

familyfiction

November/December 2011

Because Everyone Deserves a Good Story

SMITTEN

with COLLEEN COBLE,
KRISTIN BILLERBECK,
DIANN HUNT and
DENISE HUNTER

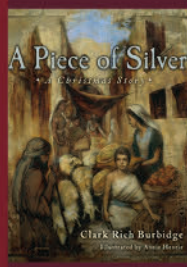
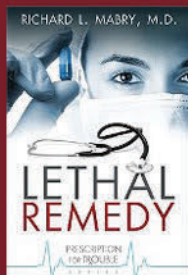
Melody
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BOOKS, DVDS
& MOVIES



THE **WORLD** IS
ON THE BRINK OF
DISASTER...
THE **STAKES**
COULDN'T BE
HIGHER

- ★ WHAT IF THE WORLD WAITS TOO LONG AND IRAN DEVELOPS NUCLEAR WEAPONS?
- ★ WOULD TEHRAN LAUNCH A GENOCIDAL WAR AGAINST ISRAEL?
- ★ WOULD JERUSALEM LAUNCH A MASSIVE PREEMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST IRAN?
- ★ OR WOULD WASHINGTON ORDER THE CIA TO INTERVENE BEFORE EVENTS SPIN OUT OF CONTROL?

IS IT FICTION OR IS IT REAL?

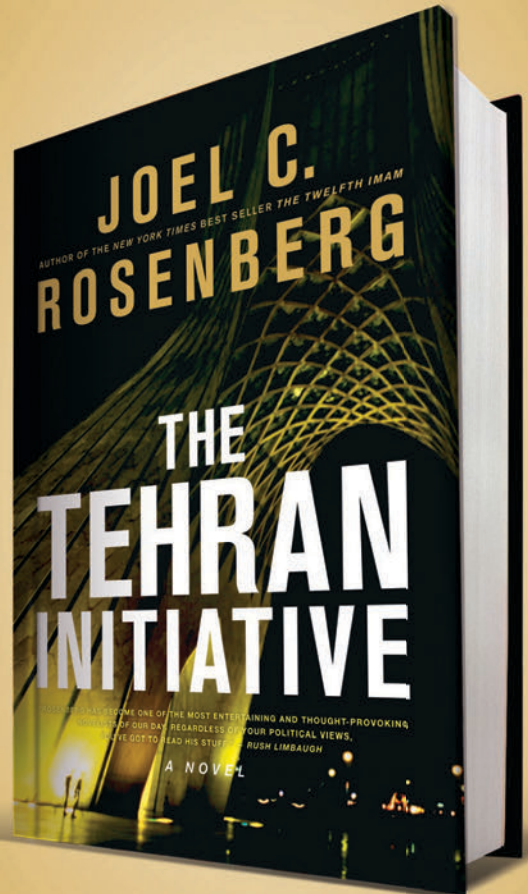


New York Times bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg returns with his most exhilarating political thriller to date—a pulse-pounding tale of international intrigue that will keep you on the edge of your seat and wondering . . . what if this worst-case scenario comes true?

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AVAILABLE AT YOUR
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PLUS: Jennifer Rogers Spinola, Angela Hunt and Alison Strobel



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CHILDRENS // CLARK BURBIDGE
PLUS: Susan Marlow, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Printoons



SPECULATIVE // DEBBIE VIGUIÉ
PLUS: Lis Wiehl, Frank Peretti and Donita K. Paul



MOVIE/DVD // SAVING WINSTON
PLUS: *Snowmen*, *Seasons of Gray* and *Doonby*



ROMANCE // KAYE DACUS
PLUS: Shelley Shepard Gray, Myra Johnson, Susan May Warren and Leigh Bale



COMICS/ANIMATION // K.J. KOLKA
PLUS: Billy Tucci, Buck Denver and *The Book of Revelation*

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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



REL MOLLET (ROMANCE DEPT., HISTORICAL DEPT.)

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

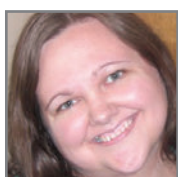
relzreviewz.blogspot.com



C.J. DARLINGTON (SUSPENSE DEPT., MOVIES/DVDS DEPT.)

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

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



CHRISTA BANISTER (CONTEMPORARY/GENERAL FICTION DEPT.)

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

ChristaBanister.typepad.com



BEN AVERY (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

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STORIES THAT WILL Warm Your Heart THIS FALL

Alice lives with her nose stuck in a book. But when her own happily-ever-after doesn't go as planned, will real life prove to be more exciting than anything she's ever read?

Wonderland Creek
by Lynn Austin

Switchboard operator Georgie Gail knows that the dashing Luke Palmer is more than he appears. But will her curiosity dial up love...or a whole mess of trouble?

Love on the Line
by Deeanne Gist

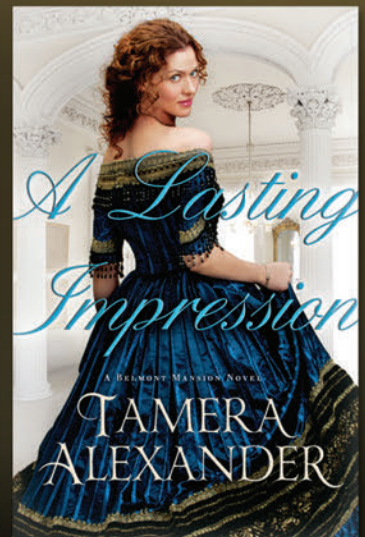
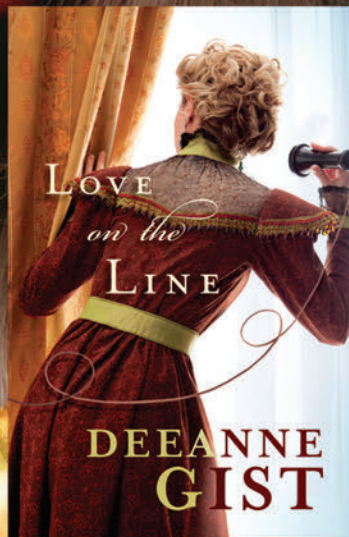
Leaving behind a bundle of heartache—trick rider Cassie Lockwood sets out on a daring new adventure: searching for her father's hidden Valley of Dreams.

Valley of Dreams
by Lauraine Snelling
WILD WEST WIND #1

Artist Claire Laurent longs to create a lasting impression. Sutton Monroe is determined to reclaim what belonged to him. But will their ambitions come at too high a price?

A Lasting Impression
by Tamera Alexander
A BELMONT MANSION NOVEL

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Feedback



I have read a lot of Beverly Lewis' books. ["A Sense of Belonging," *FamilyFiction* Sep/Oct 2011] I especially liked the series with *The Shunning*—I must say, a double thumbs up! I owe it to her and Cindy Woodsmall for getting me hooked on Amish fiction. Love it!

Rebecca Lynne Barresi
Andalusia, Alabama

Beverly Lewis is one of the best authors of Amish Fiction I've ever read. Anything she's written, I'll take off the shelf first.

Karen Nickell
Vevay, Indiana

Thanks for doing this. I have discovered so many authors through *FamilyFiction*. I live in the UK so its really good to hear about different authors.

Wendy Jones
Sholing, Southampton, UK

I love *FamilyFiction* for finding new books, info on my favorite

authors, and entering contests for free books.

Jean Ann Craig
via [Facebook.com/FamilyFiction](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction)

FamilyFiction, what a blessing you are!

Patricia Anne Gilbert
Howard, Ohio



Two of my favorite authors made this list. ["10 Essential Voices in Medieval Fiction," *FamilyFiction* Sep/Oct 2011] I can tell you that Stephen Lawhead and Angela Hunt are *awesome*. The Hood trilogy is a new spin on Robin Hood, and if you haven't read his series on King Arthur, you are really missing out. Angela Hunt is really easy reading—she is one of those authors that you can sit down with a new book and not put it down until the book is done. Although it is easy reading, her books are not fluff. It's hard to pick out favorites from her books because they are all so different and the subject matter really makes you think.

Gayle Simpson Huwe
Hood River, Oregon



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150298228763666](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150298228763666)

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

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150299145253666](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150299145253666)

What are your favorite books by Karen Kingsbury?

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150289926458666](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150289926458666)

Who are your favorite authors who write YA fiction?

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/1015026795778666](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150259844113666)

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

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Seen any good movies lately?

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

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150288254458666](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150288254458666)

What is your favorite Bible storybook for kids?

[Facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150287364648666](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFiction/posts/10150287364648666)

KEEP IN TOUCH



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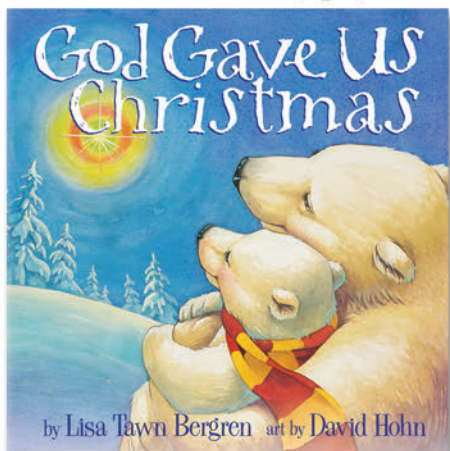
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Let these books guide you full steam ahead into the holiday season!

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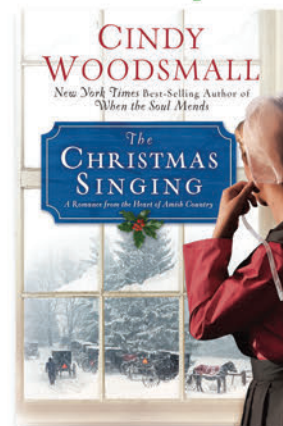


This enchanting tale provides the perfect opportunity to help young children celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and to discover how very much God loves them.



Everything Christmas brings all the best ideas for the holiday season together in one volume. From recipes to decoration ideas to Christmas trivia and humor – it's all here!

Download chapter one!



Mattie thought her childhood sweetheart Gideon adored her until his actions proved otherwise. Three years have passed and Mattie wonders - can the beauty of this Christmas restore her faith?



With warmth, humor and a healthy dose of old-fashioned romance, *Two Tickets to the Christmas Ball* is the story of two unlikely people finding love, thanks to determined matchmaking booksellers.



Certain to become a Christmas classic, this delightful tale connects the star atop our Christmas trees to the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, in the hearts and minds of young children.

Dialogue

What historical fiction authors do you recommend?



TERESA BURGOYNE Brock and Bodie Thoene write

some of the most amazing books that are set back during WWII and when Christ was here on Earth.

STEPHANIE WALDRON PECK

Siri Mitchell, Julie Klassen, Kim Vogel Sawyer, Stephanie Grace Whitson... oh, my list could go on and on!

REL MOLLET

Laura Frantz, Jody Hedlund, MaryLu Tyndall, Julie Lessman, Sandra Byrd, Tamera Alexander and Liz Curtis Higgs.

LARAE CARR

Kathleen Morgan, Gilbert Morris and Lori Wick.

DARREN AND TIFFANY CRULL

Kristen Heitzmann and Lori Wick.



SHARON EVANS Michael Phillips is one of the best

writers! Especially his Shenandoah Sisters Series and The Secrets of the Rose Series.

PAT HINES

I like Deeanne Gist and Tracie Peterson for historical fiction.

ERIC WILSON

I love Tricia Goyer, Bodie

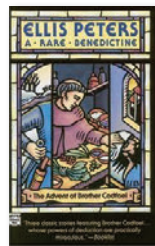
Thoene, Goldie Alexander and Jane Kirkpatrick. I'm sure there are many others.

SHERRY KUHN

Julie Lessman, Yvonne Harris, Tamera Alexander and MaryLu Tyndall.

SPRING V. PAGE

Martha Rogers, Andrea Boeshaar and Lena Nelson Dooley.



TERRI MAIN

I happen to like the Brother Cadfael Mysteries by Ellis Peters. Other than that, I don't read much historical fiction—which is odd, since I enjoy history. But that might be it; I tend to nitpick historical inaccuracies.

SHERYL SERVISS MAXEY

Kristen Heitzmann, Tracie Peterson, Lauraine Snelling, Gary Parker and BJ Hoff.

CHRISTINE POWERS JACOBS

Deeanne Gist, Tamera Alexander, Kelly Eileen Hake, Cathy Marie Hake, Lori Wick, Judith Miller, Robin Lee Hatcher, Tracie Peterson, Karen Witemeyer... So many good ones! Hard to pick one!

ARACELY TORRES

Liz Curtis Higgs and Francine Rivers—in

particular, Francine's Mark of the Lion Trilogy!

STACY STEPHENS

I have really enjoyed Jane Kirkpatrick's books.

JEN BRIGHT

Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller.

MALINDA TEMPLETON

Lauraine Snelling, Tracie Petterson and Cathy Marie Hake.

LEE ANN SPECKELS DENNIS

Lynn Austin and Francine Rivers.

KRISTINE MORGAN

Nancy Moser and Peter Danielson.

CHRISTINA SUZANN NELSON

Ann Shorey, Allison Pittman and Jane Kirkpatrick.

DEBBIE COOK ROHAN

B.J. Hoff and Nancy Moser.

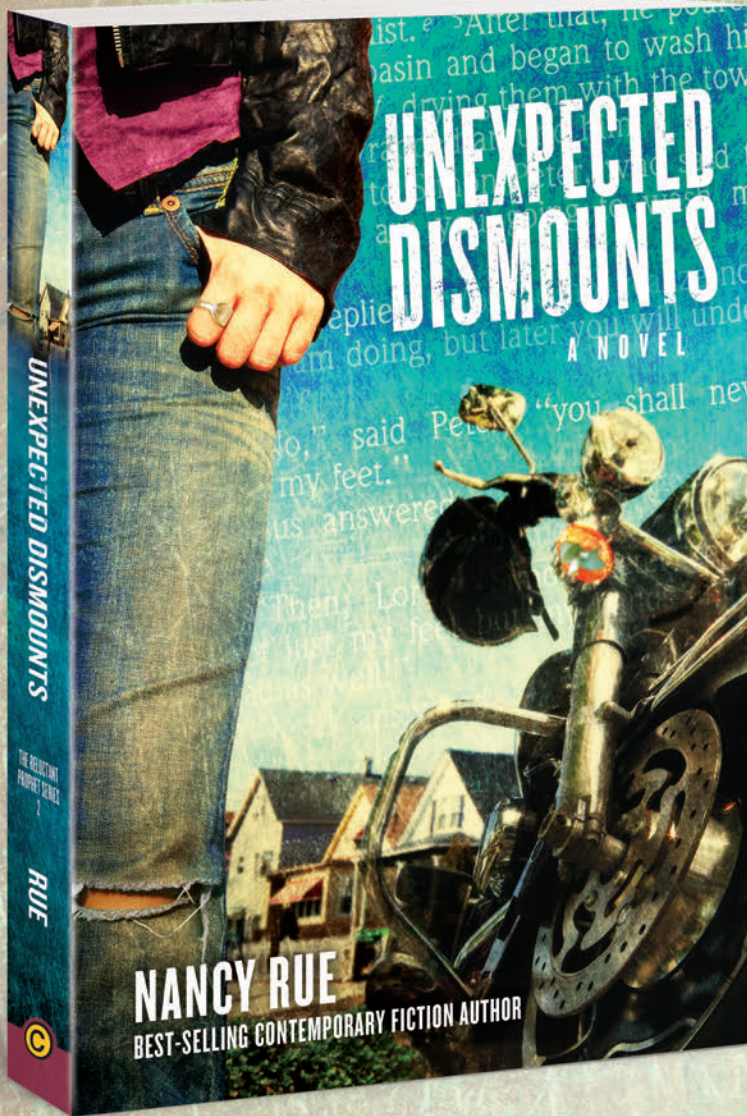


AMY HADDOCK Susan Meissner (especially *The Shape of Mercy*) and **Jane Kirkpatrick**

(especially *The Daughter's Walk*).

SEE ALL THE RESPONSES AT:

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NEW

from best-selling contemporary author

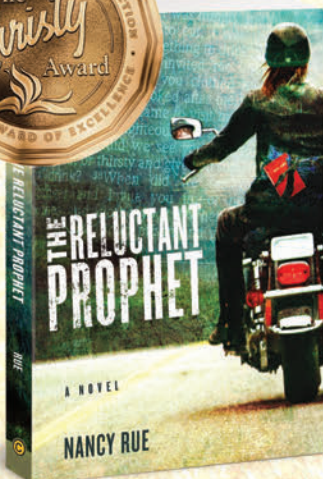
NANCY RUE

"In Allison Chamberlain, Nancy Rue has created a fresh and unique protagonist to challenge all who follow Christ. How will we change the world? By being willing to leave our comfortable pews and habitual routines to truly *listen* to the voice of the Spirit ... and show the world that Jesus called us to love. Not to take care of ourselves, but to take risks in loving others... a wonderful book with the power to changes hearts and lives."

Angela Hunt, author of *The Debt*

www.nancyrue.com

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OnTheWebsite



Q&A: DAVIS BUNN

“My desire is that readers will have a new understanding and appreciation of West vs. East ... and possibly a new way of thinking about solutions for peace in the Mideast.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/davis-bunn/features/davis-bunn-thriller-tion-of-babylon-exposes-hopeful-reality-behind-headlines/



Q&A: SUSAN MAY WARREN

“Being blessed isn’t about what you have, but in the fact that you are loved by your heavenly Father, and that your life is in His hands.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/susan-may-warren/features/q-a-susan-may-warren-heiress/



Q&A: JON S. LEWIS

“My desire is that my faith in Christ informs all the decisions that I make, whether that involves writing stories, driving in my car during rush hour, or hanging out with friends and family.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/jon-s-lewis/features/q-a-jon-s-lewis/



Q&A: MONA HODGSON

“I am a businesswoman and wanted to explore where such aspirations may have led me in 1897.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/mona-hodgson/features/q-a-mona-hodgson/



Q&A: JOSHUA GRAHAM

“Commercial success is great, but I want to write books that my readers will always remember and even come back to read again and again.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/joshua-graham/features/q-a-joshua-graham/



Q&A: DEBORAH RANEY

“Though my novels don’t always have a traditional “happily ever after” ending, they do always have a redemptive and hopefully satisfying conclusion that reflects the hope we have in Christ.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/deborah-raney/features/q-a-deborah-raney/



Q&A: RANDY ALCORN ON ‘COURAGEOUS’

The author shares the challenges of adapting the movie *Courageous* into novel form.

FamilyFiction.com/authors/randy-alcorn/features/q-a-randy-alcorn-on-courageous/



Q&A: LINDA GOODNIGHT

“We all fall down, but if we let Him, God will pick us up, dust us off, and ‘make all things new’. I think that’s a powerful message.”

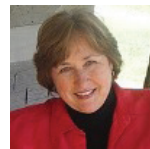
FamilyFiction.com/authors/linda-goodnight/features/q-a-linda-goodnight/



Q&A: KEITH A. ROBINSON

“I began wondering what would happen if someone did for creation/evolution what Jerry Jenkins and Tim Lahaye did with end-times prophecy.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/keith-a-robinson/features/q-a-keith-a-robinson/



Q&A: SERENA MILLER

“At this point in my life, I can no more imagine writing a story without a strong inspirational theme than I can imagine getting out of bed in the morning without hope in a resurrected Jesus.”

FamilyFiction.com/authors/serena-miller/features/q-a-serena-miller/



Here you’ll find a collection of Christian authors who write speculative fiction—including science fiction, fantasy, end-times and supernatural fiction—all from a Biblical worldview. Just click on any author’s name below to view their latest books, news, features, trailers and more!

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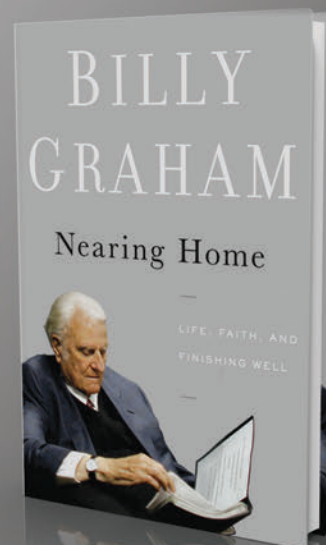
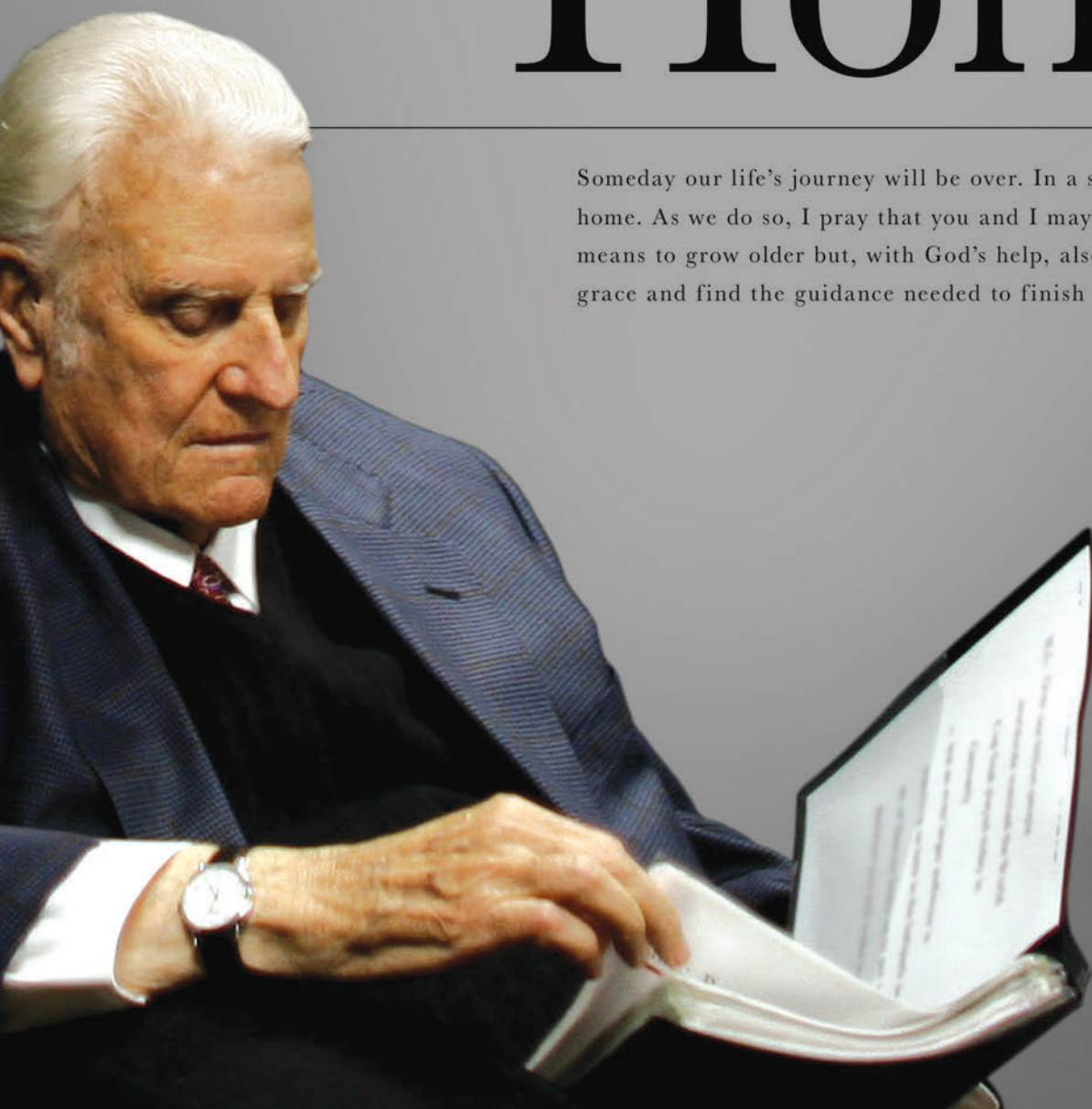
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BILLY GRAHAM

Nearing Home

Someday our life's journey will be over. In a sense we are all nearing home. As we do so, I pray that you and I may not only learn what it means to grow older but, with God's help, also learn to grow older with grace and find the guidance needed to finish well.



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C.J. DARLINGTON

200 Books... And Counting!



Melody Carlson has written more than 200 books for teens, women and children. Before being published, Melody traveled around the world, volunteered in teen ministry, taught preschool, raised two sons, and worked briefly in interior design and later in international adoption. "I think real-life experiences inspire the best fiction," she says. Her wide variety of books seems to prove this theory.



Before becoming the best-selling author of over 200 Christian books (including the popular *Diary of a Teenage Girl* series), Melody Carlson was a teen atheist. It wasn't until a group of acquaintances were killed in a car wreck that she began to ask the hard questions about eternity.

"It was disturbing to think we go through all the challenges of life to simply be snuffed out," Melody says. "In that dark spot, I said a prayer, 'God if you're real, show me.' To be honest, I think becoming an atheist at twelve was my plea for God to reveal himself to me."

Which is exactly what He did. At a Young Life meeting, Melody heard the gospel for the first time. She soon accepted Christ and immediately knew God was alive and real.

"I went from being a confused wild child to a born-again Jesus freak. I think my mom and sister were in shock. It was such an extreme change that I'm sure my mom must've thought it was a weird adolescent phase. But by the time I was getting ready to head for Papua New Guinea as a short-term assistant preschool teacher with Wycliffe Bible Translators, they realized I was serious about my faith. I prayed they would get saved before I left, and amazingly that happened."

Melody's always loved writing, but she didn't take it seriously until she was in her thirties. "I felt like I was going to explode (or implode) if I didn't start," she says. "As soon as I began to write, it was like a pressure valve was released. I knew that I

would continue to write even if no one ever read a single word. I believe it happened like that because God had given me a gift I wasn't fully using, and it was His Spirit compelling me to get with the program.

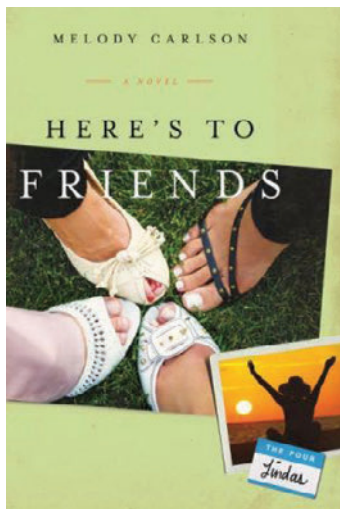
"I only wanted to write fiction," she says. "I was having success selling short stories, but I wrote so quickly it didn't take long before I had several books written. Back then the Christian publishing

industry was barely producing novels. Finally an editor who believed in me asked if I could write a nonfiction book [to get my foot in the door]. I had just closed a successful group home childcare center that I'd run for a few years. I decided to write about that. The book sold to Thomas Nelson, and shortly thereafter all the other books I'd written sold as well. I was launched."

Years later, her well hasn't run dry. In fact,

Melody has had four books release in the last few months alone, including *Here's to Friends* (David C. Cook), the conclusion to her *Four Lindas* series. She admits she tends to do most things fast, whether it be cooking, walking, thinking or writing. "I've tried to slow my writing down," she says, "but I end up getting bored and the story suffers. Plus with my teen readers always begging for the next book, I just keep going. I write because I truly love doing it. I start with a character. Not a fully fleshed-out character though—that would be boring to me. I do know a few things about her—her general statistics, where she lives, etc.—but most importantly, I

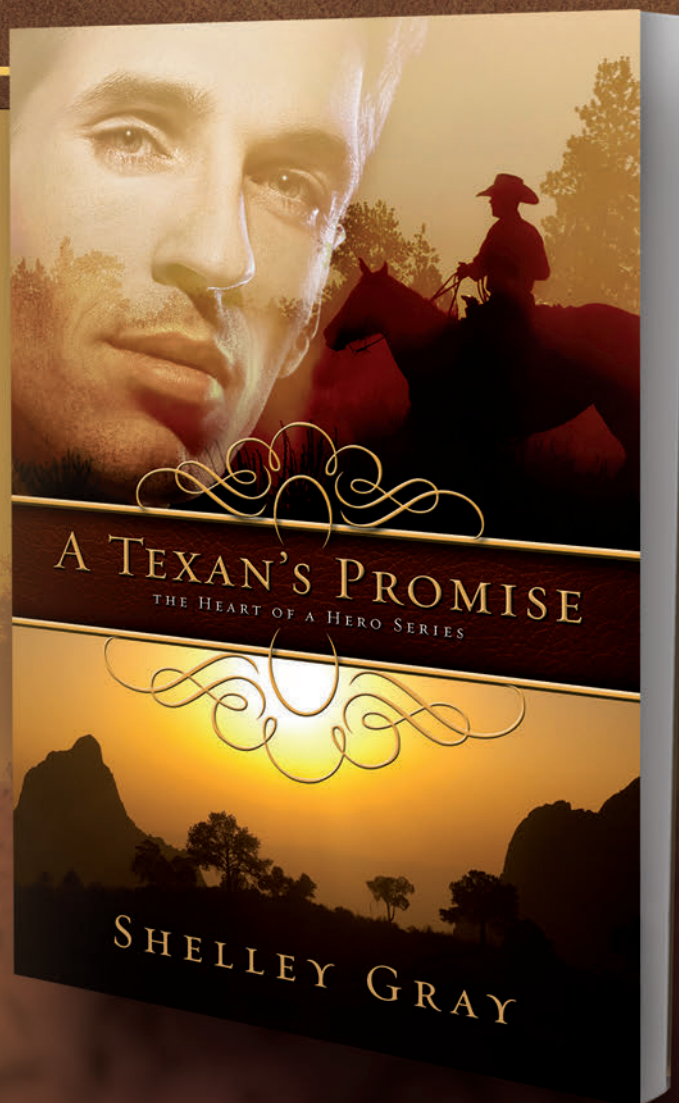
“As soon as I began to write, it was like a pressure valve was released. I knew that I would continue to write even if no one ever read a single word.”



AN OLD WEST TALE OF FAITH & ROMANCE

When Clayton Proffitt, foreman of the Circle Z Ranch in Texas, discovers Vanessa Grant is the victim of her stepfather's advances, Clayton knows he must protect her honor and move her far away from the ranch-and from the man she fears.

As they make their way West, Clayton and Vanessa place their faith in God and their trust in each other.



WILL THEY FIND HEALING AND
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE TOGETHER?



know she has a problem. Then I get to explore her through the form of story.”

In her recent teen book *Damaged* (NavPress), Melody knew her character was a girl who would be a date-rape victim. “It’s one of the most under-reported crimes committed against teens. I told her tale as a cautionary one for readers. It’s hard being mean to my characters, but it’s worth it to ‘torture’ a fictional person in the hopes that a flesh-and-blood reader will learn something vicariously and not suffer the same problems in real life.”

Which just goes to show Melody’s soft spot for today’s youth. Dozens of her books, including the Colors series, address relevant topics like cutting, drug abuse, and promiscuity, yet she always makes sure she’s not writing down to her readers.

“The number one thing teens are looking for in their stories is authenticity,” she says. “Whether they’re reading vampire, sci-fi, fantasy or inspirational stories, I think they want books to ring true to their worldview and experience. They want to relate to the characters—to feel pulled in, as if they could step into the story themselves.”

Melody often receives e-mails from teens who’ve given their lives to Christ along with the characters in her books. “That always blows me away—and blesses me,” she says. “It also keeps me writing for teens.”

Melody brings this same authenticity to her adult novels.

River’s Song (Abingdon Press) is the first book in the Inn at Shining Waters trilogy, a series about multi-generational women of Siuslaw Indian heritage.

“We have a little cabin near the beach,” she says. “To get there we drive along the Siuslaw River—a beautiful coastal estuary which has always intrigued me. Over the years I’ve read what I can find about the Siuslaw Indians—some very sad stories—and we’ve taken some boat trips on the river. It always felt like the river was begging me to tell its story.”

If writing for adults and teens wasn’t enough, for the past eight years Melody has penned eight Christmas novellas, including *Christmas at Harrington’s* and the just-released *The Christmas Shoppe* (Revell). She’s not even sure how she got started writing these holiday tomes. “Maybe just because it’s fun!” she says. “Ironically, I always write these stories in July. Sometimes I’ll emerge from my office where it’s been ‘snowing’ to discover it’s actually 95 degrees outside. Some of my Christmas books have been considered for TV movies. In fact, I just did my first adaptation of a Christmas novella (that’s not even out yet) and it’s closer to becoming a TV movie than any of them so far. I would so love to break into that arena.” **FF**

FIND MELODY CARLSON ONLINE

MelodyCarlson.com

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Melody-Carlson

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10 NEW VOICES IN

Contemporary Fiction

REL MOLLET

Contemporary stories remind us of the struggles we face, the highs and lows of life and who we really are. Writers reflect on our everyday experiences in a variety of ways, flavoring their tales with drama, poignancy, honesty and humor. Here are 10 new voices to discover.



Marybeth Whalen

There is never a dull moment in Marybeth Whalen's life as the mother of six children, the director of the popular blog, *She Reads*, and the author of *The Mailbox* and *She Makes It Look Easy* (David C Cook).

MarybethWhalen.com



Ginny Yttrup

Ginny Yttrup's debut novel, *Words* (B&H), received overwhelming acclaim as she poured her own experiences into a story of an abused child seeking freedom in the beauty of words. Her highly anticipated *Lost & Found*

(B&H) releases February 2012.

GinnyYttrup.com



Kim Cash Tate

Garnering a 4 ½ star rating from *Romantic Times*, Kim Cash Tate's second novel, *Cherished*, follows her well-received debut novel, *Faithful* (Thomas Nelson) and proves she is an author to watch.

KimCashTate.com



Patti Lacy

Patti writes contemporary women's fiction inspired by Romans 8:28, and her debut novel, *The Irishwoman's Tale* (Kregel), released in 2008. Her most recent novel, *Reclaiming Lily* (Bethany House), is a heart-wrenching

story of adoption, sacrifice and cultural ties.

PattiLacy.com



Contemporary



Jennifer ALee

She may have shared the same hospital nursery as Michael Landon, Jr. when she was born, but Jennifer ALee hopes her books have more lasting power than that claim to fame! Look for *The Love of His*

Brother (Five Star), *The Pastor's Wife*, and *The Sister Road* (Abingdon) in early 2012.

JenniferALee.blogspot.com



Jennifer Rogers Spinola

Jennifer Rogers Spinola was born in the South, spent two years in Japan as a missionary, and now lives in Brazil with her Brazilian husband and son. Her debut novel, *Southern Fried Sushi*, will

be followed by *Like Sweet Potato Pie* and *Till Grits Do Us Part* (Barbour) in 2012.

JenniferRogersSpinola.blogspot.com



Carla Stewart

Receiving rave reviews for her award-winning debut novel, *Chasing Lilacs*, Carla Stewart backs up the praise with *Broken Wings* (Faithwords), a beautifully told story of the devastating pain of

Alzheimer's and spousal abuse.

CarlaStewart.com



Christa Allan

Christa Allan's tagline, "Author of not your usual Christian fiction" is reflected in her characters grappling with alcoholism, homosexuality, addiction and marital dysfunction. Discover *Walking on Broken*

Glass and *The Edge of Grace* (Abingdon).

ChristaAllan.com



Nicole Baart

An advocate of small-town life and adoption, Nicole Baart's literary prose and unique characters have garnered praise from *Publishers Weekly* and a Christy Award nomination. Discover *Beneath the Night*

Tree (Tyndale) and look for *Far From Here* (Howard) in February 2012.

NicoleBaart.com



Meg Moseley

Meg Moseley's debut novel, *When Sparrows Fall* (Multnomah), challenges religious extremism in a woman's search for spiritual freedom for herself and her children. When she isn't writing,

Meg can often be found on the back of her husband's motorcycle, thinking of story ideas.

MegMoseley.com

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FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/contemporary/



The Carol Awards: Like a “Kiss from Heaven”

KATHI MACIAS



In September, the American Christian Fiction Writers announced the winners of The Carol Awards and The Genesis Contest. Author and Carol Award nominee Kathi Macias reports.

Some 700 authors, editors, agents and other industry professionals gathered this past September in St. Louis for the 10th annual conference of the American Christian Fiction Writers. The three-day event culminated in the Carol Awards, created to recognize the best Christian fiction published by traditional publishing houses every year.

Author Cara Putman won the award when it was still known as “Book of the Year.” She remembers the event as being “like a kiss from Heaven, letting me know I was on the right track.”

“One factor that sets ACFW’s Carol Awards apart from other honors is the sheer volume of entries,” says Cynthia Ruchti, ACFW Professional Relations Liaison. “Authors and publishers are eager to have their novels considered in this arena where readers, editors, agents, librarians and retailers evaluate a book’s impact on the

human heart in addition to its appeal to the mind and its entertainment value. Christian fiction has continued to grow in breadth, depth and reach. The variety of categories and the strength of the entries for the Carol Awards underscore that reality.”

ACFW Conference Director Robin Miller agrees. “Celebrating the best of the best in Christian fiction, the ACFW Carol Awards honor the excellent titles published in a wide variety of genres every year.”

ACFW Carol Award Coordinator Mindy Obenhaus is excited that the number of entries continues to grow each year. “Entries for the 2011 contest were up nearly 20 percent over last year. This year, we increased the number of judges for each entry from three to five, adding booksellers and librarians to our ranks.”

From 2002 to 2009, the ACFW honored authors with their esteemed Book of the Year Award. In 2010,

the prestigious award was renamed after longtime Bethany House Publishers editor Carol Johnson, who helped pioneer modern Christian fiction.

“We editors are a rather retiring bunch, and I’ve loved my behind-the-scenes role,” Carol says, “discovering new fiction voices and working with them to develop characters and plot from idea to finished book. I was more than a tad uncomfortable with the idea of the award—but glad for the heightened awareness of Christian fiction and the power of story.”

Hundreds of attendees at the 2010 banquet witnessed the presentation of the first round of Carol Awards, during which Carol Johnson herself was honored with ACFW’s first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

Carol grew up in a missionary family in the jungles of Borneo, where books such as *Pilgrim’s Progress* were treasured friends. After high school, she came to Minnesota to attend Bethany College of Missions, which included a small publishing endeavor on campus. Carol was assigned to the printing division, typesetting at a Linotype machine and where she did her first editorial work. After graduation and marriage to Gary, who was directing the publishing house, Carol took up the editorial reins, including a commitment to finding novelists interweaving their stories with a Christian worldview. Carol’s acquisition of novelist Janette Oke for Bethany House Publishers in 1978 was an important step in establishing Christian fiction as one of the most successful genres in the CBA industry.

Carol was also instrumental in founding the Christy Awards for Excellence in Christian Fiction, as well as the Christian Fiction Task Force, a group of publishers banded together to promote Christian fiction in CBA stores. She now partners with her husband to consult with publishers, authors and editors as J&J Literary Advisors.

“I am honored and humbled by the ACFW fiction award having been named after me—honored because of the recognition from this important organization of Christian writers, and humbled because there are many other names that could be included with mine. I’m deeply grateful.”

A kiss from Heaven, indeed.

FF

Here are the 2011 finalists and winners (in bold):



DEBUT NOVEL:

***Crossing Oceans* by Gina Holmes (Tyndale Publishers)**
The Preacher’s Bride by Jody Hedlund (Bethany House)
Rooms by James L. Rubart (B&H Publishing)



LONG CONTEMPORARY:

***Never Say Never* by Lisa Wingate (Bethany House)**
The Choice by Suzanne Woods Fisher (Revell Books)
Red Ink by Kathi Macias (New Hope Publishers)



LONG CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE:

***Plain Paradise* by Beth Wiseman (Thomas Nelson)**
Plain Jayne by Hillary Manton Lodge (Harvest House)
Anna’s Return by Marta Perry (Berkley)



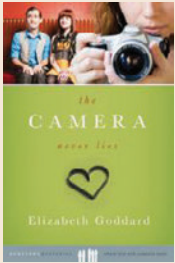
LONG HISTORICAL:

***Sons of Thunder* by Susan May Warren (Summerside Press)**
Here Burns My Candle by Liz Curtis Higgs (Waterbrook Press)
Petra: City in Stone by T.L. Higley (B&H Publishing)



LONG HISTORICAL ROMANCE:

***Love Finds You in Homestead, Iowa* by Melanie Dobson (Summerside Press)**
The Husband Tree by Mary Connealy (Barbour Books)
Courting Morrow Little by Laura Frantz (Revell Books)



MYSTERY:

The Camera Never Lies by Elizabeth Goddard (Barbour Books)
Mirrored Image by Alice K. Arenz (Sheaf House)
Muslin Mystery by Vera Dodge (Guideposts)



SHORT HISTORICAL:

Her Healing Ways by Lyn Cote (Love Inspired Historical)
Promise of Tomorrow by S. Dionne Moore (Barbour Books)
The Columns of Cottonwood by Sandra Robbins (Barbour Books)



NOVELLAS:

A Trusting Heart by Carrie Turansky (Barbour Books)
The Prodigal Groom by Vickie McDonough (Barbour Books)
Ride With Me Into Christmas by Rachael Phillips (Barbour Books)



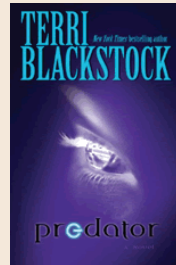
SPECULATIVE FICTION:

König's Fire by Marc Schooley (Marcher Lord Press)
The Wolf of Tebron by C. S. Lakin (AMG Publishers)
Rooms by James L. Rubart (B&H Publishing)



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:

The Silent Order by Melanie Dobson (Summerside Press)
Don't Look Back by Lynette Eason (Revell Books)
Pursuit of Justice by DiAnn Mills (Tyndale Publishers)



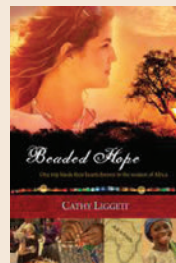
SUSPENSE/THRILLER:

Predator by Terri Blackstock (Zondervan)
Fear No Evil by Robin Carroll (B&H Publishing)
Medical Error by Richard L. Mabry (Abingdon Press)



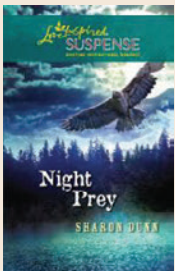
SHORT CONTEMPORARY:

A Father for Zach by Irene Hannon (Love Inspired)
The Wedding Garden by Linda Goodnight (Love Inspired)
Winter's End by Ruth Logan Herne (Love Inspired)



WOMEN'S FICTION:

Beaded Hope by Cathy Liggett (Tyndale Publishers)
They Almost Always Come Home by Cynthia Ruchti (Abingdon Press)
Beyond Summer by Lisa Wingate (NAL)



SHORT CONTEMPORARY SUSPENSE:

Night Prey by Sharon Dunn (Love Inspired Suspense)
Legacy of Lies by Jill Elizabeth Nelson (Love Inspired Suspense)
Firestorm by Kelly Ann Riley (Love Inspired Suspense)



YOUNG ADULT:

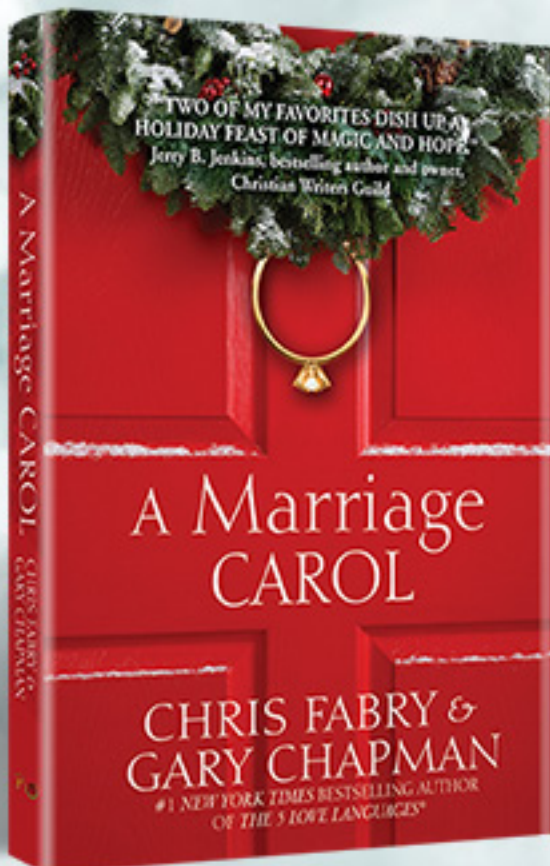
Anything But Normal by Melody Carlson (Revell Books)
The Healer's Apprentice by Melanie Dickerson (Zonderkid)
Katy's New World by Kim Vogel Sawyer (Zonderkidz)

The ACFW also announced winners in the Genesis Contest, for unpublished Christian writers:

Contemporary Fiction: Katy Pistole
Contemporary Romance: Mary Curry
Historical Fiction: Johnnie Alexander Donley
Historical Romance: Sarah Ladd
Mystery/Suspense/Thriller: Dianna T. Benson

Romantic Suspense: Renee Ann Smith
Speculative Fiction: Matt Jones
Women's Fiction: Camille Eide
Young Adult: Nicole Quigley

One Choice Changes a Life.



On a snowy Christmas Eve, their anniversary, Marlee and Jacob take a treacherous drive to sign papers signaling the end. Tired of fighting, tired of the pain, and no passion left, they have chosen to end their marriage. But a shortcut over an icy mountain pass brings Marlee on a collision with her life. Visions of the past haunt; images of the present and future make her wonder if they have chosen the best course. Written by award-winning authors Chris Fabry and Gary Chapman.



EXCERPT



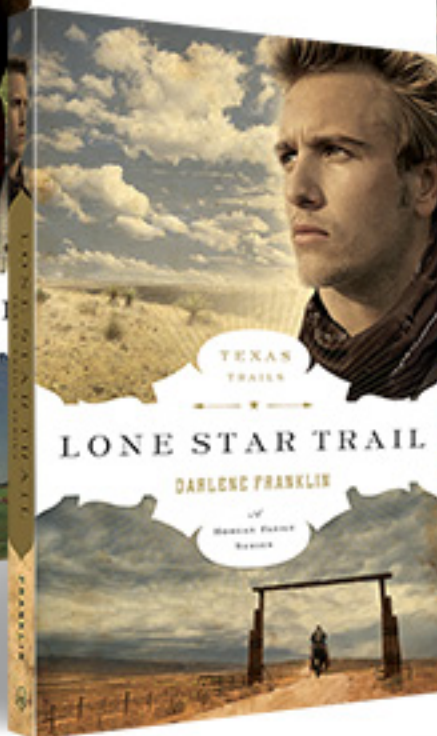
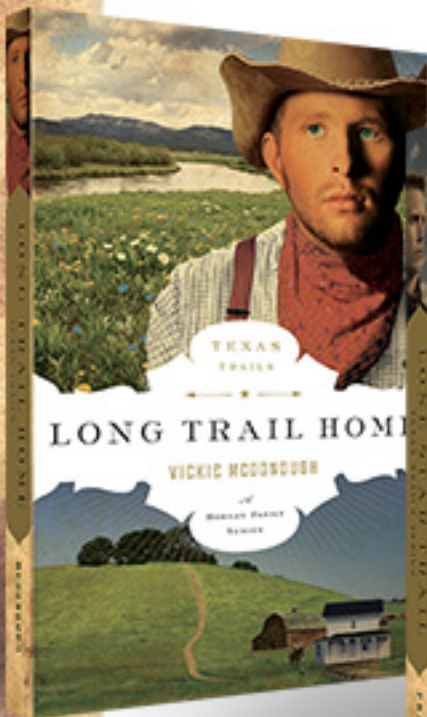
TRAILER

AMarriageCarol.com

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SERIES



Heroism *AND* Heartache

THREE AUTHORS WHO WRITE MILITARY FICTION

REL MOLLET



With passion and purpose, born of personal experience and keen observation, decorated warrior Maj. Jeff Struecker, military brat Ronie Kendig and former JAG officer Don Brown write thrilling military adventures of sacrifice, heroism and heartache. Their stories bring honor to those in the armed forces, and provide readers with an understanding of the danger they face and the immense sacrifice their families make every day.



MAJ. JEFF STRUECKER

A veteran of Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Storm and the ferocious Battle of Mogadishu, portrayed in the feature film, *Black Hawk Down*, Army Ranger and military chaplain Major Jeff Struecker has penned fast-paced, action-packed thrillers *Certain Jeopardy*, *Blaze of Glory* and *Fallen Angel* with co-writer Alton Gansky. “They are designed to help the reader understand the incredible sacrifice that the military makes for our country,” explains Jeff. “The plot lines are so cutting-edge that you could

easily read about something that these books describe weeks or months from now.”

Recently retired from active military service, Jeff began writing novels to reach soldiers and their families who would not otherwise be interested in hearing a sermon or going to church. Working as a team is second nature to a military man, so having a cowriter has been a natural fit. “I come up with the plot, but Al works his magic and makes it something that is engaging to the reader.” Their books revolve around a Special Operations Unit led by Sgt. Major Eric Moyer, a man devoted to the military and his young family, a character who resonates with Jeff. “He is a guy that is completely committed to the success of his mission. He understands that if he fails this mission, our way of life might be compromised or it may set the U.S. military back many years.” J.J. Bartley is another character Jeff enjoyed creating. “He is a guy who loves his family, loves guns but also loves Jesus.”

In the first two books of the series, the team is faced with an Al Qaeda base in Venezuela, Egyptian terrorists and Mexican drug lords, but in *Fallen Angel* the battle moves into the stratosphere. Says Jeff, “This book details a U.S. intelligence satellite that is shot down by the Chinese government. The U.S. sends a special operations team to recover this satellite to make sure it doesn’t fall into the wrong hands.” The idea stemmed from his research into how the next large-scale war might be fought. “It became clear to me that the next war will have more than a ground and air component to it. Our next war will probably have a space component as well.”

As a soldier, pastor, father or writer, Jeff has

one motivation, “Ultimately, everything I do is for my King, Jesus Christ.”

JeffStruecker.com



RONIE KENDIG

She may not have seen combat, but Ronie Kendig has been immersed in military culture her whole life. Her father, husband and father-in-law are all veterans, generating in her a heart for the men and women who heroically defend our freedoms. “I believe my passion for writing about our heroes comes out of being around it and seeing the toll war and the military life take on families. I know many good men and women who lost a part of themselves in war.”

Nightshade, *Digitalis*, *Wolfsbane* and *Firehorn* comprise Ronie’s Discarded Heroes series, explosive military thrillers with a romantic twist, focused on *Nightshade*, a tight-knit group of former elite warriors who have teamed up to form an ultra-secret black-ops team. Each man on the team has survived the cruelties of war but not escaped the psychological trauma. A church conversation inspired Ronie to write about wounded military warriors. “During Sunday

WHAT DO YOU HOPE READERS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR NOVEL?

JEFF STRUECKER: I hope they are inspired to support the members of the military and military families. I also hope they will be challenged a little bit more about their faith in God.

RONIE KENDIG: The takeaway of every book I write is that there is always hope...in Christ. No matter what, there is always hope.

DON BROWN: I hope that my readers will take time to pray about the long-forgotten Korean MIAs, and to pray specifically that if any are still there alive, that somehow, they would be liberated and see the green grass of home again before they die.

School one week, a young woman requested prayer for her husband, a Navy SEAL, whose anger and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) was destroying their marriage. It wasn't the first time I'd seen or heard about this, having grown up around the military, but seeing the trauma so up close and personal struck me deeply. I realized I could never again write about our military heroes without showing the toll their heroism takes on them and their families."

In *Firethorn*, Griffin has experienced a lot of trauma in his life and is deep in denial, pretending he isn't affected by his past. Reflecting in her novel what she has observed in real life, Ronie shares, "Griffin has done this so often that he has, in a lot of ways, forgotten how to feel or how to get close to people. Ultimately, *Firethorn* is about trust—learning to trust those who've got your back but also to trust God amid heart-wrenching situations."

Ronie hopes her novels will not only entertain but also open dialogue. She explains, "It's easy to think we get it, to think we understand the toll war takes on our military heroes. Hopefully, this series helps people understand a little more deeply what our men and women in uniform experience. Our heroes need to be able to talk about these things. They need our support. Some give a lot, many give everything. The least we can do is listen."

RonieKendig.com



DON BROWN

Former U.S. Navy JAG officer, Don Brown's Navy thrillers have garnered acclaim and not a little notoriety. Don explains, "In *Treason*, a

U.S. Marine at Camp Pendleton in California converts to radical Islam and opens fire on fellow Marines, killing and maiming dozens. Then, in November of 2009, there was a devastating shooting by an army psychiatrist, who also was a radical Islamist, wounding 31 soldiers and killing 12 at Fort Hood in Texas." In his fourth novel, *Black Sea Affair*, a shooting war erupts between Russian, Georgian and NATO forces. Two months after the book's release war broke out between Georgia and Russia. Similarly, a month prior to publication of *The Malacca Conspiracy*, the Navy of Singapore issued a series of terror warnings about possible attacks against oil tankers in the Malacca Straits, exactly what Don had described in his tale.

In Don's latest novel, *Thunder in the Morning Calm*, he reaches back in time to the Korean war and the many Americans who remain missing in action. He shares, "Over 8000 Americans were missing or unaccounted for at the end of the Korean War in 1953. When the war ended, North Korea denied that it had any live American or South Korean prisoners. The United States denied that any POWs were still there. But for nearly 60 years, dozens upon dozens of reports have surfaced of sightings of both American and South Korean POWs still in the north."

Don's character, Lieutenant Commander Gunner McCormick, is on a mission to discover what happened to his grandfather, who went missing at the battle of Chosin Reservoir some 60 years earlier. He is prepared to risk his personal fortune, his military career and his life to get some answers. Don's heart for real MIA Americans and their families inspired this story. "I'm very passionate about the sacrifice of our Korean Vets, and the missing plight of our over 8000 American MIAs there. It's a horrible thing that this country has largely forgotten them, and I wrote this novel, in part, hoping that someone would read it, would remember them, and give some thought to the plight of the missing Americans of Korea."

DonBrownBooks.com

FIND MORE THRILLER AUTHORS ONLINE

FamilyFiction.com/authors/genres/suspense



Showcasing the inherent beauty of collaboration, not to mention their unique personalities to boot, celebrated authors Colleen Coble, Kristin Billerbeck, Diann Hunt and Denise Hunter team up for one incredibly romantic novel, *Smitten*.

Ever wish you knew what made your favorite author tick—not as a writer, but as an actual living, breathing human?

Well, when *Smitten* (Thomas Nelson) hits stores in December, you'll get quite a bit of personal insight into four popular authors—Colleen Coble, Kristin Billerbeck, Diann Hunt and Denise Hunter—because the protagonists they've dreamed up actually mirror themselves.

“It was Colleen who came up with the idea of

giving each of our heroines our own personalities—genius!” says Denise. “Not only did it keep our characters consistent, but it made writing so much fun! I got to actually put words in my friends’ mouths.”

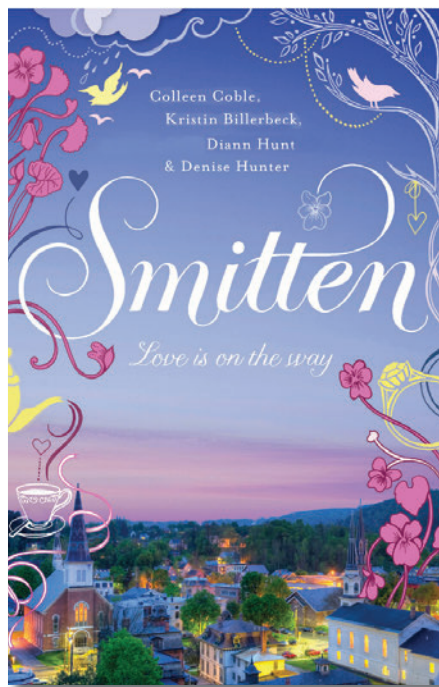
Set in the fictional city of Smitten, Vermont, which is on the verge of financial collapse thanks to the local lumber mill’s recent closure, the stories and characters featured are highly interconnected like modern movie rom-coms *The Holiday* and *Love Actually*.

Unwilling to give up, no matter how grim the situation is looking, four friends and local business owners begin brainstorming what might keep hope alive in the hometown they all love so much. Ultimately deciding to turn it into a premier honeymoon destination (and with a name like Smitten, it just might work), the townspeople eventually learn what real faith in God looks like.

“It’s true, times are tough in Smitten, but really, community and family are what make life fulfilling, so working toward a common goal makes life better,” Kristin shares. “It makes you remember success in relative. We wanted *Smitten* to remind people to get back to their roots.”

And for the authors themselves, working on *Smitten* was so much fun that they plan on writing at least two more books together. “A fun project with best friends? What could be better?” Diann says. “It’s so fun seeing our characters take shape and sound very familiar all at the same time.”

As for what distinguishes the four leading ladies—Natalie, Julie, Shelby and Reese—well, the authors say it best.



COLLEEN:

My character is gluten-free just like me. Natalie is a can-do gal like me, too. Julia loves shoes and purses like Kristin. And shh, but in real life, Diann really does listen to the California Raisins Christmas album like Shelby.

DIANN:

Colleen, you weren’t supposed to tell that! I admit Shelby loves Christmas—in September. I have Christmas in my heart all year long and can hardly wait for the first snowfall to crank up the music.

KRISTIN:

Julia is hardheaded and indecisive like I am. I tend to be afraid to make mistakes and so I pause too long until God makes it clear. Then I go forward like a bull charging, but I like how it’s easier to fix in Julia than it is in myself.

DENISE:

Reese is a planner, and so am I. But too much of anything can be a bad thing. She needs to remember (like I do) that man-made plans are no substitute for God’s will.

COLLEEN:

And ahem, we won’t mention that whole alphabetizing your spices thing, Denise. Or how Kristin can take a look at someone and know just what purse will suit them.

DENISE:

Everyone should alphabetize their spices. It just makes sense. And if you have a purse suggestion for me, Kristin, I’m all ears. Something with lots of organizing pockets, please.

To further enhance the experience, a website (SmittenVermont.com) was also launched, which includes the country love song that was written with *Smitten* in mind.

“This story ended up being a celebration of love, enduring friendship and relentless faith

all wrapped up in one book,” Denise concludes. “We hope readers will feel a part of it all as they join us on a journey to a very special place called Smitten.”

FF



COLLEEN COBLE

Best-selling author Colleen Coble’s novels have won or finaled in awards ranging from the Best Books of Indiana, ACFW Book of the Year, RWA’s RITA, the Holt Medallion, the Daphne du Maurier, National Readers’ Choice, and the Booksellers Best. She has nearly 2 million books in print and writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail. Colleen is CEO of American Christian Fiction Writers and is a member of Romance Writers of America. She lives with her husband Dave in Indiana.

ColleenCoble.com



KRISTEN BILLERBECK

Kristin Billerbeck is the best-selling, award-winning author of several novels, including *What a Girl Wants*. A Christy Award finalist and two-time winner of the American Christian Fiction Writers Book of the Year award, Billerbeck has appeared on “The Today Show” and has been featured in the New York Times. She lives with

her family in northern California.

KristinBillerbeck.com



DIANN HUNT

Diann Hunt writes romantic comedy and humorous women’s fiction. Diann Hunt has published three novellas and 17 novels, and she has won ACFW’s prestigious Book of the Year award. She has been happily married forever, loves her family, chocolate, her friends, chocolate, her dog, and well, chocolate.

DiannHunt.com



DENISE HUNTER

Denise Hunter is the best-selling author of many novels, including *The Convenient Groom* and *Driftwood Lane*. She lives in Indiana with her husband Kevin and their three sons. In 1996, Denise began her first book, a Christian romance novel, writing while her children napped. Two years later it was published, and she’s been writing ever since. Her books contain a strong romantic element, and her husband Kevin says he provides all her romantic material, but Denise insists a good imagination helps too!

DeniseHunterBooks.com

A Merry Little Christmas

Gift Guide

Let your heart be light this holiday season and take care of your Christmas list in no time with our guide to some of the best gift-giving ideas for all of the special people in your life.





The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Adam Hamilton
(Abingdon Press)

Journey with Adam Hamilton on the page and on video as he travels from Nazareth

to Bethlehem in this unique new look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness and wisdom, just as he did with Jesus' crucifixion in *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Using historical information, archaeological data, video excursions in the Holy Land, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history becomes more real and heartfelt as readers walk along that same road.

www.journeythischristmas.com



The Simplified Version

FTM Publishing

The Simplified Version gets right to the heart of the story, replacing the complexities of the NT with a readable narrative style that is fast-paced and inspiring. *The Simplified Version* highlights the

life and times of Jesus, His words of instruction, and the miracles He performed. Letters written by His friends read like ... "letters." John's Revelation of Heaven is picturesque, and compelling. This is a NT novel in God's simple words. Recommended for ages 10-15. Also, perfect for English-speaking mission fields, ESL, and prison ministries (all ages). Discount Pricing for all ministries & youth groups: 21+ copies x \$10.20 ea. Order large quantities by phone, at STL Distributors: (423)

www.forthemaster.myshopify.com/products/the-simplified-version



The Little Drummer Boy

VeggieTales

When it seems you have nothing to bring—what gift can you give the King? It's a Veggie re-telling of a holiday classic! Junior Asparagus portrays Aaron, a lonely drummer boy who follows a star on a journey

that leads to the birth of baby Jesus. With no gift to lay before the King, he gives the best gift of all—he plays his drum. A story of hope, love and forgiveness, this timeless tale will warm the hearts of children everywhere! Includes an all new recording of "The Little Drummer Boy" by Grammy and Dove Award Winning artists BeBe and CeCe Winans! Enter discount code "VEGGIESALEM" when you order through our online store and receive \$3 off *The Little Drummer Boy* DVD. *Must be logged in to redeem coupon www.store.veggietales.com



Freedom Crosses USA

FreedomCrossesUSA.com

Let's join together and take a stand to put GOD back into America and restore the values of our founding fathers by placing Freedom Crosses in our front yard or garden, or hang them on

our front door, on a wall, in a window, in our car, or on our Christmas tree. The beautiful white Freedom Cross is available in three sizes (22", 14", 5"). Each is engraved with **In God We Trust** or **God Bless America**. We believe that placing a visible symbol of your belief in God and love of country on your personal property for the whole world to see will bring positive change throughout our country. Inspire your family, friends, pastor, church, and community to join you in forwarding this movement throughout our beloved nation.

Churches: Freedom Crosses are ideal for fundraising. Discounts offered on bulk orders.



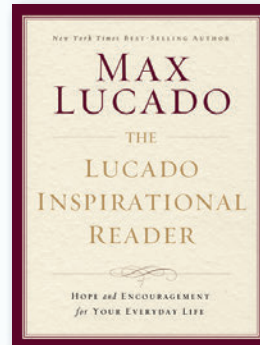
Come to the Well

Casting Crowns
(Provident)

Inspired by the story of Jesus talking to the woman at the well, the title track illuminates the album's main theme. "She thought she was standing by a well talking to a man, but really she was standing by a hole in the ground talking to the well," frontman Mark Hall says. "We come to Jesus, and we have already got our well. We have already got what we think is going to sustain us, and we come to Him to bless our thing so our thing will work even better for us. Jesus isn't a sprinkle. He is life. That's the central teaching moment of the record."

New book *The Well* from Mark Hall also available.

Follow the band's twitter @castingcrowns and Mark Hall @markhallcc
www.castingcrowns.com



The Lucado Inspirational Reader

Max Lucado
(Thomas Nelson)

Comfort and the cross. Faith and forgiveness. Salvation and spiritual refreshment. For more than twenty-

five years you've trusted Max Lucado to walk with you as you ponder these essential truths. This collection of his very best illustrations, stories, and one-liners guides you through these signature themes and life's most important matters. Spend a few minutes or a couple of hours at the foot of the cross. Take a moment or an afternoon to search the heart of the Savior. Seize a second for a second chance. Return to these words time and again for a dose of hope and encouragement straight from Max's heart to yours. Share the gift of hope with your loved ones during this Christmas season and all year long.

http://www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?sku=0849948304&title=THE_LUCADO_INSPIRATIONAL_READER



Artist Map Community

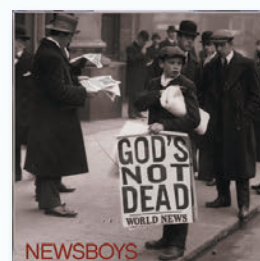
I.P.O Records

FEELIN' THE LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

For music lovers, a free member account in the new Artist Map Community, a social space where positive music lovers like you can discover great new artists. Get your free member account at www.theartistmap.net and see for yourself what everyone is talking about! Is there an aspiring artist or songwriter you love on your Christmas list?

Buy yourself the Christmas sweater and give them a gift they'll never forget. Stop by the Artist Services store and sign them up for an Artist Map coaching session or an Artist Development package. Be sure to tell them to get their free artist account in the Artist Map Community.

Looking for some new Christmas music? Get your free download of "Christmas Is You" by John Mandeville at www.theartistmap.net/johnmandeville. Feelin' the love yet? www.theartistmap.net



God's Not Dead

Newsboys
(InPop)

Since this time last year Newsboys and their best-selling album *Born Again* have seen 280,000 units sold, three #1 radio hits, over 600,000 concert attendees, 2,000 children sponsored through Compassion International and countless testimonies of lives changed through their 100,000+ social network fans. Now Newsboys have gone one step further—they have recorded what many will say is their finest worship album ever, *God's Not Dead*. Featuring 4 new original songs like "The King Is Coming" and "Here We Stand" as well as 8 new cover songs like the anthemic "God's Not Dead (Like a Lion)," "Forever Reign," and "Revelation Song" to name a few.

www.iTunes.com



Taylor 416ce

The bold-voiced GS body style, together with an ovangkol back and sides and a glossy Sitka spruce top translates into a powerful guitar with impressive tonal breadth and dynamic range. The 416ce covers a lot of sonic terrain, making it an excellent guitar for worship. The guitar features a smooth, Tropical mahogany neck, a venetian cutaway for access to the upper register and comes ready for both campfire sing-a-longs and worship performances with the Taylor Expression System(r) for pristine, pure acoustic tone.

Suggested retail price: \$2568

www.taylorguitars.com



Bee Alive

Need More Energy?

Is there someone on your list who could use an energy boost? This is the perfect "I feel really good again" energy package! Discover the life-energizing benefits of BeeAlive's FRESH, never freeze-dried Royal Jelly, one of nature's most precious and potent foods. Whether you're a mom trying to survive the challenges of a new baby or career, a dad trying to burn the candle at both ends, or a grandmother wanting to keep up with your grandkids, BeeAlive Royal Jelly is the answer! Do something for yourself today, try BeeAlive! Visit our website to check out all of our 2011 Christmas Gift Packages.

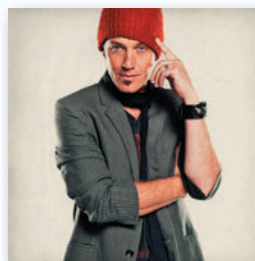
www.beealive.com or call us toll free at 1-866-257-2541



The Heart of Christmas Matthew West

It is with much anticipation that acclaimed singer/songwriter Matthew West, releases his first, full length Christmas album titled *The Heart of Christmas*. The album contains an even mix of six recognizable Christmas songs and original holiday tunes penned by West, as well as guest appearances from notables such as Vince Gill, Amy Grant and Mandisa. The album will include the viral Christmas hit "One Last Christmas" about the true story of a young cancer patient, Dax Locke. Don't miss the chance to hear Matthew share his own heart this Christmas. This timeless album includes radio singles "One Last Christmas," "Give This Christmas Away," "Christmas Makes Me Cry," and the title track; plus "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger," "Jingle Bells," and more.

www.matthewwest.com



Christmas in Diverse City Toby Mac

Christmas with a beat. That's how Toby Mac describes his new Christmas album. "It's hard at first to imagine some of these songs with a modern beat, but I really tried to think outside of the box. Christmas is a celebration and I wanted to create something that expresses that." Featuring some of music's most unique voices, Toby and his band DiverseCity, bring us an impressive collection of Christmas songs with the likes of Leigh Nash, Adam from Owl City and Jamie Grace lending their voices to the 13-song project. As always, Toby delivers a fresh musical perspective with what he calls "an eclectic blend of Christmas classics and originals." With six of the albums' thirteen songs being flavored with the sound that is uniquely Toby, and the other seven being the individual efforts of his band, DiverseCity, they've created a collection of tunes that are sure to become family favorites year after year.

www.tobymac.com

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Watch future issues of *FamilyFiction Weekly* for your chance to win!

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STEP 3: Find out the featured giveaway(s), plus the link you need to enter the drawing
STEP 4: Enter the drawing. (Enter once per drawing, but enter as many drawings as you would like!)



FamilyFiction Weekly serves the Christian fiction reader with the latest news and interviews, plus featured authors, book trailers, DVDs and more. Read the newsletter every week for your chance to win free Christian books and DVDs!



Q&A: Joel C. Rosenberg

Best-selling author Joel C. Rosenberg has some 2 million total copies in print. Joel has worked with a number of U.S. and Israeli leaders, and spoken at the White House, the Pentagon, and to members of Congress. In 2008, Joel designed and hosted the first Epicenter Conference in Jerusalem. His latest political thriller is *The Tehran Initiative*.

Q: This is the second book with CIA operative David Shirazi. Where does the story pick up from *The Twelfth Imam*?

The Tehran Initiative begins about sixty seconds after *The Twelfth Imam* leaves off. I've tried to create a near seamless connection between the two. And there's another book coming, *The Damascus Countdown*.

Q: You started writing *The Tehran Initiative* when the "Arab Spring" began earlier this year. Did events impact your writing or the storyline?

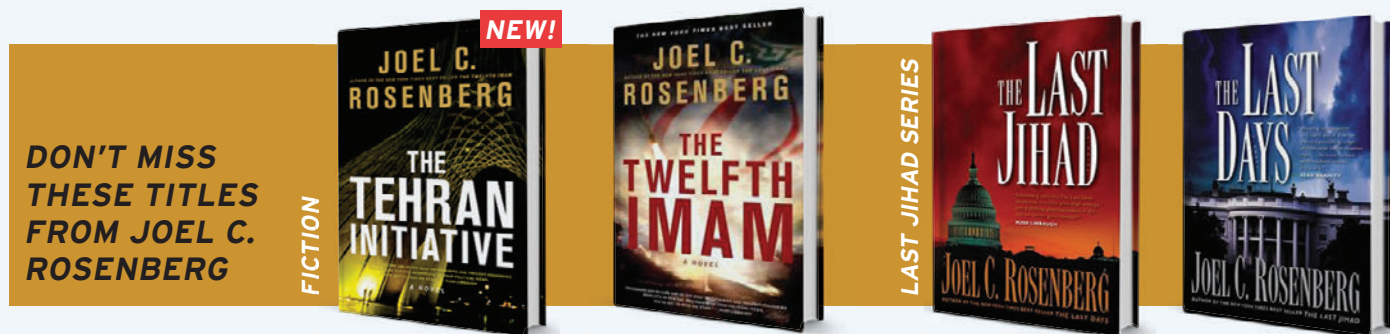
Actually, I was well into writing *The Tehran Initiative* when the "Arab Spring" began and it was a little eerie because the novel opens with the assassination of the President of Egypt and Egypt descending into chaos after the leader's fall. Fortunately, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak wasn't killed, but he certainly fell quickly and somewhat unexpectedly, and Egypt is still reeling from the aftermath. The novel really focuses

a great deal on the intense desire among many Muslims in the Middle East and North Africa to build a global Islamic empire, or a "caliphate." And that's certainly a growing theme among the Islamists in the region this year.

Q: You've earned a reputation for writing stories that seem ripped from tomorrow's headlines. What is going on in *The Tehran Initiative* that we can see unfolding in the news?

I think the biggest parallel between *The Tehran Initiative* and current events is the growing sense amongst Shia Muslim leaders—particularly in Iran—that the Twelfth Imam is coming any moment, coupled with Iran's feverish efforts to build nuclear weapons, and the Israelis' growing isolation in the world and feeling that they may have to hit Iran all by themselves.

Q: You often incorporate Old Testament prophecy in your books. What scriptures do



you draw from for this book and why?

There's no question that I am absolutely intrigued by Bible prophecy, and I like to start with an End Times prophecy—or a group of last days prophecies—and ask, “What if these were to happen in my lifetime? What would it look like? What would it feel like? How might such prophecies realistically be set into motion, and what might be the implications of their fulfillment?” That's how I approach writing these books.

But I don't think of it like writing a fantasy novel or science fiction. I'm genuinely trying to imagine how it could really play out? I'm not saying these prophecies will necessarily come to pass the way I envision them, but they are interesting to “war game” and see what happens. And given what's happening in the real world today, I think readers are as curious as I am, and somehow my plots don't feel that far-fetched.

Q: You've been successful with your nonfiction books and have a large following reading your analysis of Middle East events. Why do you also continue writing novels about the Middle East?

What could be more interesting? Presidents and presidential candidates constantly focus on the Middle East. Prime Ministers do. Kings do.



JOEL C. ROSENBERG

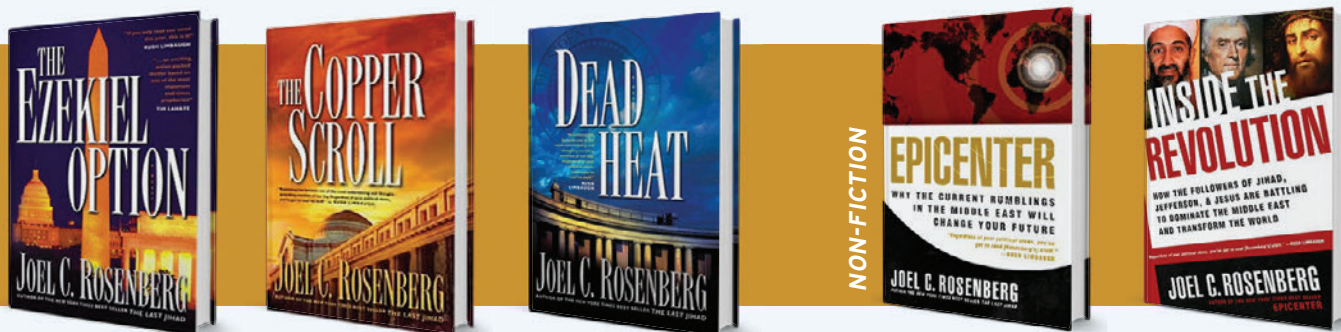
Generals do. The media does. The economists do. The fact is, the eyes of the nations are riveted on Israel and her neighbors, the epicenter of the momentous events that are shaking our world and shaping our future. The stakes are very high. There is a lot of uncertainty. It's mysterious and dangerous and complex—it has all the elements of riveting political thrillers. And the Bible says the Middle East will become even more dramatic until the very return of Jesus Christ. Why write about anything else? **FF**

FIND JOEL C. ROSENBERG ONLINE:

JoelRosenberg.com

FlashTrafficBlog.wordpress.com

Facebook.com/JoelCRosenberg



Q&A: Allison Pittman

A former high school English teacher, Allison Pittman serves as director of the theater arts group at her church. She is also the co-president of a dynamic Christian writers group in the San Antonio, Texas area, where she makes her home with her husband and their three boys. Her latest novel is *Forsaking All Others*, the second volume in the *Sister Wife* series.

Q: What inspired you to write your *Sister Wife* series?

The idea for the series first came to me from a couple of fantastic editors at Tyndale—Jan Stob and Karen Watson—in a simple email asking if I’d ever consider writing a story centered in the history surrounding the Mormon church. I had the character of Nathan Fox in my mind within five minutes. I knew I wanted to have a compelling, sympathetic Mormon character, one whose vulnerability would make him susceptible to the teachings of the church. In Nathan’s sake, his vulnerability comes from having a total religious and relational void; for Camilla, those same voids exist, even though she’d been brought up in a Christian home.

Q: What type of historical research did you need to write *Forsaking All Others*?

I drew from the research I did on a visit to Salt Lake City in preparation for *For Time and Eternity*. I also looked at several primary source documents—schedules of emigration, etc.—to look at the timeline for the journey to and from Salt Lake City, as well as newspaper reports and writings of Brigham Young to track the church’s actions and reactions to the presence of the United States Army in the Mormon Zion. Also, to capture the real threat Camilla faced, I looked to writings in the *Journal of Discourses* to see the attitude



fueling the LDS church authorities—the power they took from their doctrine.

Q: What was the most challenging part of making Camilla’s journey authentic?

I think it was the idea of getting across to readers that a woman in this time period would have made the choices Camilla made. Today women and mothers have so many choices and support systems. I’ve talked with readers who say they just couldn’t imagine that a loving mother would ever leave her children—let alone stay away for the length of time and distance that Camilla did. I worked to keep Camilla’s children at the forefront of the story—I felt they’d been entrusted to me.

Q: Although *Forsaking All Others* is fiction—what are some examples of elements in the book that came from real life?

The presence of the United States Army—the Mormon War—is a little-known bit of history, I think, as it was a war waged without any shots being fired, despite the destruction of Fort Bridger. Brigham Young’s acquiescence in renouncing polygamy in order to bring statehood to Utah is also an important factual element in the story, but what drives the story is the very real pressure on Mormons to re-ignite their faith in preparation for the conflict (as was illustrated

in the final chapters of *For Time and Eternity*).

Q: The Sister Wife series is about a woman who rejects the doctrine of the Mormon church. Has it led to any difficult conversations?

I must say, I anticipated more “angry” responses from LDS readers than I actually received. In fact, I didn’t hear any from any Mormons who read the book, though I did hear from a few who were totally offended by the back cover copy. The difficult part of those conversations was hearing from LDS church members who accused me of thinking all Mormons (modern-day included) were violent polygamists, rather than seeing the novel as an isolated story drawing from the historical practices of the time. In speaking with other Christians, though, I’ve loved the opportunity to have shed some light on the very real, very important differences between Mormonism and Christianity. Having had that focus in *For Time and Eternity*, I did feel able to let that “doctrinal” instruction take a secondary role; the first book chronicled Camilla’s spiritual journey, so I could focus on the more adventurous journey in the second book.



ALLISON PITTMAN

Q: What do you want readers to take away from *Forsaking All Others*?

I want them to take away the fact that a life of obedience will sometimes call for sacrifice. We can’t see what’s around the corner—only God knows the entire map of our life. We need to trust Him, even when that trust hurts. **FF**

FIND ALLISON PITTMAN ONLINE:

AllisonPittman.com

Facebook.com/AllisonKPittman

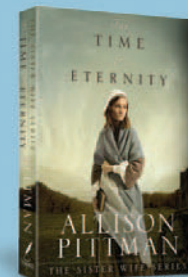
THE DRAMATIC CONCLUSION

TO THE SISTER WIFE SERIES



Despite her parents’ warnings, Camilla Deardon falls in love and marries Nathan Fox, a handsome young Mormon. But when Nathan announces his decision to take a second wife, Camilla’s happiness is shattered. Disenchanted with the Mormon church and drawn back to the faith of her childhood, Camilla makes the most difficult decision of her life when she is forced to leave Nathan and her two children behind.

Determined to fight for her children, Camilla returns to Salt Lake City. But nothing could prepare her for what she discovers.



FIRST IN THE SERIES
FOR TIME & ETERNITY



TO VIEW BOOK TRAILER AND
FIRST CHAPTER, VISIT
ALLISONPITTMAN.COM

 ALLISON PITTMAN ON FACEBOOK



Beth Wiseman

Following Her Heart

ANNA ROBBINS



Readers often ask Beth Wiseman how she knows so much about the Amish.

“The Amish and Mennonite contacts I have established in Pennsylvania and Colorado help me to keep the books authentic,” the author says. “These very private people might dress differently, avoid the use of electricity and modern conveniences, but they are just like everyone else. They love, hurt, have daily challenges and struggles, and strive to be the best they can be.”

Beth returns to bookshelves with the second volume in her new Land of Canaan series, *In The Wonder of Your Love* (Thomas Nelson). Katie Ann Stoltzfus—settling into her new life in Canaan, Colo.—gives birth to a beautiful baby boy. The boy’s father died before their son is born; despite the man’s history of infidelities, Katie mourns his loss and vows never to trust another man.

Then Eli Detweiler arrives in Canaan to attend his niece’s wedding. He’s been raising his kids alone in Middlefield, Ohio, since his wife’s death 15 years ago. Now each child is married, so Eli looks forward to living a less structured life—and eating shoofly pie for breakfast every morning. There’s no one to care for except himself.

Until a meddling but good-hearted English

“These very private people might dress differently, avoid the use of electricity and modern conveniences, but they are just like everyone else.”



woman plays matchmaker...

Beth began her writing career as a newspaper reporter. She wrote on all kinds of topics, from premature birth to performance boating.

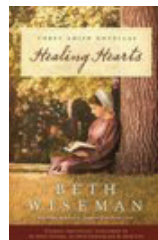
But her heart was set on writing fiction. In 2008, she left her job as a journalist to write novels full-time.

“Writing about the Amish lifestyle within fictional love stories has been a wonderful experience,” Beth says. “An often misunderstood sect of people, it has been a privilege to learn about their ways.”

Amish fiction fans will be glad to know that Beth is in for the long haul. Not that she doesn’t have additional ideas for stories: “The success of the Amish sub-genre suggests I will be writing them for a long time. However, I will be writing my first non-Amish Women’s Fiction novel this year, slated for release March 2012.”

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



HEALING HEARTS: A COLLECTION OF AMISH ROMANCES



PLAIN PERFECT (DAUGHTERS OF THE PROMISE #1)



AN AMISH CHRISTMAS: DECEMBER IN LANCASTER COUNTY (EXPANDED EDITION)

FIND BETH WISEMAN ONLINE

BethWiseman.com

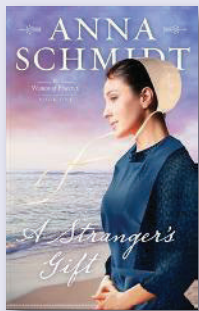
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[Twitter.com/BethWiseman](https://twitter.com/BethWiseman)

THE WONDER OF YOUR LOVE (Land of Canaan Series #2) | Thomas Nelson

News&Notes

ANNA ROBBINS



TWICE THE AMISH

Author **Anna Schmidt** has not one, but two new Amish fiction titles on shelves: *Family Blessings* (Love Inspired Historical), the second volume in her Amish Brides of Celery Fields series; and *A Stranger's Gift* (Barbour Books), the first volume in her new series Women of Pinecraft. Her historical series Amish Brides of Celery Fields is set in Florida

in the early 20th century and follows the lives of a group of Amish women related by marriage as they each find their way in life and love.

Meanwhile, in *A Stranger's Gift*: On the heels of a horrific hurricane, Hester Detlef, field director for the Mennonite Disaster Service, blows into the life of self-made, shunned Amish man John Hafner. Will she find a way through his shield and into his heart?

BooksByAnna.com

EVERYTHING IN SEASON

Barbara Cameron returns with the third volume in her Quilts of Lancaster County series with *A Time for Peace* (Abingdon Press). After years of hardship, Jenny's life appears perfect. But everything Jenny believes is thrown into question with the discovery of a long-lost letter from her father. Her sense of peace and contentment destroyed by betrayal, Jenny struggles with her renewed faith—and the love of everyone around her. BarbaraCameron.com

TORN BETWEEN TWO HEARTS

The latest in **Tricia Goyer's** Big Sky Series is *Along Wooded Paths* (B&H Fiction). A young Amish woman recently moved from Indiana to Montana is torn between marrying a man from back home or the Englischer whose active faith is calling to her. Who should have young Marianna's heart? What is God asking of her through ongoing family struggles and this romantic and spiritual tension? The answer is found along the wooded paths. TriciaGoyer.com

IN STITCHES

Adina Senft grew up in a plain house church, where she was often asked by outsiders if she was Amish (the answer was no), she made her own clothes, and she perfected the art of the French braid. She kicks off her new Amish Quilt trilogy with *The Wounded Heart* (FaithWords). In the back of each Amish Quilt novel are instructions for the quilt that Amelia, Emma, and Carrie are making throughout the trilogy. "But in order to be sure my instructions worked," she says, "I had to make the quilt along with them!" AdinaSenft.com

NEWRELEASES



A TIME FOR PEACE (QUILTS OF LANCASTER COUNTY #3)

Barbara Cameron
(Abingdon Press)



A LIFE OF JOY (KAUFFMAN AMISH BAKERY #4)

Amy Clipston
(Zondervan)



A MARRIAGE FOR MEGHAN (WAYNE COUNTY SERIES #2)

Mary Ellis
(Harvest House)



ALONG WOODDED PATHS (BIG SKY SERIES #2)

Tricia Goyer
(B&H Fiction)



A HARVEST OF HEARTS (AMISH OF SEYMOUR COUNTY SERIES #2)

Laura V. Hilton
(Whitaker House)



ANNA'S GIFT (HANNAH'S DAUGHTERS #3)

Emma Miller
(Love Inspired)



A STRANGER'S GIFT (WOMEN OF PINECRAFT #1)

Anna Schmidt
(Barbour Books)



FAMILY BLESSINGS (AMISH BRIDES OF CELERY FIELDS #2)

Anna Schmidt
(Love Inspired Historical)



THE WOUNDED HEART: AN AMISH QUILT NOVEL

Adina Senft
(FaithWords)



THE WONDER OF YOUR LOVE (LAND OF CANAAN SERIES #2)

Beth Wiseman
(Thomas Nelson)



Tamera Alexander

Relentless Love

REL MOLLET



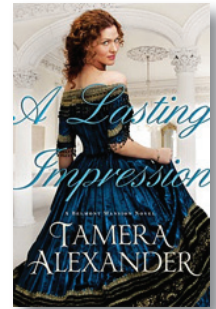
Born and raised in the South, Tamera Alexander returns to her roots with her new series, set at Nashville's historic antebellum manor, Belmont Mansion.

A Lasting Impression, the first of three standalone novels, is the sweeping love story of artist Claire Laurent and attorney Sutton Monroe, as America, shattered by civil war, takes tentative steps towards healing.

“Growing up in Atlanta and visiting antebellum mansions, I developed an early appreciation for that era of our nation’s history. Through the years, that appreciation matured into a deeper love and respect for the people and events of that time,” shares Tamera. “In 1853, Mrs. Adelia Acklen—a dynamic, born-before-her-time woman, and one of the richest women in America in the 1860s—built a magnificent Italianate-style antebellum mansion that still stands today (the Belmont Mansion) and that remains the largest house museum in Tennessee.”

Inspired by the servants who worked at Belmont and the people who visited there, Tamera has based many of her characters on real people, with Adelia herself a secondary character. The theme

“God pursues us with a relentless and jealous love. He’s by far my greatest inspiration in writing romance.”



for *A Lasting Impression*—being authentic and genuine—stems from Tamera’s own struggles, “I’ve wrestled with what it means to be authentic in my faith, and to be authentic with God, and others, as well as myself.”

While she never sets out with a “message” in mind as she starts to write, the subtle faith elements develop naturally as her characters grow and respond to the conflicts they experience. “I believe in planting the seed of hope and in pointing others to Christ, and then trusting Him to do the drawing.”

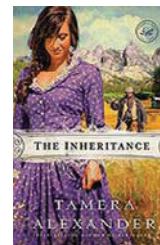
Tamera teams her historical research and spiritual themes with romance because she loves love stories. “God is a pursuer. He pursues us with a relentless and jealous love, and He’s by far my greatest inspiration in writing romance. The deepest and most satisfying loves are those when all aspects of a person’s being—heart, soul, and mind—are intertwined.”

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



FROM A DISTANCE



THE INHERITANCE



REKINDLED

FIND TAMERA ALEXANDER ONLINE

TameraAlexander.com

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

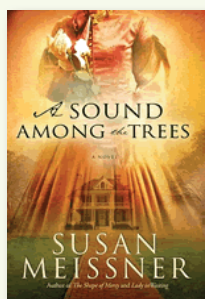
[Twitter.com/TameraAlexander](https://twitter.com/TameraAlexander)

A LASTING IMPRESSION: A BELMONT MANSION NOVEL | Bethany House

HISTORICAL

News&Notes

REL MOLLET



NOW AND THEN

With her unique novels that dovetail historical and contemporary themes, **Susan Meissner** has discovered, much to her surprise, that the historical element is almost always the easiest to write. “I think it might be because the research I do to prepare to write the historical part deals with actual events and the current-day story is usually one I make up.” *A Sound Among the Trees* (Waterbrook Press) is set in both the Civil War and current day eras.

SusanMeissner.com

PADDLING UPSTREAM

With nearly six million copies of his books sold, prolific author **Gilbert Morris** is one of the most recognized names writing Christian historical novels today. His latest story, *The River Queen* (B&H), brings together a young woman shamed by her father’s gambling losses, a captain whose drinking habits destroyed his career and a decrepit riverboat that just might hold the key to their survival.

FamilyFiction.com/authors/Gilbert-Morris

TEXAS TENSION

New from **Golden Keyes Parsons** is the Civil War novel *His Steadfast Love* (Thomas Nelson): When Texas secedes from the Union, Amanda Belle’s heart is torn between the love for her brother who joins the Confederacy and her attraction to Union Captain Kent Littlefield. She shares, “I was shocked to learn how divided Texas was on the issue of secession. In fact, it was a terrible time of division, not only for the nation, but also for Texas as a state.”

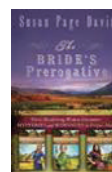
GoldenKeyesParsons.com

A RICHER LIFE

Playwright and actress **Shella Gillus** has penned her debut novel, *The Loom* (Guideposts). Set in the 1800s, it’s the story of a common slave whose pale skin opens a door to an unimagined world of wealth and power. Shella’s research proved that slaves lived a much deeper and more varied life than many of us imagine, and she hopes her story conveys truths that have not been traditionally recorded.

ShellaGillus.com

NEWRELEASES



THE BRIDE'S PREROGATIVE (3-IN-1)
Susan Page Davis
(Barbour Books)



THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER
Melanie Dickerson
(Zondervan)



ONCE UPON A THANKSGIVING (2-IN-1)
Linda Ford and Winnie Griggs
(Love Inspired Historical)



PRAIRIE PROMISES (3-IN-1)
Kelly Eileen Hake
(Barbour Books)



THE LONG TRAIL HOME (THE TEXAS TRAIL SERIES #3)
Vickie McDonough
(Moody Publishers)



PROMISE BRIDES (ROMANCING AMERICA)
S. Dionne Moore
(Barbour Books)



THE RIVER QUEEN
Gilbert Morris
(B&H Fiction)



SEPARATE ROADS (RIBBONS WEST #2)
Judith Pella and Tracie Peterson
(Bethany House)



DANCE OF THE DANDELION
Dina Sleiman
(WhiteFire Publishing)



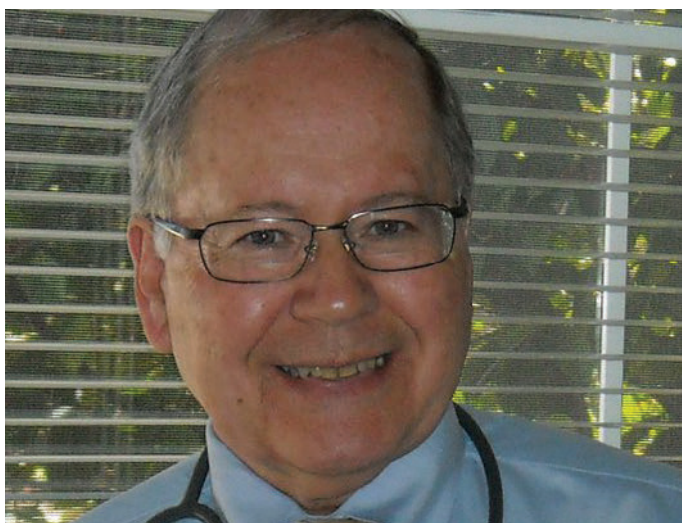
VALLEY OF DREAMS (WILD WEST WIND #1)
Lauraine Snelling
(Bethany House)



Richard L. Mabry, M.D.

What the Doctor Ordered

C.J. DARLINGTON



Dr. Richard Mabry almost gave up on writing.

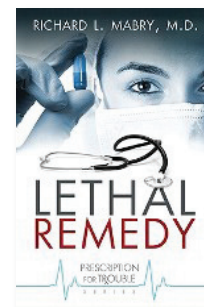
Even though he'd successfully published his nonfiction work *The Tender Scar: Life After the Death of a Spouse*, and he felt God leading him to write, when the rejections piled up he decided he was misinterpreting the call. Only what he calls "pure stubbornness" kept him going.

Mabry wrote three novels before his first medical thriller *Code Blue* was published by Abingdon. Now he's hit his stride and book four in the Prescription for Trouble series, *Lethal Remedy*, is hot off the press.

"During my 36 years of medical practice, 10 of them as a medical school professor, I participated in several research projects," Mabry says. "I also served as a consultant to several pharmaceutical firms. Although I never observed any of this, I sometimes read about research that had been fabricated for various reasons.

"I began wondering what some of the consequences might be if 'doctored' research results were used to push a sorely needed drug onto the market without adequate safeguards. That was the beginning of *Lethal Remedy*." It's a chilling idea, and Mabry is glad real-life pharmaceutical companies and doctors don't behave like their fictional counterparts.

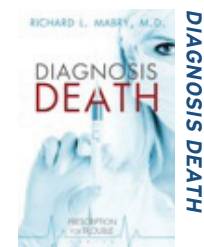
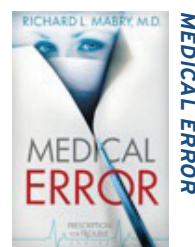
"I began wondering what some of the consequences might be if 'doctored' research results were used to push a sorely needed drug onto the market without adequate safeguards."



"*Staphylococcus aureus*, the devil's staph, is something else I concocted for this story," Mabry says. "I wanted to move beyond the current group of resistant bacteria to something against which there would only be one possible answer, a drug with potential side effects that have been hidden along the way.

"Since, like most doctors, I was familiar with the resistant strains of bacteria, all I had to do was choose an evil-sounding name and give it even worse characteristics. Through this story I want my readers to see how my characters handle adversity, and the effect of their dependence on their Christian faith." **FF**

ALSO AVAILABLE



FIND RICHARD L. MABRY, M.D. ONLINE

RMabry.com

[Facebook.com/pages/Richard-Mabry-fan-page/364341116052](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Richard-Mabry-fan-page/364341116052)

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

LETHAL REMEDY (Prescription for Trouble Series #4) | Abingdon Press

News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



NEW CREATION

A huge fan of what she calls “kick-but” heroines like those in “Alias”, *Resident Evil*, and *Tomb Raider*, **Camy Tang** set out to create a similar leading lady in Tessa Lancaster, star of *Protection for Hire* (Zondervan). “Tessa’s taken martial arts and has been trained in street fighting thanks to her Japanese mafia cousins,” Camy says. “But when she becomes a Christian while in prison, she has to find a way to reconcile her violent old life with her new one in Christ. The clash is sometimes humorous, sometimes emotional. I hope readers will enjoy this new series with a new heroine, a new wacky family, and new adventures!”

CamyTang.com

A LITTLE MORE TIME

It’s been over five years since readers savored a new **Frank Peretti** novel, but the wait is almost over. Howard Books/Simon & Schuster will publish *Illusion* (at least, that was the title at press time) in March 2012. Rebecca Nesbitt, VP & Editor-in-Chief at Howard says, “Frank’s fans and new readers are going to love it. It is a mix of genres, with suspense and a nice romantic theme tied in.” In the meantime, Thomas Nelson has just reissued *The Oath*, *The Visitation*, and *Monster* in snazzy new covers.

FrankPeretti.com

RACE AGAINST TIME

The mother/daughter team of **Kim and Kayla Woodhouse** are back for another book in the Midnight Sun series. *Race Against Time* takes place in the intriguing world of sprint dog racing and follows another mother/daughter duo, Anesia and Zoya, who were first introduced in book one, *No Safe Haven*. “We’ve done so much fun research for this novel,” Kim says. Kayla agrees, adding how fascinating it was to learn about the dog teams. “It was amazing how the dogs responded,” she says. “The driver barely said ‘gee’ (which means go right) or ‘haw’ (go left) and they knew exactly what to do.”

KimberlyWoodhouse.com

NEWRELEASES



FREEZING POINT
Elizabeth Goddard
(Love Inspired Suspense)



BLACK SUNSHINE
Ninie Hammon
(Bay Forest)



DANGEROUS MERCY (SECRETS OF ROUX RIVER BAYOU #2)
Kathy Herman
(David C. Cook)



DELIVER ME FROM EVIL (FREEDOM SERIES #1)
Kathi Macias
(New Hope)



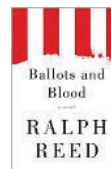
PRINCESS IN PERIL (RECLAIMING THE CROWN)
Rachelle McCalla
(Love Inspired Suspense)



ATTRACTED TO FIRE
DiAnn Mills
(Tyndale House)



TEN PLAGUES
Mary Nealy
(Barbour Books)



BALLOTS AND BLOOD: A NOVEL
Ralph Reed
(B&H Fiction)



THE TEHRAN INITIATIVE
Joel C. Rosenberg
(Tyndale House)



RACE AGAINST TIME
Kimberley and Kayla Woodhouse
(B&H Fiction)



Debbie Viguié

Redeeming the Vampire

KATIE HART

KISS OF NIGHT | FaithWords



“I tried to get away from the idea that it’s all about eternal love to the idea that it’s all about redemption.”



New York Times best-selling author Debbie Viguié is known for two different kinds of stories: dark fantasy in the general market, and contemporary fiction for the Christian market. With her latest novel, *Kiss of Night* (FaithWords), she combines the two—with the story of a vampire taking slow steps toward redemption...and God.

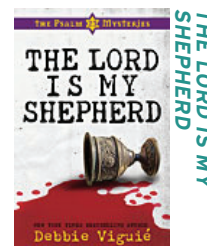
clean, vampire story?” and ‘If I can’t find what I want, why don’t I write it?’”

The story she envisioned in college 18 years ago—two Christians teaming up with a vampire to save the world from other vampires—became the genesis for *Kiss of Night*. But Debbie wasn’t content with simply a clean vampire story. She did a study through the Bible in preparation for this series, reading every verse that had the word blood in it, and each chapter of her novel starts with one of those verses.

She also created a mythology for the series that is Biblically-based. “If vampires were real, why would they be real?” Her answer was that vampirism was a curse given to the most evil of people, those unlikely to turn to God within the span of a normal lifetime. “I tried to get away from the idea that it’s all about eternal love to the idea that it’s all about redemption.” **FF**

Debbie grew up loving Zane Grey novels, cheesy monster movies, and writing. “I actually got my first rejection letter when I was twelve!” she shared. In high school, she read two books that made a huge impact on her: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker and *This Present Darkness* by Frank Peretti. But her quest to find similar books was frustrated by the lack of Christian characters and morals in the vampire novels she read, and the lack of Peretti’s edge in Christian novels available at the time. That process brought two thoughts to her mind: ‘Why can’t I have a nice,

ALSO AVAILABLE

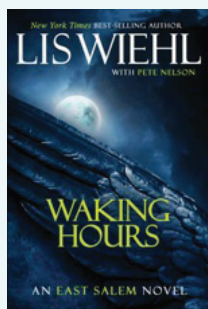


FIND DEBBIE VIGUIÉ ONLINE

DebbieViguié.com

News&Notes

KATIE HART



SUPERNATURAL MYSTERY

Lis Wiehl's new East Salem series begins October 2011 with *Waking Hours* (Thomas Nelson). Lis shared this about the series:

"All towns have secrets, but some have demons. This is a fast-paced mystery, with both earthly and supernatural elements—set in small-town East Salem, NY. Two protagonists—one male and one

female—are working to solve a case. As someone who prosecuted crimes, and who now works in the news, I see some heinous things. This new series explores the good and evil behind the surface of what we see. It's all of the behind-the-scenes investigative details you know from my Triple Threat fiction, but there's more going on than the typical mystery—this extra layer of the supernatural, that I hope readers will find fascinating."

LisWiehlBooks.com

OCTOBER RERELEASES

Five speculative titles get new life breathed into them this fall. Thomas Nelson is re-releasing three of best-selling author **Frank Peretti's** titles: *The Oath*, *The Visitation*, and *Monster*.

And Marcher Lord Press is printing a new version of the Christy Award-winning *Oxygen*, by **Randy Ingermanson** and **John Olsen**. Randy said, "The romantic storyline between our heroine and hero has been buffed up a bit. We added a little more heat where it was needed early on, and we removed some conflict which we thought was heavy-handed and artificial—mainly conflict over faith issues. Along the way, we inserted a little more humor. We think the result is better than before." In addition to the rewritten scenes, this edition has behind-the-scenes content.

Marcher Lord Press is also publishing an expanded edition of *The Restorer* by **Sharon Hinck**, with expanded and extra scenes, a devotion guide and recipes.

FrankPeretti.com

MarcherLordPress.com

WATCHFUL DRAGONS

The latest novel by **Donita K. Paul**, *Dragons of the Watch* (WaterBrook) releases October 2011. Ellie, a young tumanhofer, must enlist the aid of dragons to help a group of wild children and an aging librarian escape a mysterious city.

DonitaKPaul.com

NEWRELEASES



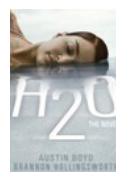
THE ERRANT KING
(DARK SEA ANNALS #2)
Wayne Thomas Batson
(Living Ink)



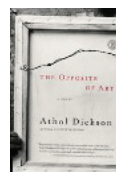
TORRENT (RIVER OF TIME SERIES #3)
Lisa T. Bergren
(David C. Cook)



RESISTANCE: THE REVELATIONS
Kim Bishop
(WestBow Press)



H2O: THE NOVEL
Austin W. Boyd and
Brannon Hollingsworth
(AMG)



THE OPPOSITE OF ART: A NOVEL
Athol Dickson
(Howard Books)



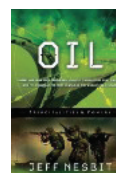
FINDING ANGEL
Kat Heckenbach
(Splashdown Books)



THE BONE HOUSE
(BRIGHT EMPIRES #2)
Stephen R. Lawhead
(Thomas Nelson)



NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD CHRISTIAN
Matt Mikalatos
(Tyndale House)



OIL (PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS #2)
Jeff Nesbit
(Summerside Press)



DRAGONS OF THE WATCH (CHIRIL CHRONICLES #3)
Donita K. Paul
(WaterBrook Press)



KayeDacus

Faith and Humor

REL MOLLET



Kaye Dacus creates double the romance in the third and final novel in her Matchmakers series.

In *Turnabout's Fair Play* (Barbour), love blossoms not only between the charming Jamie O'Connor and skeptical Flannery McNeill, but also their octogenarian grandparents who conspire to pair up their grandchildren. Kaye admits, "Being single at forty myself, it was fun to imagine what it would be like to fall in love at age eighty-five."

With nine romance novels published in just three years, Kaye acknowledges the prime ingredient in any romantic story is appealing characters. "Without characters readers can connect, identify, and sympathize with, it doesn't matter how beautiful the language is or how exquisitely plotted the story is," she shares.

But that's not the only essential ingredient in Kaye's novels: "For me, humor must play a role in the developing romantic relationship of my books. Because why would you want to spend your life with someone who doesn't make you laugh?"

While only recently published, Kaye began her writing journey 20 years ago, penning love stories with no conscious intention that they

“I find that it's through my writing that God speaks to me and shows me what I need to know to continue on my path with Him.”



TURNABOUT'S FAIR PLAY | Barbour Books

be "Christian" or "inspirational" stories, a fact that hasn't changed. "Even though I'm published in the Christian fiction market, I still don't consciously think about writing an 'inspirational' novel when I sit down to write. Because my faith is so ingrained in who I am as a person, it naturally follows that it's a big part of my characters' lives."

Kaye's characters are always the driving force behind her novels and her spiritual themes flow from their development. "It's usually something I'm dealing with in my own life at the time, which over the years has been forgiveness, trust, letting something go, and most recently, self-identity. I find that it's through my writing that God speaks to me and shows me what I need to know to continue on my path with Him." **FF**

ALSO AVAILABLE



LOVE REMAINS (THE MATCHMAKERS SERIES #1)



RANSOM'S HONOR (THE RANSOME TRILOGY #1)



BRIDES OF BONNETERRE TRILOGY

FIND KAYE DACUS ONLINE

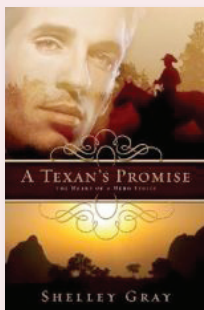
KayeDacus.com

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

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

News&Notes

REL MOLLET



A FLAWED HERO

Well-known for her Amish romances, **Shelley Gray** ventures into historical romance with her first Heart of a Hero novel, *A Texan's Promise* (Abingdon Press). Her character Clayton Proffitt epitomizes the honorable and romantic hero—yet Shelley knew he needed to have flaws. “Clayton has doubts about himself. These doubts prevent

him from truly trusting that the Lord is guiding his path, and from realizing that the one person he needs in the world is the person who also needs him. Because of those things, Clayton Proffitt is heroic, but not perfect. I wouldn't have had his character be any other way.”

ShelleyShepardGray.com

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC

“Romantic love can turn the ordinary into something memorable.” declares **Myra Johnson**, author of the novella collection, *Gateway Weddings*, part of Barbour's popular Romancing America series. A self-proclaimed hopeless romantic, Myra desires to portray lasting love in her stories, just like her own marriage. “From the first day I met the man I'd later marry, I knew he was the one, and we celebrated our 39th anniversary this year.”

MyraJohnson.com

FANNING THE FLAME

Susan May Warren generates an atmosphere ripe for love when she reunites old flames and pen-pals, tossing in a blizzard and plenty of Christmas spirit in *Baby, It's Cold Outside* from Summerside's When I Fall in Love line. “When they are trapped together for three days, old feelings ignite and become a full-out flame,” she shares. “Near strangers find romance when they discover their worlds are smaller than they imagine!”

SusanMayWarren.com

PATERNAL INSPIRATION

Growing up as the daughter of a forest ranger, **Leigh Bale** is thrilled to use her father's fascinating career for her latest Love Inspired series. *The Forest Ranger's Husband* (Steeple Hill), the second in the series, will be followed by three more stories and Leigh is enjoying incorporating her childhood memories into her plots.

LeighBale.com

NEWRELEASES



MARRYING THE MAJOR
Victoria Bylin
(Love Inspired Historical)



LOVE FINDS YOU IN NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA
Melanie Dobson
(Summerside Press)



MAGGIE'S JOURNEY (MCKENNA'S DAUGHTERS #1)
Lena Nelson Dooley
(Realms)



HEARTS KEY (WOODLAND SERIES #4)
Marianne Evans
(White Rose)



BANDIT'S HOPE (BACKWOODS BRIDES #2)
Marcia Gruver
(Barbour Books)



LOVE FINDS YOU IN SUNSET BEACH, HAWAII
Robin Jones Gunn
(Summerside Press)



NIGHTWATCH (THE DEFENDERS)
Valerie Hansen
(Love Inspired Suspense)



WHEN TWO HEARTS MEET (COLORADO RUNAWAY SERIES #3)
Janelle Mowery
(Harvest House)



ALABAMA BRIDES (ROMANCING AMERICA)
Sandra Robbins
(Barbour Books)



A WEDDING INVITATION
Alice Wisler
(Bethany House)



Karen Kingsbury

A Renewed Sense of Longing

CHRISTA A. BANISTER

LONGING (BAILEY FLANAGAN SERIES #3) | Zondervan



There are plenty of bright lights and big cities in the third installment of the Bailey Flanagan series, but Karen Kingsbury says it's the characters who steal the show.

Hitting shelves this month, *Longing* (Zondervan) finds Bailey in a very confusing love triangle: After Cody gives her the silent treatment, she starts getting closer to her one-time Hollywood co-star, Brandon. Wondering if her time with Cody is a wrap for good, Bailey can't help feeling smitten when she's being romanced by Brandon on both coasts.

With two very glamorous locales, Manhattan and Malibu, serving as the setting, Karen admits the research wasn't exactly difficult. But even as exciting as these cities are, she was able to make some valuable observations about the celebrity life.

"New York is very different from L.A., though both are full of excitement and life," Karen shares. "NYC allows a person to 'just be' a little more. Someone with a degree of fame can get by and blend with the crowd more in New York. Malibu and the working areas of Hollywood and North Hollywood are teeming with paparazzi and movie stars. The celebrities in So Cal have a sort of strangely symbiotic relationship with the paparazzi. The cycle continues, and when people

"I stopped writing and had a half a day of prayer & reflection, thinking through the differences between what I wanted for Bailey, and what the characters were demanding."



get caught up in it, normalcy is the first thing to go. Faith is often the second. I've spent time with people who have lived the L.A. race and gotten sick of it, and others who were nearly destroyed by it."

With *Longing*, Kingsbury hopes readers will be left doing just that—longing for deeper connection in their own lives. "About halfway through *Longing*, I stopped writing and had a half day of prayer and reflection, thinking through the differences between what I wanted for Bailey and what the characters were demanding," Kingsbury says. "That's the crazy thing about being a novelist: If your characters are strong enough, they will dictate the plot. And that was certainly what happened in *Longing*. I hope readers will take away a renewed sense of longing for the people in their lives and for the God who has called them to Himself." **FF**

ALSO AVAILABLE



FIND KAREN KINGSBURY ONLINE

- KarenKingsbury.com
- Facebook.com/AuthorKarenKingsbury
- Twitter.com/KarenKingsbury

CONTEMPORARY

News&Notes

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



EAST MEETS SOUTH

When author **Jennifer Rogers-Spinola** considered the old adage “write what you know,” two subjects immediately sprang to mind: 1) Southern folks of the redneck persuasion, and 2) Japan. That’s how her debut novel, *Southern Fried Sushi* (Barbour Books), came to fruition.

It’s the story of a young woman named Shiloh Jacobs making her way from the big city to a small town. “Through Shiloh’s story, I really want readers to know God better. And, on top of all that, I just want them to enjoy a story. Laugh a little. Relax. Because life seems to slow down a little in the South and throw us curveballs we never expect.”

JenniferRogersSpinola.com

BREAD AND BUTTER

Spotlighting the fictional bakery that will be front and center in an upcoming novel, author **Angela Hunt** has launched a new blog about baking, writing and life. And just in case you’re wondering what kinds of baked goodies will be found at the fictional *Lovin’ Oven Bakery*, the first recipe featured on the page is for old-fashioned white loaf. Yum.

TheLovinOvenBakery.blogspot.com

LIGHT THE DARKNESS

In her upcoming novel *Composing Amelia* (David C. Cook), author **Alison Strobel** sensitively tackles a subject that’s been on her mind for a while, namely how Christians deal with mental illness. While the story deals with a weighty topic, however, Alison hopes readers will enjoy the novel as much as she enjoyed writing it. “I hope readers will thoroughly enjoy the story,” she shares. “But I also hope they come away with a new understanding of how we can overcome that which chains us and whispers to us in our darker moments that we’ll never be better, never be whole, never be useful...God can break those chains, and our value is intrinsic as His image bearers.”

AlisonStrobel.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)



D. Barkley Briggs

Healing Through Story

KATIE HART



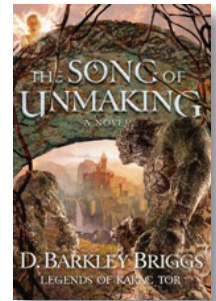
Dean Briggs had let his writing become merely a hobby in his busy life as a pastor and a father of four. But the loss of his wife compelled him to pick up an old story idea and write his sons a tale of adventure and overcoming tragedy.

“It was hard not to feel singled out for misfortune,” Dean shared as he talked about the improbable odds and unusual complications that led to his wife’s death. “I was a single father at 36, with four boys age 11 and under. Aspects of my life felt like they had all come unhinged. The grief was devastating, the loneliness, the difficulty of ministry.”

Yet his grief brought a new clarity. “The thing I kept returning to over and over again was that somehow, I needed to make sure that my sons were not left crippled by this experience – that they could learn to live a good life, and a strong life, and be men of substance and character in spite of this horrific setback.”

Dean began digging through his old writing notes and found an outline for a fantasy novel.

“I needed to make sure that my sons were not left crippled by this experience.”



“Suddenly this story included four brothers who had lost their mom, and this call to another world to live as champions took on an added layer of meaning and depth and consequences... but I didn’t want it to just be that. I wanted it to be something that anyone who was going through something could recognize and relate to. But, more than anything, I wanted it to be an adventure that they could lose themselves in.”

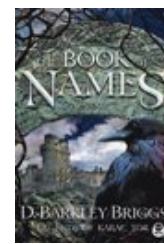
That story eventually became the five-part Legends of Karac Tor, and book 3, *The Song of Unmaking* (Living Ink), released in fall 2011. Meanwhile, Dean fell in love with and married a widow with four children of her own, bringing their combined total to eight. “It’s fantastic, exhausting, exhilarating, and sometimes maddening, but I wouldn’t trade it for the world.”

FF

ALSO AVAILABLE



CORUS, THE CHAMPION (LEGENDS OF KARAC TOR #2)



THE BOOK OF NAMES (LEGENDS OF KARAC TOR #1)

FIND D. BARKLEY BRIGGS ONLINE

HiddenLands.net

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

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

News&Notes

KATIE HART



FINDING FAITH

Nicole O'Dell's *The Diamond Estates* series debuts with *The Wishing Pearl* (Barbour). A conflicted 16-year-old leaves her messed-up life behind and moves into a home for troubled teens.

"All my books mean something special to me and are borne out of many of my own choices or experiences," Nicole shares. "But these, in many ways are the story of finding my own faith and hope at a residential Teen Challenge center when I was a teen. In *The Wishing Pearl*, the reasons Olivia landed at Diamond Estates and the path she walked to get there are very different than my own, but Olivia and I shared the same need—Jesus."

NicoleODell.com

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Melanie Dickerson's series of fairy tales retold as historical romances for teens continues with *The Merchant's Daughter* (Zondervan). In this reworking of *Beauty and the Beast*, Annabel Chapman was once a wealthy merchant's daughter, but due to her father's death and the actions of her mother and brothers, Annabel is now an indentured servant to the new lord, Ranulf de Wyse.

"This story is for teens and women who enjoy reading romance God's way," Melanie says, "and how God can help us conquer fear, guilt and betrayal."

MelanieDickerson.com

IRELAND AWAKENING

Jenny B. Jones' latest novel, *There You'll Find Me* (Thomas Nelson), tells the story of Finley Sinclair, who journeys to Ireland as an exchange student so she can follow her deceased brother's travel journal.

Jenny had this to say about the book: "I loved a quote from a reviewer who said, 'Life is not about the past, but life is about the future which we need to face and conquer with God.' It's humbling and awe-inspiring to see fiction reveal that. And to see that someone really got your intention with the novel."

JennyBJones.com

NEWRELEASES



ULTRAVIOLET
R.J. Anderson
(Carolrhoda Books)



TORRENT (RIVER OF TIME SERIES #3)
Lisa T. Bergren
(David C. Cook)



WREATH: A NOVEL
Judy Christie
(Barbour Books)



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



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



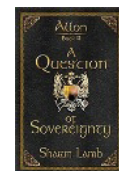
HIDE AND SECRET (MYSTERIES OF MIDDLEFIELD SERIES #3)
Kathleen Fuller
(Tommy Nelson)



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



BROKEN (SEER SOCIETY #2)
Jenna Kay
(RJP Publishing)



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



DARK POWER COLLECTION: FORBIDDEN DOORS VOL. 1
Bill Myers
(Zondervan)



Clark Burbidge

Silver Lining

BEN AVERY



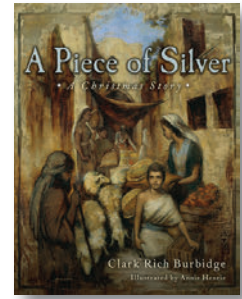
At first glance, businessman, mountain biker and scuba diver Clark Burbidge may not be someone you'd expect to write a children's picture storybook. The book *A Piece of Silver* is also not what it seems at first glance.

The cover of the book—written by Burbidge, and illustrated by Annie Henrie—says “a Christmas Story,” but it goes far beyond that, looking at Christ’s birth and Christ’s death and the reason for both.

“The story is about Daniel, an 11-year-old homeless orphan living 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem and his discovery one night when he happens to have found rest in a humble stable and witnesses Jesus’ birth,” the author says. “Then, later in life as an adult, he finds himself again in the presence of Jesus.”

Two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, a young homeless boy finds shelter in a stable and witnesses the birth of the Savior. He gives the baby his only possession—a silver ring he wears on a piece of twine around his neck.

“It is a message of hope, in this world when so many of our youth come to believe they have no value, that they can’t make a difference, and that there is nothing to live for.”



But Daniel’s life remains one of living on the fringe of society until, in his darkest and loneliest moment, he again meets the Savior. Infused with wonder and awe, this story is one of unconditional love and endless hope.

Clark was motivated to write the story, with its plot twists in Daniel’s story particularly, after his marriage of 26 years fell apart seven years ago. “Though alone and nearly broken, I found that survival was possible through faith, prayer and being carried at times in God’s loving arms.”

Now Clark wants to share what he learned with young people and their parents. “It is a message of hope,” he says, “in this world when so many of our youth come to believe that they have no value, that they can’t make a difference, and that there is nothing to live for.”

He hopes parents will read the books with their children and talk about it together afterward. And that they’ll know that “no matter what their situation, what their past or their struggles to overcome, they are loved beyond measure by God, they are never alone and there is a place prepared for them.” **FF**

FIND CLARK BURBIDGE ONLINE

APieceOfSilver.com

ClarkRBurbidge.com

News&Notes

BEN AVERY



CHRISTMAS ON THE CIRCLE C RANCH

After writing about 12-year-old Andi and her horse Taffy in the Circle C Adventures book series, **Susan Marlow** started hearing parents ask if she had any books for younger readers. “I decided it would be fun to create a similar series about Andi and her family for children ages six to eight,” Marlow says, explaining why she created Circle C Beginnings.

“It’s fun to hear that even readers of the older series like to go back and see what Andi was like at age six.”

Andi’s Circle C Christmas (Kregel) is the sixth book in the Beginnings series. “I hope young readers come away with the desire to think of others more than themselves,” Marlow says, “especially during this season when we celebrate Christ’s birth.”

AndiAndTaffy.com

ARCHBISHOP TUTU: TELLING THE STORY

Just in time for Christmas, **Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s** *Children Of God Storybook Bible* (Zonderkidz) is being re-released in a new deluxe version. The storybook contains over 50 of Archbishop Tutu’s favorite stories from the Bible, illustrated by 20 different artists, each with a unique style of art. He selected and wrote the stories because he wanted to show children—and adults—that “we are all God’s children.”

The new deluxe set contains the hardcover storybook along with two CDs, featuring Archbishop Tutu reading every single story from the book and accompanied by music and sound effects, packaged in a slipcase box.

ChildrenOfGodBible.com

A HANDS-ON CHRISTMAS

Printoons activity kits engage children by encouraging them to explore their creativity using fingerprint art. The Printoons creator, **Paula Alflen**, developed the Printoon activities to remind children that, just like their fingerprints, they are unique and special. “Since no two fingerprints have ever been found exactly alike, Printoons can stimulate conversation about self-worth and reinforce that we are all created to be unique individuals.”

With *Printoons: Nativity* (Tommy Nelson), children will immerse themselves in the Christmas story. The kit includes six washable inks and 17 pages of activities, including a cut-and-fold nativity playset, a Christmas countdown, an ornament and greeting cards.

Printoons.com

NEWRELEASES



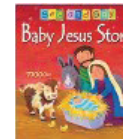
THE BERENSTAIN BEARS GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Jan and Mike Berenstain
(Zonderkidz)



JUSTINE MCKEEN, QUEEN OF GREEN

Sigmund Brouwer
(Orca Echoes)



BABY JESUS STORY (SEE AND SAY)

Christina Goodings and
Melanie Mitchell
(Lion Children’s)



MY LITTLE CHRISTMAS STORY

Christina Goodings and
Claudine Gevery
(Lion Children’s)



PROBLEMS IN PLYMOUTH (ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY, IMAGINATION STATION #6)

Marianne Hering, Paul
McCusker (Tyndale House)



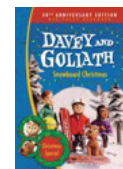
HO-HO-NOOO! (TJ AND THE TIME STUMBLERS)

Bill Myers



BUCK DENVER ASKS... WHY DO WE CALL IT CHRISTMAS?

Jellyfish Labs



DAVEY AND GOLIATH: SNOWBOARD CHRISTMAS



HAPPINESS IS...PEANUTS: SNOW DAYS



VEGGETALES: THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Big Idea



Jody Johnson

Saving Winston

C.J. DARLINGTON



Ever since screenwriter Jodi Johnson knew what a horse was, they fascinated her.

“All my life growing up I wanted to be a horse trainer,” she says, but God also gave her the dream of being a screenwriter. She went to every Saturday matinee as a kid, and during college she studied with Syd Field in Los Angeles. “Horse training and instructing was my day job while I went to school for screenwriting. I feel like God has taught me so much about life through working with horses.”

Saving Winston is her first feature film and tells the story of a troubled teen girl struggling to find purpose and hope. Through the rehabilitation of an abandoned horse and the influence of her Christian aunt, her life changes. Johnson drew from personal experience to write the story. “I had a student I’d coached when she was really young. Several years later she went through rehab [like my character Ashley] and her family approached me to see if she could come out and help me with the horses. I see being a riding instructor as a ministry, a mentorship. I want to be an example to today’s youth. My life growing up wasn’t always perfect either, so I know both sides. The *Saving Winston* story came from that initial instance with my student and then just reflecting on my own life and what I feel the Lord’s taught me.”

“We want [our movies] to be authentic, about real people who aren’t perfect.”

Johnson hopes viewers see that even if they’ve fallen short, God will still use them. “Just being real is our goal for *Saving Winston* and all the films we make. We want them to be authentic, about real people who aren’t perfect. We want to connect with people on a real level. God is always forgiving,” Johnson emphasizes. “Don’t think you’re hopeless because you haven’t lived a perfect life.”

FF



FIND SAVING WINSTON ONLINE

SavingWinston.com

[Facebook.com/pages/Saving-Winston/133065217549](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saving-Winston/133065217549)

News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



WINTER FUN

Now that winter is nearly upon us, the award-winning family comedy *Snowmen* is a perfect pick for those cold days in front of the fire. *Snowmen* tells the story of three small-town boys who find adventure and purpose through their attempts to set a Guinness World Record in the amount of snowmen made in one day. Starring **Bobby Coleman** (who played the kid brother of Miley Cyrus in *The Last Song*) with **Christopher Lloyd**. Producer **Stephen McEveety** says, “the film captures the excitement of being young and fearless in courageously going after your dreams.”

SnowmenMovie.com

GRAY DAY

Watermark Community Church in Dallas’s first feature film, *Seasons of Gray*, is a modern-day retelling of the story of Joseph. Shot predominantly in Waco, TX, Joseph has become Brady Gray, the favored son of a rancher, who faces the envy of his brothers. “Our desire has been to tell a redemptive story of faith and forgiveness, hope and healing,” say the filmmakers. The result is a gritty, compelling film. Its initial September release was limited to the Dallas area, but viewers are encouraged to get involved and spread the word at the film website.

SeasonsOfGray.com

DRIFTING ALONG

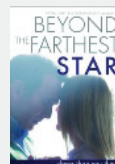
Who is Sam Doonby? That’s what a small Texas town wants to know when drifter Doonby (played by John Schneider) shows up. *Doonby* has been called a mystical thriller with a pro-life message and a twist ending. Actress Jennifer O’Neill told WorldNetDaily it was the story that fascinated her the most. “I like that it makes one think of new life,” she said, “the value of an opportunity to live life, and what can come of that.” Norma McCorvey, the “Roe” in Roe vs. Wade, also has a small role in the film that was shot in her hometown. Jenn Gotzon, Ernie Hudson and Robert Davie also star.

DoonbyTheMovie.com

NEWRELEASES



BEVERLY LEWIS' THE SHUNNING



BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR (THEATRICAL)



THE JENSEN PROJECT



THE LAMP



MANDIE AND THE FORGOTTEN CHRISTMAS



THE MIGHTY MACS (THEATRICAL)



OCTOBER BABY (LIMITED RELEASE)



REAL



THE TREE OF LIFE



TRUTH BE TOLD



K.J. Kolka

Taking Flight

BEN AVERY



This November marks the third year *The Cardinal* has appeared on GoComics.com, alongside *Garfield* and *Dick Tracy*.

For over two decades, starting in print in his college's newspaper and then with an annual comic book and now as a webcomic, K.J. Kolka has been writing and drawing the continuing adventures of the superhero the Cardinal.

A single creator publishing a single character consistently is an unusual feat in the world of comic books. "I created *The Cardinal* for the student newspaper at a college in southeast Michigan at a crucial time in my spiritual life," Kolka says. "Over a two-year period, God showed me so much about Himself and myself and how trustworthy He is. The Cardinal became a symbol to me of that time and the vision for a Christian comic strip."

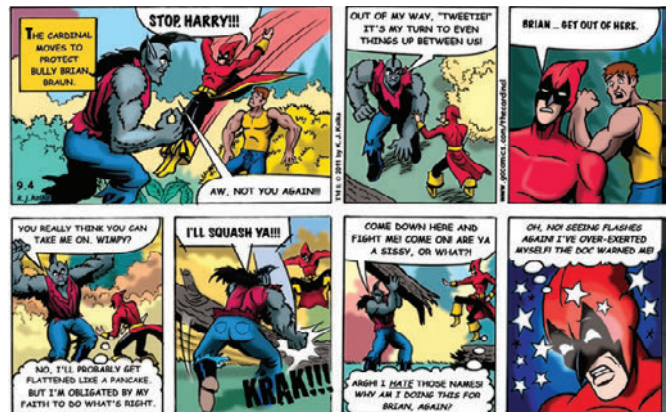
That spirituality is a defining element of *The Cardinal*. While many comic book characters deal with real-life problems, *The Cardinal* also deals with realistic spiritual issues. "Other than flight, he has no super powers. So, he's a very vulnerable character, physically and emotionally." Like the best comic book heroes, the Cardinal uses superhero tropes to explore real-world issues. "He's like most

“ They don't anticipate stories about people struggling with issues like violence, homelessness, and keeping your faith when the whole world seems against you. ”

of us. He lives in a world which is apathetic, sometimes even hostile, toward faith and God. Yet, he must interact with these people and sometimes save their lives.”

This November marks the third year *The Cardinal* has appeared on the GoComics website, which also features humor strips like *Garfield* and *Ziggy* and adventure strips like *Dick Tracy* and *Tarzan*. It is a good fit for Kolka's comic, which has elements of both humor and action.

But, of course, Kolka wants to do more than just entertain. New readers, he says, sometimes “expect a comic book to be about a mindless fight scene between masked characters. They don't anticipate stories about people struggling with issues like violence, homelessness, and keeping your faith when the whole world seems against you.” **FF**



FIND THE CARDINAL ONLINE

GoComics.com/TheCardinal

Facebook.com/pages/The-Cardinal/112348137533

News&Notes

BEN AVERY



A COMIC BOOK CHRISTMAS

Billy Tucci's work as a comic book writer and artist has received awards and acclaim from comic fans and critics alike, especially for his recent work on DC Comics' *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*, which displays his carefully researched writing and richly detailed artwork.

Now Tucci has applied his commitment to research and attention to detail to the story of Christ's birth, in *A Child Is Born* (Apostle Arts). Creating the 32-page "graphic novella" was something Tucci had wanted to do for years. "Every project I've approached has been deeply personal to me," he says, "I cannot think of any body of work more worthwhile to my family than to illustrate the story of Mary and Joseph."

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

BUCK'S FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

The Christmas season brings two new DVDs from Buck Denver, the host of **Phil Vischer's** *What's In The Bible?* series. Volume six of the series, *A Nation Divided*, explores what's in I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles. Then Buck and his friends learn about the meaning and origins of Christmas and many Christmas traditions in *Why's It Called Christmas?*

Both DVDs use energetic puppets and flash animation to explain Biblical concepts in a way that is both memorable and understandable for viewers of all ages.

WhatsInTheBible.com

REVELATION ILLUMINATED

The book of Revelation is a book of the Bible with a long history of interesting and difficult imagery and debate over its meaning. In a new iPad and iPhone app, everyipublishing has created a digital graphic novel that illustrates the entire book, based on the imagery found within John's revelation.

The Book Of Revelation app uses a new translation of the Greek text by Mark Arey and Philemon Sevastiades and features over 600 vibrant, powerful illustrations by artist Chris Koelle to illuminate the New Testament's final book.

The app divides the book into three parts. Users first download the app for free, while the book itself is then paid for and downloaded within the app. The first two parts were released earlier this summer, with part three becoming available the first week of November.

RevelationApp.com

NEWRELEASES



ANGEL WARS: THE COMPLETE ORIGINAL DVD TRILOGY
EMI Distribution



THE ANIMATED KIDS BIBLE
The Kid's Bible Company



THE CHRIST VOL. 2
Ben Avery & Sergio Cariello (Kingstone Comics)



DAVEY AND GOLIATH: VOLUME 8
Bridgestone Multimedia



LUTHER: ECHOES OF THE HAMMER
Susan K. Leigh & Dave Hill (Concordia Publishing House)



THE GREAT MOGUL DIAMOND (DOPPLE GANGER CHRONICLES #3)
G.P. Taylor (SaltRiver)



JONAH
Art Ayris & Danny Bulanadi (Kingstone Comics)



MAX LUCADO'S HERMIE & FRIENDS: I AM SPECIAL
Thomas Nelson



A NATION DIVIDED (WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE? #6)
Jellyfish Labs



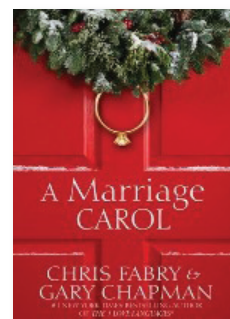
VLADIMIR PRINCE OF RUSSIA
Lee Wanaselja & Branco Jovanovic (Kingstone Comics)



A Marriage Carol

Dickens: Reimagined

CHRISTA A. BANISTER



“Our focus is enriching marriages. I’m hoping many couples find time to read this short story and come away with hope.”

Sure, the story takes place on Christmas Eve, and the main characters are still Jacob and Marlee, but Gary Chapman and Chris Fabry’s riff on the classic *A Christmas Carol* is a heartfelt new take on the story we all know and love.

While the lyrics of many a Christmas carol speak of “good tidings” and “peace on earth, good will to men,” it’s quite the opposite experience for the protagonists in Gary Chapman and Chris Fabry’s *A Marriage Carol*.

In fact, the Jacob and Marlee in *A Marriage Carol* (last name, Ebenezer, naturally) are on the verge of divorce after two decades together. While en route to their lawyer’s office to get the paperwork started, however, a fight about the best way to get there eventually leads them down a very strange but meaningful path.

After a topsy-turvy trip to a place they’ve never seen before, Jacob and Marlee not only get to reflect on the many good times they’ve enjoyed as a couple, but they have a rare opportunity to figure out what went so very wrong and why

their marriage is still worth saving.

“Rather than using the ghosts of marriage past, present and future, we decided to use the motif of show and the power of choices,” Chris explains. “Snowflakes represent those daily decisions we make that draw us closer or push us away from our spouse. Accumulations either separate us or help us bond.”

Still following a similar structure as Dickens’ famed work, *A Marriage Carol* is ultimately a timely reminder that marriage vows should not only be taken very seriously, but even the worst relationships aren’t beyond repair.

“For many marriages, Christmas is a time of stress,” says Gary. “Our focus is enriching marriages. I’m hoping many couples find time to read this short story and come away with hope. The challenge is to realize the power of choice. Hopefully, reflection on the past, present and future will help couples make wise choices.” **FF**

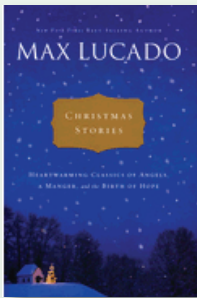
FIND CHRIS FABRY & GARY CHAPMAN ONLINE

ChrisFabry.com

GaryChapman.org

A MARRIAGE CAROL | Moody Publishers

CHRISTMAS



THE THRILL OF HOPE

Imagine a Christmas tree with ornaments of all kinds of shapes, colors and sizes and that will give you something of an idea of what to expect from **Max Lucado's** book *Christmas Stories: Heartwarming Classics*

of Angels, A Manger and the Birth of Hope (Thomas Nelson). Filled with inspiring stories that take place everywhere from Bethlehem to small-town Texas, the unifying thread is the thrill of hope. "In the mystery of Christmas, we find its majesty," Max says, "the mystery of how God became flesh, why He chose to come, and how much he must love His people."

MaxLucado.com

UNEXPECTED LOVE IN AMISH COUNTRY

As Christmas approaches in Amish country, the setting for *Naomi's Gift: An Amish Christmas Story* (Zondervan), 24-year-old Naomi King is feeling more like an old maid than ever before. But as she goes about her regular tasks of helping out with the family quilting business and taking care of eight (!) siblings, she meets Caleb, a young widower with a seven-year-old son, and her world is turned upside down.

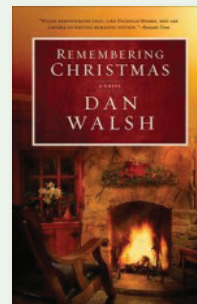
"I hope this story gives readers a sense of hope," author **Amy Clipston** says. "Even though it sometimes feels like life isn't going the way we want it to, God still has a plan."

AmyClipston.com

THE WAY IT WAS

Nine historical romances during American pioneer Christmases have been penned by some of Christian fiction's best-selling authors. *A Log Cabin Christmas* includes contributions from **Margaret Brownley, Wanda E. Brunstetter, Kelly Eileen Hake, Liz Johnson**, and more.

Experience Christmas through the eyes of adventuresome settlers who relied on log cabins built from trees on their own land to see them through the cruel forces of winter. Discover how rough-hewn shelters became homes in which faith, hope and love flourished. Marvel in the blessings of Christmas celebrations without the trappings of modern commercialism, where the true meaning of the day shines through. And treasure this exclusive collection of nine Christmas romances penned by some of Christian fiction's best-selling authors.



HOME AGAIN

With skillful storytelling, **Dan Walsh** creates a Christmas story which will have readers remembering every good and perfect gift of Christmas. *Remembering Christmas* (Revell) finds

Rick Denton living his life on his own terms. When his mother calls Thanksgiving weekend begging him to come home after his stepfather has a stroke, Rick is more than a little reluctant. He's never liked Art and resents the man's presence in his life.

When what was supposed to be just a couple days helping out at the family bookstore turns into weeks of cashing out old ladies and running off the homeless man who keep hanging about, Rick's attitude sours even more.

Still, slowly but surely, the little bookstore and its quirky patrons—as well as the lovely young woman who works at his side each day—work their magic on him, revealing to Rick the truth about his family, his own life, and the true meaning of Christmas.

DanWalshBooks.com

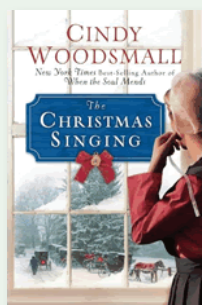
THE CHRISTMAS STORY GETS A MODERN SPIN

New in paperback from renowned pastor **T.D. Jakes**, *The Memory Quilt: A Christmas Story for Our Times* (Atria) has intriguing and timely parallels to the original story of the Virgin Mary. For the oh-so-spunky Lela Edwards, this particular Christmas is looking anything but ideal. Her husband of 50 years has passed away, her children have moved far, far away from Chicago, and one of her daughters is about to get divorced. But as the Christmas season progresses and Lela digs into the Christmas story, she finds encouragement in knowing that everyone learns from their mistakes, no matter how unlikely it seems when God is writing his or her life story.

TDJakes.org

that the truth of His light and love is able to penetrate the darkest of hours, bringing peace and hope despite the bleak, humble circumstances that may surround us—like the ones that surrounded Christ’s birth more than two thousand years ago,” shares author **Cindy Woodsmall**. “Those truths, along with the pressures that are on someone I love, inspired me to write *The Christmas Singing*. My dear loved one has spent years facing what looks like a hopeless situation, but God continually blesses her beyond the scope of what grief and pain shovels onto her life. She found strength in her weakness, joy because of the sorrow, freedom to dance when the music inside her heart is sorrowful.”

CindyWoodsmall.com



WHEN TRIALS TURN TO GOLD

A story of a young couple who’s made mistakes and now facing unwanted circumstances, *The Christmas Singing: A Romance From the Heart of Amish Country* (Waterbrook)

is a reminder of God’s faithful mercy that’s always guiding us. “Christmas is our reminder

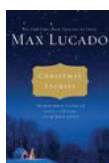
A LETTER MOST NOTEWORTHY

From the author of the beloved “Christmas Hope” series, **Donna VanLiere** serves up another seasonal story of strife and redemption in *The Christmas Note* (St. Martin’s Press). Getting a little more than she bargained for when moving to a new apartment near her mother, Gretchen Daniels eventually encounters a mysterious young woman who typically keeps to herself, Melissa McCreary. But when the local landlord



A MARRIAGE CAROL

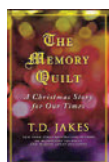
Chris Fabry and Gary Chapman
(Moody)



CHRISTMAS STORIES:
HEARTWARMING CLASSICS OF
ANGELS, A MANGER, AND THE
BIRTH OF HOPE
Max Lucado
(Thomas Nelson)



**CHRISTMAS SHOPPE, THE
MELODY**
Melody Carlson
(Revell)



**THE MEMORY QUILT: A
CHRISTMAS STORY FOR
OUR TIMES**
T.D. Jakes
(Atria)



THE CHRISTMAS NOTE

Donna VanLiere
(St. Martin’s Press)



PAPER ANGELS
*Jimmy Wayne and Travis
Thrasher*
(Howard Books)



**CHRISTMAS TREASURES
(CAPE LIGHT)**
*Thomas Kinkadee and
Katherine Spencer*
(Berkley)



**NAOMI’S GIFT: AN AMISH
CHRISTMAS STORY**
Amy Clipston
(Zondervan)



**CHRISTMAS IN SUGARCREEK:
A CHRISTMAS SEASONS OF
SUGARCREEK NOVEL**
Shelley Shepard Gray
(Avon Inspire)



THE CHRISTMAS SINGING
Cindy Woodsmall
(WaterBrook Press)



**BABY, IT’S COLD OUTSIDE
(WHEN I FALL IN LOVE)**
Susan May Warren
(Summerside Press)



**LOVE FINDS YOU ON
CHRISTMAS MORNING**
Trish Perry and Debby Mayne
(Summerside Press)

comes knocking on Gretchen's door when he can't track down Melissa, she and her reclusive neighbor eventually end up becoming unlikely friends in the wake of Melissa's mother's death and the revelations left behind in her abandoned home.

DonnaVanLiere.com

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

While shopping at a mall near you, everyone's probably seen one of those Salvation Army "angel" trees decorated with makeshift ornaments featuring the name of someone in need. And for 43-year-old husband and father Kevin Morrell, the central character in **Jimmy Wayne** and **Travis Thrasher's** *Paper Angels* (Howard), a tree like that ends up changing his whole life. At the insistence of his wife, he takes an ornament and has the unexpected privilege of showing a troubled teenager the true meaning of the season by offering simple gestures of kindness.

myspace.com/JimmyWayneMusic
TravisThrasher.com

CHRISTMAS WITH A SIDE OF SUSPENSE

Sometimes stories spring forth from life's toughest seasons, and that's exactly how **Susan Sleeman's** *The Christmas Witness* (Love Inspired Suspense) came about. Inspired from years of living with

chronic illness and turning to God in the most hopeless moments, *The Christmas Witness* is a fast-paced story involving kidnapping, ransom and revenge. "Ultimately, it's about finding hope in God's promises when life looks the bleakest," Susan says. "And what better time of the year to celebrate hope than Christmas, right? I pray that when readers experience difficult times that they'll remember this story and take heart in God's promise to give us hope and a future."

SusanSleeman.com

APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY OF SIMPLICITY

Inspired by the Amish saying, "The best things in life are not things," author **Suzanne Woods Fisher** allows audiences a unique glimpse into how the Amish celebrate the holiday season in *A Lancaster County Christmas* (Revell). Further upping the ante is the unexpected presence of a non-Amish family who unexpectedly rolled into the Riehl's farmhouse, thanks to a snowstorm. "For most Amish families, modest gifts are given only to the children, and a large meal will be shared with extended family," Suzanne says. "The focus is on Christ's birth and on people—a good reminder that ushers in true Christmas peace."

SuzanneWoodsFisher.com



CHRISTMAS AT BARNCASTLE INN
Various Authors
(Barbour)



A LOG CABIN CHRISTMAS: 9 HISTORICAL ROMANCES DURING AMERICAN PIONEER CHRISTMASSES
Various Authors (Barbour)



CHRISTMAS GIFTS: SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS/HER CHRISTMAS COWBOY
Gail Gaymer Martin and Brenda Minton
(Love Inspired)



CHRISTMAS BELLES OF GEORGIA
Various Authors
(Barbour)



THE CHRISTMAS CHILD
Linda Goodnight
(Love Inspired)



THE PRODIGAL'S CHRISTMAS REUNION
Kathryn Springer
(Love Inspired)



A BILTMORE CHRISTMAS
Various Authors
(Barbour)



CHRISTMAS HAVEN
Hope White
(Love Inspired Suspense)



THE CHRISTMAS WITNESS
Susan Sleeman
(Love Inspired)



A QUAKER CHRISTMAS
Various Authors
(Barbour)



HOLIDAY HAVOC: YULETIDE SANCTUARY/CHRISTMAS TARGET
Terri Reed and Stephanie Newton
(Love Inspired Suspense)



HOLIDAY HOMECOMING AND A SOLDIER FOR CHRISTMAS
Jillian Hart
(Love Inspired Classics)

5 Questions: Janice Hanna Thompson

The prolific Janice Hanna, who also publishes as Janice Thompson, writes novels, non-fiction books, magazine articles and musical comedies for the stage. Her fiction ranges from romantic comedies to YA fiction to mysteries. Her latest books include the comedy *Hello, Hollywood!* (Revell Books), the historical romance *Love Finds You in Groom, Texas* (Summerside Press) and the freshly reprinted romantic whodunit *The Wedding Caper* (Spyglass Lane Mysteries).



JANICE HANNA THOMPSON

The Spyglass Lane Mysteries all have romance, faith and suspense—which facet was hardest for you to write in *The Wedding Caper*? Which was easiest?

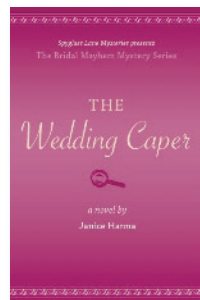
Oy! Writing mystery/suspense elements has always been the toughest. I'm a romance writer by trade—and a comedic one at that—so coming up with a romantic thread was no big deal. As for the faith elements...they were the easiest thing to add, by far. Annie Peterson's faith-walk mimics my own, so I incorporated many of the things God has shown me in my own life—the good, the bad and the ugly.

As a whodunit writer who is a Christian, in what ways does your faith impact how you write a murder mystery?

My faith is the most important thing in my life. Like a great mystery, it requires a bit of unraveling. Just about the time I think I've got this faith-walk figured out, another "clue" pops up, usually one that causes me to re-analyze how and why I'm living my life. All of this spills over into my books, of course. I work methodically—in many ways, like a sleuth—to make sure everything is in balance.

Tell us about your amateur sleuth.

Annie Peterson is a 50-something, scatterbrained, menopausal mother of the bride(s). At the opening of the story both of her grown daughters have received marriage proposals and two weddings are underway. Not exactly the prime time to solve a mystery, but that's exactly what happens when



\$25,000 turns up missing from the local bank where Annie's husband works. She dives in, ready to save the day. Annie's heart is in the right place, but her sleuthing antenna rarely is, at least at first!

Do you base your characters on people you know or are they totally made up?

Most of my novels are completely fictionalized, but I must say there's a lot of Annie in me. (Or would that be, "There's a lot of me in Annie"?) I've never solved any mysteries—unless you count the time I had to figure out which of my two dachshunds ate a jar of Vaseline. I have, however, had to deal with multiple weddings at once. My two oldest daughters both got engaged at the same time. (Did I mention that I have four daughters who all got married within four years of each other? Talk about great fodder for wedding-themed mysteries!)

Who are the authors that inspire you as an author?

I love so many! I'm nuts about Linda Nichols. Her book *At the Scent of Water* still inspires me. I'm also crazy about Nancy Jo Jenkins, who wrote one of the best historicals of all time: *Coldwater Revival*. As for lighthearted comedic authors, I love Lisa Wingate, Kristin Billerbeck, Robin Jones Gunn, Kathleen Y'Barbo and many, many more. **FF**

FIND JANICE HANNA THOMPSON ONLINE

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