

GO!

SPECIAL: START READING NOW!!

Excerpt from The Undoing of Saint Silvanus by Beth Moore in this issue!

ONE MAN'S EPIC STRUGGLE WITH THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

IT SEEMED HARMLESS ENOUGH AT THE TIME. IN RETROSPECT. IT LOOKS DIFFERENT NOW.

BACK THEN I HADN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA THAT THERE COULD BE HELL TO PAY FOR THINGS DONE, OR UNDONE. I WAS BLIND TO THE FACT THAT I HAD ALREADY OPENED A DOOR TO A SPIRITUAL REALM THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...BUT I DO NOW...

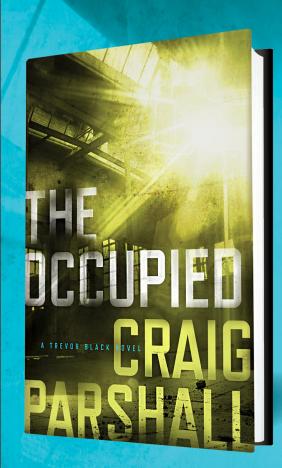
"The Occupied is a spiritual thriller that resurrects the lone-wolf hero and gives him a mission from God. Half modern crime drama, half Christian superhero origin story, Trevor Black's tale forces him to come to grips with his place in a holy war."

FOREWORD MAGAZINE



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CRAIG PARSHALL is a New York Times and CBA bestselling fiction writer and columnist who has authored or coauthored eleven suspense novels. He is also a Washington, DC, insider and consultant who serves as special counsel to the American Center for Law and Justice.

VISIT CRAIG AT CRAIGPARSHALLAUTHOR.COM

FEATURES

SEPTEMBER 2016





Mystery and Drama in New Orleans Bible Teacher **BETH MOORE** on Her Debut Novel



FALL INTO GREAT FICTION We look at the latest releases.

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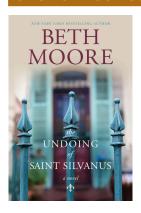
DEPARTMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

START READING NOW!!

Excerpt from *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus* by Beth Moore in this issue!

CLICK ON BOOK COVER TO GO



ONE QUESTION: What author has inspired you the most as a writer and how have they impacted you?



FALL ROMANCES

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Cindy Woodsmall *Plus New Releases*

HISTORICAL



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CONTEMPORARY



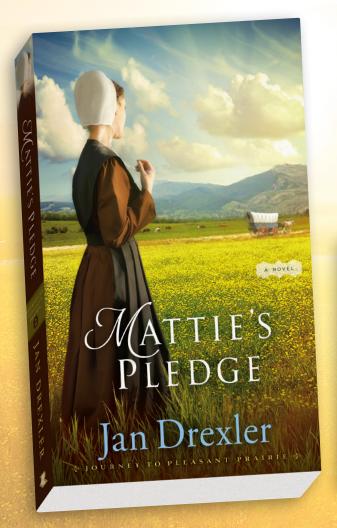
Lauraine Snelling
Plus New Releases

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402 BNA Drive, Ste 400, Nashville, TN 37217-2509

A Tender, Poignant, and Heartwarming Glimpse into the Amish Migration West from Pennsylvania





SINCE MATTIE LAST SAW JACOB, they've both grown into different people with different dreams. Jacob yearns to settle down, but Mattie can't help but dream of what may lie over the western horizon. When a handsome Englisher tempts her to leave the Amish behind to search for adventure in the West, will her pledge to Jacob be the anchor that holds her secure?



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WHO WE ARE

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

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

www.cjdarlington.com

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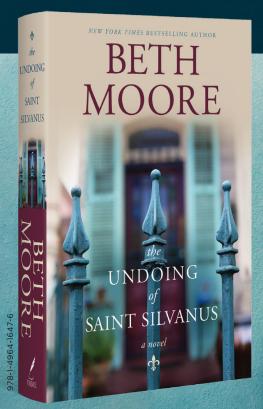
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Mystery and Drama IN DEW ORLEANS

Deidra Romero





BETH MOORE'S FICTION DEBUT

The popular speaker, author and Bible teacher embarks on a new journey

As of this month, "novelist" can be added to Beth Moore's impressive resume as a prominent evangelical teacher and author, including *New York Times* bestseller status. Known for her public speaking travels and heart for women's ministry, she makes her home in Houston, Texas, where she leads Living Proof Ministries and an adult Sunday school class. Her new contemporary novel with publisher Tyndale House, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*, is her first endeavor in the realm of fiction.

eth's lifelong fascination with story and narrative comes to life in the lives of her characters, who find themselves tangled in drama and mystery against the backdrop of a church-turned-apartment in the bustling city of New Orleans. Beth says of her setting: "New Orleans is second in my heart only to Houston. I'm not sure I can explain exactly why. I've had a complex relationship with it. But that's just it. I'm somehow rarely drawn to simple relationships."

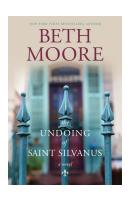
When Iillian Slater returns to her hometown as a result of her father's death, her expectations of a reunion with her grandmother are far from accurate. While the invitation was extended from Adella Atwater, her grandmother's apartment manager, she was not forthcoming with all of the facts. Jillian's estrangement might have come to an end, but her disgruntlement with the circumstances around her return only amplify her dissatisfaction. Amidst an investigation of the events surrounding her father's death and mounting personal danger, these characters must endure the unraveling only God can orchestrate in the seeming chaos.

Writing has always been an outlet of expression for Beth. "Through the years of writing Bible study curriculum and nonfiction trade books, I've been drawn like a magnet to the stories of the men and women in Scripture that seemed particularly complex. David and

I HOPE AND PRAY SOMEONE IS SERVED AND HELPED BY THE STORY WOVEN THROUGH THE CHAPTERS OF THIS NOVEL."

Absalom, for instance. Miriam and Moses. I love narrative. I love imagining what these lives of faith were like away from the page and how these men and women in the sacred pages interacted with those in their sphere of influence. Sometimes those imaginations would turn into creative writings." With this clear interest in relationship dynamics, this story seems a natural progression and investment of her time.

Beth's imaginings grew into the seed of a story in her heart. She is hopeful this novel will reach others with a message of Christ's power over sin and mistakes. She addresses themes of compromise and self-worth within this story, citing Jesus as the true definer of



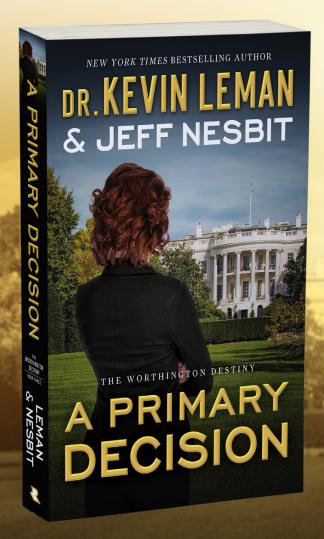
THE UNDOING OF SAINT SILVANUS Beth Moore Tyndale House Publishers

worth and identity. "Women develop an inordinate measure of their identity from how men respond to them. You'll see some of the effects of that in the novel ... I'm pro-relationship and still believe in romance, but how on earth do we know what we have to offer any relationship when we do not even know who we are?" With this novel, Beth hopes this message of worth transcends her typical audience. "I'm praying for someone to pick it up who could never picture herself as the type Jesus would seek out."

Beth found the writing process enjoyable and was pleased with her family's encouraging support. Her daughter, Melissa, was her first reader. While Beth says there are no plans for another fiction book in the works, she also candidly offers there were no plans for this one. either. Regarding her goals, she says "I want my life to bear fruit in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. If my shot at this genre bears very little fruit in the lives of readers. I'll know my job is to stick entirely with nonfiction ... but I so hope and pray someone is also served and helped by the story woven through the chapters of this novel." FF

The road to power and position is fraught with peril, even for a Worthington.

BUT SARAH DOES NOT INTEND TO LOSE.



Sarah Worthington never expected to become the US attorney general—at least not this early in her career. Plunged into the vicious vetting process, with all sides digging for secrets in her family closet, she steels herself for the path forward. Nothing will deter her from making her mark on the world in the biggest way possible—even if that means prosecuting the current president of the United States.

START READING

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Great fiction is ahead! Get ready for these exciting new releases!

There's a lot of great fiction to look forward to in the coming months and we've got the biggest releases right here.

For the Littles

Lisa T. Bergren is expanding her bestselling children's series with a seasonal release: *God Gave Us Thankful Hearts!* Parents and children love this series about adorable animals and their families. Bergren has used the series to teach many concepts over the years and now she's tackling the topic of gratitude.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lisa-t-bergren/books/god-gave-us-thankful-hearts

GOD GAVE US THANKFUL HEARTS Lisa T. Bergren WaterBrook Press

God Gave US

Fhankful

-learts

For Holiday Reading
Over the years fans have become a part of the Baxter

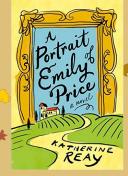
Over the years fans have become a part of the Baxter family. And just when Karen Kingsbury thought she was done telling their story, they have resurfaced in the fiction scene once again. Also, this family will be making their way to your small screen very soon! Get all the details about the family you love so much!

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/karen-kingsbury/books/a-baxter-family-christmas



A BAXTER FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Karen Kingsbury Howard Books



A PORTRAIT OF EMILY PRICE

Katherine Reay Thomas Nelson

For the Romantics

Katherine Reay is adding a fourth book to her body of work. Reay is known from previous works for incorporating literary elements from Jane Austen and her contemporaries. *A Portrait of Emily Price* is no different. This award-winning author continues her streak of fan-favorite books!

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/katherine-reay/books/a-portrait-of-emily-price

For the Adventure Seekers Since Susan May Warren wrapped up her Christensen

Since Susan May Warren wrapped up her Christensen family series, she is beginning a new and different journey for readers. She is traveling to Montana to follow the stories of rescuers who spend their lives searching for missing individuals. It's adventure and romance and it's coming this October!

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-may-warren/books/wild-montana-skies-montana-rescue-1



WILD MONTANA SKIES

MONTANA RESCUE #1 Susan May Warren Revell



WAVES OF MERCY Lynn Austin Bethany House

For the History Buffs
Lynn Austin is flipping the script on the usual historical

Lynn Austin is flipping the script on the usual historical novel with a split narrative. One of her main characters, who emigrated from the Netherlands to the Michigan wilderness in the mid-1800s, is attempting to write a memoir of her experiences. Lynn's other protagonist is Anna, who has just ended her engagement to a wealthy banker. Readers are invited on this journey of reflection and self-discovery through the journeys of these two women. Their lives are connected in ways they can't imagine and big revelations await them.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lynn-austin/books/waves-of-mercy

What author has inspired you the most as a writer and how have they impacted you?





MAGGIE BRENDAN: Not many writers can say the author who most inspired them and impacted them was their brother. But I can. I wrote stories as a child but years later, my brother, **Jess McCreede**, inspired me to complete my manuscript, a historical set in Colorado because he said he was impressed with my writing style. Jess had published numerous westerns with Pinnacle and a hardcover with Affliated Writers of America, so I took him at his word. He

pointed out that I needed to work on POV and gave me an exercise to do with a highlighter, using a chapter of my story to mark every POV change until I understood the concept. At his advice I purchased *Techniques of the Selling Writer* by Dwight V. Swain. The book taught me scene and sequel as well. I doubt I would have continued writing without his encouragement as mentor, advisor and reader. Jess suddenly passed away in 2004 and I dedicated my first book to him, *No Place for a Lady*.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/maggie-brendan

ELIZABETH LUDWIG: I'll never forget the first time I opened a book by **Francine Rivers**. It was *The Last Sin Eater*, and it changed the way I looked at Christian fiction. Before that point, I had been completely engrossed with writing a good book—one that was technically perfect and told a good story. If I could also weave in the gospel, so much the better. After reading Francine's book, I realized that I needed to write the gospel and weave in a good story. It has made all the difference.



http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/elizabeth-ludwig

What author has inspired you the most as a writer and how have they impacted you?



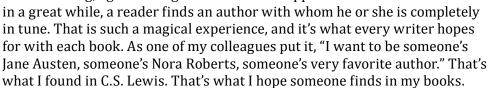


LISA HARRIS: The first name that came to mind was **Lena Nelson Dooley.** Many years ago, when I lived in Dallas, I began attending a crit group with a couple friends. I remember the first time I went to Lena's home. I was so nervous to share what I had written. While there were many words of encouragement spoken, I was told exactly what I needed to hear. The characters were flat, and I needed to go home and totally rewrite the chapter. And I

did. I kept learning and writing, and growing as an author. Lena became my mentor and encourager, along with the other women in that group at the time. I'll always be grateful for those weekly meetings and what they taught me as a newbie writer!

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lisa-harris

MARTA PERRY: Some years ago, when my children were small, we began reading the Narnia books together. The children loved the stories, of course, but I was absolutely blown away. **C.S. Lewis** created an entire world with his words, and he delivered a message of faith without ever saying a word about religion. From the Narnia books, I went on to the science fiction trilogy. Then I began reading the rest of his books, starting with Mere Christianity, and now I'm re-reading, again and again. I'm never disappointed. Once



http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/marta-perry

What author has inspired you the most as a writer and how have they impacted you?





DIANN MILLS: Jerry B. Jenkins has taught me more about writing than any profession in the industry. His dynamic instruction, professional conferences, courses for every level of writer, and continued encouragement have challenged me to daily sharpen my tools of the craft while passing on what I've learned to serious writers. Jerry is my writing hero!

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/diann-mills

KIM VOGEL SAWYER: I am a lifelong reader, and many authors have spoken to my heart or inspired me in a variety of ways, but one in particular deeply impacted me. Her name is **Janette Oke**. When I read the final pages of *Love Comes Softly* as an impressionable 18-year-old with a dream of writing someday, a desire grew in the center of my being to write that kind of story—the kind with characters that linger in the reader's heart after the tale is finished, the kind that



paints a pathway to a deeper relationship with God, the kind that does more than entertain but also edifies. A few years ago I had the privilege of hearing Mrs. Oke speak, and she referred to her characters as paper missionaries, able to go places she couldn't, carrying the message of Christ's love. Those words inspired me anew to always stay in touch with the One who planted my desire to write and to share HIM through the pages of my novels.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kim-vogel-sawyer



CATHY GOHLKE: Lucy Maud Montgomery and **Jan Karon** have long inspired me for their rich characterization and natural dialogue. I expect to meet Gilbert and Anne one evening as they stroll 'round the pond, or bump into Father Tim and Uncle Billy some morning on the post office steps. I'd know them anywhere. Both writers have set this plumb line for my writing: Are my characters rich and real and interesting? Do they seem like someone I might meet, and if I

did, would I know them the moment they spoke? Will readers feel the same?

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/cathy-gohlke

"As a pastor from Puerto Rico serving here in Texas, it's very important to find the right kind of healthcare for my family. We had been with an insurance plan and the prices were elevating. So a year and a half ago we started with Medi-Share.

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Medi-Share is biblical. I compare it with the book of Acts, where the Christians were sharing each other's needs. It feels wonderful when you know that you're

putting your money in something where you're helping others.

The best part of Medi-Share is that they're caring. When you call them, they always offer to pray for you. Yaditza had some surgery, and a few weeks later she received a note saying how they were praying for her.

That's what we love.

Medi-Share has been a very big blessing for our family. Thank God for Medi-Share!"

—Ariel and Yaditza



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What author has inspired you the most as a writer and how have they impacted you?





JAMES L. RUBART: Dead: **C.S. Lewis.** Took me to worlds when I was 11 I didn't know books could take me to. The Chronicles of Narnia made me want to try doing for others what Lewis did for me. Living: **Ted Dekker**. Huge inspiration, allowed me to dream I could someday do what he was doing. Showed me the kind of stories I wanted to write were possible and that there was an audience for them.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/james-I-rubart

TRACIE PETERSON: Surprisingly enough, **Tom Clancy** has had a huge impact on my writing. I loved reading his books for the sheer wonder of him having several plots going on at the same time with each seeming equally important, only to find at the end that they all intersected into one over-arching plot. Now granted, most great novels have sub-plots that move throughout the main plot, but the way Clancy does it makes it seem like each plot is the main plot and yet all the



time, he's weaving them into a story that is so much more than one plot. I wanted to learn to do that as well, and so I just kept re-reading his books to teach myself how to do that.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tracie-peterson



SARAH SUNDIN: Many authors have influenced me, but **Lauraine Snelling** has had a profound impact. First, she is a gifted writer with a warm style, realistic characters, and a respect for history. Second, she's an excellent teacher who showed me how to develop plot and character, even how to organize materials. Third, she has impressed me over the years with her generosity and care—for her fellow authors, for needy newbies (like I was!), and most of all for her

readers. She is as warm, funny and genuine in person as she is in her stories. I'm blessed to know her.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/sarah-sundin



army of mechanical men!

Once a beautiful land, Aethasia is now covered by a sickly pervasive fog that corrupts everything it touches. But all is not lost. Rumors are spreading of a fledgling Resistance, who have the courage and audacity to try and restore Aethasia to its former glory, and to reinstate the The Great Engineer back to the throne of Aethasia.

And that Resistance needs you!







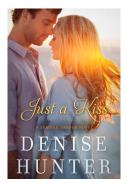
My Hope Next Door by Tammy L. Gray

Tammy L. Gray's latest contemporary romance delves deeply into the pain of living with past mistakes and the long-lasting impact of a ruined reputation. Forgiveness is a pipe dream for Katie, yet she is drawn to Asher Powell, the pastor's son who sees beyond her tainted past to the woman of faith she has become. *My Hope Next Door* (Waterfall) is redemptive, romantic and real.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tammy-l-gray/books/my-hope-next-door



MY HOPE NEXT DOOR Tammy L. Gray Waterfall



JUST A KISS SUMMER HARBOR #3 Denise Hunter Thomas Nelson

Just a Kiss by Denise Hunter

Contemporary romance is Denise Hunter's playground. *Just a Kiss* (Thomas Nelson) returns readers to Summer Harbor and the Callahan family. Riley Callahan has returned from Afghanistan, with a broken body and a heart full of pain. Beau Callahan held Paige's heart for a time but their relationship is over. With her best friend back in town, wounded and lonely, Paige finds herself falling for another Callahan brother.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/denise-hunter/books/just-a-kiss-sumbarbor-3



WHEN LOVE ARRIVES

MISTY WILLOW #2 *Johnnie Alexander* Revell

When Love Arrives by Johnnie Alexander

With a plan to discredit the man who blames her mother for the plane crash that killed his parents, Dani Prescott finds herself assuming another name and landing a date with the handsome Brett. As Brett and Dani try to discover what the other is hiding, their mutual attraction grows and when their secrets are revealed, who will pay the price of their deception? Discover When Love Arrives (Revell).

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/johnnie-alexander/books/when-love-arrives-misty-willow-2

Where Two Hearts Meet by Liz Johnson

Liz Johnson returns readers to the Red Door Inn on Prince Edward Island with *Where Two Hearts Meet* (Revell). Journalist Adam Jacobs is on assignment to bring home a story when he finds himself captivated by Red Door Inn's executive chef, Caden Holt. Caden believes Adam can save their troubled inn, until she discovers his story may ruin the future of the inn and her heart.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/liz-johnson/books/where-two-hearts-meet







CAN'T HELP FALLING Kara Isaac

Kara Isaac Howard Books

Can't Help Falling by Kara Isaac

Kara Isaac's second novel, Can't Help Falling (Howard), invites readers to return to their love of Narnia with Emelia and Peter, an unlikely couple who bond over their mutual devotion to Aslan and the world behind the wardrobe. Emelia is fleeing from her own tabloid story which resulted in tragedy, while Peter is determined to revive his Olympic rowing dream, no matter what the cost. With humor and heart, this story will captivate those who long for a second chance.

http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kara-isaac/books/cant-help-falling

AMISH

CINDY WOODSMALL

We've all heard the "switched at birth" plotline, but I guarantee you have never heard it like this before! In her latest release, *Fraying at the Edge* (WaterBrook Press), best-selling author Cindy Woodsmall adds a twist to this old plotline by asking, "What if one girl was Amish and one was English?" Ariana Brenneman is ripped from her Old Order Amish family and community upon the discovery that she was switched at birth. Skylar Nash is addicted to prescription drugs when she is shipped off to reconnect with her birth family in the Amish community of Summer Grove. How will the girls cope with their new surroundings when everything in their lives seems to be falling apart?

This plot is pretty amazing! How did you come up with it?

Thank you! It's exciting to know you feel that way. Book one in the series, *Ties That Bind,* recently won the Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, so I was really excited to know that this storyline resonated with others like it has with me.

About 16 years ago, I became friends with an English (non-Amish) woman who had spent two decades working in an Amish birthing clinic. She shared many heartwarming and heartrending events that took place at the birthing center, and I asked her, "Could an English woman come to an Amish birthing center to have her baby?"

She explained that U.S. laws don't allow any health facility to refuse a person based on faith, race or color, and she had tended to a few English women during her 20 years of assisting with births. When she

shared the simplicity of how things work in a birthing center, which is often a home-turned-clinic, this story idea took root. I peppered her with questions about the moms who gave birth and the babies they delivered and especially the methods used to ensure each newborn goes home with her or his birth mom. This story is the result of things I learned that day.

What was it like to get inside the heads of both of these girls, one an addict and one an Amish girl?

I molded Ariana after a young Amish woman I met once and have heard stories about for years, so it was fairly easy to get inside her head. Skylar was a harder character to work with. She's both spoiled and wounded by her childhood. In order to do her justice, I needed to find and work closely with a real person about her age who had experience with

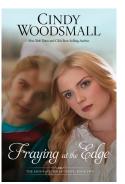
drugs in a similar manner to Skylar. But I also needed to find someone else who understood drama and music and then another person who understood the heart of an atheist, because Ariana's English dad, the man whom she must spend time with, despises the Christian faith.

Can you tell us about the Amish community where this novel is set?

A district for the Amish is usually made up of 20 to 40 families, and this community surrounds a historic old town, which is an integral part of the story. I give towns fictional names so that when any part of any story sounds familiar to the Amish community, I haven't named their actual town. I've named the town in this story Summer Grove.

Are there any unique or interesting themes in this book?

One of the interesting themes surrounds a question that both girls have to wrestle with: If a culture you're prejudiced against turns out to be your tribe, how do you come to



FRAYING AT THE EDGE THE AMISH OF SUMMER GROVE Cindy Woodsmall WaterBrook Press

terms with your new identity? And how do you change your mind and heart about that culture as a whole?

How is this book different from your previous projects?

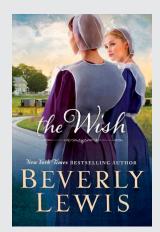
I've never dealt with the challenges and complexities of two people— one Amish, one English—not being who they've spent their lives thinking they are. Each one is forced to live the other one's life for a season with no physical connection to the family they were raised with. Can a sweet Amish girl survive living with a very vocal atheist? Can a spoiled drug addict see the value of a people she detests?

The girls' journeys have complications I hadn't anticipated, but each layer brings clarity concerning the value of life, love and family.

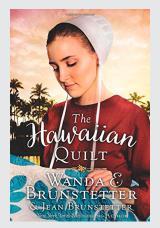
This is the second book in the Summer Grove series. What's in store?

Coming next is the third and final book in the series. Its working title is *Piecing the Threads*. Two young women find their place, not only in their chosen world, but within their own hearts. After all, if we can find a safe haven in our own hearts, we can be at peace wherever life takes us.

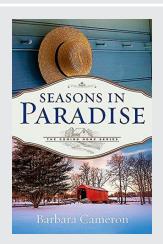
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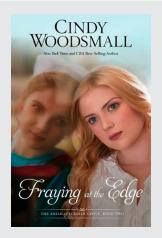
THE WISHBeverly Lewis
Bethany House



THE HAWAIIAN QUILTWanda Brunstetter & Jean Brunstetter
Shiloh Run Press



SEASONS IN PARADISECOMING HOME #2
Barbara Cameron
Abingdon Press



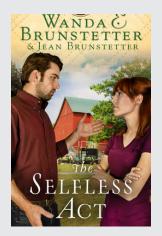
FRAYING AT THE EDGE
THE AMISH OF SUMMER GROVE #2
Cindy Woodsmall
Waterbrook Press

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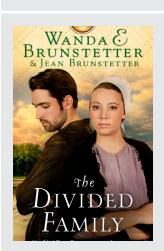
AN AMISH HARVEST: FOUR NOVELLAS

Various Thomas Nelson



THE SELFLESS ACT

THE AMISH MILLIONAIRE #6
Wanda Brunstetter & Jean Brunstetter
Shiloh Run Press



THE DIVIDED FAMILY

THE AMISH MILLIONAIRE #5
Wanda Brunstetter & Jean Brunstetter
Shiloh Run Press



THE ALLIANCE

Jolina Petersheim Tyndale House

MORE NEW RELEASES ONLINE: http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/amish/books

HISTORICAL

MICHELLE GRIEP

Eleanor Morgan arrives in America hoping for a fresh start. But when the family employing her never arrives to collect her from the dock, she is left with few choices—the best of which is to marry a man she barely knows. Michelle Griep's novel *The Captive Heart* (Shiloh Run Press) will take readers on a journey through backcountry South Carolina with a marriage-of-convenience plot. She answered our top questions about this exciting novel!



Can you tell us about the inspiration behind this plot?

Currently our freedoms are being chipped away, piece by piece, to the point that makes me wonder where will it all end? So I imagined what it might be like to have my freedom taken away completely ... and so was born *The Captive Heart*. I crafted the heroine to experience the loss of everything, then took her on a journey to learn to cope with that loss.

What makes this setting unique?

Backcountry South Carolina is no more. Oh, don't get me wrong. There are still rolling hills with drop-jaw gorgeous scenery, but the wildness, the unpredictability is buried in history. Did you know buffalo used to roam in that southern region? Neither did I, until I did some digging. I tried to give the reader a snapshot of the area as it was in the eighteenth century, because it's completely different than what it is today.

Is this a stand-alone novel or part of a series?

Stand-alone ... though I wouldn't mind writing a sequel some day featuring a few of the secondary characters as heroines.

What sort of research did you conduct in order to write this novel?

Lots of reading. My preferred haunt is the fiction realm, but to write this story and stay true to the area, I had to read lots of sometimes dry historical non-fiction. Let's just say I drank lots of coffee. On the flip side, though, I had a blast touring the area and hiking the same trails that my hero and heroine would've roamed.

I also couldn't have done this without the aid of my rural writing buddies. As a city girl, I don't know which end is up on a horse. Okay, so I suppose I could've figured that out, but sheesh! There's a lot to the handling and care of a horse that I didn't know about.

I CRAFTED THE HEROINE TO EXPERIENCE THE LOSS OF EVERYTHING, THEN TOOK HER ON A JOURNEY TO LEARN TO COPE WITH THAT LOSS."

Can you tell us about your path to publication?

I've been writing since I first discovered Crayolas and blank wall space, but I set it aside for years while raising a family. Kids are time magnets. But as they grew, so did my time. I started out running away one night a week to write. Eventually weekends worked and now my schedule is pretty flexible.

I also started out writing smaller pieces. My first publication was a poem. Then I moved on to articles, devotionals, short stories, until voila ... a full-fledged novel.

It's true that slow and steady wins the race.



THE CAPTIVE HEART *Michelle Griep*Shiloh Run Press

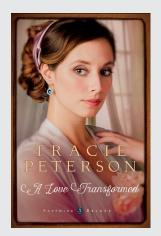
What project are you working on now?

So many that I'm kind of schizophrenic with trying to separate myself from all the characters clamoring in my head. My biggest project, though, is a holiday series that will release one book for the next 3 years. Once Upon a Dicken's Christmas is a Victorian collection of heart-warming yet suspenseful Christmas stories. The first story, 12 Days at Bleakly Manor, carries the same theme of freedom but as experienced by the hero's point of view. Here's a blurb:

Imprisoned unjustly, Benjamin Lane wants nothing more than freedom and a second chance to claim the woman he loves—but how can Clara Chapman possibly believe in the man who stole her family's fortune and abandoned her at the altar?

READ MORE ONLINE!: http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/michelle-griep/books/the-captive-heart/

CLICK ON A BOOK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION



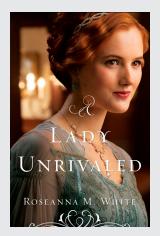
A LOVE TRANSFORMEDSAPPHIRE BRIDES *Tracie Peterson*Bethany House



THIS ROAD WE TRAVELED *Jane Kirkpatrick*Revell



LOVE'S FAITHFUL PROMISE COURAGE TO DREAM Susan Anne Mason Bethany House

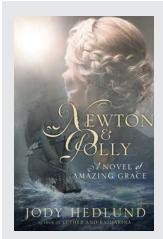


A LADY UNRIVALED LADIES OF THE MANOR Roseanna M. White Bethany House

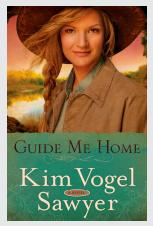
HISTORICAL

NEW RELEASES

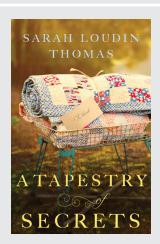
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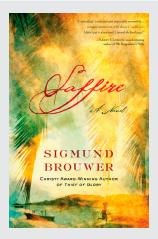
NEWTON & POLLY: A NOVEL OF AMAZING GRACE Jody Hedlund WaterBrook



GUIDE ME HOMEKim Vogel Sawyer
WaterBrook Press



A TAPESTRY OF SECRETS APPALACHIAN BLESSINGS #3 Sarah Loudin Thomas Bethany House



SAFFIRESigmund Brouwer
WaterBrook Press

ROMANCE

AMY MATAYO

Amy Matayo's book *The Thirteenth Chance* (WaterFall Press) appeals to romance readers as well as baseball fans. She incorporates the sport as an integral part of the plot; one of her main characters, Will Vandergriff, is a player with a reputation on the rocks. In order to impress the higher-ups, Will invites his goody-two-shoes neighbor Olivia to one of his games. However, Olivia makes more



than a good impression. She quickly becomes Will's good luck charm as his career takes a turn for the better. But what if their pretend romance proves to be something more? How will they handle the reality of what they've created and the true feelings that exist?

Where did the inspiration for this plot come from?

When I signed my first three-book contract a few years ago, book three was supposed to be a reality-show book based on a baseball competition. I had the plot outlined and ready to go when the three-book deal turned into just two books. When I had the opportunity to sign on with my current publisher—Amazon's Waterfall Press—I revamped the plot (getting rid of the reality show theme), presented it to them, and they signed me on the idea. It's nice to finally see this book come to life, and I'm excited about it.

Your protagonist in this book is a pro baseball player. Did you have to research baseball or have you been a long-standing fan?

I did have to research, and I've been a fan for several years. But my number one source of information was my neighbor, who played for the Mets and Tigers, and now manages in the Royals organization. He answered my countless questions, then corrected my mistakes when I still got most of the details wrong, and then wound up reading and editing the whole book for me. Mistakes were everywhere; I'm surprised he's still speaking to me. I did name him in the book, and I slipped several of his personal memories inside the story, so maybe that earned me bonus points? *fingers crossed*

If you are a fan, who is your team? And what made you want to incorporate this into the story?

My family loves the Cubs, and we have a local AA team (Royals) and try to make it to several games each season. I incorporated baseball into the plot because I thought the neighbor thing would make it easy. I was naïve and stupid back then. As



far as details go, this book was the hardest to get right.

How many novels have you written to date and how has your writing process changed over the years?

This is my seventh published novel, my eleventh to write. My writing process has been affected most by social media. I used to just sit down and write for 5–6 hours a day. Now I sit down and post to social media and answer emails for a couple of hours first, then write for the remaining 3–4, then come back to writing late at night. That isn't a complaint, just a change in the way things are now vs. the way they used to be. My word count goal is 1500 every day. It used to be higher, but this is more realistic.



THE THIRTEENTH CHANCE Amy Matayo Waterfall Press

As a mom of four kids, what's your secret to finding time to write and be creative?

SEND THE KIDS TO SCHOOL. That's pretty much it. During school hours I'm most able to get things done—unless I get distracted by laundry, making more coffee, mindless social media, cleaning my closets, organizing my sock drawer...the list is long. Summer is a bust for writing overall, but the school hours...they generally work out okay.

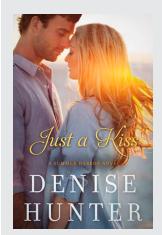
What's on the horizon for you professionally and personally?

Personally, my oldest child is moving away to attend music school in Atlanta soon, so that's an adjustment. My second child starts her senior year of high school this year, so another adjustment is on the horizon. And professionally I'll have another book out next summer, and there are other projects in the works. There is a lot of waiting in this business, but hopefully I'll have some things to announce soon.

ROMANCE

NEW RELEASES

CLICK ON A BOOK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION



JUST A KISS SUMMER HARBOR #3 Denise Hunter Thomas Nelson



MY HOPE NEXT DOOR Tammy L. Gray Waterfall



WITHOUT WARNING ELITE GUARDIANS #2 Lynette Eason Revell

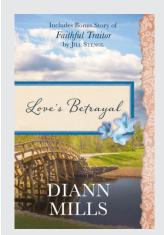


DEADLY ENCOUNTERSFBI TASK FORCE #1 *DiAnn Mills*Tyndale House

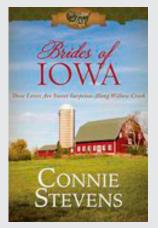
ROMANCE

NEW RELEASES

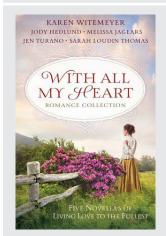
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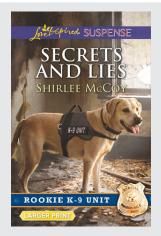
LOVE'S BETRAYAL *DiAnn Mills & Jill Stengl*Barbour Books



BRIDES OF IOWA 3-IN-1 50 STATES OF LOVE *Connie Stevens* Barbour Books



WITH ALL MY HEART ROMANCE COLLECTION Various
Bethany House



SECRETS AND LIES ROOKIE K-9 UNIT Shirlee McCoy Love Inspired

CONTEMPORARY

LAURAINE SNELLING

In recent years fiction, television and film have lent their narrative voices to older individuals. Lauraine Snelling's latest book titled *The Second Half* (FaithWords) is the story of a couple on the brink of retirement, but like always, things don't go as planned. Can Mona and Ken abandon the dreams they once had for life after their careers, or is it time to make some new goals?



This book, *The Second Half*, is about retirement and the life of one couple as they are about to cross the threshold into a new life. Why did you choose to write this book, and why now?

The Second Half came about because I have seen so many older people, retirement age, who are rearing their grandchildren. The situation is pandemic and not just in the lower income population. Creating awareness about a situation or issue is one of my goals as a writer, and I do that through story. I believe that God calls us to help His hurting children, in all kinds of situations. This one is a growing concern.

There's been a recent uptick in the stories told about older individuals, not just in fiction but also in television and film. Why do you think this is?

Our population is aging. Everyone likes to read about characters and situations of their own age. People are living longer and with better health. Therefore, the various media are realizing that and catering to those people more. In this case, it is an age group that has been

largely ignored for a long time. God programmed us to learn best by story, with characters who remain in hearts and minds. I love being part of those who are privileged to help provide those stories.

Can you tell us some background about the couple who are the main characters in this novel?

Ken is about to retire from his position as Dean of Students at a private university in Madison, Wisconsin. He and his wife Mona live in nearby Stoughton, and their daughter and family live a mile or so away. Their son is in special forces, living in Texas with his two children; his wife left him and their children six months earlier. Ken and Mona are talking about their dreams for travel, time for more family things, celebrating their new life, and continuing to volunteer in their church, the community and the local Norwegian community events. Their garden is a shared delight. They will take the grandchildren on trips, fishing and camping. Ah, the dreams are good.

What were they like as newlyweds?

They married after they both earned their bachelor's degrees, and Ken went on for his master's and Ph.D. Mona worked at various jobs to help support them. They agreed she



THE SECOND HALF Lauraine Snelling **FaithWords**

would be a stay-at-home mom to rear their children. Ken had a tendency toward workaholic, she toward melancholy, so life together took a lot of work and discussions and growing.

Are any pieces of this novel pulled from real life?

All of my novels are based on real life, whether my own or those I see around me. Whether I am writing contemporary or historical, readers often mention finding themselves in my characters, which is one of the things which draws me to writing. Life is fascinating, as are people.

READ MORE ONLINE!: http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lauraine-snelling/books/the-second-half

IN OTHER NEWS

James L. Rubart wins Christy Award **Book of the Year**

The top book at the 2016 Christy Awards was *The Five* Times I Met Myself by James L. Rubart (Thomas Nelson), book in the Visionary category.

which was named both Book of the Year as well as the top The rest of the winners: Contemporary: *The Sea Keeper's Daughters*

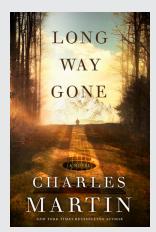
by **Lisa Wingate** (Tyndale House); Contemporary Romance/Suspense: The Wedding Chapel by Rachel Hauck (Zondervan); Contemporary Series: Crazy Little Thing Called Love by **Beth K. Vogt** (Howard Books); First Novel: Irish Meadows by Susan Anne Mason (Bethany House); Historical: Secrets She Kept by Cathy Gohlke (Tyndale House); Historical Romance: Luther and Katharina by Jody Hedlund (WaterBrook Press); Suspense: Twisted Innocence by Terri Blackstock (Zondervan); Young Adult: The Choosing by Rachelle Dekker (Tyndale House)

Winners were announced June 27 online at ChristyAwards.com.

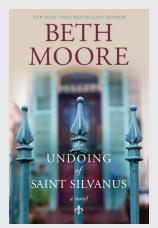
The Christy Awards honor excellence in Christian fiction.

NEW RELEASES

CLICK ON A BOOK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION



LONG WAY GONECharles Martin
Thomas Nelson



THE UNDOING OF SAINT SILVANUSBeth Moore
Tyndale House Publishers



PRICELESS: SHE'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR *Joel Smallbone and Luke Smallbone*Worthy Publishing

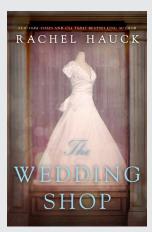


THE SECOND HALF Lauraine Snelling FaithWords

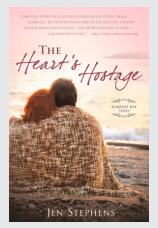
CONTEMPORARY

NEW RELEASES

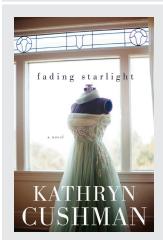
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THE WEDDING SHOPRachel Hauck
Zondervan



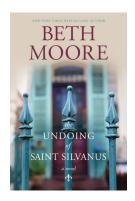
THE HEART'S HOSTAGE HARVEST BAY #3 Jen Stephens Sheaf House



FADING STARLIGHT Kathryn Cushman BETHANY HOUSE



LEAD ME HOMEAmy Sorrells
Tyndale House



START READING NOW

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The Undoing of Saint Silvanus by Beth Moore

Prologue Christmas Eve 1921

Reverend R. J. Brashear dipped the bread into the wine. He lifted his chin and stared at the stained-glass image of Jesus, the rocking boat, and the daring disciple. Then he took the bread.

Not a single ear was open when the gun went off.

Chapter 1 Present day

Sergeant Cal DaCosta glanced at the digits on his dashboard as he threw the car into park. "Sheesh. Eighty-four degrees and barely daylight. That body's going to be ripe." Several patrol cars were already at the scene, zigzagged all over the pavement. The lights were flashing but they'd saved themselves the sirens. As he shut the door and walked toward the small circle of officers, he took a few seconds to absorb how odd the ordinariness of it was. Only a handful of spectators were lurking. The few people on their way to work at this hour took the other side of the street to avoid the inconvenience. This was the nocturnal side of town, where the night was as the day. The patrol officers seemed almost as detached, chugging down weak coffee from a convenience store and eating something unidentifiable out of clear wrappers.

Sure enough, he got hit by a whiff of the body from twenty feet. "How

SPECIAL EXCERPT

do you guys do that?"

"Morning, Sarge. How do we do what?"

"How do you eat with that smell? Can't you taste it?"

One of them mumbled as he stuffed the last bite of a sticky bun into his cavernous mouth. When the man licked his fingers, Cal decided he'd pass on breakfast.

The odor radiating from the sidewalk wasn't so much the smell of death. Not yet anyway. It was the smell of filth, blown his way by a hot, humid gust that seemed to belch from the underworld. Frank Lamonte, Cal's closest friend and former partner, said what all of them were thinking. "Finally drank himself to death."

Cal imagined those five words etched beneath his own last name on a granite marker. At least half a dozen family members on his daddy's side were vying for the same epitaph. He'd considered going to a couple of meetings to try to dodge the family fate, but opening up to people wasn't exactly his strong suit. Anyway, his alcoholism wasn't in a glass. He was scared it was in his blood.

"Any chance we've got a name?"

Frank took off his hat and tried to rub out the permanent dent it had made in his forehead. "No, but I've seen him around here enough to tell you that this was his corner. He held that old cardboard sign over there and sat right here with his back against these bricks."

Cal glanced over at the sign and saw the usual scrawl with a black permanent marker. *Out of work. Hungry. God bless!* The words *need a job* had been scratched out with a blue ballpoint.

Another officer joined them, out of breath. "Hey, guys. Sorry I'm late. The light's out at Canal."

Frank nodded at him and continued. "To tell you the truth, I've seen him passed out in that alley as many times as I've seen him awake. I'm not sure how anybody could tell he was dead."

But he was dead alright. He'd probably been dead a long time. His lungs were just the last to know. He had that look a person gets when he's tried too long to make friends with the sun and enemies of his organs. Concrete made a poor cushion no matter how drunk you got. Cal squatted down beside the crumpled corpse, gave a firm grip to the right shoulder, and turned him faceup. The eyes were half-open and the teeth were almost as dark as a rotted pumpkin.

The late-arriving officer suddenly heaved and coughed until everybody still on their feet scattered like mice. Why Bully couldn't do them the

SPECIAL

FXCFRPT

courtesy of turning away when he pulled that stunt was a mystery to Cal. He said it was because he never actually vomited—he just had a weak gag reflex.

Bully was a two-hundred-and-fifty-pound anomaly. He had the sensitivity and the stomach of a nine-year-old girl. All of them had seen him cry on the job at least once. This was first on the list of top-ten reasons Billy Bob La Bauve was the most picked-on member of the NOPD. And, some would say, the favorite. For Cal, it depended on what day it was. It wasn't today. Honestly, if he started sniffling, Cal was going to send him home.

Once they recovered, Frank bent over toward Cal and the corpse. "You've seen him before, haven't you? I've threatened to haul him in a few times for harassing people for money, but these days there are so many just like him, who knows where to start? The old rules don't hold near as well this side of the levees." Frank forgot every now and then that Cal had joined the force after the hurricane. This was the only New Orleans he knew from behind a badge.

To Cal, cops didn't get much better than Frank. He'd never once caught him in a lie. He didn't have a foul mouth about women. He had a wife he apparently liked going home to. He worked with Midnight Basketball for kids at risk and was the closest thing some of them had to a father. He'd told Cal recently that he was studying up on soccer because the YMCA had asked him to coach a team. He'd never played, but no one else would volunteer. Frank actually had a life outside the force.

Cal answered Frank's question. "Yeah. I've seen him around here. How old a man do you think he is?"

Bully had pulled himself together by now. "Well, he looks a hunerd." "He's not nearly as old as he looks. He's only gray at the temples and beard." The thick mop of matted hair looked out of proportion on the body's slight frame. Only God knew what color the man's hair was naturally, but the sun had turned it some faded shade of auburn. He was wearing a pair of black sweatpants and an old plaid Western shirt with snaps on the pockets. No shoes.

"We've got everything we need here. Y'all want to let us at him or do you want to carry him to the morgue yourself?"

The officers stepped aside and watched the coroner's team lift him onto a stretcher like he was a five-pound sack of Idaho potatoes. Cal was particularly impressed that one of the heavy lifters was a woman. He knew a lot of faces on the response teams since they were destined to

SPECIAL EXCERPT

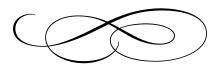
gather at the same scenes, but names were another story.

Cal's big brother, a politician from diaperhood, had tried to teach him how to make name associations at a barbecue one Sunday. It was particularly humiliating because he'd had to go around the picnic table and practice associating the names of a few of their family members with memorable images. Maybe it was his imagination, but his aunt on his dad's side had acted cold ever since the word *horse* popped out when he got around to her. It was the dentures, his mom explained later. Either they were a size too big for her or the front teeth needed filing down.

"Sarge, anything else you want done here?" Bully wanted to know.

"Yeah. You and Sanchez ask around and see if you can get a few of the others who hang here to tell you anything about him once we've cleared out. They usually network. Maybe we'll get lucky and his prints will turn up a name pretty quickly. I'll head back in and handle the paperwork."

Some days Cal would almost rather shoot off his little toe than fill out forms. At least he'd be indoors with the AC. He and the rest of them already had sweat rings halfway to their belts and it wasn't even midmorning. With all the talk about cutbacks and financial woes in the department, he was glad no one had cut back on the air-conditioning. Raw meat would keep for a solid week on his desk. AC was something to be thankful for in a triple-digit June, and lest people forget, the cantankerous unit would freeze up and shut down at least two or three times a summer. It was no mystery to Cal why crime spiked in the sweltering summer. Heat sometimes made him want to haul off and hit somebody too.





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