

FamilyFiction

CHRISTIAN **ROMANCE**

TOP 20

FamilyFiction
Readers Pick Their
Favorite Christian
Romance Authors

**RECENT Q&As
FROM YOUR
TOP ROMANCE
AUTHORS**

Lynette Eason
Colleen Coble
Irene Hannon
Karen Witemeyer
Denise Hunter
Julie Klassen
+ More!

New Romance Book Releases



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Romance Features

20 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN ROMANCE AUTHORS

For our *FamilyFiction* 2024 Romance Issue, we asked readers to weigh in on their favorite Christian romance authors!



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

LYNETTE EASON

Lynette talks with us about her new novel, *Double Take*, the first book in her new *Lake City Heroes Series*.



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

COLLEEN COBLE

Colleen talks with us about her latest book, *Break of Day*.



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

IRENE HANNON

Irene talks with us about kicking-off her new *Undaunted Courage Series* with the release of book one, *Into the Fire*.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

TRACIE PETERSON

In this interview, Tracie talks with us about her newest book, *Knowing You*, book number three in her *Pictures of the Heart Series*.

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Romance Features



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

KAREN WITEMEYER

In this interview, Karen discusses her latest novel, ***Fairest of Heart***, book number one in her new ***Texas Ever After Series***.



ROMANCE

DENISE HUNTER

In this interview, Denise talks with us about her newest book, ***A Novel Proposal***.



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

SUSAN MAY WARREN

In this interview, Susan talks about ***Sundown***, the third book in her ***Sky King Ranch Series***.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

JULIE KLASSEN

Julie talks about book number two in her ***On Devonshire Shores Series***, ***A Winter by the Sea***.



New Releases & Bestsellers

New Christian Romance books including books from **Laura Frantz, Mary Connealy, Kimberley Woodhouse, Jody Hedlund, Julie Klassen, Nancy Mehl, Lynette Eason, Pepper Basham, Leslie Gould, Misty M. Beller, Jen Turano, Karen Kingsbury, Tracie Peterson, Michelle Griep, Irene Hannon, Beth Wiseman, Elizabeth Goddard, Amanda Cabot, Suzanne Woods Fisher, Carrie Turansky** and many more!

FamilyFiction October 2017 FamilyFiction SUMMER READING GUIDE FamilyFiction March 2017 FamilyFiction Fall 2018 FamilyFiction May 2018

Suspense Author
ROBERT WHITLOW

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Beverly Lewis | Sarah L. Hart | Susan May Warren
Marlene Harling | 10 New Releases

Historical Author
TARA JOHNSON

Amish Author
Jennifer Sprademan

80+ New Book Releases

Children's Author
PRISCILLA SHIRER

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Patricia Bradley | 21 Historical Novels Set in Bible Times
Leslie Gould | Kingstone Comics | 30 New Releases

Romance Author
FRANCINE RIVERS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
James L. Bullock | Colleen Coyle | Wanda E. Brunstetter
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Amish Author
BEVERLY LEWIS

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Michael W. Smith & VeggieTales' Mike Nawrocki
Heidi Chaboud | Katie Greenleaf | Susan May Warren
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Historical Romance
KAREN WITTEMEYER

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
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Suzanne Woods Fisher | Matt Meola | Sherry L. Wright
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Split-Time Fiction Author
JAIME JO WRIGHT

Contemporary Author
CHARLES MARTIN

Romance Author
BECKY WADE

Fantasy Author
MORGAN L. BUSSE

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Bryan Jones | Doreen | Michelle Goff
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FamilyFiction November 2019

FamilyFiction

September 2020

Suspense Author
JERRY B. JENKINS

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Lynn Austin | Cindy and Erin Woodsmall
Jan Drexler | Travis Thrasher | Carolyn Miller
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books and DVDs

Collector's Edition



CHRISTIAN ROMANCE SPECIAL

35 Essential Christian Romance Authors FamilyFiction readers love in their genre

10 Christian Romance Novels

LOOKING BACK, PRESSING FORWARD

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Susan May Warren | Katherine Reay
Rachel Hays | Sarah Sullivan | Ana Fernandez Rhoads
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs

Romantic Suspense Author
IRENE HANNON

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Jennifer Johnson | Teri Beckwith Quaker
L.A. Knight | Jennifer L. Davis | Chelms
30+ New Christian Books & DVDs

Contemporary Author
KAREN KINGSBURY

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Tony & James Damico | Emily Carol
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PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books and DVDs



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STEVEN JAMES

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John 2019 | Tony Brown | Robert Jennings
2019's Most Christian Books & DVDs

Historical Author
TRACIE PETERSON

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Jennifer Johnson | Amy Cross | Patricia Briggs
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs

#JesusToldStories

2024 CHRISTIAN ROMANCE READERS POLL

TOP 20 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN ROMANCE AUTHORS

For our **FamilyFiction 2024 Romance Special**, we asked our readers to weigh in on their favorite type of Romance stories and their favorite Christian Romance authors.

We're pleased to announce the results right here! We hope you'll take a look at who Christian romance readers picked as their favorite authors—including those who write Romance, Amish Romance, Contemporary Romance, Historical Romance, Romantic Suspense, Sci-fi/Fantasy Romance, and Time-slip/Split-time Romance!

Favorite Type of Romance Story

We know that lots of **FamilyFiction** readers love a good tale of Romance—but what kind of tale? We asked, and this is how our readers answered...

Amish Romance	26.5%
Contemporary Romance	26.5%
Historical Romance	21%
Romantic Suspense	16.5%
Sci-fi/Fantasy Romance	9%
Time-slip/Split-time Romance	0.5%

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20 ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN ROMANCE AUTHORS AS CHOSEN BY FAMILYFICTION READERS

We asked our readers to name their five favorite Christian romance authors from a list of Top 40 Romance Authors...are here are the results.



1. Lynette Eason

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

Lynette Eason is the bestselling author of the *Women of Justice*, *Deadly Reunions*, *Hidden Identity*, and *Elite Guardians* series.

She is the winner of three **ACFW Carol Awards**, the **Selah Award**, and the

Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, among others.



2. Colleen Coble

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

Best-selling author **Colleen Coble's** novels have won or finaled in awards ranging from the **Best Books of Indiana**, **ACFW Book of the Year**, **RWA's RITA**, the **Holt Medallion**, the **Daphne du Maurier**, **National Readers'**

Choice, and the **Booksellers Best**. She has nearly 2 million books in print and writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail.



3. Karen Witemeyer

<https://www.familyfiction.com/authors/karen-witemeyer>

Bestselling author **Karen Witemeyer** offers warm-hearted historical romances with a flair of humor, feisty heroines, and swoon-worthy Texas heroes. Winner of the **HOLT**

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Medallion, ACFW Carol Award, Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, National Reader's Choice Award, and a finalist for both the **RITA and Christy Awards.**



4. Irene Hannon

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

Irene Hannon is the bestselling author of more than fifty novels. She's been awarded multiple times by the **Romance Writers of America**, and has also been elected to the **RWA's Hall of Fame**. Her other awards include **National Readers' Choice, Retailers' Choice, Booksellers' Best, Carols,** and **Reviewers' Choice** from *RT Book Reviews* magazine, which also honored her with a **Career Achievement award** for her entire body of work. Her latest contemporary romance is *Starfish Pier*, the sixth book in the *Hope Harbor Series*.



5. Susan May Warren

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

Susan May Warren is the *USA Today* bestselling author of more than fifty novels with more than one million books sold. Winner of a **RITA Award** and multiple **Christy** and **Carol Awards**, as well as the **HOLT Medallion** and numerous **Readers' Choice Awards**, Susan has written contemporary and historical romances, romantic suspense, thrillers, romantic comedy, and novellas.



6. Denise Hunter

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/denise-hunter>

Denise Hunter is the internationally published bestselling author of more than twenty-five books, including *A December Bride* and *The Convenient Groom*, which have been adapted into original Hallmark Channel movies. She has won **The Holt Medallion Award**, **The Reader's Choice Award**, **The Carol Award**, **The Foreword Book of the Year Award**, and is a **RITA** finalist. When Denise isn't orchestrating love lives on the written page, she enjoys traveling with her family, drinking green tea, and playing drums.



7. Dee Henderson

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

Dee Henderson is the author of the acclaimed *O'Malley Series* and the *Uncommon Heroes Series*. Her novels have won or been nominated for several prestigious industry awards, including the **RWA's RITA Award**, the **Christy Award**, the **ECPA Gold Medallion**, the **Holt Medallion**, the **National Readers' Choice Award**, and the **Golden Quill**.



8. Susan Sleeman

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

Susan Sleeman is a bestselling and award-winning author of more than 30 inspirational/Christian and clean read romantic suspense books. Readers love her romantic

suspense series for the well-drawn characters and edge-of-your-seat action. She graduated from the FBI and local police citizen academies, so her research is spot-on and her characters are real.



9. Tracie Peterson

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

Tracie Peterson is an award-winning, 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. Her books have won numerous awards for favorite books in a variety of contests, including **USA "Best Books 2011" Awards**, best **Religious Fiction** for *Embers of Love*.



10. Julie Klassen

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/julie-klassen>

Julie Klassen loves all things Jane—Jane Eyre and Jane Austen. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Julie worked in publishing for sixteen years and now writes full-time. Three of her books, *The Silent*

Governess, *The Girl in the Gatehouse*, and *The Maid of Fairbourne Hall*, have won the **Christy Award** for Historical Romance. *The Secret of Pembroke Park* was honored with the Minnesota Book Award for genre fiction. Julie has also won the **Midwest Book Award** and **Christian Retailing's BEST Award**, and has been a finalist in the **Romance Writers of America's RITA Awards** and **ACFW's Carol Awards**.

11. Pepper Basham

<https://www.familyfiction.com/pepper-basham>

12. Dani Pettrey

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

13. Elizabeth Goddard

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

14. Rachel Hauck

<https://www.familyfiction.com/rachel-hauck>

15. Mary Connealy

<https://www.familyfiction.com/mary-connealy>

16. Becky Wade

<https://www.familyfiction.com/becky-wade>

17. Tamera Alexander

<https://www.familyfiction.com/tamera-alexander>

18. Karen Kingsbury

<https://www.familyfiction.com/karen-kingsbury>

19. Laura Frantz

<https://www.familyfiction.com/laura-frantz>

20. Roseanna W. White

<https://www.familyfiction.com/roseanna-w-white>

FamilyFiction Romance Reader's Poll Survey Results

EDITOR'S NOTE: Every year, after we publish the results of our Annual Romance Special Issue survey results, we get questions about various parts of the process. Inevitably, someone's favorite author wasn't even in the list of options for voting... and the question is *why*. *FamilyFiction* maintains a list on the website database of all articles and New Release postings. The author of any book that has been labeled by the author, publisher or vendor...(such as Amazon or Christianbook.com)...in the past 2 years is added to a master list. From there, we have to whittle-down the list to about the top 90-100 authors from our readership. based on website data

Below is the final list that was used to build the voting matrix for 2024:

Tessa Afshar	Elizabeth Goddard	Tracie Peterson
Tamera Alexander	Cathy Gohlke	Dani Pettrey
Lynn Austin	Leslie Gould	Allison Pittman
Christy Barritt	Jocelyn Green	Joanna Davidson Politano
Pepper Basham	Michelle Griep	Francine Rivers
Misty M. Beller	Irene Hannon	Cynthia Ruchti
Lori Benton	Lisa Harris	Kim Vogel Sawyer
Lynn Blackburn	Rachel Hauck	Regina Scott
Terri Blackstock	Jody Hedlund	Shelley Shepard Gray
Wanda E. Brunstetter	Dee Henderson	Susan Sleeman
Davis Bunn	Grace Hitchcock	Lauriane Snelling
Amanda Cabot	Kristi Ann Hunter	Angela Ruth Strong
Patti Callahan Henry	Denise Hunter	Sarah Sundin
Elizabeth Camden	Molly Jebber	Melissa Tagg
Melody Carlson	Regina Jennings	Janyre Tromp
Amy Clipston	Liz Johnson	Jen Turano
Colleen Coble	Ronie Kendig	Carrie Turansky
Mary Connealy	Karen Kingsbury	Erica Vetsch
Amanda Cox	Julie Klassen	Becky Wade
Nicole Deese	Stephanie Landsem	Courtney Walsh
Jennifer Deibel	Carla Laureano	Susan May Warren
Melanie Dickerson	Julie Lessman	Roseanna M. White
Melanie Dobson	Beverly Lewis	Audrey Wick
Amanda Dykes	T.I. Lowe	Beth Wiseman
Lynette Eason	Shannon McNear	Karen Witemeyer
Susie Finkbeiner	DiAnn Mills	Kimberley Woodhouse
Suzanne Woods Fisher	Carolyn Miller	Cindy Woodsmall
Rachel Fordham	Nancy Naigle	Jennifer Wright
Laura Frantz	Janette Oke	
Kathleen Fuller	Carrie Fancett Pagels	
Ann H. Gabhart	Robin W. Pearson	

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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

Lynette Eason

Double Take

Lynette Eason is the *USA Today* bestselling author of the *Extreme Measures*, *Danger Never Sleeps*, *Blue Justice*, *Women of Justice*, *Deadly Reunions*, *Hidden Identity*, and *Elite Guardians Series*. She is the winner of three ACFW Carol Awards, the Selah Award, and the Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, among others. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and has a master's degree in education from Converse College.

In this interview, Lynette talks with us about her new novel, ***Double Take***, the first book in her new *Lake City Heroes Series*.

FF: *Double Take* is the first book in the *Lake City Heroes Series*. What was the inspiration for this series?

I'm not sure I was inspired—more like I grabbed some writer buddies and held them hostage until we figured it out. Seriously, I have some great author friends who never hesitate to do some brainstorming. I did want the series to stay true to my voice and genre. With *Double Take*, I actually had an outline I wrote probably three years ago. The idea came to me and I jotted it down, but I didn't really have a place for it. Until it was time to submit the contract for the next series. I went back over the idea, made some tweaks, and knew that it was the perfect first book idea for this series.

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FF: What is the connecting element between all the books in your series?

The connecting element is the cast of characters and the setting. The stories are set in the fictional town of Lake City, North Carolina, about an hour outside of Asheville.

FF: Can you please tell readers about your protagonists, Lainie Jackson and James Cross?

Lainie and James have a complicated relationship from the get-go. One of her best friends is James's sister, Stephanie, who she's known forever. And Lainie's had a crush on James for about that long. But she was resigned that he'd never see her as anything more than his younger sister's friend, so when her ex came along, she was vulnerable. James, on the other hand, had vowed never to let his heart be vulnerable again. When you let people get close, they have too much power to hurt you. Then along came Lainie, and now he's fighting to keep her alive and out of his heart all at the same time.

FF: How did your characters meet?

They've known each other since childhood.

FF: Both Lainie and James are struggling through past issues. How are they able to help themselves while helping each other? Lainie and James learn a lot from each other. Honestly, James is the only man in the world who could win Lainie's trust after her experience with her ex-fiancé. And she still has the occasional doubt. Outside of his siblings, James has never really had anyone stand up for him and tell others that he's not the loser he sometimes feels he is. When he overhears Lainie defending him to his father, he's a goner. And it takes both of them to catch a killer, so there's that.

FF: What are some of the main themes covered in *Double Take*?

Some of the main themes include forgiveness, reconciliation, loyalty, second chances, and sacrificial love.

FF: What do you hope readers will experience when reading your novel?

First of all, of course I hope that readers love the story itself, that they're thoroughly entertained. Second, I hope that the inner battles the characters face can somehow resonate with readers and draw them closer to the Savior. **FF**

Visit Lynette Eason's author page here:

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



Double Take

Lake City Heroes Series #1

Lynette Eason

Revell

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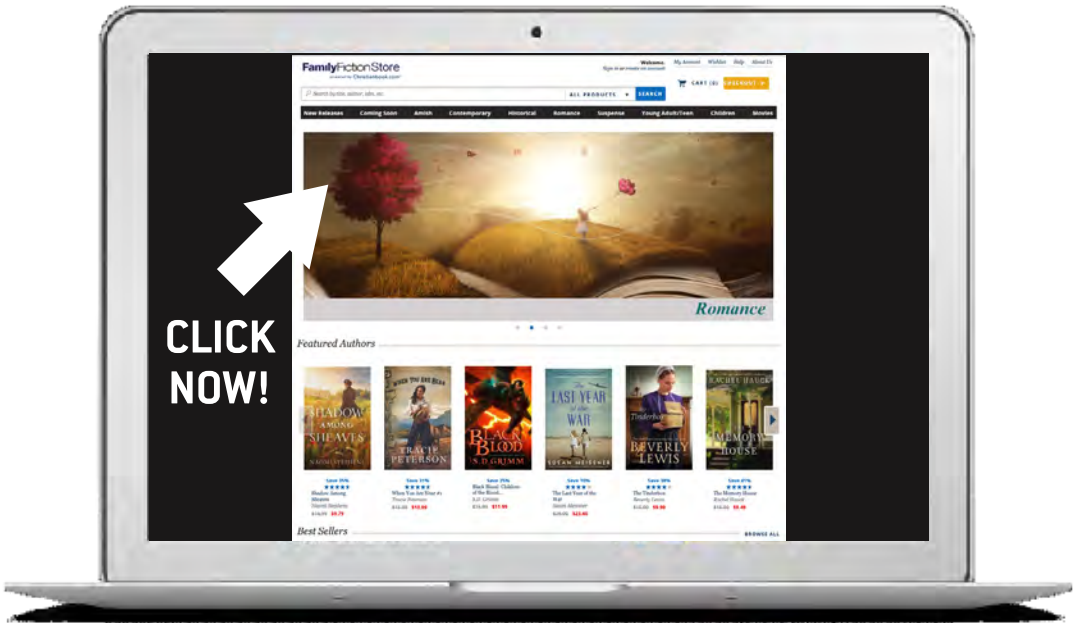
Book Summary:

Eighteen months ago, Physician Assistant Lainie Jackson was attacked and shot by the person who was supposed to love her the most—her fiancé, Adam. Although Lainie survived, she continues to be hunted by someone who looks like Adam. But how can that be since she ended up killing her fiancé in self-defense?

After being honorably discharged from the Army Criminal Investigation Division, Detective James Cross now works with his friend and partner, Cole, at the Lake City Police Department. When James is injured, he ends up in the hospital under the care of Lainie. As their relationship deepens, James is determined to help Lainie by finding out if the past has come back to haunt her—or if the recent attempts on her life come from a new threat.



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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

Colleen Coble

Break of Day

Best-selling Christian Romantic Suspense author **Colleen Coble**'s novels have won or finished in awards ranging from the Best Books of Indiana, the ACFW Carol Award, the Romance Writers of America RITA, the Holt Medallion, the Daphne du Maurier, National Readers' Choice, and the Booksellers Best. She has over 5 million books in print and writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail. Colleen is CEO of American Christian Fiction Writers.

In this interview, Colleen talks with us about her latest book, ***Break of Day***.

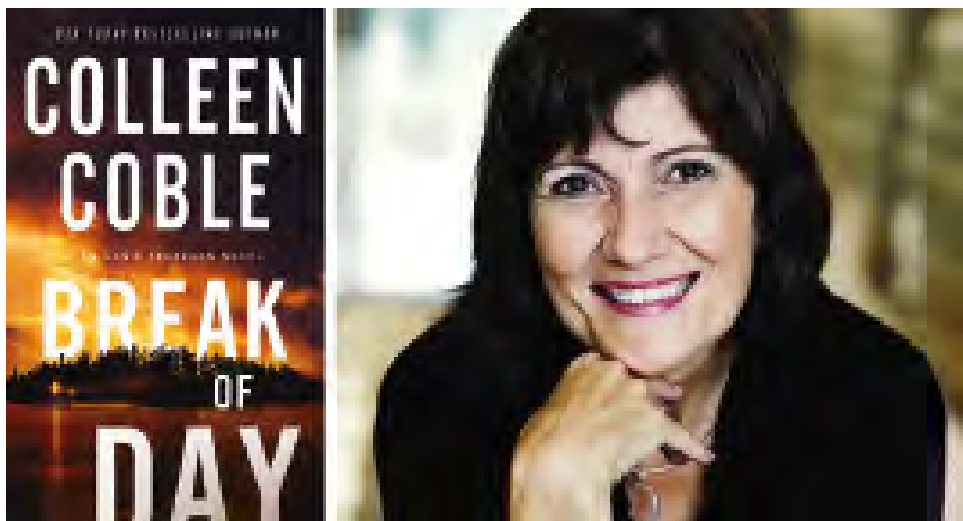
FF: What inspired the story in your book?

Readers have loved my Rock Harbor Series so much, and I wanted to catch up with the gang there. I decided a spin-off series made more sense, and I love 2nd chance romance stories. There are always unresolved conflicts in those kinds of novels that make for a fun story to write. There's a surprise twist early on in the series that took 3 books to work out, and I hope readers enjoy it!

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

Annie Pederson is a law enforcement park ranger. She's a widow with a daughter and she's driven to find out what happened to her little sister who was kidnapped when she was five. That's an important thread that weaves through the series. Jon Dunstan is an orthopedic surgeon (I know way more

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about orthopedic surgery than anyone should know from firsthand experience)! He and Annie broke up when he went off to college. It takes a lot to resolve all their issues!

FF: Which character surprised you the most?

Annie knew a lot more about survival in the woods than I realized going into the series.

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

There is emotion attached to story, and it penetrates to the heart in a personal way. As readers, we experience those same emotions and understand what our characters understand. I'm a voracious reader and always have a book in my hand. Story helps me see so many perspectives other than my own.

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

I'm super excited to share my next standalone with readers! *Fragile Designs* is a story I've thought about for twenty years. A widow with an infant, Carly Harris finds a mysterious egg in her great-grandmother's belongings, and it plunges her headfirst into mounting danger as she unravels the secrets of a missing Faberge egg.

FF: How do you get into the right frame of mind to write for your genre/audience?

I love romantic suspense. It's what I read myself. I always travel to the location as well, and this time, I spent some time reading nonfiction about the great woods up north. I needed that sense of isolation and foreboding.

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

There are several layers of 2nd chances, and I hope readers remember it's never too late to make amends.

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

Since I write suspense, it's important to me to make sure readers still end up with hope at the end. I try hard not to dwell on the power of evil because God always wins. Yes, bad things can happen to us, but it's not the end. There's a popular song right now I love titled "Fear is Not My Future." Nothing that happens in this life is our future—God is. Heaven is our future. Nothing can overcome us in this life because it's not the end.

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

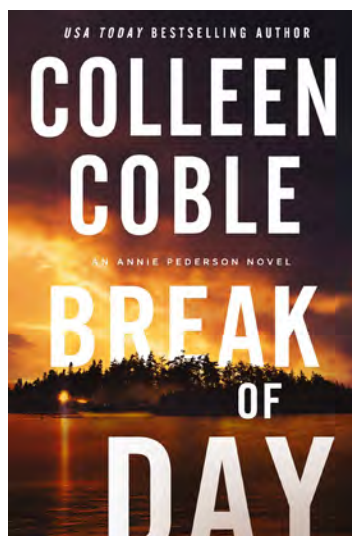
My dear friend and fellow author, Diann Hunt, went home to be with the Lord 10 years ago this year, and I've been thinking a lot about her impact on my life. She faced ovarian cancer with such courage and faith. She taught me to face adversity with humor and a deep love for Jesus, no matter what. I was by her side when she stepped into heaven, and I caught a glimpse of it that night. If you've never read a Diann Hunt novel, find one! You're in for a treat of laughter, love, and faith.

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

My faith is the lens through which I see the world. As I write this, I've been through a 2-week ordeal of not being able to see after cataract surgery. Yesterday the blurry lens that wasn't working for me was replaced with a different kind and everything is suddenly vivid and true again. That's how my faith impacts my life—it lets me see things clearly so I'm not consumed by fear. **FF**

Visit Colleen Coble's author page here:

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



Break of Day

An Annie Pederson Novel Series #3

Colleen Coble

Thomas Nelson



Book Summary:

Annie Pederson's happily ever after is finally within sight—if she can stay alive long enough to grasp it.

Law enforcement officer Annie Pederson's life has been rocked by tragedy, but things finally seem to be heading in the right direction. Her relationship with the love of her life—who's also the biological father of her precious daughter—has never been better, and it looks like an engagement ring is in Annie's future. She's also slowly building back trust with her sister, Sarah, after a separation that lasted for decades.

When a man escapes law enforcement custody and Sarah's safety is suddenly in question, Annie's personal and professional lives once again merge. Meanwhile, her investigation of hikers who have gone missing in the remote woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula puts her in the crosshairs of a deadly game.

Now, Annie is the one being hunted. When she discovers the terrible truth about the men who are stalking her, she realizes that she's in for the fight of her life if she's going to redeem the sister she once lost, build the family she dreams of, and keep all those she loves safe.

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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

Irene Hannon

Into the Fire

Irene Hannon is the bestselling and award-winning author of more than 65 romance and romantic suspense novels. In addition to her many other honors, she is a three-time winner of the prestigious **RITA Award** from **Romance Writers of America**. She is also a member of RWA's elite **Hall of Fame** and has received a **Career Achievement Award** from **RT Book Reviews** for her entire body of work. Millions of her books have been sold worldwide, and her novels have been translated into multiple languages.

In this interview, Irene talks with us about kicking-off her new *Undaunted Courage Series* with the release of book one, *Into the Fire*.

FF: Please provide a brief summary of *Into the Fire*.

Here's my one-sentence elevator pitch: A fire investigator and ATF agent join forces to track down a serial arsonist who will stop at nothing—including murder—to carry out a nefarious plan. (Romance ensues as well, of course!)

FF: What was the inspiration for your new novel?

I've written many law-enforcement related books featuring a variety of crimes, but never anything fire-related. This story gave me an opportunity to do that. Plus, after researching the fascinating world of smokejumpers, I knew it was the perfect background for my strong and determined heroine.

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FF: This is the first book in the *Undaunted Courage Series*. How many books will there be and what ties them together?

There will be three books in the series. The link between the books is that they feature three foster siblings from difficult backgrounds. Each story spotlights one of the siblings, but the other two siblings do make appearances in that book.

FF: What do readers have to look forward to in the rest of the *Undaunted Courage Series*?

Book 2 will feature Jack Tucker, a homicide detective, who must determine whether the sole witness in a murder case has lost her grip on reality or whether someone is conducting a relentless campaign to destroy her credibility...and perhaps her life. In book 3, the youngest sibling, Cara Tucker, takes center stage. She's a historical anthropologist on sabbatical at a remote estate, where she's researching a vanishing language. When she finds herself caught up in a century-old mystery and murder, however, the local sheriff must track down the killer before he or she strikes again.

FF: Your two protagonists, Bri Tucker and Marc Davis, have very unique professions. What type of research was required to accurately portray their roles?

As I always tell people, while I write fiction, the professions and agencies and law enforcement protocols I write about are real. Since I'm a stickler for accuracy, I do huge amounts of research to ensure I portray these correctly. In this case, I found plenty of material online about smokejumpers, including female smokejumpers. That was invaluable. For the arson plot element that was unique to my story, I worked with a retired fire chief/fire marshal, who reviewed the scenarios I created. Those kinds of sources help put the final polish of authenticity on my stories.

FF: In Bri's new role as a fire investigator, she inherits a curious puzzle from her predecessor. What type of questions does this puzzle raise for Bri?

After the death of a retired colleague, Bri realizes he may have been on the brink of soliciting her help with several fires that had been ruled accidental but which continued to trouble him. But she has almost nothing to go on. What cases was he focused on? Why was he still concerned about them? Who were the victims? But when a few clues emerge that suggest his quest may have merit, Bri digs in...and suddenly finds herself in the crosshairs.

FF: What is the connection between Bri and Marc?

When Bri is assigned to investigate the suspicious death of her retired colleague, she's still relatively new to her job. Plus, it's a death that hits close to home for the department, and her boss wants to pull out all the stops. So he decides to have the ATF get involved too. That doesn't sit especially well with Bri, who'd prefer to work alone—but Marc ends up being an asset on

both the professional and personal front!

FF: The setting for *Into the Fire* is St. Louis, Missouri.

Why did you choose this location?

All but one of my suspense novels are set in the St. Louis area. Since my stories tend toward psychological suspense and aren't generally location contingent, I can set them anywhere. I use St. Louis because I'm very familiar with that setting, and writing about it requires almost no research...which frees me up to research everything else in the book.

FF: What are some of the main themes covered in *Into the Fire* and what do you hope readers will gain from reading your book?

Forgiveness, self-esteem issues, overcoming challenges, finding the courage to trust, the importance of family, perseverance. All of those are in the book. Mostly what I try to do with my novels is tell a compelling story that entertains, encourages, and uplifts.

FF: What do you love most about writing romantic suspense novels?

The high stakes, the deep dive into the minds of multiple characters, and the gradual build toward a dramatic climax. I also like watching a romance develop as two characters grapple with dangerous situations. Those sorts of conditions bring emotions to the forefront and allow the characters (and the reader) to get a clear read on their strengths and weaknesses fairly fast. **FF**

Visit Irene Hannon's author page here:

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



Into the Fire

Undaunted Courage Series #1

Irene Hannon

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Book Summary:

As a former smokejumper, arson investigator Bri Tucker knows her way around fires. But after a mysterious blaze takes the life of a former colleague, Bri inherits a curious puzzle from him that raises questions about several fiery deaths.

Someone, however, doesn't want her picking up where he left off in search of answers.

When she teams up with ATF Special Agent Marc Davis to solve the puzzle, the danger escalates. But will they manage to track down the person behind the mysterious deaths before their budding romance—and maybe even their lives—go up in flames?

The bestselling and award-winning queen of romantic suspense is back with a brand-new series that is sure to get your adrenaline pumping as you burn through the pages to discover the truth.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Tracie Peterson

Knowing You

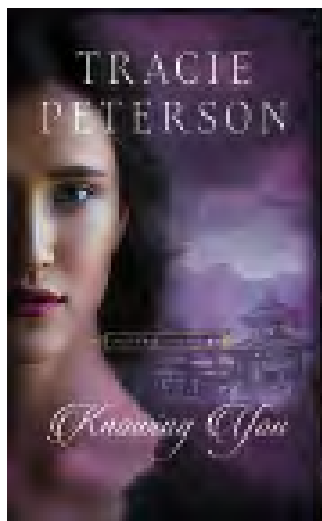
Tracie Peterson is the bestselling author of more than one hundred novels, both historical and contemporary, with nearly six million copies sold. She has won the **ACFW Lifetime Achievement Award** and the **Romantic Times Career Achievement Award**. Her avid research resonates in her many bestselling series. Tracie and her family make their home in Montana.

In this interview, Tracie talks with us about her newest book, ***Knowing You***, book number three in her *Pictures of the Heart Series*.

FF: Please provide a brief summary of *Knowing You*?

May Parker is an American artist who happens to be half white, half Japanese. She works at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909 Seattle. As one of many Camera Girls, May spends her days adding color to postcards and taking time to visit the Japanese Building where she learns about her heritage. Lee Munro is an old friend and police detective, who has been long absent from May's life due to prejudices felt by his family. When criminal interest in the samurai armor display suggests trouble, Lee and May are brought together to figure it out. In doing so, they also come to renew their friendship and interest in one another. Can God help them to overcome the prejudices of family and the world in order for their love to flourish?

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FF: *Knowing You* is the final book in the *Pictures of the Heart Series*. What was the connecting element for all of the books in this series?

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909 brought millions of people to Seattle. This series shows a fictional group of “Camera Girls” who work taking souvenir photos of expo attendees and in the process, fall in love.

FF: Are there any threads that run through the whole series that will be wrapped up in this book?

There are a few in the form of the exposition itself, as well as what happens to several beloved characters.

FF: What are some of the main themes or lessons covered in *Knowing You*?

Dealing with racial prejudices. Facing the past to overcome the power it has on you. And not allowing other people to dictate your relationship with others, but rather looking to God for direction.

FF: *Knowing You* combines history and romance, but it also offers a thread of suspense. Can you provide a hint of the dangerous situation that May and her childhood friend Lee Munro encounter?

A notorious criminal comes back into Lee's life and threatens May's welfare, leading Lee to realize just how important May is to him.

FF: Most of your story takes place at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. When did you learn about this expo and why did you decide to use it as the setting for your book?

A few years ago I was doing research for another book when it mentioned something about the A-Y-P expo as it was nicknamed. I decided to check into it and found the exposition and the setting to be fascinating and fun. I was particularly caught up in comments about the new Kodak camera being available at an affordable price for the average family and thought it was a neat side note to include in the story.

FF: What do you hope readers will gain from reading *Knowing You*, and how have you been impacted by this series?

Each series always touches my heart as I explore the history and the spiritual aspects of the storyline. I believe my writing is a ministry and in that, I always want to share the Gospel as well as biblical encouragement. I want the reader to know that God is real and that He cares. I want them to see the simple ways God encourages us daily through His Word and others, and how we, too, can offer this encouragement to each other. **FF**

Visit Tracie Peterson's author page here:

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Knowing You

Pictures of the Heart Series #3

Tracie Peterson

Bethany House

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Book Summary:

Could a captivating art exhibit hold the key to truth—and love?

Budding artist May Parker is captivated by the Japanese exhibits at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and longs to know more

about her mother's heritage—which her mother refuses to speak of because of the heartache she left behind in Japan. Wanting to experience more of the exhibits, May works as a Camera Girl—but her curiosity leads her into danger when a suit of samurai armor becomes the target of an elusive art forger.

After ten years apart, May is reunited with her childhood friend Lee Munro, a police detective assigned to keep a watchful eye on the exposition. Their friendship immediately begins to blossom with hints of something more, but when they become entangled in a dangerous heist involving the samurai armor and their love is threatened, can they overcome the odds against them?

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HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Karen Witemeyer

Fairest of Heart

Voted #1 Reader's Favorite Christian Romance Author of 2019 by FamilyFiction, bestselling Christian fiction author **Karen Witemeyer** offers warmhearted historical romance with a flair for humor, feisty heroines, and swoon-worthy Texas heroes. She makes her home in Abilene, Texas, with her husband and three children.

In this interview, Karen discusses her latest novel, ***Fairest of Heart***, book number one in her new *Texas Ever After Series*.

FF: *Fairest of Heart* is the first book in your new series that is launching in Summer 2023. Can you please tell us a little bit about the *Texas Ever After Series*?

As the name implies, *Texas Ever After* is a series of classic fairy tale retellings that have been given a Western spin. I've always adored fairy tales—the romance, the adventure, the battle between good over evil. Those elements find their way into all of my stories in one way or another, so why not pay more direct homage to the happily-ever-after tales I've adored since childhood? That is what this series is all about.

FF: Can these books be read out of order?

Yes. Each story in the series will be a stand-alone novel with no plotlines or characters carrying over into future books. The series is built on the theme of fairy tales, not on a set of specific characters, so order doesn't matter.

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FF: What led you to choose the story of Snow White as the first of these fairy tale retellings?

The *Snow White* tale has so many iconic elements that are immediately recognizable. As soon as I mention that the heroine takes refuge at a ranch run by seven retired drovers, everyone knows the fairy tale used for inspiration. Besides that, the dwarves from the story we all knew as children have such distinct personalities. I had great fun bringing those to life. Throw in a Texas Ranger hero and a villainess with a fondness for mirrors, and the plot came together in a snap.

FF: What is your favorite fairy tale, and what do you think it is about these kinds of stories that have made them beloved for centuries?

Beauty and the Beast is probably my favorite fairy tale. A book-loving heroine and a wounded hero who must submit to the healing power of love—perfection! Several of my stories already use this trope in a subtle, nuanced way.

I believe fairy tales continue to connect with readers because there is something hopeful in the idea of love conquering all. That message calls to each of us because it is an echo of the gospel message. The love of Christ conquered all on the cross. No one is too far gone that his love cannot find and redeem, heal old wounds, and restore relationships. Fairy tales focus on a more romantic affection, but the message of good overcoming evil and love conquering any obstacle still resonates with a depth that harkens to something greater.

FF: Can you share a little about what similarities—and also maybe what differences—there are between your female protagonist, Penelope Snow, and the classic character Snow White?

There are several similarities between Penelope Snow and the classic Snow White. Penelope mirrors the fair looks of Snow White, with her pale complexion, dark hair, and overall beauty. But she is also very humble about her looks and even tries to hide them. She has suffered hardships in life that have relegated her to the role of a servant, yet she maintains a sweet, innocent spirit that cares less about herself and more about doing for others. Oh, and she enjoys talking to animals.

FF: One major theme *Fairest of Heart* addresses is acting with integrity amidst persecution. Can you tell us a little more about how these come into play in the lives of your protagonists and how it applies to us today?

I don't want to give away too much of the plot, but both Titus and Penelope fall victim to lies and deceit perpetrated by the villain. Things are made worse by painful incidents from the past that color the hero's perceptions. Penelope has to learn to stop hiding and take a stand against evil while Titus must

learn to see past his pain to find the truth. As often happens in our own lives, it's rarely one big instance when we need to act with integrity, but many little instances. Not giving in to the easy way in the small decisions of life builds our courage and conviction so that when large persecutions come, we can stand with integrity in a way that reflects well on our Lord.

FF: What inspired the idea for a series like this?

I've seen fairy tales retold in medieval settings, contemporary settings, fantasy and sci-fi settings, but there aren't too many that have been done in the Western genre. Since I love both fairy tales and cowboys, I couldn't pass up the chance to combine them in a fun new way.

FF: What do western historical romance readers have to look forward to in *Fairest of Heart* and the rest of the series?

The classic fairy tales you know and love won't just be getting a Western redesign, the stories themselves will be getting a twist. *Fairest of Heart* stays pretty close to the classic tale, but the next books in the series will mix things up a bit more. Stay tuned...

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

Book two in the series will feature a Cinder-fella story that opens with a ball and a boot left behind. The gender role swap won't be the only twist in this story. Stepmother redemption, a villain rewrite, and an imaginary pair of sewing mice is but a taste of what is to come. **FF**

Visit Karen Witemeyer's author page here:

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Fairest of Heart

Texas Ever After Series #1

Karen Witemeyer

Bethany House

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Book Summary:

Beauty has been nothing but a curse to Penelope Snow. When she becomes a personal maid for a famous actress whose troupe is leaving Chicago to tour the West, she hides her figure beneath shapeless dresses and keeps her head down.

But she still manages to attract the wrong attention, leaving her prospects in tatters—and her jealous mistress plotting her demise.

After his brother lost his life over a woman, Texas Ranger Titus Kingsley has learned to expect the worst from women and is rarely disappointed. So when a young woman found in suspicious circumstances takes up residence with the seven old drovers living at his grandfather's ranch, Titus is determined to keep a close eye on her.

With a promotion hanging in the balance, Titus is assigned to investigate a robbery case tied to Penelope's acting troupe. The evidence points to her guilt, but Titus's heart divines a different truth—one that might just get Penelope killed.



ROMANCE

Denise Hunter

A Novel Proposal

Denise Hunter is the internationally published, bestselling author of more than forty books, three of which have been adapted into original **Hallmark Channel** movies. She has won the **Holt Medallion Award**, the **Reader's Choice Award**, the **Carol Award**, the **Foreword Book of the Year Award**, and is a **RITA** finalist. When Denise isn't orchestrating love lives on the written page, she enjoys traveling with her family, drinking chai lattes, and playing drums.

In this interview, Denise talks with us about her newest book, ***A Novel Proposal***.

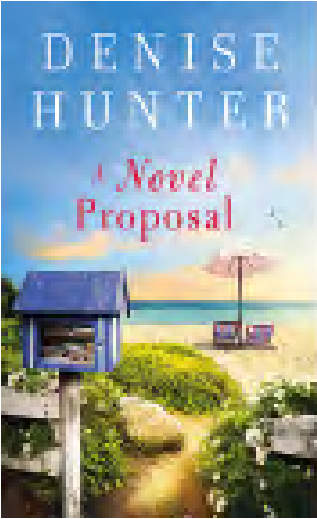
FF: What inspired the story in your book?

Many years ago I jotted a note for my idea folder: What if a woman is charged with writing a romance novel, but she's never been in love? When I was presented with the opportunity to write a stand-alone beach story, I knew the idea's time had finally come. This book is a light-hearted escape, but it also drives home the theme that love is a risk worth taking. I hope the reader feels all the ups and downs of falling in love for the first time, experienced from the point of view of a writer who's never been in love.

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

Sadie Goodwin is an elementary school art teacher who fills her summers by writing western novels. She's vivacious and optimistic but tends to procrastinate difficult tasks. She yearns

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for love but fears having the kind of unstable relationship her parents have. This paradox has made dating quite the challenge for her.

Sam Ford helps run his family's landscaping business. But a terrible betrayal has him holed up at the beach, hoping to escape the wedding preparations of his ex-girlfriend and cousin—and the pitying looks from friends and family alike. He wants love in his life but the betrayal has left him bitter and untrusting.

FF: Which character surprised you the most?

When Sadie and Sam first meet at the duplex they're renting for the summer, it's clear Sadie is the sunshine to Sam's grump. The contrasting personalities made for some amusing scenes and fun dialogue. But as the story progressed, I began to realize—as did Sadie—that Sam wasn't truly the curmudgeon he first appeared to be. He was just dealing with a wound that hadn't yet healed.

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

I'm very excited to continue my *Riverbend Romance Series* with *Wildflower Falls*, which releases September 12, 2023. It's about a rancher who attempts to salvage her family farm by hiring a horse whisperer. But when feelings develop between the two of them, his nomadic lifestyle complicates matters. Though this is the fourth book of the series, it's also a great jumping-in point for new readers.

FF: What kind of research did you do for this book?

Since Sadie is a novelist, I had that end of the research covered. Deadline anxiety? Check. Procrastination? Check. Plotting problems? Check, check. In fact, I decided to add epigraphs at the beginning of each chapter. They come in the form of quotes from a fictitious book called *Romance Writing 101* and hint at what's to come in the chapter that follows.

I always travel to the location of the setting before I write a novel, and *A Novel Proposal* was no exception. I find I'm better able to bring a setting to life if I've experienced the area myself. Though Tucker Island is fictitious, it's loosely based on Tybee Island, South Carolina, which has a very charming, laid-back vibe.

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

I love that in fiction we can step into the characters' worlds and walk with them through their trials. This allows us to learn from their mistakes in a completely safe way. Sam needs to forgive those who've hurt him and figure out how to trust again after a bitter betrayal. Sadie learns that love is a risk, but it's one worth taking with the right person.

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

Having now penned more than forty novels, the challenge is always coming up with something fresh. Not only with the story's plot but also with those elements you find in every love story. How can I make this first kiss different than the other forty I've written? How can I make sure this protagonist's epiphany is unique? How is her journey to love different than others I've penned? Readers deserve something new and different each time they pick up one of my novels.

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

I'm an avid reader, so there are probably hundreds of authors who've inspired me along the way. My critique partner Colleen Coble comes to mind. In my early years, the writings of Francine Rivers, Angela Hunt, and Gilbert Morris served as inspiration.

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

The *Bible* serves as my compass for right and wrong in life and in my novels. Even in some of my stories where faith isn't necessarily front and center, my protagonists have that same compass. I strive to create story worlds that will be a safe place for readers to not only escape life's troubles, but to learn and grow emotionally and spiritually. **FF**

Visit Denise Hunter's author page here:

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A Novel Proposal

Denise Hunter
Thomas Nelson



Book Summary:

Novelist Sadie Goodwin is forced to stop writing westerns and is charged with penning a contemporary romance novel, there's only one tiny problem: She's never been in love. Knowing she must devote herself to this confounding genre, she accepts an invitation to hole up at her

friend's beach duplex for the summer.

Once ensconced in the charming ocean-front home, she finds many ways to procrastinate. The beach, the free library, and Sam Ford, the grumpy neighbor on the other side of the duplex ...who she can't seem to stop annoying. Sadie soon gets to know all the beach regulars—sunbathers, walkers, and surfers alike. Things take an unexpected turn when Sadie opens a recently-placed novel to find a secret compartment—and tucked inside is a beautiful engagement ring. To whom does the ring belong? Sadie is convinced she needs to find the owner and save the man's proposal from certain doom. She draws a reluctant Sam into the project, and slowly their connection begins to develop. Are these weird fluttery feelings the first stirrings of love? Has Sadie managed to stumble upon the very subject about which she must write—and wouldn't Sam make the perfect alpha hero? Will Sadie find the ring's rightful owner and save her writing career?

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ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

Susan May Warren

Sundown

Susan May Warren is the *USA Today* bestselling author of more than 90 novels with more than 1.5 million books sold, including the *Global Search and Rescue Series* and the *Montana Rescue Series*, as well as *Sunrise* and *Sunburst*. Susan is the winner of a RITA Award and multiple Christy and Carol Awards, as well as the HOLT Medallion and numerous Readers' Choice Awards.

In this interview, Susan talks about ***Sundown***, the third book in her *Sky King Ranch Series*.

FF: Please provide a brief summary of your new novel, *Sundown*.

Sundown is the epic conclusion to the *Sky King Ranch Trilogy*. Taylor "Tae" Price is hiding something—former Delta Operator Colt Kingston knows it. But she's not talking...at least until she's targeted by a Russian assassin. Then suddenly she has a story that no one believes, except, maybe Colt. And not just because she helped nurse him back to his feet after his terrible captivity in Nigeria. There's something about Tae's story that rings true, even if it feels unbelievable that she alone holds the antidote to a terrible biological threat. Colt and Tae—and the rest of the Sky King Ranch family—must race against time to stop the attack.

FF: Your female protagonist, Tae, comes to Sky King Ranch with a lot of secrets. Can you offer some hints as to how these secrets could have a huge impact on the world?

Tae works for a private group that researches rogue, virulent

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strains of already known diseases—Ebola, hantavirus, smallpox, etc. When one of these kinds of diseases is unleashed, it's up to her to find the cure.

FF: Colt Kingston, one of the three triplets featured in the *Sky King Ranch Series*, is a former Delta Operative. Can you explain what this profession entails and why it is important in *Sundown*?

Delta Force is a special ops group within the US Army that operates under special command of the Joint Special Operations Command. They specialize in counterterrorism, hostage rescue, and recon, often with high-value targets. This is especially important because Colt comes to the story with specific skills that allow him to direct action against the group producing the virus. His experience is exactly what they need to find and stop the terrorists.

FF: The *Sky King Ranch Series* is set in Alaska, which is often referred to as the Last Frontier. Why did you choose this setting?

Alaska is its own amazing character! I love the setting because it challenges our characters to go beyond themselves to look within and find courage they didn't know they had. Setting a book in Alaska allows me to create desperate scenarios that add to both the suspense and character growth. It is just hands-down, mind-blowingly beautiful.

FF: *Sundown* is the final book in your *Sky King Ranch Series*. What is the connecting element for all of the books in this series?

All of the brothers have returned home wounded in some way, both physically and mentally, so coming back to the ranch

offers them a place to confront those wounds and heal. Also, the appearance of Tae in book 1 is threaded through the series and connects all three books in the epic plot.

FF: Are there any threads that run through the whole series that will be wrapped up in *Sundown*?

There are many threads!! Some, of course, I can't give away, but all the characters have ongoing problems, question or issues that in some way get resolved or answered, from family problems to health issues to backstory questions.

FF: What inspired the idea for this series?

The idea began years ago when I penned a different series about Alaskan smokejumpers and readers first met Larke, the brothers' oldest sister. My fans reached out and asked me for the triplets' stories, and suddenly all three brothers walked into my brain with their problems and started talking!

FF: What lessons do you hope readers can gain from reading *Sundown*?

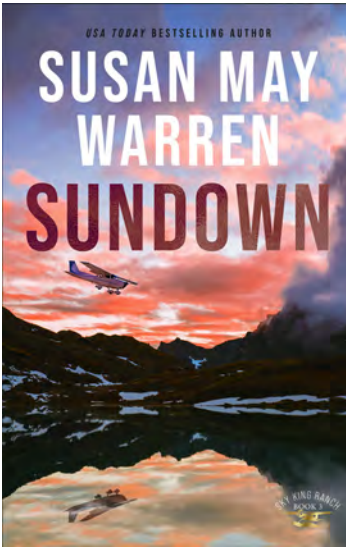
The series is really about how we need to take a long-range view of our lives, because God is active and working on our story even when we feel alone. I hope readers are encouraged to trust the Lord and see that no situation is out of his control.

FF: What do you love most about writing romance novels packed with both action and adventure?

I love meeting and falling in love with my heroes! They are so fun to write about, and getting them into trouble—and out of it—with the right partner is a blast!. **FF**

Visit Susan May Warren's author page here:

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



Sundown

Sky King Ranch Series #3

Susan May Warren

Revell



Book Summary:

Former Delta Operative Colt Kingston knows when someone is lying. He may not know the truth, but he sure doesn't trust Tae, the woman his family rescued from an Alaskan blizzard. But behind those beautiful blue eyes, he can tell there is a troubled woman.

Although a few of her stories prove true, her tale of survival seems too incredible to believe—until the thugs who are pursuing her show up and threaten Sky King Ranch. Now Tae must disappear, along with her secrets.

When Colt and his brothers discover that Tae's secrets include the antidote to a plague that could threaten the world, it'll take all three Kingston brothers to find Tae and protect their country from a biological attack.



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HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Julie Klassen

A Winter by the Sea

Julie Klassen loves all things Jane—Jane Eyre and Jane Austen. Her books have sold more than 1.5 million copies, and she is a three-time recipient of the **Christy Award**.

The Secret of Pembroke Park was honored with the **Minnesota Book Award** for Genre Fiction. Julie has also won the **Christian Retailing's Best Award** and has been a finalist in the **RITA** and **Carol Awards**.

In this interview, Julie talks about book number two in her *On Devonshire Shores Series*, ***A Winter by the Sea***.

FF: Can you please tell us a little bit about your new novel, *A Winter by the Sea*?

Happily. As the book opens, the Summers family expect a quiet winter. Instead the Duke and Duchess of Kent and their baby daughter (the future Queen Victoria) rent the neighboring house, and the sisters are called upon to host a few members of staff. Emily Summers soon finds herself caught up in two rivalries. First, while striving to further her writing aspirations, Emily is torn between her loyalty to a well-established publisher and his flamboyant competitor. Second, despite her best intentions, she is attracted to one of their new guests, until an unexpected visitor from her past shows up.

FF: What do readers need to know about Emily Summers, your main female protagonist? How is Emily different from her three sisters?

Emily is the writer of the family and dreams of becoming a published author. She has a passionate nature and sometimes

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speaks her mind without considering the consequences. Her bright, flirtatious manner shields a heart broken by a past rejection.

FF: This novel takes place in Devonshire during the winter of 1819–1820. What else can you tell us about the historical context and time period that influenced the creation of this novel?

It was an interesting period in British history. The Prince Regent's only daughter had died, spurring his brothers into a race to produce a legitimate heir to the throne. Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent, was the first to achieve this. He was also considered to be the strongest and healthiest of the Prince Regent's brothers. At the time, there was every reason to believe Prince Edward might one day be king and if so, his baby daughter would be next in line. However, he was also deeply in debt and was advised to move to the West Country to live more economically. Sidmouth was his chosen winter residence.

FF: Speaking of the Duke of Kent, he makes an appearance in this story as one of the peripheral characters. Do you typically include real figures from history in your novels? Why choose to include the Duke and Duchess?

Not usually. I have more historical characters in the first two books of this series than in any of my other novels. When I learned that the Duke and Duchess of Kent visited Sidmouth that year and stayed in Woolbrook Cottage (on the same lane as fictional Sea View), I knew I wanted to include them. They arrived with too many attendants to accommodate in the house they'd rented, so some of their staff were indeed lodged elsewhere. The duke's time in Sidmouth was brief and punctuated by dramatic events, which I hope readers will find as interesting as I did.



FF: What themes present themselves throughout the novel? Which one do you think speaks most to readers today?

Through the character of Emily, a passionate lover of books, the novel celebrates the power of literature and romance. *A Winter by the Sea* also explores the human heart's capacity to change over time and through circumstances—one's deepest desires with it. I hope readers will relate to both themes.

FF: What will fans of romance love about the complicated relationships between Emily and her past love as well as the one she has with James Thomson?

My hope is that readers will enjoy the romantic sparks that develop between Emily and James—a handsome new guest who seems out of reach—and also empathize with her as she is torn between her growing feelings for him and her long devotion to a first love.

FF: What was the most interesting thing you discovered while researching for this book or the series as a whole?

I found it interesting to learn about the Duke and Duchess of

Kent as well as other historical figures living in Sidmouth at this time. Also, I continue to enjoy learning about seaside customs and strongly held beliefs about the health benefits of sea-bathing (even in winter).

FF: Can you elaborate on that? Historically, many people moved to Sidmouth to improve their health by the seaside, but what were the benefits?

The supposed health benefits of sea air, sea-bathing, and even drinking seawater were promoted by seaside resort towns as well as physicians who published books on the topic. The salt in seawater was thought to increase circulation and remove obstacles from the glands and was used to treat whooping cough, rickets, scurvy, colic, and many other ailments. Jane Austen wrote (in her unfinished novel, *Sanditon*): No person could be really well...could be really in a state of secure and permanent health without spending at least six weeks by the sea every year. The sea air and sea bathing together were nearly infallible...for every disorder of the stomach, the lungs or the blood; they were anti-spasmodic, anti-pulmonary, anti-sceptic, anti-bilious and anti-rheumatic.

FF: What do you love most about writing stories set in the Regency period?

I love the romance of the era: gentlemanly chivalry and ladylike modesty, grand manors and balls, where a dance, a lingering look, or a fleeting touch of gloved hands sparked romance. Of course, I've done enough research to know it was not all romantic. There was plenty of scandal and bad behavior then as now. And I would NOT want to be subjected to the medical practices of the period!

FF: Can you share a little about how you plan to wrap up this series?

I have begun work on a third novel, and plan to wrap up the series with a Christmas novella. **FF**

Visit Julie Klassen's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/julie-klassen>



A Winter by the Sea

On Devonshire Shores Series #2

Julie Klassen

Bethany House

Buy Now 

Book Summary:

When the Duke and Duchess of Kent and their daughter—the future Queen Victoria—rent neighboring Woolbrook Cottage for the winter, the Summers sisters are called upon to host three of the royal family's male staff in their seaside house. But they soon realize they've invited secrets and intrigue into their home. Meanwhile, Emily Summers longs to become an author. A local publisher offers to consider her novel if she will first write a Sidmouth guidebook for him. Emily agrees and begins researching the area with help from the Duke of Kent's handsome private secretary. But a surprise visitor from her past shows up at Sea View, leaving Emily torn between the desires she's long held dear and her budding dreams for the future. Return to the Devonshire coast with the Summers sisters, where loyalties are tested, secrets come to light, and new love emerges.

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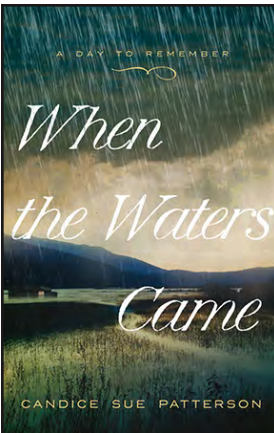
Lauraine Snelling

Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance

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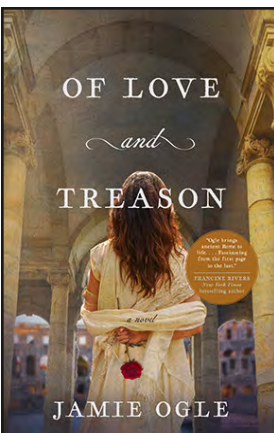
Candice Sue Patterson

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Jamie Ogle

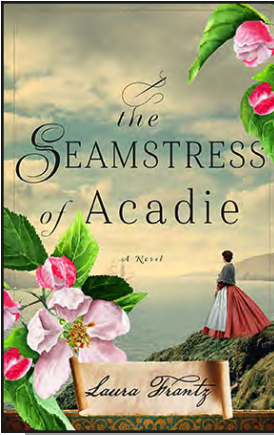
Tyndale House

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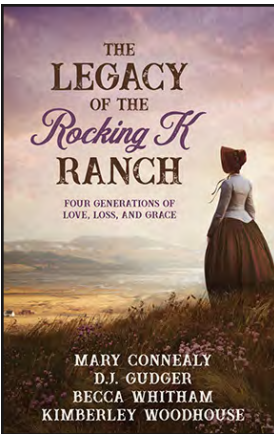
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Laura Frantz

Revell

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The Legacy of the Rocking K Ranch

Four Generations of Love, Loss, and Grace

Mary Connealy, D. J. Gudger, Becca

Whitham, Kimberley Woodhouse

Barbour Fiction

Genres: Historical Romance

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Calling On the Matchmaker

Shanahan Match Series #1

Jody Hedlund

Bethany House

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A Winter by the Sea

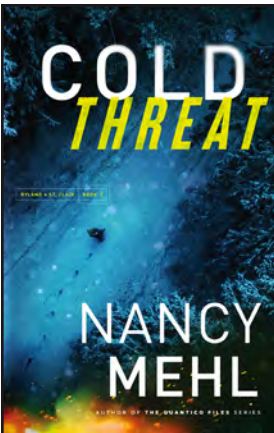
On Devonshire Shores Series #2

Julie Klassen

Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance

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Cold Threat

Ryland & St. Clair Series #2

Nancy Mehl

Bethany House

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Double Take

Lake City Heroes Series #1

Lynette Eason

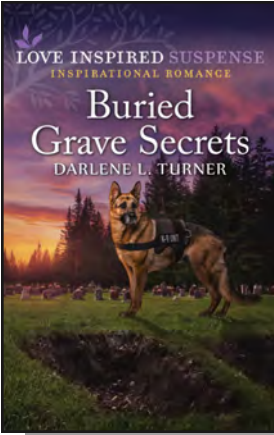
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Ruth's Ginger Snap Surprise

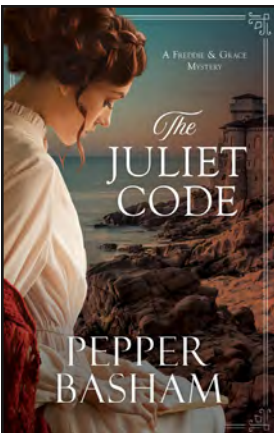
Heart of the Amish Series #5

Anne Blackburne

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The Juliet Code

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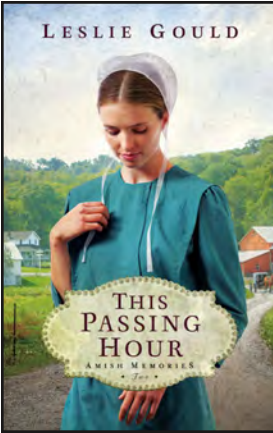
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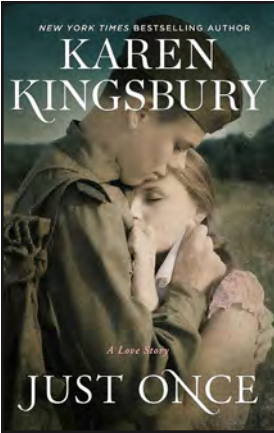
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Barbour Fiction

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The Bow Street Runners

Bow Street Runners Trilogy Series

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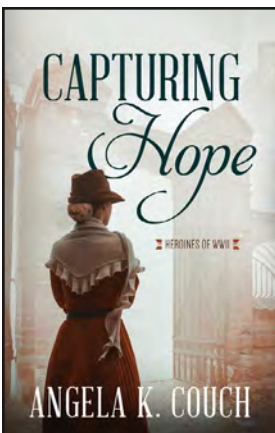
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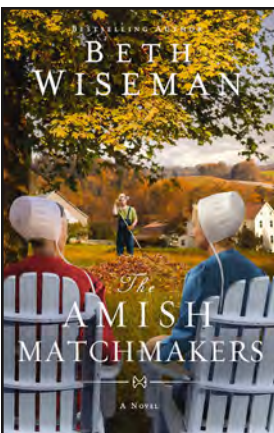
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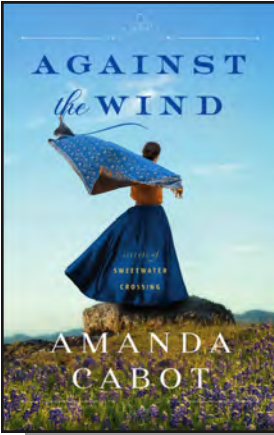
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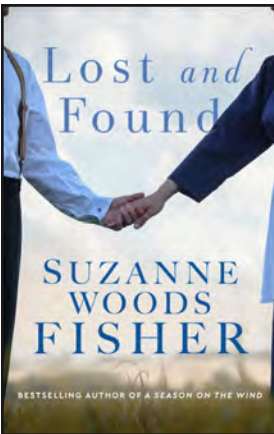
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Amanda Cabot

Revell

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Lost and Found

Suzanne Woods Fisher

Revell

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The Legacy of Longdale Manor

Carrie Turansky

Bethany House

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