

FamilyFiction

February 2017



Historical Author **TRACIE PETERSON**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

The Resurrection of Gavin Stone | Ruth Ried
Chris Fabry | 5 Romantic Reads | 30 New Releases

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From the Editor

On the Website

Candace Calvert, The Aetherlight
& One Question

Features

-  **Tracie Peterson**
-  ***The Resurrection of Gavin Stone***
-  **5 Romantic Reads for Valentine's Day**

Author Q & As

-  **Amish:** Ruth Reid
-  **Contemporary:** Chris Fabry
-  **Historical:** Elizabeth Camden
-  **Romance:** Susan May Warren
-  **Speculative:** Jolina Petersheim
-  **Suspense:** Corban Addison
-  **YA/Teen:** Jody Hedlund

New Releases

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Amish | Suspense |
| Contemporary | Children's |
| Historical | YA/Teens |
| Romance | Comics/Animation |
| Speculative | Movies/DVDs |

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It's this simple: Jesus told stories.

During His ministry on earth, our Lord never spoke to the crowds without sharing stories. Why is that? Why not math, or lists, or instructions?

Granted, He also shared those on occasion—but the Bible says that He never spoke to the crowds without sharing a story. (Matt. 13:34)

It's because Jesus knows that's how we are wired. The Creator made us in such a way that we process stories differently than other kinds of information. Give me a math problem or a list or a set of instructions, and you hope I can remember it.

Tell me a story, and it can burrow its way into my heart.

Wrapping truth inside a story makes an impact. That's why Christian storytellers have such a wonderful role in the Kingdom of God. Whenever we read, or watch, or hear a story that's created from a Christian worldview, something valuable has been planted in our hearts.

Here at FamilyFiction, we celebrate the Christian creator. Whether it's an author, filmmaker, animator, or other type of storyteller, there's a noble service in filling the world with stories that reinforce a biblical view of the world and our place in it.

If you are excited about stories from creators who glorify the Creator, then you are in the right place!

Maybe you've noticed some recent changes around here. For starters, the magazine you're reading is a more streamlined format. We'll

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continue to cover all the same categories—more of them, even!—but this way, you only need to come to one place each issue.

We've also upgraded our website. Now, it's even easier for you to zero in on the news, interviews, and updates from your favorite genre or category—whether you prefer Christian romance, science fiction, suspense, historical fiction, or one of the other many options.

We're also working to make it easier than ever to read FamilyFiction. You can read us on the website. You can download the magazine to read later. You can even read our magazine inside the free app—available from Apple for iOS and from Google Play for Android.

In whichever form you might read FamilyFiction, we're thrilled to keep you updated about the latest in Christian fiction and storytelling.

God bless—and happy reading!



Regards,

Chris Well

Editorial Director,
Family Fiction



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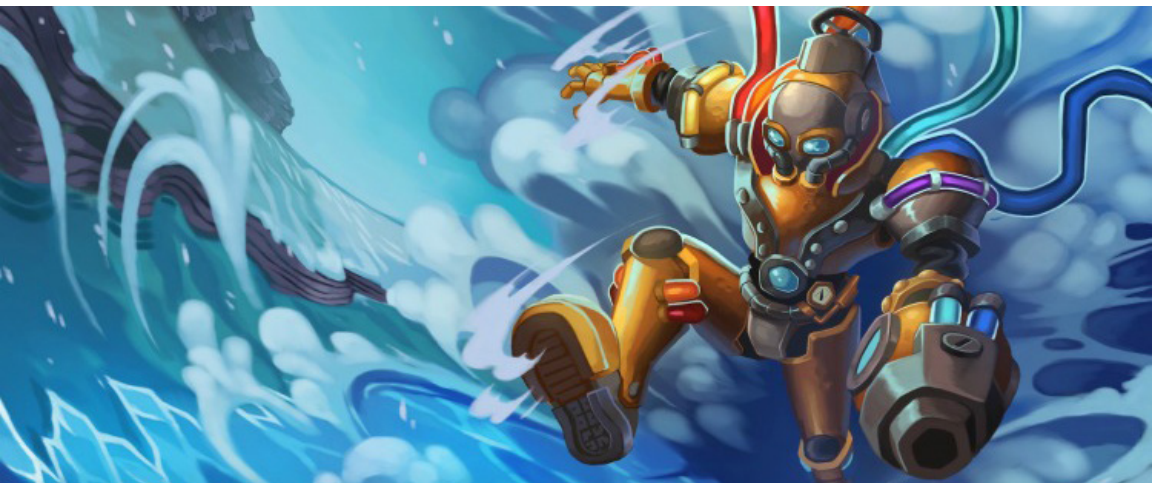


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Candace Calvert

6 Romantic Story Moments to Borrow for Valentine's Day

As an author of “medical hope operas,” Candace Calvert specializes in realistic medical and heart-pounding romances that offer readers a chance to “scrub in” with my characters. In honor of Valentine's Day, Candace offers some date night ideas taken from examples from her novels!

Read the article

[**http://www.familyfiction.com/candace-calvert-6-romantic-story-moments-borrow-valentines-day**](http://www.familyfiction.com/candace-calvert-6-romantic-story-moments-borrow-valentines-day)

The Aetherlight

Telling Bible Stories in the Language of Gamers

Want to help children learn the Bible? Experts say that the best way to teach something is through story. Recognizing that today's kids are growing up a world of digital connectivity, Scarlet City Studios has created a Bible-teaching tool that retells the historical events of the Bible through a video game allegory.

Find out more about it:

[**http://www.familyfiction.com/aetherlight-telling-bible-stories-language-gamers**](http://www.familyfiction.com/aetherlight-telling-bible-stories-language-gamers)

One Question

“What's your favorite order at the coffee shop?”

We asked 11 Christian authors, “What's your favorite drink to order at your local coffee shop and why do you love it?” Find out the answers from Francine Rivers, James L. Rubart, Julie Cantrell, Robin Lee Hatcher, Liz Curtis Higgs, Jane Kirkpatrick, Tamara Leigh, Lorena McCourtney, Deborah Raney, Jordyn Redwood, and Gayle Roper.

Read the article:

[**http://www.familyfiction.com/one-question-whats-favorite-order-coffee-shop**](http://www.familyfiction.com/one-question-whats-favorite-order-coffee-shop)



On the Frontier:

Tracie Peterson Heads West For new Historical Romance Series

If you've never heard of the Whitman Mission Massacre of 1847, you aren't alone. Best-selling, award-winning author Tracie Peterson is shedding some light on this little-known tragedy in American history. Her upcoming series **Heart of the Frontier** accurately captures the cultural climate and heartbreak surrounding this event.

By Deidra Romero

Tracie Peterson has always used her novels to tell history's most compelling stories while incorporating swoon-worthy romance plots. Tracie has over 100 titles to her credit spanning several genres, however, her expertise is historical romance. To date she has written over 20 historical series. Her novel **Treasured Grace** (Bethany House) is no different. It will be accompanied by two other novels in her Heart of the Frontier series. Tracie chose to set this book during a pivotal time in American history. From 1847 to 1848 there was much tension between white settlers traveling west and Native Americans. This was also a crucial time in history when the American government was imposing and relocating many Native American tribes. For context, the Trail of Tears occurred several years prior to the events in *Treasured Grace*.

AN OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE

Playing off of the book's title, Tracie's main character is named Grace. As with most of her protagonists, Grace doesn't exactly fit within the mold society has cast for her. She is a third-generation midwife. Tracie notes, "Grace is not just a midwife, she's

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a healer in a time period when doctors were still not all that respected and in many cases, lacked understanding and education. She has learned these skills from her mother and her grandmother. It's a family tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation."In order to write in detail about Grace's life and career, Tracie had to do quite a bit of research. "I researched a lot of Native-America herbal remedies, as well as those passed down from the Colonial time period in America. I researched what the established medical field knew about various diseases and surgeries and what was considered controversial for the time period, as well as what was widely believed. Sometimes those beliefs were good and sometimes they were deadly and it gave me lots of ideas for my characters."

After the death of her parents, Grace is left to care for her two younger sisters. "My heroine Grace is a no-nonsense type who sacrifices her own happiness to provide for the welfare of her younger sisters," says Tracie. After a hasty marriage to a minister, she and her sisters travel West with him. But a cholera outbreak takes the life of her husband. Grace is incredibly resourceful and relies on her well-trained skills learned from her mother and grandmother to build a new life. She and her sisters decide to settle at the Whitman Mission in Oregon Country instead of pushing forward. Many people including the local Natives need Grace's services.

A CHANCE FOR LOVE

Grace's love interest in the novel is Alex who has lived in the area for over 10 years. "Alex has been ... trying to forget all that he's lost and the people responsible. He's a man who recognizes the value of human life, no matter the color of a person's skin or education," says Tracie.

With impeccable research and imaginative
storytelling, JILL EILEEN SMITH
brings the story of Ruth to life.

When Ruth risks all and leaves her land behind for a chance at a new life, will she be able to convince Boaz to risk his heart and redeem her from her desperate state?



JillEileenSmith.com



According to Tracie the events that occurred in 1847 at the Whitman Mission were the initial inspiration for this series. The mission was used as a stopping place for many settlers on their long journeys. Grace and her sisters were among these settlers. The events detailed in Tracie's book fictionalize the tragic massacre that occurred in 1847 at the Whitman Mission. "Fifty some women and children were held hostage for a month by the Cayuse Indians. I thought his made for an interesting place to put my fictional characters."

This novel has it all—set during a complicated time in history, with danger looming we have a protagonist with a unique skill-set and a love interest who has real depth.

The two books that will follow in the Heart of the Frontier series will tell the stories of Grace's two sisters, Hope and Mercy. They will also release in 2017. Tracie comments, "Each book will also focus on the historical conflicts going on in the Oregon Territory and how these conflicts affect the lives of my characters."

LOVE AND ADVENTURE IN ALASKA

In January, Tracie released a novel with co-author Kimberly Woodhouse titled *In the Shadow of Denali*. It's also a historical romance set in Alaska during the completion of the railroad and it's part of their series, **The Heart of Alaska**. [FF](#)



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And that Resistance needs you!





Family Over Fame:

Inside “The Resurrection of Gavin Stone”

A washed-up actor pretends to be a Christian so he can play Jesus in a church’s Passion Play.

In the romantic comedy ***The Resurrection of Gavin Stone***, Hollywood party animal Gavin Stone finds himself in church for the first time in his life—serving 200 hours of court-appointed community service. The film’s director and members of the cast explain how the film celebrates church while portraying churchgoers in a way to which anyone can relate.

Hitting theaters this weekend, *The Resurrection of Gavin Stone* is a tale of faith and forgiveness. Gavin Stone, a washed-up former child star, is forced to do community service at a local mega-church and pretends to be Christian so he can land the part of Jesus in their annual Passion Play only to discover that the most important role of his life is far from Hollywood.

Despite most of the action taking place inside a church, *The Resurrection of Gavin Stone* is not a preachy movie. Instead, the romantic comedy keeps the central themes of faith and forgiveness universal. The film celebrates church—offering viewers a fresh take on church as a fun and welcoming environment.

“I’m a strong Christian,” says director Dallas Jenkins, “and I love making movies that have Christian values. But I don’t like many movies that are exclusive only to Christians.”

He says that a movie has to show humanity in a way that anyone can relate to. “The key to this movie is the main character is not a churchgoer. He’s a nonbeliever. So anyone who isn’t a

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regular churchgoer can still enjoy this movie, because they're seeing it through the eyes of themselves."

Serving 200 hours of court-appointed community service, Hollywood party animal Gavin Stone finds himself in church for the first time in his life. When he learns that the church is putting on an Easter play, he wants to play the lead—Jesus Christ. But to get the part, Gavin pretends to be a Christian – undertaking an improvisational self-study of sorts in the lingo and activities of churchgoers (all gleaned from Google) in a mostly failed attempt to better fit in.

A PLACE TO BELONG

Former professional wrestler Shawn Michaels (Doug), a WWE Hall of Famer who was a legendary bad boy out of the ring himself before becoming a Christian in the late '90s. He says the scenes where Gavin tries too hard to "be Christian" resonate with his own church experiences. "We have simple folks, they're nice, they're kind, yet every now and then they spend a little too much time jibber-jabbering about one another," he chuckles. "That's one of the things I really liked about the script: It's truthful about the fact that people in church aren't perfect, they're just bumbling along in a lot of cases like everyone else."

That honesty, more than anything else, is what Brett Dalton, who plays the title character, says makes *The Resurrection of Gavin Stone* a film that will resonate with audiences outside of church culture.

"All of these characters are real people, likeable people – people with issues and problems, but with the relationships and the integrity to work them out," he explains. "It's kind of impossible not to feel good after watching this film."

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According to Jenkins, that's because the journey Gavin Stone undergoes ends in something all people inherently need and desire: unconditional love.

"Gavin Stone is someone who, throughout his life, has never had that," Jenkins notes. "It's always been, 'What can Gavin do for his manager? What can Gavin do for his team? What can Gavin do for ratings?' And when he's not delivering, they don't need him anymore. So, in Hollywood, he has no real friends.

"But back home at the church, it's the first time in his life he has a group of people who accept him unconditionally – whether he's successful or not. They don't care if he's famous. They don't care if he has a hit movie. They like him because he's him."

Patrick Gonyell, who plays another of the churchgoers with a part in the play who befriends Gavin, agrees that audiences will be moved by the relationships they see develop on screen.

"It feels real and it feels honest," he says. "And it's not an agenda movie. It's not saying, 'Hey, join the church and your life will be perfect.' It's a story about some real people who have flaws and are pulled in different directions. And that's something everyone can relate to."

THE ROAD BACK

One of the directions Gavin winds up being pulled is back toward Hollywood. Just as he's settling into his lower-key life, he gets a call from his agent that a plum part has opened up, in part because of his headline-making brush with the law that landed him in community service, and he's torn over what to do. The offer comes just as he's broken through the relational

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walls Kelly has put up to guard her heart after a failed relationship, which doesn't make it any easier for Gavin.

"He has to decide if he's really a changed person – or is he going back to what he thought was his dream of getting a second chance in Hollywood," Dalton says.

What makes the decision particularly tough, Jenkins points out, is that "playing the part of Jesus ends up teaching him a lot about the character of the man he is playing – and that starts to rub off on him."

So does Kelly—and vice versa.

"She teaches him a few lessons," says Anjelah Johnson-Reyes, who plays Kelly. "But he teaches her some stuff, too."

The Resurrection Of Gavin Stone stars Brett Dalton (Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.), Anjelah Johnson-Reyes (MADtv, Moms' Night Out), Shawn Michaels (WWE Hall of Famer), D.B. Sweeney (Lonesome Dove, Eight Men Out) and Neil Flynn (The Middle, Scrubs). It is directed by Dallas Jenkins (What If ..., Midnight Clear) from a script by Andrea Gyertson Nasfell (Moms' Night Out, What If ...). WWE Studios and BH Tilt present in association with Walden Media, a vertical Church Films and Power in Faith Production. The film is produced by Michael J. Luisi and Fred Adams. **FF**

Shawn Michaels: From “Heartbreak Kid” to Heart for the Lord

In the romantic comedy *The Resurrection of Gavin Stone*, Hollywood party animal Gavin Stone finds himself in church for the first time in his life—serving 200 hours of court-appointed community service. One of the film’s cast, WWE Hall of Famer Shawn Michaels, reflects on his journey from fame to faith.

The journey of the fictional Gavin Stone is not unlike that of the real-life cast member Michaels—minus the career nosedive. Michaels, one of the most celebrated professional wrestlers of all time, who makes his feature film debut as the quiet and humble Doug, a biker who gave up hard living for a higher calling in *The Resurrection of Gavin Stone*.

“Shawn’s playing a character who reflects a lot of himself,” director Dallas Jenkins says. “Becoming a Christian didn’t make him boring. He’s still the same cool guy; he just has a humility about him he didn’t have before.”

Michaels, known as The Heartbreak Kid during his wrestling days, did a fair bit of rule-breaking when he wasn’t performing as one of sports entertainment’s top draws. That changed in the late ‘90s when he realized his lifestyle was hurting him and his family.

“When I gave my life to Christ it was a natural development – it wasn’t something that I tried to do,” Michaels remembers. “The things that I do now are from the heart, and for me they come from my salvation. I’m fully aware and grasp that what is good within me comes from the Good Lord above and not actually from within me.”

So, playing Doug, who has a similar story, if on a dissimilar stage, seemed the perfect role for his feature-film debut. But

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that's not to say it was an easy transition from life in front of fans to life in front of the camera.

"Shawn was just as nervous and giddy about this as I was because he has no experience with it," says Patrick Gonyell, who plays Anthony, one of Doug's two best buddies. "It's a departure for him, and it's kind of fun for The Heartbreak Kid to be so down-to-earth and unsure and humble and self-deprecating about it all." It was also a bit surprising to the film's star, Brett Dalton, who grew up a major wrestling fan. He remembers well Michaels' persona in and out of the ring – a lothario with an attitude who never met a rule he didn't gleefully bend.

"He is the most humble, sweetest, most caring guy I've met," Dalton says, "You don't get that if he's just walking down the street in the leathers and long hair with that swagger. But as soon as he opens his mouth and looks you in the eye, you're like, 'Man, I misjudged you.'"

It's a quality Dalton tried to bring to his portrayal of Gavin Stone as his journey reaches its end. The filmmakers and actors alike hope audiences walk away having had more than a few laughs and with a fresh appreciation for the power of forgiveness and redemption – wherever it may be found.

"There's nothing in this movie that isn't accessible to someone who doesn't regularly go to church," Jenkins explains. "This is a story about finding a family and finding traditional values and finding a place to call home, whether you are successful or not or whether you've made a big mistake or not.

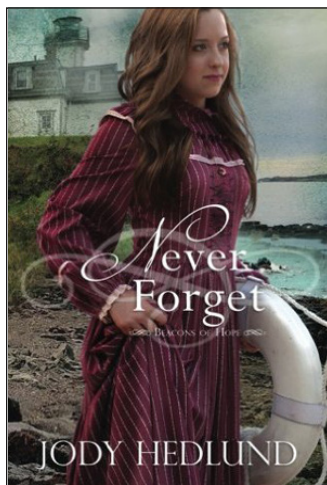
"Any one of us, all of us, can use a little more of that message in our lives." **FF**

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5 Romantic Reads for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is the perfect excuse to tuck into some delicious chocolate and a romantic read! Love abounds in these five novels that capture the essence and challenge of falling in love.

By Rel Mollet



Never Forget

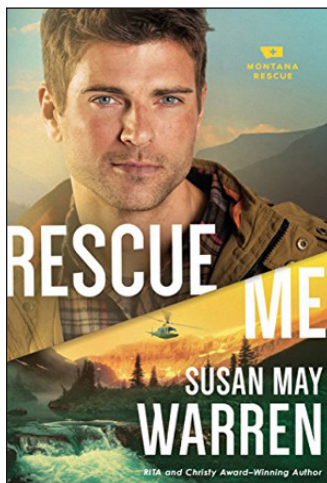
Beacons of Hope #5

Jody Hedlund

Northern Lights Press

Jody Hedlund combines romance and history effortlessly in *Never Forget* (Northern Lights Press). A yachting accident leaves wealthy Nathaniel Winthrop uncertain as to his identity, washed up on the beach at Rose Island. Nathaniel's assumption provides Abbie Watson with a way to protect her

Grandpa's home and livelihood, yet her heart is soon torn between the truth and the man she has captured her heart.



Rescue Me

Montana Rescue Book #2

Susan May Warren

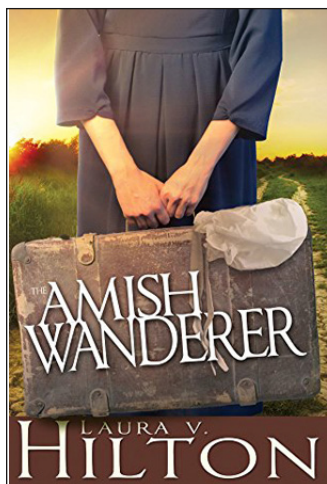
Revell

Prefer your romance to unfold amidst danger and adventure? Look no further than *Rescue Me* (Revell), the latest in Susan May Warren's Montana Rescue series. Stranded in Glacier National Park's forbidding wilderness, with the impulsive and flighty sister

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5 Romantic Reads

of his girlfriend, Deputy Sam Brooks has his hands full saving a group of frightened teenagers while battling an unwanted attraction to a woman he may have misunderstood.

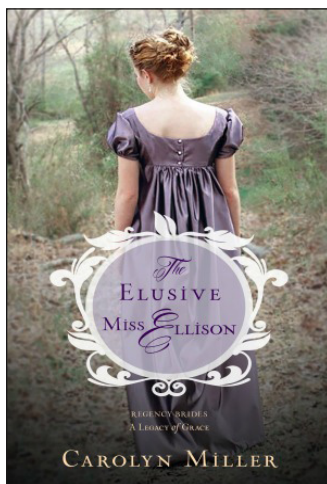


The Amish Wanderer

Laura V. Hilton

Whitaker Press

Amish romance continues to capture readers' hearts so journey with Bethany Weiss and Silas Beiler in Laura V. Hilton's *The Amish Wanderer* (Whitaker) as they rekindle their past love. Since their first courtship, pain and heartbreak have changed them. Bethany is hiding from cruel gossip following her father's admittance to a mental hospital and Silas has been rejected by his family. Will a second chance at love overcome their deep losses?



The Elusive Miss Ellison

Regency Brides: A Legacy of Grace

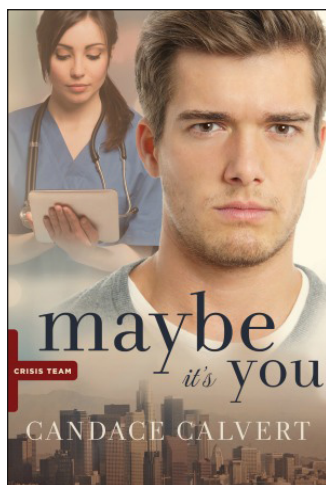
Carolyn Miller

Kregel

Romance and the Regency period were made for each other! Debut novelist, Carolyn Miller, transports readers to St. Hampton Heath in *The Elusive Miss Ellison* (Kregel). The village is all aflutter with the arrival of Hampton Hall's new owner, the seventh Earl of Hawkesbury. Lavinia Ellison, the reverend's daughter, is less than impressed with

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Nicholas Stamford's position and reputation. When a scandal forces them together, both discover an unexpected love.



Maybe it's You

Crisis Team #3

Candace Calvert

Tyndale House

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hospital, pitting ER nurse Sloan

Ferrell, a woman desperate to escape

her wild past, against marketing guru,

Micah Prescott, a man determined to

improve the hospital's image. *Maybe*

it's You (Tyndale) is a redemptive and romantic, the perfect Valentine's read! **FF**

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AMISH Q&A: Ruth Reid

Ruth Reid's **Heaven on Earth** books are Amish novels that focus on how the supernatural manifests our everyday lives. The series has just been re-released in new packaging, so we thought it would be a good opportunity to revisit them. In this Q&A, Ruth explains the inspiration for this unique series, the biblical basis for the supernatural themes, and her writing process...

Where did the inspiration for the *Heaven on Earth* series come from?

What inspired me was the desire to show God's hand working in our lives even when we are unaware. God's love is everlasting, His faithfulness unfailing. To God be the glory!

What's the basis for the supernatural elements in these novels?

According to 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." The enemy is out there, lurking for someone to give him a foothold.

But God has given us angels to defend us. "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

In *Brush of Angel's Wings*, the supernatural element takes place in the realm of the unseen. Rachel and Jordan are unaware of the raging battle or that their actions are under the influence of good and evil.

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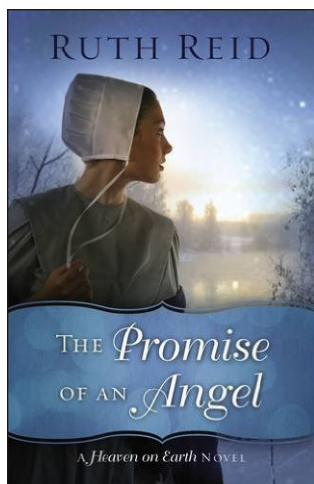
What does your writing process look like?

For me, writing is a lot like putting a puzzle together. I start with the boarder/edge pieces, then fill in the missing sections until the picture (or in my case story) is finished. Usually, before the book is started, I develop a general premise or question.

In the case of *Brush of Angel's Wings*, I wondered what it might be like for an unseen angel and demon to vie for the main character's soul. Of course, that meant I needed to create weaknesses that would cause my main characters' to struggle. Once those ideas were formed, I began writing. Later, I called my brainstorming friend, and over a four-hour lunch, I killed off a character.

In the **Amish Wonders** series, my initial nugget of "what if" started out as a medical miracle question.

In the **Amish Mercies** series, the question that rises is: What crisis does the main character face that requires guidance (unknowingly) by an angel? **FF**



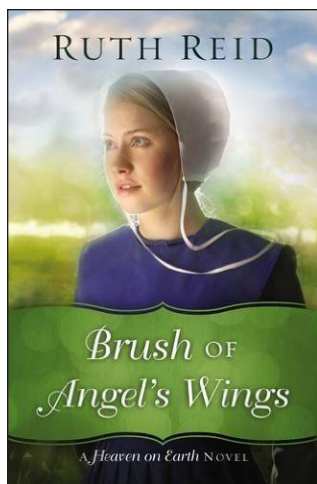
The Heaven on Earth Series

The Promise of an Angel

Heaven On Earth #1

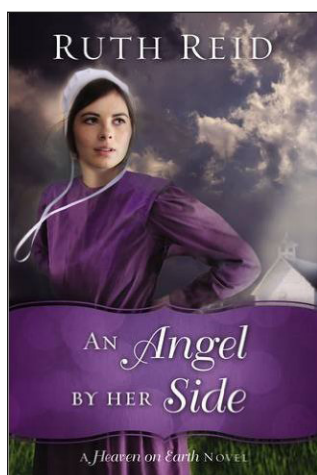
Interrupting the ordered routine of the Mecosta County Amish settlement, an angelic visitor awakens Judith to a new faith...

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Brush of Angel's Wings
Heaven On Earth #2

He doesn't plan to stay Amish. She doesn't have a plan. Then an angel draws their hearts toward God—and each other...



An Angel by Her Side
Heaven On Earth #3

Katie has lived through tragedy and heartache. But with the angel Elias by her side, the best years of her life are just ahead...



CONTEMPORARY Q&A: Chris Fabry

The latest novel from Chris Fabry is *Looking into You* (Tyndale House): Paige Redwine is haunted by a choice she made when she was only 17. Now just past 40, she lives a tidy life as a well-respected college professor. Nothing could prepare her for when the daughter she secretly placed for adoption walks into her classroom as a student. In this Q&A, Chris shares what inspired the novel, his influences as an author, and how his radio listeners help him write...

Can you describe your plot in one sentence?

Teen mother who placed a child for adoption seeks the courage to begin a relationship with the daughter.

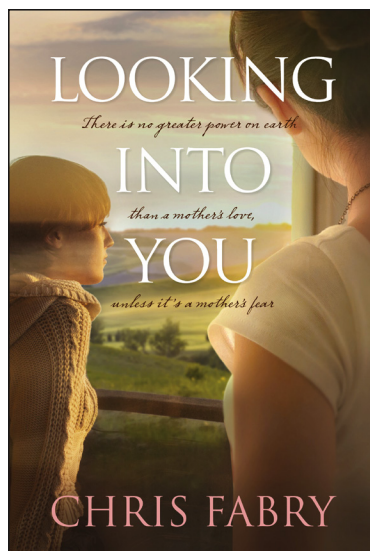
Where did the inspiration for this novel come from?

Looking Into You features a character named Treha Langsam from the book *Every Waking Moment*. At the end of that first book, we met Treha's mother who placed her for adoption two decades earlier. So I pick up the story and we discover how Treha and her mother meet and then the fallout of those lost years.

What influences your writing the most?

Each story or novel is a quest into my own heart, so the thing that influences me most is my own desire to understand. New questions surface with each story and the process leads me to deeper places. I have a signed copy of one of Pat Conroy's books on my shelf—a friend asked him to sign it for me and he wrote, "My best to you in your writing life. Go deeper. Always go deeper."

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Can you tell us about any research you did for this novel?

My best research is talking with listeners on my daily radio program, *Chris Fabry Live*. I can't tell you how many times a listener will answer a question I have about the story I'm working on without them even knowing they're contributing.

Who is your favorite character in the book?

I really like Anna. Her personality comes out when she meets Treha.

She says, "I'm Anna Waddel, and don't ever pronounce it 'waddle.'" Just about every story I write has some sort of journalist in it because that's what I was trained to be. Anna wants to be a journalist and her inquisitiveness is both disarming and dangerous.

What makes your protagonist an interesting character?

Paige, Treha's mother, is an English professor in search of a life. She lives her life through the stories she's read but isn't living her own life. I find this can be true, in some ways, for all of us. **FF**

Find out more about the novel here:

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/chris-fabry/books/looking-into-you>



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HISTORICAL Q&A: Elizabeth Camden

Historical romance author Elizabeth Camden takes readers to the west coast with her turbulent romantic drama *To the Farthest Shores* (Bethany House). It contains her trademark blend of fast-paced romance with a hint of mystery. Set along the rural coastline of southern California, it tells the story of a young woman whose heart was once broken by a man who mysteriously disappeared—only to return six years later. Can she ever trust him again?

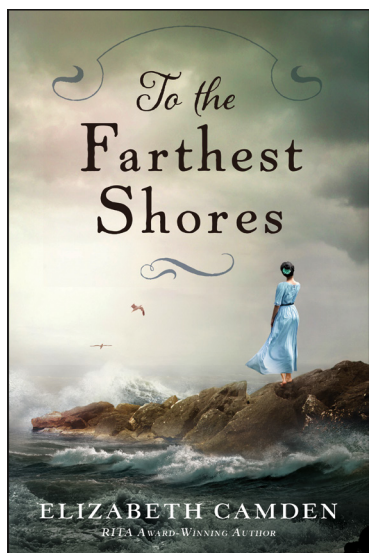
For readers who are unfamiliar with your writing, how do you describe your novels?

I write briskly-paced historical romances set during little-known aspects of American history. For example, I wrote about how Chicago rose from the ashes after the great fire of 1871 (*Into the Whirlwind*) and the challenges of building the Library of Congress in 1897 (*Beyond All Dreams*). I write about fiercely smart characters who have huge dreams and are willing to risk everything in order to make them happen. My ideal reader is someone who loves a good stormy romance, but also wants glimpses of wit, delight, and joy sprinkled in amongst the drama. I hope when readers finish one of my novels they feel like they've just made friends with a bunch of really terrific characters and are sorry to say goodbye.

Can you describe the plot of *To the Farthest Shores* in one sentence?

When a reluctant spy falls in love with an army nurse, they can't imagine the web of intrigue and adventure heading her way.

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Where did the inspiration for this novel come from?

I adore stories about reunited lost loves. *To the Farthest Shores* opens with two people who fall desperately in love in a rush of blazing infatuation that often happens in a first love. I think there is a purity to that sort of love that can be hard to recapture once people have their heart broken, and they become more guarded in subsequent relationships. I wanted to explore a love story in which the characters

strive to recapture that dazzling feeling, but are forced to work through the chaos that tore them apart in the first place.

Are any parts of the plot or characters pulled from real life?

I love digging up rare and little-known facets of American history to weave into my novels, and this time I am looking at the history of spying. The C.I.A. was not established until 1947, but I can assure you the U.S. was keeping an eye on other countries well before that. A big part of the novel relates to how foreign intelligence worked during the Spanish-American War.

Can you tell us about any research you did for this novel?

Much of the plot is about the real-life race to discover how to create cultured pearls. Near the turn of the century, scientists all over the world were closing in on an answer to that secret. Both my hero and heroine have an abiding love of the sea, and they join forces in that scientific quest. In researching the novel I delved into pearl farming and the challenges of creat-

ing round pearls. I was never a big fan of pearls before I started work on this novel, but now I am fascinated by them.

Who's your favorite character in the book?

My hero, Lieutenant Ryan Gallagher. Although I am known for writing larger-than-life alpha heroes, Ryan is my first beta hero. He is kind, gentle, and a little shy around girls. Despite his poet's soul, Ryan is a mass of contradictions that force him into a daring profession when his heart is in the pearl farm. Ryan is the son of missionary parents and was born and raised in Japan. Even though he had never set foot in the United States, he idolizes the idea of America as though it was Camelot. When he arrives on American shores as a young man, ready to become an officer in the U.S. Navy, he has no idea the extent of the sacrifices his country is going to ask of him, but he does it without complaint. Until he falls in love with an army nurse, and that upends his entire world.

What is the take-away message you want readers to receive after reading the novel?

While I always aim for a thrilling story with equal parts history, romance, and adventure, I try to infuse the story with ethical challenges that are relevant to today's reader. None of us are perfect, and our lives will be pockmarked by disappointments, but those challenges have the potential to inspire us to become more compassionate people. They can make us stronger as we learn to weather storms. Even during difficult times, our lives can be shot through with glimpses of joy and inspiration if we look for them.

Where will your writing take you next?

I am thrilled to announce I've started work on my first series, which is a historical romantic drama set in New York City. I confess to having been a little hesitant about setting a novel in Manhattan. Every time I've visited the city it felt so towering and overwhelming to my introverted-spirit, but the more I researched turn-of-the-century Manhattan, the more irresistible it became to me. I am loving it! Picnics in Central Park, the vibrancy of Wall Street, a wonderful blend of high society and ethnic enclaves. New York was the hub of the North American news industry even in 1903, which is a big part of the plot. The first in the series is called *A Dangerous Legacy*, will be available in October. **FF**

Find out more about the novel here:

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/elizabeth-camden/books/to-the-farthest-shores>

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ROMANCE Q&A: Susan May Warren

Susan May Warren's *Montana Rescue* series combines adventure, danger, and romance—all in the gorgeous setting of Montana. The latest volume in the series is *Rescue Me* (Revell). In this Q&A, Susan shares what inspired the series, how the different stories overlap, and why she set the books in Montana...

This is the second book in your Montana Rescue series. Where did the inspiration for the series come from?

I'm a huge fan of shows like *Chicago Fire* and *Grey's Anatomy*, about a team of people who have to work together to save others. When I envisioned this series, I took the type of books

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I enjoy writing the most—epic “family” series, or team books, and put them in one of my favorite locations, Glacier National Park. Then, I added the action/adventure ingredient and came up with six epic romantic adventures all tied together with one mystery thread (the disappearance of the niece of one of my characters).

That birthed the PEAK Rescue Team, and from there, the stories of each character came to life. I think, most of all, I wanted to write a series that I wanted to read, and hoped it would resonate with my readers, too.

The protagonist changes from book to book but will the characters overlap in each other’s stories?

Absolutely. That’s what I love about “team” books—we get to see the lives of each team member evolve in the background of the POV character. And, as they change and grow this affects the main storyline from book to book as well. It’s like hanging out with all your friends.

How many books will you have in your *Montana Rescue* series?

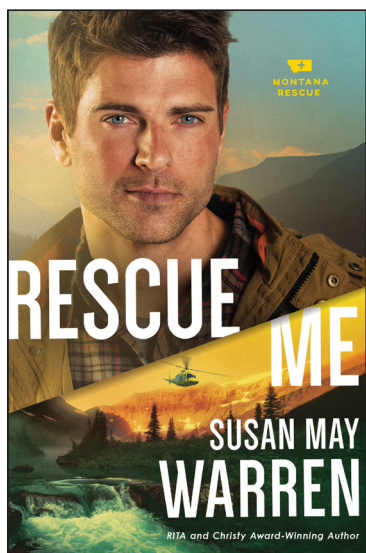
Six, plus a prequel novella.

Why did you choose to set these books in Montana?

Because I can travel there for research! I love Montana! I set an early trilogy there—**The Noble Legacy**—and since then have been enthralled with the landscape and the varied activities in Montana, from skiing to mountain climbing to ranching to whitewater rafting. It’s a great place to set an adventure series!

Last year you released three books! Will you continue 2017 at the same pace or do you have plans of slowing down a bit?

I enjoy the “cauldron” of creation, or that intense stewing of a story. I sort of sink into the story and don’t emerge until the rough draft is finished. That’s when the real work starts—reworking it, rewriting it, smoothing out all the rough edges. I can usually finish a story in about three months. I then like to take a couple weeks off—but the stories continue to itch at me until I start the next one.



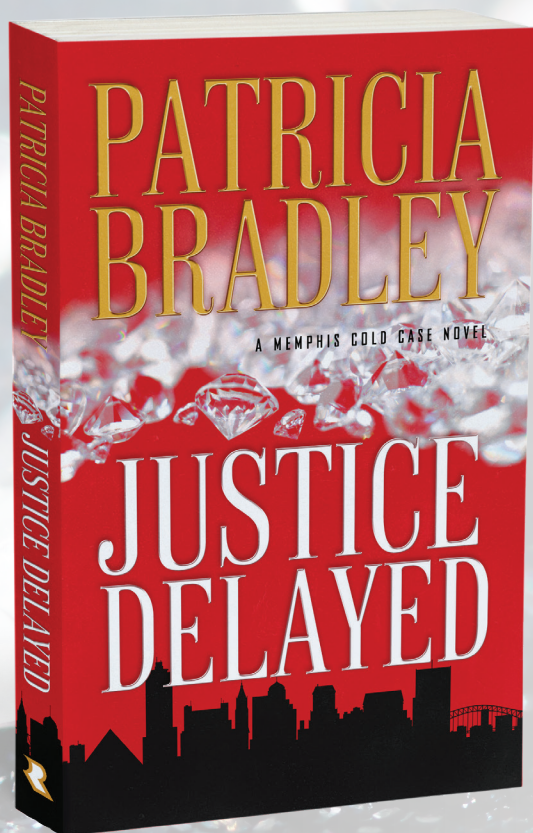
Because I write a series, the characters are always there, nudging me to continue their stories, so it’s not long before I’m back at the computer, ready for the next book. I’ve also found that if I sit with a book too long, I will over edit it, add too many words and develop rabbit trails that I’ll eventually delete, so it’s better to get it out of my hands and to my editor before I mess it up. Which means that it’s not a matter of “slowing down” as it is finding a new story to write. I like this pace—it keeps me creative, focused and engaged in the series. **FF**

Find out more about the novel here:

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-may-warren/books/rescue-montana-rescue-book-2>

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EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, TV crime reporter Andi Hollister's sister was murdered. The convicted killer sits behind bars, his execution date looming. But when a letter surfaces stating that the condemned didn't do the crime, Detective Will Kincaide of the Memphis Cold Case Unit will stop at nothing to help Andi get to the bottom of it. After all, this case is personal: the man who confessed to the crime is Will's cousin.

Andi and Will must find the real killer before the wrong person is executed. But what can happen in only a week?

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SPECULATIVE Q&A: Jolina Petersheim

Genre-bending novel *The Alliance* (Tyndale House) is a dystopian novel set in an Old Order Mennonite community. When an apocalyptic event leaves the Englischers without electricity or technology, the Pacifist community must forge an alliance with a handful of stranded Englischers to protect not only the food but their very lives. In this Q&A, author Jolina Petersheim explains how her own Mennonite heritage led to a dystopian story, her own struggles with pacifism, and how her faith informs her storytelling...

***The Alliance* is quite a unique take on the standard apocalyptic novel. Can you tell us how you came up with the idea?**

I guess you could say I had a slightly different childhood. When I was six and my brother ten, our family stood in a field on the camp where my parents were caretakers, and my parents told us that this was where we would meet if we were separated when the world “blew up.” From this field, our family would travel by foot to our friends’ elaborate, fairytale home and live in the blue room hidden behind their bookshelves.

My parents in no way meant to instill fear in us. Now that I’m a parent, I see that they were trying to assuage their own fears by coming up with a disaster-recovery plan. But I was born with an overactive imagination, and therefore this plan planted in me the seed of fear—and, subsequently, a driving need to control my environment.

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Would you say you were from a very apocalyptically-minded family?

Very. This mindset is generational, it seems, for my grandfather—who grew up in immense poverty during the Great Depression—was very “end of the world” as well. I breathed fear all my life and am only now, at twenty-nine, learning to live by faith. This story is an extension of my own personal journey.

Can you tell us a little more about this journey?

Of course. When my eldest was six months old, an unnerving exchange with a logger caused my fear to deepen its roots and for me to ask myself whether I would ever use lethal force to protect myself and my family. I believed I would, even though, growing up, I sensed that my own father would adhere to his Mennonite (pacifist) heritage if placed in such a situation.

This is very similar to what the Mennonites in *The Alliance* are faced with when a cataclysmic event causes society to break down around the community and begin closing in.

You drew on personal experiences to create this story. One character in *The Alliance* has a driving need to control her environment—even after society crumbles around her—because she believes that if she controls her environment, she will be able to keep her family safe. Is this something you’ve experienced?

Unfortunately, yes—or perhaps fortunately, depending on how you look at it. With every one of my books, God’s been faithful to allow me to experience some portion of whatever topic I’m addressing. *The Alliance* has been no exception. My family and I moved from Tennessee to Wisconsin shortly before I finished the rough draft. Eight weeks later, my

husband went in for a CAT scan, which revealed a tumor near his brain stem. He had surgery the next morning, and all through that night next to his hospital bed, I feared for my family. I feared for our two young daughters—our firstborn was two and a half and our second was four months old at the time. I feared that I would be a widow, living on a grid-tie solar-powered farm six hundred miles away from our immediate families.

That must've been terribly frightening, seeing one of your worst fears come true.

It was. I really didn't know how to handle it. However, all through that Garden of Gethsemane night, during the hours my husband was in surgery, and the critical weeks that followed the craniotomy, I felt God's presence as if he was sitting beside me. I then understood that God had allowed me to face one of my greatest fears so that I would learn that inner peace can never be acquired through my futile attempts to control my environment—and therefore keep my family safe.

Moreover, I can only achieve inner peace if I continually surrender my life and the lives of my family to the One who called us into being. **FF**

Find out more about the novel here:

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jolina-petersheim/books/the-alliance>

SUSPENSE Q&A: Corban Addison

Corban Addison dubs his style of fiction as “faction.” Deeply immersed in real stories, his fiction springs from truth and brings to life crisis that feels far-removed from our everyday lives. In his latest release, *A Harvest of Thorns* (Thomas Nelson) Corban takes an in-depth look at the fashion industry and the factory workers abroad who make cheap clothes possible in America. When you think of human rights and social justice issues, the premise of this book is probably not one that comes to mind. *A Harvest of Thorns* will change that.



What inspired *A Harvest of Thorns*?

My novels have touched upon a lot of different topics in the field of international human rights, but in some ways *A Harvest of Thorns* is a return to the beginning of my publishing journey. In my first novel, *A Walk Across the Sun*, I wrote about sex trafficking around the world. In *Harvest*, I address the opposite face of the trade in human beings, forced labor and its related abuses in the global consumer economy and the fashion industry, in particular.

I'm fascinated by the fallout of globalization, by our shrinking world and widening lenses, by the human dimensions of economic forces, and by the ways that the \$22 trillion global consumer empire impacts the people at the bottom of the heap who work in factories and mills and fields, harvesting the ingredients and then making the products that we in the rich world love to buy and wear. *With A Harvest of Thorns*, I wanted to tell a story that would probe the soul of the consumer economy, that would explore the many dimensions of corporate social responsibility, and that would leave all of us, as consumers, as business people, as investors, with a question: Now that we see what goes into our clothes, should we not, as a society, rethink our relationship to fast fashion and our obsession with cheap merchandise?

Can you describe your plot in one sentence?

A beloved American corporation with an explosive secret; a disgraced former journalist looking for redemption; a corporate executive with nothing left to lose.

Are any parts of the plot or characters pulled from real life?

The story begins with a prologue that has generated a lot of buzz among early reviewers—a fire at an apparel factory in

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Dhaka, Bangladesh. It's probably the most hard-hitting scene I've ever written, and I think it's so effective because it was inspired by reality. In November, 2012, the Tazreen Fashions factory in Dhaka burned to the ground, claiming the lives of 117 workers and injuring hundreds more. I traveled to Bangladesh and met some of the women who survived that fire. I listened to their stories, and then I wove them into the prologue in a way that rings true because it is true. I was so moved by their testimony and courage that I dedicated the book to them.

Who is your favorite character in the book?

I really enjoyed developing the character of Cameron Alexander, the general counsel of the multi-national retailer at the core of the story. There are so many layers in his personal story—the scion of a prominent African-American family from Boston; the Harvard educated lawyer and corporate executive; the son of a celebrated Harvard law professor who in spite of his success has never managed to escape his father's long shadow; the best friend of the company's CEO, a man born with a silver spoon; and a widower who blames himself for his wife's death and wonders what to make of the rest of his life. His journey from the beginning of the book to the end was a true joy to write and to experience along with him.

What influences your writing the most?

My novels are what a South African friend once called “faction” rather than “fiction.” They are stories adapted from real life, drawn from extensive on-the-ground research, and woven into a package that enlightens as it entertains. In my research, I gather information and inspiration from many sources, but perhaps the most impactful are the stories of the people I meet on the road. In researching *A Harvest of Thorns*, I met with

garment workers in multiple countries, with factory owners and managers, activists, lawyers, academics, journalists, and other experts to learn how it is that the clothes destined for stores my family and I shop in could be made in ways that any of us would consider inhumane. The stories I gathered heavily influenced the way the novel took shape. Wherever possible, I drew characters and plot points from my own experience. I think that makes for the best storytelling.

You infuse your stories with so much reality –what’s your process?

With all my books, I spend months doing research and interviews and developing character sketches and the basic shape of the plot. Some of that research I do in my office in Virginia. Some of it I do around the world. At some point, my work makes an inevitable transition from fact to fiction. It’s always a little mysterious how and when that happens, but as soon as it does I sit down and start writing. I try to write between 1,500 and 2,500 words a day, depending on how easily the words flow and how distracted I am by other things. I tend to over-write, which means that the final draft of any book is usually 20-percent shorter than the first draft. That feels like a lot of words to waste, but one of my professors in law school taught me that the best writers are willing to leave great sentences on the cutting room floor to make their work better.

Where will your writing take you next?

I’m about 80-percent finished with a novel on the Syrian refugee crisis and its impact on the world. This past spring, I traveled the refugee route from the Greek islands to Germany. It was an amazing, affecting experience, and I’m really excited about the story that came out of it. **FF**

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YA/TEEN Q&A: Jody Hedlund

Jody Hedlund is a best-selling and award-winning author who loves fairy-tales and happily-ever-afters.

Her latest release, *For Love & Honor* (Zondervan) is a historical, Medieval adventure for teens and young adults. Jody answered our top questions about this exciting new novel.

Can you describe your plot in one sentence?

Under the threat of imminent attack from neighboring lords seeking payment of debt, Sir Bennet struggles to accept the prospect of a marriage of convenience to the wealthy Lady Sabine to increase his family's coffers all the while not realizing she harbors a secret that could bring about not only the demise of his household but of his heart.

Is this novel part of a series? If so, what are some overarching themes in the series?

For Love & Honor is the third book in the series that started with *An Uncertain Choice*. In *An Uncertain Choice*, readers were introduced to three of the bravest and strongest knights in all the kingdom. Two of the knights, Sir Collin and Sir Derrick, have already found their happily-ever-afters. In this third book, Sir Bennet will finally get his happy ending too. While various characters from previous books show up, readers don't have to have read the first two books in the series to understand and enjoy this third installment.

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Even though the books can be read as standalones, themes of chivalry weave throughout the entire series and challenge readers to take a closer look at what kinds of things go into making a good dating relationship—shared values, friendship, selflessness, sacrifice, and honor (among many).

Ultimately, it's my hope that this series can spur young ladies to think about and discuss how to have healthy, God-honoring relationships. Free companion study guides are available on my website (and questions are also available in the backs of the books) to help facilitate further discussion about dating and relationships.

Who is your favorite character in the book?

I really loved creating Sabine's grandmother, Lady Sherborne. She's a prickly and dour older woman, but loves Sabine enough to do just about anything to form a beneficial marriage match. Full of spunk and wit and conniving, Grandmother reminds me of the stubborn but lovable Violet Crawford in *Downtown Abbey*. I hope readers will fall in love with Lady Sherborne as much as they do Sabine.

What makes your protagonist an interesting character?

Sabine is a young noblewoman with a skin blemish on her arm that, if revealed, could cause her to be branded a witch and damage her chances of making a good match. She's very self-conscious about her blemish and always wears long gloves to cover her arm.

In crafting Sabine's blemish, I wanted to make a character who wasn't the "ravishing beauty" we normally expect in fairy tales. She's a young woman who struggles with her appear-



ance and compares herself to others she considers prettier. I hope my readers can relate to her struggles and come away from the story learning to appreciate themselves the same way Sabine must learn to accept and appreciate herself, blemishes and all.

What did you learn in the course of writing this story?

I learned a lot about honor.

Honor is a huge theme in this story (if you haven't guessed from

the title!) Over and over throughout the book, the characters must make honorable choices—putting the interests of others above their own and doing what's right even when it's hard.

As I wrote Sir Bennet's point of view, I was always pushing him to act with a high code of honor. He was constantly sacrificing and doing what was right, even when he didn't necessarily want to. In fact the story starts with him making a sacrifice by coming home to help his family in their time of dire need. He was willing to do whatever he needed in order to protect those he loved, even if he had to give up his plans and desires to do so.

The way he approached both life and love with honor is such a great example for us, both in our lives and relationships.

How do you get into the right frame of mind to write for teen readers?

I have 4 teenagers and one tween. So I'm surrounded by teen angst every day! As a result of dealing with lots of teen issues with my children and their friends, I find that I'm able to give my characters problems and flaws that cross the boundaries of centuries that modern readers can relate to. I love being able to weave in hope and encouragement that if my characters can persevere and handle the growing-up issues with integrity and strength, then my readers can too.

Why do you think that story is such a powerful way to communicate truth?

Stories have POWER. Sunday school teachers and youth leaders know the power of stories to capture attention and move students. Parents know the power of stories to teach character lessons (think the story of the Boy Crying Wolf or of the Tortoise and the Hare). Pastors know the power of stories (through illustrations) to help us remember truths better. Jesus knew the power of stories, which is why he used them so often during his ministry on earth to relay truths (in all four gospels Jesus tells over 45 stories also known as parables).

Stories have the power to teach us lessons and to bring us hope. And Christian fiction in particular has the power to point people to the true Giver of Hope. **FF**

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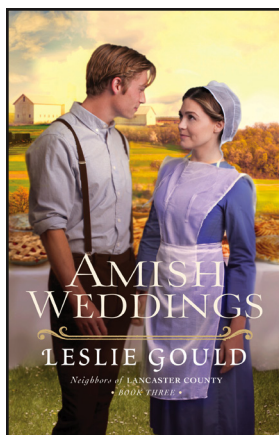
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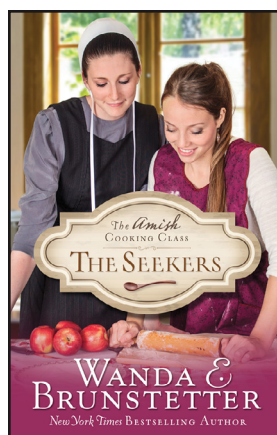
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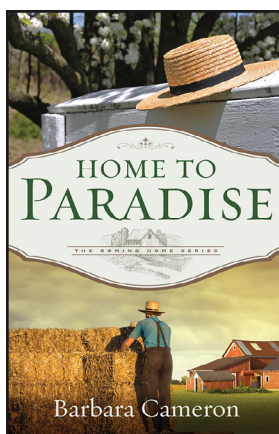


HOME TO PARADISE

COMING HOME

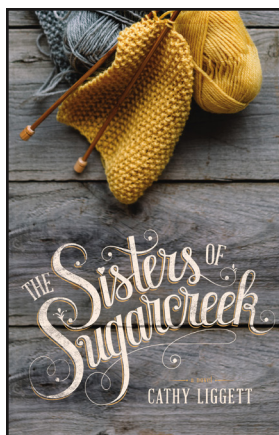
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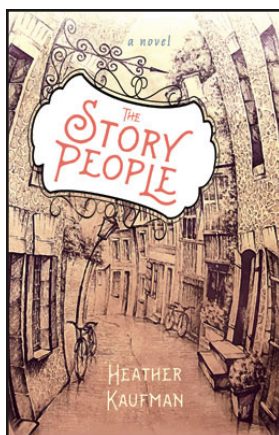
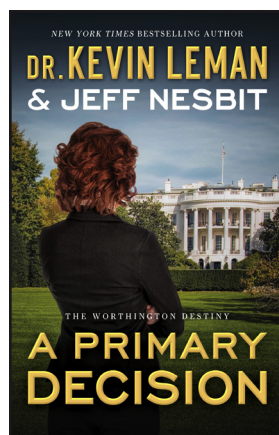
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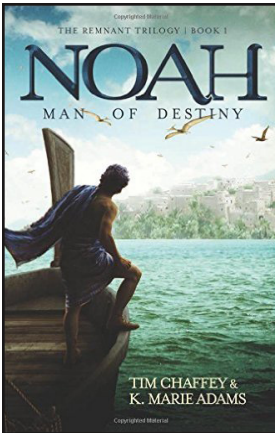
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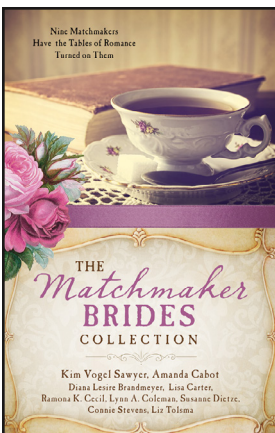
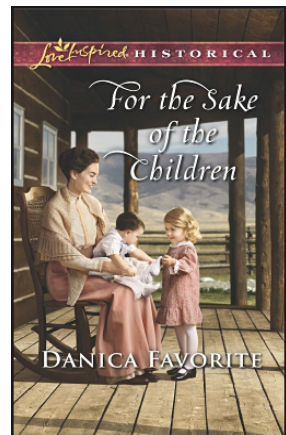
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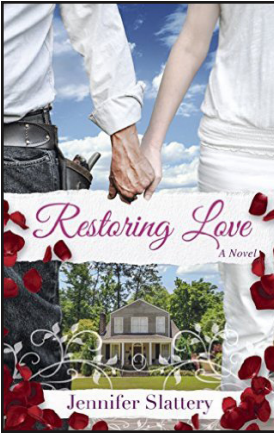


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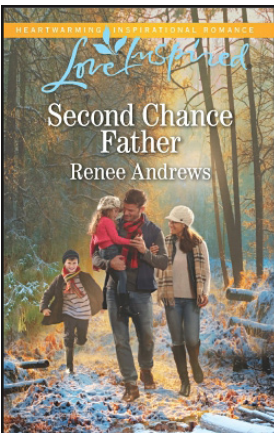
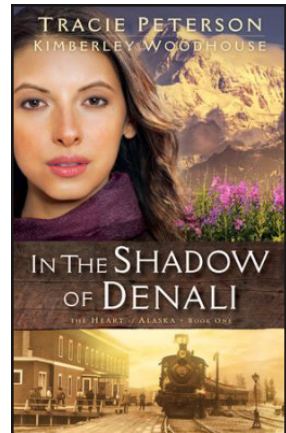
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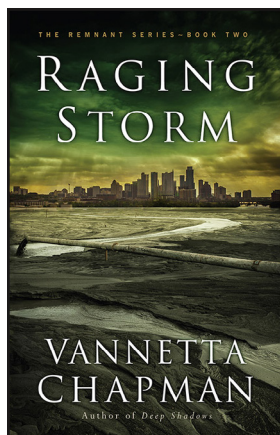
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RAGING STORM

THE REMNANT BOOK 2

Vannetta Chapman

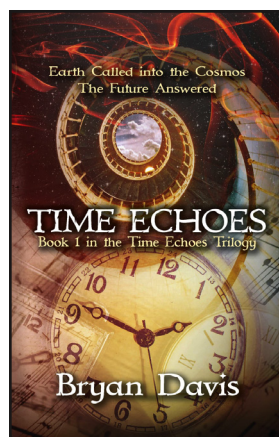
Harvest House

TIME ECHOES

TIME ECHOES TRILOGY

Bryan Davis

Scrub Jay Journeys



SCARLET MOON

CHILDREN OF THE BLOOD MOON

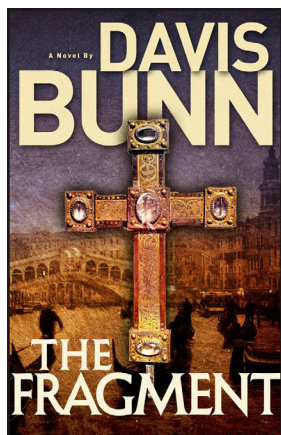
S. D. Grimm

Gilead Publishing



New Releases: Suspense

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THE FRAGMENT

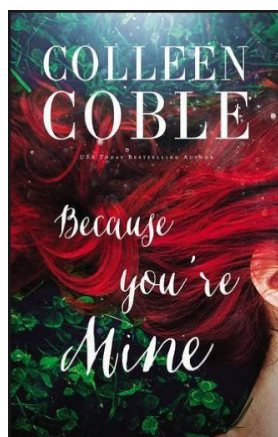
Davis Bunn

Franciscan Media

BECAUSE YOU'RE MINE

Colleen Coble

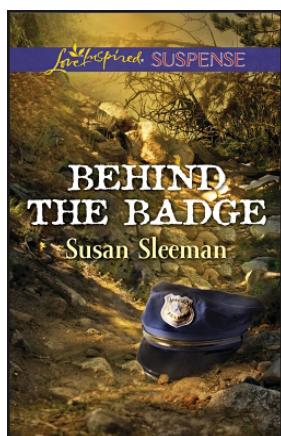
Thomas Nelson



BEHIND THE BADGE

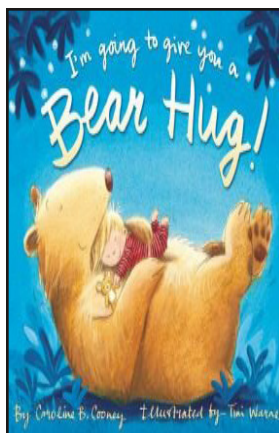
Susan Sleeman

Love Inspired Suspense



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I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A BEAR HUG!

ZONDERKIDZ

Caroline B. Cooney

Tim Warnes

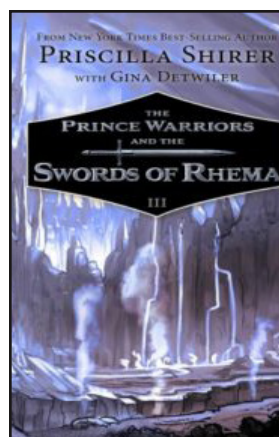
Zonderkidz

THE PRINCE WARRIORS AND THE SWORDS OF RHEMA

PRINCE WARRIORS

Priscilla Shirer

B&H Kids



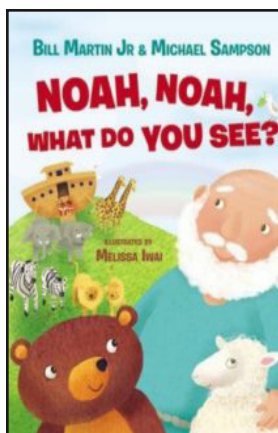
NOAH, NOAH, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

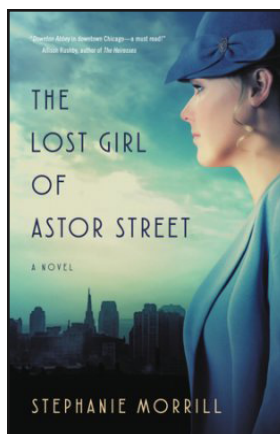
Bill Martin Jr.

Michael Sampson

Melissa Iwai

Thomas Nelson Boardbook





THE LOST GIRL OF ASTOR STREET

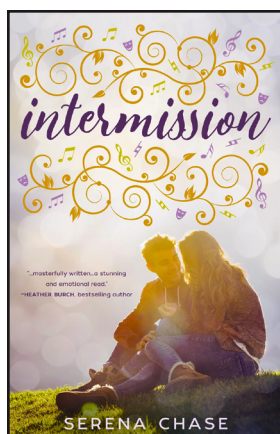
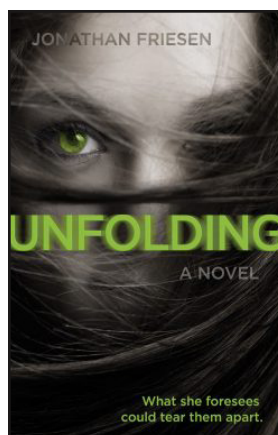
Stephanie Morrill

Blink

UNFOLDING

Jonathan Friesen

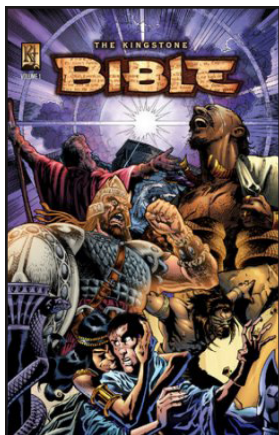
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INTERMISSION

Serena Chase

Candent Gate



THE KINGSTONE BIBLE VOL. 1

Various

Kingstone Media Group

THE LION/THE LAMB/THE BREAD

OWLEGORIES #5

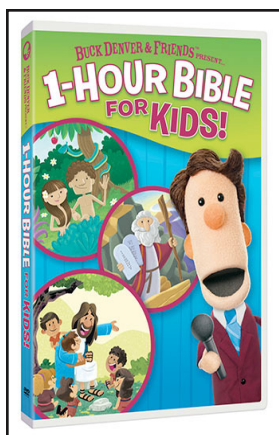
Capitol Christian Music Group



BUCK DENVER & FRIENDS PRESENT... 1 HOUR BIBLE FOR KIDS!

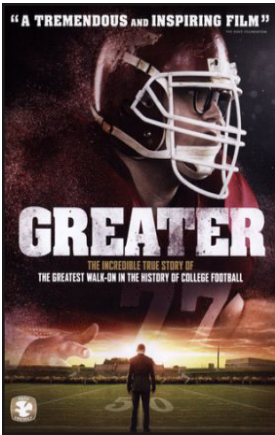
Phil Vischer

Capitol Christian Music Group



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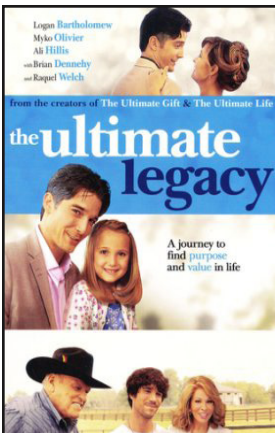


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