community, simplicity, family—with an innovative who-done-it plot that keeps readers guessing right up to the last stitch in the quilt.

## NEWRELEASES



**THE HEALING (KENTUCKY BROTHERS)**  
*Wanda E. Brunstetter*  
(Barbour Books)



**FALLING TO PIECES (A SHIPSHEWANA AMISH MYSTERY)**  
*Vannetta Chapman*  
(Zondervan)



**SOMETHING OLD (PLAIN CITY)**  
*Dianne Christner*  
(Barbour Books)



**LOVE FINDS YOU IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
*Annalisa Daugherty*  
(Summerside Press)



**ELLA FINDS LOVE AGAIN (LITTLE VALLEY)**  
*Jerry S. Eicher*  
(Harvest House)



**A LANCASTER COUNTY CHRISTMAS**  
*Suzanne Woods Fisher*  
(Revell Books)



**HIDE AND SECRET (MYSTERIES OF MIDDLEFIELD)**  
*Kathleen Fuller*  
(Tommy Nelson)



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



**THE MERCY**  
*Beverly Lewis*  
(Bethany House)



**THE HARVEST OF GRACE (ADA'S HOUSE)**  
*Cindy Woodsmall*  
(WaterBrook Press)

# Sandra Byrd

## Rewriting History

REL MOLLET

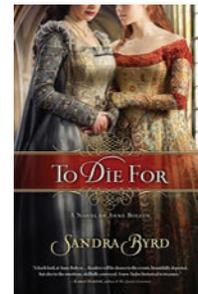


**Self-described as the nerdy girl in the corner devouring a Victoria Holt or Jean Plaidy book, Sandra Byrd is finally pursuing her passion to write historical fiction.**

“My heart and head have always been firmly in historicals as a reader,” says Sandra, who until now has authored successful YA and contemporary romance series. “Right now, I want to spend my fiction-writing time on what I most love to read.”

A lifelong Tudorophile, it was natural for Sandra to delve into the sixteenth century in *To Die For* (Howard) with the story of Meg Wyatt, best friend to the infamous Anne Boleyn. Sandra discovered that writing about real historical figures was a challenge. “It’s intimidating at first because I believe these women were Christians and I will see them again—and account in person for how I’ve represented their lives. But that was part of the draw for me. I wanted to help redeem people that I felt had been slandered or mishandled, and I had the history to back me up.” Detailed research included reading the women’s own letters and

“ I wanted to help redeem people that I felt had been slandered or mishandled, and I had the history to back me up. ”



writings and a copious amount of nonfiction books about the era. Sandra hopes to reflect a positive light on these characters, to compensate for the negative PR Anne Boleyn has attracted over the last 500 years. Sandra states, “She, and many like her, were amazing women who used the tools at hand to shape a kingdom, and a Kingdom, even while loving well and facing heartbreaking challenge and loss.” As each character struggles to determine what love really means and what, in this life, is worth dying for, Sandra hopes her readers will reflect on the same challenge.

Subsequent books in the series take place during the reigns of Kathryn Parr and Elizabeth I and will also focus on the life of a friend and confidant of these intriguing women. **FF**

### ALSO AVAILABLE



FLIRTING WITH DISASTER (LONDON CONFIDENTIAL)



PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE (FRENCH TWIST)

### FIND SANDRA BYRD ONLINE

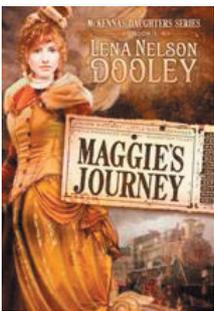
[SandraByrd.com](http://SandraByrd.com)

[Facebook.com/SandraByrdWrites](https://Facebook.com/SandraByrdWrites)

[Twitter.com/TudorTidbits](https://Twitter.com/TudorTidbits)

To Die For: A Novel of Anne Boleyn (Ladies In Waiting #1) | Howard Books

# News&Notes



## TRIPLE TREAT

Combining history and romance, **Lena Nelson Dooley's** *Maggie's Journey* is the first in her new McKenna's Daughters series (Realms). The series follows identical triplets, born on a wagon train, who are left motherless. Devastated and overwhelmed, their father chooses two couples on the wagon train and delivers one of his daughters into their care, so the girls grow up without knowledge of each other. Says Lena, "Each book starts near their eighteenth birthday. Every situation is unique. However, the underlying theme in all three stories is the need for forgiveness."

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

## HAPPY SNAPS

An idea for a story blossomed when **Erica Vetsch** stumbled across a photograph of a cowboy from the Old West. Erica learned, "Nobody wanted his picture taken more than a cowboy fresh up the trail from Texas, and he preferred to be photographed in full cowboy regalia, guns, chaps, spurs

REL MOLLET

and all. I wondered what it would be like to have been the photographer." *A Bride's Portrait of Dodge City, Kansas* (Barbour) was born with her main character, Adeline Reid, choosing photography as her career.

[webpages.charter.net/ericavetsch/home.html](http://webpages.charter.net/ericavetsch/home.html)

## TEXAS RANGERS

**Yvonne Harris** delves into the history of America's oldest law enforcement agency, the famous Texas Rangers, in *A River to Cross* (Bethany). "After the Civil War, Texas was a dangerous place to live. Criminals, bandits, and Indians moved throughout the state, stealing and murdering at will. To combat them, Texas formed the Texas Rangers. Heavily armed, those legendary Rangers were excellent horsemen, trackers, and superb marksmen," shares Yvonne. "Rangers refused to wear uniforms or badges. They wore shirts, neckties, vests, and Stetsons, with nothing to identify them as Texas Rangers." Yvonne's hero, Ranger Jake Nelson, is devoted to his career until he rescues the kidnapped Elizabeth Madison.

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

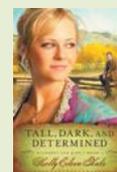
## NEWRELEASES



**DEEPLY DEVOTED (BLUE WILLOW BRIDES)**  
*Maggie Brendan*  
(Revell Books)



**PIRATE OF MY HEART**  
*Jamie Carie*  
(B&H Fiction)



**TALL, DARK, AND DETERMINED (HUSBANDS FOR HIRE)**  
*Kelly Eileen Hake*  
(Barbour Books)



**THE DOCTOR'S LADY**  
*Jody Hedlund*  
(Bethany House)



**A HEART REVEALED (WINDS OF CHANGE)**  
*Julie Lessman*  
(Revell Books)



**WINGS OF A DREAM**  
*Anne Mateer*  
(Bethany House)



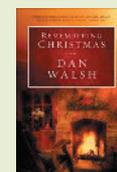
**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD**  
*Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller*  
(Bethany House)



**COURTING THE ENEMY**  
*Renee Ryan*  
(Love Inspired Historical)



**A WHISPER OF PEACE**  
*Kim Vogel Sawyer*  
(Bethany House)



**REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS**  
*Dan Walsh*  
(Revell Books)

# Eric Wilson

## Discerning Success

C.J. DARLINGTON

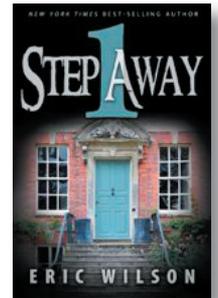


**Eric Wilson refuses to be preachy. He's seen enough to know we need more than platitudes to turn hearts toward God.**

For several years Wilson penned edgy thrillers like *Dark to Mortal Eyes* (Waterbrook) and his redemptive vampire trilogy *Jerusalem's Undead* (Thomas Nelson) in hopes of reaching those who might never set foot in a church. But it wasn't until he was tapped to write the novelizations of the movies *Flywheel*, *Facing the Giants* and *Fireproof* that Wilson's fiction hit the *New York Times* bestseller lists—and his views on publishing Christian novels began to evolve.

"My heart hasn't changed," Wilson says. "It still beats for those on the fringes of the faith. My focus, though, is now two-pronged: While I have plans of writing more books along the lines of my earlier novels, I've decided to also deal with topics more fitting for the average reader in a Christian bookstore. This, too, is true to my heart, since I love all my brothers and sisters in Christ."

What if, instead of being tested by Satan through tragedy, a family is given six million dollars and made successful beyond their wildest



ONE STEP AWAY | Bay Forest

“ My heart still beats for those on the fringes of the faith. ”

dreams? A twist on the story of Job, Wilson's *One Step Away* (Bay Forest) is the first in his By the Numbers series.

"Our American Christianity focuses so much on success," he says. "If things are going well, we tend to attribute that to our own goodness. If someone else is struggling, we assume there must be something out of order. While both may be true, it really comes down to having godly discernment. I thought it would be fun to write a book that helped expose some of these things in a suspenseful way." **FF**

### ALSO AVAILABLE



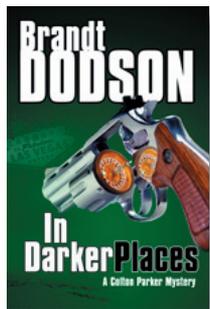
### FIND ERIC WILSON ONLINE

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

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

# News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



## COLTON PARKER IS BACK

Crime fiction novelist **Brandt Dodson** has reissued his four-book Colton Parker series as ebooks from Greenbriar Press. Two of the titles have been changed (*Seventy Times Seven* is now *Fractured*, and *The Lost Sheep* is now *Darker Places*), but what hasn't changed is Dodson's sharp writing. "The series features single father and former FBI agent Colton Parker," Dodson says. "He's a private investigator who struggles with his own failings while trying to rebuild his life. He wears his heart on his sleeve and knows no other way of dealing with challenge but to tackle it head on."

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

## CUNNING CON

FF Suspense Author of the Year **Terri Blackstock's** new novel *Shadow in Serenity* (Zondervan) asks, what would happen if a con artist came to a sweet southern town to dupe the townspeople of their life savings—and ran smack into another con artist? "I read everything I could get my

hands on about carnivals and con artists," Blackstock says. "I had a blast doing it. It was a fun book to write. I've been dealing with some pretty heavy topics lately in my novels, and I needed to work on something lighter. I really hope my readers enjoy the ride. This doesn't mean my Intervention series is over, though. The last book in that series, *Downfall*, will release in March 2012."

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

## THE STORY BECKONS

Award-winning novelist **Tom Pawlik** is back with another thrill ride in *Beckon* (Tyndale). "The book is definitely another creepy thriller like my first two, *Vanish* and *Valley of the Shadow*," Pawlik says. "However, there are no supernatural elements—it has more of a sci-fielement. And while the story still follows three main characters, this time the plot is structured a little differently, which I hope will add some suspense." *Beckon* chronicles the discovery of an unknown cave system somewhere in Wyoming. Unknown, that is, to everyone except the residents of the nearby town Beckon who are hiding the cave's deadly secrets...

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

## NEWRELEASES



**THE LAST TARGET**  
*Christy Barritt*  
(Love Inspired Suspense)



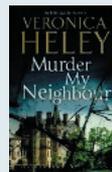
**THE GUARDIAN**  
*Robbie Cheuvront and Erik Reed*  
(Barbour Books)



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



**DEADLY PURSUIT: A NOVEL (GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE SERIES #2)**  
*Irene Hannon*  
(Revell Books)



**MURDER MY NEIGHBOUR (ELLIE QUICKE MYSTERIES #12)**  
*Veronica Heley*  
(Severn House)



**THE QUEEN (PATRICK BOWERS SERIES #5)**  
*Steven James*  
(Revell Books)



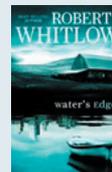
**THE BETRAYAL (PRECINCT 11 SERIES #2)**  
*Jerry B. Jenkins*  
(Tyndale House)



**LONE DEFENDER (HEROES FOR HIRE #4)**  
*Shirlee McCoy*  
(Love Inspired Suspense)



**DEEP COVER (UNDERCOVER COPS #1)**  
*Sandra Orchard*  
(Love Inspired Suspense)

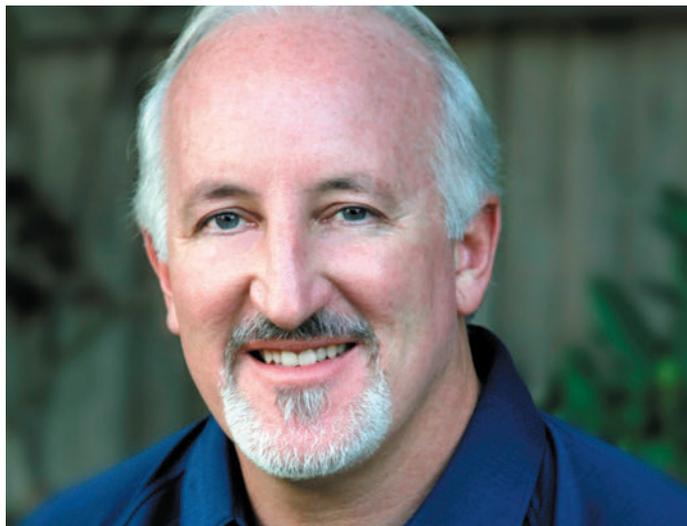


**WATER'S EDGE**  
*Robert Whitlow*  
(Thomas Nelson)

# James L. Rubart

## Free to Risk

KATIE HART

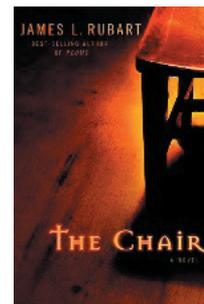


**Jim Rubart spent three decades writing short stories in secret before ever showing his work to anyone.**

His desire to write fiction first came when he read *The Chronicles of Narnia* at age eleven and thought, “Someday I want to try to do for others what Lewis did for me.” A year later he tried out for the school newspaper and was turned down. That failure pushed Jim’s writing into a hidden hobby throughout his teens, twenties, and thirties.

In 2003, Jim felt God telling him to let go of his fears and take a chance with his writing, so he began turning one of his short stories into a novel. *Rooms*, eventually published in 2010, landed on bestseller lists and was nominated for two Carol Awards.

Jim’s latest novel, *The Chair*, tells of two estranged brothers and what happens when one of them receives a chair which may have been crafted by Jesus. The story was inspired by Jim’s own experience with a friend he hadn’t spoken to in years, and what happened when they made things right. “For the last three years,



“The overarching theme in all my books is freedom.”

that relationship has been one of the treasures of my life.”

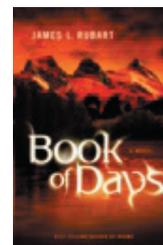
Jim cites Galatians 5:1 as the driving force behind his novels. “It was for freedom’s sake that Christ set us free.” Jim says, “He didn’t set us free so that we could be dutiful, or follow all these rules, or get caught up in religion. He set us free because He wants us to be free. He wants to restore us. He wants us to enter in to our divinely designed destinies. The overarching theme in all my books is freedom.”

FF

### ALSO AVAILABLE



ROOMS



BOOK OF DAYS

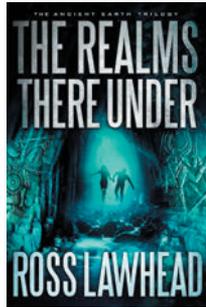
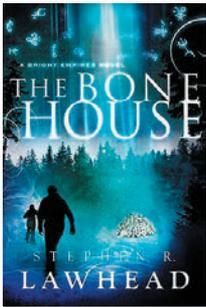
### FIND JAMES L. RUBART ONLINE

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

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

# News&Notes

KATIE HART



## DUAL LAWHEADS

Both veteran author **Stephen Lawhead** and his son **Ross Lawhead** have fantasy novels releasing September 13, 2011, from Thomas Nelson. Stephen's book, *The Bone House*, is the second in his Bright Empires series, while Ross is launching his Ancient Earth series with *The Realms Thereunder*.

Ross shared this about his series: "I've done everything I could to make these fantasy books fresh and exciting for readers. I've thrown in everything I could think of to make it especially awesome: knights, quests, poetry, bad wizards, even worse elves, illusions, riddles, surprise twists, unexpected revelations, thrills, spills and gnomes. Don't forget the gnomes. It's especially fun that this is going out the same day as my dad's latest book."

[StephenLawhead.com](http://StephenLawhead.com)  
[RossLawhead.com/blog](http://RossLawhead.com/blog)

## NEW PUBLISHER, NEW WORLDS

New publisher **Diminished Media Group** is releasing its first title, *The Worker Prince*,

this October in both print and digital formats. Author **Bryan Thomas Schmidt** says, "I feel very fortunate to be working with Diminished Media. I had three publishers interested in this book, but I chose Diminished because they were head and shoulders above the others in enthusiasm. It's an opportunity to help them launch a new venture while launching my own new venture as a novelist."

Diminished Media's co-founder and director Randy Streu shared, "Bryan brought us a great science fiction story, complete with the political intrigue and space opera sensibilities of *Star Wars*. We're proud to make this our first offering into the world of printed fiction."

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

## GHOSTS AND KINGS

**Tim LaHaye** and **Craig Parshall's** end times series released its second installment, *Thunder of Heaven* (Zondervan). The story continues between books online, as the novels' main character, Joshua Jordan, posts Facebook and Twitter updates as well as video reports.

Tim LaHaye shares, "While my past works have piqued interest in biblical prophecy on a global level, The End series includes many prophecies that were not covered in Left Behind."

[Facebook.com/Col.Jordan](http://Facebook.com/Col.Jordan)

## NEWRELEASES



**ULTRAVIOLET**  
*R.J. Anderson*  
(Carolrhoda Books)



**THE SONG OF UNMAKING (LEGENDS OF KARAC TOR #3)**  
*D. Barkley Briggs*  
(Living Ink)



**SONG OF THE OVULUM (CHILDREN OF THE BARD SERIES #1)**  
*Bryan Davis*  
(Living Ink)



**DIVINER (DRAGONS OF STARLIGHT #3)**  
*Bryan Davis*  
(Zondervan)



**FORBIDDEN (THE BOOKS OF MORTALS #1)**  
*Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee*  
(Center Street)



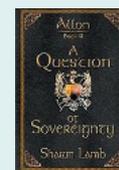
**HOWLSAGE (SAGES OF DARKNESS #1)**  
*Brock Eastman*  
(Destiny Image)



**QUEST FOR THE SCORPION'S JEWEL (THE AMARIAS ADVENTURES #1)**  
*Amy Green*  
(Warner Press)



**THE LAND OF DARKNESS (GATES OF HEAVEN #3)**  
*C.S. Lakin*  
(Living Ink)



**A QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY (ALLON #4)**  
*Shawn Lamb*  
(Allon Books)



**BECKON**  
*Tom Pawlik*  
(Tyndale House)

# Julie Lessman

## Faith Revealed

REL MOLLET



**Julie Lessman's passion for romance and the written word was ignited by *Scarlett O'Hara* and *Rhett Butler*. "I read *Gone with the Wind* as a little girl, and when Scarlett seared Rhett with a look on the winding staircase of Twelve Oaks, I was a goner." She immediately penned 150 pages which became the basis of her debut novel, *A Passion Most Pure*, some forty years later.**

Julie believes romantic passion gives us a glimpse into the very heart of God. "After studying the Song of Solomon, I'm convinced the God who created passion and intimacy did so to mirror the intensity of His own love for mankind." Julie despairs that the world uses God's gift of romantic passion to shove sin down peoples' throats. "I want to use romantic passion to teach people God's precepts and therein, His love. It's the cry of my heart, and I hope and pray that for my readers, my stories of romantic passion

**“To me, romance is just not romantic unless God is in the middle!”**

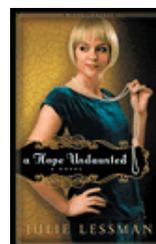


translate into passion for God.”

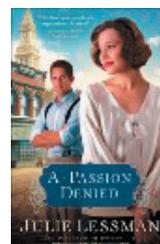
Julie acknowledges her stories are a tad more passionate than the majority of Christian romance novels. "I love romance, make no mistake, but I'm sorry—to me, romance is just not romantic unless God is in the middle! If the world can take something that God created and use it to sell its amoral agenda, then I ask you—why can't Christians utilize this God-given passion to promote Him and His precepts?"

*A Heart Revealed* is somewhat of a departure from Julie's previous stories where sparks usually fly immediately. Sean and Emma's relationship is based on a ten-year friendship that grows spiritually and emotionally, ripening into unconditional love where two people sacrifice themselves for the other. "It is my hope Sean and Emma's story will not only reveal the grace and mercy of a loving God, but the healing power of His truth ... which truly does set us free." **FF**

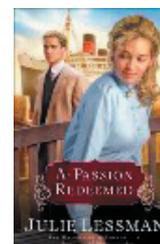
### ALSO AVAILABLE



**A HOPE UNDAUNTED  
(WINDS OF CHANGE #1)**



**A PASSION DENIED (THE DAUGHTERS OF BOSTON #3)**



**A PASSION REDEEMED  
(THE DAUGHTERS OF BOSTON #2)**

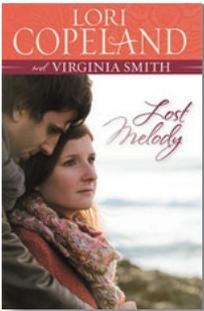
### FIND JULIE LESSMAN ONLINE

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

[Facebook.com/pages/Julie-Lessman/98874268454](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Julie-Lessman/98874268454)

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

# News&Notes



## DYNAMIC DUO

New writing team **Virginia Smith** and **Lori Copeland's** first venture has an intriguing premise: "We all hear that 'small, still voice' at times," Virginia says. "What would happen if we really listened?" Conflict, uncertainty and romance collide in *Lost Melody* (Zondervan) and the authors will be offering an alternate ending to the book on their website. "We wrote what we thought was a beautiful end to a Christian love story, but all of our first readers felt it was too sad. So we rewrote the ending for the published book, but we plan to offer the original to readers. We're really interested to hear what our readers think of the two endings."

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

## OL' BLUE EYES

As part of Summerside Press' When I Fall in Love line, **Patricia Rushford's** *Strangers in the Night* pays homage to Frank Sinatra's beloved song of the same name. Patricia's heroine, Abbie Campbell, can't help comparing stranger Jake

Collins with the singer she loves. Patricia shares Abbie's thoughts: "Frank Sinatra never failed to touch her heart with his love songs. She closed her eyes as he sang about exchanging glances and falling in love. The record playing over the PA system wasn't near as good as hearing him in person, but Abbie enjoyed it just the same."

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

## HONORABLE LIES?

**Sandra Orchard's** debut novel *Deep Cover* (Love Inspired Suspense) is the first in the Undercover Cops series. Rick Gray is a man trapped between the obligations of his job and his desire to reclaim his lost love. Says Sandra, "Rick wonders if it's possible to be a man of honor and live a life of lies, because his best hope of turning this dangerous situation to his advantage is to keep Ginny in the dark about his true identity."

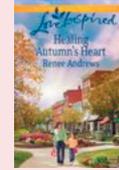
[SandraOrchard.com](http://SandraOrchard.com)

REL MOLLET

## NEWRELEASES



**THE COWBOY'S LADY**  
*Carolyn Aarsen*  
(Love Inspired)



**HEALING AUTUMN'S HEART**  
*Renee Andrews*  
(Love Inspired)



**ALWAYS THE WEDDING PLANNER, NEVER THE BRIDE**  
*Sandra D. Bricker*  
(Abingdon Press)



**BUILDING A FAMILY**  
*Lyn Cote*  
(Love Inspired)



**FROM ASHES TO HONOR (FIRST RESPONDERS #1)**  
*Loree Lough*  
(Love Inspired)



**A WEDDING BLUNDER IN THE BLACK HILLS**  
*Kim O'Brien*  
(Barbour Books)



**OKLAHOMA REUNION**  
*Tina Radcliffe*  
(Love Inspired)



**HELLO, HOLLYWOOD! (BACKSTAGE PASS SERIES #2)**  
*Janice Thompson*  
(Revell Books)



**CHRISTMAS BELLES OF GEORGIA (ROMANCING AMERICA)**  
*Various Authors*  
(Barbour Books)



**CHRISTMAS AT BARNCASTLE INN (ROMANCING AMERICA)**  
*Various Authors*  
(Barbour Books)

# Sandra D. Bricker

## Kind of a Funny Story

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



### Sandra D. Bricker always knew she had stories in her blood.

Funny enough, she always thought she'd be writing something in the suspense genre. But once she got going, she eventually realized her unique purpose as a writer.

"I'm a clown. I always have been. I'm the person who finds humor in almost anything, from funerals to cooking classes," Sandra says. "Something always strikes me funny in the most unusual circumstances. Admittedly, my closest friends would probably tell you that it's not always appropriate, but it's always there. My plan had always been to write suspense. But God apparently finds me funny and had other ideas.

"I've never been one of those Christians who wanted to preach to the choir only. I feel passionate about telling a really good story that will make readers laugh—and sometimes cry—while weaving a thread of Christian ideals that clearly shows faith in God as part of the natural current of everyday life rather than something that makes them stick out like a smashed thumb."

Sandra's upcoming novel, *Always the Wedding Planner, Never the Bride* (Abingdon Press) is another "Emma Rae creation" that centers around

“ I'm the person who finds humor in almost anything, from funerals to cooking classes. ”



a character from *Always the Baker, Never the Bride*, Sherilyn. And with *Always the Wedding Planner, Never the Bride*, her readers also have a unique opportunity to be part of the story, thanks to a very cool contest. The details of the contest will appear on her blog during September and October.

"I'm currently working with an amazing young artist who is creating five wedding cake options that will appear in the final installment of the story, *Always the Baker, FINALLY the Bride*, where Emma and Jackson plan their long-awaited wedding," Sandra says. "The contest will provide an opportunity for one reader to actually choose Emma's cake! That reader and the winning choice will be written into the book.

"All along, the readers of the 'Baker' series have become unexpected friends to me. Their enthusiasm and support for Emma and her gang have been phenomenal. I thought this would be a special way to bring them into the story in an even more personal way."

FF

#### ALSO AVAILABLE



ALWAYS THE BAKER,  
NEVER THE BRIDE



LOVE FINDS YOU IN  
CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA,  
CALIFORNIA



THE BIG 5-0!

#### FIND SANDRA D. BRICKER ONLINE

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

[SandraDBricker.blogspot.com](http://SandraDBricker.blogspot.com)

# News&Notes

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



## LOVE AGAINST ILLUSION

With her latest novel, *Dancing on Glass* (B&H Fiction), **Pamela Ewen** explores one woman's dreams of love versus illusion. "Having been there to some extent, I know that understanding is the key to [dealing with] manipulative relationships," says Pamela. "This is not the burning bed. My heroine Amalise Catoir does not have low self esteem. She had a happy childhood. She's a successful young lawyer and financially independent. And she has a secret." Hoping readers will come away from this story with a new understanding of what she calls the "double bind"—the danger of manipulative and predatory relationships—Pamela writes a compelling story that leaves readers with plenty of food for thought.

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

## OFF SCRIPT

Prolific author **Janice Thompson** continues her Backstage Pass series with *Hello, Hollywood!* (Revell Books). When it comes to love, one

thing's for sure—it doesn't follow a script! As a seasoned romance author and screenwriter, Janice injects the novel with humor and a Hollywood-insider viewpoint. She delivers lots of laughs from the set of sitcom "Stars Collide," as head writer Athena Pappas and Vegas comedian Stephen Cosse discover that not being in control of the plot of their lives might just be the best thing that ever happened to them.

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

## SHINING MOMENTS

It's been an exciting season of new accomplishment for author and screenwriter **Rusty Whitener**. His novel *A Season of Miracles* (Kregel), chosen by an esteemed panel of librarians and booksellers as "Book of the Year," is being made into a movie that debuts this fall on cable TV's Gospel Music Channel. In addition to writing the source material, Rusty has a leading role—alongside Christian singer Natalie Grant, actor Michael Rosenbaum (TV's "Smallville") and country singer Billy Dean.

Rusty remains remarkably unfazed by all the attention. "The Lord is so gracious to me," he simply says. "I'm thrilled and humbled."

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

## NEWRELEASES



**HERE'S TO FRIENDS!**  
(FOUR LINDAS #4)  
*Melody Carlson*  
(David C. Cook)



**DRY AS RAIN**  
*Gina Holmes*  
(Tyndale House)



**BARCELONA CALLING**  
*Jane Kirkpatrick*  
(Zondervan)



**RECLAIMING LILY**  
*Patti Lacy*  
(Bethany House)



**HOUSE OF SECRETS**  
*Tracie Peterson*  
(Bethany House)



**HEATHER SONG: A NOVEL**  
*Michael Phillips*  
(Faith Words)



**UNEXPECTED DISMOUNTS**  
(THE RELUCTANT  
PROPHET #2)  
*Nancy Rue*  
(David C. Cook)



**SOUTHERN FRIED SUSHI:**  
A NOVEL  
*Jennifer Rogers Spinola*  
(Barbour Books)



**THE TOUCH**  
*Randall Wallace*  
(Tyndale House)



**A WEDDING INVITATION**  
*Alice Wisler*  
(Bethany House)

# Wayne Thomas Batson

## Never Alone

KATIE HART



**He's working on books for three different series, preparing for the independent release of his thriller (*Ghost*), helping found a guild (*Spearhead*), and connecting with his online fan base. And if that didn't keep him busy enough, Wayne Thomas Batson is also teaches fulltime and has 4 kids of his own.**

It was his teaching that led to him becoming a writer. "I started writing short stories for my students to supplement the curriculum," Wayne shared. "If I didn't have the next chapter or something ready, they were ready to strangle me."

Throughout years of revision, those stories grew into *The Door Within Trilogy* (Thomas Nelson), an alternate-world fantasy for preteens. After that, his publisher asked him to write the pirate novels, *Isle of Swords* and *Isle of Fire*, and Wayne later teamed up with Christopher Hopper to write the Berinfell Prophecy series (Thomas Nelson).

“The heart of all of my novels is hope.”

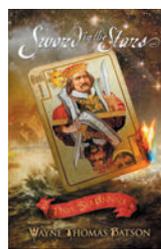


Wayne's latest series, *The Dark Sea Annals* (Living Ink), is a sprawling, seven-part epic about a kingdom where God has been silent for years and a prophecy about a coming hero. Book two, *The Errant King*, tells of a young sovereign who spends a week each month going incognito among his people. One time while he's away, the kingdom is overthrown, and King Lochlan must raise a new army to take back his throne.

"The heart of all of my novels is hope," Wayne says. "One of the great things about fantasy is that it plops you in the middle of a world that unfamiliar. The people that inhabit it, even if it's walking and talking trees, can help you have insight into your own life. I think my books offer the hope that there is another world waiting, and even though we may feel like it here, we're never alone."

FF

### ALSO AVAILABLE



THE SWORD IN THE STARS (DARK SEA ANNALS #1)



ISLE OF FIRE



CURSE OF THE SPIDER KING (THE BERINFELL PROPHECIES BOOK #1)

### FIND WAYNE THOMAS BATSON ONLINE

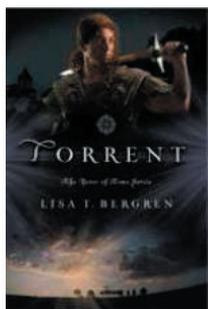
[EnterTheDoorWithin.blogspot.com](http://EnterTheDoorWithin.blogspot.com)

[Facebook.com/people/Wayne-Thomas-Batson/842540034](https://www.facebook.com/people/Wayne-Thomas-Batson/842540034)

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

# News&Notes

KATIE HART



## ITALIAN PRIZE

Author **Lisa Bergren** shares, “I’m taking my 13-year-old daughter to Rome and Venice on a research trip in October.” Want them to pick you up a souvenir? Throughout the month of September, Lisa’s holding a contest. “Winner gets up to \$100 US worth of something special from Italy. We’re going to be their personal shoppers in Rome and/or Venice. Italian leather? Venetian glass jewelry? A special pen? Winner will let us know what she would want most, personal taste (color preferences, etc.) and Emma and I will shop for the prize while we’re there.”

*Torrent* (David C. Cook), the final volume of Lisa’s Italy-set time-travel series for teens, *River of Time*, releases September 1, 2011. Gabi and Lia have learned to control their abilities, but must now decide whether they can forsake the 21st century to live in the 14th.

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

## HEART OF MISSIONS

Father/daughter writing team **Roger and Kristi Rae Bruner**

had their second novel release in August 2011, and celebrated with a book release party, signings in local bookstores and blog interviews. “This is an exciting month!” Roger shared. More details can be found on his website. *Lost in Dreams* (Barbour), the second book in the missions-based *Altered Hearts* series, follows Kim Hartlinger as she returns from her life-changing trip to Mexico—only to be met by tragedy.

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

## THEOLOGY IN FICTION

Theologian **Alister E. McGrath’s** latest novel releases September 2011. *Darkness Shall Fall* (Zondervan) continues the story of three children caught in an alternate world. In this conclusion to the *Aedyn Chronicles* trilogy, Peter, Julia, and Louisa must find a way to lead the people of Aedyn home in the aftermath of a volcanic eruption.

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

## NEWRELEASES



**PERFECTLY INVISIBLE (UNIVERSALLY MISUNDERSTOOD #2)**  
*Kristin Billerbeck*  
(Revell Books)



**CIAO (ON THE RUNWAY SERIES #6)**  
*Melody Carlson*  
(Zondervan)



**DOUBLE TAKE: A NOVEL**  
*Melody Carlson*  
(Revell Books)



**WREATH: A NOVEL**  
*Judy Christie*  
(Barbour Books)



**HIDE AND SECRET (MYSTERIES OF MIDDLEFIELD SERIES #3)**  
*Kathleen Fuller*  
(Tommy Nelson)



**THERE YOU’LL FIND ME**  
*Jenny B. Jones*  
(Thomas Nelson)



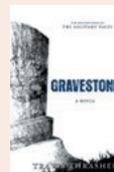
**THE FINAL HOUR (HOMELANDERS #4)**  
*Andrew Klavan*  
(Thomas Nelson)



**SKETCHY BEHAVIOR**  
*Erynn Mangum*  
(Zondervan)



**THE WISHING PEARL (DIAMOND ESTATES #1)**  
*Nicole O’Dell*  
(Barbour Books)



**GRAVESTONE (SOLITARY TALES SERIES #2)**  
*Travis Thrasher*  
(David C. Cook)

# Dandy Daley Mackall

## Horse Sense

ANNA ROBBINS



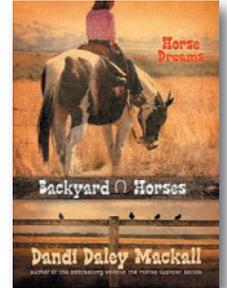
**Dandi Daley Mackall follows up her Winnie the Horse Gentler and Starlight Animal Rescue books with a new series that takes its name and theme from the idea of the “backyard horses”—more or less, the opposite of show horses.**

“You can find them in pastures or in backyards,” she says. “They may be farm horses, fun horses, or simply friends. Backyard horses are often plain and ordinary on the outside but frequently beautiful on the inside.”

“If there’s one issue that seems to touch every person, it’s self esteem,” she continues. “I would love readers to realize that what God says about us is all that matters—not what other people think of us.”

Dandi, who has authored more than 400 books, says that writing about this issue comes from years of interacting with her readers—and years of interacting with God. “I write about things I’m going through at the time. I’ve tried writing about other things, other problems. But God always

“ God always seems to bring me back to things He wants me to learn as I’m writing. ”

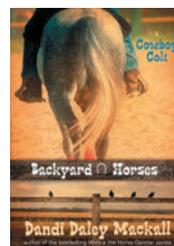


seems to bring me back to things He wants me to learn as I’m writing.”

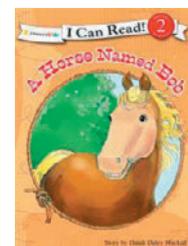
While the series is primarily targeted toward girls and the main character, Ellie James, is a girl, Mackall sees a wider audience for the books. “Each book has a subplot involving Ellie’s best buddy, Colt, also a fourth grader. And most involve Ethan, Ellie’s second-grade brother. In fact, the second book in the series, *Cowboy Colt*, is all about the boy character.”

Ellie’s brother Ethan is another element of the series inspired by one of God’s gifts to Mackall. “Ethan is a wonderful character, who reminds me of our own hearing-impaired daughter.” Each chapter title includes the sign language letters of the word. “I think readers will like learning to sign a bit and to use finger-spelling.” **FF**

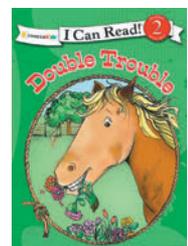
### ALSO AVAILABLE



**COWBOY COLT  
(BACKYARD HORSES #2)**



**A HORSE NAMED BOB  
(I CAN READ/A HORSE NAMED BOB)**



**DOUBLE TROUBLE (I CAN  
READ/A HORSE NAMED BOB)**

### FIND DANDI DALEY MACKALL ONLINE

DandiBooks.com

Facebook.com/profile.php?id=658121510

Twitter.com/DandiMackall

# News&Notes

BEN AVERY



## READING WITH VEGGIES

The VeggieTales characters are no longer just teaching Christian values, they are also teaching reading skills. Zonderkidz is releasing four new VeggieTales books in the popular early reader I Can Read series, written by **Karen Poth**. Different genres are featured in each book, from Jr. Asparagus entering a battle of the bands to the Old West themed *The Fairest Gun in the West* to a hard-boiled detective story to Bob and Larry's *Creation Vacation*, in which Bob and Larry travel the world to discover God's creation in seven days. Like the video series, these books are intended to inspire, educate, and entertain kids with faith-based tales.

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

## PLAYING THROUGH THE BIBLE

*Crossroads*, the new strategy game from Crossroads Gaming, allows two to four players to take part in classic stories from the Bible. Players build a road to get from one challenge to another, making their way through different Bible stories—and random challenge cards make for a new game experience every

time it is played. More stories are planned to be released in expansion packs. While it is a board game, one feature that sets it apart is that players cooperate, working together to overcome the game's obstacles, instead of playing against each other. Another focus for the game is to help players take a new and deeper look into some familiar and, perhaps, unfamiliar stories from the Bible.

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

## DESTINATION: LONDON

**Stephanie Perry Moore** is known for writing many young adult book series, mainly for girl readers. But in teaming with husband Derrick Moore, a former NFL player who now serves on staff with FCA, the Moores have crafted a new series for boys: The Alec London Series. Like many boys, Alec London faces challenges in his home and school life. The first two books of the series see Alec deal with a mother who leaves home, a grandmother who has a heart attack, a cousin who is a bully, and problems with kids at school. But through it all, Alec is also learning about God, the Bible and how it can help with his modern-day problems. Each book also contains exercises, allowing readers to expand their English and math skills in addition to their moral problem solving skills.

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

## NEWRELEASES



**THE BERENSTAIN BEARS SHOW SOME RESPECT**  
*Jan and Mike Berenstain*  
(Zonderkidz)



**SYDNEY AND THE CURIOUS CHEROKEE CABIN (CAMP CLUB GIRLS #19)**  
*Jean Fischer*  
(Barbour Books)



**CREATION STORY (SEE AND SAY)**  
*Christina Goodings*  
(Lion Children's)



**QUEST FOR THE SCORPION'S JEWEL (THE AMARIAS ADVENTURES #1)**  
*Amy Green*  
(Warner Press)



**HOLLY JEAN AND THE SECRET OF RAZORBACK RIDGE**  
*Bonnie Compton Hanson*  
(Warner Press)



**SHOWDOWN WITH THE SHEPHERD (ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY, IMAGINATION STATION #5)**  
*Marianne Hering, Brock Eastman*  
(Tyndale House)



**CARRYING MASON**  
*Joyce Magnin*  
(Zonderkidz)



**OOPS! (TJ AND THE TIME STUMBLERS)**  
*Bill Myers*  
(Tyndale House)



**THE FAIREST TOWN IN THE WEST (VEGGIETALES)**  
*Karen Poth*  
(Zonderkidz)



**TREASURES FROM GRANDMA'S ATTIC**  
*Arleta Richardson*  
(David C. Cook)

# David A.R. White

## Jerusalem Countdown

C.J. DARLINGTON



**Growing up Mennonite, David A.R. White didn't watch a lot of movies. Before the age of eighteen he'd only seen one in a theater. But God planted a desire in his heart to perform.**

"When I told my parents I wanted to pursue a film career, they looked at me like I was crazy!" he says. "But they supported me in it, saying as long as I followed the Lord, that's what they cared about the most." He moved to Hollywood to pursue his dreams at nineteen. A year later he made his first Christian film, *Second Glance*. "I thought I'd only do one," he says. "Then God gave me another, and another."

Now a co-founder of the premier Christian movie studio PureFlix Entertainment, David is not only still acting but he's producing and directing too. "We want to create and distribute movies that uplift and inspire the human spirit instead of tearing it down," David says. "Movies that bring people to higher levels of insight into who God is and the purpose He has for their lives."

*Jerusalem Countdown* is his latest project. Based on the best-selling book by Pastor John



“We want to create and distribute movies that uplift and inspire the human spirit instead of tearing it down.”

Hagee, it's an end times thriller in the vein of "24." "There are a lot of end times movies out there," David says. "I've done my share of them, but this one is a little different because we deal with so many modern events. It also has the best Rapture scene I've ever seen on film."

With top-notch actors like Lee Majors, Randy Travis, and Stacy Keach alongside David in the lead FBI agent role, it's a movie that wasn't without its share of filming difficulties. "We shot in a blizzard in December in Michigan," David says with a chuckle. "I didn't get to wear gloves or a hat or anything!"

FF

### FIND DAVID A.R. WHITE ONLINE

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

[Facebook.com/people/David-AR-White/1079774931](https://www.facebook.com/people/David-AR-White/1079774931)

# News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



## RIDING ON REDEMPTION

*Saving Winston* is a new family-friendly drama about a troubled teen who finds redemption through her faith in God and the rehabilitation of a rescue horse. Writer/producer **Jodi Johnson** says of the script, "I wanted to write about what I've felt has been my personal calling as a Christian and a horseback riding instructor—to be an example to today's youth. I wrote about what God has taught me through that experience." The film was recently awarded an Honorable Mention at the 2010 San Diego Christian Film Festival and is distributed by PureFlix Entertainment. [SavingWinston.com](http://SavingWinston.com)

## HAVING A BALL

*The Mighty Macs* is based on the incredible true story of the 1971-72 Immaculata College all girls basketball team that started in obscurity but became the original Cinderella story in women's basketball. Leading lady **Carla Gugino** (*Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Spy Kids*) plays coach Cathy Rush, a sassy 23-year-old tomboy

whose life has been filled with a series of setbacks. **David Boreanaz** (*Bones*) and award-winning actress **Ellen Burstyn** also star. The film hits theaters October 21st. [TheMightyMacs.com](http://TheMightyMacs.com)

## LIGHTING UP

Director **Tracy J. Trost** (*A Christmas Snow*) is back with another inspiring film called *The Lamp*. Based on the book by best-selling author **Jim Stovall**, the film stars **Jason London** as a devastated man who's lost his only child. Focusing on the themes of hope and overcoming loss, the movie asks, if you could have anything, what would YOU wish for? Joe Jestus, the PMD at Trost Moving Pictures says, "Tracy has always strived to challenge his audiences to be better and inspire them to believe it is possible. I believe *The Lamp* is his best work yet at accomplishing those goals." [TheLampMovie.com](http://TheLampMovie.com)

## NEWRELEASES



COURAGEOUS



HOLLOW



JERUSALEM  
COUNTDOWN



JUMPING THE BROOM



MARRIAGE RETREAT



PASTOR JONES  
CHRONICLES



THE PERFECT GAME



SAVING WINSTON



VEGGETALES: PRINCESS  
AND THE POPSTAR



WALL-E  
(Three-Disc Blu-ray / DVD  
Combo)

# Craig Schutt

## Back To Holsom

BEN AVERY

ENTERTAINMENT MADE  
**HOLSOM**



**Craig Schutt, creator and writer of *Welcome to Holsom*, wants to create stories that tackle real world problems and can be used to start discussions about life and faith among readers.**

As a comic book professional with experience working for DC Comics and Disney, it is no surprise what his chosen medium to present those stories would be. “I deeply believe in comics as one of the most effective means of communicating a message. The language of comics is universal, especially for kids,” Schutt explains.

That belief led him to create *Welcome to Holsom*, a comic book about “a small group of kids in a typical midwestern town who discover a secret underground complex that had been hidden away for half a century and they awaken a giant robot. In other words,” Schutt says with a grin, “it asks the question, ‘What would you do with a personal giant robot?’”

It asks other questions as well, tackling what Schutt calls “traditionally taboo topics” such as substance abuse, peer pressure, bullying, and even parenting issues.

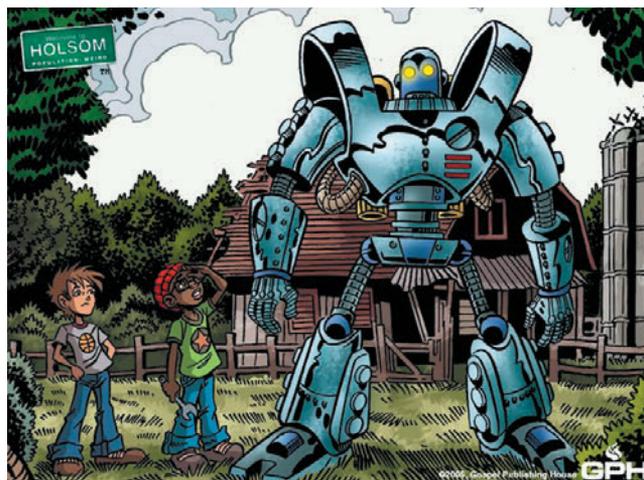
“It is one of those God things,” Schutt says, remembering *Holsom’s* beginnings. “I worked in comics for years and Assemblies of God was looking for new products that were contemporary minded. We wanted to tell a story that would be palatable to the Christian audience and yet say some serious things to the kids.”

Originally a twenty-four issue series, Influence

“ I deeply believe in comics as one of the most effective means of communicating a message. ”



Resources is publishing the entire story in four graphic novels. They are currently developing a new *Welcome to Holsom* series that will focus on topics for a teen audience: life, faith, and maybe even giant robots. **FF**

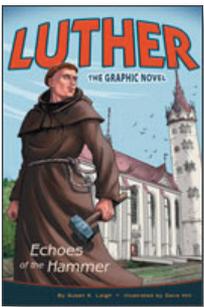


**FIND WELCOME TO HOLSOM ONLINE**

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

# News&Notes

BEN AVERY



## LUTHER'S HAMMER

Susan K. Leigh, author of the God, I Need to Talk to You series, has moved into a new medium with the graphic novel *Luther: Echoes of the Hammer*. She and her publisher, Concordia Publishing House, noticed there were not many Martin Luther biographies for younger readers, especially, as Leigh puts it, “for a reader not drawn to reading. We developed this to stimulate interest in Luther and to appeal to the non-reader.” The title refers to the hammer Luther used to nail his 95 theses, and how the repercussions of that act still resonate today. The book uses comics, mini-biographies, and historical notes to present an historically accurate portrait of Luther and his times.

[cph.org/luthernovel](http://cph.org/luthernovel)

## FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Voice of the Martyrs is bringing the Gospel of John to animated life with the new film *Jesus: He Lived Among Us*. While movies, even animated movies, about the life of Christ are nothing new, this production

has a unique purpose behind it: first and foremost, it is for people living in areas of the world where Christians are persecuted. The film, meant for people of all ages, follows the aged apostle and writer John as he is imprisoned and explaining to his jailers (and viewers) Jesus’ message and mission. It focuses on the suffering and persecution of Christ and His disciples, as a reminder and a hope to those who face persecution for their faith as well.

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

## FUN WITH THE REVEREND

At least twice a week since 1997, **Reverend Fun** has explored the lighter side of church life and Christianity with its *The Far Side*-styled one panel comics. Bible stories, theological ideas, and modern traditions are all targets for the comic strip’s humor - sometimes all in the same comic. Bible verses appear under the comic to let the reader check out the source of the humor. The longevity of Reverend Fun is not its only unique quality. The comics are available from the website or the two printed books for use in church bulletins and presentations, among other things. The creators of Reverend Fun also accept submissions from readers, giving them a chance to join the fun with their own ideas.

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

## NEWRELEASES



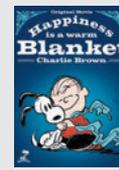
**ALLEGIANCE OF THE BRIDE: FATEFUL ENCOUNTERS, PART 1**  
Grace Kim Kwon  
(Creation House)



**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.)



**VEGGETALES: PRINCESS AND THE POPSTAR**  
(Big Idea)

# 5 Questions: MaryConnealy

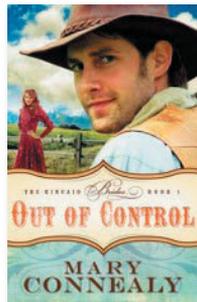
Mary Connealy writes fun and lively “romantic comedy with cowboys” for the inspirational market. She lives on a ranch in eastern Nebraska with her husband, Ivan, and has four grown daughters. (Her alter-ego writes suspense novels under the pen name Mary Nealy.)



MARY CONNEALY

## 1. Tell us about *Out of Control*.

Julia Gilliland enjoys her outings to the cavern near her father’s homestead, where she explores for fossils and formations and plans to write a book about her discoveries. The cave seems plenty safe—until the day a mysterious intruder steals the rope she uses to climb her way out.



Rafe Kincaid is more intrigued by Julia than any woman he’s ever known. But when his developing relationship with Julia threatens his chance at reconciliation with his brothers, will he have to choose between the family bonds that could restore his trust, or the love that could heal his heart?

## 2. Why have you chosen to write about cowboys?

Cowboys in fiction take us to a time when good and evil were much more clearly separated; a time when one man would stand on his own to wrestle a living out of a hard land. The code of the West was about honor. It was about taking responsibility, protecting those weaker, especially women. It was about your word being your bond. Never quit, never rustle another man’s cattle or steal his horse. In these rules you’ll find the fundamentals of many of the Ten Commandments. So telling a cowboy story with a Christian worldview is simple.

## 3. Why did you set your book in the mountains of Colorado instead of the more traditional plains of Texas?

I was deeply moved by a visit to Carlsbad Cavern a few years ago. It truly is an awe-inspiring place. I needed mountains to hide the deep cavern. I couldn’t use the real Carlsbad Cavern—the history

of it is so well-known I knew I couldn’t treat this history with respect. In fact, I’d be trampling the truth with my book. But I found some other beautiful caverns in Colorado, as well as other places, and it gave me the nerve to create my own.

## 4. Your writing combines action, danger and comedy. How do you fit those unlikely elements into one story?

I have a recurring theme in my books that the West weeds out weaklings. This is a mindset I picked up from reading about a hundred Louis L’Amour books over and over: It was a hard land and the weak got out or died.

Throw in the love story, because I love a love story, and it figures you’ve got strong women teaming up with strong men. A battle is assured and sparks are going to fly. And comedy springs naturally from that.

## 5. What is the underlying theme of *Out of Control*?

You need to turn control of your life over to God. Rafe and Julia are both very much “take charge” kind of people. When they meet, they clash almost as strongly as they’re attracted to each other. Rafe hates the cavern and has spent his life trying to protect people from it. Julia believes God led her to the cavern and she’s not giving it up for a mere man. So why did God send her a man who is determined to stop her from fulfilling God’s will for her life?

FF

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