FamilyFiction

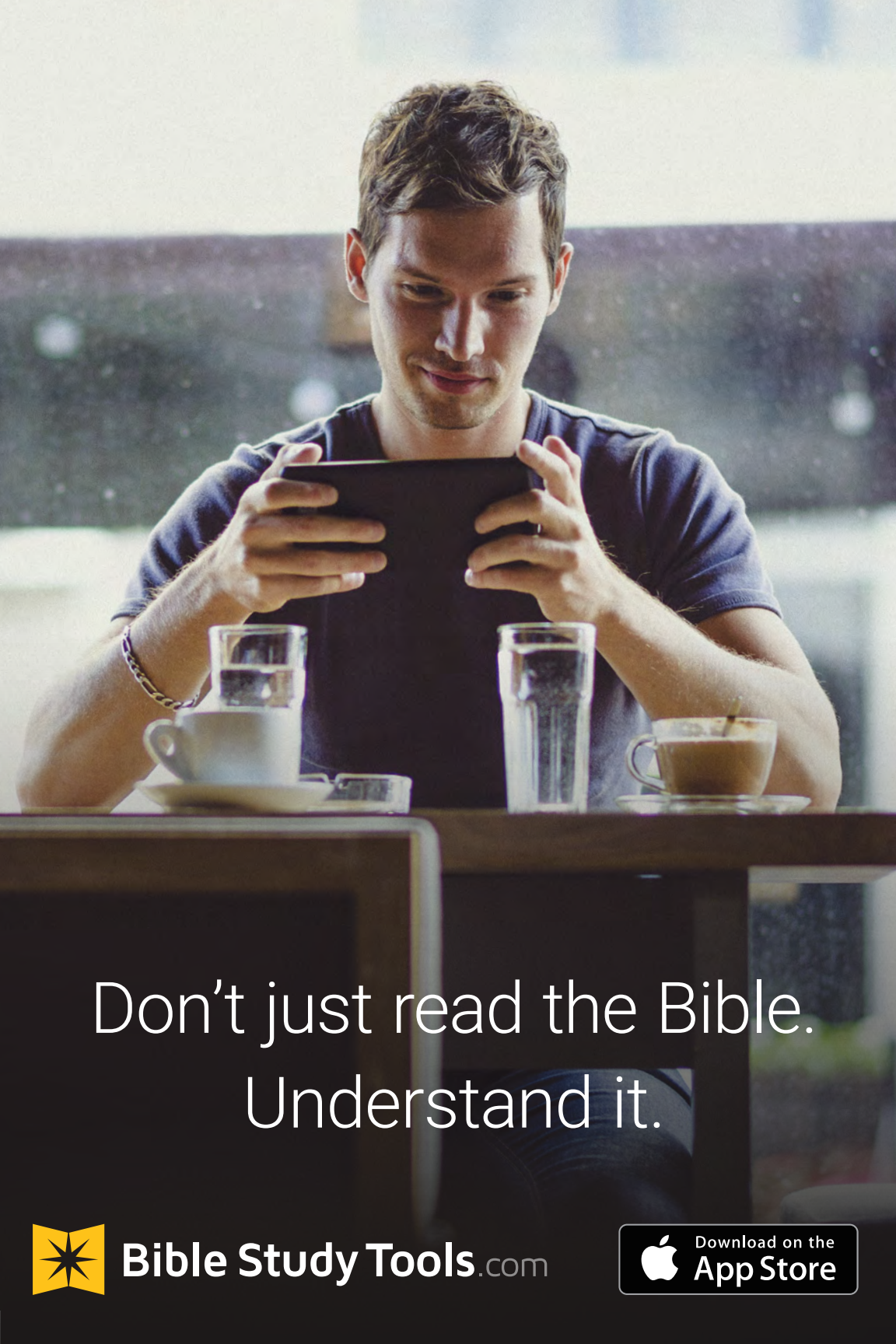
September 2024

Contemporary Author
T.I. LOWE

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

DiAnn Mills | Kimberley Woodhouse | Carrie Turansky
Tosca Lee | Toni Shiloh | Katherine Briggs

New Christian Ficton Book Releases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MONTHLY DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Contents **SEPTEMBER 2024**

Features

CONTEMPORARY

T.I. LOWE

In this interview, she talks with us about her latest book, ***Lowcountry Lost***.

SUSPENSE

DIANN MILLS

In this interview, DiAnn shares her thoughts regarding her latest thriller, ***Lethal Standoff***.

HISTORICAL ROMANCE

KIMBERLEY WOODHOUSE

In this interview, Kimberley talks with us about the third book in her T***reasures of the Earth Series***, titled ***A Hope Unburied***.

SPLIT-TIME ROMANCE

CARRIE TURANSKY

In this interview, Carrie talks with us about her latest novel, ***A Token of Love***.

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Features

HOLIDAY ROMANCE

TONI SHILOH

In this interview, Toni shares some of her insights into her latest Christmas Romance novel, ***The Christmas Catch***.

SUSPENSE

TOSCA LEE

In this interview, Tosca talks with us about her latest novel, ***Demon: A Memoir***.

YA/TEEN FANTASY

KATHERINE BRIGGS

In this interview, Katherine talks with us about the second book in her ***The Threshold Duology Series***, titled ***The Immortal Abyss***.

New Releases & Bestsellers

New Christian fiction books from **Becca Wierwille, Roseanna M. White, Darlene L. Turner, Carrie Turansky, Stacy T. Simmons, Toni Shiloh, Marty Machowski, Kimberley Woodhouse, Erica Vetsch, Tim Shoemaker, Michelle Shocklee, DiAnn Mills, Shannon McNear, Dandi Daley Mackall, T.I. Lowe, Michelle Griep, Matt Forté, Helen Dent, , Katherine Briggs, Jennifer Marshall Bleakley, Lynn Austin, Kelly Irvin, Kara Swanson** and many more!

Amish
Contemporary
Historical
Romance
Sci-Fi/Speculative
Suspense
Children's
YA/Teens
Middle Grade Kids
Comics/Animation
Movies/DVDs
Christmas

FamilyFiction
October 2017
Suspense Author
ROBERT WHITLOW
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
FamilyFiction
SUMMER READING GUIDE
TOP 50
Christian Fiction Authors Readers Poll Results
80+ New Book Releases
Historical Author
Tara Johnson
Amish Author
Jennifer Spreadmann
FamilyFiction
March 2017
Children's Author
PRISCILLA SHIRER
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Patricia Bradley | 21 Historical Novels Set in Bible Times
Leslie Gould | Kingstone Comics | 30 New Releases
FamilyFiction
Romance Author
FRANCINE RIVERS
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
James L. Rubart | Colleen Coble | Wanda E. Brunstetter
Samuel Parker | The Rim 'Extraordinary'
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books and DVDs
FamilyFiction
May 2018
Amish Author
BEVERLY LEWIS
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Michael W. Smith & VeggieTales' Mike Nawrocki
Heidi Chiavaroli | Katie Ganshert | Susan May Warren
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books and DVDs
FamilyFiction
June 2019
Historical Romance
KAREN WITEMEYER
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Rachel McMillan | Beth K. Vogt
Suzanne Woods Fisher | Matt Mikalatos | Ginny L. Yttrup
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs
FamilyFiction
February 2019
Split-Time Fiction Author
JAIME JO WRIGHT
FamilyFiction
April 2019
Contemporary Author
CHARLES MARTIN
FamilyFiction
July 2018
Romance Author
BECKY WADE
FamilyFiction
May 2020
Fantasy Author
MORGAN L. BUSSE
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Rachel Hauck | Michelle Griep
Robin Jones Gunn | Irene Hannon | James R. Hannibal
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs
FamilyFiction
September 2020
10th ANNIVERSARY
LOOKING BACK, PRESSING FORWARD
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Susan May Warren | Katherine Reay
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs
FamilyFiction
Suspense Author
JERRY B. JENKINS
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Lynn Austin | Cindy and Erin Woodsmall
Jan Drexler | Travis Thrasher | Carolyn Miller
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books and DVDs
FamilyFiction
October 2019
omantic Suspense Author
IRENE HANNON
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs
FamilyFiction
Contemporary Author
KAREN KINGSBURY
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Tony & Lauren Dungy | Robin Caroll
Ted Dekker | Kim Vogel Sawyer | DiAnn Mills
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books and DVDs
Collector's Edition
FamilyFictio
CHRISTIAN ROMANCE SPECIAL
35
Essential Christian Romance Authors: FamilyFiction readers tell us their picks
10 Christian Romance Movies
FamilyFiction
February 2020
Speculative Author
STEVEN JAMES
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs
FamilyFiction
April 2019
Historical Author
TRACIE PETERSON
PLUS: 30+ New Christian Books & DVDs
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CONTEMPORARY

T.I. Lowe

Lowcountry Lost

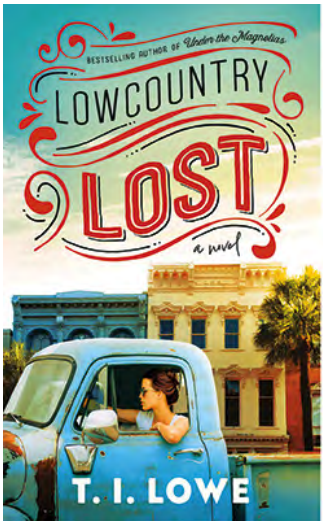
T.I. Lowe is an ordinary country girl who loves to tell extraordinary stories. She is the author of twenty novels, including the bestselling Indigo Isle; the #1 international bestseller and critically acclaimed *Under the Magnolias*; and her debut breakout, *Lulu's Café*. She lives with her husband and family in coastal South Carolina.

In this interview, she talks with us about her latest book, ***Lowcountry Lost***.

FF: Without giving too much away, can you tell us a little bit about the storyline of *Lowcountry Lost*?
It's about one woman who feels like a ghost town—barely existing and all but forgotten—while taking on the task of bringing life back to an actual ghost town. Avalee will face her own revitalization while working on this town, uncovering a past that needs to be dealt with once and for all.

FF: Where did your idea for this story come from?
During my pregnancy with my daughter, I was told I was miscarrying. I was beyond devastated, but then they found a heartbeat! That affected me intensely and gave me more empathy for those who do not find a heartbeat. This story is me trying to pay my love and respect to those who have lost a child.

FF: What are some of the major themes of this story?
Grief. Found family. Second chances.



FF: What is special about the relationship between your main characters, Avalee Elvis and Rowan Murray?
They were childhood friends first, so they have a multifaceted bond that a normal relationship doesn't have. They came into it with personal knowledge that someone new wouldn't know. I think that's why they were unable to break their connection so easily.

FF: You've written your fair share of love stories. How was writing a second-chance romance unique from your other love stories?
I'm a sucker for second-chance romance. It's unique to write because the couple has history on a much deeper level than, say, a new love interest. But also unique because the separation has allowed time for change and the couple must learn each other all over again.

FF: Is there a side character in this story you particularly enjoyed creating?
Oh, I really do love my side characters. To choose just one… let's see…I think I have to pick Sebastian, the runaway teen. He's been through a lot and has had to grow up way too fast. He plays a major part in Avalee and Rowan's reconciliation.

FF: How do you hope this story will resonate with your readers, particularly women who may relate to Avalee?
I want this story to give comfort to those who have suffered the same loss as Avalee and to give others more understanding of how losing a child impacts the parents. I hope it leads to open conversations about miscarriage and stillbirth.

FF: How does faith play a role in this book?
We don't understand why things happen in this life, but having faith in God is such an important part of surviving tragedy. We cannot lean into our own understandings. We must lean on God, seeking him through prayer and his Word. I think it's okay to question God, to be honest about our grief and anger, to ask him to guide us through the dark times.

FF: What are your favorite romance tropes (either to read or to employ in your writing)?
I love to read a lighthearted romantic comedy, because life is tough and we need more humor. I also love second-chance romances, obviously! I like seeing a couple overcome true-to-life obstacles to reclaim the love they have for each other.

FF: Are there any other writing projects you have planned currently?

Oh yes! This curious imagination of mine never hushes up! I am currently working on two books at the same time, because, apparently, I like making things hard on myself. I hope to share more about both soon. **FF**

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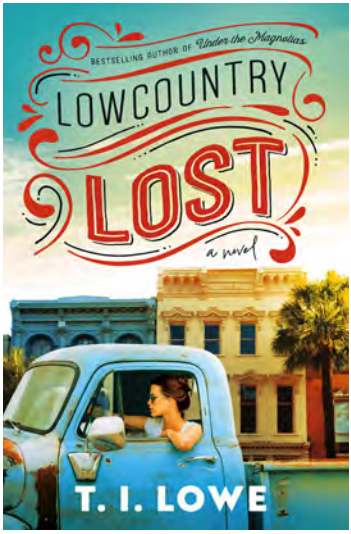

Lowcountry Lost
T.I. Lowe
Tyndale Fiction

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Book Summary:
Avalee Elvis prides herself on being able to fix just about anything… except her past. Unable to put the puzzle of her life together, she pours heart and soul into making neglected places whole again. As the owner of Lowcountry Lost, she spends her days in a tool belt reclaiming Lowcountry properties. Making them beautiful again releases the deep sigh that soothes the hurt she holds.

Avalee's latest project takes her to tiny Somewhere, South Carolina, a long-abandoned town. She ignores its ghostly folklore but can't miss the shock of hearing the familiar Irish brogue that materializes on the job site—the voice of the man she never wanted to see again.

Rowan Murray is a structural engineer hired by investors to oversee the redevelopment of the quaint downtown Avalee is bringing back to life. Once upon a time, he was also the man who knew Avalee better than anyone else—or so he thought. Six years ago, neither of them was prepared for the tragedy they would face together or what would happen in its wake. But as they work together to complete the rehabbing of Somewhere, their broken pieces and the pain that nearly consumed them begin to lose its grip, and both begin to wonder if it's not too late for a restoration of their own.

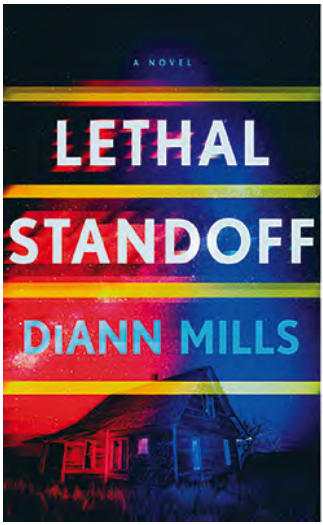
SUSPENSE
DiAnn Mills
Lethal Standoff

DiAnn Mills is a bestselling author who believes her readers should expect an adventure. She creates action-packed, suspense-filled novels to thrill readers. Her titles have appeared on the CBA and ECPA bestseller lists and won two Christy Awards, the Golden Scroll, Inspirational Reader's Choice, and Carol Award contests.

In this interview, DiAnn shares her thoughts regarding her latest thriller, ***Lethal Standoff***.

FF: Where did you come up with the idea for the plot of *Lethal Standoff*?
As a Texan, I'm aware of the undocumented immigrant situation that affects not only Texans but all Americans. I wanted to show a non-biased story that reflects the various sides. My story brings a woman hostage negotiator onto the scene who is compassionate and cares about all people. I also wanted to focus on a journalist who insists on reporting fairly in all situations. My goal was to thrust both into a volatile and dangerous environment that neither expected.

FF: Tell us about some of the core themes you discuss in this novel. How can your readers relate to these themes in their own lives?
All of us face choices, and how we approach them depends on our backgrounds, personalities, and life experiences. My core themes focus on choices, forgiveness, and redemption. To love freely and make godly choices, we must learn to forgive



others and ourselves. Forgiveness is a recurring theme in all my stories. It's vital to our relationship with God and others.

FF: What inspired the personality traits of your main character, Carrington? What personal transformation does she undergo in the book?
I wanted to show an independent and strong woman who survived a tragic childhood. But instead of bitterness, she walked the path of compassion. Although the story challenges her compassion, she travels the road back to God.

FF: Who was your favorite character to write about and why?
Levi stole my heart right from the beginning when he told me he was a Messianic Jew and his Orthodox Jewish parents had disowned him—even had a funeral for him. But Levi had a special relationship with Jesus, and as much as it hurt to be shunned from his family, he loved Jesus more. Levi's faith helped Carrington to recapture what she'd lost in her relationship with Jesus. I interviewed Messianic Jewish people

who had faced the same problems with family and those leaders within the church. I learned more about Messianic Jews, which helped me grow too!

FF: How does faith play a role in the story?
Carrington blamed God and herself for her parents' death, and when she received a medical diagnosis with the potential of ending her life, her resolve grew stronger. Until she surrendered her life to Jesus. Levi grasped on to Jesus for strength when his family forsook him. Later when Carrington met with danger, he had to choose between what he could do on his own and his faith.

FF: What was your favorite scene to write in *Lethal Standoff*?
My favorite scene to write about was when Carrington and Levi approached the brothers holding the undocumented immigrants hostage. It took guts, faith, and a commitment to free the hostages.

FF: What was the most challenging scene to write in the book?
The most challenging was the scene following my favorite one to write. I didn't expect the shooter to commit suicide, and I struggled with how Carrington would tell his wife, knowing the man had a son and daughter. Emotions are critical to every good or not-so-good scene, and the responses stretched me.

FF: How is this book similar to and different from your many award-winning books?
Similar in that forgiveness always plays a strong role. Different because of the theme of undocumented immigrants. Avoiding

life and its problems doesn't solve anything. Facing them grows and changes us into better people.

FF: As an award-winning author known for pulse-pounding romantic suspense, how do you keep the momentum and tension high throughout the novel, particularly in the climactic scenes?
I always ask myself, "What is the worst possible thing that could happen in this scene that is unpredictable yet in character, then raises the stakes?" My method is to list three possibilities, with each one worse than the previous. My goal is to move toward the unexpected and unpredictable as a natural outflowing of the character.

FF: Every book poses unique challenges. In *Lethal Standoff*, what aspects of the plot or character development presented challenges that differed from your previous works, and how did you overcome them?
My biggest challenge in *Lethal Standoff* was learning negotiation techniques that were authentic. I took a negotiation course, interviewed negotiators, and watched movies that featured characters in that role. Learning how Carrington would approach the abductors proved fascinating.

FF: What do you hope readers will take away from the story?
To acquire transparency takes courage. It means an authentic personality that is filled with integrity, love for others, forgiveness, and the willingness to admit mistakes. We can't help others unless we are transparent about ourselves.

FF: Will you give us a sneak peek into your next project?
I'm very excited about my next story and always thrilled with new characters and opportunities to impact readers with an engaging read. A female wilderness survival expert and a Texas Ranger negotiator trek into an off-the-grid desolate area to free a little seven-year-old girl who's being held hostage to silence her Russian father from revealing terrorist information. Together they unravel a web of deceit. They must not only save a life but also expose a dangerous conspiracy. **FF**

Visit DiAnn Mills's author page here:
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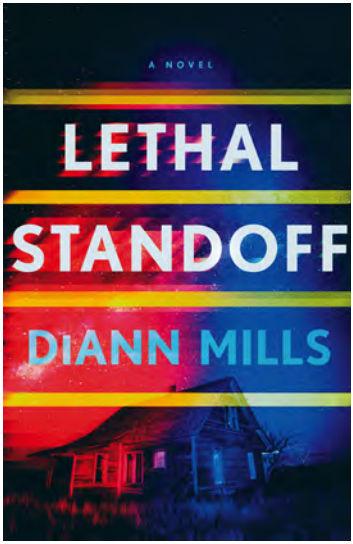

Lethal Standoff
DiAnn Mills
Tyndale Fiction

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Book Summary:
Justice can be elusive. Family secrets can be deadly. The stakes are high, and the clock is ticking in a volatile criminal case filled with unanswered questions. And Carrington Reed is running short on time to piece together clues that will solve the puzzle.

Hostage negotiator Carrington Reed is called to the scene when reports come in that fifteen hostages are being held by the Kendrix brothers in an abandoned house in south Texas. When she arrives on site, Carrington quickly learns that the brothers are armed and refuse to release their victims, a group of undocumented immigrants, until the local police identify their father's murderer.

Working closely with Levi Ehrlich, a handsome investigative reporter who has covered some of Carrington's negotiations in the past, she finds herself being undeniably drawn to him. Carrington digs deeper into the death of the Kendrixes' father and begins to notice that some details surrounding his death aren't adding up.

As Carrington investigates the brothers' claims and tries to piece together their motive for taking innocent people captive, it soon becomes clear that they are trying to hide something and that revenge for their father's death may not be what they're really bargaining for after all. To protect the hostages and ensure the brothers don't carry out the rest of their sinister plot, Carrington must get to the bottom of one family's secret and the truth they're trying so hard to hide before time runs out.

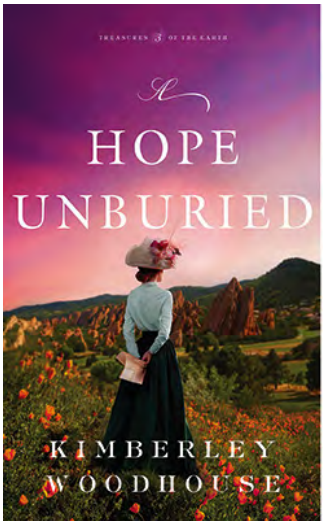
HISTORICAL ROMANCE
Kimberley Woodhouse
A Hope Unburied

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 grandkids, and research all the history around them.

In this interview, Kimberley talks with us about the third book in her *Treasures of the Earth Series*, titled ***A Hope Unburied***.

FF: Can you please provide a brief summary of your novel, *A Hope Unburied*?
Eliza Mills's paleontology career has led her to Dinosaur National Monument. When she gets the chance to dig up bones at a ranch with a dark history, it sparks a chain of events that will rock her carefully constructed world. She and her friend Devin find themselves entangled in a web of danger, and he must rescue Eliza from those who want her to fail.

FF: In *A Hope Unburied*, you introduce readers to Eliza Mills and Devin Schmitt. Can you provide some background information on both of your characters and explain how they are connected?
Eliza and Devin have been best friends since childhood. He's the son of her private tutor, and they grew up together. Devin follows in his father's footsteps and goes into education, while Eliza follows her long-loved passion: paleontology.



Eliza has always been passionate about dinosaurs and the science of paleontology.

FF: How did she first learn about this field, and how has she worked her way up in this profession?
Eliza was introduced to the sciences through her tutor, Mr. Schmitt, Devin's dad. He encouraged her love of learning. Also, her family's connection to Mr. Andrew Carnegie helped spur her on in her love of paleontology, as he opened museums and encouraged further learning through establishing colleges, nonprofits, and expanding free library programs.

FF: Devin has no real interest in exploring dinosaur digs, so why does he continue to find himself immersed in Eliza's adventures?
Devin has inherited his father's love of learning, so in part, he's intrigued by what Eliza finds. But really, he falls in love with Eliza in his late teens and would go wherever she wanted him to. Because he loves her, he encourages her in her studies and dreams of being a female paleontologist.

FF: Eliza is a city girl, but her world is about to change when she is offered her dream position. What and where is her new role?

She is offered a prestigious position at Dinosaur National Monument just outside of Jensen, Utah. Not only does she get to show off the massive bones being unearthed from the monument, but she gets to learn from Earl Douglas, the paleontologist whose discovery led to the establishing of the monument. It's a huge honor for her to be able to learn and grow in her field. But being out in the middle of nowhere might take its toll on her. And did she pack enough hats?

FF: After landing in Utah, Eliza is given the opportunity to dig up bones at a neighboring ranch. But this seemingly innocent process is fraught with peril. Without giving away any spoilers, can you provide readers with a hint of what both Eliza and Devin may encounter when trying to uncover this new dig?

Eliza's trip and Devin's subsequent visit brings much danger, judgment from the church community, and a mysterious family ranch that is rumored to be haunted. During all of that, they are also confronted with their own feelings about what their relationship is and what they each want it to be. Then the stakes get even higher as animals are found dead and then people.

FF: What lessons or themes are found within the pages of *A Hope Unburied*?

Eliza has to face some deep fears and insecurities regarding her passion for science and creation. Does she really trust God in who He's created her to be? How can she really know that? Her journey to being secure in her faith and maturing into a young woman is a challenge and she makes a lot of mistakes along the way. But she also experiences a lot of grace.

Devin is steady and strong in his faith and love—both for the Lord and Eliza. But he really struggles with hope. He truly feels that he must let Eliza go—he made a promise to her grandfather, and he doesn't feel worthy of her. But there is a thread of hope in him that just won't quit. He learns how to be more tenacious in standing up for what's right, and not being afraid to speak the truth in love.

FF: *A Hope Unburied* is the final book in the *Treasures of the Earth Series*. How have all of the books in the series been connected?

When I started writing these books, I wanted to focus on women in a science that really was a good old boys club. Several early fossils in England were found by a young woman, Mary Anning, who ended up making major, foundational contributions to the science of paleontology. In the mid-to-late 1800s, women were expected to be society misses or were stuck in a workhouse in horrible working conditions.

But there were many men and women, in the church and society, who were fighting to give women the opportunity to explore higher education. I really wanted to highlight that pioneering spirit in a field that was fraught with so much competition and dishonesty. Because there were people who loved God and science and fought to show how they truly fit together.

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

Each of my heroines have great strengths and relatable weaknesses. They are each fighting for their place in history and to bring God glory for the creation He's given to us. I

hope seeing faith and science through their stories is an encouragement to believers.

FF: What are you working on next?
With Each Tomorrow, book two in the *Jewels Of Kalispell Series* with Tracie Peterson releases in May, and, we're currently writing the third book in the series. I can't wait for readers to head back to Kalispell and connect with some of my favorite characters. And it is always a treat to write with my dear friend Tracie.

I'm also working on new historical suspense set in the decade before World War Two breaks out. Tentatively titled, The Pianist, it's a story that has been on my heart for several years, and I'm thrilled that it will be in readers' hands in the fall of 2025, but I can't reveal too much more…for now!. **FF**

Visit Kimberley Woodhouse's author page here:
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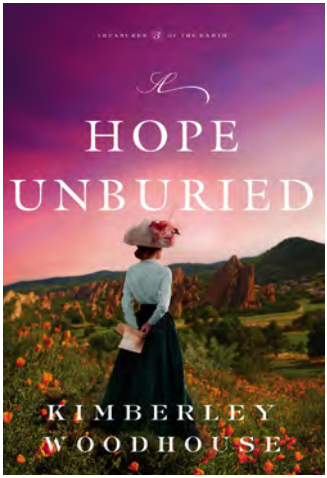


A Hope Unburied
Treasures of the Earth Series #3
Kimberley Woodhouse
Bethany House

Buy Now

Book Summary:
Beyond the perilous landscape lies a love that defies extinction…

In the bustling world of paleontology in 1916, Eliza Mills defies societal expectations to pursue her passion. Having published her early groundbreaking papers under a false name, she has finally earned her place at the Carnegie Museum and seizes the opportunity to work at Dinosaur National Monument with a renowned paleontologist. But things in Jensen, Utah, aren't what they appear. When Eliza gets the chance to dig up bones at a ranch with a dark history, it sparks a chain of events that will rock the very fabric of her carefully constructed world.

Devin Schmitt, Eliza's closest friend since childhood, harbors unspoken feelings for her but knows he will never be able to win her heart. Just as he vows to give her up for good, Eliza begs him to visit her in Utah for another grand adventure. He reluctantly agrees, and within a few days of his arrival, he and Eliza find themselves entangled in a web of danger where the stakes are much higher than they ever anticipated. Together, Devin and Eliza must hold on to God as their hope as they navigate a treacherous terrain of betrayal to unbury the truth and save Eliza from those who wish to see her fail.

SPLIT-TIME ROMANCE

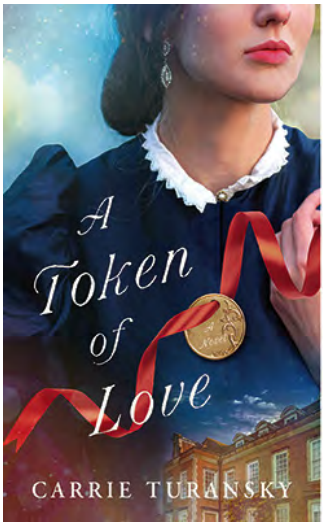
Carrie Turansky

A Token of Love

Carrie Turansky is the award-winning author of twenty-two inspirational novels and novellas and a winner of the Carol Award, the International Digital Award, and the HOLT Medallion. She loves traveling to England to research her Edwardian novels, including *The Legacy of Longdale Manor*, *No Journey Too Far*, *No Ocean Too Wide*, and the *Edwardian Brides Series*. Her novels have been translated into several languages and have received starred reviews from *Library Journal* and ChristianBook.com.

In this interview, Carrie talks with us about her latest novel, ***A Token of Love***.

FF: Your new book, *A Token of Love*, is releasing in September 2024. Talk to us about what this story is about.
A Token of Love is a heartfelt dual-time novel set in London during the Victorian era and contemporary time. The historical heroine teams up with an investigative journalist to search for her young niece who has gone missing from the Foundling Hospital. With only a few clues and the gold token left to identify her, the two set off through the dark streets of London intent on rescuing the girl and exposing those who abducted her. The contemporary heroine steps in as the temporary director of the Foundling Museum and is caught in a quandary when the man they've hired to make a film about the Foundling Hospital's history discovers secrets that could damage the museum's reputation and ability to raise much needed support.



FF: One of the main threads that presents itself in the novel is the issue of human trafficking. What inspired you to include this focus on the safety of women and girls?
Human trafficking is a serious issue, and not one I would usually choose to tackle in a book, but in my research, I came across the biography of Josephine Butler. She was a woman of strong faith who was not afraid to speak out about the need to change laws to protect women and girls. She held public meetings and often wrote articles and pamphlets in support of this cause. She faced tremendous opposition and showed great courage. Her faith and dedication tugged at my heart, and I knew she would be a wonderful inspiration for a heroine who would bring these issues to light and encourage readers to consider how we can help women and girls today.

FF: The book takes place in London in two different time periods—present day and also 1855. What is your approach to research before writing a novel like this one? Do you visit the places you write about?

Visiting the places where my novels are set is the best way to capture the sense of time and place, but that's not always an option. I did most of my research for *A Token of Love* online and through reading several books about life in Victorian England. But I was delighted to be able to visit London and tour the Foundling Museum earlier this year. Seeing the tokens on display there as well as the paintings and artifacts from the Foundling Hospital was a wonderful experience! The Foundling Hospital has a fascinating history! If you travel to London, I encourage you to visit the Foundling Museum!

FF: Which of the two time periods was more difficult for you to write in and why?

Stepping back in time to 1885 London was the most challenging for me. The last several novels I've written have been set in the early 1900s. Though *A Token of Love* is set only twenty to thirty years earlier, it's one generation back, so that changes several practical things from clothing styles to transportation. It took some extra research to be sure I had those details correct. Using the Foundling Museum as a central focus in the contemporary plot was also a challenge. I wanted to portray it correctly and do justice to their wonderful work and also honor the history of the Foundling Hospital. When you're featuring real people and places, that's always a bit more challenging, but it makes the story even more meaningful.

FF: Many of your books are set in England. What sparked your fascination with this geographical setting and its history?

This is my ninth book set in England, and I've loved learning about the people and history, as well as different areas of the country. Some of my favorite novels, *Jane Eyre* and *Pride and Prejudice*, are set in England, and that also played a part in motivating me to write novels set there. Back in 2012, the popularity of *Downton Abbey* sparked my interest in life in England in the Edwardian era. As I dove into the research, I was captivated and inspired by the customs, dress, lifestyle, and Christians who were making a difference then. Ideas for stories filled my heart and mind, and I took off in that direction.

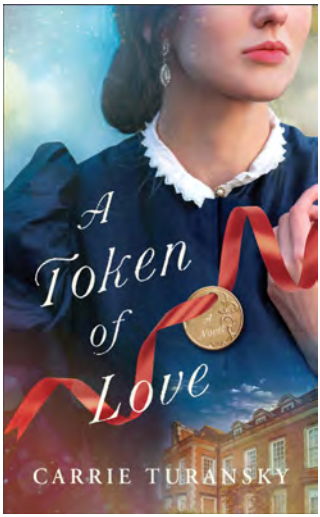
FF: What lessons do you hope readers of *A Token of Love* come away with at the end?

I hope readers will feel like they have been transported back to 1885 London and as though they can join the characters on their journeys. I hope they will think about the issue of human trafficking and what they can do to protect women and girls. The story also emphasizes the loving bond between sisters and commitment to family. Both heroines learn more about trusting the Lord to carry them through challenging times and not allowing pain from the past to steal the blessings the Lord wants to give them in the present. I hope readers will take those themes to heart and they will inspire and strengthen their faith.

FF: Can you share with our audience what you might be working on next?

I'm working on a new English historical romance series titled *The Lost Treasures of Yorkshire*, featuring three sisters who inherit an old estate and crumbling manor house in rural Yorkshire in 1912. In the first book, *Echoes Across the Moors*, the sisters find an old photograph they believe features the Brontë Sisters, but detractors insist it's someone else. The research has been so interesting! I've never set a book in Yorkshire, so I've enjoyed learning about a new area of England. It's been great fun weaving in details about the Brontë Sisters who wrote some amazing novels in the early Victorian era, including *Jane Eyre*. **FF**

Visit Carrie Turansky's author page here:
https://familyfiction.com/authors/carrie-turansky



A Token of Love
A Victorian London Split-Time Christian Historical Romance Novel
Carrie Turansky
Buy Now uuse

Book Summary:
Separated by centuries, the lives of two women intertwine through their shared pursuit of love, truth, and justice.

In 1885 London, Lillian Freemont embarks on a treacherous journey to reunite with her long-lost niece, Alice, who was abandoned at the Foundling Hospital eight years ago. Fueled by her sister's plea and armed with the gold token that identifies her niece, Lillian teams up with investigative reporter Matthew McGivern to expose the grim reality of the shadowed streets of London. As Lillian and Matthew unravel the mystery of Alice's disappearance, their partnership blossoms into one of shared purpose and undeniable attraction.

In present-day London, Janelle Spencer finds herself unexpectedly running the Foundling Museum. When filmmaker Jonas Conrad arrives to document the museum's history, their collaboration takes a surprising turn as they uncover articles from the past that shed light on a haunting connection to the present. As Janelle becomes caught between exposing the truth and protecting the museum's reputation, she must decide if she can risk everything for what she believes.

HOLIDAY ROMANCE

Toni Shiloh

The Christmas Catch

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 Christy Award and Selah Award and have been finalists for the Carol Award and the HOLT Medallion.

In this interview, Toni shares some of her insights into her latest Christmas Romance novel, ***The Christmas Catch***.

FF: *The Christmas Catch* is your second holiday romance with Bethany House. Can you share a little bit about this story and what readers have to look forward to as they read?
I'd be happy to. *The Christmas Catch* features Bebe Gordon and Jahleel Walker. They were high-school sweethearts, but when Jahleel went off to college, he dumped Bebe to focus on football. He returns home after suffering an injury during the Thanksgiving football game eight years later. He discovers Bebe has been married and divorced and is a single mom. Since his father is the pastor of the local church, Bebe and Jahleel end up planning the entertainment portion of the church's Christmas ball. Of course their past will come up, and they'll have a chance to see if love for each other still exists and what it means for their future.

FF: As the title suggests, this novella takes place at Christmastime! How does this part of the setting enhance the story you're trying to tell?

There's something about the magic of Christmas that sweetens a story. People are willing to give second chances, something Jahleel and Bebe desperately need. And as they plan a Christmas ball together, they're able to heal old wounds and discover if the spark that brought them together in high school still exists.

FF: Are you a fan of Christmas fiction, and if so, why do you find yourself drawn to that kind of story?

I love Christmas fiction. I eagerly await the holiday season when I can fill my e-reader with all the romances I can get. I love the hope of the season, the wonder that everyone feels at the décor, and the sense of home these stories bring. There's something so heartwarming that fills me with joy during the season.

FF: As an NFL wide receiver, Jahleel Walker doesn't have your average day job. What led you to create a central character with a background in professional sports?
I'm a huge football fan. I've been a Dallas Cowboys fan since I was a kid growing up in Texas. My family laughs at how much swag I own with a star on it. It seemed fitting that I pair my love of football with my love of books.

FF: As readers discover early on in the story, Jahleel ends up sidelined by a career-threatening injury, and his parents take him back to Peachwood Bay, Georgia, to heal. What things— both good and bad—might be waiting for him there?
Jahleel has some relationship issues waiting for him in Peachwood. Besides the way he left things with is high-school sweetheart, there's the very real tension surrounding his relationship with his father. It's been a while since Jahleel thought well of Peachwood.

FF: On the surface, Jahleel appears to have it all—wealth, notoriety, and a fulfilling career in sports. But looks can be deceiving sometimes. How does his return to Peachwood Bay impact his character development throughout the story?
Sometimes we need a perspective shift. I think returning to Peachwood Bay gives Jahleel a chance to see things in a new light and reevaluate his decisions and how he can control his interactions with others. We can't make anyone change, and he really would like his father to, but by giving him a perspective change under the glow of the holiday lights, Jahleel can see clearer.

FF: On the other hand, we have your other main character, Bebe Gordon, whose life—in some ways—is a sharp contrast to Jahleel's. What do you think readers will really appreciate about her character?
I think Bebe being the girl next door will make her relatable to a lot of readers. She's a single mom and teacher and involved in her church. So many of my readers can relate to motherhood, education, as well as church life. Bebe and her daughter bring a lot of lighthearted moments to the book.

FF: Can you tell us a little bit more about Jahleel's relationship with his parents and how that has impacted his choices?
Jahleel's mom has always supported him, and that quiet acceptance has helped him in life. On the other hand, he felt stifled by his father's lack of support, so he chose to move away and sever contact with everyone in Peachwood.

FF: One of the beloved tropes that appears in this story is the second-chance romance. What do you think readers will most enjoy about witnessing these two high-school sweethearts reconnecting?
I think the tension of past feelings and present-day feelings really shows itself in a second- chance romance. The memories versus the current baggage the characters carry will keep the readers turning the pages, in my opinion.

FF: What lessons can be learned from Jahleel and Bebe's story? Do parts of either character resonate with you on a personal level?
Trusting in God is a big one, and one I think we can always use a refresher on. Another is taking a step back to consider someone else's history and how it shaped them. Usually, we want to believe we're right in an argument or situation, but there may be another perspective we've never considered. I think those are universal lessons everyone can resonate with.

FF: What are you most excited for readers to experience as they pick up this romance?
The joy of Christmas! I had so much fun incorporating Christmas festivities. Not to mention the added joy of Bebe's daughter and her friendship with her childhood friends. There are a lot of lighthearted moments to give the reader that Christmas fiction experience.

FF: Can you share with us what you are working on next?
I'm always working on the next story, whether writing a first draft or doing edits. My third and final book in the *Love In The Spotlight Series* will come out in February 2025, so I'm eagerly awaiting its release. **FF**

Visit Toni Shiloh's author page here:
https://familyfiction.com/authors/toni-shiloh

The Christmas Catch
A Sweet Holiday Novella
Toni Shiloh
Bethany House

Buy Now

Book Summary:
When two high school sweethearts reunite, will they take another chance at love or let life sideline them at Christmas?

Benched with a career-ending injury, NFL wide receiver Jahleel Walker is forced to return to his hometown of Peachwood Bay, Georgia, during the holidays to heal, despite his rocky relationship with his father. Nothing shocks him more than running into Lucille "Bebe" Gordon.

Bebe Gordon came home to Peachwood Bay three years ago with a divorce certificate and her daughter. When Jahleel returns–for the first time in eight years–all the memories of the past come rushing back. The connection between them is still strong, but Jahleel has no plans to stay in Peachwood Bay, and Bebe won't risk him leaving her again. As their hometown's Christmas festivities bring them together, Jahleel must decide if he's only home for the holidays or if the Christmas spirit that brought them together will last all through the year.

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SUSPENSE

Tosca Lee

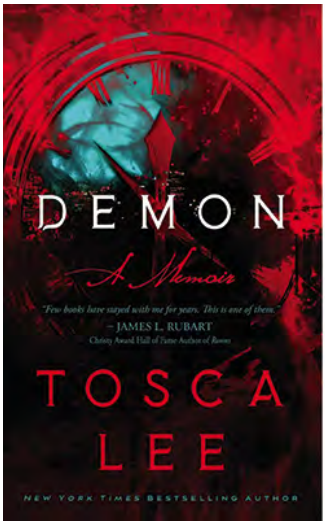
Demon: A Memoir

Tosca Lee is the award-winning *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Progeny*, *Firstborn*, *Iscariot*, *The Legend of Sheba*, *Demon: A Memoir*, *Havah: The Story of Eve*, and the *Books of Mortals series* with *New York Times* bestseller Ted Dekker. She received her BA in English and International Relations from Smith College. A lifelong adventure traveler, Tosca makes her home in the Midwest with her husband and children.

In this interview, Tosca talks with us about her latest novel, ***Demon: A Memoir***.

FF: *Demon: A Memoir* just released in its fourth edition. What does this mean to you?
I'm super excited for this book to be back out in the world in an all-new fourth edition—both it and my second novel, *Havah: The Story of Eve*, which is also re-releasing in a new fourth edition on August 13.

For me personally, it's humbling and gratifying to see how many readers go back to re-read *Demon: A Memoir*, who write to tell me that they recommend it to their friends, and what the book has meant to them personally. I am very, very humbled by the letters I receive and personal stories readers share with me. To have a story be part of someone else's life is such an honor and frankly—given how many years it took (six) for *Demon* to get picked up by its first publisher in 2006—feels like a miracle. It's special to me because of that and because its's the book that started my career.



FF: What's changed since the first edition?
The story is the same with a few technology updates (when I initially wrote *Demon* I, like the main character Clay, in the story, owned a flip phone) and a few very minor tweaks. I can't help it—I've picked at one sentence or another every single time a new edition has come out. Something brand new for this edition is that that *Demon* (*Havah*, too) is available for the very first time in hardcover. These are the only two of my books that have not been out in hardcover and it's so nice to be able to offer longtime fans of these books that option. It only took 17 years but better late than never, right?

In addition to the hardcover, *Demon* and *Havah* both have gorgeous new cover art, trivia about the story, discussion questions, and Havah has bonus chapters as well.

FF: You get asked regularly for a sequel to *Demon: A Memoir*. Will we see it become a series?
I do get asked this a lot. But I've always felt that the story ended as it should, so I don't have any plans to write a follow-up. But I never say "never.". **FF**

Visit Tosca Lee's author page here:
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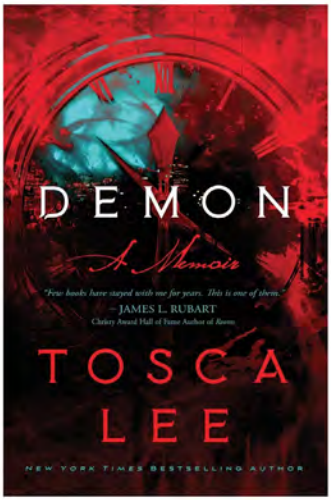

Demon: A Memoir
Tosca Lee
Quelle

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Book Summary:
Recently divorced and mired in a meaningless existence, Clay drifts from his drab apartment to his equally lusterless job as an editor for a small Boston press—until the night Lucian finds him and everything changes with the simple words, "I'm going to tell you my story, and you're going to write it down and publish it."What begins as a mystery soon spirals into chaotic obsession as Clay struggles to piece together Lucian's dark tale of love, ambition, and grace-only to discover that the demon's story has become his own. And then only one thing matters: learning how the story ends.

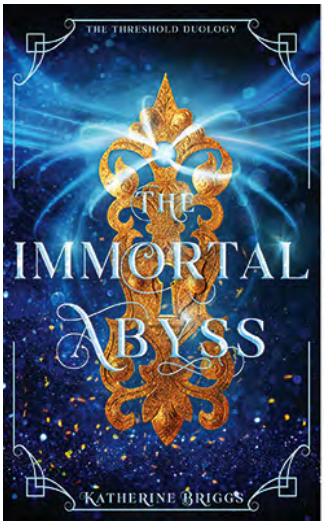
YA/TEEN FANTASY
Katherine Briggs
The Immortal Abyss

Katherine Briggs crafted her first monster story at age three. Since graduating from crayons to laptop, she continues to devour and weave fantasy tales while enjoying oolong or chai tea. She, her co-adventurer husband, and rescue dog reside outside Houston, where she classically educates amazing middle school students, teaches ESL to adults, and studies other languages.

In this interview, Katherine talks with us about the second book in her *The Threshold Duology Series*, titled ***The Immortal Abyss***.

FF: What inspired the story in your book?
The Immortal Abyss was inspired by the question, "What is it like to be given great talent or power?" The protagonist Tol is incredibly gifted in fire, but she struggles to control it. How does she overcome this? How can she use her gift in the right way for the right reasons? These questions led to writing this story.

FF: What can you tell us about the main characters in your book?
The female protagonist Tol is an orphan, gifted in fire, and trains to help lead her country out from under the thumb of a corrupt dynasty. She teams up with Bohak, the powerful heir to a northern village, who left the capital to support Tol's cause



and help her train her gifting. There is a third main character that I won't describe here, as it is a bit of a surprise. Old friends from the first book in the duology, *The Eternity Gate*, also return.

FF: Which character surprised you the most?
Tol surprised me the most. I didn't realize how badly she wanted to protect her friends and adopted family when I first began drafting. Her loyalty became clear during the beta reading and self-editing phase, and it deepened many parts of the storyline.

FF: Why do you think storytelling is such a powerful way to share truth?
Storytelling can deliver truth in a relatable way that is easy to remember. Every story, regardless of media, is trying to tell you something, which is why we must enjoy entertainment with discernment. Jesus, of course, is the master storyteller, and his

parables continue to shed light into our lives and unfold their layers to each of us thousands of years after they were first told.

FF: What can you tell us about your next book?
My next book is still a secret project, but it is in the works within a spiral notebook! God was gracious to give me a new idea while launching the final book in The Threshold Duology, and I am enjoying the adventure and redemptive themes already promising good story fruit.

FF: What kind of research did you do for this book?
I enjoy learning other languages, ancient and modern, and incorporate aspects of this into The Immortal Abyss. My husband John and I began indoor rock climbing together this year, and it was fun writing brief bouldering scenes for the protagonist Tol. I also researched the different colors of sand in our world, and I had the opportunity to visit a black sand beach on the big island of Hawai'i earlier this year. Black sand is the product of volcanic eruptions and ocean waves. The grains are larger and sharper than I'm used to, and so bright and beautiful. This inspired me to color the deserts in my story charcoal as well, which works because of the surrounding volcanoes.

FF: What do you want readers to take away after reading your book?
After reading Tol's and her friends' story, I want readers to be encouraged to persevere in seeking what is Good, even when times are hard or feel impossible. Through Jesus, we are overcomers. Our lives, choices, and actions matter and change the world around us.

FF: What are the biggest challenges for you as an author writing in your specific genre?
For me, one of the biggest challenges of writing in the fantasy genre is introducing world-building elements to readers in a way that is clear and fun without getting slowed down by explanation or confusion. This requires me to introduce characters, plot, and setting thoughtfully, establishing the most important layers before building upon that. It's also best to introduce the world and characters through action. This "showing" is more natural and memorable than "telling."

FF: What authors or books have inspired you as an author?
I have learned so much from reading classic fantasy writers like Tolkien, Lewis, and MacDonald, along with wonderful contemporary writers such as Morgan Busse, Nadine Brandes, and Anne Elisabeth Stengl, to name the first three I discovered.

FF: How has your faith or world view impacted the way you tell stories?
Jesus is the master Storyteller and Author of Life. I fingerpaint for Him. When I tell stories, I want to depict what is right and what is evil truthfully, not sugarcoating the issues we and our book characters face. I want to pursue what is Good, True, and Beautiful to edify those who read my stories, which may mean encountering darkness so light can be seen with clarity. **FF**

Visit Katherine Briggs's author page here:
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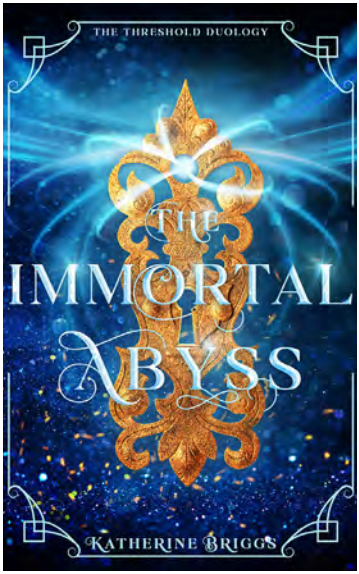


The Immortal Abyss
The Threshold Duology Series #2
Katherine Briggs
Enclave Escape

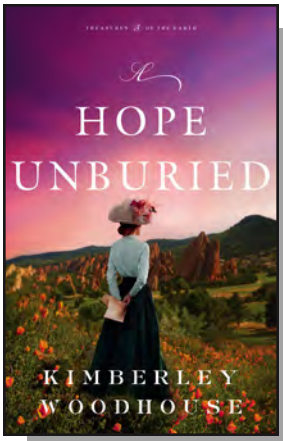
Buy Now

Book Summary:
Seize the throne. Seek the legend and conquer the Abyss.

Nations rise and fall in the aftermath of war over the Eternity Gate. The corrupted desert throne stands empty, and the Immortal Abyss awakens. Drought ravages the continent, and people long for the rebirth of a starpalm, who will rise from among mortals and end their judgment.

Orphaned at birth, Tol grew up hiding in the farthest corners of the desert, training under powerful rebel fire wielders. She now dedicates her life to the Rebellion's cause to seize the throne and Abyss from the surviving dynasty and deliver both to the coming deity.

Chosen as the Rebellion's messenger, she travels to reach sympathizers capable of identifying the starpalm. Familiar figures haunt her dreams, and her path twists with every step she takes. Can Tol fulfill her purpose and summon a legend? Or will her country perish under the judgment of the twin gates?



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Kimberley Woodhouse
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A Victorian London Split-Time Christian Historical Romance Novel
Carrie Turansky
Bethany House
Genres: Historical Romance, Split-Time Romance
Release Date: September 3, 2024

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Stacy T. Simmons
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The Christmas Catch
A Sweet Holiday Novella
Toni Shiloh
Bethany House
Genres: Romance, Holiday Romance
Release Date: September 24, 2024

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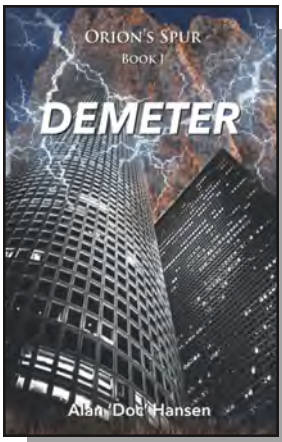

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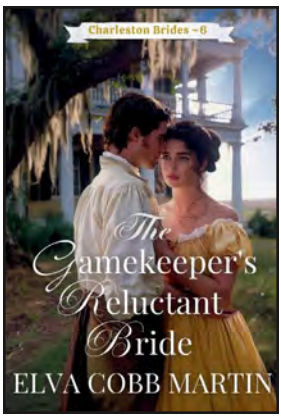

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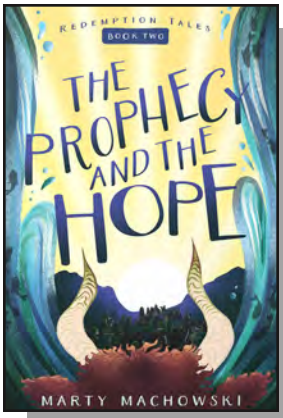

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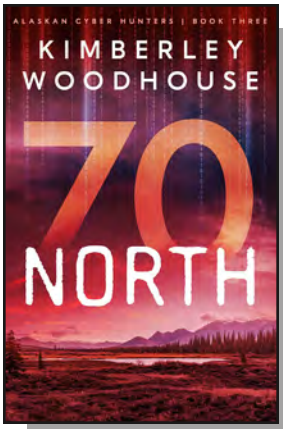

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Genres: Suspense/Action & Adventure, YA/Teen Adventure
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Michelle Shocklee
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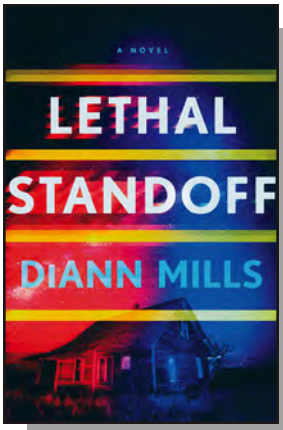

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DiAnn Mills
Tyndale Fiction
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Shannon McNear
Barbour Fiction
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Tyndale Kids
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A Family Devotional for Christmas
Marty Machowski
New Growth Press
Genres: Children's, Christmas
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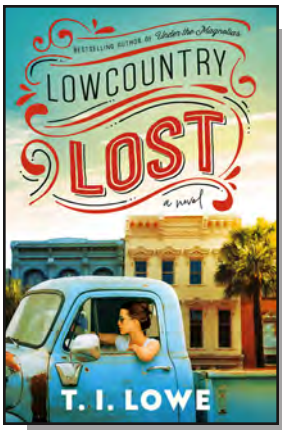

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T.I. Lowe
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Time's Lost Treasures Series #1
Michelle Griep
Bethany House
Genres: Mystery/Suspense, Historical Romance
Release Date: September 24, 2024

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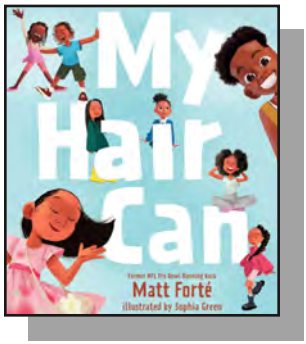

My Hair Can
Matt Forté
Tyndale Kids
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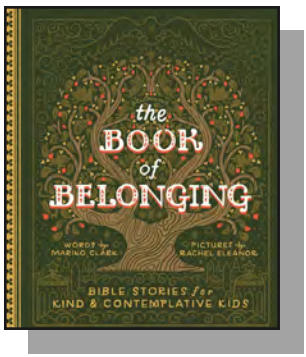

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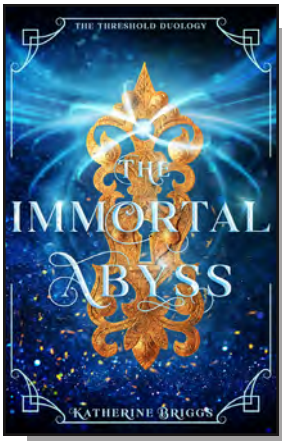

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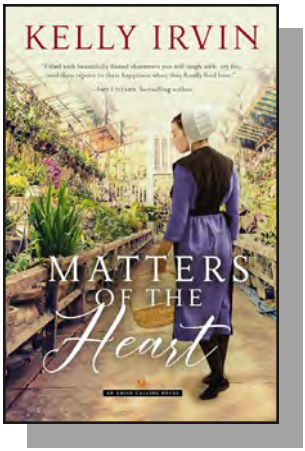

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