

Family Fiction

April 2024



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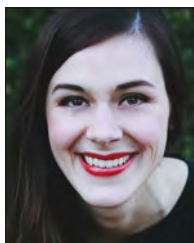
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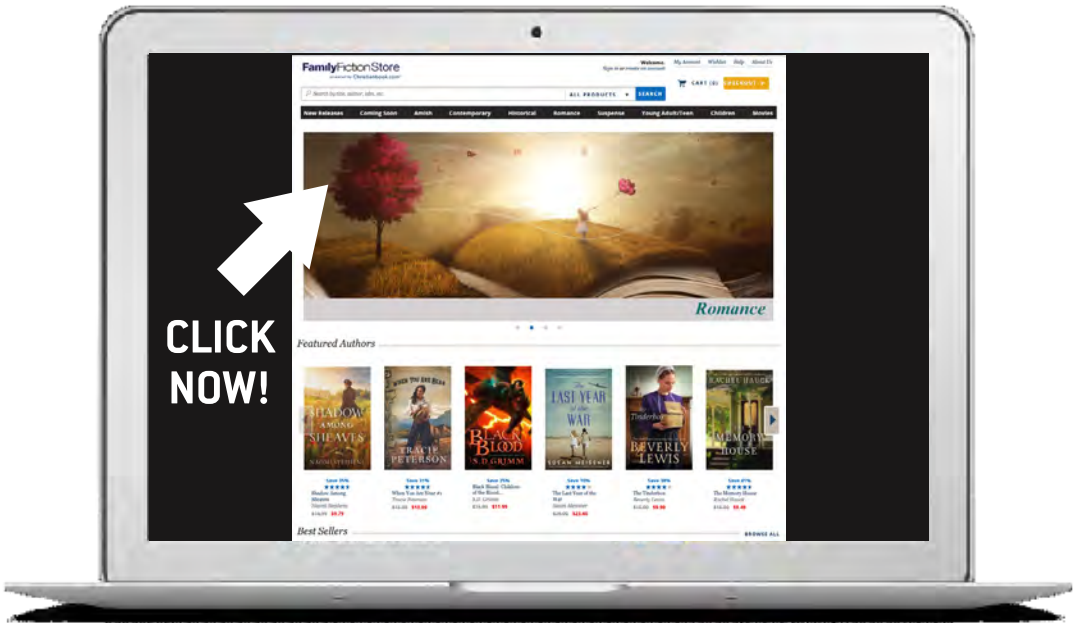
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HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Kimberley Woodhouse

Set in Stone

Kimberley Woodhouse is an award-winning, bestselling author of more than 30 fiction and nonfiction books. Kim and her incredible husband of 30-plus years live in Colorado, where they play golf together, spend time with their kids and grandbaby, and research all the history around them.

In this interview, Kimberley talks about her latest book, ***Set in Stone***.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel, *Set in Stone*?

When paleontologist Martha Jankowski discovers an intact dinosaur skeleton, she has the opportunity to make a name for herself, but only if she can uncover the full skeleton before another competing dig. As she races against the clock, she meets a man who shares her passion for science and faith—but is he a friend or foe?

FF: What do you hope readers will gain from reading *Set in Stone*?

A deep, abiding appreciation for the glory of God's creation and encouragement to persevere in Jesus when life seems to crumble around you.

FF: What sort of research was required for writing *Set in Stone*?

I traveled all over Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah for this series, studying all the dinosaur quarries I could find (Dinosaur



National Monument is so incredible), and I tried to hit every museum around them. Some of the smallest ones had the most amazing information to help. Earl Douglass's granddaughter also helped me a great deal, and the family has allowed me to use quotes from his journals in the books of this series.

FF: *Set in Stone* is the second book in the *Treasures of the Earth Series*. What is the connection between all of the books in this series?

The biggest connection is women in the field of paleontology. It was a tough field for women to find footing in—still is, in some cases—and I wanted to highlight women in paleontology through the exciting years of the Bone Wars. Then of course, there's dinosaurs.

FF: Will any characters from the first novel of the series, *The Secrets Beneath*, make an appearance in *Set in Stone*?

There's mentions of some familiar names from *The Secrets Beneath*, but other than Earl Douglass's words, there aren't any appearances of characters from the first book.

FF: What inspired you to incorporate paleontology into a series?

It was actually a question I asked my readers on my author page (on Facebook) that led me to this. One of my readers mentioned the Bone Wars, and so many people have no idea about this fascinating piece of history and science. I really wanted to tackle it—even though it's a tough one!—and am super excited about this series.

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

Book three will take us to the year Dinosaur National Monument is established as my heroine fights for her place in the field and for her life as her colleagues begin to disappear.

FF: What do you love about writing historical fiction novels?

Oh my goodness, I'm such a history buff. I love the research. I love digging up cool pieces of history and discovering the people who lived it. It's extra special when I receive a reader letter and they say they've been up all night reading the book and searching online to find more about this or that tidbit or person. I think it's so important for us to know our history and where we came from. **FF**

Visit Kimberley Woodhouse's author page here:

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



Set in Stone

Treasures of the Earth Series #2

Kimberley Woodhouse

Bethany House



Book Summary:

A dangerous scheme could bury their long-held dreams forever.

From the time she was little, Martha Jankowski has been digging in the dirt, much to the dismay of her mother. Now she dreams of being a paleontologist and is determined to make her parents proud by uncovering the next big discovery. When Martha finds what she hopes to be a fully intact dinosaur skeleton—one that could win her an acclaimed exhibit—she learns another team is competing against her and could steal her chance at being recognized for this momentous discovery.

Paleontology student Jacob Duncan has fulfilled his dream of digging for dinosaur bones at last. In a race against time, he and his team are bent on unearthing a complete skeleton to claim a museum exhibit with their names on it. But when Jacob meets their charming competitor Martha and uncovers foul play within his team, love and danger grow hand in hand until a menacing ruse threatens to destroy it all.

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ROMANCE

Irene Hannon

Sandcastle Inn

Irene Hannon is the bestselling and award-winning author of more than 60 contemporary 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.

In this interview, Irene talks with us about her latest book, ***Sandcastle Inn***, book number ten in the *A Hope Harbor Novel Series*.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel, *Sandcastle Inn*?

When a man struggling to recover from a tragic loss and a woman still reeling from an unplanned career detour join forces to save a floundering inn on the Oregon coast, might they also discover that hope and healing can sometimes be found in the most unexpected places?

FF: Your first *Hope Harbor* novel was released in 2015. How many *Hope Harbor* novels have you written so far? *Sandcastle Inn* is the tenth *Hope Harbor Series* novel—with more to come!



FF: What is the common denominator for all of your *Hope Harbor* novels?

The charming seaside town of Hope Harbor on the Oregon coast is the glue that holds the series together. Every book features a new cast of main characters, and the story begins and ends in each book. There are no hanging plot threads from book to book, so a reader new to the series can pick up any book and feel right at home.

FF: Why did you choose to set your *Hope Harbor* novels in Oregon?

I'd always wanted to set a series in a small seaside town, and from the dramatic coastline photos I'd seen of Oregon I thought it would be the perfect place for a series filled with romance, drama, humor, and hope. So before I wrote the first book, I traveled to Oregon and drove the coast from top to bottom. Many of the things I saw are woven into the fabric of my little fictional town.

FF: What was the inspiration for your newest novel, *Sandcastle Inn*?

I thought it would be fun to write a story centered around a B&B that was in trouble, and I also wanted to explore a somewhat trouble mother/daughter relationship. That led me to Sandcastle Inn.

FF: Both of your protagonists, Vienna Price and Matt Quinn, come to Hope Harbor for very different reasons and neither have plans to stay long term. Can you provide some insight into their backstory?

Vienna has had a major career setback that has thrown her off the trajectory she embarked on early in her career. She comes to Hope Harbor to visit her mom and regroup. Matt is a veterinarian with a successful practice in San Francisco, but he's suffered a devastating trauma and needs time to regroup. So he visits his sister, who's purchased a B&B in Hope Harbor—only to find a mess waiting for him.

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

Starting over, changing course, coming to terms with a troubled family relationship, and dealing with unexpected setbacks in life are just some of the themes explored in this novel. I hope readers who are experiencing any of these challenges will find a few insights in the book that will help them cope.

FF: Where can readers purchase a copy of *Sandcastle Inn*?

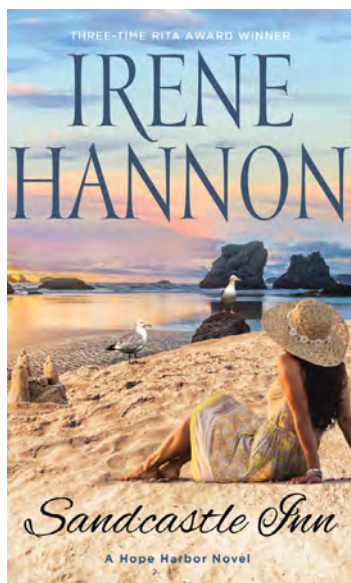
Sandcastle Inn can be purchased wherever books are sold. It's available in multiple formats, including audio.

FF: What are you working on next?

I'm working on book 11 in the *Hope Harbor Series* (April 2025), and looking forward to the release of book 2 in my *Undaunted Courage* romantic suspense series, which will release in October 2024. **FF**

Visit Irene Hannon's author page here:

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



Sandcastle Inn

A Hope Harbor Novel Series #10

Irene Hannon

Revell

Buy Now 

Book Summary:

Vienna Price never intended to return for more than a passing visit to Oregon and all the bad memories she'd left behind. But when your career tanks, home is where you go to nurse your wounds and chart a new course. Only temporarily, of course—because as much as she

loves her quirky mom, anything more than a short stay would drive them both crazy.

A trip to Oregon isn't in Matt Quinn's plans, either, until a perfectly timed appeal for help arrives from his sister. What better place to decompress after a shattering loss than a quiet, seaside town named Hope Harbor? But R&R isn't on the agenda when he arrives to find his sister's new enterprise on life support.

Vienna, however, may have just the skills needed to resuscitate the foundering B&B—if Matt can convince her to hang around long enough to mend an inn...and his heart.



SOUTHERN FICTION

Sarah Loudin Thomas

These Tangled Threads

Sarah Loudin Thomas is the author of numerous acclaimed novels, including *The Finder of Forgotten Things*, *The Right Kind of Fool*, winner of the 2021 Selah Book of the Year, and *Miracle in a Dry Season*, winner of the 2015 INSPY Award. Sarah worked in public relations for Biltmore Estate for six years and is currently the director of Jan Karon's Mitford Museum. A native of West Virginia, she and her husband now live in western North Carolina.

In this interview, Sarah talks with us about her latest novel, *These Tangled Threads*.

FF: *These Tangled Threads* is set in the shadow of the famed Biltmore Estate. Can you tell us a little about this novel and why the title references weaving and textiles?

These Tangled Threads is about Lorna, a master weaver trained through Biltmore Estate Industries who has lost her creative spark. She's experienced terrible loss and has become so focused on simply getting by that she has no room for passion and flair. When she's commissioned to weave a unique pattern for Cornelia Vanderbilt's 1924 wedding, she must revisit her past and the fact that many of the patterns she's claimed as her own over the years were "borrowed" from someone else. In trying to protect herself, Lorna has made a tangled mess of her life and her closest relationships. Images of weaving, following threads, and untangling knots offer lots of great metaphors for the story!



FF: What makes you so uniquely qualified to write a story that features the history of Biltmore Industries?

In 2000, I started my then dream job in the public relations department at Biltmore Estate. I had so much fun learning the ins and outs of America's largest privately owned home. Along the way I was fortunate enough to learn about some of the good work the Vanderbilts did in the community. That work included training young people in traditional crafts like weaving and woodworking. Having spent six years immersed in that history, it felt natural to incorporate it into my latest novel.

FF: How do you think your experience working in PR at the Biltmore enhances the novel?

In the beginning, I thought of Biltmore as a fairy-tale castle, but I came to learn that the Vanderbilts and the people they employed were so much more than figures in a history book. They were vibrant, exciting, real people with joys, sorrows, and stories to tell. In my time at Biltmore, I got to know some of the curatorial staff and the house hosts who are so incredibly

knowledgeable about the history surrounding Biltmore. Being privy to behind-the-scenes insights made the story come alive for me and I hope for my readers.

FF: This book has it all—friendship, betrayal, romance, historical intrigue, all woven richly together. What are you most excited for readers to experience from your novel?

I'm always excited to share my love of Appalachia with readers. This is the first novel I've written that wasn't set primarily in my home state of West Virginia. But it's still very much in the Appalachian Mountains. I hope readers will feel like they've visited the beautiful green hills and might even plan to visit western North Carolina as a result. Come see Biltmore Estate, sure, but also take the time to drive out toward Weaverville or Black Mountain and experience the original beauty of this place that captivated the Vanderbilts.

FF: Who were the Vanderbilts, and what impact did they have on their community? Did that impact have a lasting permanence we can still see today?

George Vanderbilt was the grandson of “the Commodore” Cornelius Vanderbilt, one of the richest men of his time. While the rest of the Gilded Age wealthy were busy building houses in Newport, R.I., George discovered the mountains of western North Carolina and outdid them all in sheer size when he and Richard Morris Hunt dreamed up Biltmore House. While the obvious impact he left behind is on the tourism industry in WNC, I think the real value is in the way he preserved vast swaths of land that had been heavily farmed. Much of the original estate is now Pisgah National Forest—a treasure for the ages.

FF: One of the main drivers of the story is the wedding of Cornelia Vanderbilt. Why was this occasion so momentous in Southern history, and what significance does it have in the novel?

Cornelia Vanderbilt was beloved by estate workers and the locals. She played with the children of estate staff and was known as “Tarhell Nell” by locals. They saw her as one of their own. She even had a long-standing friendship with estate superintendent Chauncey Beadle. In the story, Arthur points out that Cornelia is wearing orange blossoms that Beadle sent her from retirement in Florida. That’s absolutely true. So her wedding was a momentous occasion for Asheville, especially as it was held in their mountain village rather than far away in New York City or Washington, D.C.

The fabric Lorna is commissioned to make for Cornelia’s wedding is fictional, but the Vanderbilt family certainly did lift up and celebrate traditional mountain crafts, and I think Cornelia would have treasured such a gift.

FF: This book centers around the lives of three former friends torn apart by their choices. Can you briefly introduce us to these characters? What should readers know about each of them?

Lorna Blankenship is a brown-eyed brunette who usually wears a serious expression. The loss of both parents has left her afraid to care or to feel too much. She’s dedicated herself to her work as a master weaver, but in tamping down her emotions she’s cut off any creativity she once had.

Gentry Cutshall is a young teen firecracker with light brown hair and green eyes. Her moods change like flipping a switch, and she has little control over her emotions. She pours her overabundance of energy into playing her dulcimer and is prone to disappearing into the fields and forests without telling anyone. She's meant to become a weaver under Lorna's tutelage, but her ability to focus on the work is limited. She is, however, wildly creative and artistic.

Arthur Wescott is the picture of solid dependability. Essentially fobbed off on the church as a child, he's always made sure he's indispensable so he'll have a place in the world. He's a big brother/father figure for Gentry and best pal for Lorna—although he wishes he were more to her. He's the oil spread on troubled water wherever he goes. While he's good-looking with wavy brown hair and hazel eyes, he has a clubfoot that affects his gait and, he believes, makes him less attractive.

FF: What lessons can we learn from the characters in *These Tangled Threads* and their struggles?

Each of the three main characters—Lorna, Gentry, and Arthur—experience childhood trauma in the form of loss or abandonment, and each are impacted by and deal with that trauma differently. Everyone experiences trauma at some point in their life. I hope readers can find echoes of their own sorrows in this story and hopefully ideas about how healing and recovery are possible.

FF: What aspect of this story did you enjoy writing the most?

I really enjoyed writing from the point of view of estate workers. When people think of Biltmore, they often focus on the Vanderbilts, the vast wealth, or the treasures on display. Writing about the Christmas party enjoyed by estate staff or the work that went into Cornelia's birthday surprise—that was fun for me! And estate workers did get Cornelia a game bag for her birthday, for she loved the outdoors.

FF: What are you working on next?

My next story will once again be set in western North Carolina. This time I'm heading farther north and east to Hot Springs and Black Mountain. During WWI a mountain resort was transformed into a camp for German enemy aliens. These were men and women who happened to be on ships in America when war was declared in 1917. At that point, the United States extended them a long-term welcome. Sailors, travelers, and even a full orchestra were housed at the resort. Jump ahead to 1932 and a woman in Germany whose fiancé was on one of those ships. She doesn't know what happened to him until she sees a photo in a newspaper of the German ambassador to the U.S. placing a wreath on a memorial to Germans who died in the camp. Among the names is that of her fiancé. She'll travel to America to try to learn what happened even as the election of Hitler as German Chancellor throws her own country into turmoil. **FF**

Visit Sarah Loudin Thomas's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/sarah-loudin-thomas>



These Tangled Threads

A Novel of Biltmore Estate

Sarah Loudin Thomas

Bethany House

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Book Summary:

Set in the shadow of Biltmore Estate, a poignant tale of friendship, restoration, and second chances.

Seven years ago, a hidden betrayal scattered three young friends living in the shadow of the great

Vanderbilt mansion. Now, when Biltmore Industries master weaver Lorna Blankenship is commissioned to create an original design for Cornelia Vanderbilt's 1924 wedding, she panics knowing she doesn't have the creativity needed. But there's an elusive artisan in the Blue Ridge Mountains who could save her—if only she knew where to begin.

To track down the mysterious weaver, Lorna sees no other way than to seek out the relationships she abandoned in shame. As she pulls at each tangled thread from her past, Lorna is forced to confront the wounds and regrets of life long ago. She'll have to risk the job that shapes her identity, as well as the hope of friendship—and love—restored.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Karen Witemeyer

If the Boot Fits

Voted #1 Reader's Favorite Christian Historical Author of 2023 by FamilyFiction magazine, bestselling and Carol Award and Christy Award-winning author **Karen Witemeyer** offers warmhearted historical romance with a flair for humor, feisty heroines, and swoon-worthy Texas heroes. She and her husband make their home in Abilene, Texas.

In this interview, Karen shares some of her thoughts regarding ***If the Boot Fits***, book two in her *Texas Ever After Series*.

FF: *If the Boot Fits* is book two in your *Texas Ever After Series*. Can you share a little bit about where this series started, and where we are now with book two, and where you plan to go with the rest of the series?

This has been such a fun series to write. I adore fairy tales, and I have enjoyed imagining how they might play out in a Western setting. Book one, *Fairest of Heart*, focused on the story of *Snow White*. Book two, *If the Boot Fits*, will take *Cinderella* and give it a Texas twist. Our cowboy will take on the role of impoverished stepson and will accidentally leave his boot behind at the fancy cattleman's ball, where the wealthy daughter of the local cattle king will find it and start a search for the mystery man who fits the boot. Book three, *Cloaked in Beauty*, coming in December 2024, will mix the tale of *Little Red Riding Hood* with *Sleeping Beauty* for a road trip adventure with a wolf companion and a dragon at the end of the journey who must be slain before our hero and heroine can claim their happily ever after.



FF: If you had to choose five words to describe this series to readers, what would they be?

Fairy tale, Cowboys, Adventurous, Romantic, Inventive.

FF: This book flips the script on the classic story of Cinderella. Can you explain a little more about how you chose to revamp this tale and infuse it with your own Western flair?

I was inspired by the classic line from Woody in *Toy Story 2*, “If the boot fits.” What could be a more perfect premise for a Western Cinderella than to replace the glass slipper with a cowboy boot? That idea led to turning Cinderella into Asher Ellis, a down-on-his-luck cowboy with a stepmother and two brothers to provide for. However, I wanted to mix up more than the roles of hero and heroine. Too many fairy tales cast stepmothers in the role of villain. There are some wonderful, kindhearted, godly women who open their hearts to their stepchildren, and I

wanted to honor them. So you won't find an evil stepmother in this version. Who plays the role of villain, then? That's a closely guarded secret, but one I hope readers will appreciate.

FF: Can you give us a brief introduction to the characters of Asher Ellis and Samantha Dearing? What should readers know about these two?

Asher Ellis is a hardworking cowboy who's been supporting his family since his father died when he was eighteen. He sends home nearly all his pay from the distant ranch where he works, and when he learns that Eli Dearing has evicted his stepmother and brothers from their home, he returns to town determined to make the man pay. Samantha Dearing longs to make a difference in the world and to be loved for who she is, not for her inheritance or the connections she brings to her cattlebaron father. Providence brings these two together, but the truth about their families and an unseen evil work to tear them apart.

FF: Why did you think these classic fairy tales still resonate with us today?

Fairy tales carry timeless messages filled with hope. The hope that good will triumph over evil. The hope that true love exists and can be found. The hope that love will last forever. For the Christian reader, these messages resonate on a deeper, spiritual level. For what truer love can there be than a Savior who sacrifices everything for those he loves? The resurrection is the ultimate story of good triumphing over evil, and heaven promises a love that will last for all eternity.

FF: What fun elements and challenges did this series concept present while writing?

I grew up watching the classic Disney versions of these stories, so I had a lot of fun adding little nods to those animated tales. Some are more hidden than others, so the reader can have fun trying to recognize them. The challenge came in making the stories themselves fresh and new while still maintaining the flavor of the fairy tales that inspired them. One of the trickiest parts of plotting out *If the Boot Fits* was coming up with a logical reason for a cowboy to leave a boot behind. Boots don't just fall off like a lady's slipper. In fact, most take a firm tug or a bootjack to dislodge. Once I figured out that piece, the rest began to fall into place.

FF: What lessons can we learn from the characters in *If the Boot Fits* and their struggles?

One of the big themes of this story is family. How to love and support them, but also how to forgive and be willing to see things from a different perspective. Samantha, in particular, carries a lot of old wounds from her childhood, yet as the story progresses, she learns that a child's perceptions don't always provide the full truth of a situation. It is my hope that readers who watch the healing that takes place between Samantha and her father will find the courage and open-mindedness to look at their own strained relationships with new eyes and find healing of their own.

FF: What are you most excited for readers to experience as they pick up this entertaining story?

I hope that readers will feel a warm nostalgia as they enjoy a new tale inspired by a story they likely fell in love with as a

child. I hope they get swept up in the adventure, romance, and surprises that keep them turning pages. But most of all, I pray that they find themselves encouraged spiritually as they join Samantha and Asher on their journey.

FF: What aspect of this story did you enjoy writing the most?

I love coming up with character names, especially when I'm paying homage to a classic story. I worked hard to create names that would harken back to the original while still carrying meaning of their own. Instead of Cinderella, we have Asher Ellis—ash being a synonym of cinder, and Ellis playing off of Ella. The three key older ladies of the story all have names inspired by royalty, as befits a fairy tale—Regina, Elizabeth, and Victoria. Asher's brothers are named Jonathan and Fergus. However, Jonathan goes by Jack, giving a nod to the mice from Disney's *Cinderella*, Jaq and Gus. Asher's horse is named Bruno in honor of the dog who saved Cinderella from the tower room. We have a cattle king with a foreman named Duke as well. There is a special meaning behind Samantha's name, too, but it plays a role in the story, so I won't give that away here.

FF: What are you working on next?

Right now, I'm writing book three in the *Texas Ever After Series*. *Cloaked in Beauty* will mesh two fairy tales into one adventure, blending *Little Red Riding Hood* with *Sleeping Beauty*. This one will be more of a departure from the originals than the first two books, but there will be iconic similarities as well as subtle references that readers will be able to uncover. A woman in a red cape, raised in isolation by a doting grandmother. A birthday that brings her out of hiding yet threatens her life. A dash-

Karen Witemeyer — *If the Boot Fits*

ing hero named Philip who rides a white horse sent to escort her safely to the home she left behind. And a villainous dragon plotting to destroy them both. **FF**

Visit Karen Witemeyer's author page here:

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




If the Boot Fits

Texas Ever After Series #2

Karen Witemeyer

Bethany House

Buy Now 

Book Summary:

One fateful night will change their destinies forever.

Determined to prove that cattle king Eli Dearing has no justification for evicting his stepmother and half brothers,

Asher Ellis uses the cover of a fancy ball to break into the Three Cedars ranch house to search for proof of wrongdoing. On the verge of discovery, he flees, but a boy's cry compels him to make a daring rescue.

Spunky and independent Samantha Dearing balks when she learns the ball her father is hosting is nothing more than a matrimonial ambush. Taking a break from unwanted suitors, Samantha spots a thief fleeing her home. When the stranger ends up saving her brother's life, she hides the only clue to his identity left behind—his boot—and resolves to find him herself.

Witemeyer embarks on another Western reimagining of a classic fairy tale with this enchanting story of courage, family, and the power of true love.



ACTION ROMANCE

Susan May Warren

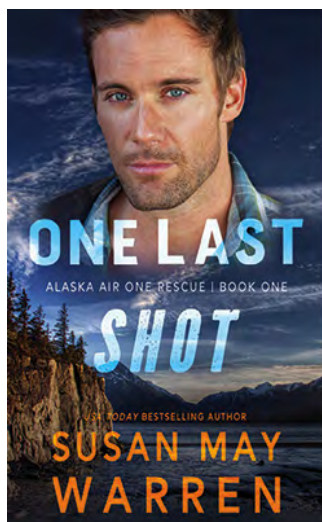
One Last Shot

Susan May Warren is the *USA Today* bestselling author of over ninety novels with more than 1.5 million books sold, including the *Sky King Ranch Series*, *Global Search and Rescue Series*, and *Montana Rescue Series*. 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 shares some of her thoughts regarding her new *Alaska Air One Rescue Series*, and the first book in the new series, ***One Last Shot***.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel *One Last Shot*?

Air One Rescue returns my readers to the world of Global Search and Rescue, joining a newly formed team (that readers met in *Sunrise*) based in Anchorage, Alaska. When Oaken Fox, a country music star trying to win back his fan base, is coerced into joining the team for a reality show, he must partner with EMT Boo Kingston, who wants nothing to do with his fame or charm. But she'll have to train him if she hopes to keep him alive. More, when tragedy looms, they'll have to add him to the team if they hope to save lives. But what will it cost them...and Boo? It's a fast-paced, heart-tugging, "Montana Rescue meets the Sky King Ranch series" that includes a found family, enemies-to-sweethearts, redemption, sacrifice, and addresses the question, Are we who the world says we are?



FF: *One Last Shot* is the first book in your new *Alaskan Air One Rescue Series*. What was the inspiration for your series?

I met Moose Mulligan in *Sunrise*, book 1 of the *Sky King Ranch Series*, and he simply walked off the page and into my heart. I knew there was much, much more to him...and his desire to save people. With that question came the idea of developing his team and the kind of people who work together and risk their own lives to save others. Fans loved *Montana Rescue* so much, along with *Sky King Ranch*, so it felt right to dive into this *Alaskan SAR Series*.

FF: In addition to the *Alaskan Air One Rescue Series*, you have written other books based in Alaska, including your *Global Search and Rescue Series*. What draws you to this location?

Alaska is a character in itself—rugged, dangerous, beautiful... the last frontier. My son was born in Alaska, and since then I've had a love for the wild beauty of it and a curiosity about the people who live there full time. It also makes for a great location for trouble to happen!

FF: Your two protagonists, Oaken Fox and Boo Kingston, are pursuing very different careers. Can you provide some information on their backgrounds?

Oaken Fox is a country musician who feels like his fame doesn't belong to him. As the brother to superstar Hollie Montgomery (who first appeared in *Wild Montana Skies*), he jumped to fame after his sister was killed in a car accident. But there's more to that story, and Oaken has to wrestle with those nightmares before he can walk in freedom. As for Boo—she's former military, as well as a former reality television star, something she'd very much like to keep secret now that she's hiding in Alaska. But it's hard to hide under the shining light of Oaken, and it's time for her to come out of hiding and face the nightmares of her past. It's a story of redemption and getting free of regrets...and I love that these two are exactly the wrong people to be together...or are they?

FF: What situation occurs that forces your protagonists to work together?

When Oaken signs on with Mike Grizz—adventurer, survivalist, and television star—to appear in his show, *Go Wild with Grizz*, the last thing he expects is to have to save Mike after a terrible accident. Thankfully, the first person he finds to help him is rescuer Boo Kingston. Boo's involvement leads to a terrible-brilliant idea by Mike's producer to team up these two in hopes of resurrecting the show. Boo must train Oaken and keep him alive. Oaken must keep Boo out of the spotlight.

FF: Do you have any underlying themes or lessons that you would like readers to garner from *One Last Shot*?

As with all my novels, I base the themes off a hymn. This one is based off verse one of "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less." It's

the idea that we get our purpose, worth, and identity not from ourselves, or what others say, but from something deeper and eternal and thus more impactful. And then we explore what this means for our lives.

FF: You often integrate characters from different series into your books. Will we have an appearance from any of your former protagonists?

Of course! Readers will catch up with Dodge and Echo Kingston, Larke and Riley McCord, of course Moose and Axel Mulligan, and even Ben King (from *Montana Rescue*).

FF: You have a gift for blending action, romance, and suspense in perfect balance. What is the secret to creating such captivating novels?

Oh my. I guess I write what I would like to read! I also keep track of the action, romance, and suspense threads as I write, so I keep them moving. But I think the biggest trick is to ask, As a reader, what would I like to see next?

FF: What are you working on next?

The next book I am working on is the second book in the *Alaskan Air One Rescue Series*, *One Last Chance*. **FF**

Visit Susan May Warren's author page here:

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



One Last Shot

Alaska Air One Rescue Series #1

Susan May Warren

Revell



Book Summary:

When country music star Oaken Fox joins survivalist Mike Grizz's new adventure show in the Alaskan wilderness, he just wants to boost his fan base. But when tragedy strikes and Air One Rescue must save Mike and

Oaken, Oaken wants to quit. Too bad his producer has other plans—namely, signing Oaken on with Air One Rescue as a recruit and making a reality show.

EMT Boo Kingston did not join Air One Rescue to train a celebrity. But she's a rookie to the team, so yes, she'll train Oaken and keep him alive and not for a minute pay attention to his charm.

And then five women go missing from a resort during a bachelorette weekend gone wrong. Now, Air One and the rescue team will have to use all their skill and manpower—including Oaken—to find them before a blizzard settles in.



YA/TEEN SCI-FI

Candace Kade

Hybrid

Candace Kade grew up in China and currently lives in Austin, Texas. When she's not missing Chinese food, she's busy writing, exploring new countries, volunteering, hiking in national parks, teaching her husband Mandarin, and keeping a baby human alive.

In this interview, Candace talks with us about the second book in her *The Hybrid Series*, titled *Hybrid*.

FF: What inspired the story in your book?

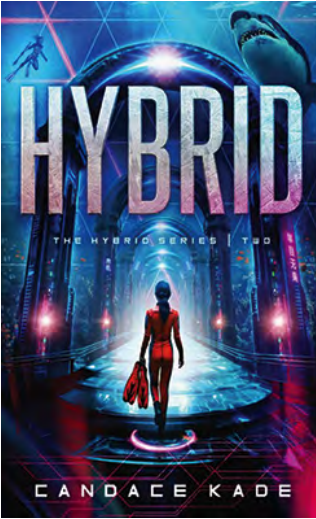
"Sometimes family is war."

That's one of my favorite lines from *Hybrid* and the main theme. This idea of fighting for family, even when things are challenging, is very personal to me. I have four younger brothers, two of whom were adopted as teenagers from Ukraine. Our family went through a difficult transition period when they first arrived in the US.

My new brothers didn't speak English at all. They'd spent almost their entire lives living in an orphanage. There were so many cultural and language barriers to overcome, not to mention our own family's distinct rhythms and ways of doing things.

Adoption is beautiful.

It can also be messy and painful.



The next few years were hard on my family as all of us adjusted to the changes taking place. Things weren't the way they used to be. And never would be again. Sometimes, fighting for family was excruciatingly hard.

As we slowly found our way, I discovered the family that once existed had given way to something new. This family was a little different, bigger, and had some Ukrainian flare. This family was worth the fight.

So is every family.

My hope is through the *Hybrid Series*, readers will come away with a new understanding of the value of family—no matter what yours looks like.

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

When I was living in Beijing I learned about an interesting

Chinese word, 危机, or crisis. The first character, 危 or wei, symbolizes “dangerous.” The second, 機 or ji, means “opportunity.” Thus, symbolizing how every crisis can be both dangerous and an opportunity.

In *Hybrid*, Urban, the main protagonist, faces a crisis.

Urban arrives at the very end of herself and in that moment, is reminded of this character for crisis. Sometimes the difference between danger and opportunity is a simple mindset shift.

This revelation changes her predicament and ultimately, her life.

FF: Which character surprised you the most?

Lucas, Urban’s brother, surprised me the most. He’s always been a bit of a prankster and pot-stirrer, constantly getting into trouble. He’s also had it out for Urban since the beginning and things only grow worse in *Hybrid*. Lucas is also one of those delightfully complex characters who, when you really take the time to sit down and sip a bubble tea with, you realize is more than he seems.

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

Storytelling has the ability to take random facts or life lessons and packages them in a way that people will listen to, understand, and remember for years to come. Telling someone to be brave is one thing. Showing a hero display bravery in the face of incredible odds, gets the point across much better and resonates with us.

FF: What can readers expect from the rest of this series?

Readers can expect higher stakes, more action, but also a closer look at the heart behind the story. Book one is about finding your identity in a world where your DNA determines everything. Book two is about fighting for family. Book three takes both of those themes and digs deeper. All while immersing readers in a world full of AI games, social scores, hackers, genetic enhancements, and futuristic motorcycle races.

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

Other than spending nearly half my life in China and taking up jiu-jitsu, I'm always chatting with experts in various fields of tech.

I've had opportunities to sit down with doctors, developers, cyber security experts, crypto advisors, AI product managers, and counselors to get their opinions on everything from fictitious diseases, CRISPR, how to hack an encrypted file, to how someone might emotionally respond to trauma. Beyond that, there's a lot of googling that goes on in the background.

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

My hope is for any readers who are currently struggling with their families to remember to have patience, forgiveness and grace for their families and to keep pressing in and fighting for those relationships.

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

Every author has a super power. Captivating voice, life like characters that stick with you for decades, incredible realistic world building, mind blowing plots, or page turning action—every author has something they do really well.

For me, its world building and plot, both of which are incredibly important for speculative fiction novels. The hardest part is always writing a wide cast of character and developing their ARCs over an entire series.

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

Christopher Paolini inspired me at an early age. I read his debut novel as a teenager and was shocked to find out he'd also been a teen when he wrote it.

That revelation opened my eyes to the fact that anyone can be an author—no matter their age. That kick started my own career as I took myself seriously for the first time and began writing my first novel in high school.

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

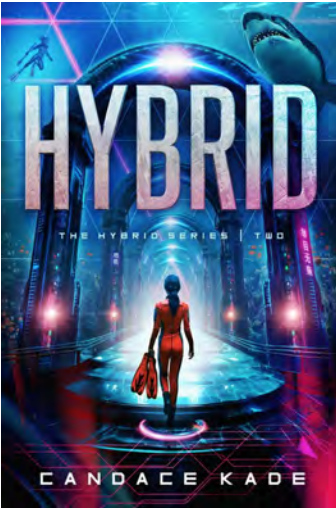
My faith impacts everything I do. For storytelling, one of the big things it impacts is the sort of stories I write.

I love telling stories about good triumphing over evil, of men and women who face the worst of the world but still perseve. I love hopefully stories, intriguing stories, stories full of goodness, joy and laughter.

I love all of those things because those are the stories God writes for us. I hope to capture a sliver of His creativity and storytelling abilities in my own writing so that I can encourage and delight others in the stories I tell. **FF**

Visit Candace Kade's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/candace-kade>




Hybrid

The Hybrid Series #2

Candace Kade

Enclave Publishing

Buy Now 

Book Summary:

Lee Urban's search for truth could destroy everything.

After narrowly surviving several attempts on her life, Lee Urban retreats into hiding, seeking refuge with her family for the Lunar New Year. But the relaxing holiday turns into a heist when someone crashes the party with intel on the hybrid's identity.

Driven by desperation, Urban accepts a position within the elite Dragons AI team, a high-stakes gamble that will propel her into the heart of the turbulent West. As she follows the elusive clues to the hybrid, the journey takes her closer to uncovering the truths about her own origins and the odd circumstances surrounding her adoption.

Tensions between the Enhanced and Naturals grow increasingly violent and the Western Federation teeters on the brink of civil war. Urban's choices threaten to tear her family apart, and the secrets she unearths just might shatter the delicate balance of society.



ROMANCE

Melody Carlson

Just for the Summer

Melody Carlson is the award-winning author of more than 250 books with sales of more than 7.5 million, including many bestselling Christmas novellas, young adult titles, and contemporary romances. She received a **Romantic Times Career Achievement Award**, her novel *All Summer Long* has been made into a Hallmark movie, and the movie based on her novel *The Happy Camper* premiered on UPTV in 2023.

In this interview, Melody discusses her latest book, ***Just for the Summer***.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel *Just for the Summer*?

Ginny and Jacqueline are two very different women on similar career paths in the hospitality industry. Both are disenchanted with their work. So when they discover a job swap website, they give it a try. Ginny gives up her job at a swanky boutique hotel to manage a fishing lodge while Jacqueline happily surrenders her rural life to chase her sophisticated dreams in the big city. Of course, nothing goes smoothly, but at least some unexpected romance shows up.

FF: What was the inspiration for your novel?

Hotel management has always intrigued me, but I realize it can be fraught with challenges. What if you were stuck in a hotel you really didn't like? What would happen if you swapped jobs—just for the summer?



FF: In your opinion, what sets *Just for the Summer* apart from other stories of trading places?

The very different locations really play a major role in this story. The women swapping lives couldn't be more different, and yet there is something that ultimately connects them in a fun way.

FF: *Just for the Summer* explores the impact of setting on a character. Without giving away any spoilers, can you provide some hints as to what the main characters learn from their experiences?

Both women want an escape, but maybe they're not fully sure what they're fleeing from. Sometimes "the grass is greener" lures us to a new and better life, but to our surprise, it's not all that different because we are still there. We can't run from ourselves, but we can change. Maybe that's part of the lesson.

FF: This novel shows the contrast between urban and rural life in the Pacific Northwest. Is there one you prefer over the other?

I definitely prefer the rural life. It's okay to visit the big city sometimes, but I'm a country gal at heart.

FF: The two protagonists in this book are very different from one another. Which character did you find easier to write?

I thought Ginny would be easier to write because she is probably more like me, but I had a lot of fun with Jacqueline. I probably tortured her a bit, but in the end, it was good for her.

FF: With over 250 books written, it seems you've done it all! Is there a genre or subject you have yet to explore that you would like to?

Wow, interesting question! A futuristic novel might be fun. But it could be tricky trying to keep it upbeat and positive. **FF**

Visit Melody Carlson's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/melody-carlson>



Just for the Summer

Melody Carlson
Revell

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Book Summary:

Ginny Masters manages a popular boutique hotel in Seattle with hospitality and grace—neither of which is extended to her by its exacting owner, Diana Jackson. Ginny's circumstances are further complicated by the unwanted attention of Adrian Jackson, CFO of

the hotel and son to Diana. Because Ginny lives near the hotel, she never escapes the pressures and demands of a career she thought she would love but finds she may be stuck in.

Jacqueline Potter begrudgingly runs her grandfather's fishing lodge in western Idaho. The rustic, cozy cabin life is not her style, but it is the only job opportunity she could find in the hospitality industry. Ben Tanninger, a local river guide with roguish good looks, may be the only redeeming factor. Still, Jacqueline longs for the sophistication of city life.

Could the desires of both women be fulfilled by JobSwap, an online service that allows them to switch employment for the summer? While the women are thrilled to trade locations, their swap may have ramifications they never thought of: Is Jacqueline cut out for the weight of Diana's expectations? Can Ginny embrace a rustic lodge in place of a polished hotel? And what of Adrian's and Ben's interests?

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WESTERN ROMANCE

Tracie Peterson

A Love Discovered

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 about ***A Love Discovered***, the first book in her new *The Heart of Cheyenne Series*.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel, *A Love Discovered*?

Marybeth is raising her little sister, Carrie, after the death of their father and finds that folks are plotting to take Carrie away from her. Edward is intrigued when a letter comes from his former commanding officer in the Civil War, encouraging him to come west to an end-of-the-tracks town called Cheyenne to be a deputy marshal. But the town is really hoping for family men to help settle the area, so Edward proposes he and Marybeth make a marriage of convenience to help them both. After all, they are good friends with great affection for one another. They'll marry in name only and go west to start a new life. But God and their hearts have other plans.



FF: *A Love Discovered* is the first book in *The Heart of Cheyenne Series*. What is the connecting element for all of the books in this series?

All of the books will be set in the new town of Cheyenne, between 1867–1869 and there will be connections to the characters in each book with a focus on a new romantic couple. The railroad is a focal point in the background because of it being the driving industry for this new town.

FF: What inspired the idea for this series?

I've always enjoyed the history of Cheyenne and the surrounding area and felt it would make a wonderful series of stories.

FF: Please describe the setting for *A Love Discovered*.

Cheyenne in the time period of my series (1867–1869) is a brand new town thanks to the Transcontinental Railroad. As the railroad built west, the Union Pacific decided to make

Cheyenne a divisional headquarters. It made perfect sense. Located on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains and north of Denver, Cheyenne was a good geographical location for the Union Pacific Railroad. The area is vast open lands with an ample water supply.

FF: Your two protagonists, Marybeth Kruger and Edward Vogel, are friends. How do they know each other?

Marybeth was best friends with Edward's now deceased wife, Janey. She got to know and care about Edward through her friend and had promised to look after him after Janey died. Edward was also quite fond of Marybeth's father and often sought advice from him.

FF: Can you please tell readers a little more about Marybeth and the problem she is facing?

Marybeth has cared for her sister, Carrie, since she was born and Carrie's mother (Marybeth's step-mother) died giving Carrie life. Marybeth is the only mother Carrie has known and when their father dies, Marybeth plans to go on raising Carrie. But there's the complication of having little money to support the two of them. Marybeth has to figure out how to make a safe and comfortable life for them, while dealing with others who think she should give Carrie over to strangers to be raised. She agrees to a marriage of convenience, already thinking that no one will ever want to marry her for love because she has a child to raise. When Edward makes it clear that he wants only a platonic marriage, Marybeth is certain no one will ever love her.

FF: Edward is considering a major change in his life, but there is a certain requirement that needs to be fulfilled to make this change happen. Can you tell readers a little about his situation?

Edward is a widower who feels he was the reason his wife died. She died giving birth to a stillborn son, and Edward is determined to never go through that again. However, in the middle of his grieving, he has to deal with hidden feelings that he has toward God. Feelings that he didn't even know he had.

FF: What are some of the themes found within *A Love Discovered*?

Some of the focal themes are letting go of your fears, letting go of the past, and letting go of anger. Both must deal with their spiritual walk and the fact that God didn't keep bad things from happening to them.

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

I hope the reader experiences the difficult road that the characters walk as one of hope and love. I want them to see that when bad things happen, often God has even better things planned. It's hard to lose people you care about, but God's faithfulness and love will see each person through. But we have to let go and let God work, without interference and trying to fix it ourself. **FF**

Visit Tracie Peterson's author page here:

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



A Love Discovered

The Heart of Cheyenne Series #1

Tracie Peterson

Bethany House

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Book Summary:

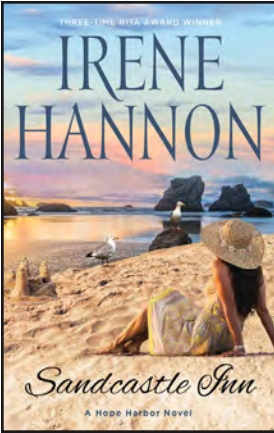
The heart finds its way when one least expects it—even in the most unforgiving frontiers.

Invited by a friend to trek west and help establish the newly formed town of Cheyenne, Edward Vogel is prepared to leave the haunting memories of his wife and son's deaths behind him. The only problem is the corrupt new railroad town wants family men who can establish law and order, and desperation leads Edward to his friend Marybeth with a proposition of marriage.

After her father's death leaves her with no means of support, Marybeth Kruger is in danger of having her two-year-old half sister taken from her. So when Edward Vogel, the widower husband of her late best friend, offers her a marriage of convenience to escape both their troubles, she has no choice but to accept.

Life in Cheyenne is fraught with danger, but will this arrangement be enough to save Edward and Marybeth from the pasts they tried to escape? Or will life with each other put them—and their hearts—in more danger than ever?

New Releases: April 2024



Sandcastle Inn

A Hope Harbor Novel Series #10

Irene Hannon

Revell

Genres: Romance, Contemporary

Release Date: April 2, 2024



Love in Tandem

Becca Kinzer

Tyndale House

Genres: Romance

Release Date: April 2, 2024



These Tangled Threads

A Novel of Biltmore Estate

Sarah Loudin Thomas

Bethany House

Genres: Southern Fiction, Historical

Release Date: April 2, 2024



New Releases: April 2024



Four Minutes

Brian Andrews, Jeffrey Wilson
Blackstone Publishing

Genres: Sci-Fi/Time Travel,
Military Thriller

Release Date: April 2, 2024



Courting an Amish Bishop

Heart of the Amish Series #4

Mindy Steele

Barbour

Genres: Amish Romance

Release Date: March 31, 2024



The Sleuth of Blackfriars Lane

Blackfriars Lane Series #3

Michelle Griep

Barbour

Genres: Mystery/Suspense

Romance, Historical Romance

Release Date: March 31, 2024



New Releases: April 2024



Set in Stone

Treasures of the Earth Series #2

Kimberley Woodhouse

Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance

Release Date: March 5, 2024



One Last Shot

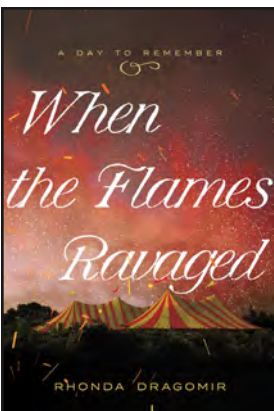
Alaska Air One Rescue Series #1

Susan May Warren

Revell

Genres: Action Romance,
Romantic Suspense

Release Date: March 5, 2024



When the Flames Ravaged

A Day to Remember Series #2

Rhonda Dragomir

Barbour

Genres: Historical

Release Date: February 29, 2024



New Releases: April 2024



The Lady with the Dark Hair

Erin Bartels

Revell

Genres: Historical Romance,
Historical

Release Date: March 26, 2024



Rip Tide

Oceans of Time Series #2

Lisa T. Bergren

Enclave

Genres: Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Romance,
Historical

Release Date: March 19, 2024



Just for the Summer

Melody Carlson

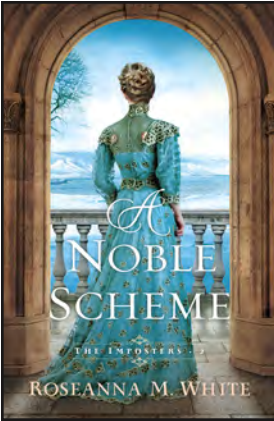
Revell

Genres: Romance

Release Date: March 19, 2024



New Releases: April 2024



A Noble Scheme

The Imposters Series #2

Roseanna M. White

Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance

Release Date: March 19, 2024



If the Boot Fits

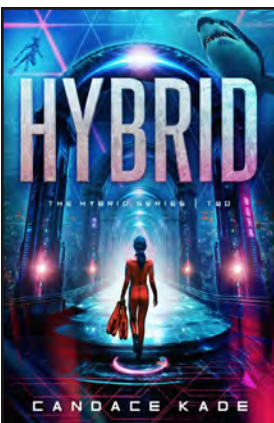
Texas Ever After Series #2

Karen Witemeyer

Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance

Release Date: March 12, 2024



Hybrid

The Hybrid Series #2

Candace Kade

Enclave Publishing

Genres: YA/Teen, Sci-Fi

Release Date: March 5, 2024



New Releases: April 2024



The Mercy Seat

The Urban Chronicles Series #1

Henry O. Arnold

Mountainbrook Ink

Genres: Vigilante Justice,
Suspense/Thriller

Release Date: March 5, 2024

Buy Now 



A Love Discovered

The Heart of Cheyenne Series #1

Tracie Peterson

Bethany House

Genres: Historical Romance,
Western Romance

Release Date: March 5, 2024

Buy Now 



The Shadow and the Promise

Redemption Tales Series #1

Marty Machowski

Illustrator: Blair Files

New Growth Press

Genres: Children's

Release Date: February 12, 2024

Buy Now 

New Releases: April 2024



The Quilt Room Secret

The Heart of the Amish Series #3

Lisa Jones Baker

Barbour

Genres: Amish Romance

Release Date: January 30, 2024

Buy Now 



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Echoes of the Past Series #2

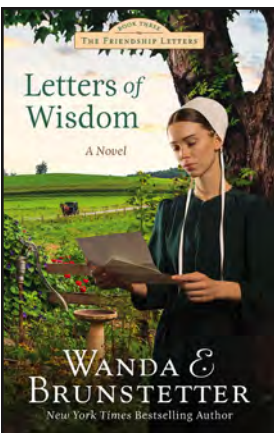
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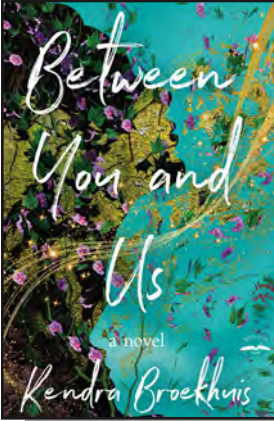
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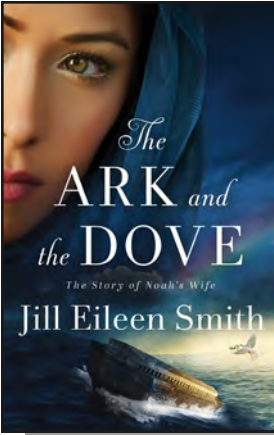
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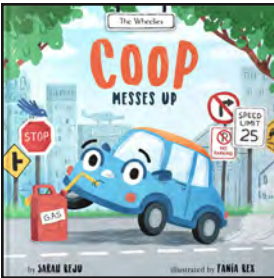
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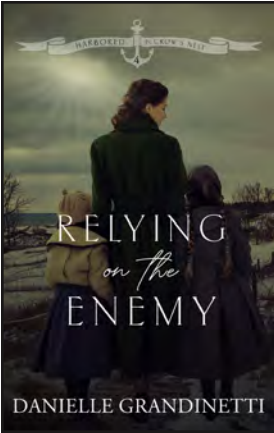
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