

FamilyFiction

September 2017



Historical Author **LAURINE SNELLING**

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Janice Cantore | 5 Children's Superhero Books
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Features



Exclusive interview with award-winning Historical author **LAURAINE SNELLING**, PLUS a free excerpt from *The Promise of Dawn*.



In her new romantic Suspense crime thriller, *Crisis Shot*, **JANICE CANTORE** shows readers that police officers are human, too.

Comic book superheroes are everywhere on TV and in the movies. What are children learning from these costumed crimefighters? Check out these 5 Christian **CHILDREN's** books for fans of superheroes.

👉 **On the Web:** Christian Fiction News

Genre Spotlights

ROMANCE - Becky Wade Q&A

HISTORICAL - Angela Hunt Q&A

SPECULATIVE - Shawn Smucker Q&A

SUSPENSE - Ronie Kendig Q&A

MOVIES/DVD - Crossflix Channel Launches

👉 New Releases & Bestsellers

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FamilyFiction is owned and published by FamilyFiction Publishing in partnership with Salem Publishing & Salem Media Group

Publisher/GM

Ross Cluver
Ross@FamilyFiction.com

Managing Editor

Deb Patterson
Deb@FamilyFiction.com

Editor-At-Large

Chris Well
Chris@FamilyFiction.com

Design & Digital Production

Ross Cluver

National Account Executive Salem Media Group

DeDe Donatelli-Tarrant
805.987.5072
dede@salempublishing.com

Web Ad Traffic Coordinator
Web & Social Media Support
Brandon Woolum
BWoolum@salempublishing.com

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UNDER
NORTHERN SKIES



*The
Promise
of Dawn*

LAURINE
SNELLING

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HISTORICAL: Lauraine Snelling

Award-winning author **Lauraine Snelling** has written more than 80 books, ranging from historical and contemporary fiction to nonfiction and children's books. She ventures into Minnesota with the launch of her new series, *Under Northern Skies*.

The first book, ***The Promise of Dawn*** (Bethany House), features the trials of Signe, her husband Rune, and their three boys, who leave their beloved homeland of Norway and move in with relatives in the New World. Their new life is far from a dream, as Uncle Einar and Aunt Gird force Signe and her family to work themselves nearly to the bone to repay the cost of their voyage.

In this interview, Snelling answers our questions about the new series, her love for Norsk Høstfest and Scandinavian food, and her favorite way to connect with readers!

by Deborah Patterson

CLICK TO READ MORE ONLINE: <https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lauraine-snelling>

Is there a central theme in the Under Northern Skies series?

One of my main themes is always forgiveness, both on the giving and the receiving, especially in families but for all of us. The hardest is usually when we need to forgive ourselves. There we are on both the giving and the receiving ... not easy, but necessary.

Learning to love is strong in this series, too ... all the kinds of love, so many of which are a sacrifice.

Was it challenging to tackle a new setting for this series? What are some things you found intriguing about the Minnesota setting?

Going from the flat plains of the Red River Valley to the giant pine trees of northern Minnesota was similar to night and day. Those around me could hear me mutter sometimes, along the line of “why would I...” I also have to confess, I miss Ingeborg and the characters of Blessing, [North Dakota].

Those huge pine trees and all the other flora and fauna kept me reading, sometimes late into the night. The reverence found in a forest of big trees, be they pine or redwood, is good for the soul.

Would you let our readers in on a few challenges faced by your main character, Signe, and her family as they settle in a new land? How is her faith tested, and how does she experience personal growth through the process?

Think about it. Leaving your family with the certain knowledge you would never see them again this side of heaven, that goodbye really meant goodbye. If I put myself in that position, the tears gather. Could I have made myself do that? The desire for

a different life for you and your children had to be stronger than the fear and the longing to remain at home. Seeing one's children go hungry would be a mighty strong impetus to overcome the fear. And then to face cruel relatives who owned you until you paid your debt? That would surely be a dream killer, but Signe and Rune hang in there and learn how to show respect that leads to caring for those same relatives. I was cheering them on all the way, sometimes in amazement. I'm afraid I would have yelled back and stormed out of the room, the house and on down the road.

Can you give us any clues about what we can expect from the next book in the series?

Come on, that's really not a fair question. But here goes: Will Rune's sister Nilda find her heart's desire? I still don't know the answer to that one for sure. What about his younger brother Ivar? Oh, I like that young man. And Rune and Signe? What challenges will face them this time? Oh, sorry, guess I just raised more questions.

Keeping with the Norwegian theme, we hear that you are one of the favorite authors featured at Norsk Høstfest, held in Minot, North Dakota, each fall. What do you enjoy most about the festival?

I am always excited about going to Høstfest! I love seeing so many longtime friends and catching up a bit on their lives. The people I meet are the real reason I go there. And if you twist my arm, just the tiniest, I might confess the food is a tugger too.

What is your favorite Scandinavian food?

Oh, another unfair question. Hmm, could it be *krumkake*, *sandbakkelse*, *fattigman*, or pickled herring? Three cookies and a fish. Interesting combination. Oh, I have to include *lefse*. We go to Høstfest early so we can attend the Lutefisk and Lefse dinner at Our Savior's Lutheran church, which is always the Saturday before Høstfest. My mouth is watering!

Beyond events like Høstfest, what are some of your favorite ways to connect with your readers, and why is that important to you?

I truly enjoy Facebook. I hear many people grumble about it, but I have made lifelong friends, many of whom I've met in person because of our common interests, besides reading and books, that is. I've been traveling so much this year, I've not been as faithful with my daily letter [on Facebook], but this too shall pass and we will have many more lively discussions. These relationships are important to me because I believe God has brought us together as a Facebook family, to cheer each other on, pray for needs and, very often, share information. I get stuck on something in my writing and I pose the question on FB. Wow, the answers I get from my caring FB family!

In addition to your writing, you have also taught at many writer's conferences, workshops and other events through the years. What are some of your favorite topics to cover?

My favorite workshop is about building characters who walk off the page and into readers' hearts. I am by nature a storyteller, if you haven't guessed that by now, so I get to tell stories to help other people tell their own. My dad was a storyteller too, but if you can believe this, he accused me of fibbing. Well, he used a stronger word but I, like him, take truth

and expand it some to make a memorable story. Just the facts, Ma'am? Not me. I love embroidery, both with needle and thread and word pictures.

My favorite writer's conference is Mount Hermon near the grand Pacific Ocean near Santa Cruz. It is always over Palm Sunday so you know the dates every year. Attending Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference is a life-changing experience.

Who are some other authors whose writing inspires you?

Cynthia Ruchti is at the top of my list that includes Julie Klassen, DiAnn Miles, Louise Penny, Donna Leon ... oh, the list goes on and on and on. Authors come and go; some just do not write fast enough. Have I mentioned how much I love to read?

When you are not writing, reading or teaching, what kinds of things do you do to nourish your spirit and keep you excited about life?

I love watercolor painting, especially butterflies and flowers, oh and birds and ... there I go again. So with the butterflies and flowers, I am an avid gardener, and I love the colors in both areas. The colors in this creation we live in are beyond description. Sometimes "oh" is all I can say.

Is there anything else you would like to say to *FamilyFiction* readers?

Just a mighty THANK YOU for enjoying my books and sharing them with others. Your love of the stories I write makes it possible for me to keep on writing. Your encouragement makes the journey even more delightful. Oh and, hope to see you at Høstfest, a book signing or on Facebook! **FF**

Lauraine Snelling



Lauraine Snelling is the award-winning author of more than 80 books, with sales of over 2 million copies. She also writes for a wide range of magazines, and helps others reach their writing dreams by teaching at writers' conferences across the country.

www.LauraineSnelling.com

UNDER
NORTHERN SKIES

The Promise of Dawn



LAUR AINE
SNELLING



BETHANYHOUSE
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Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Under Northern Skies • Book 1

The Promise of Dawn

Lauraine Snelling

Chapter 1

April 1909

“Mor, a letter from Amerika!”

Gunlaug Strand Carlson looked up from the loom where she was weaving a rug for her son Johann’s wedding present. “From Ingeborg?” Her heart leaped. If only she had not lost touch in the years since her cousin Ingeborg married Roald and moved to North Dakota. At least she got bits of news from Ingeborg’s mor.

Ivar, her youngest at fifteen, shook his head. “This is from Minnesota, so it must be your other cousin.”

“Is it to me or your far?”

“It says ‘Mister and Missus.’ The writing is hard to read.” Ivar handed her the letter.

“Takk.” She studied the envelope and then smiled at her son. “So how was school today?”

“Better. There aren’t as many absent, but some of those who came back are still coughing like to blow up their chests.”

“Uff da.” The schools had been closed for a week due to the influenza that seemed to come through every year. Every day she thanked God for keeping her family safe. Of all her children, Ivar loved school the most. He was already dreaming of college and becoming a schoolteacher. How they would ever pay for

something like that was beyond her comprehension. She tapped the letter on the edge of the loom.

"Aren't you going to open it?" Ivar glanced at the clock. "Far will be home soon. What's for supper?"

"Ask Nilda. She's cooking for us tonight."

"Not porridge again?"

"Nei, Johann is bringing Solveig for supper to talk about the wedding. We will read the letter at supper."

"We could read it real quick and pretend like we didn't."

"Get on with you." She fluttered her fingers, shooing him on his way. "I want to get a few more rows woven before I have to cover it." She wanted the rug to be a surprise.

Ivar left the room, whistling. Besides being her most scholarly child, he also seemed the happiest. Like her cousin Ingeborg, Ivar saw the good in things; even as a baby he'd smiled and laughed. If only there were some way his dream of becoming a teacher could come true.

That night, with everyone gathered around the supper table, Gunlaug slit open the envelope and unfolded the one sheet inside.

"Dear Cousin Gunlaug and Thor,

"I hope all is well with you and your family. I am finally in a position to write to ask for help. As you know, Gerd and I have never been blessed with sons to help us here in the new land. The section of land I have purchased from a homesteader is covered with huge pine trees that we log and send to the mills in Minneapolis. The money from those trees has made it possible for us to build a home

large enough to house a family. We farm what land we have cleared, but we need help. Gerd is not well, so we are asking if Rune and his wife and sons would be willing to immigrate to Minnesota. I would pay for their passage with the understanding that over time those funds would be paid back.

"We live near a small town called Benson's Corner, with the nearest big town being Blackduck, Minnesota. There is a school for the younger ones in the winter. Once the trees are felled and shipped on the local railroad spur to the northern mills, we will clear the stumps and plant crops. We have one cow now, but I have always planned on a dairy herd when the land is cleared.

"We are hopeful Rune will agree to come. This is indeed a land of opportunity. I know we are grateful we came here when we did.

"Yours truly,

"Einar Strand and Gerd"

Gunlaug laid the letter on the table and looked to her eldest son, who sat to her right. "What do you think?"...

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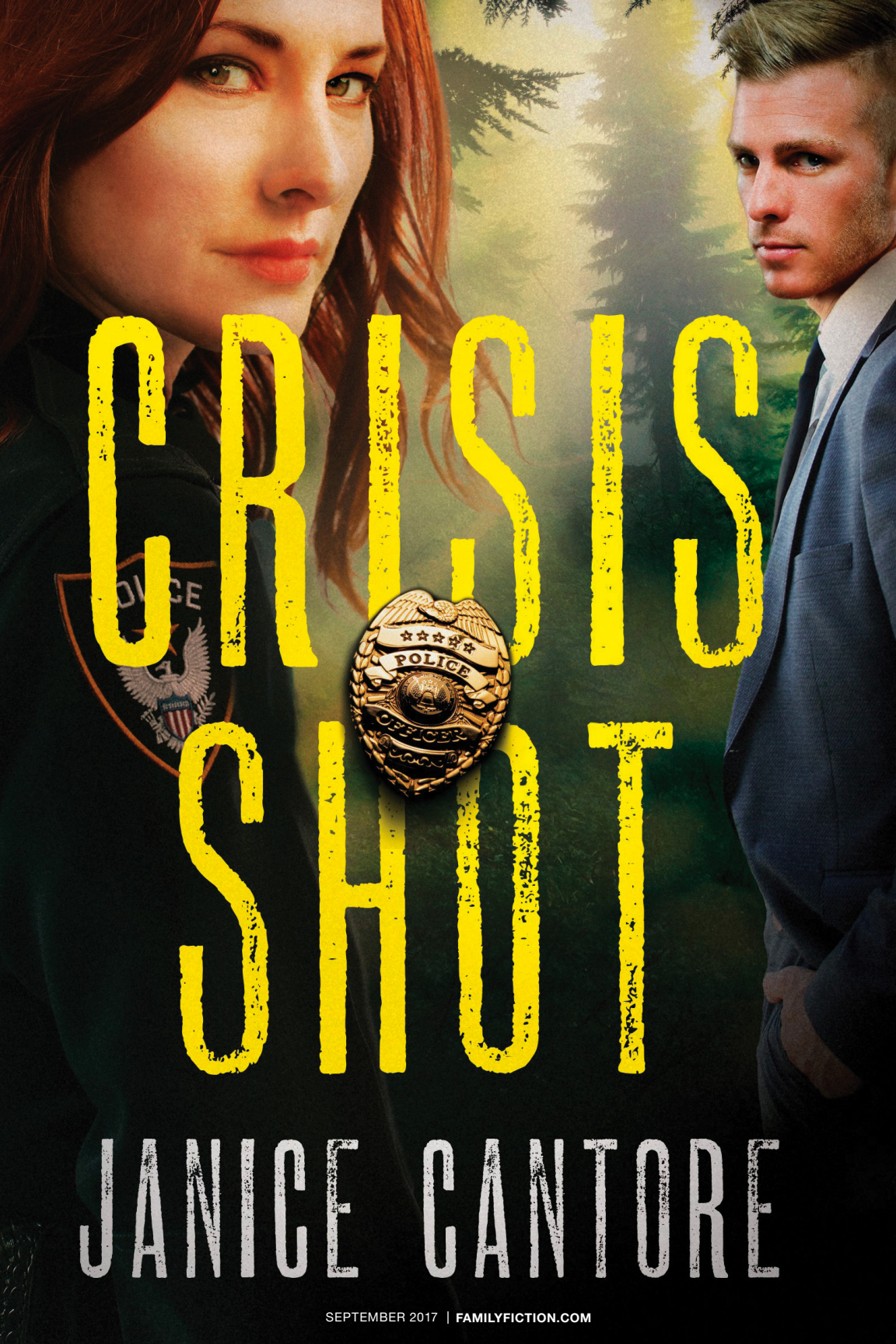


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CRISIS IS SHOT

JANICE CANTORE

SEPTEMBER 2017 | FAMILYFICTION.COM

SUSPENSE: Janice Cantore

The Heart Behind the Badge

For her latest romantic suspense crime thriller, **Janice Cantore** draws upon her real-life experiences to show readers that police officers are human, too.

A retired Long Beach police officer, Janice Cantore infuses her suspense novels with an authenticity that keeps readers glued to the pages. Her new series, **The Line of Duty**, kicks off with **Crisis Shot** (Tyndale House). Winning over the residents of Rogue's Hollow might be more difficult for Tess O'Rourke than adjusting to her new role as police chief in the small, backwater town. Especially when her closest friend, the pastor's wife, goes missing and the woman's cousin is found shot. Tess finds an ally in sheriff's deputy Steve Logan, but as they track down Rogue's Hollow's first murderer, she worries that she's breaking one of her rules and getting too close to him.

What inspired you to begin your new series, *The Line of Duty*?

My initial desire was to place a crime novel in a small-town setting. Since I now live in a small town, a lot of factors intrigued me about the setting. Everyone seems to know everyone else here, much more than in Long Beach. There really is a sense of community. Here, arrests are still printed in the local newspaper and everyone seems to know the troublemakers and the misfits. Also, people here seem more likely to help their neighbors. There is more of a permanent atmosphere in town, not a transient one.

As far as Tess O'Rourke is concerned, she popped up out of all the negative news that police officers seem to be getting now-

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adays. I very much wanted to tell the other side of the story in regards to controversial shootings, kind of behind the sensational headlines. The media too often twists the facts.

How do you expect book one, *Crisis Shot*, to resonate with your audience? What are you most excited for your readers to experience through reading this novel?

First, I hope they realize that police officers are human beings, and it is not fair, after a shooting or controversial arrest, to ascribe motives to them before all the facts are in. “Innocent until proven guilty” applies to cops as well as criminals. And then I hope readers experience and appreciate the struggle for Tess to get back to work at the job she loves, trying to prove herself all over again to a group of cops who might think she’s not up to the job.

How did your personal experience as a police officer influence the story in *Crisis Shot*?

When I worked in uniform, I learned quickly how fast things happen, and how distorted they get when interpreted by people who have no idea what it's like to work in uniform in hostile areas, or walk up to a car on a dark night, or rush to a shots call where no one can really say what's going on.

What role does faith play in the story?

Tess will tell you that she lost her faith. Her father was killed in the line of duty, and Tess feels betrayed by God. Oliver is a pastor and in a similar situation as Tess, but he leans into his faith, not away from it.

Bottom line, God is still God no matter the valleys we travel through, and while faith is essential, it is not a shield against pain and heartbreak in this world.

In the opening scene of *Crisis Shot*, Officer Tess O'Rourke is forced to shoot an unarmed teenager to protect a fellow officer. Many Americans have seen similar shooting incidents in their own communities or reported in the media. How do you hope your novel might inform your readers as they respond to these situations?

The media often embellishes a police shooting to fit a narrative. For some reason the narrative has been that the officer is wrong, racist, trigger-happy . . . take your pick.

And media sources perpetuate falsehoods to validate their narrative—for example, for two weeks we saw people on cable networks, sports teams, and talk shows do the “Hands up, don’t shoot” gesture after the Ferguson shooting of Michael Brown,

when that, in fact, wasn't what happened before the shooting.

For some reason the media kept pushing the idea that Brown was standing with his hands up and saying "Don't shoot" when the officer fired, but eyewitnesses under oath said that never happened. All this did was inflame people, and the officer, who was exonerated for the shooting, lost his job.

With Tess and her shooting, I want people to see that it is never as cut-and-dried as the media will try to spin it. Officers have split seconds to make life-or-death decisions. Hesitation gets cops killed. If nothing else, I hope *Crisis Shot* will help people realize that cops deserve to be considered innocent until proven guilty, not the other way around.

How can we support law enforcement working in our communities?

A friendly wave as they go through the neighborhood, maybe a letter to the editor saying that you think they do a good job if that is the case. Let's face it, no one likes getting a ticket, but that is one of the cops' jobs, and if you did break a traffic law . . . sorry.

What is the best advice or encouragement you have received either personally or professionally?

I am encouraged every Sunday in church by my pastor. For the past few months he has been teaching through the book of Hebrews. The emphasis is faith, the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not yet seen. Holding tight to faith in God is the best advice/encouragement I've ever gotten.

What can your readers expect from *The Line of Duty* books two and three?

Well, of course, Tess will get into trouble and scrapes and work her way out with smarts and toughness—and the help of her supporting cast. **FF**



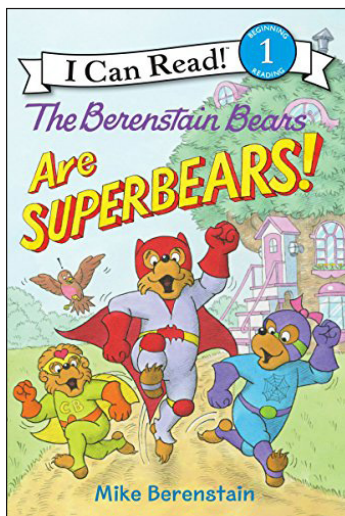
Janice Cantore is a retired Long Beach police officer who now writes suspense novels. Her 22 years of experience on the force lend authenticity to her stories. Janice also writes a blog about police work.

www.JaniceCantore.com

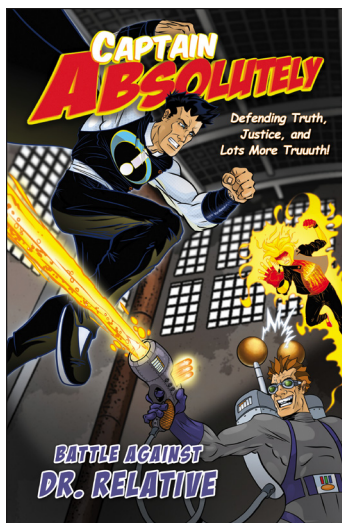
CHILDREN'S:

5 Christian Children's Books for Fans of Superheroes

With the overwhelming presence of comic book superheroes on TV and in the movies, what are children learning from these costumed crimefighters? Check out these family-friendly alternatives for young readers...



The Berenstain Bears Are SuperBears! (I Can Read Level 1)
Mike Berenstain
HarperCollins



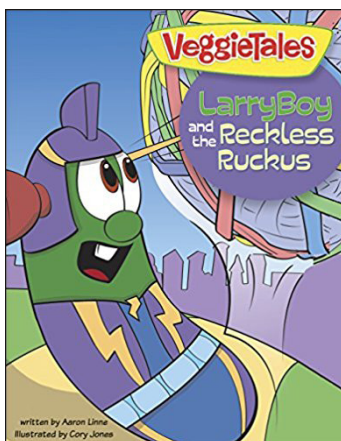
Captain Absolutely
Stephen O'Rear and Christopher Maselli
Focus on the Family/
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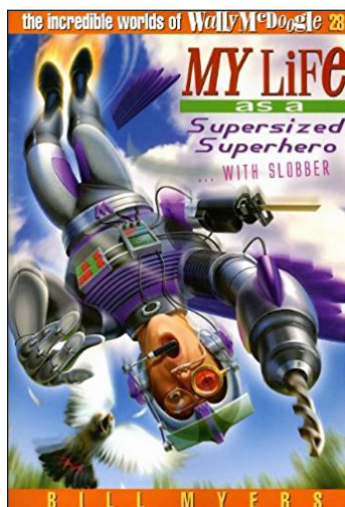
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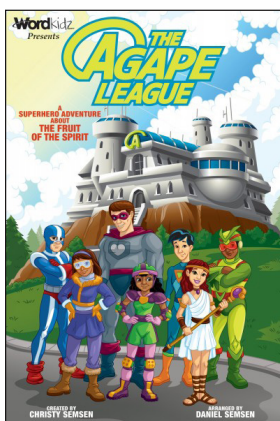
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LarryBoy and the Reckless Ruckus (VeggieTales)
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Arranged by Daniel Semsen
WordKidz

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Romance

Becky Wade

Romance author **Becky Wade** kicks off the new Bradford Sisters Romance series with ***True to You*** (Bethany House).

This contemporary romantic series, perfect for fans of Rachel Hauck and Denise Hunter, follows the love stories of three sisters living in a delightful Pacific Northwest small town. In this Q&A, Becky explains what inspired her to write about three sisters, why opposites attract, and the impact she hopes *True to You* will have on readers.



***True to You* is the first book in a brand-new series.**

What inspired you to write a book about three sisters?

I'm the eldest of three sisters! I love having sisters. We did our share of fighting when we were growing up, but we've been a huge source of friendship, trust, comfort, and support to each other ever since we hit adulthood. We can talk for hours. We look alike. We all share the same sense of humor. My fondness for my sisters and for the bonds of sisterhood inspired me to pen a series based on sisters.

***True to You* tells the love story of a brainy genealogist and a Medal of Honor-winning Navy Seal. Is this a case of "opposites attract"?**

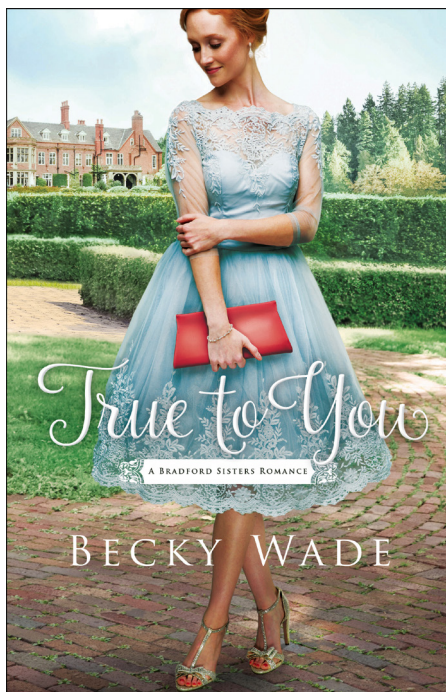
It absolutely is. The heroine of *True to You*, Nora Bradford, is bookish, history-minded, and fearful of love. The hero, John Lawson, is athletic, practical, and confident. I had great fun pairing the two of them together. Their banter was a delight to write. And it was intriguing for me as an author to peel back the surface of their personalities to discover why the hearts beneath were perfectly matched.

What aspect of the story did you most enjoy writing?

At the outset of the novel, John hires Nora to help him find his biological mother who gave him up for adoption when he was an infant. I thoroughly enjoyed researching adoption and reunion and then crafting a plot that enabled John and Nora's genealogical search to uncover one clue after another.

What impact do you hope that *True to You* will have on readers?

Because I write heartwarming and humorous romances, I always hope that readers will close the final page of my books with a happy sigh and a smile. In this particular case, the theme of *True to You* is truth. I'm praying the Lord will use this story to remind readers of the fact that their true identity is, was, and always will be in Him. **FF**



For her new historical series *The Silent Years*, **Angela Hunt** digs into the “silent” period between the Old Testament and New Testament. ***Egypt’s Sister:***

A Novel of Cleopatra (Bethany House)

introduces readers to a Jewish woman who befriends Cleopatra. After experiencing the best and worst of Roman society, Chava must choose between

love and honor, between her own desires and God’s will for her life. In this Q&A, Angela Hunt explains why she wrote a biblical-era novel about someone who isn’t in the Bible, what attracted her to writing about this era between the Testaments, and the surprising things she learned researching ancient Egypt and Rome...



Why did you decide to write about Cleopatra, of all people? She’s not exactly a biblical character.

I chose to write about Cleopatra—and in the first book, no less—because people are familiar with her history. She lived and reigned thirty years before the birth of Christ, so I knew she’d be a good introduction to this period. Plus, she’s fascinating.

Few Christian novelists have written about the inter-testamental period. What drew you to that era?

I would always rather do something new, because I love learning new things myself. I had never read any Christian novels set in this period, and I knew very little about the time, so I knew it’d be a challenge. I love challenges.

What, if anything, did you learn about Egypt and Rome that surprised you?

I learned lots of surprising things. First, I learned that Cleopatra

and her royal forebears weren't Egyptian—they were Macedonian Greeks, descended from Alexander the Great. They lived in Alexandria and spoke, dressed, and behaved according to Greek traditions and customs, not Egyptian. Second, I was surprised by the many similarities between our government and the Roman system.

Chava, your heroine, hears the voice of God speaking to her in her youth. Did you write from experience?

Yes. Though I did not hear God speak audibly, I felt Him speak to me as a teenager, and He gave me a promise that was fulfilled, even though at the time everything seemed against that possibility. So when the same thing happened to Chava, I was writing from experience.

What parallels do you see between the ancient Romans and contemporary American society?

The more secular the United States becomes, the more like the Romans we become. The chief difference between our two systems is that America was founded by Christian people who sought religious freedom. The Romans celebrated religious freedom, too, but they were pagans, with a god for everything. Our system of morality is based upon Judeo-Christian principles, but the Romans had no such foundation. The more we abandon our foundational principles, the more like the Romans we become.

What's up next for The Silent Years series?

The next book in the series, *Judah's Wife*, goes back to the time of the Maccabees when Judea and the Jews were living under the heavy hand of the Seleucids and all the world had gone over to Greek thinking, speaking, and living. Just as many Christians find it challenging to live in an increasingly secular world, so the Jews found it difficult to live as religious Jews under the heavy Hellenistic influence. **FF**

Haunting and hypnotic, *The Day the Angels Fell* (Revell) explores the difficult questions of life in a voice that is fresh, friendly, and unafraid. With this powerful novel, **Shawn Smucker** has carved out a spot for himself in the tradition of authors Madeleine L'Engle and Lois Lowry.



Where did you get your inspiration for *The Day the Angels Fell*?

I was co-writing a memoir with a man in Istanbul, Turkey, who was dying of cancer. The goal was to finish the first draft before he passed away, so it was an intense three weeks, and we spent a lot of time together. For the first time in my life, I was face-to-face with mortality—he was forty-nine years old, a husband, a father of two children—and I wondered how I would feel if that was me, preparing to die.

When I got home from the trip I started talking to my children about what kind of story they would like, and together we came up with the basic structure for *The Day the Angels Fell*. As I began to write the book, I realized that doing so was my way of working through this fear of death I had taken on. And writing it really helped me come to grips with my own mortality.

Which character is your favorite and why?

My favorite character is Abra. She's a strong, determined girl, fiercely loyal, courageous in the face of death. In other words, she's who I would like to be. I also like the old Samuel Chambers because I have a feeling he's very much how I will be when I'm an old man—a little grumpy, a little bit of a hermit, but mostly a soft, sentimental type.

How did you choose the setting for your novel?

The setting is the farm where I lived for five years, really the earliest place I can remember. It's always had mythic attributes to it, at least in my mind—there was the farm with huge barns and open spaces; there was the church across the street and the creek behind it; there was the cemetery and the road that went off into the country.

Would you classify your book more as a mystery or as a fantasy?

I don't think of it as a fantasy, although there are certainly fantastical elements. What I wanted to do was write a story that an old man looking back on fifty or sixty years later might find hard to believe, which is what's happening here. I guess I'd say more mystery, although not in the classic whodunit sense. The mystery is Samuel and Abra trying to find out more about the mystery of death, which is a mystery we are all very concerned about.

Who is the primary audience for *The Day the Angels Fell*?

The audience would be people who enjoy whimsical tales about childhood that are a bit melancholy, a bit nostalgic. Also, people who would like to explore the idea of death being a part of life.

In what way would you say your faith is worked into the book?

My personal faith is strongly rooted in hope. I think what this book really is, at its core, is me trying to find hope even in the darkest edges of life.

Is there some lesson you hope readers will get from your book?

I'd like young readers, any reader, to think more about their own death, to think about why it's scary for many of us. Our culture does everything it can to keep death at arm's length, especially with children. I'd like us collectively to consider what death actually is, what it might lead to, what its greater purpose could be. **FF**

In **Ronie Kendig**'s latest military thriller, ***Crown of Souls*** (Bethany House), Cole "Tox" Russell battles a growing darkness within himself as he and his team are forced into another deadly encounter with antiquity. The author explains why her recent military series includes archaeological threads, how she researches her fiction, and why her main character's name is "Tox."



In *The Tox Files*, you write in a slightly different vein while maintaining your Rapid-Fire Fiction brand of writing and the paramilitary element. What coerced you into writing archaeological threads in your stories?

After writing a dozen paramilitary novels, I was looking to do something new, to shake up my "complacency" and rediscover my love of writing. Don't get me wrong—I've always LOVED writing, but I like to do new things, so when I was doing some creative mulling (otherwise known as Facebook trolling), an author I follow posted a picture of an ancient site and said it was located in the oldest, most continually inhabited city, then asked readers to find out where it was. That hooked me! I was game—procrastinating, I mean, percolating my story—so I dove into the hunt. Which invariably led me to Aleppo... and the Aleppo Codex. And as they say, the rest is history.

***Crown of Souls* received a Top Pick from RT Reviews, and in their blurb they mention the extensive research done for this series. How have you done this research?**

Over the past three years, I have had so much fun delving deep into history and learning about other cultures—which is one of

the greatest ironies of life, since as a kid in high school, I hated history (and math, but let's not linger on negative experiences). It has been so fascinating to read about how one event or general impacted a country and other countries. I've had the great benefit of meeting a real Doctor Cathey, who has multiple PhDs, has led digs in Israel, and is not only a great intellect, but he's got some mad-crazy creative skills, too. I've had so much fun with this series and exploring the past and its impact on our future.

How did you come up with the title of the novel and its artifact?

I wish I could claim credit for *Crown of Souls*, but in researching and talking to the real Dr. Cathey, he read a passage from some ancient writing that could, essentially, be translated "crown of souls," and there birthed the title and its artifact.

The Tox Files is named after the main character, Tox.

How did you come up with that?

There are people in our lives who are truly toxic and challenge us, but I thought—what if that was actually a character's name? How would that drive the story and the plot? Not to mention, it just plain sounds cool.

The quote by Nietzsche is a theme of ***Crown of Souls***.

What made you choose this?

The full quote—"He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster. And if you gaze for long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into you."—seemed like such a perfect segue into the development of Tox's character. He has long believed he's toxic, so it was a natural progression for him to examine the "monster" within himself. **FF**

Hollywood Veteran Alan Mehrez Launches Crossflix

Crossflix is a streaming service that emphasizes original and exclusives faith and family entertainment viewers can trust to entertain, educate and inspire. Crossflix merges the best in faith and family films, faith-inspired documentaries, children's animated and educational Biblical programs, and inspirational videos.

Meeting the strong demand for quality faith and family programming, Crossflix launches today as the digital destination for Christian entertainment, education, and inspiration. Currently available on Apple TV, Google Chromecast, FireTV, Roku, Google Play and on the internet, Crossflix is finalizing placement of their content on iOS, which will launch in the coming weeks.

The network launches with a large, high-quality collection of titles and trailers, and will add new content weekly. Crossflix merges the best in faith and family films, faith-inspired documentaries, children's animated and educational Biblical programs, and inspirational videos.

Crossflix is founded by Alan Mehrez and co-founded by his wife and business partner Aileen Rodriguez. Mehrez, a Harvard-educated entrepreneur well known as a successful producer of films that have been released by Lionsgate, Warner Brothers, HBO, Showtime, and other studios. In addition, Mehrez and Rodriguez have worked as international film distributors licensing film rights all over the world.

Crossflix has just wrapped production of their original series “The Living Bible,” which consists of 50 half-hour episodes. Nine episodes are included in today’s launch and the balance will be released two episodes at a time over a twenty-week period. Along with “The Living Bible” series, Crossflix is in different stages of production on ten additional television shows, releasing over the coming year.

In addition to original content, Crossflix has acquired top entertainment properties, including *Revive Us*, featuring faith-audience superstar Kirk Cameron (*Fireproof*, *Courageous*), and the Cedar-mont Kids series (Sony) which has sold over 22 million DVDs. For both titles, Crossflix is the exclusive digital debut. Hundreds of additional titles have been acquired, including content from major distributors such as Vision Video, Bridgestone Multimedia Group and Green Apple Entertainment.

Green Apple Entertainment has initially licensed 16 titles on the Crossflix platform, including *Like a Country Song* (Billy Ray Cyrus, Joel Smallbone), *War Flowers* (Christina Ricci, Tom Berenger), TV movie *On Angel’s Wings* (Robin Givens, Reginald Vel Johnson, Bill Cobbs), *A Dog for Christmas* (Richard Karn, Dean Cain) and *The Way Home* (Dean Cain). The agreement was negotiated between Alan Mehrez and Joshua K. Carpenter.

“As a leading provider of quality, independent entertainment, we are thrilled to have licensed 16 of our faith and family films for the launch of Crossflix,” states Joshua K. Carpenter, Head of Global Acquisition and Sales for Green Apple Entertainment. “Their OTT subscription service made available across an array of devices positions themselves to scale their audience and become a leader in the faith and family marketplace. We’re excited for

their leadership, their future and our continued alliance for positive and uplifting content.”

Crossflix delivers a unique offering to the streaming entertainment market through exclusive faith-based movies and series as well as the acquisition of top titles and brands. At an introductory rate of \$10.99 per month, consumers can enjoy unlimited access to Crossflix for less than the average cost of a single movie ticket.

For the launch, Crossflix is announcing a 14-day, risk-free trial at no cost for anyone who would like to experience the internet television network. “We are passionate about not only sharing quality Christian entertainment but creating engaging programming that is educational in nature. Our team has created Crossflix to be the industry leader for audiences of all ages seeking faith-based programming that entertains, educates and inspires at an affordable price,” shares Mehrez. “We are thrilled to launch and are excited to share groundbreaking new shows and films with the Crossflix audience.” **FF**

ON THE WEBSITE

Check out these news articles, updates, and other bonus articles on FamilyFiction.com

Karen Kingsbury

Baxter Family returns in November for *In This Moment*

The Baxter Family saga continues with *In This Moment*, the latest novel from #No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author Karen Kingsbury. The plot details the courageous journey of a beloved high school principal who starts a Bible study to improve the lives of his struggling students, only to become the national focus of a controversial lawsuit.

Read the article

<https://www.familyfiction.com/karen-kingsburys-baxter-family-returns-november-moment>

The Wasteland

Original series 'The Wasteland' to release on Facebook Live and ChristianCinema.Com

This gripping allegory follows a man struggling to remember his past and return to a place he has long neglected.

Read the article

<https://www.familyfiction.com/original-series-wasteland-facebook-live-christiancinema-com>

Barbour Historical Series

The Daughters of the Mayflower

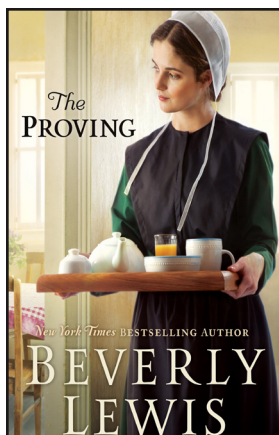
Barbour Publishing has announced the launch of a one-of-a-kind new fiction series created for lovers of history, adventure, romance, and family legacy. The Daughters of the Mayflower series will follow a family tree linked by daughters across American history from the landing of the Mayflower through the events of Word War II.

Read the article

<https://www.familyfiction.com/barbour-launches-unique-historical-fiction-series>

New Releases: Amish

CLICK HERE FOR MORE AMISH RELEASES: <http://www.familyfiction.com/genre/amish>



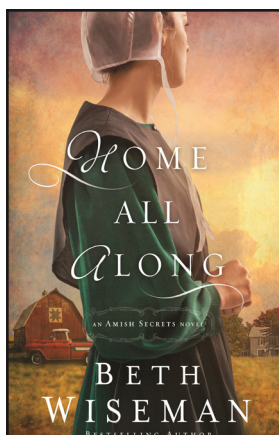
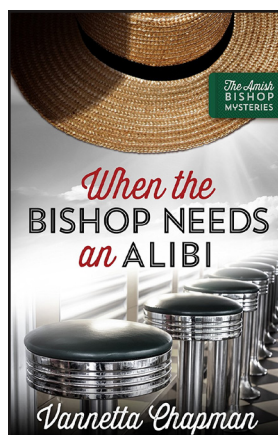
THE PROVING **Beverly Lewis** Bethany House

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WHEN THE BISHOP NEEDS AN ALIBI **THE AMISH BISHOP MYSTERIES #2** **Vannetta Chapman**

Harvest House

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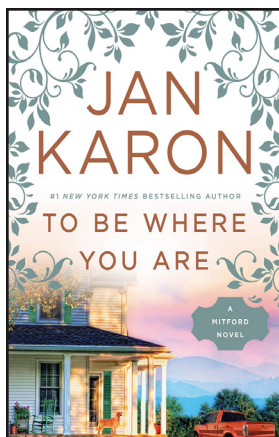


HOME ALL ALONG **AMISH SECRETS #3** **Beth Wiseman** Thomas Nelson

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A MITFORD NOVEL, BOOK 14

Jan Karon

G.P. Putnam's Sons

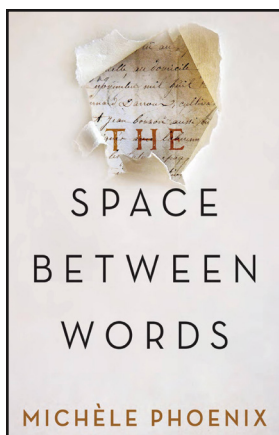
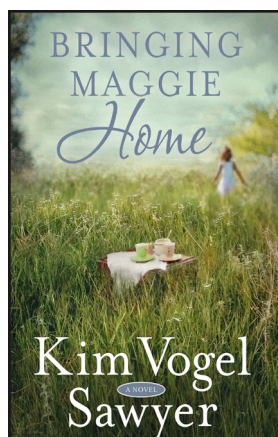
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WaterBrook

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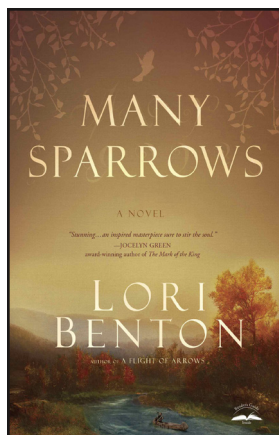
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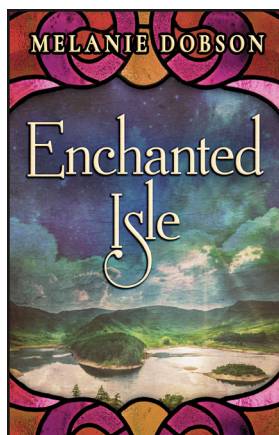


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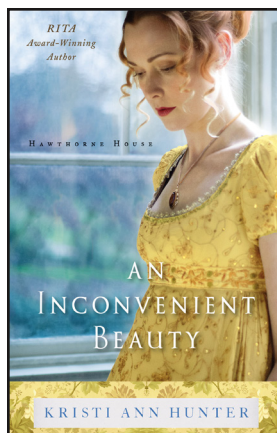
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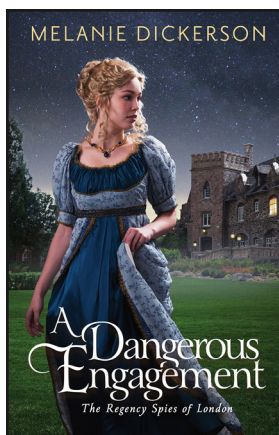
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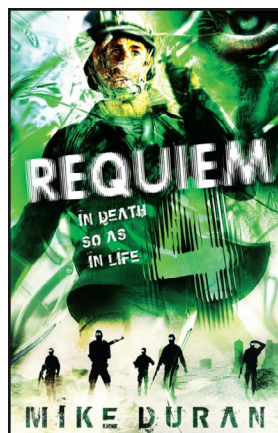
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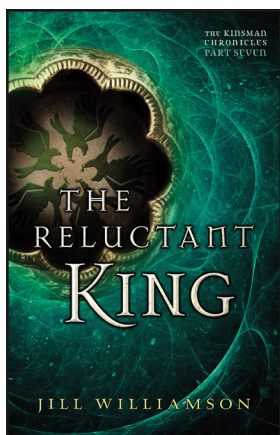
THE RELUCTANT KING

THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES #7

Jill Williamson

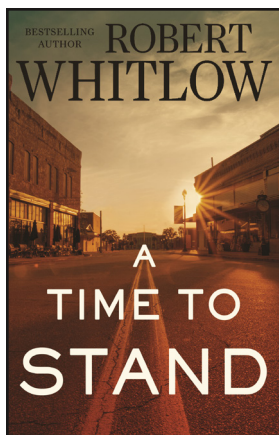
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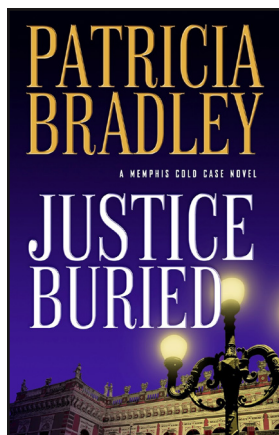
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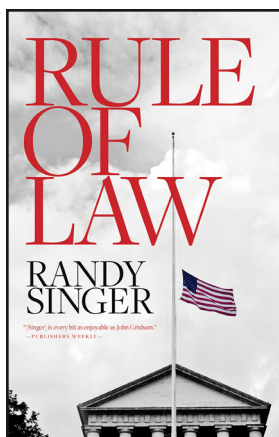


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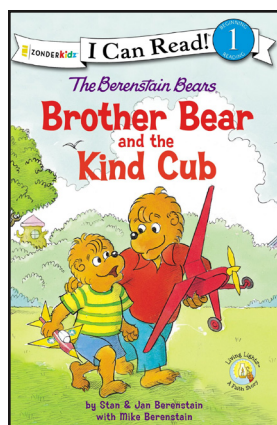
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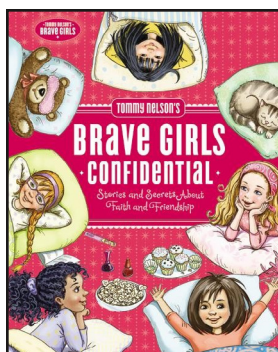
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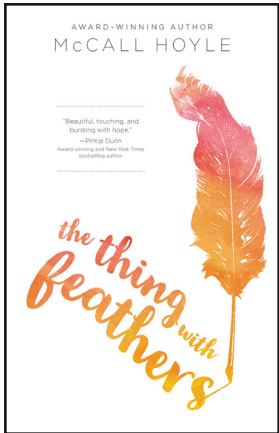


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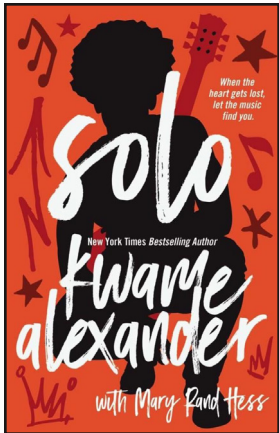
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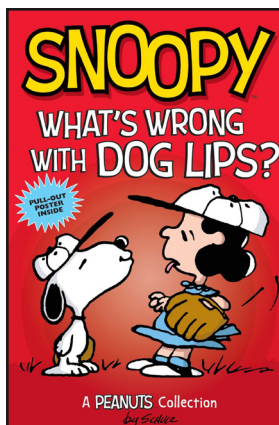


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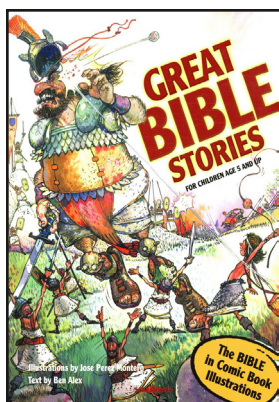
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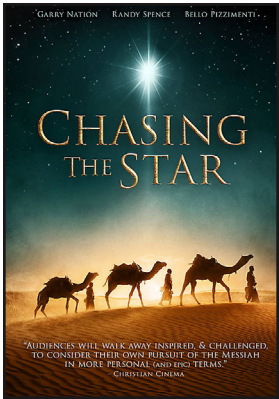


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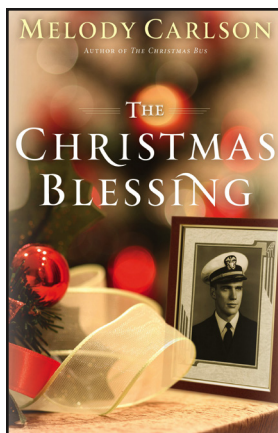
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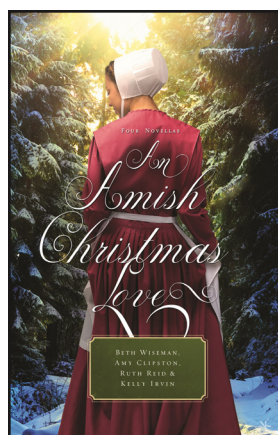
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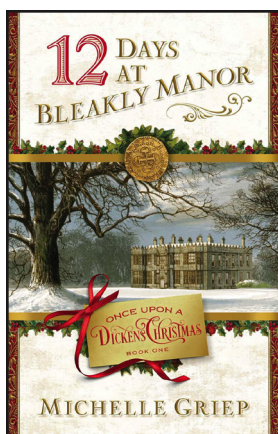


12 DAYS AT BLEAKLY MANOR

ONCE UPON A DICKENS CHRISTMAS #1

Michelle Griep

Shiloh Run Press

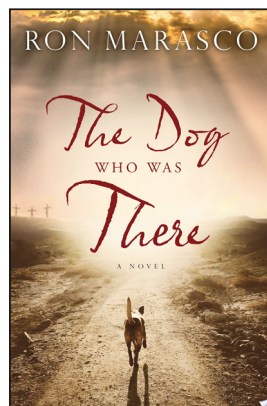


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A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF THE BESTSELLING TITLES FOR AUGUST 2017

HISTORICAL FICTION

- 1** ***The Dog Who Was There***
Ron Marasco
Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 2** ***Bridge to Haven***
Francine Rivers
Tyndale House Publishers
- 3** ***Ben-Hur***
Carol Wallace
Tyndale House Publishers
- 4** ***The Advocate***
Randy Singer
Tyndale House Publishers
- 5** ***The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill***
Julie Klassen
Baker Publishing Group



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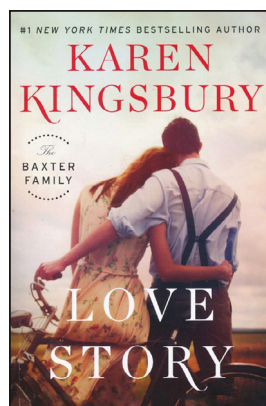
- 1** ***Leota's Garden***
Francine Rivers
Tyndale House Publishers
- 2** ***And the Shofar Blew***
Francine Rivers
Tyndale House Publishers
- 3** ***The Shack***
William P. Young
Hachette Book Group
- 4** ***Barefoot: A Story of Surrendering to God***
Sharon Garlough Brown
Intervarsity Press
- 5** ***Chasing Sunsets***
Karen Kingsbury
Howard Books/Simon & Schuster



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ROMANCE

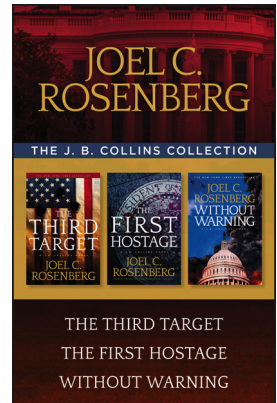
- 1** ***Love Story***
Karen Kingsbury
Howard Books/
Simon & Schuster
- 2** ***The Farmers' Market Mishap***
Wanda E. Brunstetter
Barbour Publishing
- 3** ***Drawing Fire***
Janice Cantore
Tyndale House Publishers
- 4** ***Twilight at Blueberry Barrens***
Colleen Coble
Thomas Nelson Publisher
- 5** ***Ebb Tide***
Beverly Lewis
Baker Publishing Group



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SUSPENSE/MYSTERY

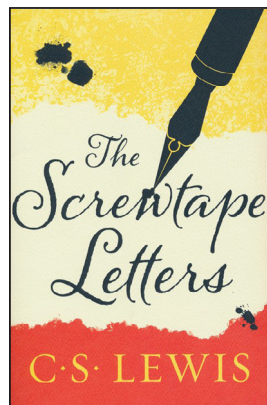
- 1** *The Third Target*
Joel C. Rosenberg
Tyndale House Publishers
- 2** *If I'm Found*
Terri Blackstock
Zondervan
- 3** *Threads of Suspicion*
Dee Henderson
Baker Publishing Group
- 4** *The Book of Mysteries*
Jonathan Cahn
Charisma
- 5** *Traces of Guilt*
Dee Henderson
Baker Publishing Group



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SPECULATIVE/FANTASY/SCI-FI

- 1** *The Screwtape Letters*
C. S. Lewis
Zondervan
- 2** *Hinds' Feet on High Place*
Hannah Hurnard
Tyndale House
- 3** *Stepping Heavenward*
Elizabeth Prentiss
Solid Ground Christian Books
- 4** *The Great Divorce*
C. S. Lewis
Zondervan
- 5** *The Returning*
Rachelle Dekker
Tyndale House



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