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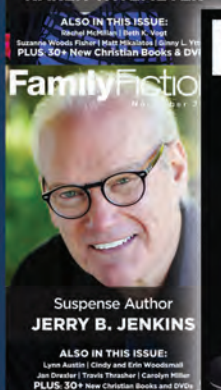
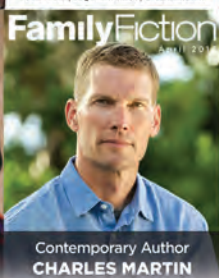
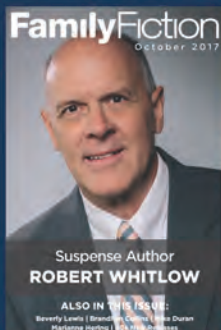
April 2021



Biblical Prophecy Author
DONNA VANLIERE

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Publisher/GM/Editor

Ross Cluver
Ross@FamilyFiction.com

Proofreader

Michele Thompson

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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Features



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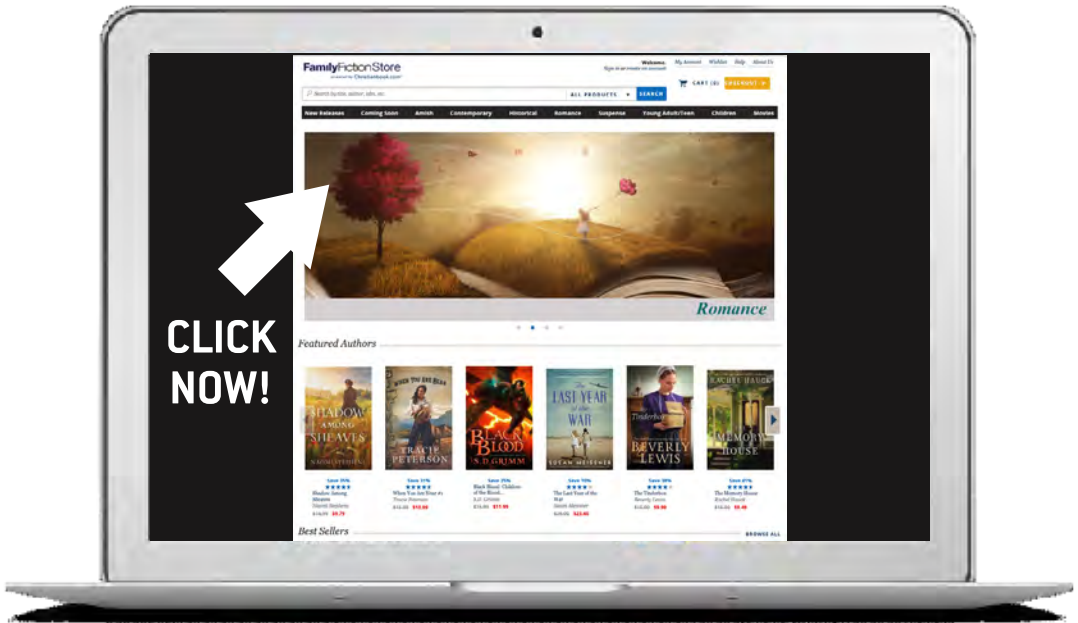
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BIBLICAL PROPHECY: DONNA VANLIERE

THE DAY OF EZEKIEL'S HOPE

Donna VanLiere is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author with more than 3 million books in print. Her books have been adapted for the screen, including CBS' *The Christmas Shoes* and *The Christmas Blessing*. In her latest book, ***The Day of Ezekiel's Hope***, is the anticipated followup to *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*. Donna does what she does best, combine a powerful fictional story with the end-time prophecies she has studied and taught for years. Readers who are fans of *The Time of Jacob's Trouble* join Emma Grady, as her story continues in *The Day of Ezekiel's Hope*.

FF: You are a novelist, but you also include a substantial amount of non-fiction section in the book. How do you feel that enhances your fictional story?

Several years ago, I was sitting in church and realized I had probably heard that same message at least thirty times in my life. But I had to check my spirit and thought perhaps someone there hadn't heard that same message. I found myself thinking those same thoughts quite often and one Sunday it dawned on me what message I hadn't heard since I was a child and that was about the return of Christ. It seemed that somewhere along the way that message was shelved and most pastors were no longer teaching it. I thought, "If I haven't heard this message in decades, what about the Millennials or Generation Z?" I began to study the Old and New Testament prophecies of the return of Jesus and couldn't understand why most churches had abandoned this vital teaching. The world isn't spiraling out of control as we often think, but things are actually looking up! They are looking up to the return of Jesus! One Sunday, I was sitting in church and felt that God deposited the idea into my



heart to write a book that was both fiction and non-fiction so Millennials and Generation Z who weren't aware of Bible prophecy could be drawn in first by a story and then taken into scripture at the back of the book to understand the truth behind the story. I am so grateful because I'm hearing from young people who are saying, "I didn't know this was in the Bible," "I've never heard that before," or "I never learned this in church." From the beginning, I never wanted to leave the reader with just a fiction story. I wanted to take them into the pages of the Bible and have them read the prophecies themselves. The books would be nothing but a story without the truth of the Bible behind them.

FF: *The Day of Ezekiel's Hope* is the follow-up to *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*. Tell us where one book leaves off, and where the new book picks up.

The timeline for *The Time of Jacob's Trouble* is just a matter of days. The world is reeling after Jesus snatches away all those

who are in Christ and is left trying to figure out what happened. There are all sorts of theories flying around and one crazy theory is that Christians had believed that one day Jesus would snatch away those who belonged to Him. The reader meets Emma Grady in New York City who begins to pore over the Bible of a rehab patient in search of answers and follows her journey, along with two Jews named Elliott, who also lives in New York and Zerah Adler, in Israel. They all go on a search for truth and it is fast-paced as they try to discover what has happened in the world. In the meantime, a governing body has formed of international leaders and one man named Victor Quade seems to outshine all the others and capture the globe's attention. He is a rising star at the end of *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*, but is plagued by two crazy old men in Jerusalem in *The Day of Ezekiel's Hope*. These two men continue to preach repentance and salvation in Jesus and have the audacity to call out someone's sins to their face. The Jews beloved temple is finally being built in Jerusalem and in what should be a time of rejoicing for Israel, these men continue to preach sin, repentance, and Jesus and their message is infuriating. They have the power to afflict the world with any plague and time after time the planet is affected and universal anger and hatred toward the men builds. Unfortunately, they are unable to be killed so the world has to suffer through the afflictions they cause. *The Day of Ezekiel's Hope* continues to follow Zerah Adler in Israel, Emma and her friends in New York City as they rescue children and teens from the street, and Elliott as he travels from one location to the next. Again, the world is reeling, but for those with ears to hear, things are looking up!

FF: The world is in quite a different place than when you started writing the book, have the changes affected your writing?

Things are moving at breakneck speed now. It's hard to keep up with everything that's happening in our own country, let alone the world, but the Bible tells us that things will and must happen. In Isaiah 46 God tells us that He declares the end from the beginning. From the very beginning, God has laid out for us how everything would play out so there wouldn't be any surprises. We know that wars, earthquakes, famines, and conflicts between races will accelerate. We know that love will grow cold. We know that lawlessness will increase. We know that people will become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. We know that all nations will one day come against Israel. Those are just some of the things that the Bible tells us about the "end of the age," there are so many others. In writing the books, I had to be careful not to include too many current world stories in the Where in the Word section at the back of each book because things are happening so rapidly in the world that the book would read as dated. It's so easy today to read something in the news and think, "That is so 8 hours ago!" That's how fast things are moving. I had to be aware of the speed as I wrote and that made me very aware of the urgency of the hour. We are closer today than we were yesterday to Christ's return.

FF: What message of hope do you want readers to take away from reading *The Day of Ezekiel's Hope*?

It often feels like the world is crumbling around us and it is hard to watch. It's hard to hear Christians that we know and love turn their backs on faith in Jesus. It's maddening to hear them justify things that the Bible says separates us from God

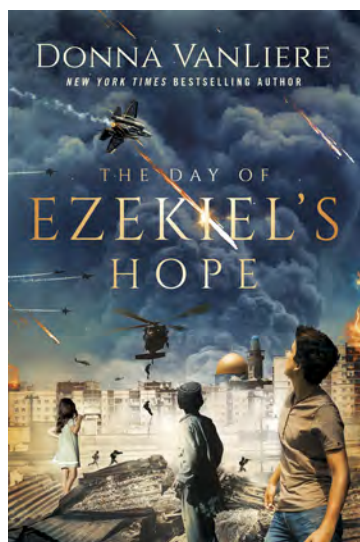
or to hear faith leaders who teach another Jesus and different gospel. But the Bible tells us that things are going to happen and when they begin to happen to look up because our redemption is near. That redemption is the return of Jesus to make all things new. Everything that is sick about this world will be totally transformed and we will rule and reign with Him. I can't imagine what this earth will look like when God transforms it or what our lives will be like. It's beyond comprehension! It is difficult to see and hear the things that are taking place but we know that they are leading to the soon return of Jesus, who is going to set all this mess right!

FF: Your books have a fast, energetic pace to them. How are you able to write that way?

The quick change of events and going from one location to the next keep the books moving along at a rapid pace. I wanted to take the reader to different locations around the world so they could get a feel of what is happening in the lives of different people as the world tries to make sense of what has happened. Deception is rising, violence is escalating, fear is mounting, and confusion is swirling. Those things will always make a book pulsate. But I never want to leave the reader with that feeling of anxiousness. The reader has to know that the story is not just spiraling down into chaos, but is actually headed somewhere hopeful. In the midst of turmoil there is hope for all those with ears to hear. As the reader follows the main characters, they feel the hope of Jesus and will hopefully feel the urgency to tell others about Him because things aren't spiraling out of control but are looking up to His return! **FF**

Visit Donna VanLiere's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/donna-vanliere>



The Day of Ezekiel's Hope

Donna VanLiere

Harvest House

Genres: End Times, Fantasy

Release Date: March 16, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

Millions have vanished...

War has erupted around the globe...

Cities have been ransacked and
overrun with lawlessness...

This is only the beginning...

Emma Grady has seen civilization collapse and New York gutted by nuclear attack. Amidst this international crisis, she and her growing family of outcasts must unravel the meaning of these strange and horrifying events, even as they struggle to survive.

On the other side of the world, Zerah Adler finds Israel surrounded by invaders intent on total annihilation. In Jerusalem, two men have the power to stop the rain and call down plagues of every kind. Are they sorcerers, or do they have the power of God? And a magnetic new leader has emerged, promising to provide peace and even salvation to the globe.

In the gripping follow-up to *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*, bestselling author Donna VanLiere explores the end times through the journeys of Emma, Zerah, and others who face unprecedented danger. In the final chapters, you'll discover what God's Word says about our world's future and yours—and realize that things aren't spiraling downward but are actually looking up!



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YA/TEEN/FANTASY: T.R. MOORE EDE

TEARMANN CHRONICLES SERIES

New YA/Teen/Fantasy author, **T.R. Moore Ede**, was born and raised in a Christian family in Canada, and is the third of ten kids. In her early teenage years, she began to develop an interest and eventually a love for writing. What was meant to be a stand alone, then a duo turned into the *Tearmann Chronicles*. Most of her books, whether in the series or not, show her love of and interest in magical creatures, especially mermaids. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, a variety of crafts, greek mythology and mermaiding.

In this interview, she talks about her latest book in the series, ***Humans that Aren't***, as well as the entire world of her *Tearmann Chronicles*.

FF: What is the inspiration behind the story in your book series, *Tearmann Chronicles*?

My inspiration for my series comes from many different places. First, from my love for magical creatures, and second, when I saw a superhero movie for the first time. I began drawing my own, both human and magical creatures, and taking them on adventures in my head. At some point, I decided to write one of the books and when it worked, I kept going.

FF: What were your goals writing *Tearmann Chronicles*?

In the beginning, I had no goals for my series. My siblings like reading it and I enjoyed writing it so it was a win-win. As I started to properly develop my series and realized I wanted to publish it, my hope began to be that I could show God in it through my characters' struggles.



FF: Which character surprised you the most?

I can't tell you that. Spoilers. To be honest, a lot of them. When I first started writing my series, the characters were bland and very similar. After writing and rewriting books my characters, even some of the background ones, seemed to decide who they were, causing more rewrites to update their character in previous books. To name one, Victoria was a bit of a surprise. Her character herself wasn't but she kept popping up in a number of different people's storylines, even if just for a little bit.

FF: How do you go about getting in the right mindset to write for your genre?

I have been blessed with being able to write somewhat easily. It likely was also attributed to the years of practice. If there are times I have problems writing, most of the time I just need to walk away and come back to it later.

FF: What do you want readers to take away after reading this novel?

There are a couple things I would like them to take away from this series. There are a number of storylines but the main one is that God is in control and can use any situation. Jesus said that in this world we would face troubles but to take hope because He has overcome the world.

FF: What can readers expect from the rest of your future *Tearmann Chronicles* books?

They can expect a lot of characters, some are magical creatures, others humans with powers from many different backgrounds. Around book six a superhero team pops up. Together they avoid the two evil gangs, fight crime and go through the different struggles life throws at them. All the while hearing about 'him' who is said to be coming. I am currently thinking that there could be as many as 20-30 books in the Tearmann Chronicles. Stay tuned! **FF**

Series Info:

Nearly Drowned — *Tèarmann Chronicles* #1

Double Vision — *Tèarmann Chronicles* #2

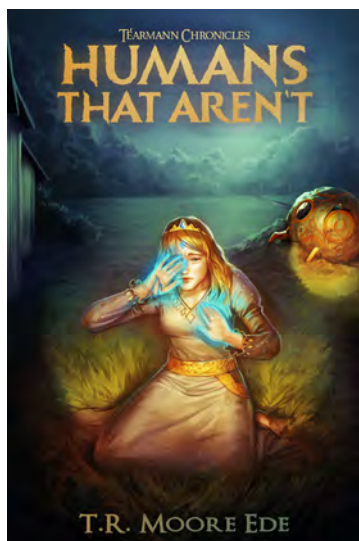
Wings of Change — *Tèarmann Chronicles* #3

Out in the Open — *Tèarmann Chronicles* #4

Visit T.R. Moore Ede 's author page here:

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Humans that Aren't

Tèarmann Chronicles #5

T.R. Moore Ede

Independent

Release Date: March 15, 2021

Buy Now

Book Summary:

Both Irene and Eve wish to be reunited with their parents.

Irene's parents may be at the Slayer's base, but Eve's parents, a different planet.

Upon hearing that her parents could be close by, Irene is itching to leave straight away, regardless of the danger. Unfortunately, a preplanned trip stands between her and finding her parents. The only time she has between now and heading to the airport is only enough to see a newfound alien ship...

Even as a dragon, a dragon from the medieval period at that, Irene still finds the thought of aliens a bit far fetched. When she visits the site of the crash, she not only finds a damaged ship but a spot of blue blood.

Eve hadn't meant to crash on Earth. She doesn't even know how a course was set for it. When locals find her ship almost immediately, she's forced to flee it. In the trees she sought safety in, she runs into a giant group of people that don't seem surprised by her presence on Earth. Worse, it sounds like they were expecting her. But how is that possible?



POLITICAL THRILLER: JOEL C. ROSENBERG

THE BEIRUT PROTOCOL

Suspense/political thriller author, **Joel C. Rosenberg**, is a *New York Times* bestselling author of 15 novels and 4 non-fiction books with 5 million copies in print. He is also the founder and Editor-in-Chief of two news and analysis websites, www.allisrael.com and allarab.news. His last novel, *The Jerusalem Assassin*, hit the *Publishers Weekly* bestseller list at #6. Joel and his wife, Lynn, are dual U.S.-Israeli citizens and live in Jerusalem. Two of their four sons have served in the Israeli Defense Forces.

In this interview, Joel discusses his latest book in the *Marcus Ryker Series*, *The Beirut Protocol*.

FF: What inspired the story in your new book, *The Beirut Protocol*?

In 2014, my wife and sons and I left the Washington, D.C. area and moved to Israel. We now live in Jerusalem. It's a challenging life, but it's ideal if you're writing international geopolitical thrillers. Israel, after all, is a target rich environment. We have a lot of people and groups and nations that want not only to attack us but wipe us off the map. So, there's a lot of worst-case scenarios to write about.

For *The Beirut Protocol*, I knew that I wanted to write about Lebanon, since it's not a country that I've ever written about in any detail before. It's also a country that hasn't been in the news for many years. But I believe Lebanon is the most likely theater for the next Arab-Israeli war and so I wanted to explore the reasons why that's the case.

What's more, I knew that I wanted to write a story in which my main character was captured and pulled deep behind enemy lines. I'd never written a novel like that before, but I thought it would be intriguing for readers and a major challenge for me as an author. In the first chapters of *The Beirut Protocol*, therefore, Marcus Ryker—a Marine combat veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq and a decorated former U.S. Secret Service Agent—and his team are ambushed by a Hezbollah terrorist cell on the Israel-Lebanon border and taken captive.

It's a terrifying prospect actually. I'd really worked hard in the previous three novels in this series on establishing who Ryker is, what his training and values and skill sets are, and why he's now working for the Central Intelligence Agency. But I got intrigued with the question of how Ryker might handle himself if he was taken hostage. I'd already set him up as of the most effective clandestine operators in the Agency. But what if all of his strengths and skills were neutralized? What if his team was also captured? Then what? What would he do? And from where would he summon the strength not to give up but find a way to fight—maybe even to escape?

As *The Beirut Protocol* unfolds, I get to tell a very personal and intimate and close-quarters story of Ryker and his colleagues as they face interrogation and torture. They have no idea where they are, and no idea how to get free. Ryker is suddenly facing the horrifying prospect of certain death at the hands of a bloodthirsty enemy. The only good news is that his captors don't seem to know who he is, or that the Iranian regime has put a \$50 million bounty on his head.

At the same time, I get to zoom out and tell the big picture story. How would the Israeli military respond to a hostage taking on the Lebanon border? How would Hezbollah's senior leadership respond? Would such an incident trigger the Third Lebanon War? How the White House would react? And what would the CIA do to get Ryker and his team back safely? And just for good measure, I throw in a few curve balls to keep even further off balance.

Two of our four sons have served in the Israeli Defense Forces. One served for a short time on the Lebanon border. The other served in a special forces unit in the West Bank. What's more, we have a lot of Israeli friends who have served in similar units. I've also gotten to know current and former high-ranking U.S. and IDF officers, high-ranking intelligence officials, even the current Israeli Minister of Defense. So, that gave me access to a lot of research that I could use to write this book.

FF: What can you tell us about the main characters?

Marcus Ryker is a killer. The Iranians hate him with a vengeance and want to take him out. So do the Russians and the North Koreans. Because Marcus keeps messing with their malign plans for the world.

But despite the fact that he's 6'2" and about 175 pounds, you might not even notice him at a cocktail party. He makes it a point not to stick out in the crowd. That's not just his personality. It's his training. He's a clandestine officer working for the Central Intelligence Agency. That said, his cover is that of a Special Agent for the Diplomatic Security Service, the branch of the State Department that protects American and foreign diplomats and dignitaries. Before all this Marcus was a former



agent with the U.S. Secret Service, and served with distinction on the Presidential Protective Detail. And before all that, he served multiple combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq with the U.S. Marines.

Marcus does not see himself as a hero. And he's highly uncomfortable getting any attention—much less kudos—at all. He doesn't want praise. He doesn't want attention. He prefers to work in the shadows, protecting his nation's leaders, secrets and freedoms.

That said, Marcus is battling a great deal of pain and loss. His wife and son were murdered in one of the earlier books in this series. I won't give away how it happened. But this haunts Marcus. He has spent his entire professional life protecting his nation and its leaders, but he hasn't been able to protect the two people in this world that he loved the most.

FF: What can you tell us about your next book?

I'm working on two projects right now—the next thriller in the *Marcus Ryker Series* that will release in March 2022, as well as a non-fiction book that will release in September of this year, to mark the 20th anniversary of the al Qaeda terror attacks on America on September 11th, 2001. That one is called *Enemies*

& Allies: An Unforgettable Journey Inside The Fast Moving and Immensely Turbulent Modern Middle East. It's full of exclusive interviews I've done over the last few years with the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, two directors of the CIA, the President of Israel, and kings and crown princes, presidents and prime ministers throughout the Sunni Arab world. I look at how we've dealt with past threats in the Middle East like al Qaeda and ISIS, and what new and even more serious threats are coming up over the horizon. And even more interestingly, at least to me, I take readers inside motorcades and palaces and my personal conversations with some of the most interesting and controversial and consequential leaders in this region. Attitudes are really shifting in this part of the world. Sweeping, tectonic changes are underway. But most Americans aren't aware of just how huge the changes are, or how such change will affect their lives. It's been a fascinating project. I'm just finishing up the editing process now. I love writing novels, but it's been exciting to work on a non-fiction book given all the drama underway in Jerusalem and Riyadh and Abu Dhabi and Cairo and Tehran.

FF: What do you want readers to take away after reading *The Beirut Protocol*?

That a major war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon is a very real and dangerous and growing prospect—what I write about in *The Beirut Protocol* could really come true, and soon.

One of the things that inspired the story was an event in 2006 in which a Hezbollah unit attacked an IDF patrol on the border. Several Israeli soldiers were killed. Several more were captured. And the Second Lebanon War erupted. In 34 days, Hezbollah fired 4,000 missiles at Israel.

But today, senior Israeli officials tell me the Third Lebanon War could lead to Hezbollah firing 4,000 missiles a day—or more—at Israel. That’s a grim prospect. But it makes, I think, for a fascinating political thriller.

FF: What are the biggest challenges for you as an author writing in your specific genre?

The biggest challenge I face is trying to make up a story that is completely not true yet will compel people to spend money and time they don’t have to buy it and read and keep coming back for more. That is extremely difficult for any bestselling novelist, and in that sense I’m no different.

But I have an additional challenge in that some of my readers are national and world leaders. How do I write stories compelling enough for them to read and keep coming back for more.

When I got started, I never imagined that my novels would be read by people like Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former President George W. Bush, former CIA Director Porter Goss, former Delta Force Commander General Jerry Boykin, former senior White House advisor Jason Greenblatt, Jordan’s King Abdullah II, former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, former Israeli Interior Minister Natan Sharansky, former Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, and many other American, Israeli, Arab and other foreign leaders, not to mention Members of Congress, governors, and other interesting people. That’s been a lot of fun to know that they’re reading and enjoying the books as well as to meeting and corresponding with them. But it adds a lot of pressure to write books that hold the attention of such high-powered leaders in high places.

Probably the most surprising was to learn in 2016 that Jordan's King Abdullah had read *The First Hostage*, which is a novel in which ISIS terrorists try to assassinate him, blow up his palace and take over his kingdom. The next thing I knew, rather than banning me from the Kingdom of Jordan forever, the king was inviting my wife and me to come visit him for five days to get to know him and his senior military and intelligence advisors. That was absolutely fascinating, and set into motion a number of meetings over the years. I have the highest respect for King Abdullah and it's been a thrill to know that he's become a fan of my novels.

FF: What authors or books have inspired you as an author?

Growing up, I loved reading the Ian Fleming James Bond novels, Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan thrillers, and John Grisham's legal thrillers. But mostly I love reading autobiographies, biographies and history—I'm fascinated with how world leaders and military leaders and spies make decisions that can change the course of the world for good or for evil.

FF: How has your faith or world view impacted the way you tell stories?

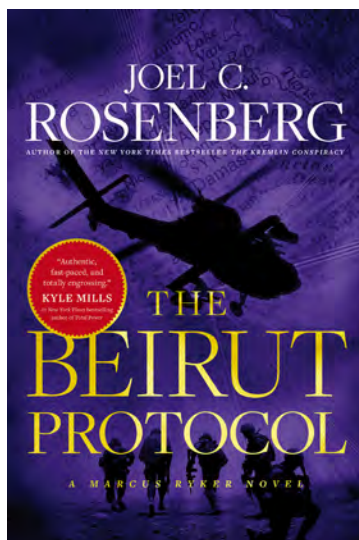
My faith as an Evangelical from a Jewish background is deeply important to me. In some of my novels, characters explore faith. Some use religion to justify their hatred and violence. Others use it to draw courage to fight their nations' enemies, and make hard ethical and moral decisions. Others aren't sure what they believe and are worried about where they go when they die. So, it's true that I find ways to weave faith and religion into many of my books. At the same time, I try to make my books readable and accessible by people of all faiths and no faith. That's challenging. Very challenging, actually. Most

political thriller writers—indeed, most novelists—avoid faith and religion all together. I don't. But it adds a level of complexity to what I'm trying to achieve. **FF**

Visit Joel C. Rosenberg's author page here:

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<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/the-beirut-protocol-joel-rosenberg/9781496437891/pd/437891?event=ESRCG>



The Beirut Protocol

Marcus Ryker Series #4

Joel C. Rosenberg

Tyndale House

Genres: Suspense, Thriller, Mystery

Release Date: March 9, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

A game-changing peace treaty between Israel and the Saudis is nearly done. The secretary of state is headed to the region to seal the deal.

And Special Agent Marcus Ryker is leading an advance trip along the Israeli-Lebanon border, ahead of the secretary's arrival.

But when Ryker and his team are ambushed by Hezbollah forces, a nightmare scenario begins to unfold. The last thing the White House can afford is a new war in the Mideast that could derail the treaty and set the region ablaze. U.S. and Israeli forces are mobilizing to find the hostages and get them home, but Ryker knows the clock is ticking.

When Hezbollah realizes who they've captured, no amount of ransom will save them—they'll be transferred to Beirut and then to Tehran to be executed on live television.

In the fourth installment of Rosenberg's gripping new series, Marcus Ryker finds himself in the most dangerous situation he has ever faced—captured, brutalized, and dragged deep behind enemy lines.

Should he wait to be rescued? Or try to escape? How? And what if his colleagues are too wounded to run?

This is the CIA's most valuable operative as you have never seen him before.



BIBLICAL FICTION: JILL EILEEN SMITH

MIRIAM'S SONG

Jill Eileen Smith is the bestselling and award-winning author of the biblical fiction series *The Wives of King David*, *Wives of the Patriarchs*, and *Daughters of the Promised Land*, as well as *The Heart of a King* and *Star of Persia: Esther's Story*. Her research into the lives of biblical women has taken her from the Bible to Israel, and she particularly enjoys learning how women lived in Old Testament times. She broke onto the biblical fiction scene with her first novel, *Michal*.

In her newest novel, *Miriam's Song*, Smith explores the story of Miriam, the sister of Moses. With impeccable research and a flair for storytelling, she offers a rich exploration of the many facets of Miriam's life, bringing this character from the background to center stage. *Miriam's Song* is a heartfelt novel about a girl who dreamed of freedom, a woman who longed for love, a leader who made mistakes, and a friend who valued connection.

FF: This is your fourteenth biblical novel.

What inspired you to write about Miriam?

I can't recall exactly when Revell and I made the decision to pursue this story, but Miriam was one of several women we discussed to go along with Esther's story (*Star of Persia*). They liked Miriam best of the choices given, and I agreed. I didn't realize at the time just how hard her story would be to write!



FF: You offer both impeccable research and an imaginative flair in each of your novels. However, there have been times when there is very little information about your characters. How are you able to craft a story when there are few historical details?

This is exactly what happened in *Miriam's Song*. If you look at her life in Scripture, not much is said of her. We know she watched her brother Moses when he was placed in a basket in the Nile and spoke up to the princess for her mother to nurse Moses. She is called a prophetess, and she sang a song after the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea. She was a leader in Israel who complained against Moses later in life and had leprosy for seven days. We also know approximately when she died.

That's it. That was very little to go on, so I had to focus a lot on Moses and Aaron in order to put Miriam in the context of their lives and the lives of the Hebrew slaves. We aren't told if she married or had children, but because that would have been the norm in her society, I created a husband and children for her.

Sometimes filling in the blanks is easier than at other times. This was not one of those easy times.

FF: What challenge did this present as you wrote *Miriam's Song*?

It's always a challenge to remain true to the times and yet flesh out a character we know very little about. I looked to Miriam's bravery as a child, her older-sister protectiveness, and her calling to be a prophetess to give me insight into the type of woman she might have been.

FF: What do you hope readers will gain from Miriam's story?

I think for this story, my prayer for my readers is different than that of many of the others. I got a greater glimpse of God's holiness and glory and finally understood that His holiness cannot coexist with our sin without a mediator. Miriam's people could not see God the way she or Moses and Aaron did because each one of them had personal encounters with Him. Some of the men even ate a meal in the presence of God! I'd never seen that before or grasped what it might have looked like. So I truly hope that readers will see God in His holiness and have a new appreciation for His love for us. If not for His great, amazing love, His holiness would consume us. Yet He made a way for us to one day share in His holiness and see His glory—something very few people even in Scripture ever had the privilege to see.

FF: You have received praise for your attention to detail and your in-depth biblical research. How does research factor into your writing, and what does that process look like?

Every writer researches, even if they are writing something we would consider contemporary. But the farther back we go in history, the harder research becomes. I've been writing in ancient times for over ten years, so many of the customs are already embedded into my way of writing. But each new book is set in a different place or time, so I do have to research those times. Of course, I also study the person from Scripture. I usually spend a month or more, if I can, to research, then I pick my characters from pictures of actors who look close to my characters' ethnicity. (I am very visual, so seeing what I think they looked like helps me write about them.) Then I summarize a plot and finish by doing a first draft seat-of-the-pants style. In other words, I don't write by a strict plot. I let the characters lead me as I try to keep to the Bible's timeline and stay true to what is written there.

FF: How did you become interested in this genre?

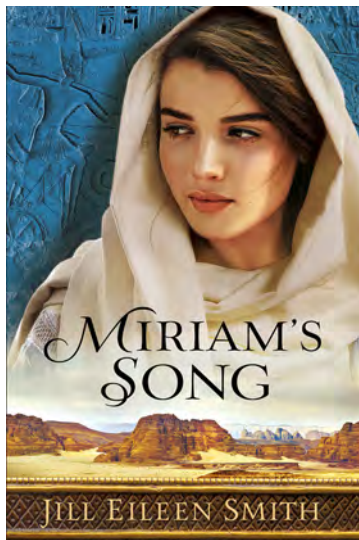
Two from Galilee by Marjorie Holmes has been my longtime favorite story. In my late teens, I read the book and realized the people in Scripture were real. I fell in love with the Bible after that, and one day after co-teaching a Bible study on King David, I wanted to read a biblical novel on his life and couldn't find one. Long story short, I began to write the book I wanted to read. Twenty years later, I finally figured out writing well enough to see *The Wives of King David* contracted.

FF: What are you working on next?

The story of Joseph. There is no title yet, but I am about a third of the way through the first draft. I have to go back and fix some of the timeline, but I'm anxious to get that first draft down so I can edit. Editing is a lot more fun than writing a first draft. I do about four to five drafts per book. **FF**

Visit Jill Eileen Smith's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/jill-eileen-smith>



Miriam's Song

Jill Eileen Smith

Revell

Genres: Historical, Biblical

Release Date: March 2, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

She has prayed for deliverance from Egypt.

But perhaps the greatest liberation happens within the heart.

From the very beginning, Miriam has lived in her younger brother's shadow. Thrust into the role of protective older sister before Moses was even born, she will grow up into a woman who not only keeps her family's secret but bears the burden of leading a new nation.

In her mind, she knows that she is serving both her God and her people. But in her heart, Miriam yearns for more. She longs to experience the privileges Moses has—to talk with God face-to-face. But when God finally does speak directly to her, the outcome is not at all what she expects.

With her impeccable research and keen eye for detail, bestselling author Jill Eileen Smith offers this epic novel to fill in the gaps in Miriam's story, following her from childhood to motherhood, obscurity to notoriety, and yearning to fulfillment as she learns that what God promises He provides—in His own perfect timing.



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HISTORICAL: M.D. HOUSE

PILLARS OF BARABBAS

Historical fiction author, **M.D. House**, is the author of biblical historical novel, *Pillars of Barabbas*, as well as the first book in the *Barabbas Series*, titled *I Was Called Barabbas*, and the science-fiction novel, *Patriot Star*. Before beginning his second career as a writer, he worked for twenty-five years in the world of corporate finance, strategic planning, and business development. Now, Michael lives in Utah with his wife, where he spends his time writing and enjoying his children and grandchildren.

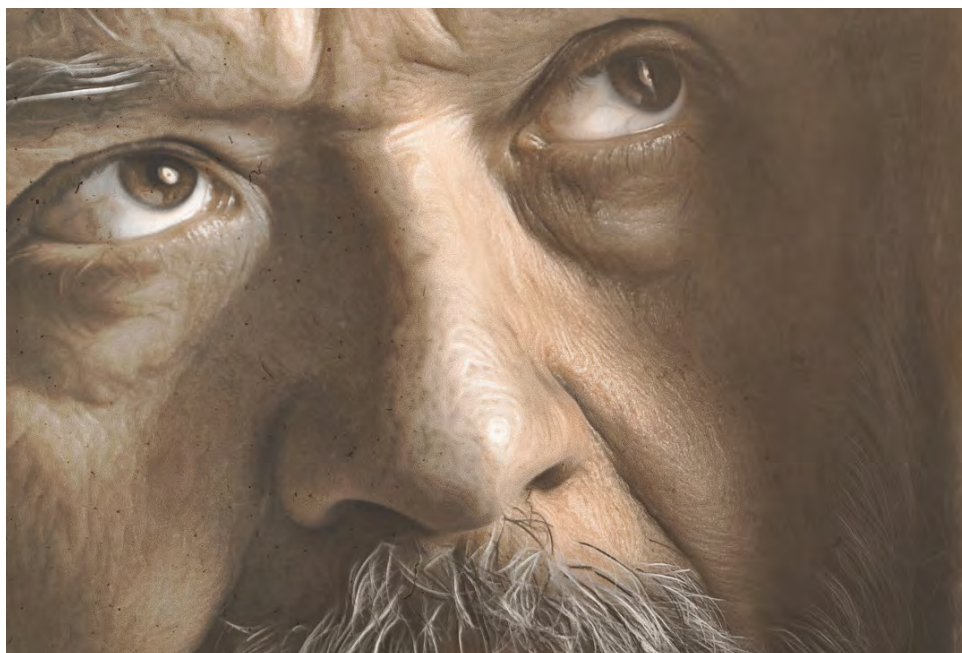
In this interview, we discuss the inspiration and story development behind his latest book.

FF: Book 2 of the *Barabbas Series*, *Pillars of Barabbas*, seeks to imagine how Barabbas, the prisoner released in exchange for Jesus, continued to progress after accepting Christ and joining himself to the body of the church.

How did you come to visualize his path?

My original plans for Barabbas have evolved in surprising ways. To a large degree, I, too, have been led on a journey of discovering possibilities, seeing things I hadn't contemplated before.

That evolution occurs as I study the history—including the New Testament of the Bible—and continually try to place myself in the full milieu of that time period, recognizing how similar those people were to us. Ideas come, and the links in the chain form. It is an incredible—and deeply fulfilling—process. The final product is astounding to me, because it's not what I expected.



FF: What research into the history and politics of the time did you do?

I've purchased a few books on ancient Rome, plus New and Old Testament commentaries, and there are many decent resources available online as well. I'll never be accused of writing a dissertation on the history of the time period, and I realize that much of the scholarship isn't perfectly harmonious, but it was good to study events and people from various angles, even when the accounts sometimes conflicted.

As we know, history is written by the victors. It is also often changed later by those in power who seek to cast a particular light on past events, groups of people, etc. in order to promote current political or social aims. With that in mind, I used what I consider the most reliable of the ancient sources—the New

Testament—and built frameworks from there that made sense given some of the secular histories and our common human nature.

My wife and I also took a trip to Rome, and part of the reason was so that I could “feel the bones” of the Eternal City, particularly the ancient ruins. It was everything I had hoped for. When writing about Rome, I can now say that I’ve walked those streets and been able to imagine how Paul, Peter, and early church members felt as they walked the same cobbled roads, humbly carrying the greatest message the world has ever known.

FF: Other significant biblical figures make appearances in the novel. How did you choose them?

As in Book 1, the Apostle Paul is most prominent, but Peter and his brother Andrew also play significant roles in the story. Peter, of course, was the Lord’s chief apostle on the earth, and his leadership was instrumental in the growing strength of the new church. Barabbas interacts with Peter in both Jerusalem and Rome, while Andrew spends time in Eastern Africa with Cornelius, who reprises his role from Book 1, though he has retired from the Roman army to focus on building the kingdom of God on earth. I’ve really fallen in love with Cornelius and his family and wish I had as much courage and faith.

Mary the mother of Jesus is mentioned in Book 2, as she passes away, but her friend Joanna enters the scene, joining another strong and influential woman—Priscilla, wife of Aquila—in having a significant impact. It seemed fitting to cover Mary’s passing, which resulted in a full reunion with her son Jesus. Pondering that pulls on the heart-strings. Joanna had been a

prominent supporter of Jesus during his mortal ministry, and it was likely she continued to be a bright light for the saints.

Luke is also present, both as Paul's companion and on his own. What a faithful, loyal, and revered man Luke was! Paul treasured his companionship and advice, and he was a prolific and impactful writer. In what other ways was he a blessing during his time?

FF: What significant non-biblical historical figures appear in the story?

Nero plays the largest role, which makes sense given the focus on Rome. A lot has been written about Nero (full regal name—not birth name—Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus) over the last two millennia, much of it conflicting. I'm sure that, like all of us, he was a complex individual with both good and bad traits. He was young—just sixteen—when the emperorship was thrust upon him, his mother reportedly having his adopted father, Emperor Claudius, poisoned.

What would a conversation between an apostle of Jesus Christ and the Emperor of Rome have looked like? I'm 100% convinced that at least one conversation took place. Paul was a well-known 'prisoner' who had appealed to the Emperor based on his status as a Roman citizen, and he spent significant time in Rome with little hindrance to his movements, building up the church and encouraging the saints. In my telling of the story, more than one conversation takes place, and those were fascinating to write.

Another historical figure I brought in was a known member of the Roman Senate from that time frame—Manius Acilius

Aviola. There is no known historical record of him being a Christian, but in the story he is one, and he provides crucial support to Paul and the saints.

FF: The primary theme from Book 1 was personal redemption. What is the primary theme of *Pillars of Barabbas*?

There are two primary themes in Book 2: Triumph through Adversity, which the burgeoning church of Christ surely experienced, and Every Soul is Precious, which lies at the heart of the Savior's message in all ages of the world.

So, while the new church was growing in numbers and influence, while faith and attendant miracles were increasing, the purpose wasn't to make God look good, or even powerful. The purpose was to save souls, individual souls with unlimited, eternal potential.

The primary difference between Christ and Satan is that Satan seeks to rule over us for his own glory, while Christ leads us along a path of self-mastery and knowledge that will bring us limitless, joyous glory—both personal and familial—and that is what Christ rejoices in.

FF: Why do women play such a prominent role in church leadership as you have imagined it among the early Christian saints?

When Christ established his church, he spent at least forty days training his disciples how to administer it and help it grow. He most certainly would have made it crystal clear how valuable each and every person—male or female, regardless of perceivable physical attributes—was to the growth, function and purpose of the kingdom of God.

That seems obvious to most of us now, but most societies of the time were politically and economically dominated by males, even if those males were often influenced by mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, etc. Christ's church was refreshingly different, with men and women both playing prominent roles in decision-making and execution. That was difficult for some people to accept, and persecutions arose from it, but God values all of his children equally, and all have valuable talents that we can only ignore at our peril.

FF: What lessons can today's readers take away from the lives of the early saints and the men and women who led them?

They were real people, facing real challenges with which each of us can identify. They were steeped in myriad entrenched traditions and doctrines, but their souls had come from the hallowed halls of heaven. Twinges of remembrance reverberated in their hearts when they heard the message of the gospel, when the great atoning sacrifice of the Savior was announced and explained to them.

Their spirits rejoiced, and yet the vicissitudes and temptations of mortality continued to challenge them. Satan continuously tried to beat them down and convince them it wasn't worth getting back up and trying to be the kind of person Christ had shown them they could become. In their basic essence, our experiences are exactly the same.

FF: Can *Pillars of Barabbas* help readers strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ?

I certainly hope so, yes. That was the intent. *Pillars of Barabbas* and *I Was Called Barabbas* were written with a scriptural

foundation. The teachings of Christ are presented throughout, in the words and actions of the various characters, including well-known personalities like the Apostles Peter, Paul, and Andrew, the Centurion Cornelius, the ever-faithful Luke and Joanna, and the wise Aquila and Priscilla.

But beyond just reading about the teachings of Christ, we must commune with him and heed those teachings, continually. Redemption is a life-long process. It requires a tremendous amount of work and determination. It's worth it, especially as we help each other and become unified in following our Savior. Unity in Christ is our true strength, because mortal ethnicity, skin color, economic station, etc. don't matter a whit when it comes to accessing his promised blessings, both here and in the eternities.

FF: What other projects are you working on?

I'll soon start planning Book 3, the final book of the *Barabbas Series*. One of the major events in that book will be the horrific Roman siege of Jerusalem by Titus, during and after which as much as 90% of the Jewish inhabitants were killed. Christ himself had foretold the event, but nobody had imagined something so drastically awful could happen. There's more research to do on what happened to the Christians in Jerusalem. Many suggest they were warned to leave before the siege happened. Either way, the church was already building centers of influence elsewhere, particularly in Rome.

I've just started working again on the sequel to my first novel, which was soft sci-fi with a political and religious bent, titled *Patriot Star*. I had set that sequel aside several years ago after getting through about 60% of the first draft, but after recently

re-reading it—and having received several requests—I've decided to pick it back up. Revealing the title would be a spoiler, so I won't...yet.

It's because I have so many projects going on now that I've stepped away from a lucrative business career. It's a risk worth taking. I love telling these stories, and I firmly hope they aren't just entertaining, but genuinely useful to people.

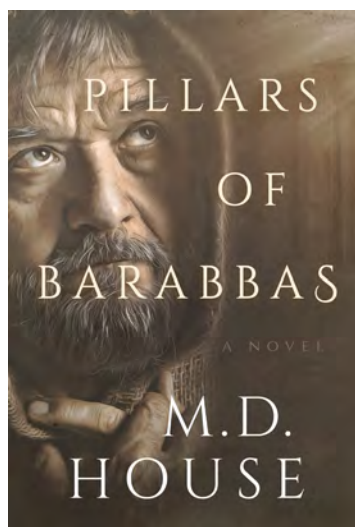
FF: Where can readers purchase *Pillars of Barabbas*?

Pillars of Barabbas can be purchased on Amazon in both print and ebook. It will soon be available in audiobook on the Amazon/Audible and iTunes platforms as well. **FF**

Visit M.D. House's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/m-d-house>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08YHWQ166/?tag=familyficti09-20>



Pillars of Barabbas

Barabbas Series

M.D. House

Independent

Release Date: March 23, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

The man they called Barabbas has come a long way from the wretched prisoner released by Pontius Pilate in lieu of Jesus of Nazareth. He and his wife Chanah are growing in regard among the leadership of Christ's fledgling church, which is expanding and thriving. But increasing Christian influence breeds jealousy among several Roman governors and senators. How will Emperor Nero react? Can the apostle Paul soothe the moody young ruler and help the valiant Roman saints continue to spread the Word? The Parthian Empire also poses threats, including in Eastern Africa, where the former centurion Cornelius has become a prominent Christian leader. Will the Christians need to flee, or must they fight both the Romans and the Parthians?



HISTORICAL ROMANCE: AMANDA CABOT

DREAMS REKINDLED

Author **Amanda Cabot** has captivated thousands of historical romance readers with her deftly crafted novels. She is the bestselling author of *Out of the Embers*, as well as the *Cimarron Creek Trilogy* and the *Texas Crossroads Series*, *Texas Dreams Series*, and *Westward Winds Series*. Her books have been finalists for the ACFW Carol Awards, the HOLT Medallion, and the Booksellers' Best. Now she invites readers to journey back to the Hill Country in her newest book, ***Dreams Rekindled***, book two in her *Mesquite Springs Series*.

FF: Can you please provide a brief description of your new book, *Dreams Rekindled*?

Can a man and a woman, both prisoners of their pasts, find love and healing in a town where danger lurks?

FF: What was the inspiration for the book?

There were actually two inspirations: my childhood dream of a career in journalism and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Although I abandoned the idea of journalism when I realized that I preferred to write fiction, I've always wanted to have a newspaperman as a character. Enter Brandon. (As a side note, researching nineteenth-century newspapers was fascinating!)

Then there was *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, arguably the most influential book of the mid-nineteenth century. What impact would this story, which was banned in the South, have had on a woman who aspired to be a writer and a newspaperman who felt compelled to challenge his subscribers, particularly when both of them lived in a slave-owning state? As I brainstormed worst-case scenarios, the story began to take shape.



FF: This series is set in a fictional small town in the Texas Hill Country. What role does the town of Mesquite Springs play in the series?

I love writing about small towns, because they become characters in my books. Oh, not the towns themselves but the residents and the dynamics that make small towns so endearing and, at times, so infuriating. In the case of Mesquite Springs, that includes a very active rumor mill, a woman named Charity who does not deserve that name, and residents who are perhaps a bit too easily swayed by public opinion. All of those contribute to the bumps along Dorothy and Brandon's road to happily-ever-after.

FF: Book one in the series, *Out of the Embers*, focuses on Dorothy's brother, Wyatt. Now, *Dreams Rekindled* centers on Dorothy's chance at a happy ending. Can you tell us a little more about her character?

Dorothy's one of my most complex characters and, to be honest, she was one of the most difficult to create. She's warm and loving but also deeply afraid. Though she craves independence, she's torn by the responsibility she feels for her widowed mother and her fears that she herself is not meant to be a wife and mother. The question is, can anyone break through the barriers Dorothy has erected around her heart and release her from her fears?

FF: Brandon Holloway comes to town looking for a life free from controversy. What can you tell us about his background?

Brandon's a newspaperman with a high degree of integrity. (That wasn't the case with every journalist in his era.) Though he'd never preach at his subscribers, he wants to challenge them to think. Unfortunately, his editorial suggesting they read *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to gain a perspective on how the North viewed slavery had tragic consequences, making him determined to never repeat that mistake. Mesquite Springs is the perfect place for him to establish a newspaper. There's nothing controversial about the town . . . until there is, and Brandon's forced to make heart-wrenching decisions.

FF: Who is your favorite character from the town of Mesquite Springs?

You would ask that, wouldn't you? The truth is, it's a difficult question to answer, a bit like asking parents to choose a favorite child. While I'm writing a book, my favorite characters are

the hero and heroine of that book. After all, if I don't love them, how can I expect my readers to? I will admit, though, that secondary characters sometimes steal the show. That happened with Polly, the young girl who's introduced in *Out of the Embers*. Because she was such a favorite with readers as well as with me, I've given her a role in *Dreams Rekindled*. And then there's Nutmeg, the dog that stole my heart.

FF: What do you hope readers gain from reading *Dreams Rekindled*?

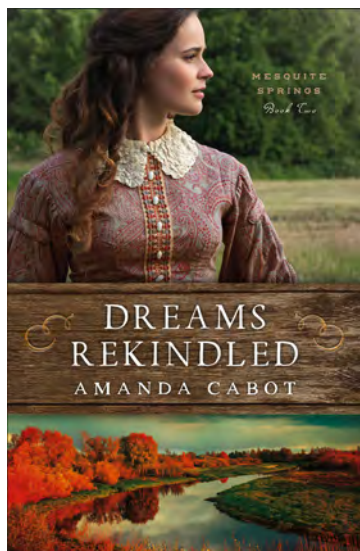
As always, I hope they'll finish the book with a smile on their faces, a renewed belief in the healing power of love, and the knowledge that God can—and does—answer prayers.

FF: What new projects are you working on?

I'm currently working on the yet-untitled final book in the *Mesquite Springs Trilogy*. This one brings two newcomers to town—Alexandra, an heiress who's fleeing a dangerous unwanted suitor, and a private investigator on a mission to determine the truth behind Alexandra's father's new and possibly fraudulent venture. **FF**

Visit Amanda Cabot's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/amanda-cabot>



Dreams Rekindled

Mesquite Springs #2

Amanda Cabot

Revell

Release Date: March 2, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

He's bound and determined to find peace . . . but she's about to stir things up.

Dorothy Clark dreams of writing something that will challenge people as much as Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* seems to have. But in 1850s Mesquite Springs, there are few opportunities for writers—until newspaperman Brandon Holloway arrives, that is.

Brandon Holloway has seen firsthand the disastrous effects of challenging others. He has no intention of repeating that mistake. Instead of following his dreams, he's committed to making a new—and completely uncontroversial—start in the Hill Country.

As Dorothy's involvement in the fledgling newspaper grows from convenient to essential, the same change seems to be happening in Brandon's heart. But before romance can bloom, Dorothy and Brandon must work together to discover who's determined to divide the town and destroy Brandon's livelihood.



REGENCY ROMANCE: ERICA VETSCH

THE INDEBTED EARL

Regency romance author **Erica Vetsch** brings her much beloved *Serendipity & Secrets Series* to a close with the highly anticipated release of ***The Indebted Earl*** (Kregel Publications). This latest installment tells the story of Lady Sophia Haverly, the free-spirited and energetic younger sister of Marcus Haverly readers will remember from *The Gentleman Spy*, and Captain Charles Wyvern, a longtime naval officer trying to find his footing on dry land. Let's see what Erica has to tell us about what we can expect in the final chapter of this wonderful series.

FF: *The Indebted Earl* is the final release in your *Serendipity & Secrets Series*. Can you give us a recap of the series up to this point and introduce us to your new book?

The *Serendipity & Secrets Series* is three books about three men who come into titles unexpectedly and the women who capture their hearts. In *The Lost Lieutenant*, a soldier is granted an earldom as a reward for bravery on the field of battle . . . but he is suffering from partial amnesia and cannot remember what he did to earn the title. In *The Gentleman Spy*, the new Duke of Haverly is wrestling with keeping separate his public life as a duke of the realm and his secret life as a spy for the Crown. And in *The Indebted Earl*, a naval captain inherits a title and an estate, three young wards, and the care of his late best friend's fiancé and mother, all while trying to get back to his life at sea.

Three unexpected titles, three unexpected marriages, and three stories of secrets, love, and testing whether God is truly sovereign.



FF: Both Lady Sophia Haverly and Captain Charles Wyvern feel a responsibility to care for someone that is left behind. From where does that sense of duty come?

Lady Sophia's care of her fiancé's mother is born out of her love for him. She was also instilled from birth with the social customs of noblesse oblige. As a woman of noble birth, she has an obligation to live up to that nobility by behaving nobly. While her fiancé is at war, he has entrusted her with the care and companionship of his mother, Lady Richardson. Sophie is delighted with the responsibility, because it allows her to demonstrate her love, and it gives her a bit of freedom that living in her older brother's household would not afford.

Captain Wyvern naturally shoulders responsibility for his ship and his crew. As the leader, everyone under his command is also under his care. This responsibility extends to the dependents of his crew, including the fiancée of his late best friend. Charles feels he bears the blame for his friend's death, and he

must attempt to make some sort of amends. His natural leadership abilities cause him to throw his mantle of responsibility over Lady Sophia, Lady Richardson, the three waifs who wash up on his shore, and the estate and community he's inherited.

FF: What is Sophie struggling with spiritually in *The Indebted Earl*? Is Charles facing something similar?

Sophie struggles with the idea that God is both good and sovereign. It's easy to accept one or the other, but both? How can God be good when He's taken her beloved fiancé away? How can He be sovereign when bad things happen? How can she trust in His plan when it seems everything is spinning out of control?

Charles's struggle is similar in that he is all about control, about ordering his life according to his plan, but with the cessation of war, he is on the beach without a command. And he's carrying a tremendous weight of guilt over the death of Major Richardson. Did God make a mistake, having Rich die in his place? What Charles wants—to continue his naval career—is both noble and reasonable. Why won't God make it happen?

Both Sophie and Charles are learning to trust in the sovereignty and goodness of God's plans, and realizing that His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are higher than ours.

FF: Marcus tries to get Sophie to come back to Haverly Manor with him after her fiancé dies. Would a single woman in her situation during the Regency period have the choice to live on her own?

It would be difficult for an unmarried woman in the Regency era to live on her own. Though Sophie had the financial means to

live independently, it would have been considered improper for her to live alone. However, for her to continue to live with Lady Richardson, as her companion and friend, was entirely proper.

Though Marcus is acting out of an abundance of compassion and brotherly concern, Sophie is reluctant to return to his home. She's reluctant to give up the freedom she's gained, as well as reluctant to live in a house where everyone will be watching her grieve. She wants to remain at Primrose Cottage with Lady Richardson.

FF: How does the Captain find himself becoming Earl Rothwell? Is he eager to adapt to the new role?

Charles's parents were estranged from his family before he was born, and there was an heir closer in line to the earldom than he, so he never expected to inherit the title. But when his cousin, the heir, is revealed to be a traitor to the Crown and is killed, Charles is next in line. He's never met his uncle, the old earl, and his uncle has never shown the slightest interest in his nephew.

Charles has made a fine career for himself in the Royal Navy, and though the war has ended and many ship captains are without commands and looking for work, Charles is determined to continue a life on the sea. He knows nothing about managing an estate and cannot even ride a horse, having gone to sea as a child. He is a reluctant peer, but his life aboard ship has equipped him in some non-obvious ways to be at the helm of an estate.

FF: Can you give us a quick lesson in peerage and the hierarchy of society during this time period?

There are five ranks of non-royal peerage in Britain: duke, marquess, earl, viscount, and baron, in descending order of

rank. Most titles were entailed, meaning they passed from father to son, or to the next closest male in the lineage. Often a peer would also hold subsidiary titles at the same time, and his heir would be given use of one of the lesser titles as a courtesy. For example, an earl may also hold the subsidiary title of viscount, and while the earl is alive, his son would use the lesser title of viscount until he came into his inheritance.

The British aristocracy during the Regency period was quite small compared to the entire population of England. The government was divided into the House of Lords (where one must be a member of the peerage to have a seat) and the House of Commons, which was open to any elected official. Land was most often owned by members of the peerage. As the Industrial Revolution gained momentum, more and more commoners became wealthy, which caused some friction. As the wealth of a member of the peerage declined, they might look outside their exclusive set to marry some of that new money.

FF: All of your leading men in the series end up with titles and responsibilities they weren't expecting. Within moments of arriving at his new home, Charles's new responsibilities multiply. Can you tell us about the surprise he receives?

Charles finds himself as the guardian to three young girls, sisters who were born on the estate. His uncle, the previous earl, had, for reasons of his own, taken on the orphaned girls as his wards and paid for them to go to boarding school. But at his death, the girls were returned to the estate.

The eldest is nearing womanhood and is a romantic, eager to fall in love and bewildering to Charles. The second is a daredevil,

tomboy, and adventuress in whom Charles sees glimpses of his younger self. And the third is a girl barely six summers old, who is fascinated by Charles and imitates him at every turn. He's not certain which of the girls scares him most, and as a collective, they have that crusty old sea captain shaking in his boots.

FF: Charles is comfortable leading a ship full of men but finds himself in a house full of women. Does the very stern military officer become a softy?

As a captain in the Royal Navy, Charles has been trained to show no softness, no weakness. Conditions were harsh aboard ship, discipline strict, and the dangers of non-conformity very real. In addition, he's not spent much time around women in general and none at all around girls. He mistrusts their giggling, crying, emotion, and, above all, what he sees as their lack of discipline.

But as he is exposed to them and their bewildering array of emotions, they each in their own way begin to break down those walls of sternness and discipline, teaching him that kindness and love will not make him vulnerable but, instead, make him stronger than he's ever been.

FF: Charles ends up proposing a marriage of convenience. What are the benefits of the arrangement for each of them?

Charles's reasoning is threefold. If he marries Sophie, he can begin to pay some of the debt he believes he owes to her because of her fiancé's death. He feels responsible for her grief, and if he can take on the responsibility of being her husband in name only, he can see that she is properly cared for. In addition, he would have someone who was properly trained

to run an estate house, taking care of his property while he returns to his life at sea. And, finally, it would solve the problem of what to do with the girls. Rather than being sent to an orphanage, which he isn't comfortable with, or back to another boarding school, which the girls don't want, they would be able to stay on the estate under Sophie's care. It all makes perfect sense to him.

For Sophie, marrying Charles would mean she was the one in charge of settling her future, not her matchmaking mama, who intends to find her a husband as soon as it is respectable to do so. It would mean she could maintain the freedom she so dearly loves, she could continue to care for Lady Richardson, who is in the early stages of dementia, and she could keep the girls, whom she has come to dearly love. Though her heart will always belong to Baron Richardson, marrying Captain Wyvern would give her much in the way of stability and freedom.

FF: Something doesn't seem quite right with the staff at Gateshead and the surrounding village. What does Charles pick up on? What trouble does he find himself in?

Charles encounters inconsistencies in the behavior of those on the estate and in the nearby town. The town is more prosperous than he anticipated, people have possessions he didn't expect, and there are signs that something is amiss. His steward has little talent in organization and leadership, and the accounts are a tangle. Much blame is put on the previous earl's eccentricities, but is that enough to explain what's going on?

What he suspects is that he's stumbled across a smuggling ring. With an estate on the coast, bringing in contraband goods by sea was too easy for the inhabitants to resist. England had

been at war with France for many long years, and no French goods were to be imported. However, there were those willing to risk the consequences and bring merchandise into the country illegally. When Charles vows to act on his suspicions, he finds himself under arrest!

FF: Captain Wyvern and Lieutenant Evan Eldridge (from *The Lost Lieutenant*) fought in the Peninsular War. Did you need to do a lot of research on the war and specifically on the different branches of the British military for the series?

There was definitely some research involved, as there always is when writing historical fiction. I first had to ground myself in the basics of the Napoleonic Wars, who were the major players, where did the major battles take place, and what was the general timeline. Fortunately, there are many resources available. I wanted Evan Eldridge to be a sharpshooter from the 95th Rifles, so I needed to pick a battle in which the 95th was involved and study the terrain, the battle lines, and the tactics in order to recreate it in his mind. There was also a bit of study into the medical treatments of the day and what they did with men who were suffering what we now know as PTSD, but at the time they knew even less about it.

The Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars was a completely different animal to the land battles of the Peninsular War. The jargon is so specific: the ships, the ranks, the rigging, the battle tactics. I was able to immerse myself in the work of Patrick O'Brian. I was able to find a book called *Nelson's Navy* by Brian Lavery that gave wonderful overviews of life aboard a naval vessel.

Research both solidifies and uncovers new story lines for me. I get lots of inspiration and ideas from research, learning about a particular era or battle or place and then asking those what-if questions that lead to building a story.

FF: Last year you had your first research trip to England planned that, of course, got postponed. Are you planning an even bigger and better trip for the future?

I am! Though nothing is set just yet, I am planning to get to England. My list of must-see places continues to grow at an alarming rate. Hopefully, with the pandemic reducing in severity, world travel will again become an option for more people, and I will be winging my way to England to experience all the places I now read about.

Included on my itinerary are some places that are found in the *Serendipity & Secrets Series*: Hatchards bookstore, Hyde Park, Oxfordshire, and Portsmouth to name only a few. And hopefully a few places that will inspire new stories.

FF: Will you be sad to let this trilogy—your first Regency series—go? What can readers look forward to next?

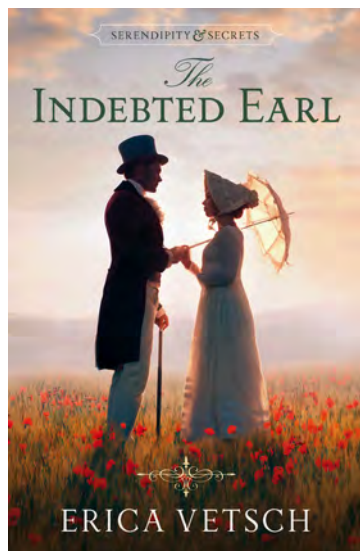
There's such a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in seeing this series completed, but to answer your question . . . YES! I am so reluctant to let these stories and characters go that I'm bringing some of them back in my new series, the *Thorndike & Swann Regency Mysteries*!

The first book, *The Debutante's Code*, should arrive in the fall of 2021 and features Lady Juliette Thorndike and Bow Street Runner Daniel Swann in a fast-paced tale of intrigue, espionage, and art thievery! **FF**

Visit Erica Vetsch's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/erica-vetsch>

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The Indebted Earl

Serendipity & Secrets #3

Erica Vetsch

Kregel

Genres: Historical Romance,
Regency Romance

Release Date: March 23, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

Captain Charles Wyvern owes a great debt to the man who saved his life—especially since Major Richard-

son lost his own life in the process. The best way to honor that hero's dying wish is for Wyvern to escort the man's grieving fiancée and mother safely to a new cottage home by the sea. But along the way, he learns of another obligation that has fallen on his shoulders: his uncle has died and the captain is now the Earl of Rothwell.

When he and the ladies arrive at his new manor house in Devon, they discover an estate in need of a leader and a gaggle of girls, all wards of the former earl. War the new earl knows; young ladies and properties he does not. Still wishing to provide for the bereaved Lady Sophia Haverly, Charles proposes a marriage of convenience.

Sophie is surprised to find she isn't opposed to the idea. It will help her care for her betrothed's elderly mother, and she's already fallen in love with the wayward girls on the Rothwell estate. This alliance is a chance to repay the captain who has done so much for her care, as well as divert her attention from her grief. When Wyvern returns to his sea commission, she'll stay behind to oversee his property and wards.

It sounds so simple. Until the stalwart captain is arrested on suspicion of smuggling, and Sophie realizes how much he's come to mean to her. Now she'll have to learn to fight, not only for his freedom but also for his love.



HISTORICAL: TERRY THOMPSON

DANIEL: PROPHET AT THE KING'S COMMAND

Veteran, pastor, and Christian fiction historical author, **Terry Thompson**, is no stranger to leading under adversity, and his retelling of the book of Daniel in ***Daniel: Prophet at the King's Command***, a Novel (Ambassador International, March 30, 2021) captures the true strength and courage of this biblical hero. Suddenly dragged from his childhood home and brought to a foreign land, Daniel has two choices in front of him: reject the God he serves and embrace the debauchery around him or risk the king's wrath to remain steadfast in his faith. Daniel risks his very life, creature comforts, and immediate future to grow into the prophet and hero for untold generations to come.

In this interview, Terry shares his inspiration behind writing *Daniel: Prophet at the King's Command*.

FF: What motivated you to write *Daniel: Prophet at the King's Command*?

I had felt led to write a Bible-based novel for some time. During the teaching of a small-group Bible study on the book of Daniel, I became fascinated with the prophet and the realization that so much obvious back story wasn't in the Bible. My initial historical research convinced me that there was more than enough information available to develop an intriguing and inspirational story.

FF: How long did it take you to research and write *Daniel*?

I researched secular ancient history and scholarly Bible commentary for about six months before beginning the writing. The rest of my extensive research developed with the writing of the book for over a four-year period.

READ MORE ONLINE!: <https://www.familyfiction.com>



FF: Are you interested in pursuing more historical or biblical fiction writing projects?

Possibly. But for the next year, I just want to concentrate on promoting this book.

FF: How did your military background affect how you viewed Daniel and wrote about him?

In the military, one has to be loyal to the government of the nation defended, even when that government doesn't meet one's standards or beliefs, unless government actions violate biblical truths. I drew on that experience in portraying Daniel's response to the pagan government he served.

FF: What do you hope people glean most from this book?

How to live and serve in an ungodly culture and how to prepare for the inevitable times prophesied by Daniel. These are take-aways very applicable to today's society. **FF**

Visit Terry Thompson's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/terry-thompson>

<https://familyfiction.christianbook.com/daniel-prophet-the-kings-command-novel/terry-thompson/9781649600851/pd/600856?event=ESRCG>



Daniel: Prophet at the King's Command

Terry Thompson

Ambassador International

Genres: Historical, Biblical Fiction

Release Date: March 30, 2021

Buy Now



Book Summary:

Daniel was just a teenager when he was taken captive by the Babylonians, never to see his family again.

As Daniel and his friends strive to make the best of their unusual circumstances—slaves in the king's court—they also fight to honor their vows to the one true God amidst a people who worship only false gods. During his lifetime, Daniel saw the fulfillment of God's promises, prophesied of the Israelites future as well as ours, and led pagan kings to God. From slave to the highest position in the king's court, Daniel shows how God can use an ordinary person to do extraordinary things.

Terry Thompson brings the book of Daniel to life with extensive research into the lives and customs of the Hebrew people, and he even opens up the discussion for the prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled. This book is a complement to an intensive study on Daniel and the God Who is still faithful to protect His people.

New Releases: April 2021



A Patchwork Past

Plain Patterns #2

Leslie Gould

Bethany House

Genres: Amish, Romance

Release Date: March 30, 2021

Buy Now



Night Fall

The Quantico Files #1

Nancy Mehl

Bethany House

Genres: Suspense, Romance,
Contemporary

Release Date: March 30, 2021

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WoE Is Us

D.K. Doulos

Ambassador International

Genres: Sci-Fi, Dystopian, Suspense

Release Date: March 30, 2021

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New Releases: April 2021



New Wine Transportation Company

Springville Stories Series #2

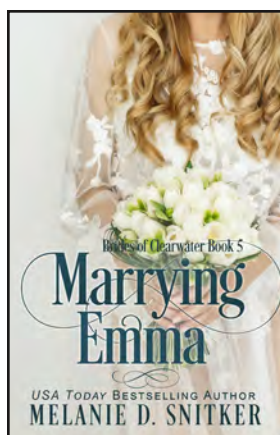
Heather Norman Smith

Ambassador International

Genres: Contemporary

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Marrying Emma

Brides of Clearwater Series #5

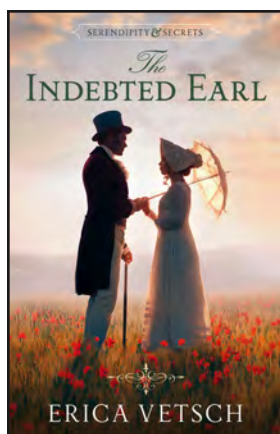
Melanie Snitker

Dallionz Media

Genres: Romance, Contemporary

Release Date: March 25, 2021

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The Indebted Earl

Serendipity & Secrets #3

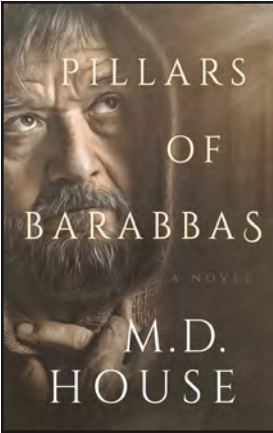
Erica Vetsch

Kregel

Genres: Historical Romance, Regency

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Pillars of Barabbas

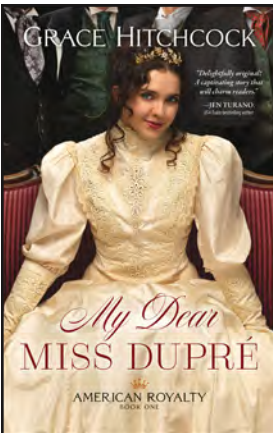
The Barabbas Trilogy #2

M.D. House

Independent

Genres: Historical, Suspense

Release Date: March 23, 2021



My Dear Miss Dupré

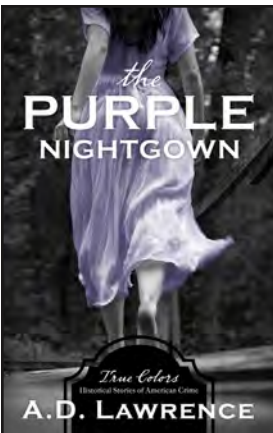
American Royalty #1

Grace Hitchcock

Bethany House

Genres: Romance, Historical

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The Purple Nightgown

True Colors #10

A. D. Lawrence

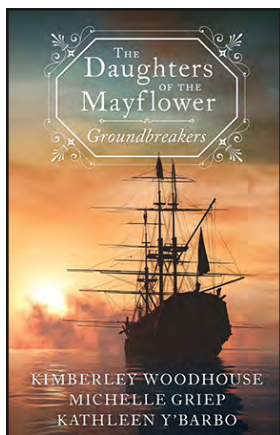
Barbour

Genres: Historical Romance

Release Date: March 1, 2021



New Releases: April 2021



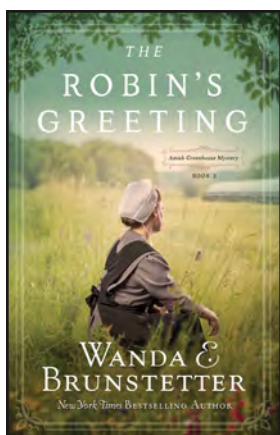
The Daughters of the Mayflower: *Groundbreakers*

Michelle Griep, Kathleen Y'Barbo,
Kimberley Woodhouse
Barbour

Genres: Historical Romance

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The Robin's Greeting *Amish Greenhouse Mystery #3*

Wanda E. Brunstetter
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Right Cross

Shepherd Suspense Trilogy #3

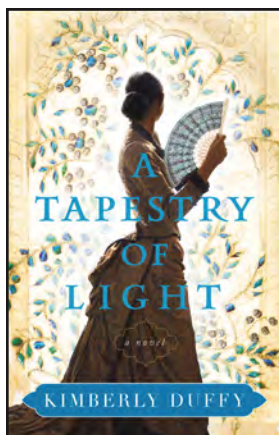
Andrew Huff
Kregel

Genres: Mystery, Suspense, Romance

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A Tapestry of Light

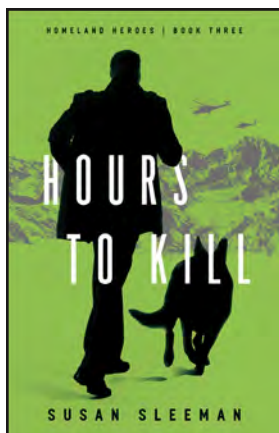
Kimberly Duffy

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Hours to Kill

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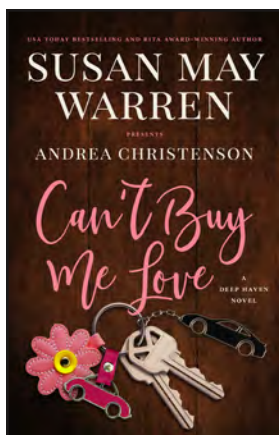
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A Deep Haven Novel #2

Andrea Christenson

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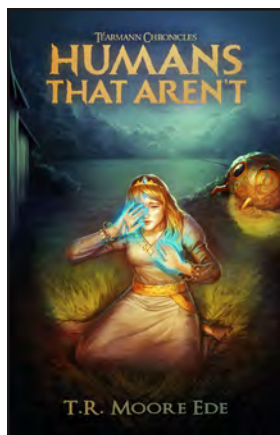
Sunrise Publishing

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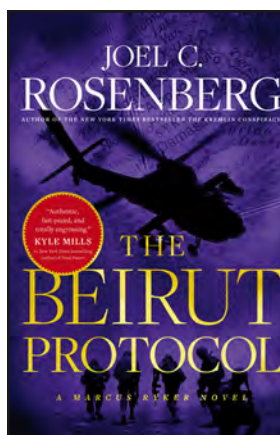
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Tim Shoemaker

Focus on the Family

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The Curator's Daughter

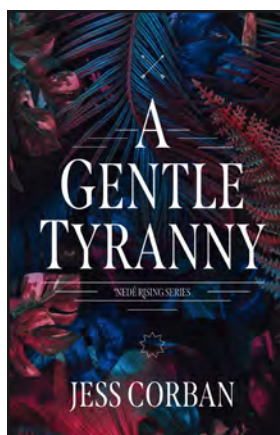
Melanie Dobson

Tyndale House

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Nede Rising Series #1

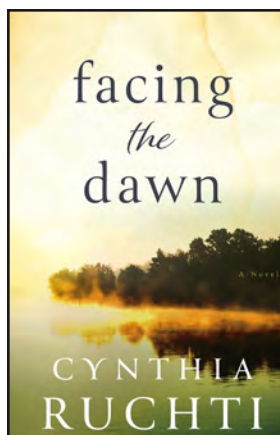
Jess Corban

(Wander Publishing)

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Facing the Dawn

Cynthia Ruchti

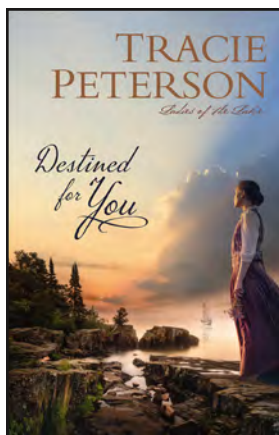
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Tracie Peterson

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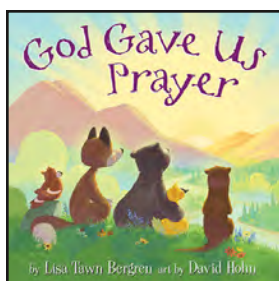
Mary Connealy

Bethany House

Genres: Cowboy Romance,
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God Gave Us Prayer

Lisa T. Bergren

WaterBrook

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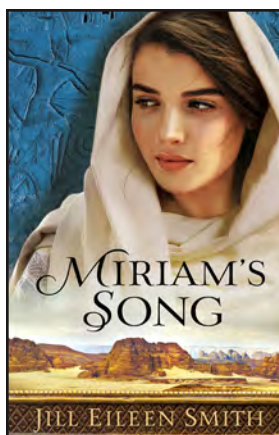
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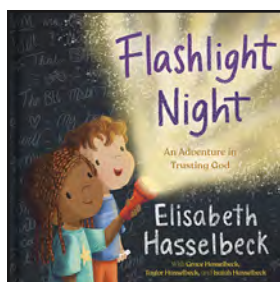
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WaterBrook

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Elisabeth Hasselbeck

Julia Seal (Illustrator)

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Doors to the Past #1

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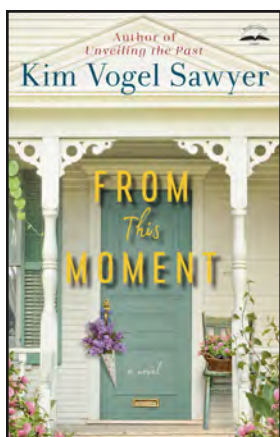
Michelle Griep

Barbour

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Kim Vogel Sawyer

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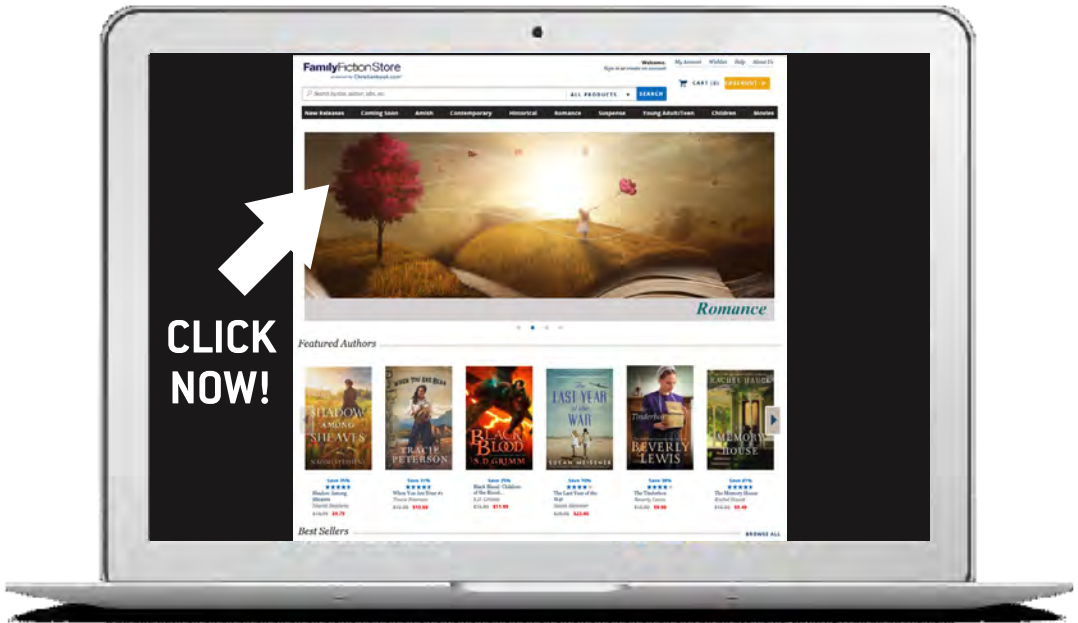
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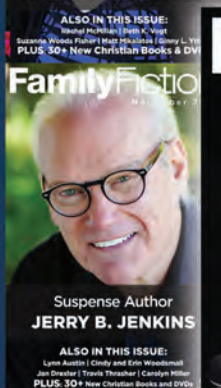
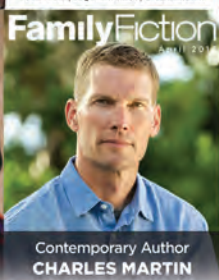
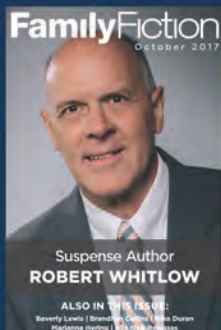
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