

Collector's Edition

FamilyFiction

November 2019

CHRISTIAN **SUSPENSE** SPECIAL

40

Essential Christian
Suspense Authors:
FamilyFiction
Readers Picks
Their Favorites

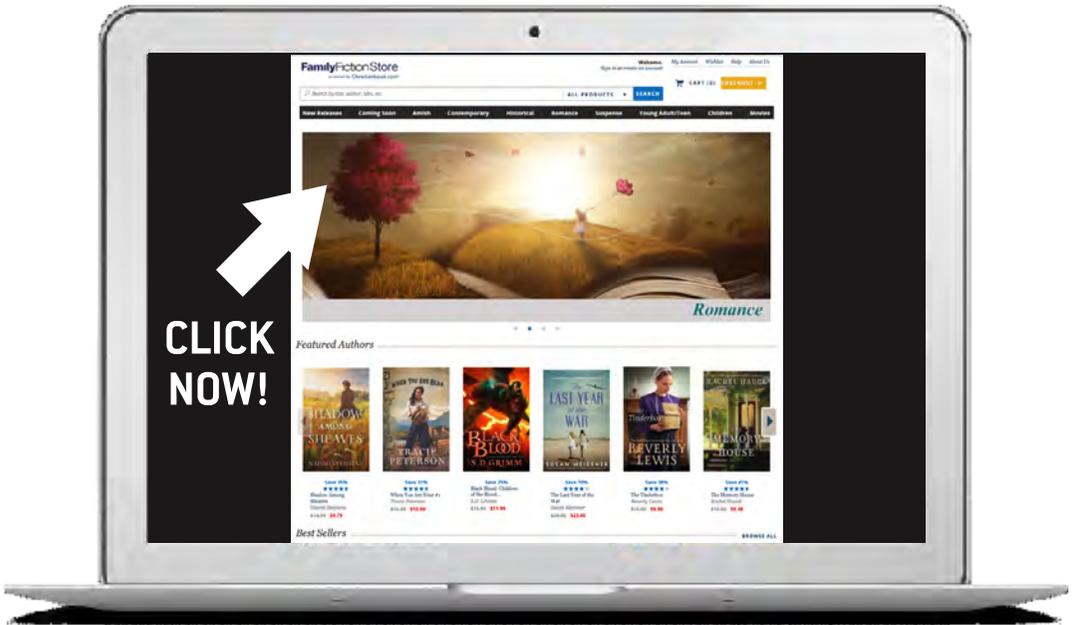
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***Suspense Author Panel:
Writing About Crime As a Christian Author***



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40 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE AUTHORS

FamilyFiction readers picked their 40 favorite Christian Suspense authors!



TERRI BLACKSTOCK

The author shares the heart of her suspense novels—that God is ultimately in charge, no matter the circumstances.



SUSPENSE PANEL: Writing About Crime as Christian Authors

12 Christian Suspense authors talk about the challenges of writing about crime and danger from a biblical perspective.

ON THE WEB:

Check out these news articles, updates, and other bonus material online at www.FamilyFiction.com

- Jonathan Cahn's end-times novel *The Oracle* debuts in the top spot
- The Christy Award 2019 finalists are announced
- American Christian Fiction Writers names the 2019 Carol Award winners.

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHTS:

Melody Carlson | Elizabeth Musser



CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE:

Looking for that perfect book, CD or devotional? Check out our annual Christmas Gift Guide.

60+ NEW CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE RELEASES

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

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Jonathan Cahn's End-Times Novel *The Oracle* Debuts at #1

A traveler is given seven keys, each one will open one of seven doors...

Read more here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/jonathan-cahns-end-times-novel-oracle-debuts-1>

The Christy Award® 2019 Finalists Announced

A record 30 Christian fiction titles were named as finalists for the 2019 Christy Awards, including three ties.

Read more here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/christy-award-2019-finalists-announced>

ACFW Announces 2019 Carol Award Winners; Angela Hunt awarded Lifetime Achievement

ACFW awards milestone honors to Christian novelists who have published 25 or more titles.

Read more here:

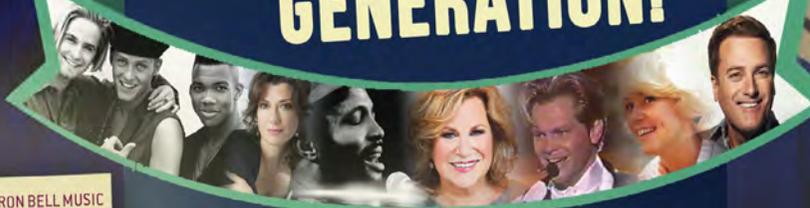
<https://www.familyfiction.com/acfw-announces-2019-carol-award-winners-angela-hunt-awarded-lifetime-achievement>

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MANDISA
DOES GOD QUIT?
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A LIFE IN THE MA
IT TOOK **16** YE
1 SIMPLE PH
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DANNY GOKEY

CHASING HOPE
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A person wearing a dark coat and a wide-brimmed hat stands in profile, looking towards the left. The background is dark and misty, with a bright light source at the top center creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is mysterious and suspenseful.

2019 CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE AUTHOR POLL

Here are your picks
for the 40 essential
Christian suspense
authors...

40 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN SUSPENSE AUTHORS

For our FamilyFiction Collector's Edition Suspense Special, we asked our readers to weigh in on their favorite type of suspense, their favorite Christian suspense authors.

We're pleased to announce the results right here! We hope you'll take a look at who Christian suspense readers picked as their favorites—including those who write political thrillers, whodunits, romantic suspense, supernatural mysteries, police procedurals, and more!



1 - Lynette Eason

Lynette Eason is the bestselling author of *Protecting Tanner Hollow* (Revell), as well as the series *Blue Justice*, *Women of Justice*, *Deadly Reunions*, *Hidden Identity*, and *Elite Guardians*. She's the winner of three ACFW Carol Awards, the Selah Award, and the Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, among

others. Eason lives in South Carolina with her husband and two children.

"From some of the feedback I get, it seems a lot of my readers really enjoy the suspense aspect of the stories more than anything else. They like the romance thread and are happy to have the faith element in there. I also get a lot of comments about appreciating the clean reads. But, above all, they REALLY like that high-octane suspense. So, that's what I tend to lean toward when I'm working on the stories—making it as suspenseful as possible."

LYNETTE EASON—(OUT OF THE DARK)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/lynette-eason-dark>

Visit Lynette Eason's author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lynette-eason>

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LATEST RELEASE

Collateral Damage

Danger Never Sleeps #1

Lynette Eason

Revell



2 - Dani Pettrey

Praised by *New York Times* best-selling author Dee Henderson as “a name to look for in romantic suspense,” Dani Pettrey has sold more than 400,000 copies of her novels to readers eagerly awaiting the next release.

Dani combines the page-turning adrenaline of a thriller with the chemistry and happy-ever-after of a romance. Her novels stand out for their “wicked pace, snappy dialogue, and likable characters” (Publishers Weekly), “gripping storyline[s],” (RT Book Reviews), and “sizzling undercurrent of romance” (USA Today).

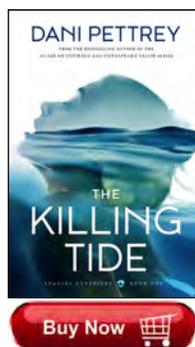
“I think the romance element is always the hardest as it takes the most focus to find the right balance and to show the full texture and nuances men and women deal with, the conflicts and obstacles they overcome, and the sacrificial way they step forward into a relationship in an unconditional way. All for the glory of God according to His will and purpose for marriage.”

DANI PETTREY—(DEADLY ISLE)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/romantic-suspense-qa-dani-pettrey-deadly-isle>

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<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dani-pettrey>



LATEST RELEASE

The Killing Tide

Coastal Guardians Book #1

Dani Pettrey

Bethany House



3 - Dee Henderson

Dee Henderson is the author of numerous novels, including *Taken*, *Undetected*, *Unspoken*, *Full Disclosure*, and the acclaimed O'Malley and Uncommon Heroes series.

Her books have won or been nominated for several prestigious industry awards, such as the RITA Award, the Christy Award,

and the ECPA Gold Medallion.

"I love a strong character who has made decisions about their life, who has a sense of who they are, and where they want to go. The romance that unfolds tends to play to the strength of each character, rather than change their personality. I want an authentic story that reflect how these people would act and decide matters in their lives."

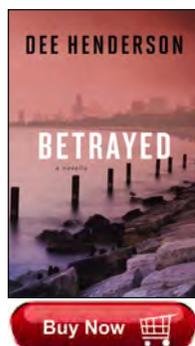
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DEE HENDERSON—(UNSPOKEN)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/q-a-dee-henderson-unspoken>

Visit Dee Henderson's author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dee-henderson>



LATEST RELEASE

Betrayed

Cost of Betrayal Collection

Dee Henderson

Bethany House



4 - Irene Hannon

With a combined total sales of more than 3.5 million, Irene Hannon is one of the leading authors in inspirational romantic suspense. Her gift of delivering a perfect mix of intrigue and romance continues to draw in new fans with each new book. Honored with three RITA Awards from Romance Writers of America, her other awards include National Readers' Choice, Daphne du Maurier, Retailers' Choice, Booksellers' Best, Carols, and Reviewers' Choice from RT Book Reviews magazine.

"I minimize description as much as possible and always cast crime and aggression in a negative light. We've become so desensitized to violence and vulgarity in media that it's almost expected in mainstream novels now. But I firmly believe you can tell a compelling story without getting gruesome or graphic."

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IRENE HANNON—(LENS OF FAITH)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/romantic-suspense-interview-irene-hannon-lens-faith>

Visit Irene Hannon's author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/irene-hannon>



LATEST RELEASE

Dark Ambitions

Code of Honor #3

Irene Hannon

Revell



5 - Susan Sleeman

Prolific suspense writer Susan Sleeman keeps readers on the edge of their seats—and seems to be in the middle of multiple series at any given moment. She's the bestselling author of more than thirty-five romantic suspense and mystery novels, with sales exceeding one million copies. She has also won several awards, including the ACFW Carol Award for Suspense for *Fatal Mistake* (FaithWords), and the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award for *Thread of Suspicion* (Love Inspired Suspense). In addition to writing, Susan hosts the popular website The Suspense Zone.

"It can be a challenge at times to balance a romance, a complicated suspense plot, and a spiritual message. I try to make the characters romantic conflict also have to do with their spiritual

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issues so when they resolve the spiritual issue they realize they can love again. This makes it easier to balance the elements, and I also think it's more powerful for the reader because loving God is an integral part of a Christian's life and effects everything we do."

IRENE HANNON—(BALANCING ACT)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/susan-sleeman-balancing-act>

Visit Susan Sleeman's author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-sleeman>



LATEST RELEASE

Seconds to Live

Homeland Heroes Book #1

Susan Sleeman

Bethany House

Buy Now



6 - Christy Barritt

Christy Barritt loves stories and has been writing them for as long as she can remember. USA Today has called her books "scary, funny, passionate, and quirky." She won the Daphne du Maurier Award for Excellence in Suspense and Mystery, was twice nominated for the Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award, and has finaled for both a Carol Award and Foreword Magazine's Book of the Year.

Award, and has finaled for both a Carol Award and Foreword Magazine's Book of the Year.

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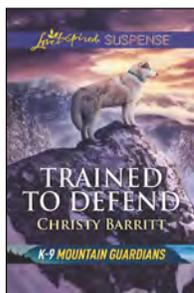
“My faith is so much a part of me that it’s easily a part of my writing. I don’t necessarily sit down with the intent to write a book with a faith storyline. That storyline grows naturally out of my character’s lives. Oftentimes, it seems, those storylines begin to mirror parts of my own faith journey. I try to be honest and convey that even if you have a steady faith, the emotions that can come because of life circumstances can be very up and down. Throughout all of it, we’ve got to trust God and know that he has a plan for our lives that’s better than anything we can envision.”

CHRISTY BARRITT—(INTERVIEW)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/q-a-christy-barritt>

Visit Christy Barritt’s author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/christy-barritt>



LATEST RELEASE

Trained to Defend

K-9 Mountain Guardians

Christy Barritt

Love Inspired Suspense





7 - Terri Blackstock

A *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author, Terri Blackstock has sold more than seven million books worldwide.

Her bestselling series include *If I Run*, *Cape Refuge*, *Newpointe 911*, the *SunCoast Chronicles*, and the *Restoration Series*. Her

honors include two Carol Awards, a Christian

Retailers Choice Award, and a Romantic Times Book Reviews Career Achievement Award, among others.

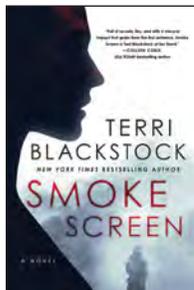
“The fact is that I’m a Christian reader as well. So, I really think about when I’m reading a book, what makes me feel defiled in some way? If I’m reading a really gruesome book, and there’s a lot of blood, and there’s a lot of violence, you know it makes me feel defiled. I don’t want to do that to my readers, so there are lines I won’t cross. But I do have murder, and I do have blood. But I try not to make the reader wallow in it.”

TERRI BLACKSTOCK—(RUNNING TOWARD THE LIGHT)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/terri-blackstock-running-toward-light>

Visit Terri Blackstock’s author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/terri-blackstock>



LATEST RELEASE

Smoke Screen

Terri Blackstock

Thomas Nelson

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8 - Colleen Coble

With nearly two million books in print, *USA TODAY* bestselling author Colleen Coble writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail. Her novels have won or finished in awards ranging from the Best Books of Indiana, ACFW Book of the Year, RWA's RITA, the Holt Medallion, the Daphne du Maurier, National Readers' Choice, and the Booksellers Best.

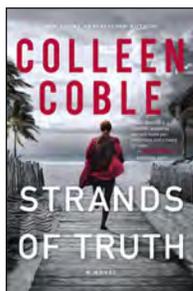
"My faith impacts everything I do. My characters are Christians who are learning something just like I am. None of us ever arrive, and there is always something God is teaching us. I never know what that something is when I first start out writing a story. My characters have to tell me what they're struggling with, and together we go from there."

COLLEEN COBLE—(*THE MYSTERY OF RAINSHADOW BAY*)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/colleen-coble-visit-rainshadow-bay>

Visit Colleen Coble's author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/colleen-coble>



LATEST RELEASE

Strands of Truth

Colleen Coble

Thomas Nelson



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9 - Ronie Kendig

The award-winning author of some two-dozen novels, Ronie Kendig grew up an army brat, and now she and her Army-veteran husband live a short train ride from New York City with their children and a retired military working dog. Her degree in psychology has helped her pen novels of intense, raw characters.

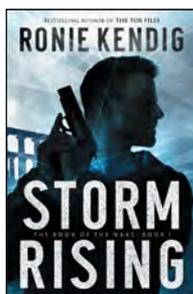
“Fiction is a brilliant medium for delivering powerful truths because it flies under the radar—readers come to the story for entertainment (by and large), but just as Jesus told parables (a type of story) to reach hearts and change lives, we can do the same thing through novels. And whether that message is overt or covert in regards to Christianity, it is delivered through our words.”

RONIE KENDIG—(LOST AND FOUND)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-interview-ronie-kendig-lost-found>

Visit Ronie Kendig’s author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/ronie-kendig>



LATEST RELEASE

Storm Rising

Book of the Wars Book #1

Ronie Kendig

Bethany House

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10 - DiAnn Mills

Lynn H. Blackburn won the 2016 Selah Award for Mystery and Suspense and the 2016 Carol Award for Short Novel. She believes in the power of stories, especially those that remind us that true love exists, a gift from the Truest Love. Lynn’s passionate about CrossFit, coffee, and chocolate (don’t make her choose)—and experimenting with recipes that feed both body and soul.

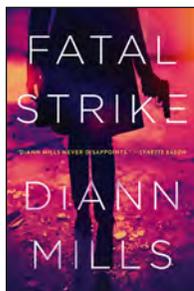
“I hope readers come away with renewed confidence that God is here for them and that He really is working things for their good and His glory, even when it doesn’t feel that way.”

DIANN MILLS—(HIGH TREASON)

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-qa-diann-mills-high-treason>

Visit DiAnn Mills’s author page:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/diann-mills>



LATEST RELEASE

Fatal Strike

DiAnn Mills

Tyndale House





11 - Lynn H. Blackburn

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lynn-h-blackburn>

Lynn H. Blackburn believes in the power of stories, especially those that remind us that true love exists, a gift from the Truest Love. She won the 2016 Selah Award for Mystery and Suspense and the 2016 Carol

Award for Short Novel. Her latest novel is *One Final Breath* (Revell), the third title in her Dive Team Investigations series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/one-final-breath-3/lynn-blackburn/9780800729301/pd/729303?event=ESRCG>



12 - Nancy Mehl

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/nancy-mehl>

The author of more some 30 books, Nancy Mehl welcomes the opportunity to share her faith through her writing. She received the ACFW

Mystery Book of the Year Award in 2009. She writes

from her home in Missouri, where she lives with her husband, Norman, and their puggle, Watson. Her latest book is *Fire Storm* (Bethany House), the second book in her series starring FBI profiler Kaely Quinn.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/fire-storm-2-nancy-mehl/9780764231858/pd/231858?event=ESRCG>



13 - Susan May Warren

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-may-warren>

The USA Today-bestselling author of more than 65 novels, Susan May Warren's books have sold more than one million copies. Winner of a RITA Award and multiple Christy and Carol Awards,

Susan has written contemporary and historical romances, romantic suspense, thrillers, romantic comedy, and novellas. Her next novel is *The Way of the Brave* (Revell), the first book in her new Global Search and Rescue series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/1-the-way-of-the-brave/susan-warren/9780800735845/pd/735841?event=ESRCG>



14 - Lisa Harris

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lisa-harris>

Lisa Harris is a bestselling author, a Christy Award winner, and the winner of the Best Inspirational Suspense Novel from Romantic Times. The author of more than 40 books, Lisa and her family have spent over 16 years living as missionaries in southern Africa. Her latest novel is *Christmas Witness Pursuit* (Love Inspired Suspense).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/christmas-witness-pursuit-lisa-harris/9781335232526/pd/232527?event=ESRCG>



15 - Rachel Dylan

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/rachel-dylan>

Rachel Dylan is an award-winning and bestselling author of legal thrillers and romantic suspense. She has practiced law for more than a decade including being a litigator at one of the nation's top law firms. Rachel's Atlanta Justice Series features strong, female attorneys in Atlanta. Her upcoming novel is *End Game* (Bethany House), the first book in her Capital Intrigue series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/1-end-game-rachel-dylan/9780764234309/pd/234309?event=ESRCG>



16 - Patricia Bradley

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/patricia-bradley>

Patricia Bradley won an Inspirational Reader's Choice Award in Suspense, was a finalist for the Genesis Award, won a Daphne du Maurier Award, and won a Touched by Love Award. She is cofounder of Aiming for Healthy Families, Inc., and she is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. Her most recent novel is *Justice Delivered* (Revell), the latest in her Memphis Cold Case books.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/justice-delivered-patricia-bradley/9780800727192/pd/727195?event=ESRCG>

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17 - Jaime Jo Wright

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jaime-jo-wright>

Jaime Jo Wright is winner of the Christy, Daphne du Maurier, and INSPY Awards and is a Carol Award finalist. She's also the Publishers Weekly and ECPA bestselling author of three novellas. Her latest novel is *Echoes Among the Stones* (Bethany House).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/echoes-among-the-stones/jaime-wright/9780764233883/pd/233883?event=ESRCG>



18 - Brandilyn Collins

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/brandilyn-collins>

The award-winning author of more than 30 books, Brandilyn Collins is known for her trademarked Seatbelt Suspense—fast-paced, character-driven suspense with myriad twists and an interwoven thread of faith. Her latest suspense novel is *Plummet* (Challow Press).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/plummet-brandilyn-collins/9780996961172/pd/961171?event=ESRCG>



19 - Elizabeth Goddard

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/elizabeth-goddard>

A seventh-generation Texan, Elizabeth Goddard is the bestselling author of more than forty books. Her Mountain Cove series books have been finalists in the Daphne du Maurier Awards and the Carol Awards. Her latest book is *Always Look Twice* (Revell), the second title in her Uncommon Justice series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/always-look-twice-2/elizabeth-goddard/9780800729851/pd/729853?event=ESRCG>



20 - Steven James

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/steven-james>

Bestselling novelist Steven James' award-winning, pulse-pounding thrillers continue to gain wide critical acclaim and a growing fan base. Respected

by some of the top thriller writers in the world, Steven deftly weaves intense stories of psychological suspense with deep philosophical insights. His latest novel is the SF thriller *Synapse* (Thomas Nelson).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/synapse-steven-james/9780785225256/pd/5225256?event=ESRCG>



21 - Janice Cantore

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/janice-cantore>

A former Long Beach, Calif., police officer of 22 years, Janice Cantore writes from real-life experience with accuracy and attention to detail, crafting a riveting tale of intrigue for romance and crime drama fans alike. Her latest novel is *Cold Aim* (Tyndale House), the third in her Line of Duty series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/cold-aim-3-janice-cantore/9781496423788/pd/423781?event=ESRCG>



22 - Ted Dekker

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/ted-dekker>

Ted Dekker is the multiple award-winning, *New York Times* and international bestselling author of more than 40 novels. His work has reached tens of millions worldwide and has been translated into numerous languages and adapted into motion pictures. In 2013, NPR listeners nationwide named him as one of the top suspense writers of all time. His latest novel, co-written with daughter Rachelle Dekker, is *The Girl Behind the Red Rope* (Revell).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-girl-behind-the-red-rope/ted-dekker/9780800736538/pd/736531?event=ESRC>



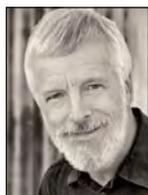
23 - Carrie Stuart Parks

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/carrie-stuart-parks>

Carrie Stuart Parks is an ECPA Christy Award and multiple ACFW Carol and Inspy Award-winning author. An internationally known forensic artist, Carrie draws on her extensive experience with actual

criminal investigations to write authentic, true-to-life fictional suspense. Her latest novel is *Fragments of Fear* (Thomas Nelson).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/fragments-of-fear-carrie-parks/9780785226130/pd/226131?event=ESRCG>



24 - Frank Peretti

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/frank-peretti>

One of Christian publishing's best-known authors, Frank Peretti's novels have sold more than 10 million copies. His blockbuster supernatural thriller

This Present Darkness was named by PBS as one of "America's 100 Favorite Novels." He most recent project was the supernatural suspense series *Harbingers* (Bethany House) with co-authors Angela Hunt, Bill Myers, and Alton Gansky.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/harbingers-series-volumes-1-3/bill-myers/pd/219762?event=ESRCG>



25 - Cara C. Putman

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/cara-putman>

The author of more than 25 legal thrillers, historical romances, and romantic suspense novels, Cara C. Putman has won or been a finalist for honors including the ACFW Book of the Year

and the Christian Retailing's BEST Award. She is a practicing attorney and teaches law at a Big Ten business school. Her latest novel is *Delayed Justice* (Thomas Nelson).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/delayed-justice-cara-putman/9780785217916/pd/217916?event=ESRCG>



26 - Robert Whitlow

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robert-whitlow>

A practicing attorney, Robert Whitlow is the best-selling author of legal novels set in the South and winner of the prestigious Christy Award for Contemporary Fiction. A Furman University gradu-

ate, Whitlow received his J.D. with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law where he served on the staff of the

Georgia Law Review. His next novel is *Promised Land* (Thomas Nelson), the latest in his Chosen People series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/promised-land-softcover-robort-whitlow/9780718083052/pd/083053?event=ESRCG>



27 - Joel C. Rosenberg

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/joel-c-rosenberg>

Joel C. Rosenberg is a *New York Times* bestselling author of both fiction and nonfiction, with some 5 million copies in print. As an expert on global politics, he's been interviewed on hundreds of radio and TV shows, and met with religious and government leaders around the world. *The Persian Gamble* (Tyndale House) is his latest political thriller starring former U.S. Secret Service Agent Marcus Ryker.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-persian-gamble-softcover/joel-rosenberg/9781496406224/pd/406224?event=ESRCG>



28 - Margaret Daley

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/margaret-daley>

Margaret Daley has published more than 70 books and won the American Christian Fiction Writers' Book of the Year, the Golden Quill Contest, FHL's Inspirational Readers' Choice Contest, Winter Rose Contest, Holt Medallion and the Barclay Gold Contest. Her romantic suspense titles include the new *Yuletide Threat: Standoff At Christmas* and *Military K-9 Unit Christmas* (Love Inspired Suspense).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/yuletide-threat-standoff-christmas-military-unit/valerie-hansen/9781335143099/pd/5143099?event=ESRCG>



29 - Davis Bunn

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/davis-bunn>

Davis Bunn is a four-time Christy Award-winning, best-selling author who serves as writer-in-residence at Regent's Park College, the University of

Oxford, in the United Kingdom. His books have sold more than seven million copies. His most recent novel is *Unscripted* (Revell).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/unscripted-softcover-davis-bunn/9780800727871/pd/727870?event=ESRCG>



30 - Robin Carroll

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robin-caroll>

The bestselling author of more than 30 novels, Robin Carroll writes Southern stories of mystery and suspense, with a hint of romance to entertain readers. Her books have been recognized in several awards, including the Carol Award, HOLT Medallion, Daphne du Maurier, RT Reviewer's Choice Award, and more. Her latest novel is *Darkwater Truth* (independently published), the third in her *Darkwater Inn* series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/darkwater-truth-inn-large-print/robin-caroll/9781643584638/pd/584632?event=ESRCG>



31 - Jerry B. Jenkins

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jerry-b-jenkins>

Co-creator of the blockbuster *Left Behind* series, Jerry B. Jenkins's books have sold more than 70 million copies. Twenty-one of his titles have reached the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists. His latest novel is *Dead Sea Conspiracy* (Worthy Publishing), the latest in his *Dead Sea Chronicles* starring archeologist Nicole Berman.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/dead-sea-conspiracy-a-novel-2/jerry-jenkins/9781546014225/pd/014225?event=ESRCG>



32 - Kathy Herman

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kathy-herman>

Suspense novelist Kathy Herman has written more than twenty novels—including the *Sophie Trace* trilogy, and *Secrets of Roux River Bayou Series*—since retiring from her family's Christian

retail store in Tyler, Texas. Her latest novel is *A Treacherous Mix* (Bethany House).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/a-treacherous-mix-3/kathy-herman/9780764234743/pd/234743?event=ESRCG>



33 - Dana Mentink

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dana-mentink>

Bestselling author Dana Mentink has been honored to win two Carol Awards, a Holt Medallion, and a Reviewer's Choice award. She's authored more than thirty novels to date for Harlequin's

Love Inspired Suspense and Harlequin Heartwarming. Her latest novel is *Deadly Christmas Pretense* (Love inspired Suspense), from the Roughwater Ranch Cowboys series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/deadly-christmas-pretense-dana-mentink/9781335232465/pd/232465?event=ESRCG>



34 - Lisa Phillips

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lisa-phillips>

A British ex-pat, Lisa loves high-stakes stories of mayhem and disaster where you can find made-for-each-other love that always ends in happily ever after. Among her recent romantic suspense

titles is *Murder Mix-Up* (Love Inspired Suspense), from the Secret Service Agents series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/murder-mix-up-lisa-phillips/9781335231987/pd/231987?event=ESRCG>



35 - Tosca Lee

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tosca-lee>

Tosca Lee is the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of several novels of historical and speculative suspense. She also co-authored the Books of Mortals series with Ted Dekker. Her

latest title is the apocalyptic thriller *A Single Light* (Howard Books), the continuation in her Line Between series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/a-single-light-2/tosca-lee/9781476798646/pd/798644?event=ESRCG>



36 - Kristen Heitzmann

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/kristen-heitzmann>

Kristen Heitzmann is the bestselling author of contemporary romantic suspense, psychological suspense, and historical novels. She's won a Christy Award and an Inspirational Readers Choice Award, and was a finalist for a people's choice award in the Netherlands. She's the author of *The Breath of Dawn* (Bethany House).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-breath-of-dawn/kristen-heitzmann/9780764210426/pd/210426?event=ESRCQ>



37 - Terri Reed

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/terri-reed>

A member of the Honor Roll of Romance Writers of America, Terri Reed writes books of heart-warming romance and heart-pounding suspense infused with faith. Her romance and romantic suspense novels have appeared on *Publisher's Weekly* top ten and Nielsen BookScan top hundred lists, and have been featured in *USA Today*. Her latest book is *Seeking the Truth: Faith in the Face of Crime* (Love Inspired Suspense), from the True Blue K-9 Unit series.

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/seeking-the-truth-terri-reed/9781335232250/pd/5232250?event=ESRCG>



38 - Jessica R. Patch

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/jessica-r-patch>

Jessica R. Patch lives in the mid-south where she pens inspirational contemporary romance and romantic suspense novels. Her latest is *Recovered Secrets* (Love Inspired Suspense).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/recovered-secrets-jessica-patch/9781335232359/pd/232359?event=ESRCG>



39 - Robin Patchen

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robin-patchen>

Robin Patchen writes contemporary Christian suspense, romance, and romantic suspense.

She creates strong, protective heroes and intelligent, courageous heroines. Her books are often set in New England, where she grew up. Her most recent book is *Legacy Restored* (JDO Publishing), the second in the Legacy series.



40 - James L. Rubart

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/james-l-rubart>

James L. Rubart is the best-selling, Christy Book of the Year, Carol, INSPY, and RT Book Reviews award winning author of ten novels, co-owner of The Rubart Writing Academy, and an audio book narrator.

His latest novel is the suspenseful fantasy *The Pages of Her Life* (Thomas Nelson).

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-pages-of-her-life/james-rubart/9780718099428/pd/099428?event=ESRCG>

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Terri Blackstock—Hope In The End

The author shares the heart of her suspense novels—that God is ultimately in charge, no matter the circumstances.

With more than seven million books sold, Terri Blackstock is the award-winning author of such series as If I Run, Cape Refuge, Newpointe 911, the SunCoast Chronicles, and the Restoration Series. She's the winner of two Carol Awards, a Christian Retailers Choice Award, and a Romantic Times Book Reviews Career Achievement Award, among others.

Her latest page-turned is Smoke Screen (Thomas Nelson): When smoke jumper Nate Beckett is injured during a wildfire, it sets events into motion that could redeem a painful past—or destroy his future. In this exclusive interview, Terri shares some background details, reveals the novel's driving themes, and explains how her faith impacts her as a storyteller.

Terri, what can you tell us about *Smoke Screen*?

Nate Beckett has spent his life fighting wildfires instead of the lies and rumors that drove him from his Colorado hometown. Years ago, when he was in his teens, he fell in love with the preacher's daughter, Brenna.

Nate was the son of the town drunk, and the preacher didn't like his involvement with his daughter, however innocent. When the preacher confronted Nate's inebriated father, a fight ensued.

Later that night, the preacher was murdered, and everyone in town assumed Nate's dad was the killer. He's been in prison ever since his conviction, despite his insistence that he's innocent. Even Nate believes he's guilty.

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But now, Roy Becket has been pardoned by the governor, and has returned home. When Nate is injured in a fire, he's sidelined and returns home, too.

But despite his accomplishments with his smoke jumping team and the heroism that caused his injuries, the townspeople still think of him as the son of the town drunk.

Only Brenna sees him as he really is. But she has problems of her own. A crushing divorce because of her husband's infidelity and an ongoing custody battle have taken her over the brink into alcohol abuse. Nate may be the only one who can help her, but his very presence in her life could cost her custody of her children.

What was the inspiration for this story?

I love writing about unsung heroes who run toward danger, rather than away from it. I've always been fascinated by smoke jumpers, because they literally save entire towns. The work they do is brutal and grueling. Yet there are brave men and women who sign up to do this.

We've had a lot of wildfires in the U.S. in the last few years, and I always wonder what it's like being in the middle of those fires. So I decided to feature a smoke jumper in this story.

And when he gets injured and taken off the field, and returns to his hometown, he has to face some problems that are more destructive than a fire, at least in his own mind. He's a hero on his team, but in his hometown, he's considered a troublemaker and the son of a killer.

What themes or ideas do you deal with in *Smoke Screen*?

I wanted to show that even Christians can fall into addictive patterns, as I have Brenna dealing with alcohol abuse. Even Christians want to medicate their pain. Brenna struggles with the consequences of her drinking, and when Nate, her old flame, comes back into her life, things get even more stressful.

I also deal with the element of forgiveness. How do you push through when everyone has the wrong ideas about you? Being misjudged can be an awful thing, and I think Christians need to be challenged on this, because we are some of the most judgmental people in the world.

It takes an uncommon strength for Nate to save his town from a wildfire threatening them, when so many of them have such a misguided view of him.

What can you tell us about the main characters?

Nate and Brenna were each other's first love, but it was an innocent, pure love. They were both in high school. Brenna was the preacher's kid, and Nate was the son of the town drunk.

Brenna's father didn't like their relationship, and he forbade her from seeing him. In a moment of rebellion, she sneaked away to see him and got caught. That was the night that the preacher stormed into the bar to confront Nate's dad, and warn him to keep his son away from Brenna. And that was the night he was killed.

When someone later burned the church down, townspeople claimed Nate was the arsonist, trying to get revenge for his dad's conviction. Nate left town because he knew he could never convince them otherwise.

In his heart, he believed in his father's guilt like everyone else. When he's injured in a fire around the time that his father is pardoned from prison, he returns home. But the lies and rumors about his family seem more dangerous to him than the wildfires he jumps into.

As Brenna's custody battle looms and her alcohol abuse ramps up, Nate spots a wildfire that has ignited to threaten their town. Despite his injuries, he has to spring into action to save the town that has caused him so much pain. But this is not an ordinary fire. Something isn't right about the way it ignited. Nate must figure out who started it and what their motive was, before he's accused.

Can you share some examples of how your faith impacts your storytelling?

My faith impacts everything I do. I want to glorify God in everything I write, so I'm always thinking of how God has worked in my own life to turn evil into good.

That doesn't mean that my books have pat, sappy, unrealistic endings. People die, some suffer, and they don't always get what they want. But the main characters usually come out stronger and with a deeper faith than they had before, and there's demonstrable evidence that what the enemy meant for evil, God meant for good.

What sort of reader are you thinking of when you write?

I'm always thinking of the appetite of the suspense reader, even when I'm writing something in a different genre. I want my readers to feel surprise or suspense on every page, and I want them to race to finish a chapter so they can close the book, only to

find that they can't close it. They have to start the next chapter to see what's going to happen next.

In terms of demographic, I like to think I have readers who are young and old, male and female, believing and unbelieving. There's tremendous power in story, and I want to use whatever power I have to make people think deeply about issues in their lives, and challenge them to see other sides and sift through all the noise to figure out what they believe, and why they believe it.

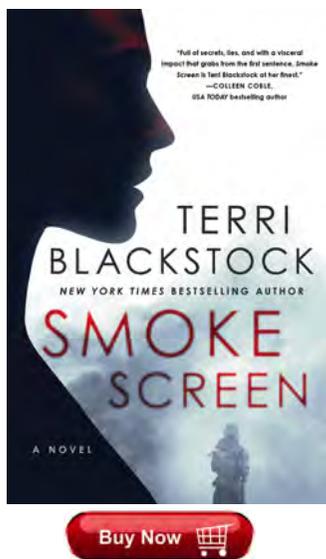
What do you hope readers come away with after reading *Smoke Screen*?

I hope readers will come away with a sense of hope. God may allow us to go through some terrible things, but He's there with us as we endure it, and when we come out on the other end, we will be stronger and have deeper faith, and a better understanding of who we are, and how God works.

Life is a puzzle, and it's not until all the pieces are in place that we can see how it was all planned out. God is the ultimate author of our faith, just like I'm the author of my novels. I want my books to reflect that real-life principle. **FF**

Visit Janice Cantore's author page here:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/janice-cantore>



Smoke Screen

Terri Blackstock
Thomas Nelson

One father was murdered. Another was convicted of his death. All because their children fell in love.

Nate Beckett has spent his life fighting wildfires instead of the lies and rumors that drove him from his hometown. His mother begs him to come back now that his father has been released from prison, but it isn't until he's sidelined by an injury that he's forced to return and face his past. But that means facing Brenna too.

Fourteen years ago, Nate was in love with the preacher's daughter. When Pastor Strickland discovered Brenna defied him to sneak out with Nate, the fight between Strickland and Nate's drunken dad was loud—and very public. Strickland was found murdered later that night, and everyone accused Roy Beckett. When the church burned down not long after, people assumed Nate set the fire to get even for his father's conviction. He let the rumors fly and left town without looking back.

Brenna is stunned to learn that the man convicted of murdering her father has been pardoned. The events of that night set her life on a bad course, and now she's fighting a brutal custody battle with her ex and his new wife where he's using lies and his family's money to sway the judge. Brenna is barely hanging on, and she's turned to alcohol to cope. Shame and fear consume her.

As Nate and Brenna deal with the present—including new information about that fateful night and a wildfire that's threatening their town—the past keeps igniting. Nate is the steady force Brenna has so desperately needed. But she'll have to learn to trust him again first. **FF**

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WRITING CRIME FICTION AS CHRISTIAN AUTHORS



Suspense Author Panel: Writing Crime Fiction as Christian Authors

12 Christian suspense authors discuss the challenges of writing about crime, danger, and violence from a biblical perspective.

*Over the years, **FamilyFiction** has talked to a lot of Christian authors who write all manner of suspense—ranging from mysteries and thrillers to end-times fiction and more. What are the unique challenges of writing about crime, danger, and violence from a biblical worldview? Here's what twelve authors had to say...*

Irene Hannon

Obviously, if you write suspense, it will have all those elements [crime, danger, and violence] to some degree. But I minimize description as much as possible and always cast crime and aggression in a negative light.

We've become so desensitized to violence and vulgarity in media that it's almost expected in mainstream novels now. But I firmly believe you can tell a compelling story without getting gruesome or graphic.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/romantic-suspense-interview-irene-hannon-lens-faith>



Dark Ambitions

Code of Honor #3

Irene Hannon

Revell



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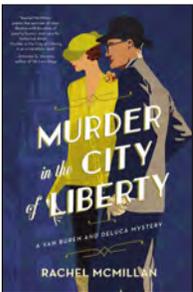
Rachel McMillan

I think the challenge is in trying to seep into the mindset of people who are depraved enough to commit heinous crimes. There is a death in *City of Liberty* as well as a violent attack that really hit close to me because I was so fond of the victims as I created them. What I found in writing is that the good guys—for lack of a better word—are driven by a different motive. My criminals are propelled by a lack of a stabilizing force in their life.

The moment a criminal puts their faith in a human instead of God, they are easily swayed by earthly things by storing their treasures on earth. They have no true guiding light and so easily falter in a desperate attempt to search for something concrete and to give their loyalty to someone who has the strongest voice and the most allure. I think that the best books leave as much as they can to a rich reader imagination. So rather than spend my time focusing on the corpse or a murder scene, I spend time writing the perspective of my sleuths encountering that scene and usually it is enough to see it through their eyes to strike a reaction rather than a visceral description.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-author-interview-rachel-mcmillan-true-north>



Murder in the City of Liberty *A Van Buren and DeLuca Mystery #2*

Rachel McMillan
Thomas Nelson



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Janice Cantore

Never be too graphic. Though I do deal with hard things—murder, drug overdose, etc.—I never want to gross anyone out or make them uncomfortable.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/janice-cantore-getting-facts>



Cold Aim

Line of Duty #3

Janice Cantore

Tyndale House



Jeffrey Wilson

Writing on those topics can be a challenge no matter what—especially when you're creating experiences that you've dealt with yourself. There are times in many of my books where writing a particular scene or interaction takes me back to places hard to go to or stir up memories of those I've lost.

But that's a good thing. While sometimes painful, that's what brings the realism.

In *War Torn*, which is by intent deeply personal and therefore painful, that was magnified a thousand times because the emotions and struggles were the heart of the story. And many of those emotions were mine.

Suspense Author Panel

It made it harder than ever to write—and harder still to read and edit. It was emotionally exhausting. But if the book can help a single combat veteran or spouse find their way to a closer walk through the fictional experiences of Jake and Rachel, well, that is so worth it.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-qa-jeffrey-wilson-war-torn>



War Torn Jeffrey Wilson Independent



Lisa Harris

For me it's trying to find a balance. When I read books or watch movies, I don't like a lot of violence, so in my own books I tend to stay away from graphic crime descriptions.

At the same time, one reason I write in this genre is because there is evil and violence in our world, and I want to show the contrast of finding justice and hope even in the worst of circumstances. To show how God can redeem any situation no matter what the outcome.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/lisa-harris-seeing-world-differently>

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Deadly Intentions

Lisa Harris

Revell



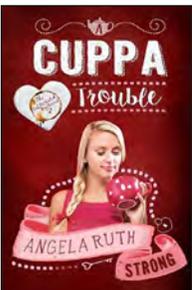
Angela Ruth Strong

Recently I've been studying joy in the Bible. There is a clear connection between joy and victory. The Bible also says, "The joy of the Lord is my strength," which would then mean that our strength comes from the joy of Christ's victory. This is where we get the strength to keep on fighting our own battles.

When my characters reach the black moment and all hope is lost, they can only find strength through victory in Jesus to overcome.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/romantic-suspense-qa-angela-strong-presumed-dead>



A Cuppa Trouble

CafFunated Mysteries #2

Angela Ruth Strong

Mountain Brook Ink



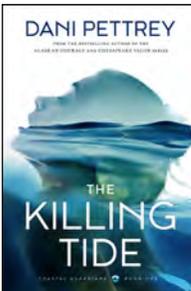
Dani Pettrey

Wonderful question. I actually find it easier to write about crime and danger because I'm a Christian author. Writing about the two allows the strong contrast that exists between good and evil, darkness and light.

Faith and the beauty of Christ reveals just how sinful man can be and our deep need for a Savior exists. In addition, it's through danger and a pressure-cooker that a person's true faith and character is revealed and can truly shine as a testament to Jesus and the work of His Holy Spirit.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/dani-pettrey-love-bullets>



The Killing Tide
Coastal Guardians #1
Dani Pettrey
Bethany House



Randy Singer

The Bible is full of stories of crime and contains lots of “legal thriller” themes as well. We live in a fallen world and God’s great grace and redemption are displayed most powerfully in these tragic circumstances. “Where sin abounds, grace abounds more.” Romans 5:20.

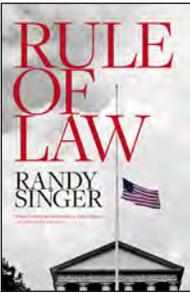
Jesus is our advocate and one of our callings is to seek justice and advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. That is part of what my protagonist is doing in this story.

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In a broader sense, great sacrifice demonstrates great love. My commitment as a Christian who writes about crime and some of the darker sides of the human nature is not to glamorize this sinfulness, but to instead use it to demonstrate God's power to redeem even hopeless situations.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/randy-singer-law>



Rule of Law
Randy Singer
Tyndale House



Brandilyn Collins

The four-point brand promise of my Seatbelt Suspense novels is: fast-paced, faced, character-driven, with myriad twists and an interwoven thread of faith. Notice that the faith thread is last. I never sit down to write a Christian suspense around some theme. I want to write a fast-paced, gripping story.

As I write that story, the message of God and His love and mercy begins to emerge, based on whatever the main character is going through. In that way, the theme is not forced upon the story but is “interwoven” into it—a natural progression of what the character learns through her struggles.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-author-qa-brandilyn-collins-plummet>

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Plummet
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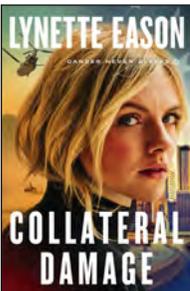
Lynette Eason

The research can be so dark sometimes. I wrote about serial killers for a while and I had to get out of that mindset after the end of the third book because it's just a lot of darkness. You don't want to stay there too long.

The good thing about writing Christian fiction is that you get to show the light, too. And you don't have to be subtle about it. LOL.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/lynette-eason-dark>



Collateral Damage
Danger Never Sleeps #1
Lynette Eason
Revell

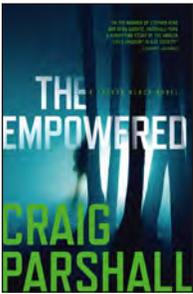


Craig Parshall

The wonderful thing about writing suspense fiction from a Christian worldview is that no matter how dire the situation becomes from a worldly perspective, there is an equally real spiritual solution. Jesus used practical, relatable parables to teach eternal lessons. In my novels I give a realistic, three-dimensional view of evil, but I also tried to give a true, encouraging portrait of the resurrection power of Christ that is available to every believer.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/suspense-qa-craig-parshall>



The Empowered

Trevor Black #2

Craig Parshall

Tyndale House



Terri Blackstock

The fact is that I'm a Christian reader as well. So, I really think about that when I'm reading a book, what makes me feel defiled in some way? If I'm reading a really gruesome book, and there's a lot of blood, and there's a lot of violence, you know it makes me feel defiled. I don't want to do that to my readers, so there are lines I won't cross.

But I do have murder, and I do have blood. But I try not to make the reader wallow in it.

Suspense Author Panel

Probably my most gritty book was *Predator*. I deliberately did it in that book, because I wanted to scare the socks off people who were dumping all their information on social networks. I wanted them to understand that social networks are a predator's playground. And that if you were a predator, where would you go to find out where somebody was at any given time, you know, and what their habits were, what their routines were.

I just wanted to scare mostly young people, but even adults. I think that book was probably the grittiest, and that was for a purpose.

But mostly, I try not to show too much blood, not to get too gory, and to describe things in a way that it gets across what happened, but they don't have to wallow in it.

Read the original interview:

<https://www.familyfiction.com/terri-blackstock-running-toward-light>



Smoke Screen **Terri Blackstock** Thomas Nelson



Find more interviews with Christian suspense authors—including Ted Dekker, Ronie Kendig, Susan May Warren, Travis Thrasher, and Tosca Lee—here:

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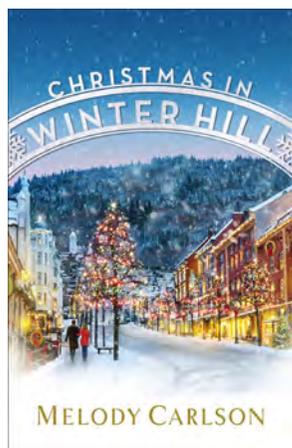
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NEW RELEASE SPOTLIGHT

Christmas in Winter Hill by **Melody Carlson**

Spend this holiday season in a town you'll never forget—*and never want to leave.*



Christmas in Winter Hill

Melody Carlson

Revell



“That sign says Home of Christmasville—what does that mean? Does Santa Claus live here?” Emily giggled like she knew better.

“What do you think?” Krista grimaced at the plywood Christmas tree alongside the welcome sign. It could use a new coat of paint.

“I know, Santa isn’t really real. But are we near the North Pole now? You said it snowed a lot here.” Emily peered eagerly out the window, almost as if she expected to see snowflakes flying.

“It does snow here,” Krista confirmed. “But it’s still late autumn, Emily.” She pointed to where some orange and gold leaves still clung to a large tree, vibrating in the afternoon breeze.

“But why did that sign say Home of Christmasville?” Emily persisted. “I’m not sure.”

Krista Galloway is not a fan of Christmas. After her rough childhood in multiple foster homes, the holiday season just brings too many bad memories to the surface. But when she accepts a job as a city manager in the mountain town of Winter Hill, Washington, Christmas is part of the deal. The small town is famous for its Christmasville celebration, something that the city manager . . . well, manages.

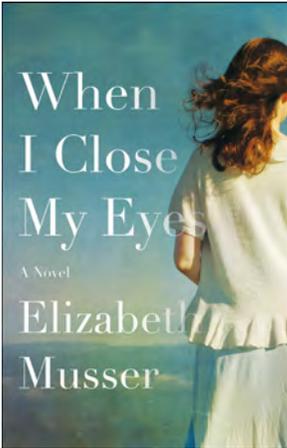
As she tries to make her tiny new apartment feel like home for her and her eight-year-old daughter, Emily, Krista begins to wonder if this move was a mistake. She doesn’t always feel welcomed in the close-knit town, and Emily continually wonders, “Where’s the snow?”

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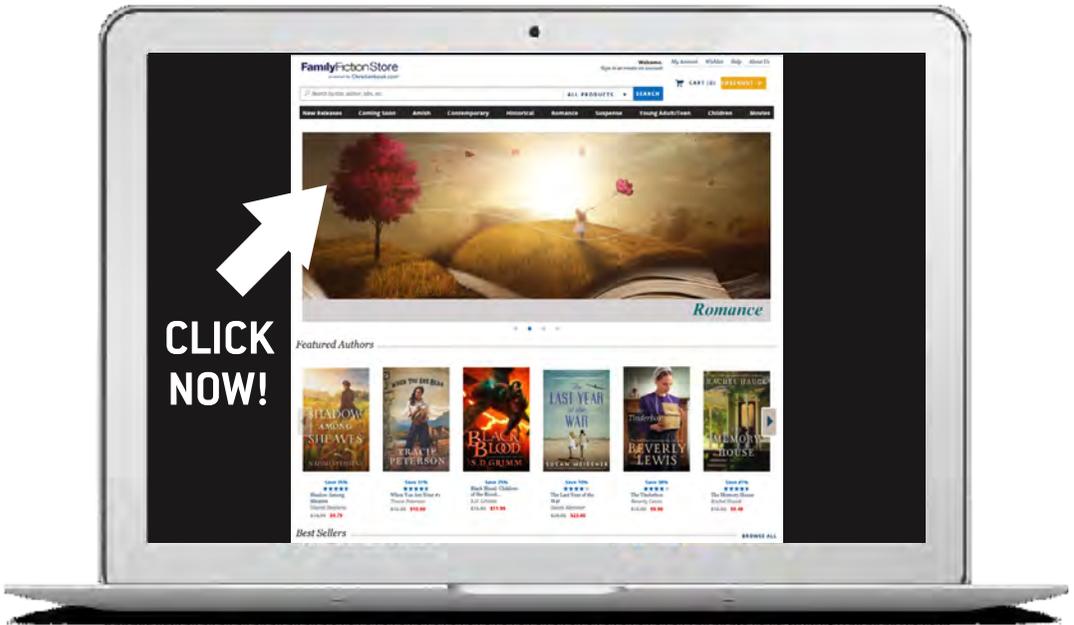
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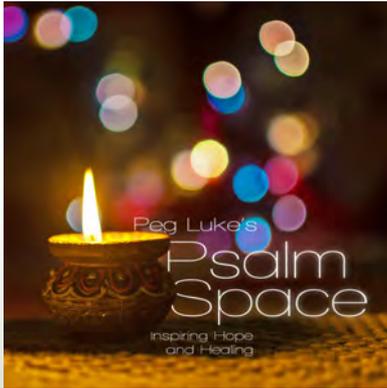
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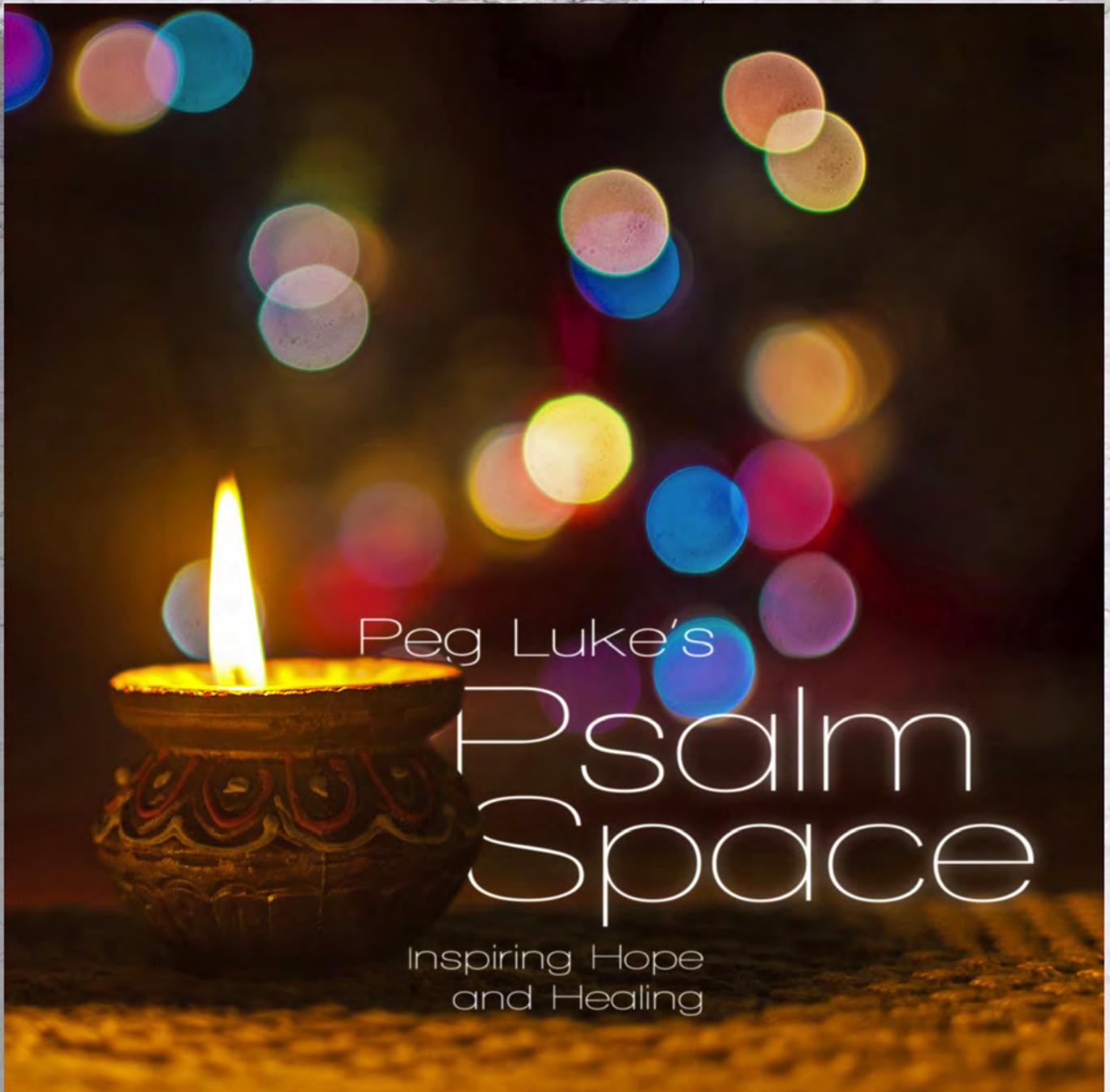
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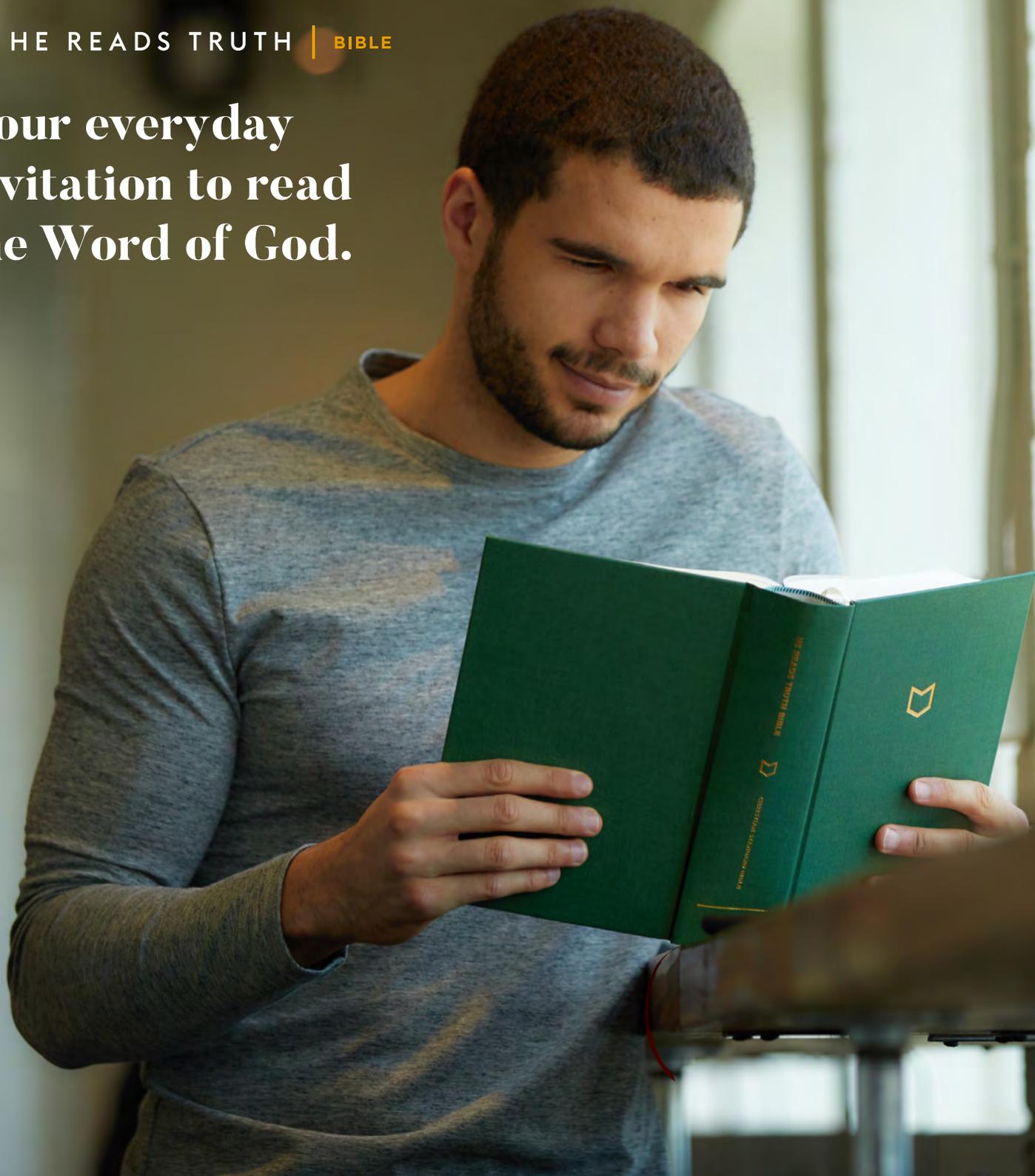
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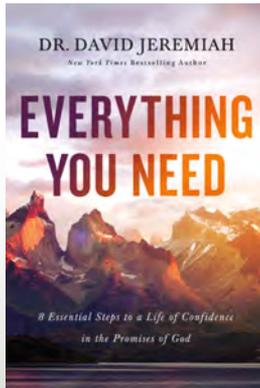


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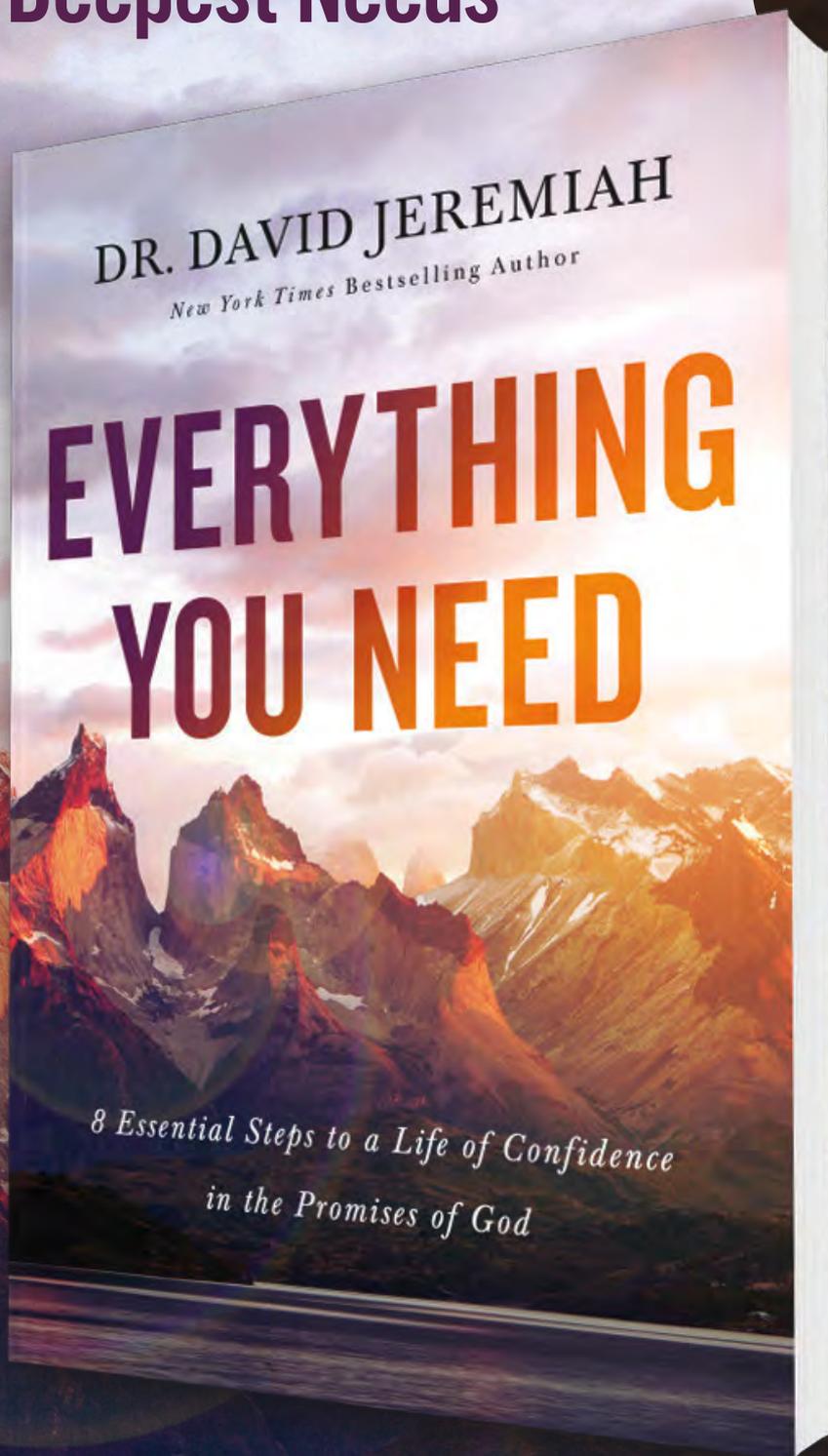
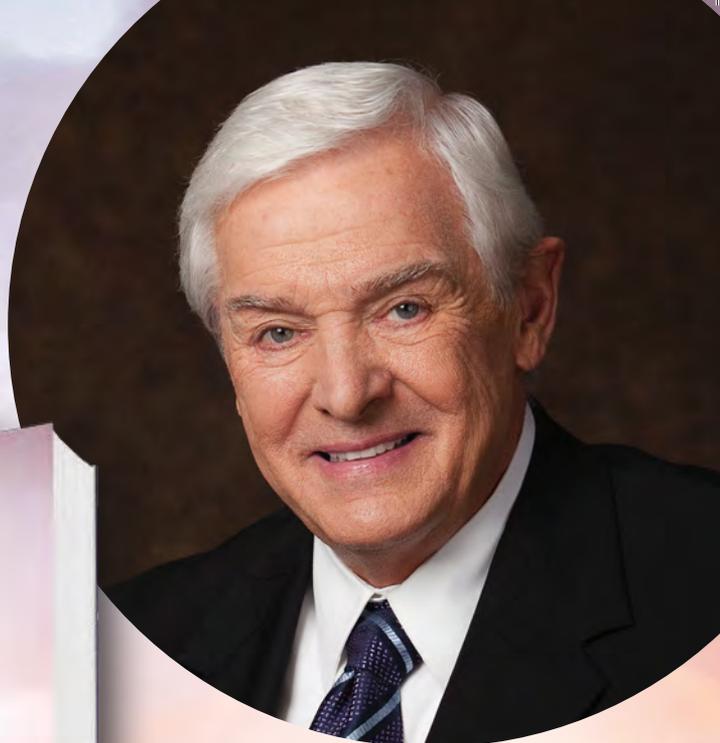
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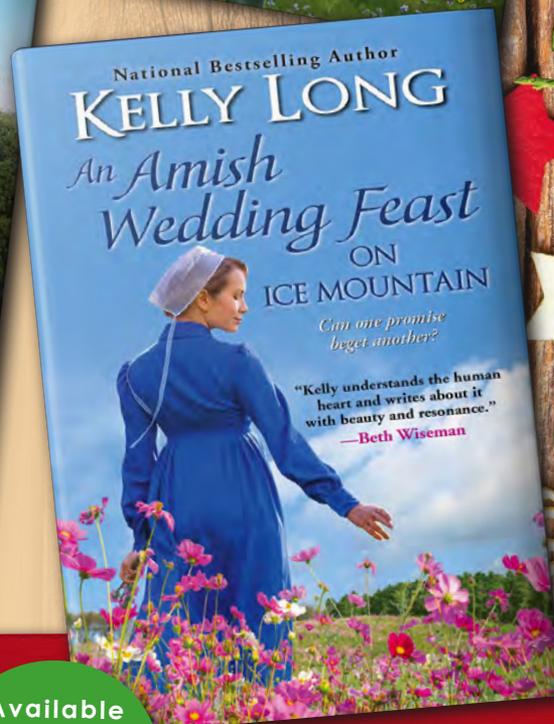
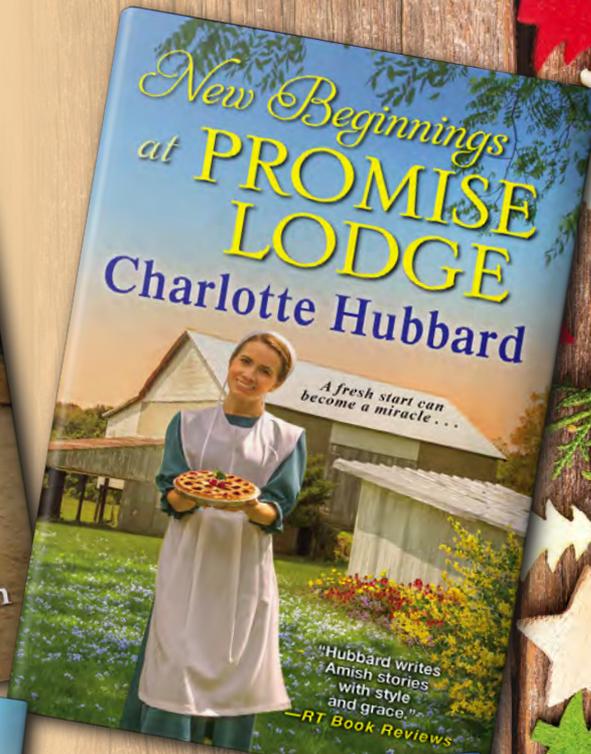
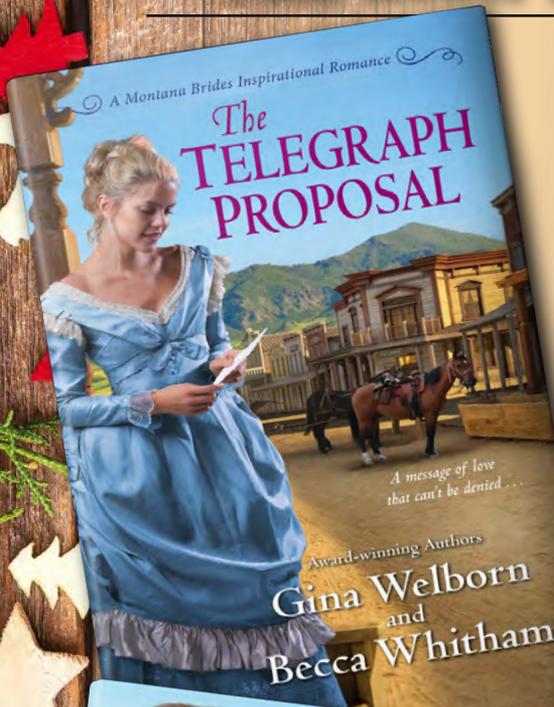
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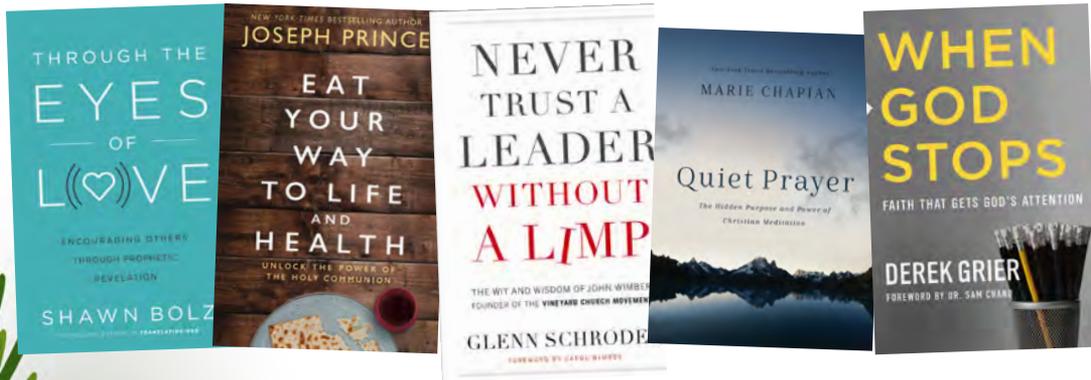
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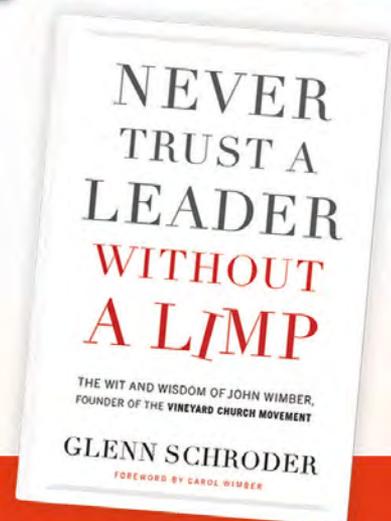
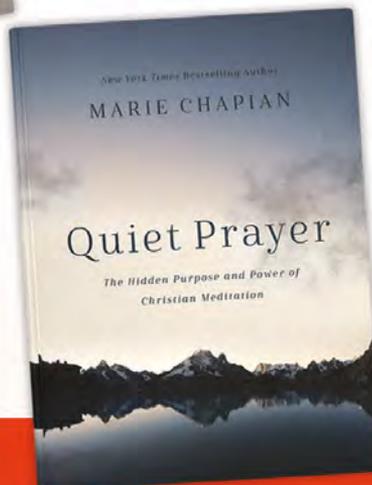
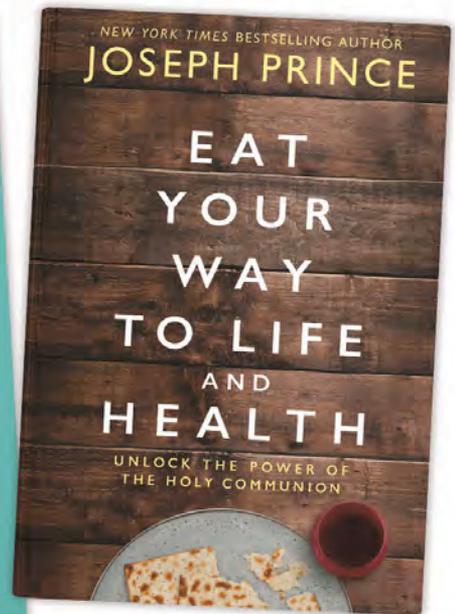
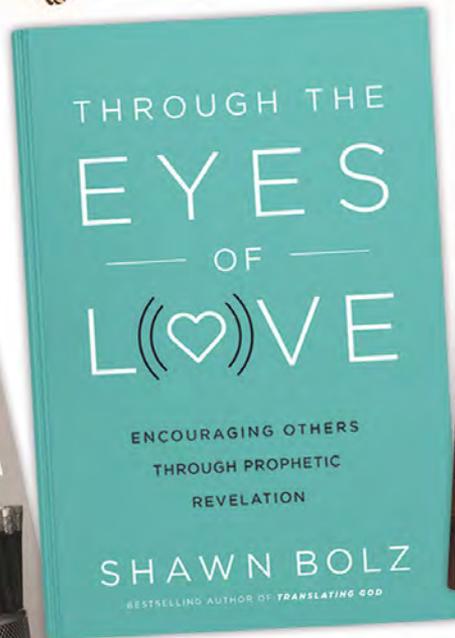
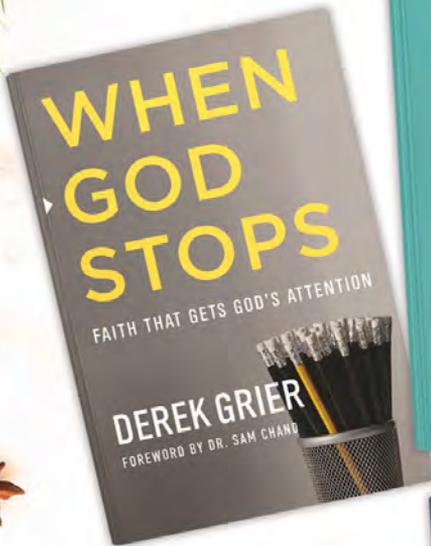
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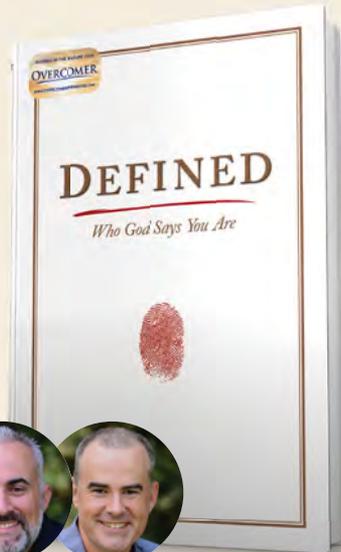
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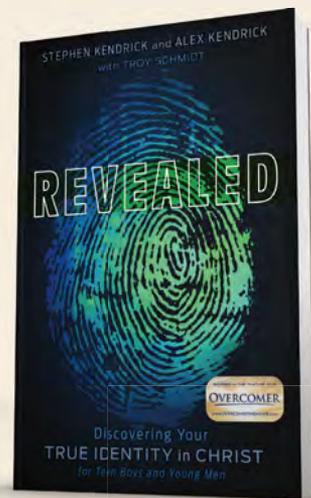
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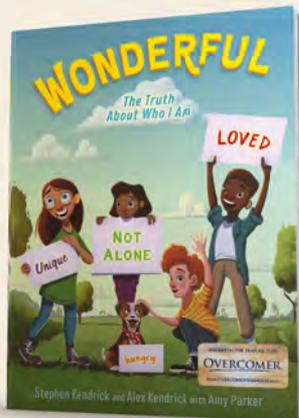
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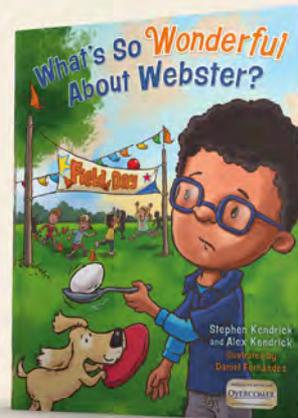
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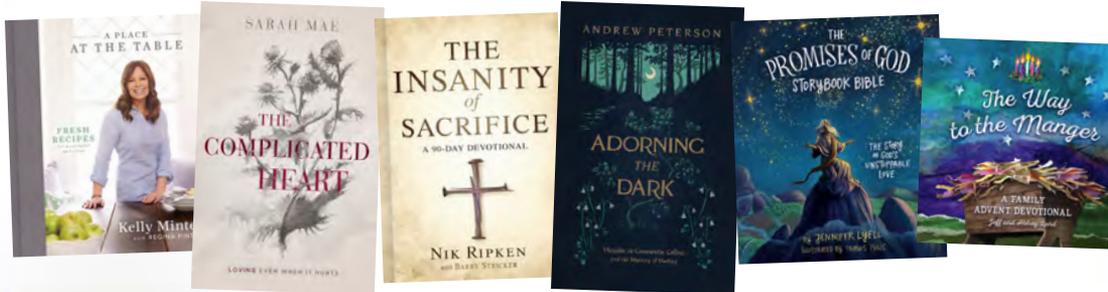
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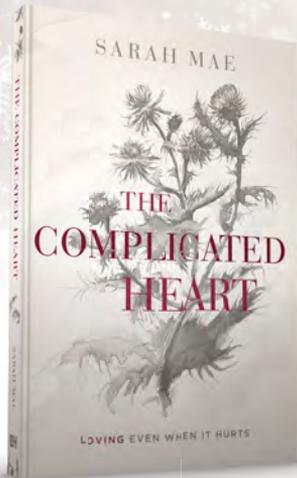
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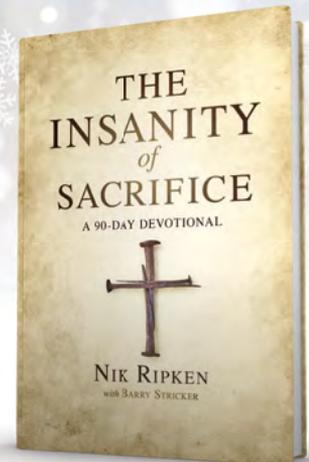
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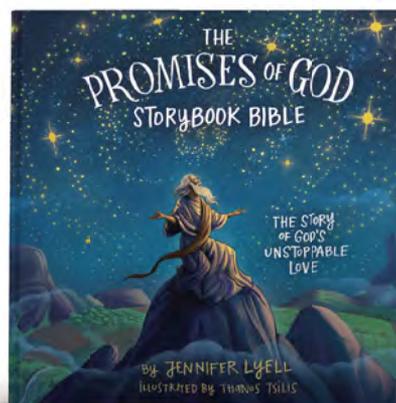
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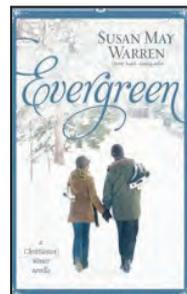
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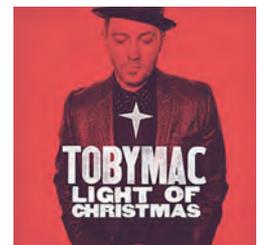
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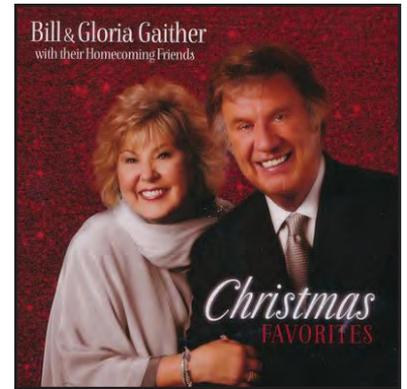
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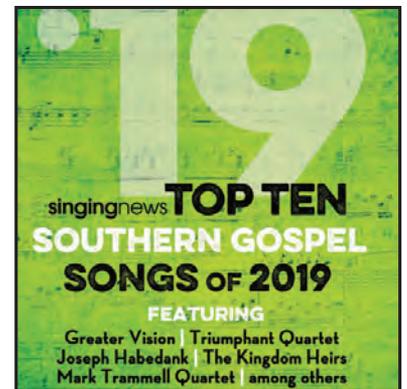
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Here's a checklist featuring more than 60 Christian suspense titles released in 2019—including thrillers, mysteries, historical suspense, law enforcement, legal suspense, romantic suspense, and speculative suspense.

Among these books you'll find popular Christian authors Lynette Eason, Dani Pettrey, Joel C. Rosenberg, Terri Blackstock, Dee Henderson, Ted Dekker, Irene Hannon, Ronie Kendig, Lynn H. Blackburn, and many more!

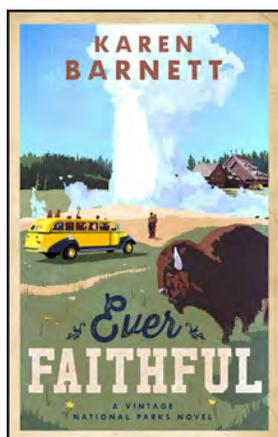


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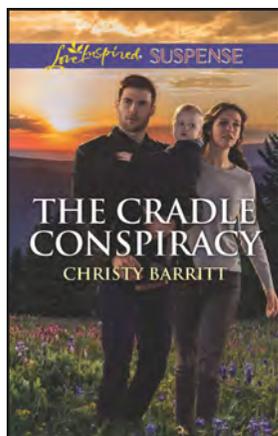
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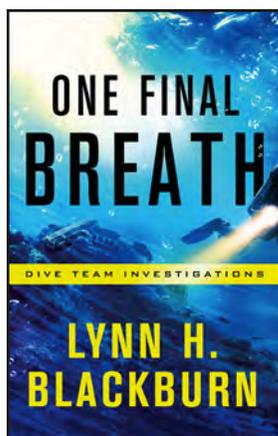
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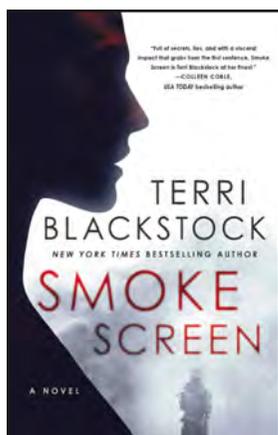
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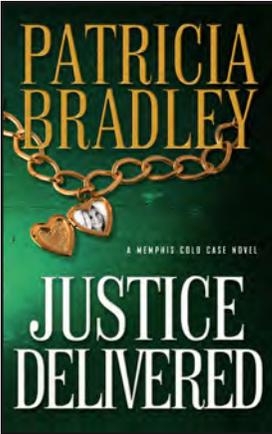
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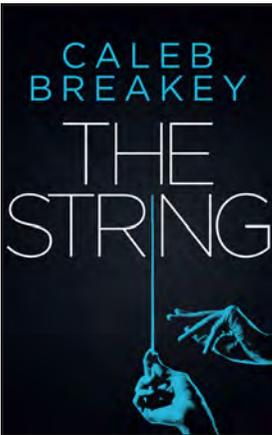
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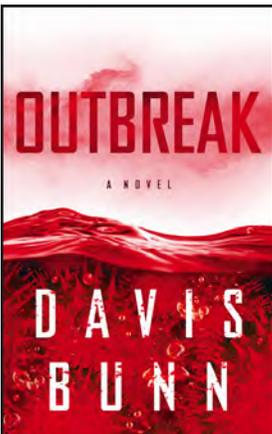
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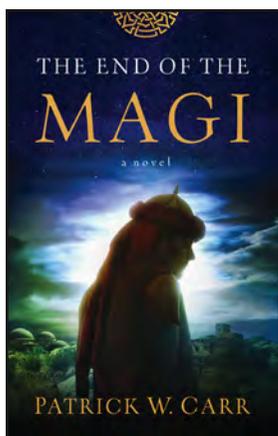
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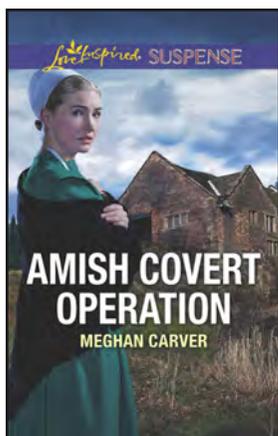
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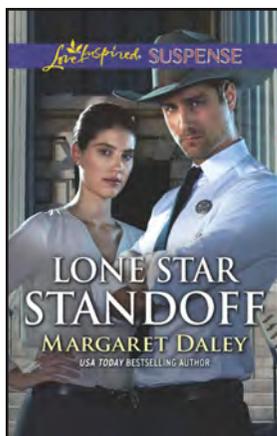
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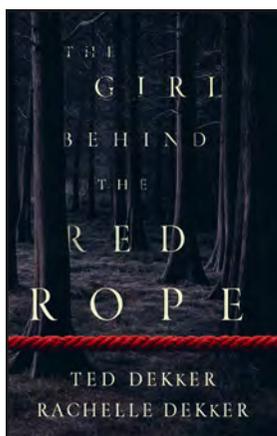
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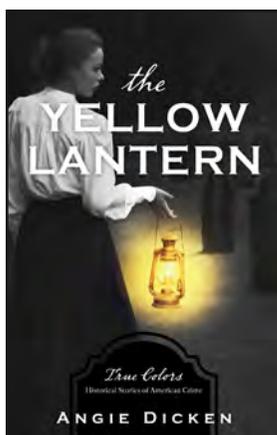
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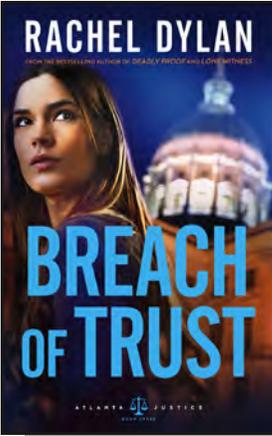
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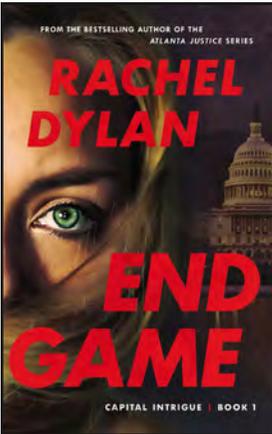
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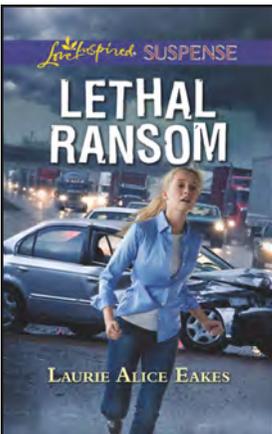
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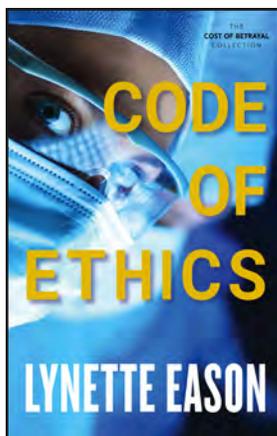
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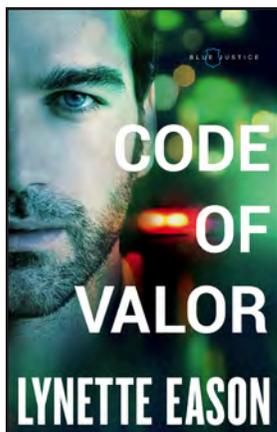
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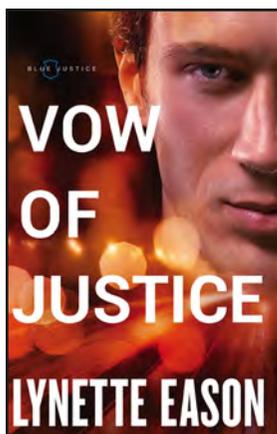
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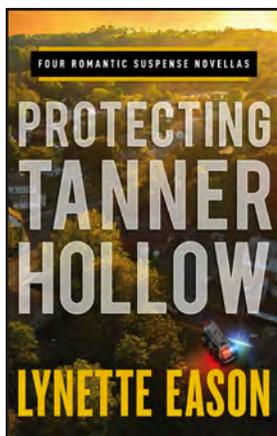
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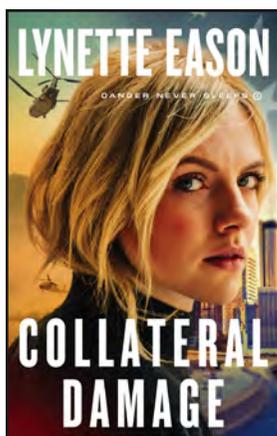
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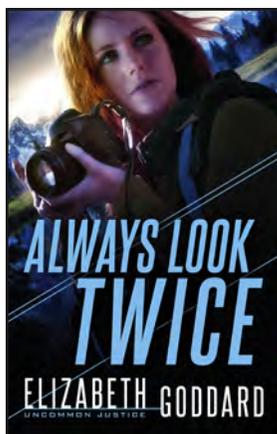
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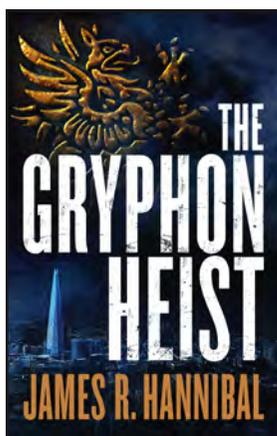
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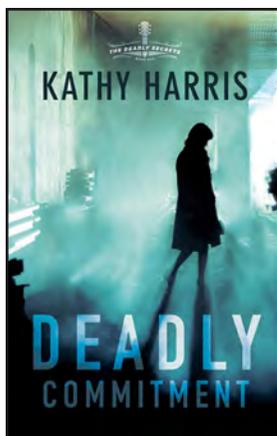
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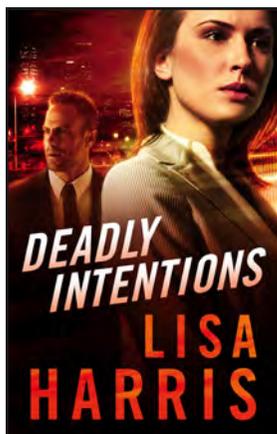
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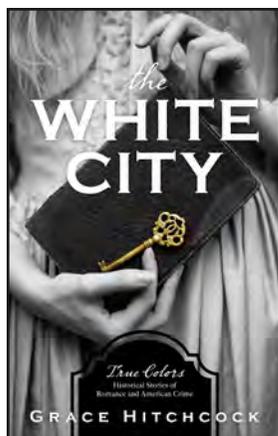
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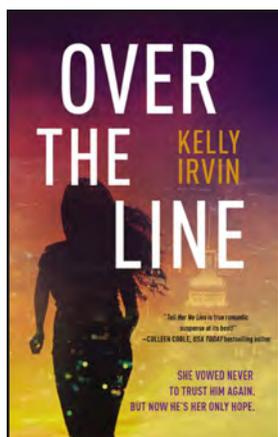
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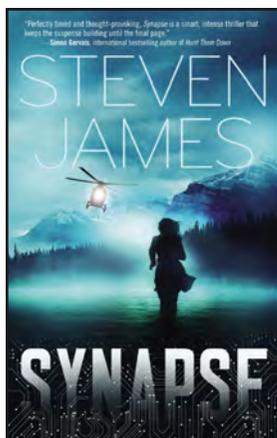
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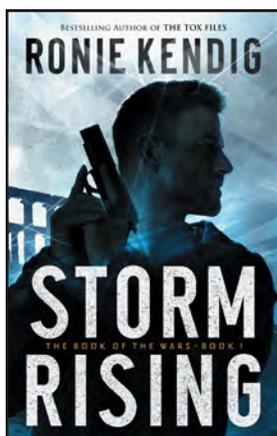
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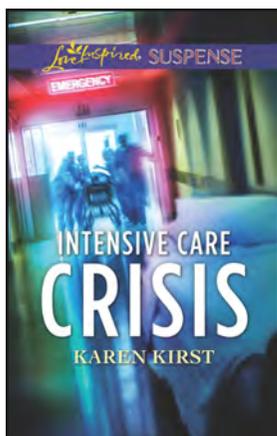
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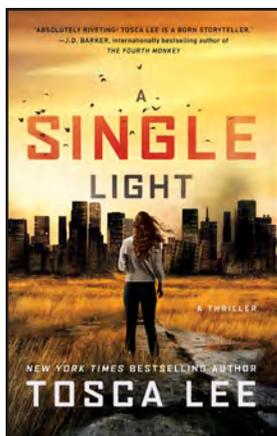
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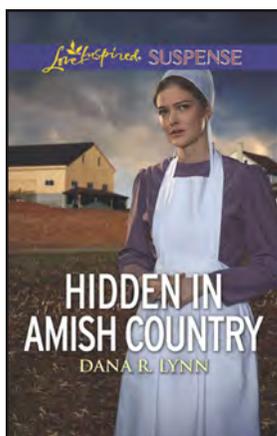
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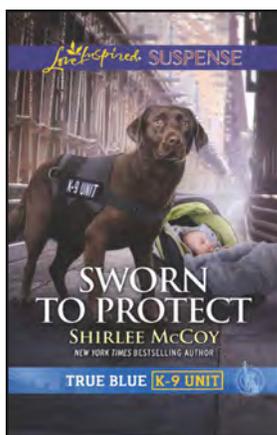
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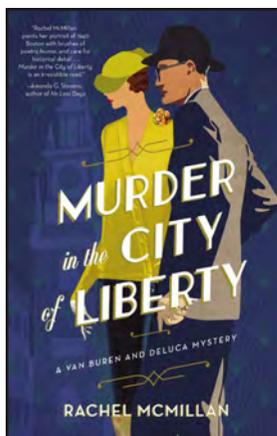
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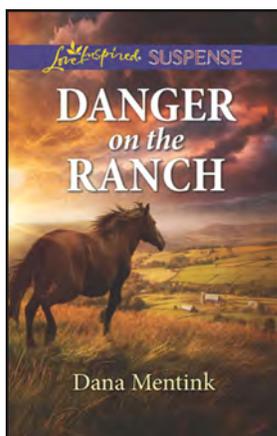
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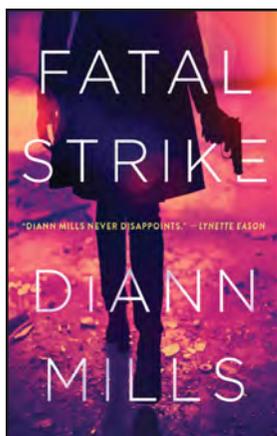
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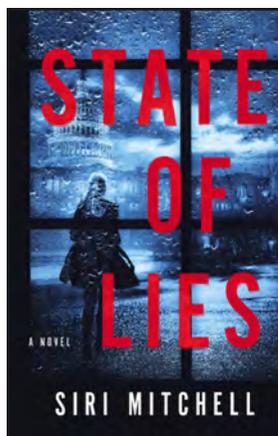
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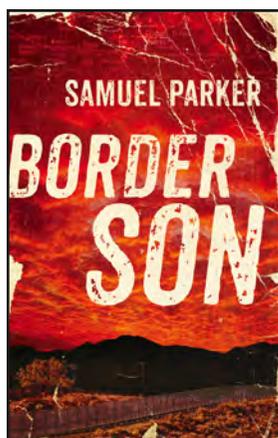
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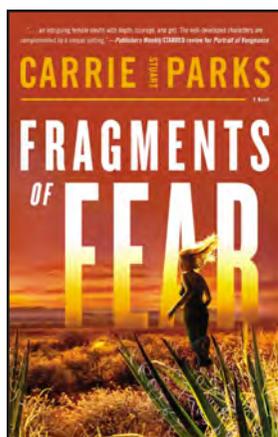
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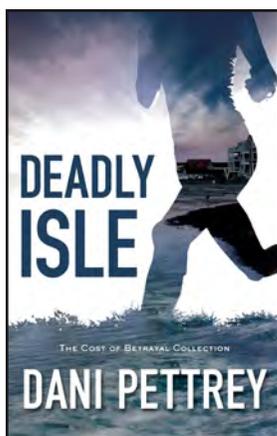


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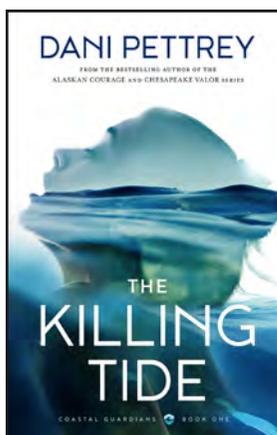
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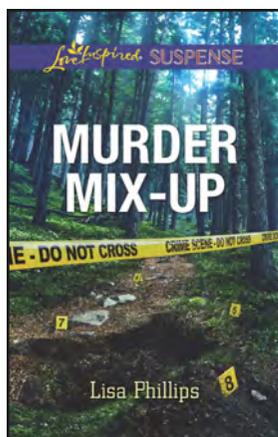
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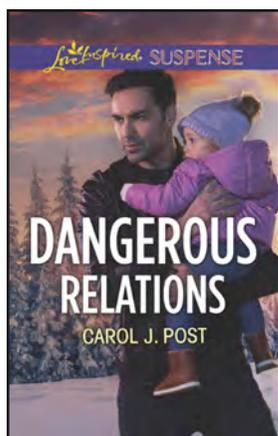
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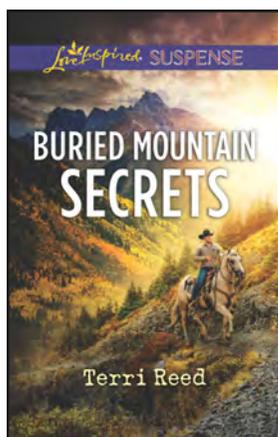
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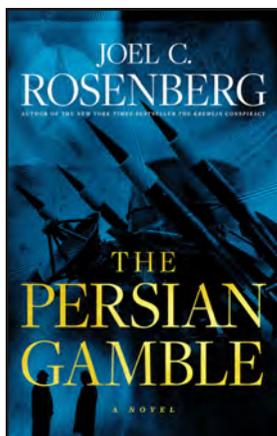
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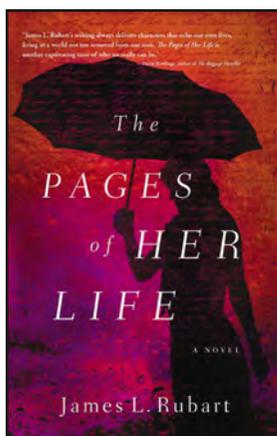


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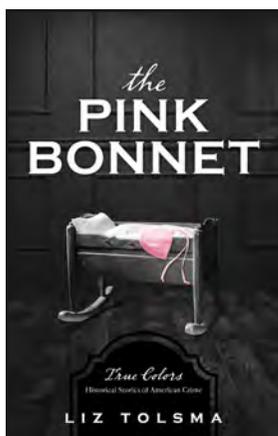


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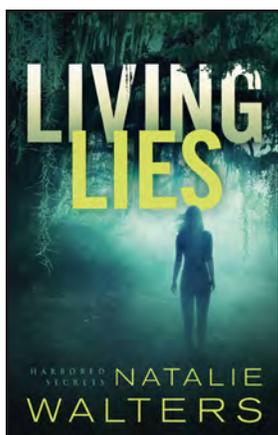
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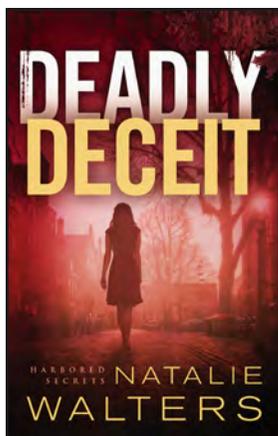
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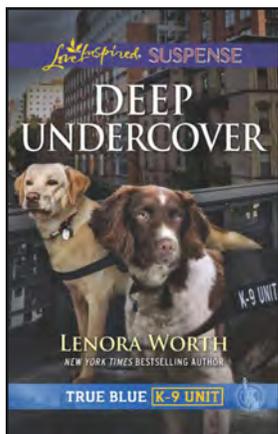
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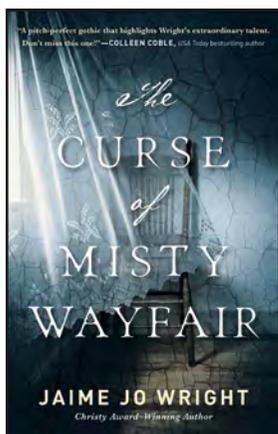
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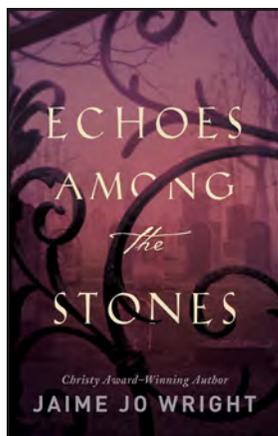
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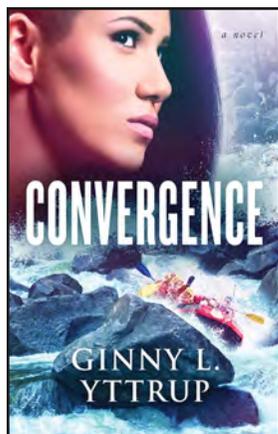


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