

January 2017

# Family Fiction

A close-up portrait of Julie Klassen, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair and bangs, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a bright blue blazer over a colorful, abstract patterned scarf. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

**JULIE  
KLASSEN**

On her new  
Regency-era series

**LOOKING  
AHEAD  
TO 2017**

**5** New Series to Kick  
Off the New Year

**GO!**

**SPECIAL: START READING NOW!!**

Excerpt from *The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill* by Julie Klassen in this issue!





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**JULIE KLASSEN**

**On her new Regency-era series**



**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017**

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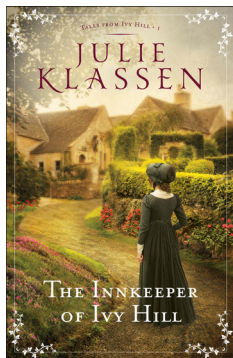
# DEPARTMENTS

DECEMBER 2016

## START READING NOW!!

Excerpt from *The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill*  
by Julie Klassen in this issue!

CLICK ON BOOK COVER TO GO



### ONE QUESTION:

You can pick one book, besides the Bible, to take with you to a getaway cabin during a snowstorm. What book would you pick and why?



5

**NEW SERIES  
TO KICK  
OFF THE  
NEW YEAR**

Check out a list of all new releases this month!

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

Watch recent book trailers here!

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## AMISH



**Suzanne Woods  
Fisher**

*Plus New Releases*

## HISTORICAL



**Tamera Alexander**

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## WHO WE ARE

### DEIDRA ROMERO



Deidra Romero is a 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.

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### C.J. DARLINGTON



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

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# FamilyFiction

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*A New Journey  
with Julie Klassen*

by Deidra Romero





## Welcome to Ivy Hill

Jane Bell never fancied herself a businesswoman. But when her husband, the owner and manager of The Bell, a coaching inn in their village of Ivy Hill, suddenly passes away, Jane must discover a new calling. Unlikely characters come to her aid as she determines a new future for herself. Julie Klassen invites readers on a new journey with a fresh series, *Tales from Ivy Hill* (Bethany House).

Three-time Christy Award winner Julie Klassen is a best-selling author of historical fiction. *The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill* is Julie's 11th novel, but oddly enough it's her first attempt to write a series. In the historical genre, series are extremely popular endeavors for authors. Julie confesses why she is pivoting from her usual stand-alone format. "I often receive emails from readers asking for sequels, or saying they don't want a book to end. Sometimes I don't either! After setting up an entire village and populating it with a cast of characters, it's hard to say good-bye after one book. I am looking forward to staying in the same village for at least three books, going deeper with the main characters, and bringing more characters to life."

*Tales from Ivy Hill* will be comprised of three novels and is set in a fictional village in England during the Regency Era. Each book of the series will delve deep into the lives of four female characters after life-altering events. Julie promises intriguing supporting characters but will continue the story of her main character throughout all three novels. Another big theme in

the series will be community and friendship.

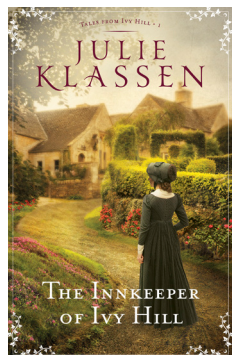
Julie is particularly excited about writing a series set in a small village. She believes it's something readers will enjoy as well. Although Ivy Hill is fictional, Julie pulled inspiration from the village of Lacock in Wiltshire, England. Julie visited Lacock several times. She isn't the only one who finds the village an ideal setting. Scenes from *Pride & Prejudice* and *Downton Abbey* have been filmed there as well.

The Bell is not just any inn in Ivy Hill; it is actually the lifeblood of the village. And particularly, it is a coaching inn. Julie explained a little about this type of inn. "In this era, stage and mail coaches were the primary means of travel, and they stopped at coaching inns along the way to change horses, let passengers take a meal, or stay the night. Coaching inns were restaurant, hotel, "train" station, travel agency, livery and repair shop, all rolled into one."

After her husband's death, the

responsibility of managing the inn falls to Jane. But Jane has no experience or knowledge in running a business. Her mother-in-law, Thora, does have the know-how to guide Jane since she was the mistress of the inn for many years. However, Thora is dealing with her own struggles. Without a purpose and wrecked with grief, Thora has become calloused and resentful over the years. As she and Jane work together to restore the inn, two men from Thora's past return to her life—each with intentions and affections for her.

As Thora begins to open her heart to the prospect of love again, the stakes are raised for the success of The Bell. Jane must innovate if she intends on paying the bank and saving the inn from ruin. The well-being of the village rests on Jane's shoulders. A mysterious newcomer also enters the picture with hidden motivations for his interest in the inn. Intrigue, romance, history and charm are all wrapped up in one Regency Era novel. RT Book Reviews notes there's "a bit of something for everyone in this first installation of Klassen's first Regency series." **FF**



**THE INNKEEPER  
OF IVY HILL**

TALES FROM IVY HILL #1

Julie Klassen

Bethany House

Readers can learn more by "visiting" the village of Ivy Hill through a website devoted to the series: [TalesFromIvyHill.com](http://www.talesfromivyhill.com), which includes a colorful village map, character list, photos, excerpts, author videos and more.

<http://www.talesfromivyhill.com>



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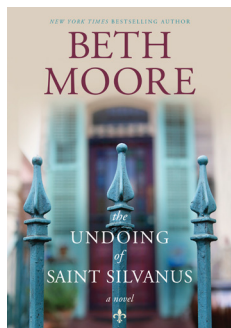
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**TO SHARE THIS GREAT OFFER WITH A FRIEND!**

# Looking ahead at 2017

## New Releases and Events in the New Year

There is a lot in store for 2017! Mark your calendar for these upcoming events and releases you won't want to miss!



Jan

Join **Beth Moore** in a LIVE simulcast event to discuss her debut novel, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*!

[More details HERE.](#)

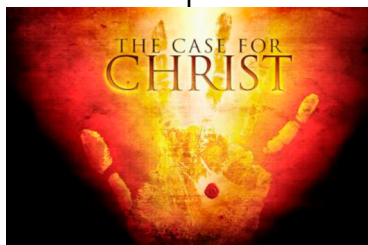
May

Fan-favorite author, **Becky Wade** is launching a new contemporary romance series titled *The Bradford Sisters*.

[Get a peek at the first book!](#)

Feb

*FamilyFiction* releases its ROMANCE issue!  
All romance.  
All fiction.



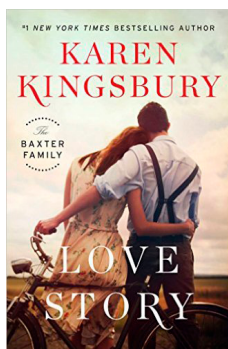
April

*The Case for Christ* by Pure Flix—based on the bestselling book by **Lee Strobel**—hits theatres.

[Watch the teaser trailer HERE.](#)



# Looking ahead at 2017



June

**Karen Kingsbury** is launching a brand-new Baxter Family series! *Love Story* (Howard Books) will release in June and tell the detailed love story of John and Elizabeth Baxter.

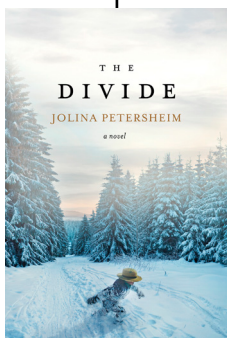


August

**Lynette Eason** wraps up her Elite Guardians series.

September 21-24

ACFW Annual Conference in Grapevine, Texas  
Carol Award winners for excellence in Christian fiction announced!



June

**Jolina Petersheim** concludes her Amish, apocalyptic, suspense series with *The Divide* (Tyndale House).

You can pick one book, besides the Bible, to take with you to a getaway cabin during a snowstorm. What book would you pick and why?



**HEATHER DAY GILBERT:** I would probably pick an Agatha Christie collection if it's a fiction book, and if nonfiction, I'd choose *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer. So much to learn in that book!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/heather-day-gilbert>

**HILLARY MANTON LODGE:** One of my deepest fears is being stranded without something to read, so if I were staring down a situation with one book during a snowstorm, I'd lean into something long and detailed. Thankfully, my favorite novel, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, is just that! I love how well constructed the story is, how layered the characters are, and how they're given the space to surprise you. It's the book I tell strangers at bookstores to read!



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



**AMY CLIPSTON:** My first reaction when I read this question was to say *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. It was my favorite book when I was a teenager. I read it 14 times and knew the movie by heart. It was the book that inspired me to write my own stories and dream of becoming an author. It was the first novel that truly pulled me in and made me connect with the characters. I haven't read it in years, and it would be fun to reconnect with Ponyboy and my other old friends.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/amy-clipston>

**SUZANNE WOODS FISHER:** If I could pick one book for a stuck-in-snow weekend, I'd bring along *Being Mortal* by Atul Guwande. Very readable for a nonfiction book (as in, it pulls you to the end, story-style). Even though the book is intended to clarify end-of-life issues, it has a message about what brings meaning and fulfillment to one's life—at any age. A bonus: if anyone happens to be stuck in the cabin with me ... the book can prompt good discussions!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/suzanne-woods-fisher>



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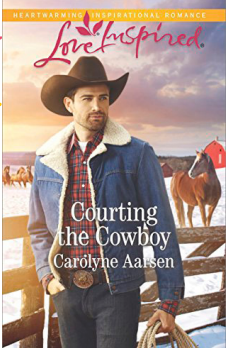


# 5

## NEW SERIES TO KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR

by Rel Mollet

Begin the New Year with five new series starters from these beloved and prolific writers. From the Civil War era to modern-day Memphis; contemporary Alberta, Canada to historical Alaska, there's a series to grab the heart of every reader.



### COURTING THE COWBOY

COWBOYS OF CEDAR RIDGE  
Carolyn Aarsen  
Love Inspired

### **- Courting the Cowboy (Cowboys of Cedar Ridge) by Carolyn Aarsen**

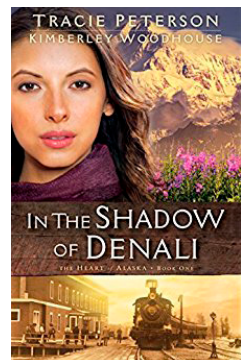
Carolyn Aarsen's *Courting the Cowboy* is the first in Love Inspired's Cowboys of Cedar Ridge series. Set in Alberta, it features rancher Cord Walsh and his three young children, who befriend their new neighbor. Recovering from a tragic accident, Ella Langton is looking for peace and quiet, but the Walsh children have a different plan in mind for her and their cowboy dad!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/carolyn-aarsen/books/courting-the-cowboy-cowboys-of-cedar-ridge>

### **In the Shadow of Denali (The Heart of Alaska) by Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse**

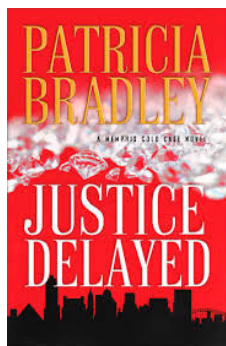
Collaborating once again, Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse begin the Heart of Alaska historical romance series with *In the Shadow of Denali* (Bethany House). Set at Mt. McKinley's new and prestigious Curry Hotel, Cassidy Ivanoff, a hotel cook's assistant, and Allan Brennan, an apprentice mountain guide, work together to uncover the truth surrounding the mountain-climbing death of Alan's father.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tracie-peterson-kimberly-woodhouse/books/in-the-shadow-of-denali-the-heart-of-alaska>



### IN THE SHADOW OF DENALI

THE HEART OF ALASKA  
Tracie Peterson &  
Kimberley Woodhouse  
Bethany House



### **JUSTICE DELAYED**

A MEMPHIS COLD

CASE NOVEL

Patricia Bradley

Revell

## **Justice Delayed (A Memphis Cold Case Novel) by Patricia Bradley**

Award-winning author Patricia Bradley kicks off a nail-biting cold case series with *Justice Delayed* (Revell). TV crime reporter Andi Hollister finds an unexpected ally in Detective Will Kincaid when evidence comes to light that the confessed killer of Andi's sister may be innocent. Will's interest is personal, as the man behind bars is his cousin. Intrigue, corruption, and falling in love combine in this Memphis Cold Case novel.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/patricia-bradley/books/justice-delayed>

## **My Heart Belongs in Fort Bliss, Texas: Priscilla's Reveille (My Heart Belongs Collection) by Erica Vetsch**

Erica Vetsch launches Barbour's new historical destination collection with *Journey to Fort Bliss, Texas: Priscilla's Reveille*. A family battle ensues when Priscilla Hutchens arrives at Fort Bliss to take custody of her twin niece and nephew, only to discover their uncle, Major Elliot Ryder, has other ideas. Readers are sure to discover new authors in this multi-author series.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/erica-vetsch/books/my-heart-belongs-in-fort-bliss-texas-priscilla-s-reveille>



### **MY HEART BELONGS IN FORT BLISS, TEXAS: PRISCILLA'S REVEILLE**

MY HEART BELONGS

Erica Vetsch

Barbour Books



### **SUMMER ON SUNSET RIDGE**

FOREVER FREEDOM

Sharlene MacLaren

Whitaker House

## **Summer On Sunset Ridge (Forever Freedom) by Sharlene MacLaren**

Rebecca Albright's Quaker charitable and peace-loving upbringing is at odds with her feisty personality and abolitionist ways. With the country on the brink of Civil War, slave-catcher Sheriff Clay Dalton faces his own battles, including one of the heart, when his path collides with a young woman determined to aid the Underground Railroad. Sharlene MacLaren's Forever Freedom series commences with *Summer on Sunset Ridge* (Whitaker).

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/sharlene-maclaren/books/summer-on-sunset-ridge-forever-freedom>



If you are looking to start 2017 with some Amish fiction with a fresh plot, Suzanne Woods Fisher's latest novel, *The Newcomer* (Revell), is exactly what you need. Anna is among the first Amish group to settle in The New World. Set in 1737, this novel will help you understand Amish culture from a historical perspective.



**Where did the inspiration for your story come from?**

It came through studying 18th-century Pennsylvania—there were (are!) so many stories still to be told. As I was driving through areas where the first Amish settled (north of Lancaster), I made a point to visit Ephrata Cloister. What an incredible little pocket of American history and the pursuit of Utopia ... which included a connection to printer Benjamin Franklin! You can be sure I included that detail!

**How did you research what Amish life was like in 1737?**

On the ground. I visited the locations of early settlements, went to historical museums, interviewed docents, walked through cemeteries, and read all kinds of books that described everyday life of 18th-century immigrants. I'm amazed at how difficult the everyday tasks of life must have been—especially during cold winters.

**What were some of your most surprising findings while researching?**

These immigrants were so incredibly brave! (Or maybe cockeyed optimists?) They walked off the ship—and that was no luxury cruise; over half of the passengers typically died on an ocean crossing—straight into Port Philadelphia, navigated their way through the English court system to become naturalized citizens, purchased provisions and, at long last, made their way north or west ... on uncharted trails. There, amongst wildlife and Native Americans, they would carve their new home out of wilderness. Traveling through those heavily wooded areas that included hills and valleys, streams and rivers, gave me such an appreciation for their determination. And most often, within one generation, those German immigrants had expanded their families and they were establishing wealth.

## What makes Anna a unique main character?

Anna is a young woman with a settled soul. Despite her youth, others are drawn to her. She has a sense of what this small church community needs, and what her role should be. And naturally, she's strikingly beautiful with two dashing handsome men vying for her affection.

## Can you tell us where you are taking the series next?

The next book, *The Return*, jumps forward a generation. Betsy Zook is a new immigrant, a beautiful young woman who never questioned her family's rigid expectations, but then she never had to—until the night when she was taken captive in a surprise Indian raid. During her captivity, Betsy faces brutality and hardship, but also unexpected kindness. She draws strength from native Caleb, a man who encourages her to find God in all circumstances. She finds herself torn between her pious upbringing and the intense new feelings this compelling man awakens within her.



### THE NEWCOMER

AN AMISH  
BEGINNINGS NOVEL  
Suzanne Woods Fisher  
Revell

And then there's Hans Bauer, who was the baby born on the Charming Nancy in 1737 (Anna's Crossing). Handsome and complex, Hans is greatly anguished by Betsy's captivity and turns to Anna's daughter Tessa for comfort. Eagerly, Tessa responds, overlooking troubling signs of Hans's hunger for revenge. When Betsy is finally restored to the Amish, have things gone too far between Hans and Tessa?

## Writing this book from a historical angle and doing all the research you did, has it shaped your perspective of the Amish community?

Community is just the right word for it. The Amish do community right. They always have—even back in the 1700s. They seem to have an innate sense of providing security and safety for those who belong to them. Perhaps this quality rose from a martyred past, or even a result of being pioneers in the New World, but it seems to have become part of their DNA. There's so much we can learn from their ability to build and sustain community—in our churches, our neighborhoods, our families. As an Amish man once told me, "The Amish, they 'got' your back. It's a comfort to lean on."

READ MORE ONLINE! <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/suzanne-woods-fisher/books/the-newcomer>



CLICK ON A BOOK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION

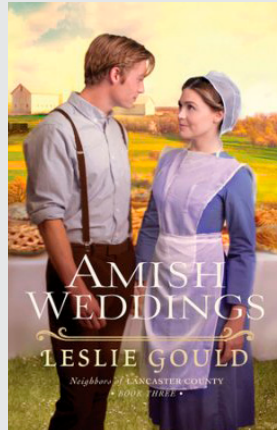


## ALWAYS CLOSE TO HOME

THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AMISH #3

*Jerry S. Eicher*

Harvest House



## AMISH WEDDINGS

NEIGHBORS OF LANCASTER COUNTY #3

*Leslie Gould*

Bethany House

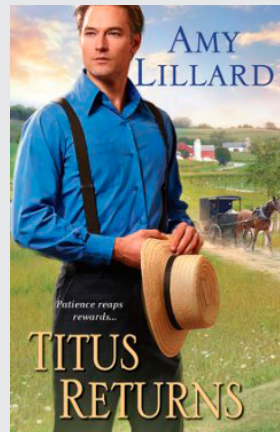


## THE NEWCOMER

AMISH BEGINNINGS #1

*Suzanne Woods Fisher*

Revell



## TITUS RETURNS

WELLS LANDING #5

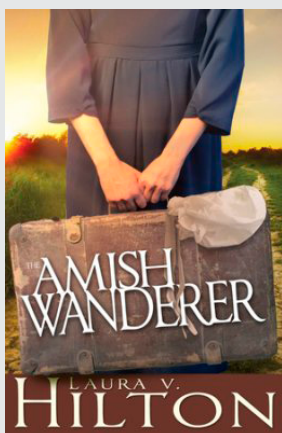
*Amy Lillard*

Zebra

# AMISH

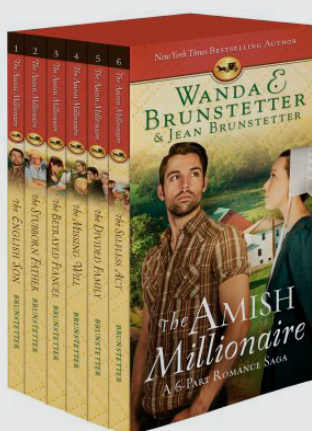
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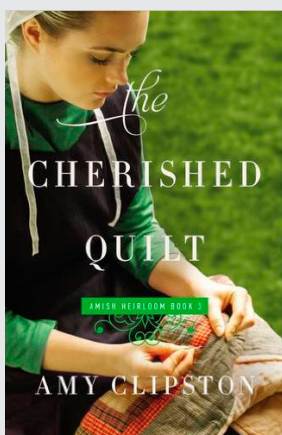
### THE AMISH WANDERER

Laura V. Hilton  
Whitaker Press



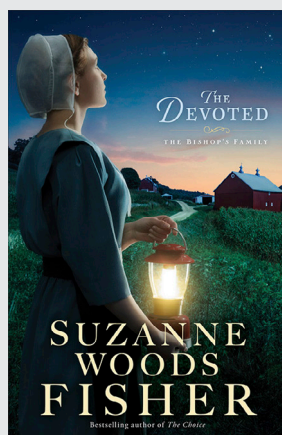
### THE AMISH MILLIONAIRE BOXED SET

Wanda Brunstetter  
Shiloh Run Press



### THE CHERISHED QUILT

AN AMISH HEIRLOOM NOVEL #3  
Amy Clipston  
Zondervan



### THE DEVOTED

THE BISHOP'S FAMILY #1  
Suzanne Woods Fisher  
Revell

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



Tamera Alexander is taking history buffs back to the Belmont Mansion for the third time. Set in her hometown of Nashville, Tamera tells the story of a young woman blazing a trail by confronting social norms. Tamera answered all of our questions about *A Note Yet Unsung* (Bethany House), the final novel in her Belmont Mansion series.



***A Note Yet Unsung* is the third in your Belmont Mansion series. And this isn't the first time you've set your stories in Nashville history. What is it that drew you to the Belmont Mansion to write this series?**

By far, what drew me is Belmont Mansion's intriguing Southern history! Adelia Acklen, mistress of Belmont Mansion, was the richest woman in America in the 1860s-70s, and she was a spitfire! Adelia, a prominent secondary character throughout the series, loved three things with a passion—art, nature and music. So when I started brainstorming these novels the themes came rather easily. Thanks, Adelia!

**What makes your main character, Rebekah, an intriguing protagonist?**

I love researching and writing about women who blazed trails for those of us who follow in their footsteps, and Rebekah Carrington, the heroine in *A Note Yet Unsung*, is just such a woman. She's a master violinist at a time when women weren't allowed to play the violin in public, much less be in an orchestra.

**Can you tell us about your research process and if you found anything surprising in the historical facts you uncovered?**

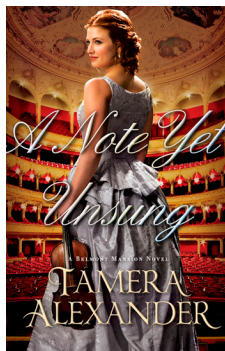
The idea for *A Note Yet Unsung* occurred when I happened upon the following 19th-century quote—"Woman, lovely woman, is always to be admired—except when she is playing in an orchestra." Gustave Kerker, Music Director. I then learned that not only were women in that era not permitted to play in orchestras, but that a woman playing a violin in public was considered improper—even scandalous! Victorians considered the way a woman's body moved while playing the violin "far too sensuous" for mixed company, and they also considered women too genteel and delicate for the rigors of an orchestra. (Oh ye of little faith!)

**How many more books are left in this series?**

*A Note Yet Unsung* is the third and final stand-alone novel in the Belmont Mansion series. *A Lasting Impression* is the first; *A Beauty So Rare* is the second.

## Where will your writing take you next?

It's already taken me back to the Belle Meade Plantation for the third and final installment of the Belle Meade Plantation stand-alone novels. *To Wager Her Heart* releases August 2017 and includes the fascinating history behind Fisk University, the first freedmen's university in the United States, as well as railroad history of the 1870s.



## A NOTE YET UNSUNG

Tamera Alexander  
Bethany House

READ MORE ONLINE! <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tamera-alexander/books/a-note-yet-unsung-belmont-mansion-3>

### ELEANOR BRADDOCK'S SOUTHERN BUTTERMILK PIE:

2 ½ cups sugar

4 large eggs beaten well

5 ounces buttermilk

2 tablespoons and 2 teaspoons plain flour

1 stick melted butter

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 unbaked pie shell\*

Mix well by hand in a medium-sized bowl (oh, how I love a “one bowl” pie!), then pour the mixture into an unbaked pie shell\* (do not prick the pie shell with a fork beforehand). Bake pie at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes until firmly set, then get ready to savor this delicious Southern delicacy ... just like Marcus did! I've been making this pie for over 30 years. It's a family favorite for sure, and so easy! The custard is creamy and smooth, while the top bakes to a golden yummy crunch. Enjoy!

See the rest of the recipes mentioned in *A Note Yet Unsung* right HERE—including the accompanying crust recipe for this buttermilk pie.

## READER EXTRAS:

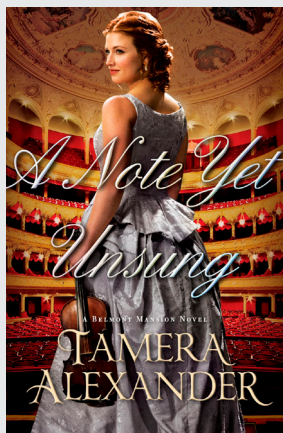
▶ *A Note Yet Unsung* Cover Model Interview

▶ Behind the Scenes at the *A Note Yet Unsung* cover photo shoot

# HISTORICAL

# NEW RELEASES

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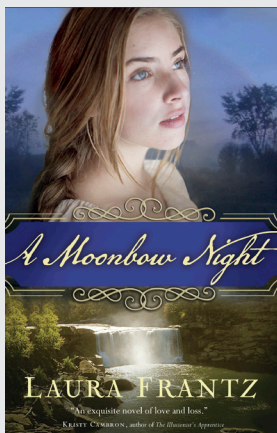


## **A NOTE YET UNSUNG**

BELMONT MANSION #3

*Tamera Alexander*

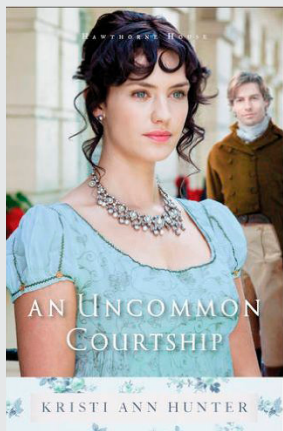
Bethany House



## **A MOONBOW NIGHT**

*Laura Frantz*

Revell

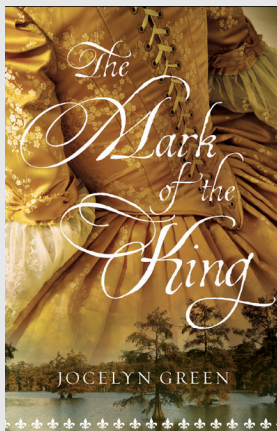


## **AN UNCOMMON COURTSHIP**

HAWTHORNE HOUSE

*Kristi Ann Hunter*

Bethany House



## **THE MARK OF THE KING**

*Jocelyn Green*

Bethany House

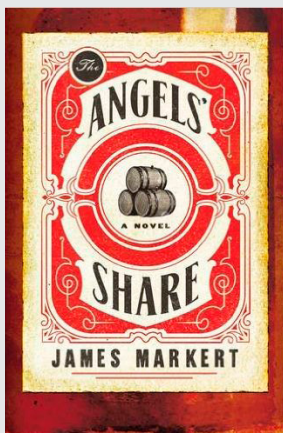
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## HISTORICAL

## NEW RELEASES

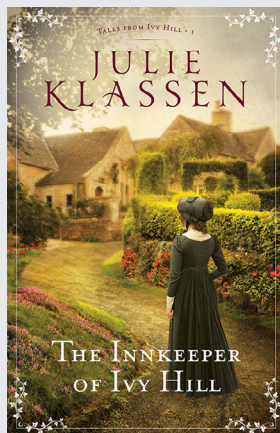
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### THE ANGELS' SHARE

*James Markert*

Thomas Nelson



### THE INNKEEPER OF IVY HILL

TALES FROM IVY HILL

*Julie Klassen*

Bethany House



### FOR THE RECORD

*Regina Jennings*

Bethany House



### THE SILENT SONGBIRD

*Melanie Dickerson*

Thomas Nelson

MORE NEW RELEASES ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/historical/books>

Historical romance author Kristi Ann Hunter continues to draw readers into her Regency-Era romances with endearing characters, delightful romance and her witty writing style. She continues her Hawthorne House series with *An Uncommon Courtship* (Bethany House). In this Q&A, Kristi talks about *An Uncommon Courtship*, how it fits in with the other books, and how the spiritual elements of this story are different from the others in the Hawthorne House series...



**This book has an unusual beginning for a romance novel. Why did you choose to start it that way?**

On page one, we find ourselves at the wedding breakfast of the hero and heroine. The vows are already completed and Lord Trent, whom many readers have gotten to know in the rest of the series, is suddenly married. I started it this way because I wanted it to be a bit of a shock for the readers, just like the marriage was a shock for Trent and Adelaide.

**How does *An Uncommon Courtship* fit in with the rest of the Hawthorne House series?**

Lord Trent is the younger son of the Hawthorne siblings. He's taken his family role seriously in the previous books, but he's never truly had to take on any responsibility until now. Readers of the free e-novella *Lady of Esteem* may recognize Lady Adelaide's family. She is the forgotten daughter of Lady Crampton. After spending a life overshadowed by her ambitious sister, Lady Helena,

she finds herself forced to suddenly decide for herself what she wants in life. Several other characters will also be familiar to readers of the novella, since Trent is now living in Amelia's old house.

**What aspects of the story were more difficult to handle?**

A married couple, particularly a married couple in the early 1800s, has a very different relationship than an unmarried couple, yet at the same time Trent and Adelaide are faced with all of the same problems that a new couple would have outside of marriage. They don't know each other and don't know what the other likes, feels or thinks; yet, at the same time, they are living together and forced to face the expectations of everyone outside the marriage. Finding the balance between being married and being strangers was an interesting aspect of the story to explore. At times, the hero and heroine turned into their own villains as they, too, tried to find their footing in an out-of-balance situation.

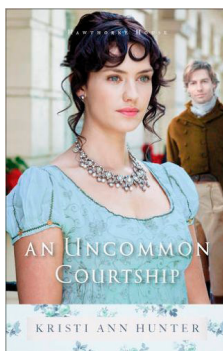


FINDING THE BALANCE BETWEEN BEING MARRIED AND BEING STRANGERS WAS AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE STORY TO EXPLORE."

**How are the spiritual elements of this story different from the other ones in the series?**

*An Uncommon Courtship* focuses a good bit more on godly relationships and how those impact your personal walk with God than some of the other books. There are scenes I particularly love where a group of God-honoring men gather together to help each other follow God more closely. Trent and Adelaide especially find themselves

struggling in their marriage until they realize they need to bring God into the relationship as well.



**AN UNCOMMON COURTSHIP**

HAWTHORNE HOUSE

Kristi Ann Hunter

Bethany House

READ MORE ONLINE!: <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kristi-ann-hunter/books/an-uncommon-courtship-hawthorne-house>

## IN OTHER NEWS

### WALKING DOWN THE AISLE

Amish author Leslie Gould continues her *Neighbors of Lancaster County* series with *Amish Weddings* (Bethany House). Gregarious Rose Lehman, who's always the life of the Amish youth singings, is determined to marry the bishop's son, Reuben Byler—until the handsome Army buddy of her future brother-in-law shows up in Lancaster County. In comparison to Trevor, Reuben seems downright boring. Trevor shares Rose's sense of fun and adventure, and her easygoing disposition.

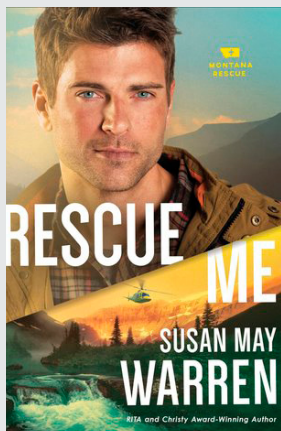
When her sister Lila is injured in a devastating accident, Rose finds herself with more freedom than she's ever experienced in her life. Only Reuben seems to notice, but he never voices his concerns. Part of her relishes the freedom she's found with Trevor, but the other part wishes Reuben would finally express his love and "fight" for her. Have her choices ruined her best chance at love, or is there another path to happiness she just hasn't seen yet?



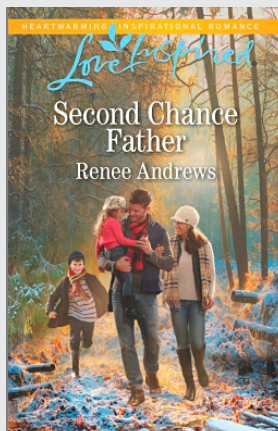
# ROMANCE

## NEW RELEASES

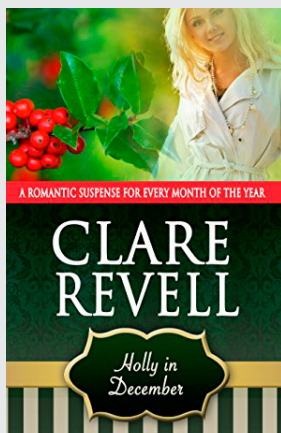
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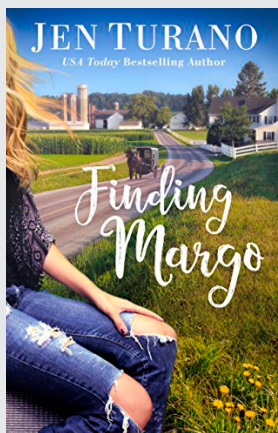
**RESCUE ME**  
MONTANA RESCUE  
*Susan May Warren*  
Revell



**SECOND CHANCE FATHER**  
WILLOW'S HAVEN  
*Renee Andrews*  
Love Inspired



**HOLLY IN DECEMBER**  
FLOWERS CAN BE FATAL  
*Clare Revell*  
White Rose Publishing



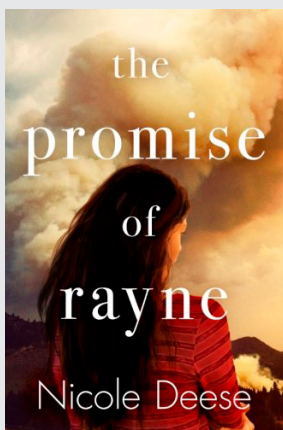
**FINDING MARGO**  
FINDING HOME #1  
*Jen Turano*  
Gilead

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## ROMANCE

## NEW RELEASES

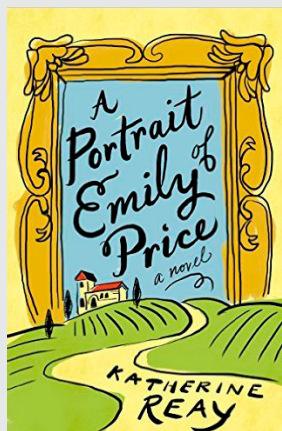
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### THE PROMISE OF RAYNE

*Nicole Dees*

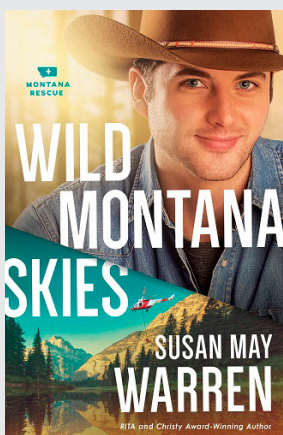
Waterfall



### A PORTRAIT OF EMILY PRICE

*Katherine Reay*

Thomas Nelson



### WILD MONTANA SKIES

MONTANA RESCUE

*Susan May Warren*

Revell



### HOME ON THE RANGE

DOUBLE'S RANCH

*Ruth Logan Herne*

Multnomah

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Katherine Reay is writing women's fiction with a fresh, exciting voice. In her latest release her main character, Emily Price, is on an unexpected adventure abroad when love surprises her. But as love always does, it brings about revelation and risk. Katherine answered our top questions about this exciting project!



**This book is about a young woman on an adventure in Italy that turns into a journey of self-discovery. Where did the inspiration for this story come from?**

The idea came to me while reading C.S. Lewis' *Till We Have Faces*. There is a powerful scene near the end of the story when the main character, Orual, brings her case to the gods to justify all she has done. Yet, within the very act of articulating her case, she realizes she hasn't got one. What she once viewed as selfless acts for others—managing their lives and even manipulating them at times—are revealed to be self-serving. Her “case” falls at her feet as she sees everything differently and understands the harm she caused for those she loved.

I sat with that scene for a long time wondering what it might look like today, for a young woman we might know. And if this woman started from a place of control, based on fear, then what could be so enticing, and joy-filled, as to make her yearn for something new and perhaps something better? What might compel her to drop her guard, surrender that control, and let in love? There began my journey toward *A Portrait of Emily Price*.

**Did you get the chance to visit Italy?**

I did! When we lived in London and Dublin, airfare to Italy was very inexpensive so we traveled to Italy several times. We then revisited in the summer of 2015 for an extended “research” trip. I really do get to do the best research! Yet despite all that research, I know I made mistakes. I have moved 17 times—all across the United States and those two cities in Europe—and I understand that nuances in culture and worldview can not be discerned in short visits. You need to live in a place. So I hope that, while I captured some of Italy's extraordinary flavor, texture and beauty, my Italian friends will forgive my mistakes as they might be understood by Emily, a young American. I also purposely created misunderstandings and miscommunications that might come from differing worldviews in an effort to highlight the importance of acceptance and forgiveness in bridging those gaps.

**What sort of research did this story require?**

It definitely required a visit to Italy... It also required much more. I did a lot of research into art restoration at the



library, online and in person. Here in Chicago, I interviewed several restorers who work for insurance companies and cover a wide variety of mediums and valuations. Then—terribly exciting—I happened to meet a man who works in art at the Vatican and he offered to arrange for a visit to the Vatican’s restoration labs when I was in Rome. I can’t tell you how much that formed the story—it was beyond extraordinary.

### **Can you tell us about your main character, Emily Price?**

Emily Price is a delightful young woman. I think we’d be friends—as long as I let her be in charge, at first. Control is not an illusion to her, but very real—and we see it in her work, her relationships and her life. That belief gets shaken as things fall apart. Her perspective and what she deems possible get rocked when she meets Ben. And her worldview broadens when she encounters and learns to love Ben’s family. She is a character who lives one way, but recognizes the glimmer, the hope and the possibility

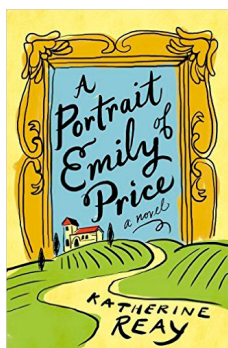
of something new and, perhaps, something more beautiful.

### **You’ve followed this very elegant influence of British literature in your writing with Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters serving as muses. Do you think you will continue on this streak?**

I will for the next book—and I’ll give more details on that below. I have written the story and am currently editing it. After that, I am not sure how defined a role the classics will play. They will always be a part of my thinking, but perhaps not so overtly drawn onto the page.

### **Can you tell us about your next project?**

Ah ... I am so excited about this one and it just got a title: *The Austen Escape*. It’s a wonderful story about two best friends, a trip to Bath, England, and an unexpected event that changes both their lives. I love diving into relationships and not, primarily, the romantic ones. In *Dear Mr. Knightley*, Sam needed family as much as she longed for a love interest; Lizzy and Jane needed each other; and Lucy, in *The Bronte Plot*, needed Helen and Sid. In *The Austen Escape*, Mary and Isabel dig into what their 20-year friendship, formed at age 8, has been and what it must become to survive. Yet, of course, there is a handsome young man, Nate, who’s right in the middle. It’ll release next November.



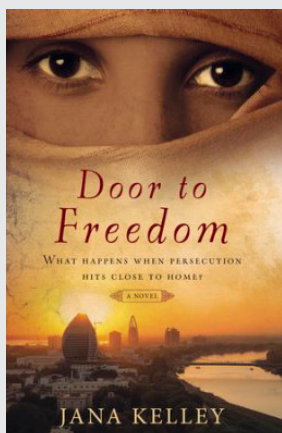
### **A PORTRAIT OF EMILY PRICE**

Katherine Reay  
Thomas Nelson

## CONTEMPORARY

## NEW RELEASES

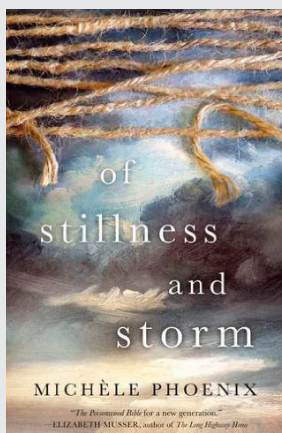
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### **DOOR TO FREEDOM**

*Jana Kelley*

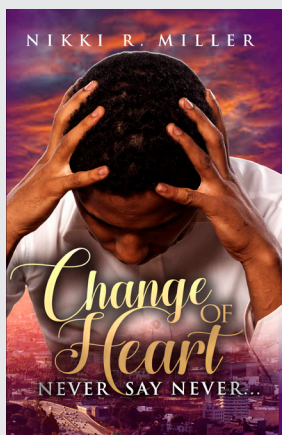
New Hope Publishers



### **OF STILLNESS AND STORM**

*Michele Phoenix*

Thomas Nelson

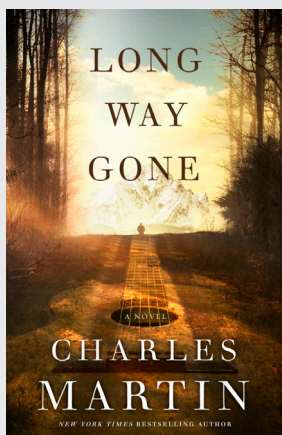


### **CHANGE OF HEART**

*NEVER SAY NEVER*

*Nikki R. Miller*

NRM Faith Based Films



### **LONG WAY GONE**

*Charles Martin*

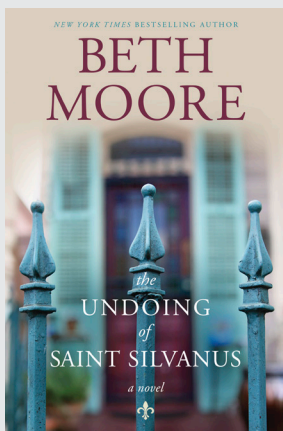
Thomas Nelson

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# CONTEMPORARY

## NEW RELEASES

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### THE UNDOING OF SAINT SILVANUS

Beth Moore

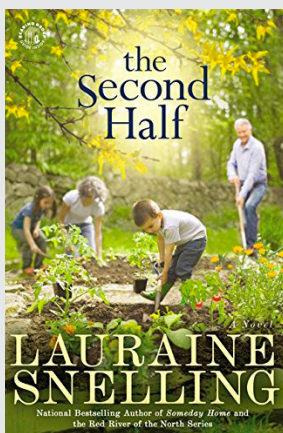
Tyndale House Publishers



### PRICELESS: SHE'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Joel Smallbone and Luke Smallbone

Worthy Publishing



### THE SECOND HALF

Lauraine Snelling

FaithWords



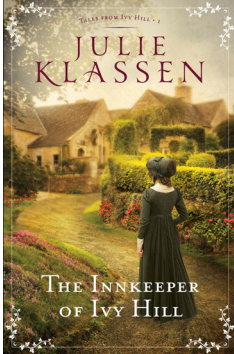
### THE WEDDING SHOP

Rachel Hauck

Zondervan

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## START READING NOW

### ***The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill* by Julie Klassen**

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### **Chapter One**

*May 27, 1820*

*Ivy Hill, Wiltshire, England*

Jane Fairmont Bell sat alone in the keeper's lodge she had once shared with her husband. There she began her solitary breakfast, delivered by a maid from the coaching inn across the drive. Her inn. She still struggled to credit it.

Jane ate in dainty politeness, as though at a formal dinner—or as though her old, eagle-eyed governess sat beside her. In reality, she had eaten alone for a year now. The clink of china and cutlery seemed louder than usual, the courtyard outside strangely quiet for that time of day.

At the thought, she glanced at the nearest window, framed by ivy. The leafy vines had grown unchecked and narrowed the visible glass. She could cut it back, but she liked the privacy it afforded. And how it blocked her view of the often-chaotic coaching inn.

Jane rose and walked into the bedchamber. The view from its window was more peaceful. There, an ivied oak tree and stone wall. And in the distance, if she looked for it, the tall brick chimney stacks of Brockwell Court. The elegant manor might once have been her home, if life had turned out differently. Beyond it lay a patchwork of farms, pastureland, chalk downs, and small villages.

A soft knock interrupted her thoughts. Returning to the sitting room, Jane called, "Come."

Cadi, the young maid who helped her dress and brought her meals, stepped inside, her face cheerful as usual. "Finished your breakfast, I see."

"Yes, thank you." Jane nodded toward the arranged flowers— spring blooms from her own garden combined with a few purchased from the greenhouse. "And would you mind taking these back with you? This one for the entry hall, and that one for the front desk."

"Happily. They're beautiful. You ought to come over and see how they brighten the old place."

"Just set them in their usual places, if you please. I would only be underfoot."

"Not at all. You're the landlady now, and more than welcome."

"Another time, perhaps." Jane had offered to help with the inn early in their marriage, but John insisted her place was here, in the small, separate house he'd built for them. After all, gentlewomen did not "work." After a few attempts, Jane stopped offering. And soon . . . other concerns occupied her mind.

"I am off on an errand this morning," she added.

"An errand?" The girl's gaze shifted from Jane's black bombazine to the long box on the sideboard. "Then . . . might you wear the new gown?"

Jane shook her head. "I am only going to the churchyard."

Cadi sighed, clearly disappointed. "Very well." She carried the vases to the door. "I'll come back for the breakfast tray."

Jane nodded and lifted a deep black bonnet from its peg. She stood before the long mirror to tie its strings, then pulled on her gloves.

A few minutes later, she left the lodge, a clutch of flowers in her hands. As she passed the coach archway that led into the stable yard, movement caught her eye. The farrier stood in the courtyard, burly arms crossed, in conversation with a young postillion who looked to be no more than sixteen. Joe, she believed his name was.

Noticing her pass, the postboy tipped his cap to her, and she sent him a warm smile in return.

The farrier nodded in her direction. "Mrs. Bell."

Jane nodded but did not stop to greet him. There was something about that man ... Seeing him always stirred up bad memories. After all, he had been the one to bring John's body back to Ivy Hill.

She continued on, past the front of the inn, before crossing the High Street to avoid the nosy greengrocer arranging his bushels of produce. Thankfully, the rest of the shops were still quiet at this time of morning. She walked up narrow Potters Lane, past the lock-up and village hall,

and then turned onto Church Street. At its end, she pushed open the listing gate and stepped into the churchyard, passing ancient tombs and faded headstones until she came to a more recent grave.

JOHN FRANKLIN BELL BELOVED SON & HUSBAND 1788–1819

A visit on the first anniversary of John's death had seemed fitting. But he was not the only loved one she had lost.

Jane stood at that particular spot because it would raise no questions. Anyone seeing her at her husband's grave would walk by without a second look.

She pressed the modest bouquet to her abdomen as though to quell the ache there, and then bent low. She divided the bouquet into six individual flowers—a single pink rose and five white moss roses—and spread them across the grave.

Jane glanced around to make sure no one was watching, then kissed her fingers and touched the headstone. "I'm sorry," she whispered.

The creak of a hinge startled her, and she looked up.

An elderly man emerged from a work shed nearby, pushing a wheelbarrow with shovel handle protruding. He wore a drab coat and flat cap atop scruffy grey hair. The sexton, Jane recognized, who maintained the church grounds and dug the graves. He set the wheelbarrow down and picked up his shovel with gnarled hands. Suddenly self-conscious, Jane straightened, watching the man from the corner of her eye. A church door opened and the Reverend Mr. Paley came striding out. Seeing Jane, he diverted from his path and walked toward her. "Hello, Mrs. Bell. I am sorry to intrude on your private moment, but I wanted to express my condolences. I know this must be a difficult day for you."

"Thank you, Mr. Paley." The vicar glanced over at the sexton, leaning on his shovel.

"Haven't you some work to do, Mr. Ainsworth?" The old man grunted and began digging up a bramblebush growing between the headstones. For a moment, Mr. Paley continued to watch the sexton. In a low voice he said to Jane, "That man is one of God's more . . . interesting creations. I've heard him talking to the church mice more than once. He refuses to set traps, so I shall have to do it."

Jane had heard the sexton was odd. Apparently the rumors were true.

The vicar sighed, then gave her a sad smile. "Well. I shall leave you. Please let me know if there is anything I can do. Mrs. Paley and I will be praying for you—today especially."



Jane thanked him again. He bowed and continued on his way.

With a final look at John's grave, Jane left the churchyard with little solace from the visit. Behind her, the gate swung on its hinges. She wished the sexton would repair the latch. It would not stay closed, no matter what she did.

On the walk back, Jane passed the vicarage, public house, and bakery without really seeing them, her head bowed to discourage people from seeking her out. She reached the High Street without having to speak to anyone. The Bell Inn was just across the street. She had almost made it.

To her right, the door to the dressmaker's shop opened and Mrs. Shabner, mantua-maker and milliner, poked her head out.

"Mrs. Bell!"

Jane winced. She had never liked that address. Mrs. Bell was John's mother. Hearing it, she squelched the impulse to look around and see if her mother-in-law was standing nearby, a disapproving look on her face.

The dressmaker asked, "What do you think of the new gown? I know you received it, for my girl delivered it to your door herself."

"I did not order a new gown, Mrs. Shabner," Jane replied, gently yet firmly.

"My dear, you have been in full mourning for a year now. You ought to change to half mourning, at least." The elderly woman wore a frock of bright yellow-and-blue stripes, and a feathered cap. The phrase "Mutton dressed as lamb" whispered through Jane's mind, and she chastised herself for the unkind thought.

"I am sorry, but I don't need a new gown at present."

"Yes, you do, my dear. Look at that old thing. The elbows are worn shiny, and the buttonholes frayed. When I made that, I still had all my teeth."

"You exaggerate."

"Try it on, at least," Mrs. Shabner urged. "I think the lavender will suit you very well. I made it according to your previous measurements, but I shall be happy to alter it as needed. You know my door is always open, though few enough pass through it." She sighed. "I think I shall retire. Or move to Wishford, where my talents would be better appreciated."

The woman was forever threatening to move to Wishford. Jane pressed her eyes closed, stifling a sigh of her own. "If you have another customer in mind for the gown, then, by all means, I shall send it back without delay."

"No, no. You are the only recent widow in town at present. Take your time. But once you try it on, you shall see that I am right."

Jane left her with a wave and crossed the street.

Reaching The Bell, Jane paused, noticing the small Vacancy sign

hanging by a single chain, the other chain dangling uselessly. A breeze blew up the hill, and the sign slowly revolved on its chain, the word spinning past Jane's eyes again and again.

Vacancy ... Vacancy ...

That sign had hung there more often of late. And the word perfectly symbolized how Jane felt.

Empty. She pulled her gaze away and returned to the refuge of her lodge.



Three days after the somber anniversary of her son's death, Thora Stonehouse Bell sat pressed against a carriage window, the bony shoulder of a young clergyman digging into hers at every turn. On the bench opposite sat an elderly couple, he snoring away, and she fanning herself with a copy of the *Lady's Monthly Museum*.

Thora popped a ginger candy into her mouth to allay her queasy stomach. She offered one to the woman, who listlessly accepted. The clergyman beside her had put away his New Testament half an hour before, and now read from a traveler's guidebook. Noticing her glance at it, he asked, "Are you a first-time visitor to this area?" Thora hesitated. It was her first trip back—her first time to feel like a visitor in her old home, and probably not a welcome one.

"Yes, I suppose I am." His eyes shone with eagerness. "Then allow me to share what I've read. We are now some ninety miles southwest of London, in Wiltshire, known for its white horses carved into chalk hills, the Salisbury Cathedral, and ancient marvels like Stonehenge. It seems we are in for a treat at our next stop." He ran his finger along the printed page and read, "'The Bell is a fine old coaching inn, licensed to a John Bell and managed expertly by his widowed mother. The Bell accommodates visitors with every species of comfort, neatness, and domestic attention.'"

"Apparently your guidebook is out of date," Thora said dryly. "Better stick to the Scriptures, Parson. Beyond that, you can't believe everything you read."

He gave her a confused look—brow and mouth puckered—but she did not bother to explain. Instead, she turned away, discouraging further conversation.

She looked out the window, but instead of the passing countryside, memories passed before her eyes and sadness pressed down hard.

Poor John...

Her firstborn had been gone over a year now. The thought lanced her heart. It seemed a lifetime ago that she and Frank and their sons had all lived together under the same roof. She knew where Frank and John were now. Buried in St. Anne's churchyard. But she had little idea where Patrick might be. Her youngest. Her blue-eyed boy. What an angel he had been as a lad. What a disappointment as a man. She wondered what whim he was pursuing now, and if he were in good health and out of trouble. Thora whispered a prayer. It was all she could do for him now.

Very soon she would be back at the coaching inn that had once belonged to her parents, then her husband, then her eldest son, and now her daughter-in-law. She wondered what sort of reception Jane would give her and doubted it would be a warm one. She hoped Talbot, at least, would be glad to see her.

Thora took a deep breath and surveyed her surroundings. The coach crossed the River Wylfe bridge, and passed the village of Wishford with its tall, battlemented church tower. Then they began the climb up Ivy Hill, which gave her a fair view of the Salisbury Plain out one window, and Grovely Wood out the other.

Thora could hardly believe she was returning after less than a year away. When she left, she had foolishly imagined she would live with her sister—two independent women together—for the rest of her life. But soon she had seen those impractical dreams fading away.

You can take the woman from the inn, but not the innkeeper from the woman, she mused.

Yet Diana had managed it. Her sister had hated growing up in a coaching inn and had left as soon as she could, never looking back. The same was proving more difficult for Thora.

What would she find upon arrival? She hoped the cook, Mrs. Rooke, had exaggerated in her recent letter, which stated that the place was falling into disrepair without her.

Either way, Thora would not grovel. She would say she had come only for a visit. She would not admit that her future with her sister—and her living situation—had come to an end.

