

March 2016

# FamilyFiction

## edges

A close-up portrait of DJ Edwardson, a young man with dark hair and blue eyes, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark t-shirt. The background is a dark, starry space with nebulae.

**MEET DJ  
EDWARDSON**  
The Speculative Author  
Blazing a Trail on his Own

**OUR TOP 15  
BOOKS OF 2015**  
As voted on by readers!

**ASHLEY ROYER**  
The Teenager  
Changing the Face  
of Publishing

PLUS Interviews with  
Mike Nappa and  
Andrew Maloney

**GO!**

**SPECIAL: START READING NOW!!**

Excerpt from *Annabel Lee* by Mike Nappa inside!

# ROMANCE, SUSPENSE, JUSTICE . . . JANICE CANTORE WILL DELIVER ALL THREE

"Questions of faith shape the well-woven details, the taut action scenes, and the complex characters in Cantore's riveting mystery."

—Booklist

## PRAISE FOR JANICE CANTORE

"If your readers like Dee Henderson, they will love Janice Cantore."  
CHRISTIAN RETAILING

"[Cantore's] characters resonate with an authenticity not routinely found in police dramas."  
ROMANTIC TIMES

"Fans of Lynette Eason, Dee Henderson, or DiAnn Mills and readers who like crime fiction without gratuitous violence and sex will appreciate discovering a new writer."  
LIBRARY JOURNAL

"Cantore's well-drawn characters employ Christian values and spirituality to navigate them through tragedy, challenges, and loss."  
SHELF AWARENESS



ISBN: 978-1-4964-1229-4



ISBN: 978-1-4143-9688-2

After months of investigating the brutal homicide of a young girl, Detective Abby Hart finally has the evidence she needs. But when the arrest goes terribly wrong, Abby begins to doubt her future as a police officer. As she wrestles with conflicting emotions, old questions about the fire that took her parents' lives come back to haunt her. "There is proof." PI Luke Murphy can't stop thinking about what Abby's former partner, Asa Foster, mumbled just before he died. When he uncovers a clue to the murder of Abby's parents and his uncle, he's reluctant to tell Abby, despite his growing feelings for the beautiful detective. A decade-old abduction case brings Luke and Abby together, but will his secret tear them apart?



JANICE CANTORE is a retired Long Beach police officer who now writes suspense novels to keep readers engrossed and leave them inspired. Her twenty-two years of experience on the force lend authenticity to her stories. For more on Janice visit [JANICECANTORE.COM](http://JANICECANTORE.COM)

## ALSO BY JANICE CANTORE:



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## DJ EDWARDSON

Meet the successful indie author

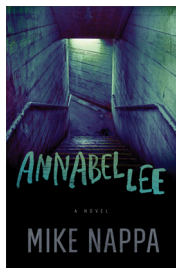
## FAMILYFICTION'S TOP 15 BOOKS OF 2015

Did your favorite make the list?

## START READING NOW!!

Excerpt from *Annabel Lee*  
by Mike Nappa  
inside!

**CLICK TO GO**



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## SUSPENSE



### Mike Nappa

*Plus New Releases*

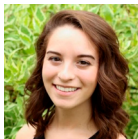
## SPECULATIVE



### Andrew Maloney

*Plus New Releases*

## YOUNG ADULT



### Ashley Royer

*Plus New Releases*

Check out a list of all new releases this month!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/books/new-releases/>

Watch recent book trailers here!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/books/trailers/>

## WHO WE ARE

### DEIDRA ROMERO



Deidra Romero is a twenty-something blogger and bookworm. She loves good company, good coffee and a good story.

[www.parentingupstream.com](http://www.parentingupstream.com)

### REL MOLLET



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

[www.RelzReviewz.com](http://www.RelzReviewz.com)

### C.J. DARLINGTON



C.J., the author of *Bound by Guilt*, is the cofounder of *TitleTrakk.com*.

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

### BROCK EASTMAN



Brock Eastman is the author of *The Quest for Truth* series by P&R Publishing and *Focus on the Family*. He's a husband and a daddy and loves to spend time with his family. [www.BrockEastman.com](http://www.BrockEastman.com)

# FamilyFiction edge

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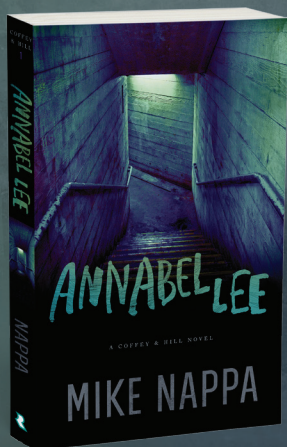
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"Impossible  
to put down."

—LOIS DUNCAN,

*New York Times* bestselling author



On a farm fourteen miles east of Peachtree, Alabama, a secret is hidden—a secret named Annabel Lee. Her uncle's last words before he hid her away: *Don't open that door for anybody, you got it? Not even me.*

"ANNABEL LEE IS COMPELLING, FAST-PACED, AND FILLED WITH FASCINATING CHARACTERS."

— M. K. PRESTON,

Mary Higgins Clark Award-winning novelist,  
*Song of the Bones*

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## **MEET INDIE AUTHOR DJ EDWARDSON**

**The Speculative Author  
Blazing a Trail on his Own**

*Brock D. Eastman*

Inspired by the film *Dead Poet's Society*, DJ Edwardson took the phrase "carpe diem" to heart and set out to explore the vast reaches of his imagination and share the stories he discovers with readers all over the world. He brings The Chronotrace Sequence (Giraffix Media) to life with a captivating look at a future none of us would want, and the very human struggle to stop it from happening.

***Brock:* DJ, how did The Chronotrace Sequence concept come about?**

*DJ:* The Chronotrace Sequence started out with the premise of what the world would look like without Christianity. Originally I had the main character stumbling upon an actual believer and rediscovering what faith was, but as the plot developed over the years, the story became more about a society where technology has taken over everything and God's role in the events became more covert and less obvious.

***Brock:* Who are the protagonists and why are they unique?**

*DJ:* The main character is Adan. What makes him unique is that he has completely lost his memory. Not just his identity, but he doesn't even know basic things like how to eat or walk. So even though he is an adult, in the early parts of the story he functions very much like a child. Add to that the fact that the technology in this series is extremely advanced and Adan has a hard time getting his bearings. One of the main story arcs is his journey to find his identity, which adds an element of mystery to the story, I think.

Gavin is the other main character and he functions as a mentor to Adan, helping him orient himself and even training Adan to use

certain skills he has. He provides a window into the organization of scientists who control everything and shows that God can reach even into that kind of world and pull someone out of it.

***Brock:* In three sentences, what is the third book, *The Ascent of the Nebula*, about?**

*DJ:* The futility of trusting in our own power over God. The book also explores what it means to be human. And it wrestles with the mysterious nature of God.

***Brock:* You use a lot of invented words in *The Chronotrace Sequence*. Where do you come up with all this exotic terminology?**

*DJ:* Well, for instance, there is a certain people group that speaks another language and so when I mention words from that language I just used Spanish, which is the only other language I am fluent in besides English. And then for the technology I used a mixture of Latin, French and English roots and just combined them in different ways, like for "oscillathe" which is this weapon that disintegrates people, I combined the words "oscillate" and "lathe"—pretty simple. That's actually one of the things I love about writing in general, and writing sci-fi and fantasy in particular—getting to make up new

words. When you're describing things that don't exist in our world, making up new words is a necessity, really.

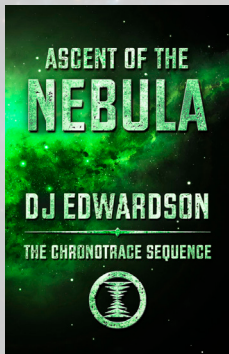
***Brock:* How do you believe this story relates to the lives of readers?**

*DJ:* Hardly a day goes by when I don't hear something on the news and think, "Yep, we're one step closer to the kind of world I wrote about in the Chronotrace." Cloning, virtual reality, the increasing role of technology in our lives, that's all happening right now and most people seem blissfully unaware of where it's all headed. Science has become the standard for truth that trumps everything else. All you have to do is say "well, science says..." and the argument is over in most people's minds. As if science is this monolith and has totally figured out the meaning of life, humanity and everything in between. It really functions very much like the magisterium of the

church in the Middle Ages. They have all the answers, we are all just ignorant and have to accept what they say "because science." We can't think for ourselves, we can't dissent. We just need to get in line and bow the knee to the technological idol. That's the world of my story, and hopefully people who read it will see that it's not a very attractive one.

***Brock:* What is the biblical background or basis for the series?**

*DJ:* I really think of this series as futuristic "pre-incarnate" Christianity. Okay, that was a mouthful. What I mean is that it has a more Old Testament level of revelation and yet it's set in the far future. So some of my inspiration for the events of the novel comes from Exodus, Old Testament prophets, and, though not strictly biblical, the story of the pilgrims. It's an odd mix, but those are some of the places I drew my inspiration from. It also wrestles with the idea of what to do when God's will is not all that clear. Even for those of us who have the Bible, there are mysterious aspects to God's will that we cannot fully understand. The characters in this series have to learn to have faith in a God they cannot see or hear, just as we all do. **FFE**



**ASCENT OF THE NEBULA**  
THE CHRONOTRACE  
SEQUENCE  
*DJ Edwardson*  
Giraffix Media



*FamilyFiction's*

**15 BEST  
BOOKS**

**OF**

**2015**

**as voted on by our readers!**

# WE ASKED AND YOU ANSWERED!

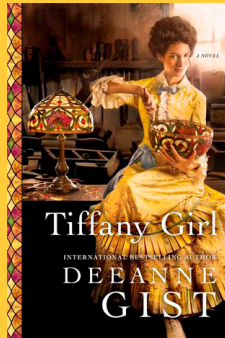
Voted on by readers, here is our list of *FamilyFiction's* top 15 books of 2015!



## HOW TO CATCH A PRINCE

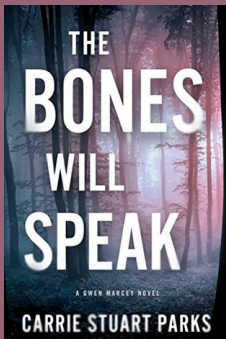
ROYAL WEDDING #3  
Rachel Hauck  
Zondervan

A modern fairy tale with a twist, Rachel Hauck's *To Catch a Prince* (Zondervan), part of her Royal Weddings series, is a stunning romance read.



**TIFFANY GIRL**  
Deeanne Gist  
Howard Books

Deeanne Gist's fans have come to expect fascinating historical tales and her book of a budding artist during the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago fulfills those expectations!



## THE BONES WILL SPEAK

A GWEN MARCEY NOVEL  
Carrie Stuart Parks  
Thomas Nelson

Forensic scientist Gwen Marcey is back at it, solving crimes and trying to stay out of danger with Carrie Stuart Parks' book, *The Bones Will Speak* (Thomas Nelson).

**CLICK ON A BOOK COVER TO LEARN MORE!**



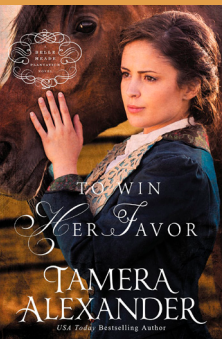
**SECRETS SHE KEPT**  
Cathy Gohlke  
Tyndale House

Cathy Gohlke's novel *Secrets She Kept* (Tyndale) spans three decades and two generations to tell a story rich with historical significance.



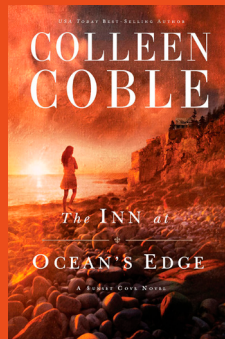
**THE PAINTER'S DAUGHTER**  
Julie Klassen  
Bethany House

Julie Klassen's historical novel, *The Painter's Daughter* (Bethany House), crafts a story of unpredictable love during the Regency era.



**TO WIN HER FAVOR**  
BELLE MEADE  
PLANTATION #2  
Tamera Alexander  
Zondervan

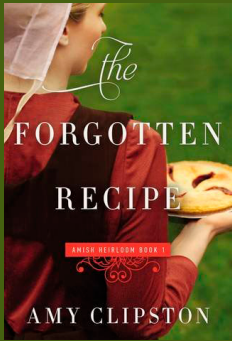
*To Win Her Favor* (Zondervan) is a captivating story of a marriage of convenience during the Reconstruction era set alongside the historic Belle Meade Plantation!



**THE INN AT OCEAN'S EDGE**  
SUNSET COVE  
Colleen Coble  
Thomas Nelson

Colleen Coble's *The Inn at Ocean's Edge* (Thomas Nelson) is a romantic tale steeped in suspense and a delightful addition to her Sunset Cove series!

**CLICK ON A BOOK COVER TO LEARN MORE!**



### THE FORGOTTEN RECIPE

AMISH HEIRLOOM  
Amy Clipston  
Zondervan

Amy Clipston is a bestselling Amish author and her novel *The Forgotten Recipe* (Zondervan) kicks off her Amish Heirloom series.



### A REASON TO FORGET

THE CAMDYN SERIES #3  
Christina Coryell  
Coryell Publishing

Indie author Christina Coryell is blazing a trail with her sensational fiction!



### WAR ROOM

Chris Fabry  
Tyndale House

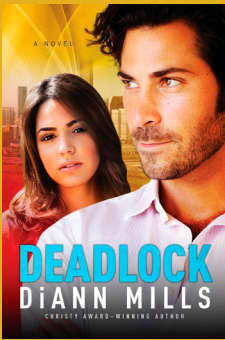
Chris Fabry's novelization of last year's hit movie, *War Room*, captivated fans with another layer of storytelling.



### FALCON

THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS #3  
Ronie Kendig  
Shiloh Run Press

Ronie Kendig's fast-paced novels have amassed a huge readership; her Quiet Professionals series is a fan favorite!



**DEADLOCK**  
FBI HOUSTON  
*DiAnn Mills*  
Tyndale House

Beloved romantic suspense author DiAnn Mills continued her FBI Houston series with this pulse-pounding romance!



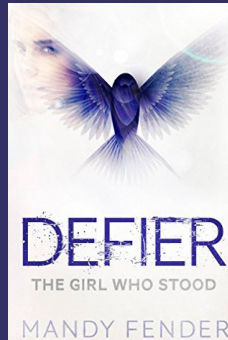
**ISLE OF HOPE**  
UNFAILING LOVE  
*Julie Lessman*  
CreateSpace

Award-winning author Julie Lessman breaks out of her historical romance shell with a modern romance you won't want to miss!



**THE CHOIR  
IMMORTAL**  
*Katie Schuermann*  
Concordia Publishing

Life in Katie Schuermann's small town is anything but small in this contemporary novel *The Choir Immortal* (Concordia Publishing).



**DEFIER**  
*Mandy Fender*  
Stouthearted Publishing

Mandy Fender crafts a story for teens rich with self-discovery and full of adventure in *Defier* (Stouthearted Publishing).

Bestselling author Mike Nappa is releasing a new book that should be at the top of your list for suspenseful reads, *Annabel Lee* (Revell). Annabel Lee Truckson lives life underground, kept there by her strange uncle in a military-style bunker. With only a guard dog and some brief instructions, she is told she shouldn't open the door for anyone—not even her uncle. Above ground, Trudi Coffey and Samuel Hill are two private investigators on the hunt for Annabel. This novel is fast-paced and riveting. Mike answered a few of our questions about the beginning of his Coffey & Hill series.



**This plot is pretty wild. Where did you get the inspiration?**

Insomnia. When I can't sleep at night (which is more often than I like), I start imagining movie scenes in my head. If the scene sticks with me for a few weeks, I go ahead and write it down and then file it away in case more of the story presents itself later. For *Annabel Lee*, I couldn't sleep one night, so to entertain myself I invented the title character, and then asked myself, "How does her movie begin?" That's how the first chapter (and Dog) was created. After that, I just followed the story to see what would happen.

**Are any pieces of this novel pulled from real life?**

The character Dog is based on two of my favorite pets from my past. The first was a German Shepherd I owned when I was in my early 20s. He was the smartest, gentlest, fiercest, most loyal animal I have ever known. He used to herd my toddler

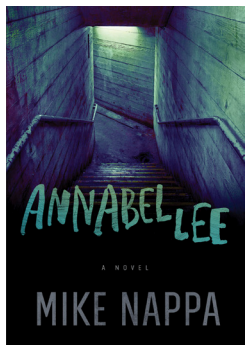
nephew away from the street when he thought the boy was getting too close to traffic danger. (There's a scene in the book where Dog herds Annabel to a small refuge from heat—that description is pretty much what my German Shepherd used to do with my nephew.) The second was a four-pound Chihuahua named Hercules. The scenes where Dog comforts Annabel in times of sorrow or fear are memories of me and my Chihuahua. The description of Dog's seizure is me remembering when Hercules got older and began to struggle with seizures before he passed away.

**You've written so many novels; how was this one different in style or process?**

Well, for starters I got to publish *Annabel Lee* under my own name! I spent several years publishing novels under a pen name because too many editors told me, "Mike Nappa is an inspirational author—he can't write suspense." So I used a pen

name to trick editors into reading my stories ... and then I got stuck using that name for a while. So I'm grateful that Revell was willing to publish this novel under my real name.

As for process, it usually takes me about a year to write a novel, but I stupidly spread the writing of this book over four years. I actually started it as part of a contract for another publishing house, but then that house decided they didn't want to publish suspense novels anymore, so they canceled my book. I was so discouraged by that, I quit writing fiction altogether. Trouble was, my wife had read the first few chapters of this novel, and she kept pestering me to finish it. I told her no. She asked again. I rolled my eyes and told her no. Then she pulled out the big guns: She and my pastor's wife started praying that I would finish it. They prayed for months until finally I broke down and gave in. I couldn't stop thinking about Annabel, Trudi and The Mute, so I had to write the book to get it out of my head.



**ANNABEL LEE**  
COFFEY & HILL #1  
*Mike Nappa*  
Revell

**This book begins your Coffey & Hill series. Can you tell us what's in store? How many books do you plan on releasing?**

I've finished the second book in the Coffey & Hill series, which is titled *The Raven*. It's a story of a young street magician/petty thief who gets caught trying to blackmail a member of the Ukrainian mafia. And then, you know, things happen. *The Raven* releases in fall of 2016.

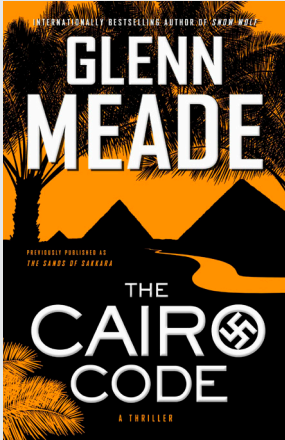
After that, we're planning a third book in the series tentatively titled *A Dream Within a Dream*. It's about a mild-mannered art forger who may or may not also be a brutal murderer. That one was scheduled for release in 2017, but it looks like we're going to have to put that off until 2018 just because I need more time to finish it.

**What makes your characters, Coffey and Hill, interesting and unique?**

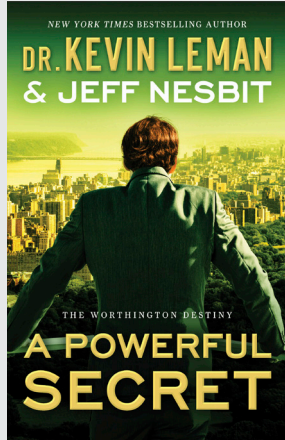
Wow, I really don't know how to answer this question. Tell you what: Ask your readers this question and then pick out the one you think gives the best answer. We'll give an autographed copy of *Annabel Lee* to that reader! Thanks!

**You heard the man! Click [HERE](#) to enter your response in the comments section. If you haven't read the book, give us a guess as to what will be the most intriguing part of this novel!**

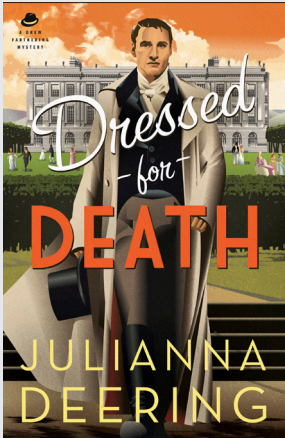
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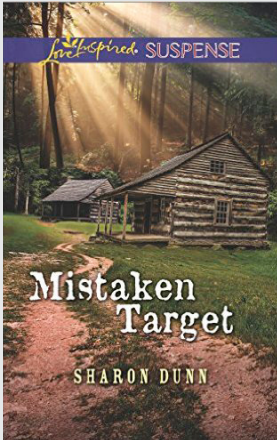
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*Lisa Carter*  
Abingdon Press



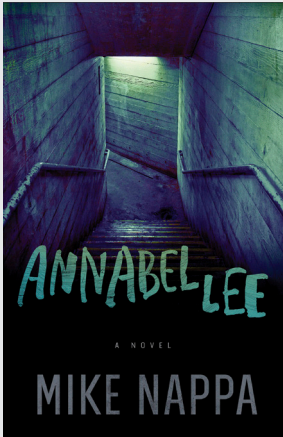
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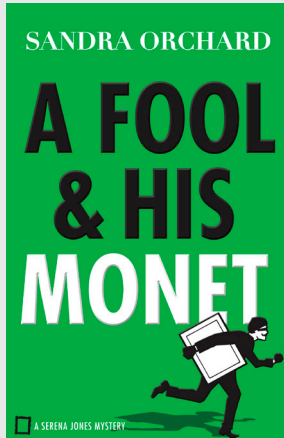
**MISTAKEN TARGET**  
Sharon Dunn  
Love Inspired  
Suspense



**PROTECTING HER DAUGHTER**  
WRANGLER'S CORNER #3  
Lynette Eason  
Love Inspired  
Suspense



**ANNABEL LEE**  
COFFEY & HILL #1  
Mike Nappa  
Revell



**A FOOL AND HIS MONET**  
SERENA JONES MYSTERIES #1  
Sandra Orchard  
Revell

You won't want to waste any time getting started with the exciting fantasy series, *Blue Time* (Whitaker House), written by Andrew Maloney. With an original story set in a unique world full of intriguing characters, *Verse of Valor*, the second book in the series, is set to pull in even those readers who aren't avid fantasy fans.



### How did this story come to be?

When I was 5 or 6, we lived out in the plains of Texas, and my curfew was when the sky turned super-blue as the sun set. The eastern horizon was twilight indigo fading to the deepest cobalt as the first few twinkling stars appeared; and the lower western horizon was aflame in oranges, reds, purples and pinks, with a swathe of lime-green separating the sunset from the sky.

I called it *Blue Time*, and it was always my favorite time of the day. I loved how it wasn't day anymore, but it wasn't quite night either—like a “time-between-times.” When I got a little older and discovered all the folktales about the golden hour—the “brillig” of Lewis Carroll's “Jabberwocky”—I was instantly captivated.

So when I was, I don't know, 14 maybe, I was sitting in the back seat of our car at *Blue Time*, reading a new *Lawhead* series, *The Song of Albion*; and I thought, *I should write a story*

*about this time-between-times.* So I scratched out the first lines then and there: a boy with asthma getting stuck in the Celtic Otherworld with a group of friends. I had 10 or 15 handwritten pages, and scribbled down ideas as often as I could. But it was just random adventures, nothing tied together.

Flash forward 20-odd years, and by this time, I had added a bunch of wild ideas about Greenmen, Awakened plants and animals, and the Master Song, which represented the seven prime virtues: love, wisdom, valor, might, devotion, kindheartedness and meekness.

From there, it was simply just telling the complete story.

### In three sentences, what is this book about?

At its heart, *Verse of Valor* is an epic high-fantasy adventure story. Though the characters are young adults, I am one of those writers who believe

““

ULTIMATELY, THE STORY IS ABOUT OVERCOMING FEAR, FACING YOUR 'GIANTS,' AND REALIZING YOU ARE MORE COURAGEOUS THAN YOU GIVE YOURSELF CREDIT FOR."

“young adult” does not appeal only to a specific age bracket. Ultimately, the story is about overcoming fear, facing your “giants,” and realizing you are more courageous than you give yourself credit for.

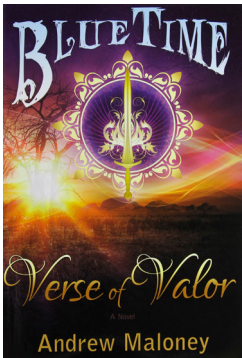
**Did the book change as you wrote it, and how is it different than what you originally planned?**

The main tale has always remained the same: seven Verses need seven guardians. But as I set about creating the world and populating it with characters, the story has grown beyond just a group of kids playing weekend warriors out in the woods into something I’m extremely proud of: a living, breathing world that hides

just out of sight from ours. Now, as we get to the end of the series, when we start seeing those two worlds collide, that changed significantly from my original plans. I am confident it will be for the better!

**Is it difficult to be accurate to a biblical perspective or biblical facts when writing fantasy fiction?**

To the canonized scriptures, yes. I don’t think God ever intended a race of Treebeings to be shepherds over a forest hidden in a “pocket of space” coinciding with natural earth. However, I have tried to keep with the themes and precepts of the Bible, if not the actual facts of the Bible. And who knows, most of these fantastical creatures are antediluvian, so if there were “giants in the land” 5,000 years ago, why couldn’t some of them have been giant Treefolk? God is an exceptionally creative God.



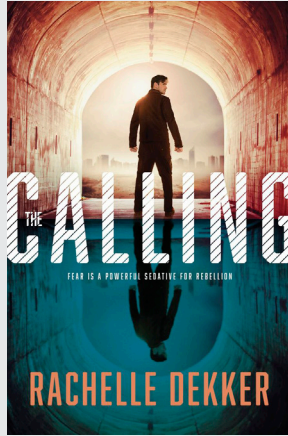
**VERSE OF VALOR**

BLUE TIME  
Andrew Maloney  
Whitaker House

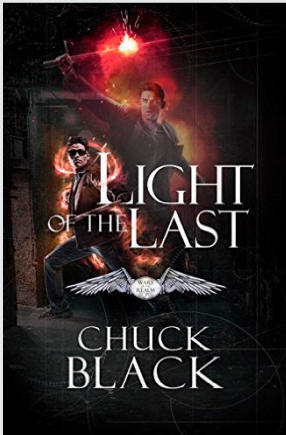
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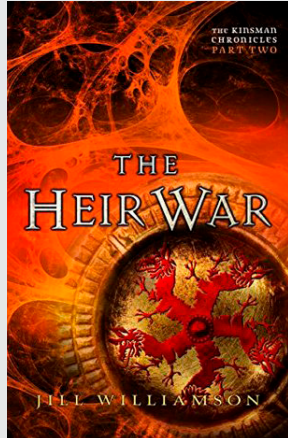
**SIREN'S SONG**  
STORM SIREN #3  
*Mary Weber*  
Thomas Nelson



**THE CALLING**  
SEER #2  
*Rachelle Dekker*  
Tyndale House

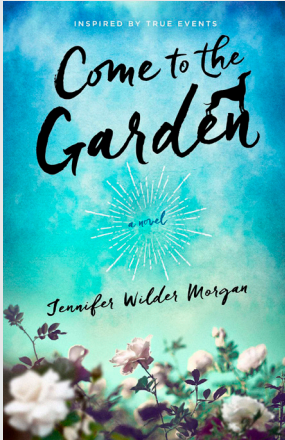


**LIGHT OF THE LAST**  
WARS OF THE REALM #3  
*Chuck Black*  
Multnomah Books

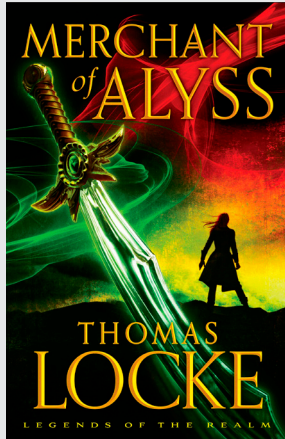


**THE HEIR WAR**  
KINSMAN CHRONICLES #2  
*Jill Williamson*  
Bethany House

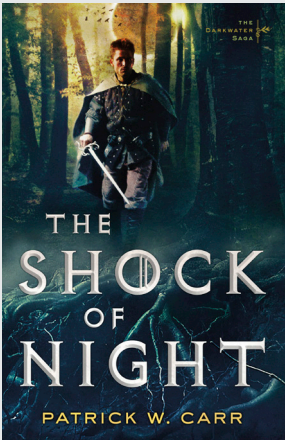
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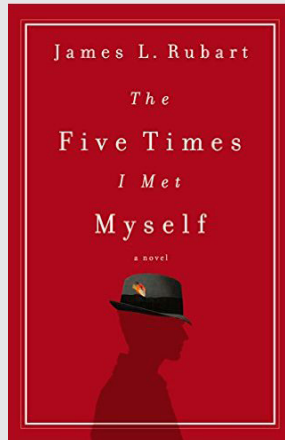
**COME TO THE GARDEN**  
*Jennifer Wilder Morgan*  
Howard Books



**MERCHANT OF ALYSS**  
LEGENDS OF THE REALM #2  
*Thomas Locke*  
Revell



**THE SHOCK OF THE NIGHT**  
THE DARKWATER SAGA  
*Patrick W. Carr*  
Bethany House Publishers



**THE FIVE TIMES I MET MYSELF**  
*James L. Rubart*  
Thomas Nelson

At 17 years old Ashley Royer has amassed a following via social media that many debut authors are striving for. But can we really call her a debut author? She's been publishing content online for two years now via her thriving YouTube page. Is Ashley the future of publishing? She's definitely a talented, multi-faceted author who knows how to reach fans. Her book for teens, *Remember to Forget (Blink)*, releases in April. Ashley answered our top questions about this project.



### **Is this your first full-length book?**

This is my first full-length published book, but I did write another full-length book before this one, which is also on Wattpad.

### **When did you start building your platform online and what spurred this?**

My online platform started growing when I began writing. One afternoon I went to the movies with my friend Rebecca, and she asked me if I had ever heard of Wattpad. I told her that I hadn't and she explained to me what Wattpad was. A few months later, I was thinking about writing, and I thought I would check it out. I started reading a book that someone had posted on Wattpad. After reading a few chapters, I thought that I would try writing something and see what would happen. I wrote the first chapter and after a day was so excited to see that I had some

readers. As I continued writing, I was gaining more and more readers and started developing a large following. I currently have over 70,000 followers on Wattpad.

### **Did you always know you wanted to be an author or did you just have an urge to be creative?**

I have enjoyed writing since a very young age, but I never actually thought I would become a published author. As I began writing more, it started to become a little dream in the back of my mind. I never said to anyone that I wanted to become an author; in fact, I never even told anyone I was writing on Wattpad. But, I went on Wattpad because I had so many ideas and wanted to share them with others. I didn't want them to stay trapped in my head; I wanted them out there for everyone to read and relate to. The whole reason I started writing was

“ THE WHOLE REASON I STARTED WRITING WAS SO MY STORIES COULD CHANGE SOMEONE’S PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THEMSELVES OR OTHERS.”

so my stories could change someone’s perspective about themselves or others. I wanted my writing to make an impact on someone’s life, but I never imagined it would be on thousands of lives.

**Do you think you embody the future of publishing?**

This is all so new to me that I don’t really know. I hope that I have an opportunity to write more stories that will be published, but for now, I am going to enjoy the upcoming release of *Remember to Forget* and see what the future holds.

**Let’s talk about the novel. Where did the inspiration come from?**

I’m not exactly sure if I had an inspiration. When I started writing *Remember to Forget*, I didn’t really know what direction it was going to go in and had a lot of ideas but nothing was really planned. I spent a few months just planning the basic ideas, and I thought of the rest as time went on. A lot of times right before falling asleep, ideas would come to me. Sometimes I would write them down

so I wouldn’t forget them by the time I woke up, but I pretty much would write one chapter a week, giving myself the days in between to come up with ideas for the next chapter.

**Your protagonist is an Australian teen boy. Was it hard getting into his head to write this book?**

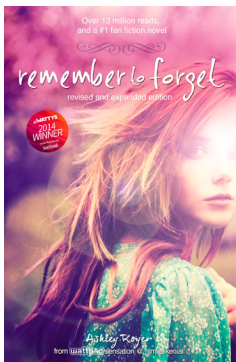
It wasn’t very difficult for me. Empathizing with others and understanding what someone is going through has always been a part of my personality. It’s very simple for me to understand someone else’s emotions and traits. I think because of that, it’s simple for me to become my characters while I’m writing. I can easily put myself in their position and feel what they are feeling at that moment.

**There’s a bit of mystery in this book. And I’m guessing there’s a bit of romance, too, right? How did you balance the two?**

The main focus of the book isn’t really romance or mystery. It’s more about dealing with teenage struggles and watching Levi grow.

## How long did you work on this novel and what was your writing process like?

*Remember to Forget* took me about nine months to write. Every week, I would write one chapter. I usually would write on Friday or Saturday nights, as that was the only free time I had to write. It would take me two to four hours to write a chapter and then I would post it on Wattpad. Once it was posted, my followers would receive a notification from Wattpad that there was an update and I would watch the number of reads rise almost immediately. On Wattpad, readers are able to leave comments and I would read every single one, even if there were hundreds or thousands to read. The comments helped me see what my readers thought about certain events and helped me continue to write. They also helped me see what my



## REMEMBER TO FORGET

Ashley Royer

Blink

readers enjoyed or disliked and their excitement made me want to write even more.

## What do you think teens want to read today?

There's such a broad selection of books to pick from now that it really depends on the person. Personally, I like realistic stories that I can actually see happening, so that's what I write. Right now, I think teens are reading less of vampires and werewolves and leaning more towards realistic stories. A lot of popular stories now deal with real teen problems, like anxiety and relationships, because that's what teens are going through. It helps them deal with and understand their own struggles.

## Who and what are some of your favorite authors and books?

My favorite book is *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys. I was fortunate enough to meet her at a book conference in January. I also really like John Green; I think I've read all of his books. His style is somewhat similar to mine, and he writes realistic teen stories.

READ MORE ONLINE!: <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/ashley-royer/books/remember-to-forget/>





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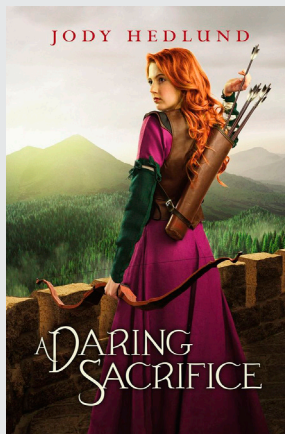
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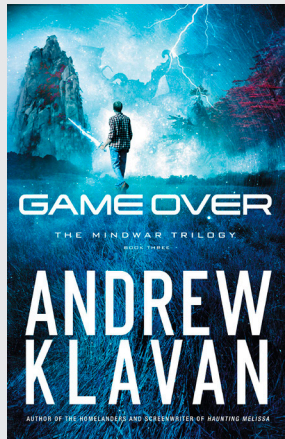
**REMNANTS:  
SEASON OF GLORY**  
A REMNANTS NOVEL  
*Lisa T. Bergren*  
Blink



**A DARING  
SACRIFICE**  
UNCERTAIN  
CHOICE #2  
*Jody Hedlund*  
Zondervan



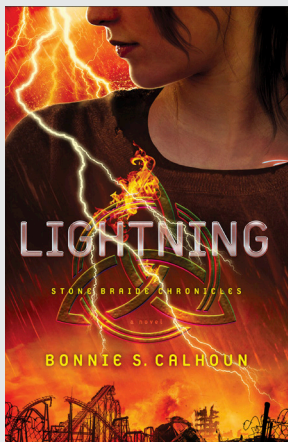
**THE PROPHECY OF  
THREE**  
REALM WALKERS #3  
*Donita K. Paul*  
Zondervan



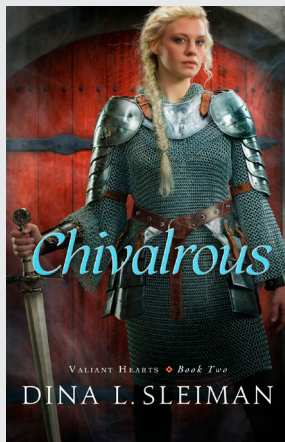
**GAME OVER**  
THE MINDWAR  
TRILOGY #3  
*Andrew Klavan*  
Thomas Nelson

# YOUNG ADULT

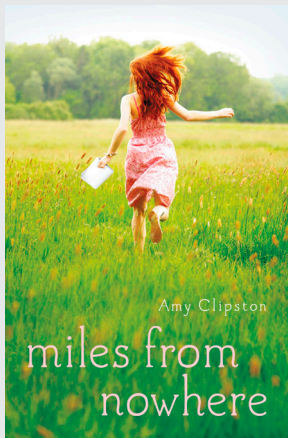
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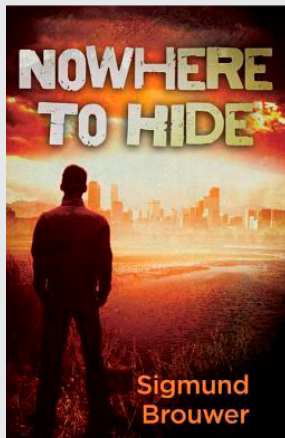
**LIGHTNING**  
STONE BRAIDE  
CHRONICLES  
*Bonnie S. Calhoun*  
Revell



**CHIVALROUS**  
VALIANT HEARTS  
*Dina Sleiman*  
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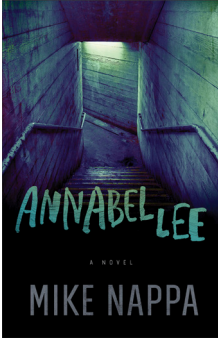


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## START READING NOW!

### *Annabel Lee* by Mike Nappa

*Published with Permission by Revell  
a Division of Baker Publishing*

#### **Date Unknown**

Uncle Truck keeps a German shepherd on his farm that'll eat human fingers if you feed 'em to it just right.

I know this because I have seen that dog. And I have seen them fingers.

Truck keeps the dog—house and all—in a chain link cage out behind the big red barn on the property, just down from the winding, dirt-road driveway. The cage ain't very big, but it's long and narrow like a practice track, and it gives the dog a place to run. Except when the dog gets to the end. Then it has to almost stop and put its paws up on the corner of the fence so's it can turn around quickly inside that small space.

Sometimes I think that dog is crazy, runnin' up and down that grass-patched cage. Runnin' like no one is looking. Like it's got to run or else, well, or else it'll go crazy. It ain't the barking kind of dog, though.

I mean, *isn't*. Isn't the barking kind of dog.

I am an educated girl. I don't use words like *ain't*, not no more. Not anymore.

I'm not school-educated, no. Uncle Truck says that's a waste of time and taxpayer dollars. But he also says he won't have no stupids in his house neither. That's why I got books all over this

place. Any kind of book I want, Truck'll get for me. He says that's my education and I better make the most of it. I don't mind, though. I like books. I like reading. I like that Truck makes time for me to read each and every day of the week, no matter what. I like that at least twice a week—and sometimes more—Truck pulls a language book off the shelf and drills me on German verbs or Arabic phrases or Italian fairy tales or whatever. I like knowing there's something else out there to discover beyond just the acres of this farm, outside the closed-up community of Peachtree, Alabama. And I like it when Truck says I'm real good at learning and a “supernatural” at picking up different languages.

What I don't like is that dog.

It don't bark at me, not ever. But it growls. I can almost feel the rumbling in its throat before I hear it with my ears. Whenever the dog sees me, the growling starts. Sometimes Truck'll tell it to shut-up-mutt and swat it across the nose. But most times Uncle Truck don't even hear it. Most times it's just the dog and me, even when Truck or one of his farmhands is there.

The dog looks me dead in the eye. Never wags its tail. Never moves off its haunches. Just looks at me and growls, low, deep, and regular. It reminds me of some story out of a fairy tale, except the magic here is real, and bad. Like that dog was once an evil warlock vanquished by a handsome prince, and as his punishment, he was transformed forever into a dog that eats fingers and lives in a cage. Something like that.

I make my hands into fists whenever I have to be near that dog.

I asked Truck once why he fed fingers to the dog. He looked at first like he was gonna laugh. Then he got a serious layer onto his face.

“Just testing the limits,” he said. “Nothing for you to concern yourself with, Annie-girl.”

“But where'd the fingers come from?” I wanted to know.

Uncle Truck didn't answer.

Kenny, one of Truck's oldest hands on the farm, told me later that the fingers came from a medical research facility in Tuscaloosa, that they was from cadavers dedicated to science and that one of Truck's old army buddies got 'em while he was working out there as a lab

assistant after the second Iraq war. Kenny said Uncle Truck knows people all over Alabama, all over the world. And because of that, Truck can't talk about everything he does or everyone he knows to a little girl with a big imagination. But Kenny said he only knew Truck and Peachtree, AL, so he could talk to whoever he wanted whenever he wanted, and that included me.

I like Kenny. But I worry about him sometimes. Even I know it ain't—*isn't*—good to let your mouth run off too much. Truck says that's what killed my parents. I think he may be right.

Peachtree ain't but a fourteen-mile drive from our acreage on the edges of the Conecuh National Forest, so that's where we go to get most of our supplies and to find out the gossip of the world. I saw a man once, down at Kelly Supply store in Peachtree, who had two fingers missing from his left hand. His pinky and his ring finger both was gone down to the nub. Truck was over in the leather section looking at a saddle, so I took a chance.

"What happened to your fingers, mister?" I asked the man.

He looked down, grinning. "Well, aren't you a cutie," he said.

I find grown-ups like that annoying.

I got long brown hair, just enough curl to make it nice, I guess. I got green eyes and a lean, horse-riding frame that older women tell me is gonna turn into a "man-kill" someday, whatever that means. I wear boots most days and a dress on Sundays. But I didn't ask this man to judge whether or not I was cute. I asked about his messed-up hand. Seems disrespectful not to answer a person's question when it's asked straight on at you, so I tried again, pointing at his nubs for emphasis.

"What happened to your fingers?"

This time he raised his hand and looked at it like it was the first time he'd seen he was missing something there.

"Lost 'em when I was about your age," he said. "Stuck 'em under a lawnmower by accident."

"Did you feed 'em to a dog after?"

He cocked his head like he wanted to tell a secret but wasn't sure if I knew it already. I decided not to make him spill something private, so I changed the subject.

“How you gonna get married without having a finger to hold the ring?”

He laughed at the question. “I guess that’s a problem,” he said, patting his belly, “but first I gotta find me a woman who don’t mind that her man eats too much and exercises too little.”

I seen Uncle Truck comin’ over then. I figured it was time to wrap up.

“Bye, mister,” I said. “Good luck finding your woman.”

“Thanks,” he said. Then he followed my gaze and saw Truck was headed our way. His whole manner changed. His eyes darted all over, looking for exits, and his back stiffened like he wanted to run. He didn’t wait around. He turned and walked the opposite direction, around a display of feed grain and then out the door of Kelly Supply. A minute later Truck was standing next to me, looking after the eight-fingered man.

“Who was that?” he said to me.

I shrugged. “Just some man.”

“What did he say to you?”

“Nothing,” I lied. But I was thinking about Truck’s dog.

“Good,” Uncle Truck said to me. “Come on, I need to get some rope before we go.”

Unlike that eight-fingered man, most people in Peachtree greet Uncle Truck like he’s their best friend. Wherever he goes, they call out his name, clap him on the back, and tell stories about off-the-wall adventures. But when Truck ain’t looking, I see them sometimes show a little something they don’t want him to see. They get this wary gleam in their eyes and fidget around a bit like they’s in a spotlight and can’t wait to get out of it again.

Afraid.

Makes sense to me.

Truck gets good deals on stuff wherever he goes. The man at Kelly Supply lets him keep a runnin’ tab for things he buys at the store. It’s listed under the name of Leonard Truckson. He runs up credit in the winter and then pays it off in the fall, after harvest. At least that’s what they tell me. I ain’t never seen Truck—or Leonard Truckson—pay for anything at that store.

Anybody who calls Uncle Truck “Leonard” or “Lenny” or even “Mr. Truckson” is from out of town. Everybody here knows that he’s Truck, period. That’s the way it’s always been, and I guess the way it always will be.

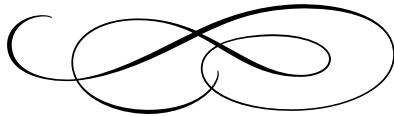
Funny how he’s so peculiar about his name, but that dog ain’t got no name at all.

That dog ...

Uncle Truck keeps a dog that eats human fingers out behind his barn.

I’m afraid of that mean old dog.

But sometimes, if I’m honest, Uncle Truck’s the one who really scares me.





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