

Romantic Suspense Author NATALIE WALTERS

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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

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with us about Blind Trust, the
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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE **DANI PETTREY**In this interview, Dani talks with us about her latest
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HISTORICAL ROMANCE
KIM VOGEL SAWYER
In this interview, Kim
talks about her new novel,
The Tapestry of Grace.

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Features



SUSPENSE STEVEN JAMES In this interview, Steven talks with us about his latest spy thriller, Broker of Lies.



ROMANCE NICOLE DEESE In this interview, Nicole talks with us about her latest book. The Words We Lost.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE TRACIE PETERSON In this interview, Tracie shares some of her thoughts behind her latest novel, Remember Me.

2023 FAVORITE HISTORICAL AUTHORS— **FAMILYFICTION READER'S POLL RESULTS**



New Releases & Bestsellers

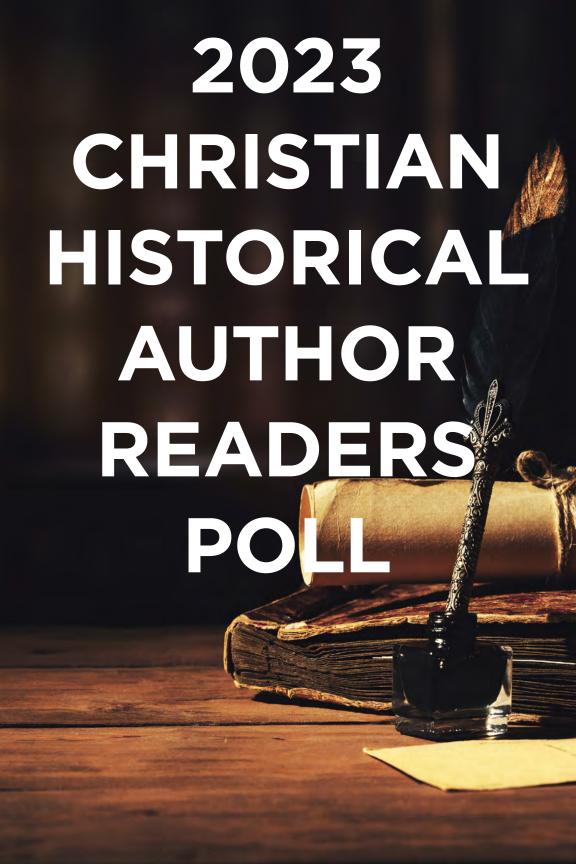
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Amish Contemporary Historical Romance

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20 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL AUTHORS AS CHOSEN BY FAMILYFICTION READERS

We asked our readers to name their five favorite Christian Hisorical authors, and these 20 talented writers earned the most votes.



1. Karen Witemeyer

https://familyfiction.com/authors/karen-witemeyer
Winner of the HOLT Medallion and the
Carol Award and a finalist for the RITA and
Christy Award, bestselling author Karen
Witemeyer writes historical romance to give
the world more happily-ever-afters.



2. Julie Klassen

Julie Klassen loves all things Jane and Jane Austen. Three of her books have won the Christy Award for Historical Romance.

She has also been a finalist in the RWAs RITA Awards and ACEW's Carol Awards



3. Laura Frantz

https://familyfiction.com/authors/laura-frantz

https://familyfiction.com/authors/julie-klasse

Laura Frantz is a Christy Award finalist and the ECPA bestselling author of several books, including The Frontiersman's Daughter, Courting Morrow Little, The Colonel's Lady, The Mistress of Tall Acre, A Moonbow Night, and The Ballantyne Legacy Series.



4. Tracie Peterson

https://familyfiction.com/authors/tracie-peterson

Tracie Peterson is a best-selling author of more than 100 books. Tracie was awarded the Romantic Times Career Achievement Award for 2007 Inspirational Fiction and the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from American Christian Fiction Writers.



5. Elizabeth Camden

https://familyfiction.com/authors/elizabeth-camden

Elizabeth Camden is a historical author whose fiction has been honored with both the RITA Award and the Christy Award. With a master's in history and a master's in library science, she is a research librarian by day and scribbles away on her next novel by night.



6. Lynn Austin (tie)

https://familyfiction.com/authors/lynn-austin

Lynn Austin has sold more than one and a half million copies of her books. She has won multiple Christy Awards for her historical fiction, and was inducted into the Christy Award Hall of Fame. Her novel *Hidden Places* was made into a Hallmark Channel movie.



6. Mary Connealy (tie)

https://familyfiction.com/authors/mary-connealy

Mary Connealy writes romantic comedies with cowboys and is celebrated for her fun, zany, action-packed style. She has more than 1.5 million books in print. She is the author of *Wild at Heart, Kincaid Brides*, and more.



8. Roseanna M. White

https://familyfiction.com/authors/roseanna-m-white

Roseanna M. White is a bestselling, Christy Award-nominated author who has long claimed that words are the air she breathes. She is the author of a slew of historical novels that span several continents and thousands of years. Spies and war and mayhem always seem to find their way into her books.



9. Jocelyn Green

https://familyfiction.com/authors/jocelyn-green

Jocelyn Green inspires faith and courage as an award-winning author of historical fiction, including the Christy Award-winning *The Mark* of the King. Jocelyn graduated from Taylor University with a BA in English.



10. Sarah Sundin

https://familyfiction.com/authors/sarah-sundin

Sarah Sundin's novels have received starred reviews from Booklist and Library Journal. Her book, Through Waters Deep, was a Carol Award finalist and Booklist's "101 Best Romance Novels of the Last 10 Years."



11. Jody Hedlund

https://familyfiction.com/authors/jody-hedlund

Jody Hedlund is the bestselling author of over a dozen novels, including Luther and Katharina, winner of the 2016 Christian Book Award. She received a bachelor's from Taylor University and a master's from University of Wisconsin, both in social work.



12. Michelle Griep

https://familyfiction.com/authors/michelle-griep

Michelle Griep seeks to glorify God in all that she writes—except for that graffiti phase she went through as a teenager. She is an Anglophile at heart, she runs away to England every chance she gets.



13. Janette Oke

https://familyfiction.com/authors/janette-oke

Janette Oke was one of the first inspirational authors in the Christian Fiction market. Her debut, *Love Comes Softly*, has sold over one million copies. She is now the bestselling author of over 70 books, 32 of which have been translated into fourteen languages.

Her books have sold over 22 million copies.



14. Jen Turano (tie)

https://familyfiction.com/authors/jen-turano

Jen Turano is the critically acclaimed author of *The Ladies of Distinction Series*, and *A Class of Their Own Series*. Her novel, After a Fashion, was chosen as a top pick from Romantic Times.



14. Jaime Jo Wright (tie)

https://familyfiction.com/authors/jaime-jo-wright

Jaime Jo Wright is the author of the acclaimed novels *The House on Foster Hill* and *The Reckoning at Gossamer Pond*. She's also the *Publishers Weekly* and ECPA bestselling author of two novellas.



16. Francine Rivers

https://familyfiction.com/authors/francine-rivers

Francine Rivers' Christian novels have been awarded or nominated for numerous honors, including the RITA Award, Christy Award, ECPA Gold Medallion, and Holt Medallion in Honor of Outstanding Literary Talent. In 1997, she was inducted into the

Romance Writers of America's Hall of Fame.



17. Kim Vogel Sawyer

https://familyfiction.com/authors/kim-vogel-sawyer

Kim Vogel Sawyer is a highly acclaimed, best-selling author with more than one million books in print, in seven different languages. Her titles have earned numerous accolades including the ACFW Carol Award, the Inspirational Readers' Choice Award,

and the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence.



18. Kimberley Woodhouse

https://familyfiction.com/authors/kimberley-woodhouse

Kimberley Woodhouse is an award-winning and bestselling author of more than thirty books. A lover of history and research, she often gets sucked into the past and then her husband has to lure her out with chocolate and the promise of eighteen holes on the

golf course. She loves music, kayaking, and her family.

FamilyFiction SciFi / Fantasy Author Reader's Poll Survey Results



19. Erica Vetsch

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

Erica Vetsch's favorite books are historical novels and history books—and one of her greatest thrills is stumbling across some obscure historical factoid that makes her imagination leap. When she's not writing, she is company bookkeeper for the family lumber business, mother and wife.



20. Terri Blackstock

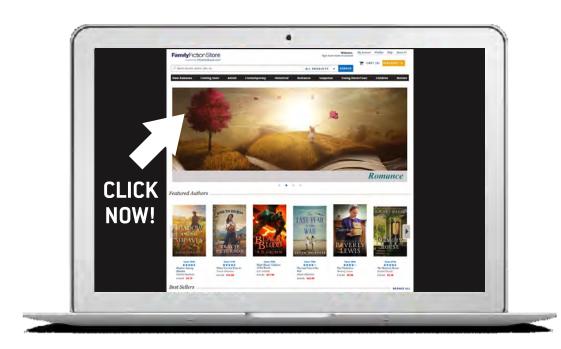
https://familyfiction.com/authors/terri-blackstock

Terri Blackstock is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-seller, with over seven million books sold worldwide. She is the winner of two Carol Awards, a Christian Retailers Choice Award, and a *Romantic Times* Book Reviews Career Achievement Award, among others. Terri spent the first twelve years of her life

traveling in an Air Force family. She lived in nine states. Because she was a perpetual "new kid," her imagination became her closest friend. That, she believes, was the biggest factor in her becoming a novelist.



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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE Natalie Walters Blind Trust

Natalie Walters is the author of *Lights Out* and *Fatal Code*, as well as the *Harbored Secrets Series*. A military wife, she currently resides in Texas with her soldier husband and is the proud mom of three. She loves traveling, spending time with her family, and connecting with readers on **Instagram** and **Facebook**.

In this interview, she talks with us about **Blind Trust**, the third book in her **The SNAP Agency Series**.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel Blind Trust?

Lyla Fox is the wild card of the SNAP Agency, and sometimes her impulsivity gets her into trouble. That's the case when she receives a threatening letter from someone she put in prison and begins an unsanctioned investigation that not only puts her in danger but threatens the agency too. Nicolás Garcia thought working with explosives was the most dangerous thing he'd ever do, but that was before he began working with Lyla. In order to keep her safe, Nicolás commits to what might be his final mission with the team to help Lyla figure out who is behind a series of crimes and their deadly history, putting his own life and heart at risk.

FF: Blind Trust is the final book in The SNAP Agency Series. What themes or elements connect the books in the series? I think the main theme throughout the series and within each book is trust. I don't know if that was intentional on my part, but as I close out the series and reflect over the three





storylines, I can see the elements of trust playing out within the characters, the team, and the plot. I also LOVE the team, how they work together and get along (and sometimes don't), but mostly how at the end of the day they are there for each other through the good, bad, and ugly. That unconditional commitment to each other makes me wish they were real and I could be their friend.

FF: Do characters from previous books in The SNAP Agency Series show up in *Blind Trust*?

Yes! Besides the team (Walsh, Jack, Kekoa, Garcia, and Lyla), readers will also see Elinor and Brynn make an appearance on the page. And if readers have read the novella prequel to the series, *Initium*, they're going to see a couple more familiar faces that make a huge impact in the conclusion to this series.

FF: What type of research was required to give authenticity to the job of your male protagonist, Nicolás Garcia?

I had to learn what goes into explosive devices, including their chemical and mechanical components and impact radius, how to disarm them, and ways that terrorists disguise them to get past armed guards and trained canines at an embassy.

It makes her a bit of a liability. Next to Jack, she's been with the Agency the longest, and that has allowed her team to understand how she operates and to be prepared as much as they can for when she goes rogue. But it also gives her a level of courage that pushes past some of the hesitancy the other team members might have. She's an all-in kind of gal and a fighter for justice, which is both admirable and alarming.

FF: What do you hope readers will gain from reading Blind Trust?

There's a theme of control in this story that I think originates with trust. Nicolás experiences something that has him believing if he can control certain things it will prevent bad stuff from happening. Lyla believes control inhibits her from doing her job and trusting her instincts. Each of them has to release their perception of control and trust the other to do the right thing. I think there's a balance in life where we have to trust God to control the things we can't but also trust that God has enabled us to do the hard things.

FF: Does your background inform or influence your writing? I think so. As a military wife and with family members and friends in various law enforcement agencies, I think I have good insight into scenarios involving large-scale government plots and more localized crimes. At the very least it gives me a great

list of resources who can help me come up with fun storylines and plot twists. And I think being a military wife for more than twenty-five years and having moved nearly as many times, I enjoy writing stories with strong communities of friendship.

FF: When writing a series, would you say you are a "pantser" or a "plotter"?

Oh, I'm for sure a plotter. This has never been clearer than when I decided to fast-draft my current manuscript: I went free-range and ended up writing myself right into a hole. I had to scrap that whole chapter and force myself to go back to the plot I had sketched out. I do believe there's room for the "pantser" method while I'm writing, where I allow myself to visualize the scene and then write freely, but it's very helpful for me to know where I need to go. What do you enjoy most about writing romantic suspense? For me, it's the tension. Suspense tension and romantic tension keep me turning pages, and I love trying to create the perfect balance of that in my own stories. **FF**

Visit Natalie Walters's author page here:

https://familyfiction.com/authors/natalie-walters



Blind Trust

The SNAP Agency Series #3
Natalie Walters
Revell



Book Summary:

Lyla Fox has a reputation at the SNAP Agency for being impulsive, something she knows she needs to work on. But when a threatening letter arrives from someone from her past, she can't stop herself from jumping into the deep end to un-

cover his motives. Unfortunately, she will need to ask Nicolás Garcia for help—the one person who questions her reckless choices more than anyone else.

Nicolás is wary of Lyla's tendency to run headfirst into danger and pushes back on her daring decisions. But the best way to protect Lyla is to work by her side, using his explosives and weapons expertise to keep the greatest dangers at bay. Despite his best efforts, Lyla's involvement in the investigation puts a target on her back, one that even Nicolás may not be able to save her from. Dealing with bombs is dangerous, but working with Lyla is proving to be just as treacherous—to both the mission and his heart.



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE Dani Pettrey The Shifting Current

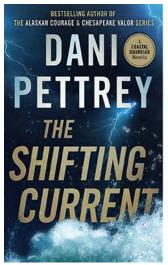
Publishers Weekly an Amazon bestselling Christian fiction author, **Dani Pettrey**, has sold nearly 800,000 copies of her novels to readers eagerly awaiting the next release. Dani combines the page-turning adrenaline of a thriller with the chemistry and happy-ever-after of a romance. Her novels stand 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).

In this interview, Dani talks with us about her latest A Coastal Guardian Novella, **The Shifting Current**.

FF: Can you please provide a summary of your new novel, The Shifting Currents?

When Coast Guard Investigative Service Special Agent Logan Perry's beloved grandfather is murdered, Logan races to his hometown of Cauldron Creek, New Mexico, to investigate the murder. His teammate and friend, Emmy Thorton, insists on joining him. Not a good idea—not when he loves her, but carries a secret that he knows will tear them apart.

Emmy knows Logan will pursue the investigation no matter the cost, and she won't let the man she loves plunge into a dangerous situation alone. She needs to be at his side, even if he believes friendship is her only reason for joining him.





What looks like a robbery gone wrong rapidly shifts, drawing Emmy and Logan into a dizzying maze where nothing is as it appears. Every lead slips through their fingers as threats against them grow deadlier at each turn. Having only each other to rely on, their love for one another deepens, but will they live long enough to admit their attraction to each other? They're in the killer's sights. One wrong move puts their future together and their lives on the line.

FF: What was the inspiration for the series and for this particular novella?

I was intrigued about writing a series focusing on the military. I initially went with Navy as my husband was Navy, but then I realized I wanted everything to happen stateside, but still be near water. My family and I vacation at the beaches near Wilmington, North Carolina, and I love the town itself, so I decided I'd set the series there, which led to going with the Coast Guard. I started researching the service and came across some information regarding the Coast Guard Investigative

Service. I was fascinated with how they operate and the men and women who are part of it. That was the inspiration for the series. The novella was inspired by my readers. I received so many emails asking if there could be a fourth book in the series as they'd fallen in love with Emmy and Logan who were part of the CGIS team. I also really wanted to tell their story, so *The Shifting Current* was born.

FF: The Shifting Current features an overarching theme of coming to peace with your past and embracing all God has for you. How does this play out in the lives of your protagonists Emmy and Logan?

Logan struggles with letting go of deep wounds from his past. While he's a Christian, he hasn't forgiven himself from something he did in his youth. And, despite accepting Christ as his Savior, he doesn't believe God could forgive him either.

Emmy's struggle is far more recent. She's loved Logan for quite a while when the story opens, but she struggles to let go of things in his past, believing those ties might still exist.

God works in their hearts and souls to relieve them of the burden He offers to carry. They just have to make the choice to let go.

FF: You changed locations for this story as Logan and Emmy travel from their base in North Carolina to New Mexico to investigate this particular case. Why New Mexico?

I knew I wanted Emmy and Logan to have their own adventure. For the story to be just about the two of them, so a location change seemed the best idea. I chose New Mexico because I lived there for years and loved every minute of it. And, despite

the fact my husband and I grew up less than an hour apart on the east coast, we met in New Mexico, so it will always hold a special place in my heart.

FF: Did anything surprise you while writing this book or did everything turn out exactly as you initially planned? Yes. The ending completely surprised me. I definitely don't want to give any spoilers, but I absolutely didn't see it coming. It was fun being surprised.

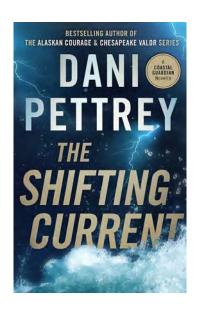
Why do you think storytelling is such a powerful way to share truth?

FF: I think storytelling is so powerful because it shares truth through the lives of the characters. We get to watch their faith play out, their struggles, their victories, and their growth in the Lord. Hopefully, we grow through their journey as well.

Also, when someone doesn't know Christ and isn't open to reading the Bible, they're often more likely and accepting of reading a story. The hope is that the truth in the story will lead them to want to know more about God. **FF**

Visit Dani Pettrey's author page here:

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The Shifting Current

A Coastal Guardian Novella Dani Pettrey Gracie & Johnny Inc



Book Summary:

When Coast Guard Investigative Service Special Agent Logan Perry's beloved grandfather is murdered, Logan races to his hometown of Cauldron Creek, New Mexico to investigate the murder. His teammate and friend, Emmy Thorton, insists on

joining him. Not a good idea—not when he loves her, but carries a secret that he knows will tear them apart.

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They're in the killer's sights. One wrong move puts their future together and their lives on the line.



SCIFI/SPACE OPERA Ronie Kendig War of Torment

Ronie Kendig is a bestselling, award-winning author of over thirty books. She grew up an Army brat, and now she and her Army-veteran husband have returned to their beloved Texas after a ten-year stint in the Northeast. They survive on Sonic & Starbucks runs, barbecue, and peach cobbler that they share—sometimes—with Benning the Stealth Golden. Ronie's degree in psychology has helped her pen novels of intense, raw characters.

In this interview, Ronie shares some of her thoughts on her newest book, *War of Torment*.

FF: What inspired the story in your book?

In large part, the *Droseran Saga Series* was inspired by my love of *Dune* and the *Firefly* TV series.

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

War brings Marco Dusan's journey full circle, and sadly, this story means he must plumb some dark depths. This story is tough but it is also heartbreakingly beautiful.

FF: Which character surprised you the most?

Commander Tigo Deken takes the prize for the most surprising character. There is a full-circle evolution, if you will, with him that I had no idea would happen. In the end, I was downright giddy about him.





FF: What were some of the joys and difficulties in writing a four-book series?

The biggest difficult is that I am, quite simply, a pantser at heart. That meant I'd get into some scrapes with the characters that I wasn't sure how we'd get out of it alive. And sometimes we didn't, but I am incredibly grateful for my editor, Reagen Reed, who rescued me—and my characters—more than once.

FF: What is next for The Droseran Saga Series?

I'm delighted to share that despite *War* being the epic conclusion to the series, I have signed a contract to write a short novel that brings the story of King Vaanvorn and Lady Valiriana fully to light. I wrote what amounted to flash fiction pieces for the paperbacks of *Brand of Light* and *Dawn of Vengeance*, but this short novel will flesh all that out. I'm still smitten with this storyworld, so I could live in the Quadrants for a very long time as a writer and be quite content.

FF: How do you step into the right frame of mind for writing a space opera when you write in multiple genres during the year?

As with many artists, I have a writing vein that is like coming home and sitting by a warm fire—and that's my speculative writing. Essentially, it's my escape, and, quite honestly, where I feel like I'm closest to God.

FF: What do you want readers to take away after reading your book?

Ultimately, I always want readers to identify with the characters, see themselves within the arcs, and come away with a sense of 'there is always hope,' no matter how hard the journey.

FF: Is there a distinct moment that stands out where faith played a big part in your own life with this particular story? When I was writing War, my family and I were going through so very much. I ended up in such a rough mental state that I knew I hadn't written the book I'd hoped to write, the one to wrap up this much-beloved series, but I had nothing left in me and my deadline was upon me. God challenged me to release the book and trust my editor. That was so hard to do, but I have an amazing editor. And when she sent me her macro edit, she stated quite plainly that this series deserved a glorious ending (she was 100% correct), but "this isn't that book." I sobbed. But I trusted Reagen, and she helped me find that sweet spot, the threads that made characters valiant and battles victorious. Finally, the beauty emerged.

FF: What authors or books have inspired you as an author? I am so impressed by the breadth and depth of creativity that is Brandon Sanderson. His storyworld is phenomenal and he really does his best to keep his readers involved and intrigued. When I was living just outside New York City a few years ago, I got to visit the mobile Tolkien museum and I was so in awe. It was the first time as an author I felt completely validated in my creative process and felt "understood." His characters are timeless and will, no doubt, live in the hearts and minds of many more generations to come.

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

It absolutely impacts me and how I write. We all have a literary signature that reveals our backgrounds and beliefs. I pray constantly that I will never write anything that dishonors God, but I also pray that He who created the universe would lend me a modicum of that creativity to write a book that would honor Him, even if the story is "weird" to the more "normal" reader. FF

Visit Ronie Kendig's author page here:

https://familyfiction.com/authors/ronie-kendig



War of Torment Drosoran Saga Sari

Droseran Saga Series #4 Ronie Kendig Enclave Publishing



Book Summary:

They followed him back. Against his will, against his intention. Now enemies threaten from every direction. Amidst it all Marco Dusan struggles to lead his people, to help them survive, even mayhap win the war. He will take any advantage to even the

odds. But only after tragedy strikes does he learn how much he's willing to sacrifice.

He's not alone. Droserans fight as one, united against the offworlders—Symmachians who covet their planet. With the aid of unexpected allies, the Droserans battle on longer than anyone could have anticipated. Yet they cannot win. And the Faa'Cris, those supernatural warriors, fair of face and fierce of mien, do nothing.

But not all have turned their backs. After a bitter year of pain and loss, Kersei Dragoumis navigates a new heritage, ever intent on defending her people. Like her, light-years away from the Quadrants and even farther from the girl she thought she was, Eija Zacdari must come to terms with a new role. Or, rather, with an ancient one. And her success or failure may determine back in the Quadrants who lives and who dies. In the end, Marco will have vengeance for the torment brought by this war. No matter the price...even if the price is his soul.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE Kim Vogel Sawyer The Tapestry of Grace

Kim Vogel Sawyer is a highly acclaimed, bestselling author with more than 1.5 million books in print in seven languages. Her titles have earned numerous accolades including the ACFW Carol Award, the Inspirational Readers Choice Award, and the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence. Kim and her retired military husband, Don, live in central Kansas, where she continues to write gentle stories of hope. She enjoys spending time with her three daughters and her grandchildren.

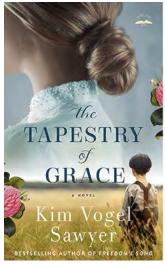
In this interview, Kim talks about her new novel, *The Tapestry of Grace*.

FF: What inspired the story in The Tapestry of Grace?

I was browsing old newspaper archives and came across an article about a benevolence club founded in New York City by German immigrants to help newly arrived immigrants. I loved the idea of immigrants helping each other settle in their new country, and the story grew from there.

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

Martina heads up the Frauenverein (women's club) in the tiny town of Alexandertol, Kansas. Martina tries to head up everything in town! Doesn't every small community have one "bossy woman" who takes charge? In Alexandertol, that woman is Martina, but she does have reasons for her bossiness. I'll leave it there for now. *wink* Augusta teaches the youngest children at the Alexandertol school. She loves children, and her





one regret is that she only birthed one child before losing her husband in a hunting accident. Now widowed, she pours herself into the lives of other people's children, including Folker and Walden, the twin sons of her best friend, who died in childbirth several years earlier. And then there is Konrad, Folker and Walden's father, who struggles to take care of his children and his house, and still have time to make a living as a blacksmith. Even though he needs help, he refuses to admit he needs help. But the Frauenverein ladies decide to help him anyway. And that's where the conflict begins.

FF: Can you explain what a Frauenverein is and the group's role in the story?

Frauenverein, translated from German, mean's women's club. It was an actual organization that originated in New York City in the mid-1800's and eventually spread across the country in communities with a strong German influence. The purpose of the first Frauenverein was to aid widows and orphans, and that's what the Alexandertol Frauenverein sets out to do. It

is scriptural to look after widows and orphans, and the ladies of the club in Alexandertol (for the most part...) have a heart of service. The club's formation is the impetus that drives the main characters, each of whom carry secret longings, toward achieving their goals. However, that doesn't mean that things are resolved the way the club members intend.

FF: This story revolves around the power of vulnerability and prayer within a small Mennonite community. Why is it so important for people to pray for people they know, even if those people don't ask for help? Have you seen this to be true in your own life?

When we pray, we tap into a Source who is capable to do beyond anything we can accomplish ourselves. Prayer invites God to work His perfect will. So often when we don't know what to do for someone, we say we'll pray for them, as if it's a last resort offering. But praying for others is the best gift we can ever give. For me, personally, knowing that someone is lifting my name before the throne of God humbles, comforts, and inspires me. Praying doesn't always change the situation, but it always changes how we handle the situation, often with increased strength, discernment, or peace. As it says in James 5:16b, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (KJV)."

FF: Does it take you time to let go of your characters after you've finished writing?

Oh my goodness, yes! It takes me as long to write the final few chapters of a book as it does to write the first three-fourths just because I'm dragging my heels. I write mostly stand-alone stories, and I don't want to say goodbye to my "friends"! I would love to write a follow-up to all my books, ten years down

the line, just to see how they're all doing. But most of the time we have to merely imagine "the rest of the story."

FF: What authors or books in the Christian historical fiction space have inspired your writing?

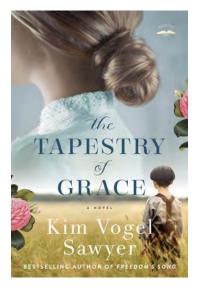
Catherine Marshall and Janette Oke really inspired me when I was a teen. I wanted to transport and move readers the way these authors' books carried me away and let me experience the world through someone else's eyes. There are several authors—Tracie Peterson, Judith Miller, Deborah Raney whose encouragement and mentorship kept me going when insecurities tried to take hold. Of course, the members of my critique group (Jill Stengl, Connie Stevens, and Eileen Key) through American Christian Fiction Writers helped me hone my skills and grow me as an author. Then there are writers like Angela Hunt, Jamie Langston Turner, and Lynn Austin, whose incredible word-weaving gives me something to which to aspire. There are many more names I could mention, and I am grateful for each of these wonderful writers who have helped mold me and who have, whether directly or indirectly, influenced my writing journey.

FF: What are you working on next?

I'm in the beginning stages of a new historical set in Texas in the late 1880's. It's my first time to set a book in Texas, and the story seed was actually planted by a dear writing friend who graduated to heaven two years ago. It is a story of redeeming the fallen, of God's grace in carving fresh pathways, and...most of all...of the hope we find when we open our hearts to the One who loves us beyond description. **FF**

Visit Kim Vogel Sawyer's author page here:

https://familyfiction.com/authors/kim-vogel-sawyer



The Tapestry of Grace Kim Vogel Sawyer WaterBrook



Book Summary:

When a group of Kansas women start a Frauenverein, a benevolent society devoted to aiding widows and orphans, life changes for more than just the hurting people they seek to help.

With classes paused for the planting season, Alexandertol's schoolteacher Augusta Dyck is glad for some meaningful work to occupy her time. She even knows exactly who their town's benevolence society should help first: quiet, reserved widower Konrad Rempel and his young twin sons. Konrad Rempel, however, is adamant that he doesn't want help. His boys are mischievous but good-hearted. And though Konrad may be struggling, he doesn't want anyone else sticking their nose in and telling him what his sons need.

For her part, the charity's founder Martina Krahn is relieved to have a reason to spend time outside her unhappy home. It even occurs to her that she may, through her work, encounter a boy in need of a family and so find a son for her husband since they have no children of their own.

Augusta, Konrad, and Martina each have deep needs and desires, and each imagines how they should be met: by reaching out or by being left alone. But God, indeed, knows best.



SUSPENSE Suspense Broker of Lies

Steven James is the critically acclaimed author of eighteen suspense novels. His most recent novel, *Synapse*, a near-future thriller, received starred reviews from both *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal* and was a finalist for an **International Book Award**. Steven is equipped with a unique master's degree in storytelling and has taught writing and storytelling on five continents, speaking more than 2000 times at events spanning the globe.

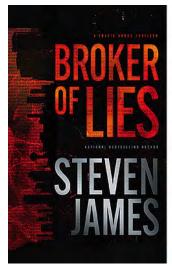
In this interview, Steven talks with us about his latest spy thriller, **Broker of Lies**.

FF: What inspired you to write Broker of Lies?

I've always loved stories of espionage and intrigue, tales of spies and betrayals, and plots with lots of twists and turns. There've been lots of stories told of CIA officers and FBI agents, but I began to ask myself, are there any members of the intelligence community that haven't really had stories told about them? I landed on the idea of using a Department of Defense redactor as the main character. So it's his job to determine what information can and cannot be released when a Freedom of Information Act request comes in. He works at the Pentagon, and he knows all of our secrets, and when the enemies of the state find out about him, well, things get exciting.

FF: How is this book similar to and different from your many critically acclaimed novels?

Broker of Lies deals more with military secrets while the Patrick Bowers novels focused on unique investigative approaches





used by the FBI. Travis Brock, the main character in *Broker of Lies*, has a nearly photographic memory, but he's spent the last fifteen years working behind a desk. So when he ends up on the run and off the grid, he has to rise to the challenge to stop a domestic terrorist attack in Tennessee.

FF: You've visited some of the secretive government locations in the book. What were they and how did those places inspire the story?

Over the years it's been super interesting to research the thrillers that I write. In this case, I was able to tour the Pentagon and visit Y-12, a secure Department of Energy site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where weapons-grade uranium is stored. As much as possible, I really tried to give readers an accurate and believable look at some of our country's most secret government research and facilities.

FF: You've said that you don't believe in plotting out a story before writing it. What is your writing process like?

I write completely organically, asking myself questions to uncover the story as it unfolds. So I'll ask myself: What would this character naturally do? How can I escalate the tension? How can I add a twist? How can I keep the narrative promises I've made to readers earlier in the book? Then every day I chip away at the story as I get to know the characters better, see the choices they make, and resolve the difficult situations they find themselves in. Writing is discovery and all the best twists in my stories have come to me during the writing rather than before beginning it.

FF: Tell us a little about your main character, Travis Brock. How is he a new kind of character for the thriller/suspense space?

Travis is definitely a very human character. He's courageous but he's not just a one-dimensional action hero. Really, this book shows the beginning of his journey toward working in the field and not just in the basement of the Pentagon.

FF: What are your main characters struggling with when the story opens?

The book really revolves around three main characters. Travis Brock is searching for answers and for justice, having lost his wife in an arson fire a year and a half ago. Adira Halprin, a former Secret Service agent, is figuring out who betrayed her and what that might have to do with the arsonist. Gunnar Bane is a former Ranger who's called in to find Travis and stop the Russians from going after him to learn the secrets that he has. Each of the three have their own unique skills, quirks, and journeys.

FF: Who is your favorite minor character in *Broker of Lies*?

I don't know if Gunnar Bane is a minor character, but he was super fun to write because even though he is as tough as nails and won't back down from a fight, he's also writing a romance novel. But unfortunately, he has no idea what he's doing. So when I was writing his scenes, I was trying to come up with really bad romance writing, which was a ton of fun.

FF: What questions about justice and revenge did you bring into writing this book?

I really tried to ask what our individual role should be in seeing justice carried out. For instance, if society refuses to carry it out, should we ever take it into our own hands? I also explored the line where justice and vengeance meet. When I write, I don't start with answers, but rather with questions, and all of the different facets of examining the boundaries of justice were intriguing for me.

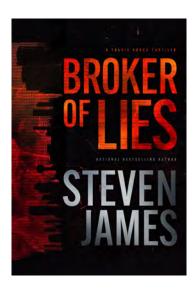
FF: You've spoken all over the world about storytelling and writing. What piece of advice do you give to new writers? Stop trying to plot out or outline your books. Stop following formulas and templates. Get to know the story, follow where it naturally goes, be honest, let your characters act in believable ways, and step out of the way. What they do and what they say may very well surprise you. And the final result will benefit from those surprises.

FF: Will we see Travis Brock again in another book?

Yes! Keep an eye out for the next *Travis Brock Thriller*, which will come out next year. **FF**

Visit Suspense's author page here:

https://familyfiction.com/authors/steven-james



Broker of Lies

Travis Brock Thriller Series #1 Steven James Tyndale House



Book Summary:

The man who knows all our secrets has a secret of his own.

When Travis Brock, a high-level Pentagon redactor with an eidetic memory, finds a clue to solving the tragic arson that took his wife from

him, he risks everything to find the truth—and chances losing himself in the process.

With a terror attack looming on the horizon and a pair of assassins on his tail, Brock drops off the grid and joins forces with a disavowed Homeland Security operative. Together they race to stop the attack before Brock is neutralized by the people he trusts the most.

From critically acclaimed, bestselling novelist Steven James comes a smart, wire-tight, and emotionally resonant thriller that asks just how far across the line we might go to see justice carried out.



ROMANCE Nicole Deese The Words We Lost

Nicole Deese is a **Christy Award** and **Carol Award**-winning, bestselling author of hope-filled, humorous, and heartfelt contemporary romance novels. She has penned numerous contemporary romances filled with humor and hope that tug on the heartstrings. Her humorous, heartfelt, and hope-filled novels include her award-winning **Love in Lenox Series**, **Before I Called You Mine** and the **Carol Award**-winning **All That Really Matters**.

In this interview, Nicole talks with is about her latest book, **The Words We Lost**.

FF: Can you please tell us a little bit about your new novel, The Words We Lost?

At its core, *The Words We Lost* is an intimate journey which follows the special bond of three best friends and the significant impact their memories play even after their trio is broken by a tragic loss. Through a unique narrative which features a literature-loving protagonist, the firstborn heir to a family legacy, and the surfacing of a mysterious manuscript, the two friends who remain must push past their own raw history in order to honor the last wish of a friend who loved the written word almost as much as she loved them.

FF: The Words We Lost is the first in a collection of stories which features the publishing industry as a connecting series theme. How does that theme tie the series together?

Each book in the Fog Harbor Romance Series will feature a fictional publishing house based out of San Francisco, Califor-





nia called Fog Harbor Books. Each standalone romance will highlight either an editor, author, or audiobook narrator from Fog Harbor Books and reference past characters who will be reoccurring throughout the series.

FF: Your protagonist, Ingrid Erikson, has a unique occupation as a senior acquisitions editor at Fog Harbor Books. What inspired you to choose this particular job for her? Even before I plotted the details of *The Words We Lost*, I knew Ingrid would need a career that would place her in close proximity to books. As a child who grew up in hardship, books were a welcome escape to Ingrid, and as she aged, books became the bond she shared with her two dearest friends. It made sense that she would stick close to what she knew and loved most, and ultimately, her career path helped launch her best-friend-turned-famous author, Cecelia Campbell.

FF: The Words We Lost centers on themes such as friendship and forgiveness, but also deals with the impact grief can have on relationships. Can you tell us a bit more about how those ideas are portrayed in this novel and what led you to choose those topics?

When the premise for this book first came to me, I loved the idea of writing about such close-knit friends, but I also knew the plot would require me to tap into my own personal experience with grief in a raw and honest way. After losing my youngest sister in a car accident when she was only twenty-six, I've felt the impact grief can have on a family and close relationships. Though challenging to write at times, my own journey and reflections about loss and hope played a huge role in the drafting phase of this novel. My goal was to offer an empathetic perspective into the wants, needs, and overall responses of each individual character as they traveled their own road to healing.

FF: What do your readers have to look forward to in this collection of novels?

In addition to the behind-the-scenes peek into the publishing industry, I think readers will be pleased with the predominant, page-turning romances inside each story world. There's a second-chance romance with high angst, drama, and chemistry, a forced-proximity romance with flirtatious banter and plenty of heart-melting confessions, and a slow-burn, friends-to-lovers romance filled with toe-curling delight and loyal devotion.

FF: Was there anything that you found particularly interesting about the publishing industry in your research or in your own experience as a published author that you included in the book?

I had a lot of fun inside this story world and made sure to pack Cecelia Campbell's narrative full of author-y statements and thinking. I chuckled to myself more than once at her dramatic antics and the lengths she'd go for her fictional works. As for Ingrid, there's a scene toward the end of the book where she's reflecting on the different aspects of her job and noting which editorial tasks bring her the most joy. I interviewed a handful of editors and was able to write this scene with them in mind. I hope it's as meaningful to my readers as it was to me—I'm so incredibly grateful for my editors!

FF: What do you hope readers will take away from this story?

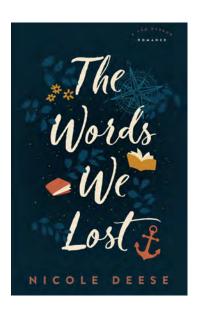
Ultimately, I hope my readers close this book feeling like no matter how lost, broken, hurt, rejected, or estranged they might feel in their own story, there's always a next step if they're willing to take it.

FF: Can you share what you're working on next?

I'm currently working on the second book in the Fog Harbor Romance Series and enjoying the refreshing, humorous personalities of my two main characters immensely! FF

Visit Nicole Deese's author page here:

https://familyfiction.com/authors/nicole-deese



The Words We Lost

Fog Harbor Romance Series #1 Nicole Deese Bethany House



Book Summary:

Three friends. Two broken promises. One missing manuscript.

As a senior acquisitions editor for Fog Harbor Books in San Francisco, Ingrid Erikson has rejected many a manuscript for lack of defined conflict and dramatic irony—two

elements her current life possesses in spades. In the months following the death of her childhood best friend and international bestselling author Cecelia Campbell, Ingrid has not only lost her ability to escape into fiction due to a rare trauma response, but she's also desperate to find the closure she's convinced will come with Cecelia's missing final manuscript.

After Ingrid jeopardizes her career, she fears her future will remain irrevocably broken. But then Joel Campbell—the man who shattered her belief in happily-ever-afters—offers her a sealed envelope from his late cousin, Cecelia, asking Joel and Ingrid to put their differences aside and retrieve a mysterious package in their coastal Washington hometown.

Honoring Cecelia's last request will challenge their convictions and test their loyalties, but through it all, will Ingrid and Joel be brave enough to uncover a twice-in-a-lifetime love?



HISTORICAL ROMANCE Tracie Peterson Remember Me

Tracie Peterson is the award-winning author of over 100 novels, both historical and contemporary. Her avid research resonates in her many bestselling series. Tracie and her family make their home in Montana.

In this interview, Tracie shares some of her thoughts behind her latest novel, *Remember Me*.

FF: Remember Me is the first book in your Pictures of the Heart Series. What inspired the idea for this series?

In reading histories of the Pacific Northwest, I came across the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition that was held in Seattle in 1909. I also kept seeing information that talked about cameras becoming affordable for the average person thanks to the Kodak Brownie camera. I thought it would be great fun to set a series at the Expo and the idea of creating Camera Girls came to mind.

FF: What is the connecting element for all the books in the *Pictures of the Heart Series* and what do readers have to look forward to in the rest of this series?

This is a series that builds on book one; however, a person can read them out of order and not really suffer the individual story. The common thread is the Exposition. This fair was the event of the year and people came from all over the world to see it. The series will cover the months that the Expo was active, June through October, and each story will cover a Camera Girl's characters and their romances.





FF: How were your protagonists, Addie Bryant and Isaac Hanson, acquainted and what led to their separation? Addie and Isaac met during the Yukon goldrush. They fell in love and pledged to marry. However, Isaac needed to leave to attend college. He promised to return for Addie.

FF: Your female protagonist, Addie Bryant, faces some very difficult circumstances in her early life. Can you provide some background information on Addie?

Addie's mother dies and Addie is raised by her thieving father and battling brothers. They are very abusive and when their father dies, her brothers sell Addie to a brothel owner. At first just to cook for the place, but then she becomes the owner's mistress and eventually wife and widow. Even though she's free to remarry, Addie feels she will never ever be good enough for Isaac.

FF: One of the underlying themes within *Remember Me* is forgiveness. Can you expound upon how this theme plays out in your novel?

Forgiveness is always a key theme in my stories because it's so vital in the life of a Christian. God tells us in the Bible that if we won't forgive, we won't be forgiven. With my characters, they have to learn to let the past go and realize they are forgiven in God's love and that He will give them a future of love.

FF: Are there any other lessons that you hope readers can gain from reading *Remember Me*?

That holding on to the past and letting it dictate who you are is never a beneficial thing. God is all about looking forward.

FF: Remember Me begins in Northwestern Canada in the Yukon territory and eventually ends up in Seattle, Washington. Why did you choose these locations for the setting of your book?

I chose the Seattle setting because of its tie to the Yukon goldrush in 1898 and to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909.

FF: Both Addie Bryant and Isaac Hanson reunite at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo in Seattle. Can you tell us more about this event and how Addie was involved in this Expo?

The Expo was a World Fair that focused on the areas of the Pacific Northwest as well as Pacific islands and the Yukon. Addie is working for a photography company and when they decide to get involved with the expo as a vendor, Addie comes up with the idea of Camera Girls. These girls will walk around the Expo and offer to take souvenir photos for the attendees. The new Kodak Brownie camera is all the rage and so they pro-

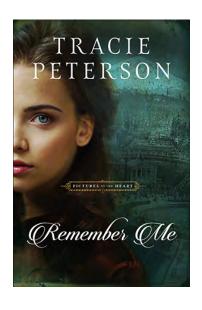
mote this as well. Addie trains the Camera Girls and acts as one herself. She also gets involved in lecturing on the Yukon goldrush since she actually participated and knew a lot about it.

FF: What are you working on next?

I'm currently writing book three in the *Pictures of the Heart Series*. There will be three books in the series and the stories will cover the entire time that the Expo was running. There were a lot of interesting tidbits about the Expo that I wanted to include in the series. After this series is complete, I plan to start a series on Cheyenne, Wyoming. **FF**

Visit Tracie Peterson's author page here:

https://familyfiction.com/authors/tracie-peterson



Remember Me

Pictures of the Heart Series #1 Tracie Peterson Bethany House



Book Summary:

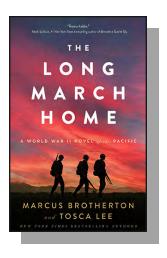
From the Yukon to Seattle, the hope of a new beginning waits just around the corner.

Addie Bryant is haunted by her past of heartbreak and betrayal. After her beau, Isaac Hanson, left the Yukon,

she made a vow to wait for him. When she's sold to a brothel owner after the death of her father, Addie manages to escape with the hope that she can forever hide her past and the belief that she will never have the future she's always dreamed of.

Years later, Addie has found peace in her new life as a photographer, training Camera Girls to operate and sell the Brownie camera. During the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo in Seattle, Addie is reunited with Isaac, but after the path her life has taken, she's afraid to expose the ugliness of her former life and to move toward the future they had pledged to each other.

When her past catches up with her, Addie must decide whether to run or to stay and face her wounds in order to embrace her life, her future, and her hope in God.

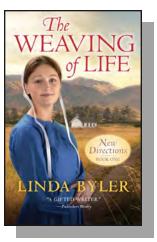


The Long March Home

A World War II Novel of the Pacific Marcus Brotherton & Tosca Lee Revell

Genres: Historical, World War II **Release Date**: May 2, 2023





The Weaving of Life

New Directions Series #1 Linda Byler Good Books

Genres: Amish Romance **Release Date**: April 25, 2023





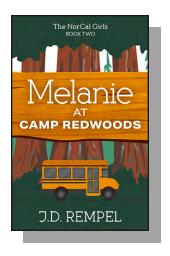
Loving Lydia

Rescued Hearts of the Civil War Series #2 Susan Pope Sloan Wild Heart Books

Genres: Historical Romance, Historical

Release Date: April 25, 2023



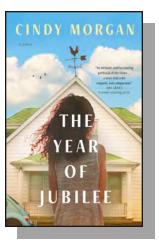


Melanie at Camp Redwoods

The NorCal Girls Series #2 J.D. Rempel Emerald House

Genres: Children's, Educational **Release Date**: April 20, 2023





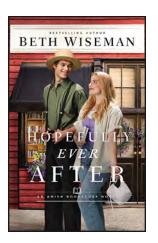
The Year of Jubilee

Cindy L. Morgan Tyndale House

Genres: Historical

Release Date: April 18, 2023



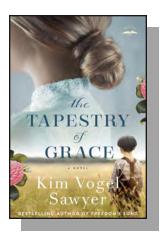


Hopefully Ever After

The Amish Bookstore Novels Series #3 Beth Wiseman Zondervan

Genres: Amish Romance **Release Date**: April 18, 2023



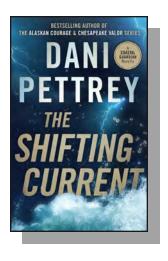


The Tapestry of Grace

Kim Vogel Sawyer WaterBrook

Genres: Historical Romance **Release Date**: April 18, 2023





The Shifting Current

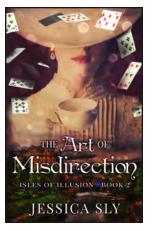
A Coastal Guardian Novella Dani Pettrey Gracie & Johnny Inc

Genres: Mystery/Suspense,

Romantic Suspense

Release Date: March 17, 2023





The Art of Misdirection

Isles of Illusion Series #2 Jessica Sly

Mountain Brook Fire

Genres: Historical Romance, Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Suspense

Release Date: April 15, 2023





Nineveh Rising

Don Clifford Independent

Genres: Sci-Fi/Fantasy

Release Date: April 11, 2023





War of Torment

Droseran Saga Series #4 Ronie Kendig Enclave Publishing

Genres: Sci-Fi, Space Opera **Release Date**: April 11, 2023





Breaking New Ground

An Amish Legacy Novel Amy Clipston Zondervan

Genres: Amish Romance **Release Date**: April 11, 2023





Blind Trust

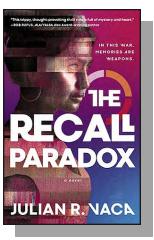
The SNAP Agency Series #3 Natalie Walters Revell

Genres: Mystery/Suspense,

Romantic Suspense

Release Date: April 11, 2023





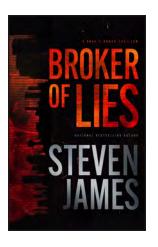
The Recall Paradox

The Memory Index Series #2 Julian R. Vaca Thomas Nelson

Genres: YA/Teen, Sci-Fi, Dystopian Romance

Release Date: April 11, 2023





Broker of Lies

Travis Brock Thriller Series #1 Steven James Tyndale House

Genres: Mystery/Suspense, Spy Thriller

Release Date: April 11, 2023





Chasing God's Glory

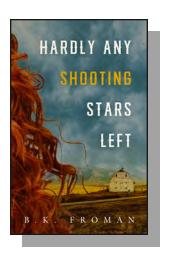
Dorina Lazo Gilmore-Young Illustrator: Alyssa De Asis

WaterBrook

Genres: Children's

Release Date: April 11, 2023





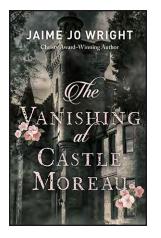
Hardly Any Shooting Stars Left

B. K. Froman Iron Stream

Genres: Women, Western, Suspense

Release Date: April 5, 2023





The Vanishing at Castle Moreau

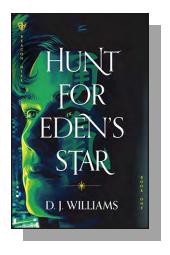
Jaime Jo Wright Bethany House

Genres: Mystery/Suspense, Romantic

Suspense, Split-time

Release Date: April 4, 2023





Hunt for Eden's Star

Beacon Hill Series #1 D. J. Williams Wander

Genres: YA/Teen, Fantasy Adventure

Release Date: April 4, 2023





Windswept Way

Hope Harbor Series #9 Irene Hannon Revell

Genres: Romance

Release Date: April 4, 2023





Edge of the Galaxy

30 Faith-Filled Adventures Brock Eastman Focus on the Family

Genres: Children's, Middle Grade Kids,

Sci-Fi

Release Date: April 4, 2023





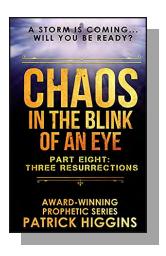
Home Away From Home

Abbott Island Series Series #2
Penny Frost McGinnis
Mt Zion Ridge Press

Genres: Romance

Release Date: April 1, 2023





Three Resurrections

Chaos In The Blink Of an Eye Series #8
Patrick Higgins
Independent

Genres: Sci-Fi/Fantasy

Release Date: March 23, 2023





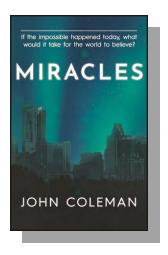
The Quill's Secret: Discovering the Power of Life-Giving Words

The Gold Feather Gardeners Series #2 Erin Greneaux Independent

Genres: Children's

Release Date: March 28, 2023



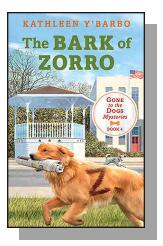


Miracles

John Coleman Trouvaille Press

Genres: Suspense, Contemporary **Release Date**: January 20, 2023





The Bark of Zorro

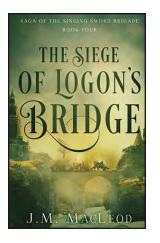
Gone to the Dogs Series #4 Kathleen Y'Barbo Barbour Fiction

Genres: Suspense, Romance,

Animal Mysteries

Release Date: March 31, 2023





The Siege of Logon's Bridge

Saga of the Singing Sword Brigade #4 J.M. MacLeod Emerald House

Genres: Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Action/Adventure

Release Date: March 7, 2023





Remember Me

Pictures of the Heart Series #1 Tracie Peterson Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance **Release Date**: March 7, 2023





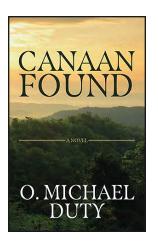
Over The Edge

Michael Garrett SonCoast Publishing

Genres: Suspense

Release Date: January 28, 2023





Canaan Found

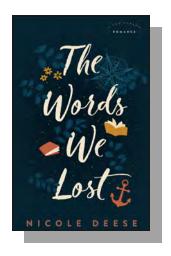
O. Michael Duty High Bridge Books

Genres: Cowboy Romance,

Mystery/Suspense

Release Date: February 8, 2023





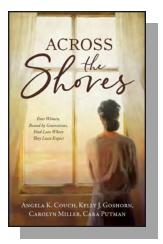
The Words We Lost

Fog Harbor Romance Series #1 Nicole Deese Bethany House

Genres: Romance

Release Date: April 11, 2023





Across the Shores

Angela K. Couch, Kelly Goshorn, Carolyn Miller and Cara Putman Barbour Publishing

Genres: Romance, Historical Romance

Release Date: April 1, 2023



