

Family Fiction

May 2024



Romance Author **NICOLE DEESE**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Joanna Davidson Politano | Steven James

Toni Shiloh | Tracie Peterson | Kimberley Woodhouse

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ROMANCE

NICOLE DEESE

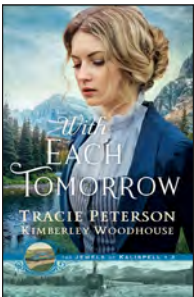
In this interview, Nicole talks about her latest book, *The Roads We Follow*.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

JOANNA DAVIDSON POLITANO

In this interview, Joanna shares some of her thoughts regarding her latest novel, *Elusive Truth of Lily Temple*.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

TRACIE PETERSON & KIMBERLEY WOODHOUSE

In this interview, Tracie and Kimberley talk about their latest novel, *With Each Tomorrow*.



TECHNOTHRILLER

STEVEN JAMES

In this interview, Steven talks with us about his latest thriller, *Fatal Domain*.

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CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

TONI SHILOH

In this interview, Toni talks with us about her new book, *A Run at Love*.



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

JAIME JO WRIGHT

In this interview, Jaime Jo shares some of her insights behind her latest book, *Night Falls on Predicament Avenue*.



YA/TEEN SCIFI

LYNDSLEY LEWELLEN

In this interview, Lyndsey talks about her latest book, *The Chaos Grid*.



CONTEMPORARY/SMALL TOWN FICTION

CHERYL GREY BOSTROM

In this interview, Cheryl talks about her new book, *Leaning on Air*.



New Releases & Bestsellers

New Christian fiction books from **Cheryl Grey Bostrom, Wanda E. Brunstetter, Toni Shiloh, Tracie Peterson, Kimberley Woodhouse, Angela Hunt, Nicole Deese, James R. Hannibal, Jaime Jo Wright, Kim Vogel Sawyer, Joanna Davidson Politano, Steven James, Irene Hannon, Michelle Griep** and more!

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ROBERT WHITLOW

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Beverly Lewis | Deborah L. Cooney | Lissa Duran
Marlene Harling | 10 New Releases

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Christian Fiction Authors
Readers' Top Results

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Patricia Bradley | 21 Historical Novels Set in Bible Times
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FRANCINE RIVERS

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PRESSING FORWARD**

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ROMANCE

Nicole Deese

The Roads We Follow

Nicole Deese is a Christy Award and Carol Award-winning, bestselling author of hope-filled, humorous, and heartfelt contemporary romance novels. When she's not sorting out character arcs and story plots of her own, she can usually be found.

In this interview, Nicole talks about her latest book, ***The Roads We Follow***.

FF: *The Roads We Follow* is the second book in a collection of *Fog Harbor Romance Series* full-length novels. Can you tell us a little more about this series concept, how closely the books are related, and how *The Roads We Follow* fits in?

Absolutely! The series concept for all three of the *Fog Harbor Romance Series* is to include a unique story thread that involves a sneak peek into the publishing world. While the first book in this series (*The Words We Lost*) featured an acquisitions editor on a quest to discover her late author's final manuscript, *The Roads We Follow* delves into the world of an aspiring fiction author who writes in secret given the unique and complicated pressures of growing up as the daughter of a country music legend in Nashville, TN. Each book in the *Fog Harbor Romance Series* is a stand-alone read with a few minor connections that can be tracked through each story.

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

Adventure. Humor. Romance. Intrigue. Legacy.



FF: This book has it all—a sparky romance, some family drama, an epic road trip, and all the bookish details a reader curious about publishing could want. What are you most excited for readers to experience about this novel?

I'm most excited for my readers to experience the cross-country road trip! I think many of us can relate to the interesting and sometimes tense dynamics that develop under the strain of a close-quarters vacation with our family members. Now, imagine all the fun I had while writing a sparky romance into the mix!

FF: Can you give us a brief introduction of our two main characters—Raegan Farrow and Micah Davenport? What should readers know about these two?

Raegan is the youngest daughter of the incredibly talented and beloved country singer, Luella Farrow. Her two older sisters both have a role to play in the Farrow music label, while Raegan often feels like the “Cinderella” of the siblings, as she is usually the one to handle the family grunt work. She is also a brilliant,

but secret, writer of fiction novels who has dreams far outside the confines of her family's loyalty to the country music industry. She is kind, empathetic, funny, imaginative, helpful, and at times, an anxious overthinker.

Micah is the oldest brother of two and a loyal son to both his parents, which is why he is on a quest to discover the truth about the newly surfaced information pertaining to his family tree and to his own paternity. The best way he can think to get the answers he needs is to offer his driving services to a country music superstar and her family. Micah is quick-witted, even-tempered, wise, selfless, and at times, too impulsive for his own good.

FF: What is the continuing element through this collection of stories that ties all of them together in some way?

The main continuing element in this series is the fictional publishing house located in San Francisco, *Fog Harbor Books*, and the acquisitions editor who will be a contributing character in all three books, Chip Stanley.

FF: What led you to write a series based around a reputable publishing house and all the ins and outs of that particular industry?

I've always been intrigued by the many functions and faces that make up the publishing world as a whole, and I was eager to find a creative way to tie these storylines and characters together by using their common love, understanding, and passion for the written word within this fictional book series.

FF: What lessons can we learn from the characters in *The Roads We Follow* and their struggles?

I was inspired to layer in truths regarding the differences between peacekeeping and peacemaking, and also to address the challenges that come with speaking the truth in love to family and friends. It's not always an easy road to travel.

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

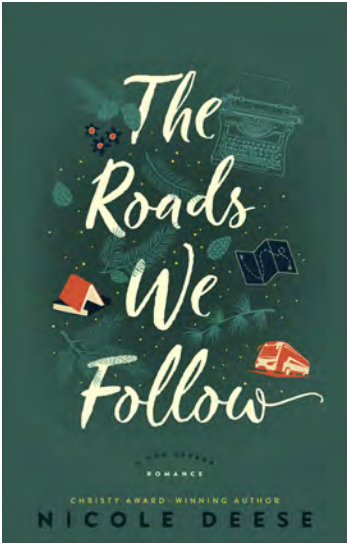
As with most of my books, I enjoyed writing the romance most of all. There's something so fun and special about developing a romantic journey from those first sparks of attraction into something deeply meaningful and right. I adore Raegan and Micah's journey to love!

FF: What are you working on next?

I'm currently working on the first draft of the final book in the *Fog Harbor Romance Series* (coming soon)! Stay tuned for more!. **FF**

Visit Nicole Deese's author page here:

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



The Roads We Follow

A Fog Harbor Romance Series #2

Nicole Deese

Bethany House

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Book Summary:

A cross-country road trip. A secretive box of journals. An unforgettable summer romance.

As the youngest daughter of a country music legend, Raegan Farrow longs to establish an identity away

from the spotlight and publish her small-town romances under a pen name. But after her dream is dashed when she won't exploit her mother's fame to further her own career, she hears a rumor from a reliable source regarding a tell-all being written about the Farrow family. Making matters worse, the unknown author has gone to great lengths to remain anonymous until publication.

Raegan chooses to keep the tell-all a secret from her scandal-leery sisters as they embark on a two-week cross-country road trip at their mother's request and makes it her mission to expose the identity of the author behind the unsanctioned biography. But all is complicated when she discovers their hired bus driver, Micah Davenport, has a hidden agenda of his own—one involving both of their mothers and an old box of journals. As they rely on each other to find the answers they seek, the surprising revelations they unearth will lead them down an unexpected road of love and reconciliation.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Joanna Davidson Politano

Elusive Truth of Lily Temple

Joanna Davidson Politano is the award-winning author of *Lady Jayne Disappears*, *A Rumored Fortune*, *Finding Lady Enderly*, *The Love Note*, *A Midnight Dance*, and *The Lost Melody*. She loves tales that capture the colorful, exquisite details in ordinary lives and is eager to hear anyone's story. She lives with her husband and their children in a house in the woods near Lake Michigan.

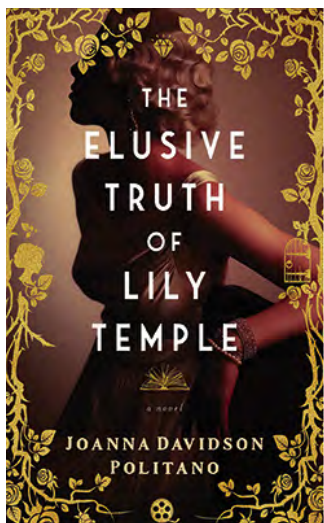
In this interview, Joanna shares some of her thoughts regarding her latest novel, ***Elusive Truth of Lily Temple***.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel, *The Elusive Truth of Lily Temple*?

Spirited Lily Temple is a silent film actress with a mysterious background, one she's changed her name to hide. But then she becomes tangled in a private inquiry agent's case, and her story starts to surface. As they work together, the brilliantly perceptive inquiry agent and the richly imaginative actress are never quite sure if the other is trustworthy—or what the other's full story is.

FF: What was the inspiration for your story?

This story evolved as a combination of many personal favorites—fairy tales, silent film, and the early 20th century. I paired up two characters whose dynamic differences really drove the plot, and the story took off from there.



The setting also inspired large parts of this novel. St. Anne's Well Gardens, and the film producer who created movies there for years, created the foundation for the heroine's work and home location, as well as much of the historical aspects of the plot.

FF: Your two protagonists, Peter Driscoll and Lily Temple, have very different professions. Can you please explain their different roles and how they connected?

Lily Temple is an actress, in every sense of the word. She loves the fanciful, the creative and imaginary, sleight of hand and theatrics. She loves color and beauty and gardens, but Peter Driscoll, although textured and creative, is as practical as Lily is whimsical. He uses his sharp perception and listening skills as an inquiry agent for the wealthy, cleverly tracking lost heirs, digging out truth, and restoring lost items. Their lives intersect when Lily's past figures into one of Peter's cases. Sometimes they work together, sometimes against one another, but their dynamic relationship made for a brilliant partnership.

FF: Although Lily lives in a world of make-believe, she also has a past filled with secrets. Can you provide some insight into her backstory?

She's always loved books and fairytales, escaping from harsh reality and sometimes rewriting it in her head to endure it. She has trouble facing the truth sometimes, but her truth has also been quite painful and heart-shaping. Betrayal, dishonesty, and harsh expectations were all part of her past, and a man full of fairy tales helped her make sense of twisted reality.

FF: What are some of the main themes in *The Elusive Truth of Lily Temple*?

The novel's themes revolve around truth found in fiction, the value of a well-told tale, and facing reality and admitting what it is. I had so much fun diving into why fiction matters, and how it can present truth in a way that actually changes a person's mind. God filled the Bible with stories, deeply layered ones, that reveal new truths to us every time we read them, and our human minds are simply wired to interpret our world through story. I shared my deep love of storytelling, of reading, and of that enchanting act of suspending disbelief to enjoy a well-told tale.

FF: What do you hope readers will gain from reading your book?

I hope readers will have a picture of God as a creator, an author, sitting in the garden with an empty seat beside him, eagerly anticipating some time spent with his beloved creation. I hope they'll see stories—real life and made-up tales—in a fresh way. Their true purpose, their layered value, and even why they seem to circle back around so often.

FF: What do you love most about writing historical romance novels?

It's incredibly special to bring to life these characters who have their own personal stories, and then watch them play out and realize they represent people living now. The stories currently going on. Somehow it helps to untangle what's confusing in our own lives to see it played out in someone else's. Especially with the historical angle to make it slightly removed. But honestly, I just love telling people's stories. Especially people who are no longer here to tell them personally.

FF: Your novels are set in either Victorian or Edwardian England. What draws you to these time periods and settings?

My favorite literature comes from these eras in history. I've read so much from authors in these periods that their society, their mentality, seems natural to me. It's incredibly fun to dream up characters that might have lived in this time in the world's history, and to tell the stories inspired by all sorts of real people from that era. **FF**

Visit Joanna Davidson Politano's author page here:

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Elusive Truth of Lily Temple

Joanna Davidson Politano
Revell

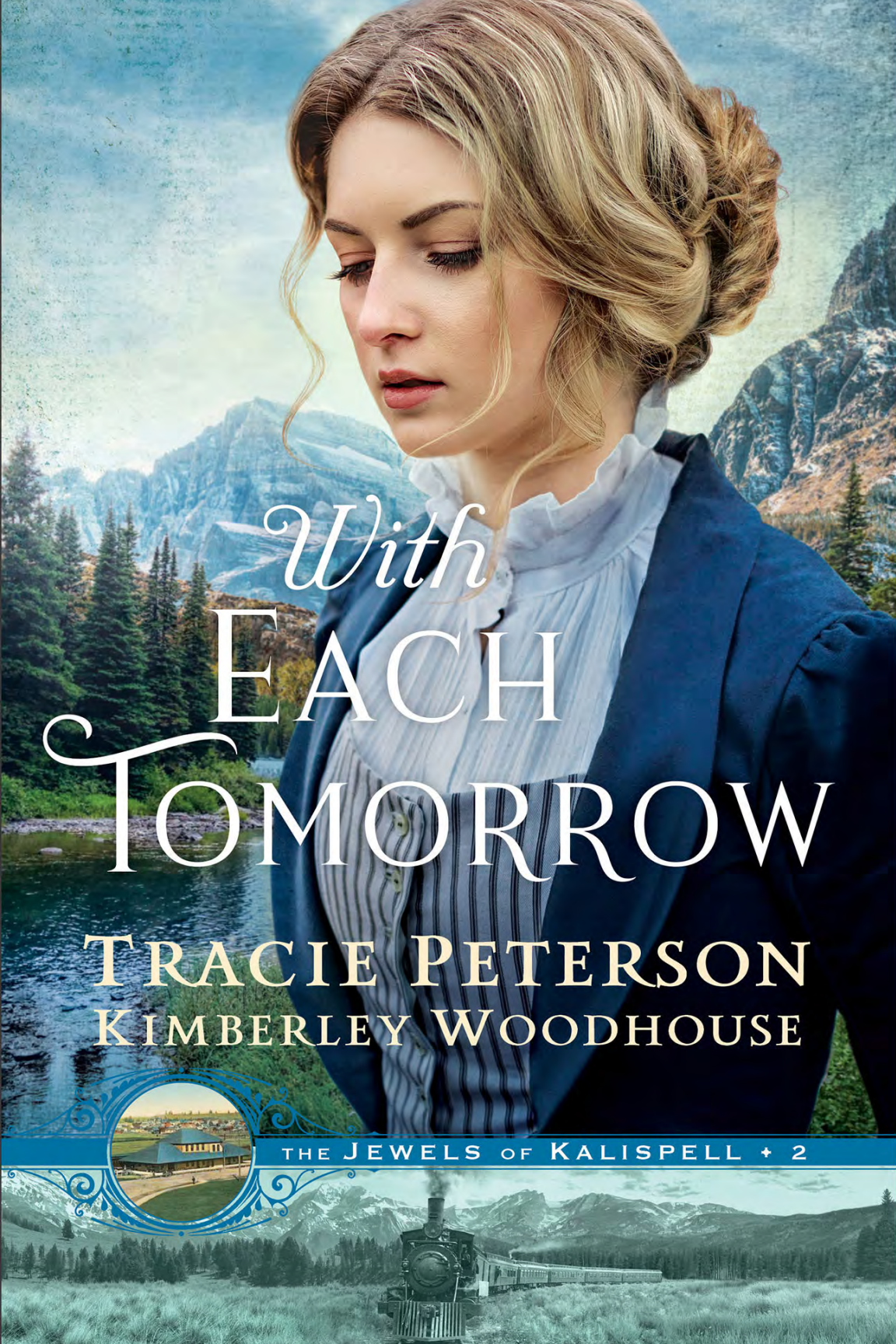
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Book Summary:

Peter Driscoll, an underground investigator to the wealthy, has never met anyone like Lily Temple. The beautiful silent-film actress spins fairy tales and plays frivolous roles in front of the cine-camera, but beneath the costumes and stage makeup is a woman with a quick wit—and a murky past.

Peter has been tasked with locating the legendary Briarwood Teardrop, an exquisite sapphire, which Lily wears beneath her gown. In order to stay close to her and hopefully unravel the mystery of her story—and the sapphire—Peter employs Lily's help on a case, which leads to a useful partnership. But as they are investigating together, Peter is also investigating Lily. The closer he gets to the truth, the more danger they face. And the closer he gets to Lily, the clearer it is that he needs her even more than she needs him.

Award-winning author Joanna Davidson Politano whisks you away to Edwardian England in 1903 for a whimsical and layered tale that treads the crooked line between real and make-believe.



With
EACH
TOMORROW

TRACIE PETERSON
KIMBERLEY WOODHOUSE



THE JEWELS OF KALISPELL + 2



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Tracie Peterson & Kimberley Woodhouse

With Each Tomorrow

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.

Kimberley Woodhouse is an award-winning, bestselling author of more than forty fiction and nonfiction books. Kim and her incredible husband of thirty-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, Tracie and Kimberley talk about their latest novel, ***With Each Tomorrow***.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel, *With Each Tomorrow*?

With Each Tomorrow focuses on three main characters: Eleanor Briggs, Carter Brunswick and the town of Kalispell, Montana. Both Eleanor and Carter grapple with big questions: Where is God when hard things happen? Will the Lord really provide when difficult circumstances hit? And the town of Kalispell has to find the fight necessary to survive when the Great Northern Railroad announces they're pulling out of the town in favor of a less dangerous track. But when a nefarious plot threatens everything Ellie, Carter, and the town hold dear, they all have



no choice but to turn to the Lord and work together to keep their community—and each other—safe.

FF: *With Each Tomorrow* is the second book in *The Jewels Of Kalispell Series*. How many book will be part of this series, and what is the connecting element for all of the books?

The Jewels Of Kalispell Series will be a three-book series. Each book is set in Kalispell, Montana, and focuses on a particular historic site in the town. *The Heart's Choice*, book one, featured the Carnegie Library. *With Each Tomorrow*, features the Great Northern Railway Depot, and book three will feature the McIntosh Opera House.

FF: What brought Eleanor “Ellie” Briggs to Kalispell?

Eleanor has traveled with her father in the years following her mother’s death. They are traveling with their friend, George Grinnell (a real person from history), another conservationist, to scout out some of the land they want to see turned into a national park.

FF: Ellie’s father, Samuel Briggs, is considering settling down in the small western town of Kalispell. How does this potentially affect Ellie’s future?

The prospect of settling down is difficult for Eleanor. On one hand, the chance to be in one place for a while is interesting. On the other, she can’t quite figure out why her father is ready to settle in one place—his decision is sudden, and it throws her for quite a loop!

FF: Your male protagonist, Carter Bunswick and his family have lived in Kalispell for decades. Can you explain how he is tied in with the community?

Carter runs a successful flour mill and has hired many locals to work for him. His business is also dependent on the Great Northern Railway, which stops in Kalispell. He’s active in his church and with his father’s wheat farm as well.

FF: The Great Northern Railway that runs through Kalispell is considering pulling out of Kalispell. How will this impact the town?

The loss of the railway was devastating to many towns before Kalispell. The residents saw firsthand how many towns became abandoned when the railroad left. For many workers, the move was monetarily impossible. For many businesses, the cost of trying to ship their goods out to the country was enormous.

FF: Without giving away any spoilers, can you please provide a hint of what railroad workers do to ensure that the Great Northern Railway’s plans are derailed?

Well, they’re not happy, that’s for sure! People become stressed and angry when their very means of making a living gets stripped from them. Especially when they think those in power

won't hear their voice. Suffice it to say, some of the workers are pretty angry and refuse to let cooler heads prevail—which leads to some dangerous situations.

FF: When Carter and Ellie first meet, sparks fly. But their difference in faith ensures that they can't have a lasting relationship. What circumstances in their lives help repair their contrasting beliefs?

Carter and Ellie both have some growing up to do, but in different ways. Ellie has to return to the Lord, and learn that while the Lord loves us, He doesn't always answer prayers the way we want Him to. And that He's not constantly looking to harm us, but that even the heartbreaking things in life come through the Lord's hand and can help us know Him more.

Carter...Oh, Carter. He's passionate about his faith. He's also passionate about being right! And along the way he has to learn how to be a good friend to Ellie and care about her walk with the Lord rather than trying to shove Scripture down her throat. The impending situation with the railroad, learning how to see hot-button issues like land ownership and conservatism from each other's perspective and of course, Marvella, help them see each other through the Lord's eyes.

FF: What do you hope readers will gain from reading *With Each Tomorrow*?

We hope readers will be encouraged to keep seeking the Lord no matter what difficulty comes their way. Even when God does things that don't make sense, He is still trustworthy and worthy of worship! And that they would see the meaning of a strong community in the Lord. That does wonders when we have questions about His will, Word, and person.

FF: What can readers look forward to in the third volume of *The Jewels Of Kalispell Series*?

Beautiful scenery, some history about the opera house, and of course, a little intrigue and romance with a heavy dose of faith. **FF**

Visit Tracie Peterson's author page here:

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

Visit Kimberley Woodhouse's author page here:

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With Each Tomorrow

The Jewels of Kalispell Series #2

Tracie Peterson &
Kimberley Woodhouse
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Book Summary:

Even in the midst of adversity, love and faith can flourish.

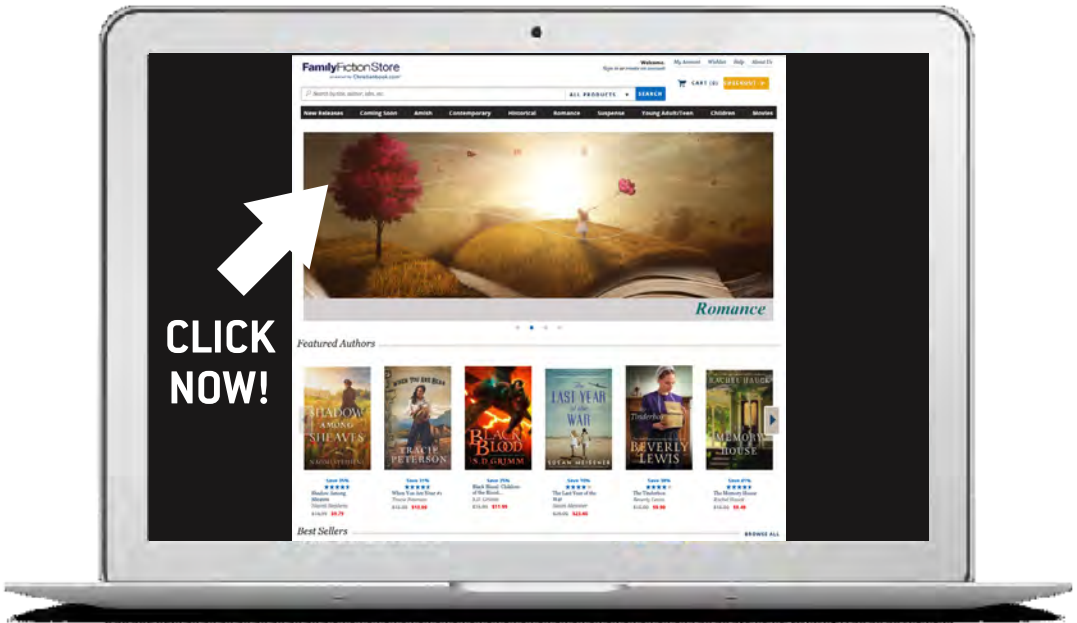
As the formation of Glacier National Park takes Eleanor Briggs and her conservationist father on a journey west to advocate for public lands, her heart carries the weight of a painful past. Since the death of her mother, she has spent her life traveling the country with her father and helping him with his work, but now he's considering settling down and writing a book—and she's not sure what that means for her future.

Carter Brunswick faces trials of his own when the Great Northern Railway's departure threatens his family's livelihood and the entire town of Kalispell. In the visiting conservationist's daughter, Ellie, he finds a spirited woman who challenges his convictions in ways he never anticipated, and his own dreams for the future begin to change.

When tensions over the railroad's departure boil over, Ellie and Carter are drawn together on a daring journey that tests the depths of their feelings and their faith in God.



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TECHNOTHRILLER

Steven James

Fatal Domain

Steven James is the bestselling, critically acclaimed author of nineteen novels that have won more than a dozen national and international awards, including four Christy Awards for suspense and an International Book Award. His thrillers have been praised by *Suspense Magazine*, *Booklist*, and the *New York Journal of Books* and received starred reviews from both *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*, who called his work “thought-provoking” and “riveting.” When he’s not writing, he teaches other writers at events around the globe.

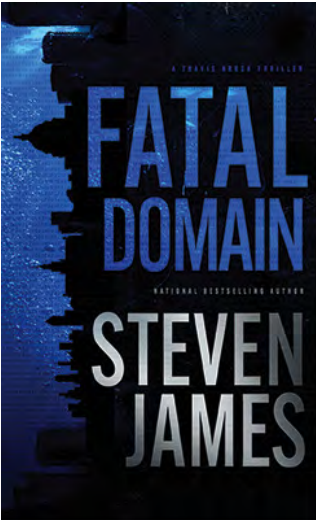
In this interview, Steven talks with us about his latest thriller, *Fatal Domain*.

FF: Do you draw from personal experience when you create your characters or scenes?

I think that every character has aspects of our personality within them, and occasionally I will use moments from real life in my stories, but I try to focus more on what is honest to the story and authentic to the characters than tapping into my own experiences. I heard someone refer to it as “plagiarizing reality” and I never forgot that.

FF: Tell us a little about your writing process. I understand you don’t outline or plot anything out, but let the story unfold as you write it. How does that work?

As I write, I’m always asking myself what the character would naturally do, how I can make things worse, how I can write myself into a corner—and then how to get out of it in a way



that readers will not anticipate. I trust the direction of the story and let it reveal itself to me as it unfolds. I also value narrative promises—trying always to fulfill them and make sure that they point in the right direction.

FF: One of the characters, a former Army Ranger, is now writing a cringy romance novel. What led you to make that choice for him? Can you give us an example of his bad writing?

I wanted him to have some contrast—he’s as tough as nails but has this other side to him that you would never expect. As far as an example...“She warmed at the thought of his hands around her waist, of his lips against hers. The soft pleasing pleasure of pleasant pressure of lip on lip on lip on lip. Heat flushed through her. She awaited his embrace, her mouth puckered and ready, as she longed to feel his arms wrap around her like two strong appendages jutting from his torso might do.”
Eek.

FF: This story, even more than the first book in the series, *Broker of Lies*, explores the concept of forgiveness and how to deal with those who do the unforgivable. What led you to take the story in that direction?

I read a book about forgiveness and started really thinking about what it means to forgive someone. It's different than excusing the wrong; it's different from holding a grudge; it's something much rarer than that.

FF: You're known for including twists in your stories. How do you come up with them?

I look for moments that are unexpected and inevitable—so, they are logical and follow naturally from what precedes them, but also offer surprises to readers. I like every scene to have a touch of this; I also want the story as a whole to have an ending that readers won't see coming but will appreciate when they get there. That's the pivot. That's what I'm looking for.

FF: When you're teaching other writers the craft of writing, what are some of the aspects of the craft that you focus on—that other instructors tend not to?

I really emphasize the contingent nature of fiction (in other words, that everything must follow naturally from what precedes it), understanding and managing the substantive status of the characters in different social contexts, and writing toward a pivot—a moment that is both unexpected and inevitable.

FF: In this story, the villains actually seem to have a good goal, one that could help humanity in the long-term. How hard was it to write the part of the heroes trying to stop them?

This dilemma was what led me into the story in the first place. I love to explore difficult questions in my stories and this was one that I just found extremely profound.

FF: What's the most important part of a story to you?

Two things come to mind—the pivots (think twists) and the payoff at the end of the story. Is the story honest about human nature and morality? What aspect of this story is desperate to be told or impossible to ignore? Does the story mean more than it says? Can we overhear an unforeseen truth? Is the action imbued with deeper meaning? Is the takeaway unstated and yet unforgettable? If the story can check off some of those boxes, I'll be thrilled.

FF: I understand that you recently changed your view of what a story is. Can you talk us through that?

Many people think of a story as a progression of events—first act, second act, third act. But stories are much more collisions of desire than they are progressions of events. Because of that, I think that approaching story from that perspective is not as helpful as other approaches. I've come to believe that there are four elements in every story (character, setting, struggle, and pursuit), and two additional aspects that all great stories have (pivot and payoff). So...great storytellers introduce us to a memorable and irresistible character who faces a pressing and intimate struggle. They give her choices and sacrifices that matter, invite us to see the pursuit unfold in an evocative set-

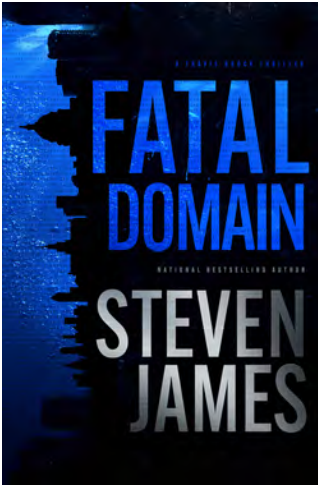
ting, then lead us to gasp at the pivot and to nod at the unforgettable payoff. That's what I'm trying to do.

FF: What are you hoping readers will take away from this book?

First and foremost, I want them to be entertained from the first page to the last. I want them to enjoy the light touches of humor, to feel white-knuckle suspense at the right times, and to fall in love with the characters. I want them to think about some big, philosophical questions along the way, but this is a thriller, it's a roller coaster, and I want them to enjoy the ride. **FF**

Visit Steven James's author page here:

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Fatal Domain

A Travis Brock Thriller Series #2

Steven James

Tyndale House

Buy Now



Book Summary:

When the past scratches its way into the present, it can leave deep scars.

A series of cryptic clues leads Department of Defense redactor Travis Brock to suspect that a grim chapter from his past is not yet over. With the help of his eidetic memory and his newly formed team, he must unearth the truth and stop a terrorist group from stealing one of the military's most highly guarded technological breakthroughs. With it, the group plans to commit a daring act of espionage that could upend the work of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical firms and impact millions of people worldwide.

In a high-stakes story of action and intrigue that reaches from a refugee settlement in Uganda to the shores of the Potomac in Washington, DC, shattering secrets from the past will be revealed, loyalties tested, and intimate betrayals brought to light as Brock is forced to decide how to forgive what he cannot forget.

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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN FICTION BOOKS & AUTHORS



CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

Toni Shiloh

A Run at Love

Toni Shiloh is a wife, a mom, and an award-winning Christian contemporary romance author. Her novel *In Search of a Prince* won the first ever Christy Amplify Award. It has also been praised by Oprah Daily, POPSUGAR, Library Journal, and Booklist, and is a Parable bestseller. Her books have won the Selah Award and have been finalists for the Carol Award and the HOLT Medallion. As a member of American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW), Toni loves connecting with readers and authors alike via social media.

In this interview, Toni talks with us about her new book, *A Run at Love*.

FF: *A Run at Love* is the second book in your Love in the Spotlight collection of novels. Can you share a little bit about this story with us?

I'd be happy to. *A Run at Love* is the story of best friends Piper McKinney and Tucker Hale. Piper owns a racehorse that she wants Tucker to train and get to the Kentucky Derby. Their story is one that explores identity, friendship, family, and victory. There's so much more I could say, but you'll have to read the book!

FF: Piper McKinney grew up surrounded by the unique industry of horse racing. What led you to make this a part of Piper's story?

I was in the car one day when Piper just appeared in my mind. I saw her riding a horse, and immediately I began to wonder



about how she ended up in Kentucky. It was always in my mind that she was an avid equestrian and in Kentucky.

FF: Piper’s passion for horse racing birthed her dream to one day win the Kentucky Derby. Why is this significant to the storyline?

I love exploring Black people in minority places. I didn’t know a whole lot about the Kentucky Derby before I started writing this book. When I began to research the history of horse racing and saw that Black jockeys had won repeatedly, it made me wonder about owners. I saw Piper as an owner, not a jockey or trainer. I wanted to see her reach for the stars, and in this case, that’s the Kentucky Derby.

FF: What fun elements and what challenges do the Southern setting and the culture of the Derby present to the story?

There are so many fun elements. Writing a story in a location I’m not familiar with gives me the opportunity to learn about another culture and setting. I loved learning about the slang

and foods from Kentucky, and just imagining the Southern hospitality the locale brings.

FF: Can you tell us a little bit more about Piper's relationship with her parents as an adoptee?

Piper is adored by her parents, and she in turn adores them. However, I knew there would be some tension as an adult because she grew up a minority. I talked with friends I know who have transracial adoptees, and I listened to podcasts with adults who were raised in the same situations. It was interesting to hear the perspective of the parents and listen to the grown kids describe how they struggled with their identity but also completely loved their adoptive parents. I wanted to show the same dynamics in Piper's story.

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

Honestly, I hope they love this story in all the ways. I hope they get the Kentucky Derby experience, love the friends-to-more romance, and experience the transformation faith brings.

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

I definitely enjoyed putting Piper and Tuck together. I've loved them since they appeared as secondary characters in *The Love Script*.

FF: As a romance reader yourself, are there any romance tropes in this book that you think readers will find especially entertaining?

I know so many readers love reading romances that develop between friends. I think they'll root for Piper and Tuck as they

work through their assumptions to find each other.

FF: What are you working on next?

I'm actually working on the third book in the *Love In The Spotlight Series*. This one features Chris Gamble and the woman he falls in love with. **FF**

Visit Toni Shiloh's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/toni-shiloh>



A Run at Love

Love in the Spotlight Series #2

Toni Shiloh

Bethany House



Book Summary:

A CONTENDER RUNNING FOR THE ROSES

As a Black woman in a field with little diversity, Piper McKinney is determined to make her mark on the horse-racing world. Raised on a Thoroughbred farm in Kentucky, Piper's dream is for her horse to win the prestigious Kentucky Derby. With the help of her best friend and trainer, Tucker Hale, she gains national attention but must grapple with the complications that arise when a journalist delves into her past as a transracial adoptee.

A BEST FRIEND RACING FOR LOVE

In an effort to win Piper's heart, Tucker formulates a plan to train Piper's horse to victory, hoping to prove himself to her, her parents, and his own self-doubts. Then a shocking scandal hits the media, implicating both Piper and her parents, and she and Tucker will have to survive the onslaught to find their way to the winner's circle—and each other.

A ROMANCE WORTH THE CHALLENGE



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

Jaime Jo Wright

Night Falls on Predicament Avenue

Jaime Jo Wright is the author of ten novels, including Christy Award and Daphne du Maurier Award–winner *The House on Foster Hill* and Carol Award–winner *The Reckoning at Gossamer Pond*. She’s also a two-time Christy Award finalist and the ECPA bestselling author of *The Vanishing at Castle Moreau* (2023), as well as two *Publishers Weekly* bestselling novellas. Jaime lives in Wisconsin with her family and cats.

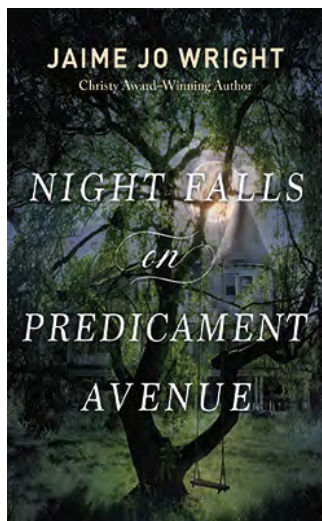
In this interview, Jaime Jo shares some of her insights behind her latest book, ***Night Falls on Predicament Avenue***.

FF: Can you tell us a little about your new novel *Night Falls on Predicament Avenue*?

For sure! This story evolved after I read a newspaper article from the late nineteenth century about a house that was discovered with a horrific crime scene but no victim. That led me into the deep, dark recesses of how it might work when there’s obviously been a crime, and yet there’s no one left to grieve and no one to punish. Thus developed the mystery around 322 Predicament Avenue and all that comes with it.

FF: How do you invent the locations for your eerie tales? What is essential to creating a compelling setting for a thriller?

I must admit, I like to draw on the horror tropes of the past, and haunted houses are the most classic. But any place that’s been abandoned can be a compelling setting, and there are so many abandoned places throughout the world! I love the



old and the concept of “if walls could talk,” and sometimes those abandoned places are lost lakes, or creepy algae-covered ponds, or hollowed-out oak trees. The equation is simple: Abandoned + Intriguing = Compelling.

FF: What sets this book apart from your previous novels?

This book is different from my other novels in that it’s a little less twisty and more murderous in nature. Many of my books have taken the reader through a maze of clues and intricate weaving from past to present. Yet this story revolves around two pretty straightforward crimes, one location, and those lives that were forever changed by the horrors the house conceals.

FF: This is not your first dual-time novel. What draws you to this plot structure?

Because we can’t live today without being touched by the past. The past is instrumental in determining the future, and seeing how stories intersect—sometimes without anyone ever realizing it—is fascinating to me. It’s the idea that if one thing in the

past was changed, the future would be forever altered. So how do they work together? What influences our present, and who would we be if the past had been dealt a different ending?

FF: Writing suspense involves a good deal of foreshadowing. Do you plan this out or let it come to you as you write?

A bit of both. I try to have a general skeleton of the present-day plot so the past can also foreshadow it. It's biblical actually in the context of how the Old Testament is foreshadowed in the New Testament. In my fiction world, however, I never know when the story might take a severe right angle from what was planned, so the muscle and sinew of my foreshadowing is fleshed out during the writing process.

FF: Effie and Norah, the two female protagonists, share some similarities but also some key differences. What differentiates them from each other?

Both of them are on the timid side, yet I found that in Effie's story, her sister inspires her toward courage and bravery, while on Norah's side, her sister's story creates a chasm of fear and reclusiveness. Each sister has such an extreme reaction to her sister's own path that while they're being shaped by them, they all seem to be moving in opposite directions. It was an interesting emotional journey to go on in exploring how grief and trauma can affect people so differently.

FF: Fear plays a major role in this suspense novel. Without giving any spoilers, can you describe a bit of what readers can expect while reading *Night Falls on Predicament Avenue*?

This story involves a cold-case crime and a current crime, one without a killer and another without a victim. It brings an old Victorian home to life—and not in a good way. Of course, there

are the ghostly elements that tickle the back of your neck when you're least expecting it, and for those readers who like a little romance, I included some of that for good measure too.

FF: Another hallmark of your uniquely crafted novels is the effect of the ending on the reader. Can you explain what sets your novels apart from other suspense/thriller novels in the genre?

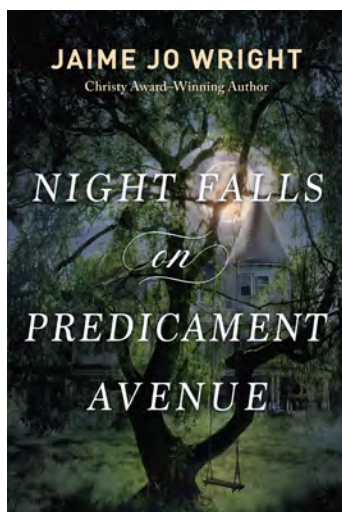
My novels are different in that the endings don't just resolve. Instead, they leave the reader with a spark of hope, which isn't something you typically find in a novel of this genre. I want to write real characters, those who are relatable and authentic with both internal and external complications beyond the thrill, something readers can grab hold of and say "Yeah, that's me!" 'I want to leave the reader with the thought. Maybe there can be hope at the end of the horror. I think that's important, hope.'

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

I won't say too much, but picture butterflies as death omens, Prohibition, and a mother whose legacy terrifies long after she's dead. It's a doozy. I'm in the middle of writing it now, and my head is spinning! **FF**

Visit Jaime Jo Wright's author page here:

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



Night Falls on Predicament Avenue

Jaime Jo Wright
Bethany House



Book Summary:

As the walls of the house at Predicament Avenue reveal their hidden truths, two women—generations apart—discover that fear and foreboding are no respecters of time. In 1910, Effie James is committed to doing anything to save her younger sister, who witnessed a shocking murder, leaving her mute and in danger of the killer's retribution. Effie must prove what her sister saw, but when a British gentleman arrives, he disrupts Effie's quest with his attempts to locate his wife, Isabelle Addington, who was last seen at the supposed crime scene in the abandoned house at 322 Predicament Avenue. Just as Effie discovers what she seeks, she finds that the blood staining the walls will forever link her to a scandal she couldn't imagine, and to a woman whose secrets promise to curse any who would expose them. A century later, Norah Richman grapples with social anxiety and grief as she runs her late great-aunt's bed-and-breakfast on Predicament Avenue. But Norah has little affection for the house and is committed only to carrying out her murdered sister's dreams until crime historian and podcaster Sebastian Blaine arrives to investigate the ghostly legacy of the house's claim to fame—the murder of Isabelle Addington. When a guest is found dead, the incident is linked to Isabelle's murder, and Norah and Sebastian must work together to uncover the century-old curse that has wrapped 322 Predicament Avenue in its clutches and threatens far more than death.



YA/TEEN SCIFI

Lyndsey Lewellen

The Chaos Grid

Lyndsey Lewellen grew up on a healthy dose of comic books, punk music, and sci-fi. She infuses all three loves into novels written for young adults. Inside her “what if” worlds, her characters take risks, grow, and fight for what matters. When she’s not writing or whittling down her endless TBR, she designs novel covers and paints on shoes. She lives on a small Texas farm with her best friend/husband, five children, and what some might call a zoo of animals (especially after meeting the peacocks).

In this interview, Lyndsey talks about her latest book, *The Chaos Grid*.

FF: What inspired the story in your book?

One day, while sitting in Dallas traffic, I imagined the Texas highways without all the commuters. What if people, while trying to stop environmental disaster, caused it and now live trapped inside domed cities? What if, instead of braving the storms, short distance teleportation gave those people an excuse to never leave the safety of the domes? Someone would still have to transport food from the farms. I wanted to explore the lives of those who work the tough jobs that make our convenient lives possible.

I also read a lot of the Old Testament at the time. It struck me how God’s just punishment of the godless cities in that day paralleled the world I was building. I wanted to draw that parallel into my novel.



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

Juniper is a reluctant heroine through and through. She is a teen girl struggling with a traumatic past and a deep emotional grudge. When she's asked to not only forgive the people who harmed her but also rescue them from disaster, she flees. Her gut reaction to saying no to helping others is broken down as she discovers the value of putting others first even when you have every reason not to.

FF: Which character surprised you the most?

There is a side character who very much surprised me. I plotted this character to be someone they did not end up as whatsoever. Since the bare bones of *The Chaos Grid* follows an Old Testament story, I had somewhat of the plot written before I started. But I didn't know who this character was until mid-way through drafting. It ended up being a pleasant plot twist that tied the novel up better than I initially intended.

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

Storytelling is a powerful way to express truth because it allows us to see reality with our guards down. Jesus used this tactic many times through His parables. Those trying to trap Him would ask pointed questions, to which He would reply with a story. I believe when we present truths this way, something inside us switches from defense mode to puzzle solving mode. Why is Jesus telling me about this seed or some sheep when I was asking him about the kingdom of heaven? And when we solve the puzzle, we discover the truth on a deeper spiritual level than if we looked at the situation through foggy glasses of emotion or trying to be “right.”

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

I am currently drafting another YA science fiction novel. My steampunk middle grade adventure series is also being looked at for potential publication.

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

As the wife of a farmer, I wanted to create a futuristic farm that pulled from my experiences growing food. In my opinion, produce always tastes best when it comes right out of the dirt. I leaned into farming life several times through the book.

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

I would love my readers to have a blast reading a wild adventure. I also hope they would find beauty in putting ourselves second. To say yes to whatever God calls us to do. Even if that

means helping those you are justified in your heart to hate. Because what good is it to love only those who love you?

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

Predicting the future isn't my strong suit. I can use my imagination and guess where technology is headed, but I haven't been gifted a Delorean. Yet, it's still fun to think up new ways technology could help or hinder my character as she navigates a futuristic dystopian world.

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

My first step into the punk genres came from reading a comic book called *Steampunk*, by Joe Kelly and Chris Bachalo. I fell in love with the aesthetic and knew I wanted to tell stories in that world. More recently, I've been inspired by authors such as Nadine Brandes, Sharon Hinck, Stephanie Garber, and Brandon Sanderson.

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

My faith in Jesus Christ is infused in all I am. While I enjoy many art mediums from singing to drawing to writing, I don't want to do any of them if I am not also glorifying my Savior. When I write stories, I want to do so with excellence. My love for God is going to pour out of me on the page because that is who I am. **FF**

Visit Lyndsey Lewellen's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/lyndsey-lewellen>



The Chaos Grid

Lyndsey Lewellen
Enclave Publishing



Book Summary:

Cross the grid. Survive the storms.
Let your destiny burn.

When mankind's attempts to control nature backfire, Texas descends into a wasteland. Storms rage and ravenous beasts roam the Outer Grid.

The only safe havens rest inside the tech-obsessed domed cities. But when her parents are murdered inside the Plex City dome, seventeen-year-old Juniper Conway wants revenge.

Ties to her extended family threaten to pull her back as she runs from city to city. The Plex is endangering its citizens by legalizing a deadly nano drug, and Juniper's family needs her help to deliver the counteragent. Saving the city who orphaned her goes against everything she stands for. The only way out is to brave the wasteland.

Juniper joins a shipping crew fearless enough to transport food across the Outer Grid. But when a string of bad luck turns lethal, she fears something, or someone, is dragging her back to the Plex. As her world sinks into chaos, Juniper must decide if revenge is worth the lives of the crew she has come to love.



CONTEMPORARY/SMALL TOWN FICTION

Cheryl Grey Bostrom

Leaning on Air

Cheryl Grey Bostrom writes vivid, surprising prose that reflects her keen interest in nature and human behavior. Her novel *Sugar Birds* has won more than a dozen awards—including American Fiction, Nautilus, Reader’s Favorite, International Fiction, and ACFW Carol Awards, as well as *Christianity Today’s* Fiction Award of Merit and Christy Award finalist honors. An avid photographer, she and her veterinarian husband live in the Pacific Northwest, near the settings for *Sugar Birds* and its sequel *Leaning on Air*, which early readers have called “a masterpiece” and “a reader’s dream.”

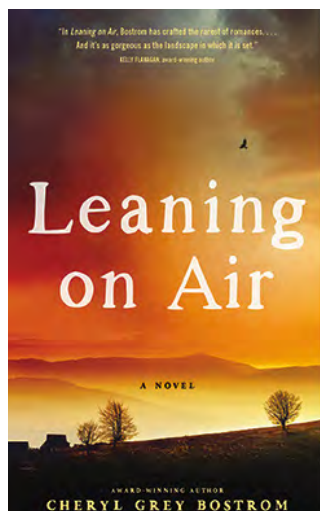
In this interview, Cheryl talks about her new book, *Leaning on Air*.

FF: Who or what inspired this story?

The characters, hands down. When I finished writing *Sugar Birds*, Burnaby and Celia hounded me to continue the narrative—and to write them as adults, together. “It’ll never work,” I told them. Until it did. In *Leaning on Air*, I planted them in the breathtaking Palouse hills, gave them nearly insurmountable differences and circumstances, then watched and listened and recorded as they dealt with life’s hard and wondrous stuff in ways I never expected.

FF: There are many years between the events in *Sugar Birds* and *Leaning on Air*. How has that gap impacted the characters?

Between books, both protagonists launch into academia at their respective universities, then into careers in animal science. But personally, they travel in opposite directions: Burna-



by into self-awareness and relational growth, Celia into confusion and a string of lovers that set her further adrift. When the two reunite, the gap between them spans more than time.

FF: This book addresses many challenging topics such as miscarriage and marriage struggles. Why is it important to discuss these sometimes-taboo topics?

Grief festers in isolation. Loving community—which includes hearing and being heard—is crucial to guard against that infection. When Celia withdraws after tragedy, for example, she packs her sorrow alone and spirals to the depths. How she connects with others (or fails to) shapes the course of her healing.

FF: Burnaby, Celia's husband, is a man with autism. What can readers learn about the neurodivergent community from him?

Oh, intriguing, unique Burnaby, as one-of-a-kind as every other person on the spectrum. If we're wise, we won't stereotype those with autism, but will instead explore our commonalities and learn new ways to connect. Neurodivergent perspectives

can inform our own, just as Burnaby's personal challenges, perception, and worldview stretch Celia and form the heart of their beautiful love story.

FF: Much of *Leaning on Air* revolves around Celia and Burnaby's relationship. How is their love story different than others?

In the simple matter of touch, for one. Though few readers will have experienced Celia and Burnaby's particular struggle, many will relate to the mystery and delight of physical connection, the loneliness and longing in its absence, and the challenge to understand and meet one another's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

FF: On your website, you mention that "Creation speaks daily." What do you hope readers will extract from the Pacific Northwest setting in *Leaning on Air*?

By inserting readers into the rhythms and beauty of the land and sky and creatures in the remote, rural Palouse, I hope they'll tumble into love for the natural world and that awe will point them to its Creator.

FF: *Sugar Birds* won several awards. You also write poetry and are a photographer. Please describe your creative process and what inspires you.

I'm profoundly inspired by nature and human resilience—and God's hand in both. Therefore, I always begin a novel by choosing a setting that will whet my imagination and fuel me with wonder during the year or so I'll be writing the story. Next, I brainstorm flawed, complex characters I hope to love, drop them into that landscape and ask them what they want and need. When they answer by moving or thinking, talking or interacting, I lay out the story's arc and up the ante on their

quests. Then I spy on them and get up early to write what I see and hear. I set word count goals and do rough edits as I go. Most weeks, I write six days out of seven.

FF: How did you decide to write novels?

Ha! The decision minced through the back door. I had wanted to write fiction since childhood, but couldn't envision the path. Stymied, I instead wrote poetry, essays, devotionals. When I didn't pursue publication of those, friends submitted them, invited me to write columns, and nudged me to write proposals that resulted in short-form publication and two nonfiction books. Stories heaped in my head after that, but fearing failure, I kept them there. Then my first grandchild was born, and I wrote a sketch about a girl who lights a fire. That's when I decided. I cleared my slate of nonessential commitments, learned all I could, and wrote *Sugar Birds*.

FF: What advice would you offer aspiring authors?

Writing's not like eye color. Put in the hours, and you can learn the craft. It's never too late.

FF: Which authors have shaped you most as a writer?

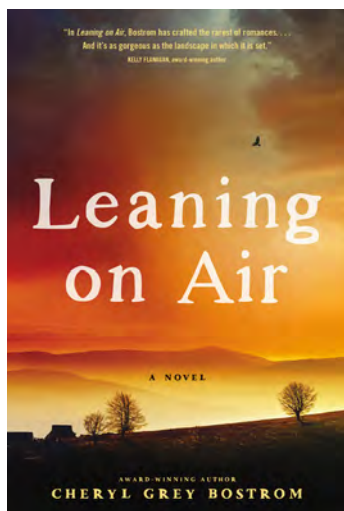
Oooh. A feast of them, in no order at all: Wallace Stegner, Eowyn Ivey, O. E. Rølvaag, Willa Cather, Lisa Wingate, Jeffrey Lent, Annie Dillard, Harper Lee, William Kent Krueger, Alice Munro, Ivan Doig, Barbara Kingsolver, Louise Erdrich, Marilynne Robinson...

FF: What new projects are you working on now?

Novel #3—slated for publication by Tyndale in May 2025. **FF**

Visit Cheryl Grey Bostrom's author page here:

<https://familyfiction.com/authors/cheryl-grey-bostrom>



Leaning on Air

Cheryl Grey Bostrom

Tyndale House

Buy Now 

Book Summary:

They last spoke as teens...

But on a country road twelve years later, a surprise encounter reunites ornithologist Celia Burke with veterinary surgeon Burnaby Hayes, and they plunge into the most unusual

romance of her life.

After a decade of marriage, Celia and Burnaby have found a unique and beautiful rhythm. Then tragedy strikes while Celia hunts for the nest of a research hawk near the Snake River. Reeling with grief, she's certain Burnaby won't understand her anguish or forgive the choice that initiated it.

She flees to kindness at a remote farm in Washington's Palouse region, where a wild prairie and an alluring neighbor convince her to begin anew. But when unexplained accidents, cryptic sketches, and a mute little boy make her doubt her decision, only a red-tailed hawk and the endangered lives of those she loves can compel her to examine her past—and reconsider her future.

New Releases: May 2024



Secondary Target

The Secrets of Kincaid Series

Angela Carlisle

Bethany House

Genres: Mystery/Suspense,
Romantic Suspense

Release Date: May 7, 2024



Love Overboard

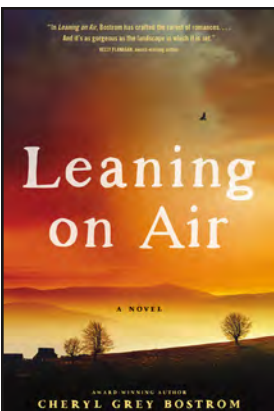
Love Overboard Series #1

Shannon Sue Dunlap

Kregel Publications

Genres: Mystery/Suspense, Romantic
Suspense

Release Date: May 21, 2024



Leaning on Air

Cheryl Grey Bostrom

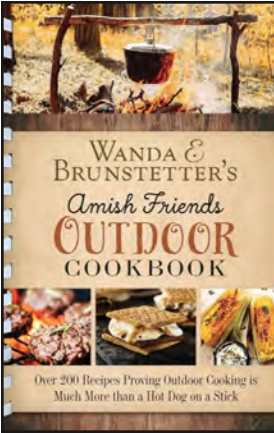
Tyndale House

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Amish Friends Outdoor Cookbook *Over 250 Recipes Proving Outdoor Cooking Is Much More Than a Hot Dog on a Stick*

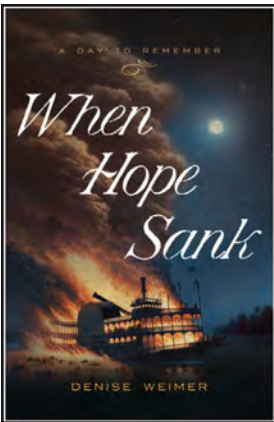
Wanda E. Brunstetter

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The Sisters of Corinth

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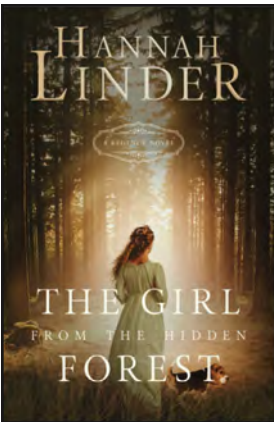
Grace Hitchcock

Kregel Fiction

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Hannah Linder

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Nicole Deese

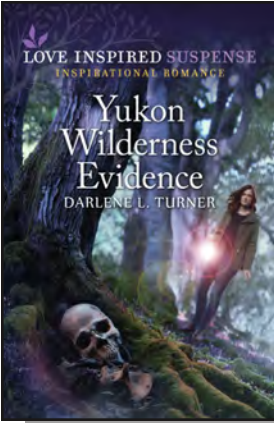
Bethany House

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Darlene L. Turner

Love Inspired Suspense

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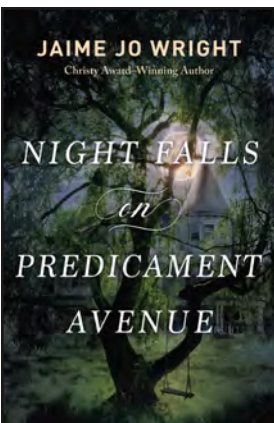
James R. Hannibal

Enclave Publishing

Genres: YA/Teen Fantasy

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Night Falls on Predicament Avenue

Jaime Jo Wright

Bethany House

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The Songbird of Hope Hill

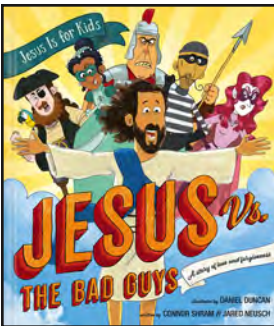
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WaterBrook

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Jesus vs. the Bad Guys

A Story of Love and Forgiveness

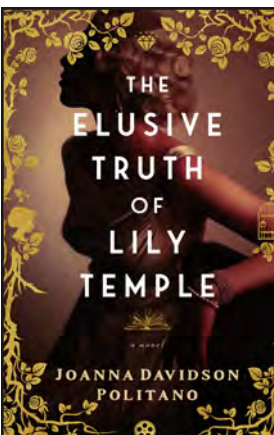
Connor Shram, Jared Neusch

Tyndale Kids

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Joanna Davidson Politano

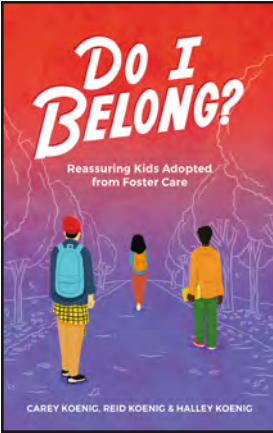
Revell

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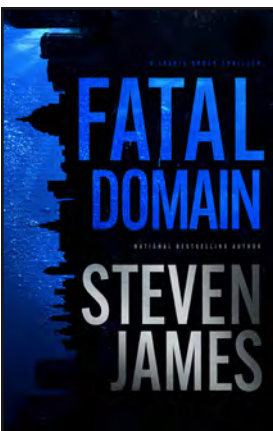
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Thomas Nelson

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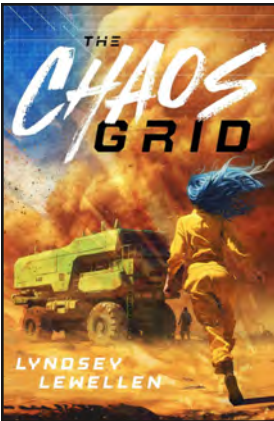
Marianne Hering

Focus on the Family

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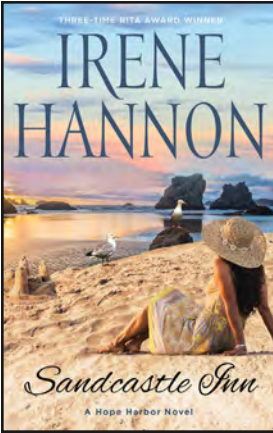
Tyndale

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Novels

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Irene Hannon

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A Novel of Biltmore Estate

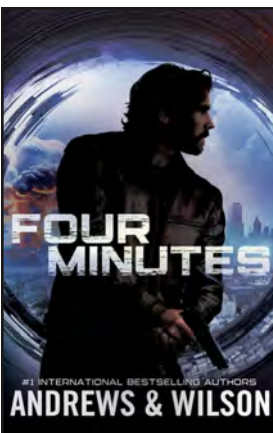
Sarah Loudin Thomas

Bethany House

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Four Minutes

Brian Andrews, Jeffrey Wilson

Blackstone Publishing

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The Sleuth of Blackfriars Lane

Blackfriars Lane Series #3

Michelle Griep

Barbour

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Set in Stone

Treasures of the Earth Series #2

Kimberley Woodhouse

Bethany House

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