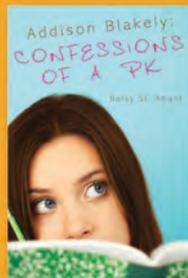
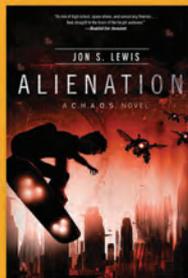


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THE LAMP
TERRI BLACKSTOCK
BILL MYERS

Frank Peretti

THE ART OF ILLUSION

5 AUTHORS *from*
LOVE INSPIRED SUSPENSE

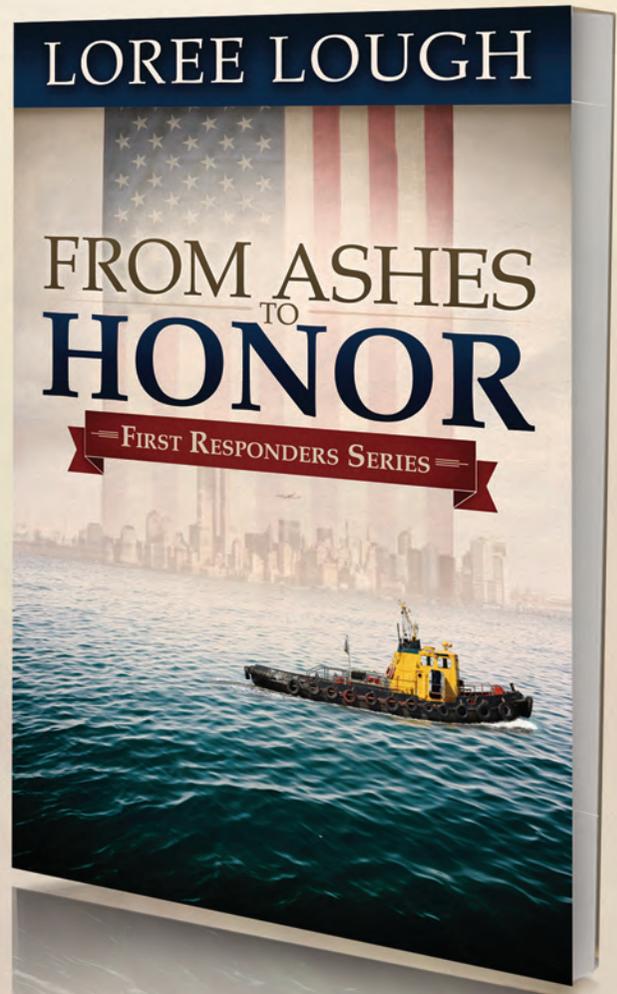
5 QUESTION: C.S. LAKIN



IN ONE MORNING, *everything* changed

Minutes before two jumbo jets changed history, NYPD officer Austin Finley ignored the call from his brother. Mercy Samara, who cost Austin his job after 9/11, leaves the city to work as a school counselor.

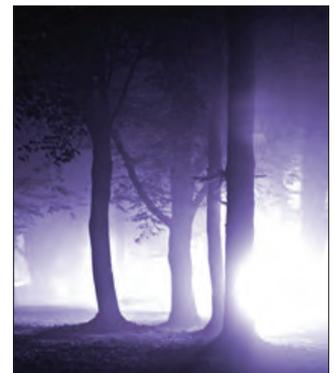
When Mercy and Austin cross paths again, will their common—and painful—memories finally bring them closer or drive them further apart?





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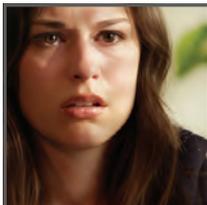
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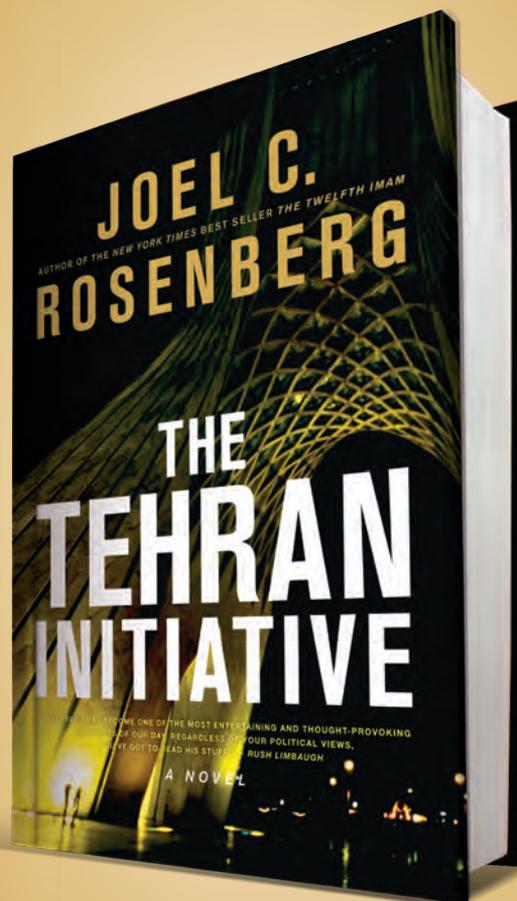


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CHRIS WELL (EDITOR)

Chris Well is the editor of *FamilyFiction*. Although maintaining a website, weekly newsletter and bimonthly magazine keeps him pretty busy, he still has hopes of getting back to that novel.

(Don't even ask how long his agent has been waiting.)

StudioWell.com



REL MOLLET (ROMANCE DEPT., HISTORICAL DEPT.)

Rel Mollet resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her movie-loving husband and three book-loving daughters.

relzreviewz.blogspot.com



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cjdarlington.com



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BladesofBetrayal.com



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ChristaBanister.typepad.com



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Ben Avery writes comics, performs with puppets and plays Lego with his kids (and sometimes without them). He's the creator of *Time Flyz* and *ArmorQuest*.

BenAvery.com

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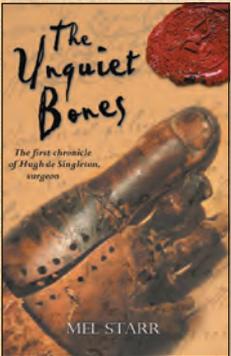
The Fourth Chronicle of Hugh de Singleton,
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The newest medieval crime fiction installment from best-selling author Mel Starr finds Hugh investigating what seems to be the suicide of one of the town's scoundrels and his longtime enemy. Though at first reluctant to pursue a mystery that no one else sees, Hugh sets out to discover the murderer only to follow the clues back to his hometown.

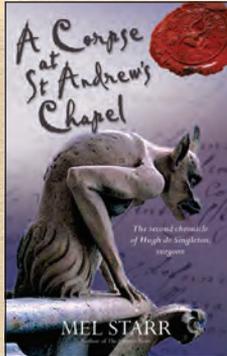
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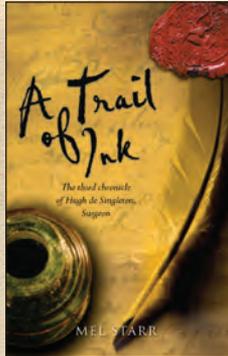
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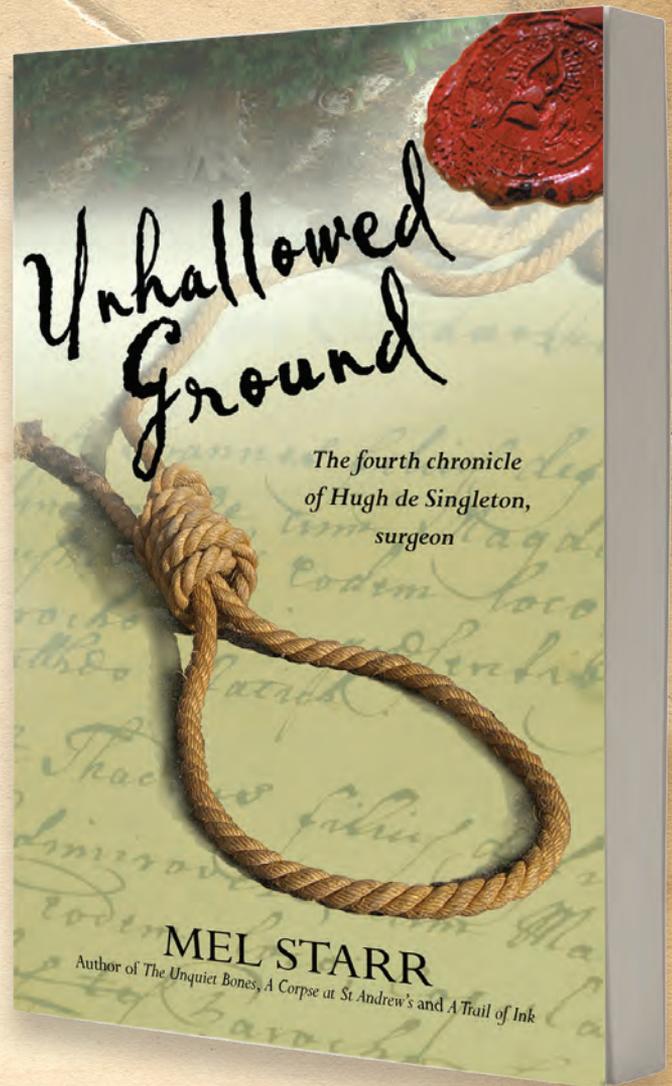
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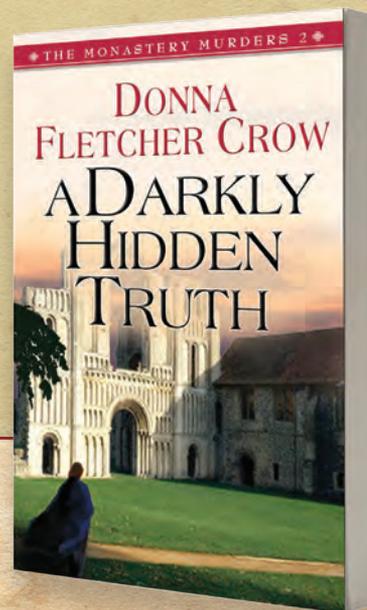
A DARKLY HIDDEN TRUTH

The Monastery Murders Book 2
by Donna Fletcher Crow

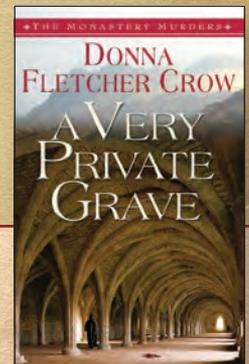
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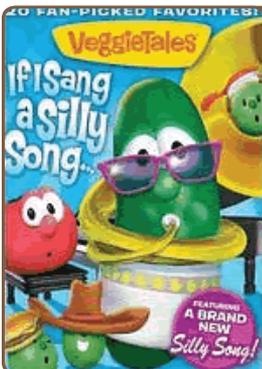
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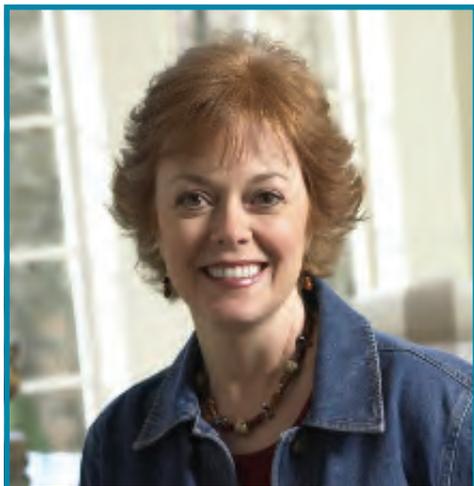


A mystery is afoot at 221 Baker Street, but will Griffin Sharpe be able to figure out the clues before the future catches up with the past?

When Sherlock Holmes moves out of Baker Street, a new tenant moves in – a mysterious woman named Elizabeth who has long been a fan of Holmes. So when Elizabeth goes missing along with a special time travel invention, Griffin sets out to rescue her. But finding Elizabeth will take them on a race against the clock that bends time itself?

Keep up with the latest in the adventure at
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TERRI BLACKSTOCK

Fighting Misconceptions

by
C.J. DARLINGTON
Photograph by
ROBERT NEUMANN

Best-selling author Terri Blackstock was devastated when she discovered her daughter had a severe drug addiction.

Thankfully Blackstock was able to find help for her daughter—who has since recovered—but through the process, she learned a lot about addiction and treatment. With her daughter’s blessing, she wrote about it in her novel *Intervention* and its sequel *Vicious Cycle*.

The third and final book of the series, *Downfall* (Zondervan), brings back characters from both books—including Blackstock’s favorite, Barbara Covington.

“I poured so much of myself into her,” she says. “In *Downfall* things have settled down and seem to be on the upswing for Barbara and her family—until someone sets a bomb under her daughter Emily’s car. She thinks Emily has drifted back into the drug culture and that all the chaos is beginning again. I’ve felt Barbara’s paranoia and the feeling that at any minute the other shoe is going to drop.

“The biggest misconception people have

about addiction is that it only happens to people from dysfunctional, unbelieving homes. The reality is that it also happens to those of us who’ve raised our kids in Christian households, who’ve never had alcohol or drugs in our homes, who’ve done our best to raise up our children in the way they should go. My daughter never did drugs until she was away at [Christian] college and was an adult.”



“The biggest misconception people have about addiction is that it only happens to people from dysfunctional, unbelieving homes.”

Blackstock hopes the trilogy shows just how awful addiction can be. But if she could only convey one thing to readers, it would be

that Christ forgives and redeems. “He gives addicts the power to change and family members the power to go on. He truly does help us carry our burdens. And sometimes He uses our suffering in powerful ways that help many others.”

FF

MORE ABOUT TERRI BLACKSTOCK ONLINE
<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Terri-Blackstock>

***“I love this book. It will keep
you guessing until the very end.”***

—Dee Henderson, bestselling author



After a brush with death due to equipment failure, smokejumper Alexia Allen is ordered to take time off while the incident is under investigation. She makes a last-minute decision to recuperate at her mother's home and attend her high school reunion. Yet trouble seems to be following her, and within hours of arriving home she is confronted with murder, arson—and a handsome detective.

Chock-full of the suspense and romantic tension you've come to expect from Lynette Eason, *When the Smoke Clears* is the explosive first book in the Deadly Reunions series.

COMING FEBRUARY 2012



LYNETTE EASON is the author of several romantic suspense novels, including *Too Close to Home*, *Don't Look Back*, and *A Killer Among Us*. She is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. A homeschooling mother of two, she has a master's degree in education from Converse College. She lives in South Carolina.

Connect with Lynette at www.LynetteEason.com

BILL MYERS: THE LURE OF THE FORBIDDEN

by Katie Hart

When a publisher first pitched Bill Myers on the prospect of writing a “Christian horror series,” the author was taken aback.

But as he thought about the grip that the supernatural has on teens today, he took the challenge—on one condition: “Let me turn it into an educational series,” Bill told them. “I’ll promise you the same page-turning drama that the others provide, but let me turn this into something that glorifies God and can literally educate the reader to the counterfeits that are out there.”

Now available in brand new three-in-one editions, The Forbidden Doors series follows three teens in their struggle against supernatural forces of darkness. Each of the twelve novels focuses on a specific supernatural counterfeit—from Ouija boards, reincarnation and séances, to beings having an angelic appearance, UFOs and Wicca.

But these books aren’t just thrilling—they help readers separate fact from fiction. “I read between 40-80 books per novel that I write, just to make sure that I get the facts correct,” Bill says.

Since its original launch, The Forbidden Doors series has sold nearly 400,000 copies, and won the C.S. Lewis Honor Award. Response from teens has been enthusiastic and grateful. Some have been warned about

the dangers hidden within things they thought were harmless, while others have used the books to help educate their friends.

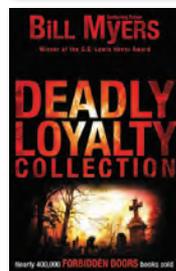
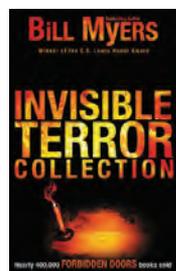
“This series seems to be not only a defensive measure, as far as warning the reader,” Bill says, “but also an offensive measure that gives the reader tools to reach into their culture to friends who may be already caught up in some of the counterfeits.”

Bill feels that the greatest danger this preoccupation with the supernatural holds for teens is “filling that God-given space in our souls, that

hunger for supernatural relationship with a supernatural God—filling that with counterfeit supernatural.”

As the culture turns from trends of vampires and zombies to angels and fallen angels, the peril grows. “I did not write this series because I wanted to write this series, but because I saw a huge need for it, and I see that need growing just about every week.” **FF**

“I’ll promise you the same page-turning drama that the others provide, but let me turn this into something that glorifies God and can literally educate the reader to the counterfeits that are out there.”



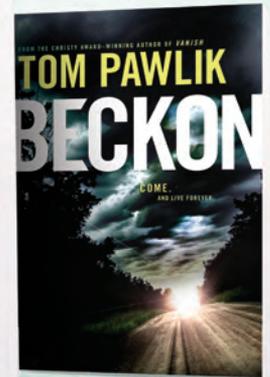
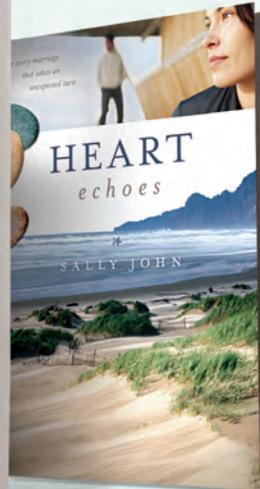
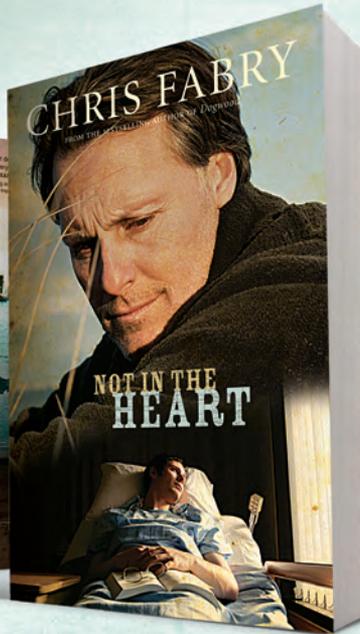
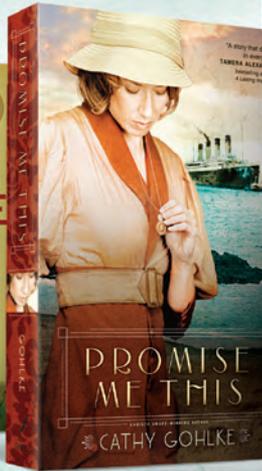
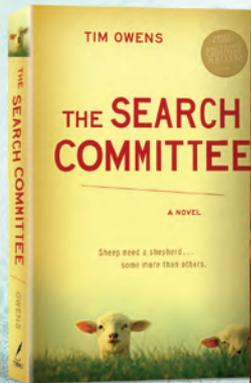
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A mismatched team of seven hits the road in an Econoline church van on a mission to find a new pastor. They don't agree on much other than the stops at Hardee's for coffee and a biscuit. Offering humor, healing, and grace, this book was the winner of the 2010 Christian Writers Guild Operation First Novel contest.

timowensauthor.com

Promise Me This

CATHY GOHLKE

In this "gripping tale of sacrifice, love, and hope" (*Publishers Weekly*), Annie Allen loses her brother, Owen, in the *Titanic* tragedy but soon connects with a man who survived through Owen's sacrifice. Bound by a promise yet separated by an ocean and impending war, their friendship blossoms into a love neither expected.

cathygohlke.com

Not in the Heart

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Truman Wiley is an out-of-work journalist with the chance to write the story of a death row inmate willing to donate his heart to Truman's dying son. As the execution clock ticks, Truman uncovers disturbing evidence that may point to a different killer. For his son to live, must an innocent man die? Fabry weaves a story of redemption, in which two men from different worlds get second chances.

chrisfabry.com

Heart Echoes

SALLY JOHN

A massive LA earthquake shatters the perfect existence that Teal Morgan-Adams has built for herself. As her world crumbles, so does her marriage as secrets begin to surface. With wit and wisdom, bestselling author Sally John delivers a touching story about life's unexpected detours and the courage it takes to erase the lies that can echo in our hearts.

sally-john.com

Beckon

TOM PAWLIK

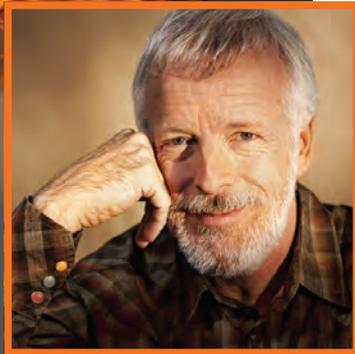
From the Christy Award-winning author of *Vanish* and *Valley of the Shadow* (a Christy finalist) comes a new story in which three strangers are drawn to an isolated Wyoming town for different reasons. As they come closer to discovering Beckon's ghastly secret, the real question becomes . . . will their quest uncover a miracle, or release an unspeakable evil?

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After a long hiatus from bookshelves, the blockbuster author returns with *Illusion* (Howard Books), a novel that blend elements of suspense, mystery and sci-fi. But, he says, the novel is ultimately a celebration of love.

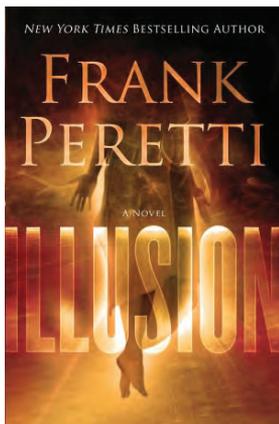
Even with 15 million books in print, there is still awe in Frank Peretti's voice when he talks about storytelling. "Stories can speak to the heart in a very special way," he says. "That's what novels do. They reflect the human experience. We identify with the characters, feel the same emotions, the realization and awareness. Stories work."

He ought to know. Ever since his first novel *This Present Darkness* hit shelves in 1986 and its sequel *Piercing the Darkness* followed in 1989, readers across the globe have clamored for more stories from Frank Peretti. It's been six years since his last novel *Monster* graced the bestseller lists, but this March, Howard Books will release *Illusion*, the novel we've all been waiting for.

"If people have picked up my Darkness books and read them thinking they're the kind of books I write, they're going to find a big, big difference in *Illusion*," Peretti says. "I write from my heart wherever the journey takes me. *Illusion*

SLEIGHT OF HAND

C.J. DARLINGTON



is a book written by a 60-year-old man who's lived and loved his wife for 40 years and is basically writing about it. That's a much different book than one written by a man in his 30s who's all gaga about angels and demons."

With elements of suspense, mystery, and sci-fi, *Illusion* tells the tale of Dane and Mandy Collins. For nearly 30 years they've been a popular magic act, sticking together through thick and thin. Then Mandy is killed in a fiery car wreck. Or is she? Playing with

and Barb in this book. Of all the characters I've written, right now Mandy is my favorite because she so perfectly embodies faith and hope. She doesn't give up. She trusts God even when she thinks she's crazy in a world where nobody knows her and she has no identity. She still clings to the Lord for her security. She's a Seabiscuit. She's a Rocky. She's just gonna fight her way through and survive."

Many of Peretti's early works have been blatantly evangelistic in their tone and content, but *Illusion* takes a more subtle approach. "I'm kind of in C.S. Lewis mode here," Peretti adds. "This one is more metaphorical. It's the whole gospel, but it's

all couched in a different kind of world. If I can just write a story that talks about how beautiful a love relationship can be, and how wonderful it is for people to be married and in love for 40 years, that in itself is message enough!

“I’m a storyteller. My role is to tell a story because a story can give a whole other dimension to a thought.”

the idea of characters crossing dimensions and transversing space, *Illusion* asks the question, what if you could revert a person back to a previous state? "You know how computers are these days," Peretti says. "You can take them back to the way they were months ago. That's the concept for this whole experiment, this reversion, that goes on in the book. Mandy is surreptitiously carried away at the point of death and reverted, accidentally, 40 years.

"[But at its heart] this novel is a celebration of love and commitment. My favorite part was living and feeling vicariously through Mandy and Dane my own relationship with my sweet wife, Barbara. There's a lot of me

Illusion is a story of love."

A firm believer in the power of Christian fiction, Peretti doesn't take for granted his calling to build up the body of Christ. "What's art for?" he asks. "It's to communicate ideas on an aesthetic level. The best way to understand the human experience is through a Judeo Christian worldview, because that's where everything falls together and makes sense. I'm a storyteller. My role is to tell a story because a story can give a whole other dimension to a thought."

MORE ABOUT FRANK PERETTI ONLINE

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/frank-peretti>



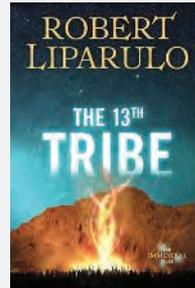
If you like FRANK PERETTI...

After you've devoured *Illusion*, you may be asking, "What do I read now?" Here's a list of ten suggested authors from our crack team of experts.



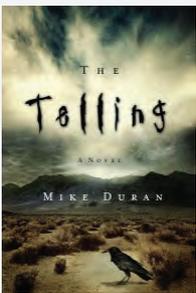
MIKE DELLOSSO

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/mike-dellosso>
A former newspaper columnist, Mike Dellosso writes novels of supernatural suspense to both entertain and challenge. His latest is *Frantic* (Realms).



ROBERT LIPARULO

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robertliparulo>
Robert Liparulo has written thrillers (some of which have been optioned by Hollywood) and YA fantasy (Dreamhouse Kings). His latest is *The 13th Tribe* (Thomas Nelson).



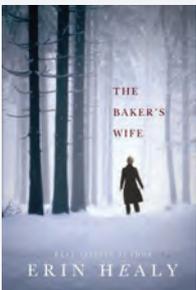
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<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/mike-duran>
Mike Duran's novels explore the boundaries of belief, the fragile tether between science and superstition, the depths of despair and the reaches of faith. His latest is *The Telling* (Realms).



BILL MYERS

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/bill-myers>
Bill Myers' novel *The Wager* was made into a film starring Randy Travis. His supernatural YA series *Forbidden Doors* has recently been re-released in new three-in-one editions from Zondervan.



ERIN HEALY

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/erin-healy>
Erin Healy, co-author of *Burn and Kiss* with Ted Dekker, received wide acclaim for her debut solo novel, *Never Let You Go*. Her latest is *The Baker's Wife* (Thomas Nelson).



TOM PAWLICK

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tom-pawlik>
Tom Pawlik's novel *Vanish* won first place in the Christian Writers Guild's 2006 Operation First Novel—and went on to win a 2009 Christy Award. His latest is *Beckon* (Tyndale House).



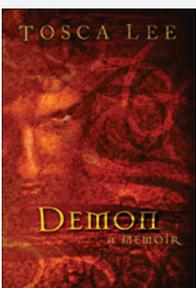
BRUCE HENNIGAN

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/bruce-hennigan>
Bruce Hennigan wrote his first short story at age 13. The author of numerous Christian dramas, his debut novel is *The Thirteenth Demon* (Chronicles of Jonathan Steel (Realms)).



TRAVIS THRASHER

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/travis-thrasher>
The author of a dozen works of fiction, Travis Thrasher's writing is known for its honesty, depth and surprising twists. The latest in his *Solitary Tales* series is *Temptation* (David C. Cook).



TOSCA LEE

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/tosca-lee>
The author of *Demon* (B&H Fiction), Tosca Lee is lauded for her humanizing portraits of maligned characters. She's co-writing the *Books of Mortals* trilogy with Ted Dekker.

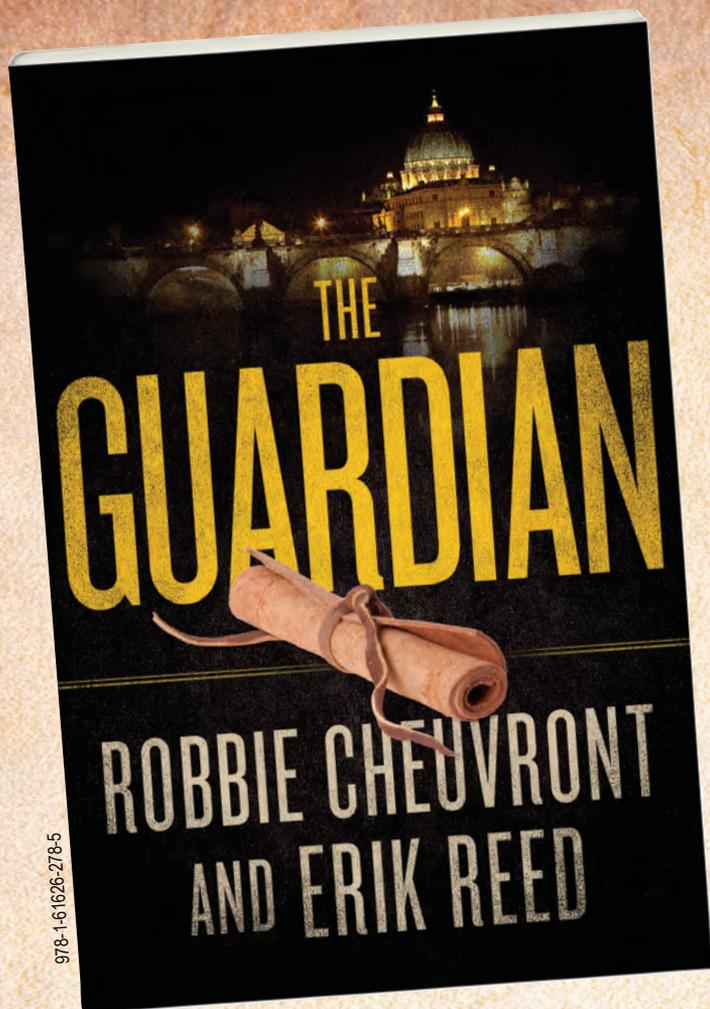


ERIC WILSON

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/eric-wilson>
Much of Eric Wilson's fiction explores earth's tension between heaven and hell. His suspense and supernatural novels include the *Jerusalem's Undead* trilogy. His latest is *Two Seconds Late* (Bay Forest).

“The plot is captivating. The characters are believable. The pace is fast. You absolutely must read this book.”

—Ben Stroup, writer, blogger, and consultant, TheContentMatrix.com



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 **BARBOUR PUBLISHING**



AUTHORS
WHO
WRITE

LOVE INSPIRED SUSPENSE

BY REL MOLLET

Readers of the long-running line of Love Inspired Suspense romantic thrillers enjoy heart-pounding stories of intrigue and romance with Christian characters facing challenges to their faith and their lives.

Harlequin's Love Inspired Suspense line offers riveting and suspenseful stories that contain a heartwarming romance and faith message. "We hope that readers fall in love with the characters and root for them to overcome the danger that faces them," says associate editor Emily Rodmell. We want readers to be on the edge of their seat, wanting to turn the page to see what happens next, both with the suspense and the romance element."

Offering single-author series as well as continuity series where books are written by various authors, readers have the opportunity to invest in the characters' lives from book to book. "Characters are thrust

into dangerous situations that test them, their relationships and their faith," explains Emily. Combining their faith, writing talent and magnetic attraction to danger, at least in terms of their characters, the following authors have written multiple Love Inspired Suspense tales.

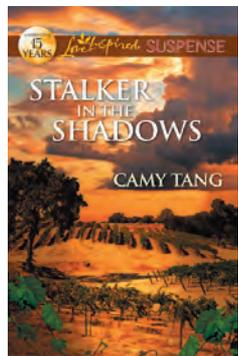


Camy Tang

Growing up in Hawaii with Asian parents, Camy Tang has the opportunity to write characters who reflect her own unique heritage and faith, as she shares, "Each of my characters for Love Inspired Suspense so far have been at least half Asian, with at least one Asian family member who impacts their faith. I love writing about how the Asian American culture influences women's spiritual walks."

Plotting mayhem and murder comes

easily to the talented writer. In her latest story revolving around the Grant family's Joy Luck Life Day Spa, *Stalker in the Shadows*, nurse Monica Grant discovers someone is violently opposed to her dream of opening a free children's clinic. Monica looks to a former border patrol agent for help but danger stalks them both.



Camy believes the shorter Love Inspired Suspense novels are perfect for romantic suspense. "Most of the time, suspense novels happen over a short period of time, so writing a slightly shorter book seems to be ideal for me when I'm writing a suspense plot."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/camy-tang>



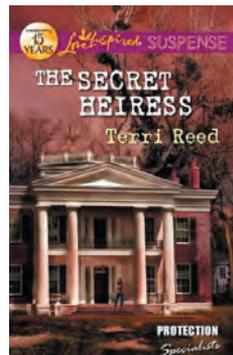
Terri Reed

Rita Award finalist Terri Reed was told by her creative writing professor in college that she should be writing for Harlequin.

She never forgot that advice. A decade later, Terri made the decision to pursue a writing career and targeted Harlequin—but her voice did not fit. "It wasn't until the Love Inspired Romance line started 1996 that I found where my voice and my worldview fit." While it took another 10 years for Terri to sign a contract, she never gave up believing her books would find a home with Love Inspired. As she explains, "I love being able to write a romance while incorporating faith into the story, since faith is such an important and integral part of my life."

While initially writing straight romance,

Terri always incorporated a suspense or danger element and as she continued writing more and more books, she gravitated toward suspense. "I love the action and the pace. Also in romantic



suspense I get to push my hero and heroine out of their normal lives to test their faith, their strength and their character." Terri is currently in the middle of her Protection Specialists series, starring a team of former military or law enforcement bodyguards, employed by Trent Associates, who protect the innocent. *The Secret Heiress* is her most recent installment.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/terri-reed>

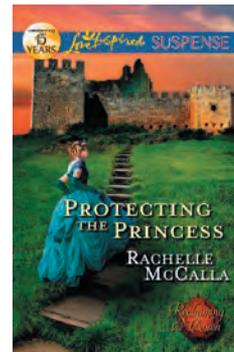


Rachelle McCalla

Rachelle McCalla, as a child, stole the idea of becoming a writer from her best friend in fourth grade—at that time, Rachelle was

planning to be an astronaut! Her passion has since altered from walking on the moon to writing romantic suspense.

Easily bored, Rachelle loves that writing suspense holds her interest. "With suspense, there's always something happening—a new twist, an unforeseen complication, and life threatening danger with bad guys closing in behind." Writing her own four-book Reclaiming the Crown series, including *Princess in Peril* and *Protecting the Princess*, Rachelle loves



writing for the Love Inspired Suspense line. “Of course, I enjoy being able to write stories of romance and adventure from a faith perspective. We’ve got kissing, praying and the occasional dead body!” <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/rachelle-mccalla>

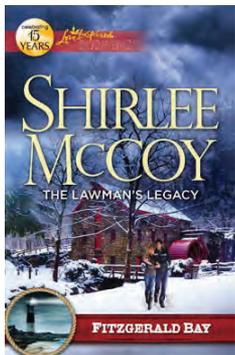


Shirlee McCoy

[Photo: Giordano Photographics]

Devoted to reading Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys and Trixie Belden as a child, Shirlee McCoy then advanced to her mother’s gothic romances. When the writing bug bit, it’s no surprise that “romantic suspense” was her genre of choice.

Blaming her very lively and rather dark imagination for the peril in which she places her characters, Shirlee says the difficulty lies with extracting them from the danger. “I’ve been making up stories since I was a young child. I can’t remember one that did not have an element of danger or intrigue in it. Writing suspense is a natural extension



of that.” In her latest Heroes for Hire story, *Private Eye Protector*, single mother Rayne Sampson deals with a traumatic accident, amnesia and a stalker with destruction on his mind. In January, Shirlee kicks off the Fitzgerald Bay continuity series with *The*

Lawman’s Legacy, introducing readers to the Fitzgeralds, a family of police officers determined to protect the citizens of their small community in Massachusetts.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/shirlee-mccoy>

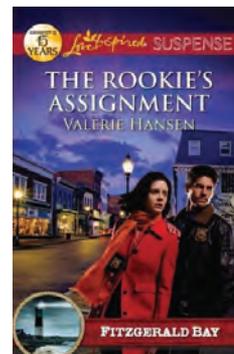


Valerie Hansen

Ozarks resident Valerie Hansen is an expert in balancing romance, danger

and faith. Appreciating a good puzzle and clever storyline, Valerie delights in writing for the suspense line. “I get to share my personal faith, work with wonderful editors and other authors, and can let many of my books reflect the atmosphere of small town camaraderie that I have found here in the Ozarks.” Her upcoming novel *The Rookie’s Assignment* is the second in the six book Fitzgerald Bay continuity series. This time the heroine is Keira Fitzgerald, a woman who defies tradition to become a cop and as such, is Valerie’s kind of woman!

Valerie is not surprised by the popularity of the suspense line. “They’re adult reading that is safe for anyone to pick up and they’re crafted by true professionals who just happen to share a faith in Jesus Christ. It’s a delight to be among them.”



<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/valerie-hansen>

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THE LAMP: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

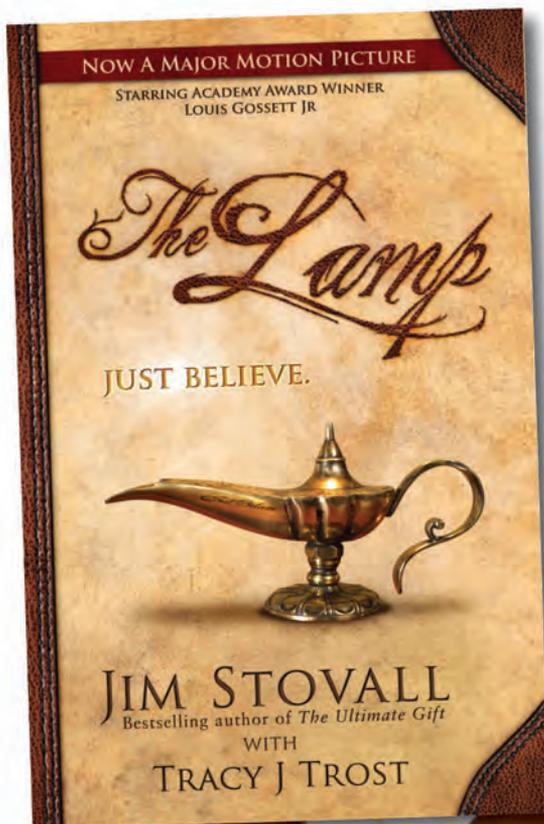
C.J. DARLINGTON

In 2008, Tracy J. Trost shot his first movie *Find Me* in nine days on a shoestring budget. It was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Since then, Trost Moving Pictures produced *A Christmas Snow*, which was based on a novel by Jim Stovall and became a hit stage production in Branson last holiday season (it's coming again this year too.) Through the process Tracy became friends with Stovall and learned that Stovall wanted to turn his novel *The Lamp* into a movie, too.

"Jim is an enigma," Tracy says. "There is no one you can compare him to because he stands out all by himself. He is a man with the highest integrity, and he is a very deep thinker. I was drawn to his book's concept that whatever you are focusing on in life, that's what your life eventually becomes. We need to realize

that our lives today are a direct result of our belief system and formed by the choices and decisions we've made up until this point. If we want our lives to be different we need to retrain our brains and our thinking. *The Lamp* has this message at its core."

When asked how his faith affects his films, Tracy is quick to say it would be extremely difficult for him to write or produce something that didn't have some sort of spiritual basis. "It's not just what I believe," he says. "It's who I am. My faith in God has made me the person I am today, and it would be impossible for me to share a truth that isn't based on that. Jesus sat at the gate of the city telling parables. This is how He got his message out to the people. He would present a Kingdom principle through storytelling.



“The biggest influence on our society today is media. If we want to reach the world, TV and movies are two of the best ways to do that. Movies impact people’s lives because they are stories. With *The Lamp*’s story, we share that you can do anything you want in life if you first believe you can.”

In the film, Stanley and Lisa (played by Jason London and Meredith Salenger) are a devastated couple who’ve tragically lost their only son. Their marriage is strained, and guilt-ridden Jason has withdrawn from all those who love him. But then a mysterious messenger gives the couple an ancient oil lamp and asks the question, “If you could have anything, what would you wish for?”

Actress Sarah Brown, who plays Lisa’s best friend, says, “The whole point of the film is showing people there is



“If we want to reach the world, TV and movies are two of the best ways to do that.”

light at the end of the tunnel and that you’ve gotta keep on living with the people who are living and remember what you’ve lost.”

Jason London echoes her sentiments: “I think this movie would be great therapy and a healing help for anyone who’s gone through personal tragedy.”

Filmed in Tracy’s home state of Oklahoma, the entire cast and crew had nothing but praise for his skills as a director. Cameron Ten Napel, who plays a foster child in *The Lamp* says, “Working with Tracy is so fun! I love Tracy. He’s like my big teddy bear. He’s awesome.” Louis Gossett Jr. calls him “a welcome addition to our industry” and Jason London says, “Tracy is an inspirational guy. He’s one of those people who’s proof that if you have a dream and you have a vision, with willpower and intelligence you can make anything happen.”

FF

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<http://www.familyfiction.com/movies>

Q&A: Janice Cantore

A former Long Beach, Calif., police officer of twenty-two years, Janice Cantore worked a variety of assignments, including patrol, administration, juvenile investigations, and training. A few years ago, Janice retired to a house in the mountains of Southern California, where she writes suspense novels designed to keep readers engrossed and leave them inspired. Her latest suspense title is *Accused* (Tyndale House), the first volume in her Pacific Coast Justice series.

Q: What were your goals in writing *Accused*?

When I started writing *Accused*, I was writing it for my aunt Elinor to read. At the time, she was not a Christian, so the challenge was writing a Christian-themed novel she would like, one that might show her the need for her salvation. Unfortunately, she passed away from cancer before it was finished. But she did come to know the Lord at the end. I still want to write Christian-themed novels non-Christians will enjoy. I also want to tell good stories that will communicate biblical truths without being preachy. As a police officer, I saw so much hopelessness. I often escaped to good fiction and knew that good fiction with themes of hope and truth was what I wanted to write.

Q: What elements of your new Pacific Coast Justice series are driven by your real-life experiences as a police officer?

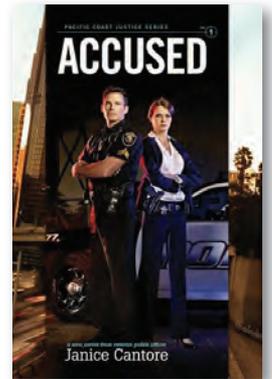
I worked graveyard patrol for a good portion of the time I was in the field, so I decided that would be Carly's world. The idea behind the juvenile accused of murder germinated from a rather gruesome crime committed by a minor when I was in juvenile. As I thought about the boy being detained for murder, I played the what-if game—"What if he was innocent in spite of all the evidence?"—and decided that would make a good story. But it's never just work—life happens, so I gave Carly a frustrating backstory of divorce and controversy, things I saw at work but thankfully never experienced personally.

Q: When you were on the job, how often did you think, "Wow, this would make a great idea for a story"?

What usually impacted me at work was the tragic. I prayed for people often but was seldom privy to how the story ended. Amazingly, when I did find out what happened, if God was involved, it was always an inspirational finish. I've blogged about a traffic accident I handled where a nine-month-old boy was killed after his mother fell asleep at the wheel. About a year later, I read an interview with the woman where she talked about how her faith carried her through that tragedy and made her marriage stronger. While the incident itself sounds horrible, what grew from the tragedy was inspiring. I tend to be pessimistic on first pass, but Christ makes you optimistic. And what God can work in the face of the worst fills people with hope and inspiration. So from work I saw the tragic, but the story is in what God can do in any situation. Hope from tragedy always uplifts people. The first time I actually sat down to write about something was after the Rodney King riots. We worked twelve-hour days for seven days straight, and I was working the day things exploded. I tried to write about it but couldn't translate the feelings to the page. I decided that what happened word for word isn't necessarily entertaining. The best story contains elements of truth and elements of a vivid imagination.

Q: When did you first know you wanted to become a writer—and what did you do about it?

I used to write horse stories when I was a child and had spiral-bound notebooks filled with those stories. I always wanted to write but was told often that I would never make a living as an author. I took creative writing in college, but the teacher didn't like anything I wrote, so I didn't think I would ever be able to call myself a writer. When I learned that writing is like anything else that is important—you



have to work on it to be good at it—I decided it was something I wanted to work on. *Accused* as it is in print now came from more drafts than I can count because it was the first novel I started. I applied lessons I learned from writers' conferences, from books, and I'm fortunate that God put in my path accomplished writer Lauraine Snelling, who became a mentor and friend. She edited the early drafts for me, and I've learned a great deal from her over the years. I know now that the learning never stops. No one I know of writes a perfect-never-has-to-be-edited first draft, and writing can always be improved.



JANICE CANTORE

Q: What are the most challenging aspects of incorporating your faith into your story?

Not being preachy. I would like my books to appeal to a wide audience. I think preachy turns a large segment off. My aunt Elinor would have stopped reading “preachy,” even if it was my book.

Q: What do you most hope readers get from reading your fiction?

Encouragement, a feeling of hope, and being uplifted. The Good News of our Savior. I truly believe that with Christ there is always hope, no matter the darkness of the situation. I want my stories to communicate that truth in an enjoyable and exciting way.

Q: Why do you think storytelling is such a powerful way to communicate truth?

Everyone relates to a good story. People who have moved me through their writing—Francine Rivers, Randy Alcorn, Terri Blackstock—they write page-turners that communicate faith in real-life situations. When you put one of their books down, you are sorry you've finished—and you have something important and special to think about. Storytelling takes people to new and interesting worlds. The truth doesn't change, but sometimes people can see it better if it's coming from a different setting. **FF**

FIND JANICE CANTORE ONLINE:

JaniceCantore.com

Facebook.com/JaniceCantore

PACIFIC COAST
JUSTICE SERIES NO.

1

ACCUSED

When a troubled youth is arrested for the murder of the mayor, Detective Carly Edwards is pulled off her boring desk job in juvenile and summoned to the crime scene. Homicide thinks it's a quick, open-and-shut case, but Carly believes the young man is innocent. As the murder investigation progresses, Carly suspects a cover-up and strikes out on her own, putting her directly in the killers' crosshairs.



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Camy Tang

All in the Family

C.J. DARLINGTON



Camy Tang's spunky heroine Tessa Lancaster is a woman with a shady past and a heart for God.

Camy calls her new Protection for Hire series a “Japanese version of The Sopranos,” with Tessa’s Japanese mafia ties and martial arts training adding a unique angle to the storyline. Readers will also delight in more of the crazy family dynamics for which Tang’s fiction is known.

“I couldn’t write a story without the characters’ families somehow getting involved in the action,” she says. “Family is very important to me.”

Fourth generation Japanese-American Camy Tang grew up in Hawaii as the daughter of bibliophile parents. “My favorite memories were going into the bookstore at the mall with them,” Tang says. “I’d be allowed to choose one book.”

Her favorites were the Little House series and, later, Anne McCaffrey’s *Dragonsong* and *Dragonsinger*. In high school, she

discovered Jane Austen and Regency romances.

“I’ve always loved writing,” Camy says, “but my attitude wasn’t the greatest. I was more interested in seeing my name on a book cover than in giving God the glory. So, God asked me to lay it down.”



She obediently did, but after losing her job as a biology researcher, God allowed her to pick it up again. Even after many rejections and writing five complete manuscripts featuring Asian-American characters, she pressed on.

“I couldn’t write a story without the characters’ families somehow getting involved in the action. Family is very important to me.”

Her persistence paid off when *Sushi for One* (Zondervan) released in 2007, followed with two more novels. “I loved writing the Sushi series,” Camy says. “But I found when I was plotting the books, I kept nixing all these dead bodies that would sneak into the storyline! When it came time to start a new series I naturally gravitated toward humorous romantic suspense so I wouldn’t have to waste time editing out the danger and murders.” **FF**

MORE ABOUT CAMY TANG ONLINE

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Camy-Tang>

PROTECTION FOR HIRE | Zondervan

SUSPENSE

News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



NEW COP ON THE BLOCK

The idea for retired Long Beach police officer **Janice Cantore's** novel *Accused* (Tyndale House) came straight from her work in night juvenile. "A kid had been arrested for a rather gruesome crime," Cantore says. "I remember seeing the boy and playing the what if game... what if he were innocent? That birthed the story of a minor falsely accused of a serious crime and the cop who turns into the advocate for him when she realizes something is not right with the case." The result is a suspenseful cop drama with twists, turns and a dash of romance.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/janice-cantore>

JUSTICE SEEKER

Robin Carroll calls her book *Injustice for All* (B&H Fiction) a novel of her heart. "I had the unique opportunity to sit in on three different trials regarding one case," she says. "I learned things aren't always as they seem in trials. I began interviewing all sorts of people affiliated with trials—attorneys, bailiffs, even a former U.S. Attorney. I was shocked when I realized the full extent of manipulation. This led to my determination to write about the possibility of a worst-case scenario, and to avenge my outrage at injustice." Book One in the Justice series, Carroll is set to release two more in September 2012 and February 2013 respectively.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/robin-carroll>

FRENETIC PACE

"*Frantic* was a blast to write," says author **Mike Dellosso** of his latest Realms novel. "It includes some of my favorite characters I've ever written: a boy with cerebral palsy who has an extraordinary gift, his overprotective sister, and an anti-hero trying to outrun his own shadow. There are two villains who both want the boy for drastically different reasons and are willing to go to any length to get him. And on top of all this, the story is set in my favorite place to visit, Maine. It's a thrill-a-minute ride readers won't want to miss."

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/mike-dellosso>

NEWRELEASES



ORGANIZED GRIME
Christy Barritt
(CreateSpace)



INJUSTICE FOR ALL: A JUSTICE SEEKERS NOVEL
Robin Carroll
(B&H Fiction)



WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS (DEADLY REUNIONS)
Lynette Eason
(Revell Books)



CHASING MONA LISA: A NOVEL
Tricia Goyer & Mike Yorkey
(Revell Books)



COVENANT OF WAR (LION OF WAR)
Cliff Graham
(Zondervan)



PERIL (FAST TRACK)
Suzanne Hartmann
(OakTara)



FIRETHORN (DISCARDED HEROES)
Ronie Kendig
(Barbour Books)



ENEMIES OF THE CROSS
Greg Mitchell
(Realms)



THE JOSHUA COVENANT
Diane and David Munson
(Micah House)



UNHALLOWED GROUND: THE FOURTH CHRONICLE
Mel Starr
(Monarch Books)

<http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/suspense/books/new-releases>



Jon S. Lewis

Hoverboards & Aliens

KATIE HART



With book sales surpassing one million, and success in both Christian and general publishing, Jon S. Lewis' imaginative novels have clearly struck a chord with readers.

"I started writing early in life without realizing that I was actually writing," Jon says. "I had always wanted to be a comic book illustrator, and that's exactly what comic book illustrators are—they're storytellers. I also realized that the comic book characters I had created need origin stories, and that's where the actual writing started."

Jon co-authored his bestselling Grey Griffins series with a childhood friend. "We were inspired to have the fantasy world break into our reality instead of having people from our world visit some far-off fantasy land." The same holds true for Jon's C.H.A.O.S. series—only this time it uses science fiction elements like aliens and high-tech gear.

Yet the plot of the story looks to ancient history. "I wanted [the series] to be a loose

retelling of the life of David," Jon says. "Colt is a surfer instead of a shepherd, but he's young, small, handsome, sings, plays an instrument, is a dreamer, and his life is destined for something amazing. Instead of a giant Philistine, he fights giant robots. And instead of a land battle between the Philistines and the Israelites, the land battle is for Earth. *Alienation* (Thomas Nelson) is loosely based on the idea of Saul trying to murder David, and how David handled it with dignity and compassion."



“I wanted it to be a loose retelling of the life of David. Instead of a giant Philistine, he fights giant robots.”

Jon made the move to writing for a Christian publisher with little difficulty. "I try to ensure my worldview permeates everything I write, and since the Bible informs my worldview, there weren't any problems at all."

In addition to his love for writing, Jon has a passion for theology, comic books, movies, WWII, the Minnesota Vikings and spending time with his wife and kids. **FF**

MORE ABOUT JON S. LEWIS ONLINE

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Jon-S-Lewis>

ALIENATION (A C.H.A.O.S. Novel) | Thomas Nelson

News&Notes

KATIE HART



BLOG TOUR TO PUBLISHER

Mimi Pearson, director of FIRST Wild Card Tours, which uses blog tours to promote books, has started an independent press, FIRST Wild Card Press. Its first book will be her novel, *F.A.I.R.I.E.S.: Baptism by Fire*. Unwittingly chosen to join an army of fairies, that fights for the Light of the One, a teen girl learns about spiritual warfare as she attends a military academy with fantastical beings.

Mimi says, “Always a lover of reading fantasy, I started writing FAIRIES when I worked at a children’s home for ‘at-risk’ kids. My husband and I were houseparents: Nine youth lived with us, besides our own kids. Writing became my stress relief. I would write at night after everyone went to sleep, making up the FAIRIES world as I went along.”

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/M-C-Pearson>

CLONES AND CHRISTIANS

Jill Williamson’s latest release, *Replication* (Zondervan), tells the story of Martyr, a clone who escapes the facility where he has lived his entire life. Jill says, “Cloning is a controversial topic, and people are quick to praise or slam the book based on their beliefs.”

Jill did an interview with Nicole O’Dell on Teen Talk Radio in early December 2011, where she talked about the book and cloning. “The overall story,” Jill says, “isn’t so much about the science or ethics of cloning humans. It’s about the characters. I wanted to write about how cloned humans might be treated. Would they have the same rights as the rest of us? And what might their existence say about a creator God?”

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Jill-Williamson>

DEBUT AUTHOR, DUAL WORLDS

Author **K.C. Neal’s** debut novel, *Pyxis* (Stonehouse Ink) released in December. Ordinary teen Corinne finds out she is destined to protect not only this world, but the dark world she sees in her dreams. But the one who was supposed to train her is gone, and time is running out.

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/K-C-Neal>

NEWRELEASES



HALFLINGS
(HALFLINGS SERIES #1)
Heather Burch
(Zondervan)



NOAH PRIMEVAL
(CHRONICLES OF THE NEPHILIM #1)
Brian Godawa (Embedded Pictures Publishing)



THE THIRTEENTH DEMON (CHRONICLES OF JONATHAN STEEL)
Bruce Hennigan
(Realms)



DARK POWER
COLLECTION: FORBIDDEN DOORS VOL. 1
Bill Myers
(Zondervan)



INVISIBLE TERROR
COLLECTION: FORBIDDEN DOORS VOL. 2
Bill Myers
(Zondervan)



PYXIS: THE DISCOVERY
(PYXIS SERIES #1)
K.C. Neal
(Stonehouse Ink)



NEPHILIM: GENESIS OF EVIL
Renee Pawlish
(Renee Pawlish)



F.A.I.R.I.E.S.: BAPTISM BY FIRE
M. C. Pearson
(FIRST Wild Card Press)



KISS OF NIGHT: A NOVEL
Debbie Viguie
(FaithWords)



REPLICATION: THE JASON EXPERIMENT
Jill Williamson
(Zondervan)

<http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/speculative/books/new-releases>



Betsy St. Amant

Faith Under Scrutiny

KATIE HART



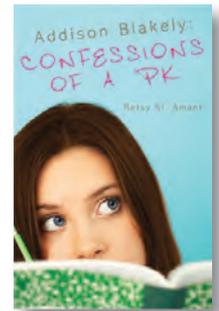
With seven romance novels under her belt, Betsy St. Amant dives into world of young adult fiction with *Addison Blakely: Confessions of a PK* (Barbour).

“I didn’t grow up as a PK (preacher’s kid),” Betsy shares, “but I did grow up in a large church that my grandparents sort of founded. I knew what it was like to wear a label and feel watched and like you had to measure up to an invisible standard all the time. That’s what I drew from for Addison’s story.”

In the novel, Addison feels drawn to bad-boy Wade, even though there’s a perfectly nice guy at school who’s interested in her. Her childhood best friend is now Miss Popular, her widowed father is dating again, and somehow Addison volunteers to turn the school’s talent show into a charity fundraiser.

Betsy began writing short stories and fan fiction in early childhood, but didn’t pursue publishing until age 18. Now, she squeezes in what writing she can amid her

busy schedule. “I have a 3-year-old who is involved in dance, church, AWANA and preschool; a part time job outside of the home; an editing/critique business; part-time job freelancing for my local newspaper; a part-time job through the ACFW as List Hostess; and a fireman husband who is rarely home,” she shares. She still finds time to indulge her passion for reading—and shoes!



Switching to writing for a teen audience was a fun experience for her. “I enjoyed writing first-person for the first time, and

“Whether that’s faith in salvation, or faith in God’s sovereignty, or faith in God’s goodness, or faith in God’s justice...whichever angle applies, it’s all about faith.”

really getting inside Addison’s head. I’m 27, but some days I still feel very much 16 or 18 myself, so it wasn’t hard.” She plans to continue writing for both teens and adults.

Betsy considers faith (and romance!) the heart of her novels. “Whether that’s faith in salvation, or faith in God’s sovereignty, or faith in God’s goodness, or faith in God’s justice...whichever angle applies, it’s all about faith.”

FF

MORE ABOUT BETSY ST. AMANT ONLINE

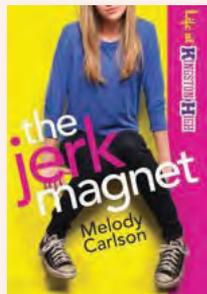
<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Betsy-St-Amant>

ADDISON BLAKELY: CONFESSIONS OF A PK | Barbour

YA/TEEN

News&Notes

KATIE HART



MAKEOVER SIDE EFFECTS

Melody Carlson's latest novel for teens, *The Jerk Magnet*, releases January 2012 from Revell. When Chelsea Martin goes from geeky and gawky to gorgeous, she thinks it's the best thing in the world, until she starts attracting jerks.

Melody says, "*The Jerk Magnet* was inspired by a friend of mine. She got a complete and

massive makeover (including bleaching her hair blond and a nose job) which had some unexpected "side effects" in that she began to attract the "wrong" sort of guys. I jokingly told her that she'd turned herself into a "jerk magnet." As a result I thought this is a story young girls need to hear. It's a lighthearted book with some serious punch."

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Melody-Carlson>

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Award-winning author **Heather Burch** presents the first novel in her new series, *Halflings* (Zondervan). Seventeen-year-old Nikki is rescued by three young men, and then discovers they are half-angels and were sent to protect her.

Heather says, "I didn't want to write *Halflings*. I was working on another project that was going famously, and suddenly, this idea that had rested in the back of my mind for years took me captive. Teenagers. Wings. Saving the World. The Halflings were all I could think about. So I wrote the first scene with the intention of jotting down a quick outline, then getting back to my previous project. One scene became two and before I knew it, I'd written 275 pages."

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Heather-Burch>

MODERN-DAY ESTHER

High school teacher **Krista McGee's** debut novel, *First Date* (Thomas Nelson), transforms the Biblical story of Esther into a modern-day story, where Addy Davidson is unexpectedly thrust into a reality TV competition to go to prom with the President's son.

Krista says, "Insecurity is just one of the voices vying for teenagers' attention. But what if we didn't allow our differences to wreck us—and instead embraced the uniqueness in each?"

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Krista-McGee>

NEWRELEASES



THE SONG OF UNMAKING

D. Barkley Briggs
(Living Ink)



HALFLINGS (HALFLINGS SERIES #1)

Heather Burch
(Zondervan)



THE JERK MAGNET (LIFE AT KINGSTON HIGH)

Melody Carlson
(Revell Books)



WREATH: A NOVEL

Judy Christie
(Barbour Books)



THERE YOU'LL FIND ME

Jenny B. Jones
(Thomas Nelson)



FIRST DATE

Krista McGee
(Tommy Nelson)



DEADLY LOYALTY COLLECTION: FORBIDDEN DOORS VOL. 3

Bill Myers
(Zondervan)



ANCIENT FORCES COLLECTION: FORBIDDEN DOORS VOL. 4

Bill Myers
(Zondervan)



THE WISHING PEARL (DIAMOND ESTATES #1)

Nicole O'Dell
(Barbour Books)



REPLICATION: THE JASON EXPERIMENT

Jill Williamson
(Zondervan)

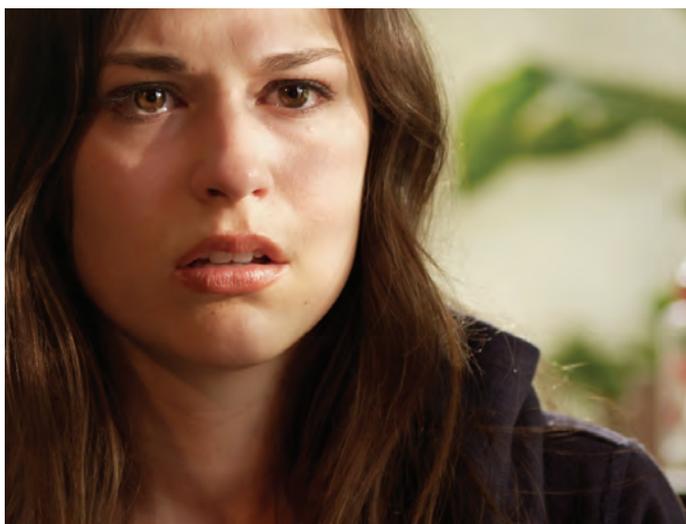
<http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/young-adult/books/new-releases>



OctoberBaby

Producer & Director Andrew Erwin

C.J. DARLINGTON



What if at 19 years old you discovered that not only were you adopted, but you were also the victim of a failed abortion?

In Andrew and Jon Erwin's first feature film, *October Baby*, Hannah sets out on a quest to find her birth mother and discovers much more than she expected. Co-directed by the Erwin brothers, and with a supporting cast that includes John Schneider and a hilarious performance by Christian music artist Chris Sligh, *October Baby* is a film that will touch lives without condemnation.

Andrew and Jon got their start helping their father at his TV station job. In exchange, they were allowed to use the equipment from midnight to 4 am. "From there it was a hobby that grew out of control," Andrew says. "We fell in love with telling stories." Up until their 20s the brothers made their living as sports cameramen, but their big break came in directing the documentary *The Cross and the Towers*, a film about the iron cross found

at ground zero after 9-11. They have since directed 50 Christian music videos for the likes of Skillet, Michael W. Smith and Casting Crowns.

"Sometimes as a filmmaker you go out to find your stories," Andrew says. "But

most of the time they find you. We heard a girl named Gianna Jessen speak on YouTube. She's an abortion survivor. She has cerebral palsy as a result, but has an



“I don't feel you can change someone's mind until you move their heart.”

amazing outlook on life. Rather than film a documentary, we decided to become more subversive with *October Baby* and make a charming, coming-of-age love story. Looking at abortion through the eyes of the victim was much less polarizing.

"At its core the movie really is about forgiveness," Andrew adds. "Ultimately, no matter what the viewers' background or views on the subject, I hope they go away being very moved. I don't feel you can change someone's mind until you move their heart."

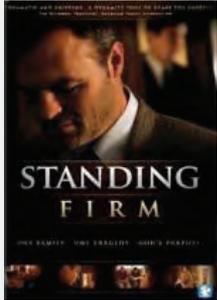
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MORE ONLINE ABOUT CHRISTIAN AND/OR FAMILYFRIENDLY MOVIES

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/Movies>

News&Notes

C.J. DARLINGTON



FIRMLY ESTABLISHED

The acclaimed Praise Pictures film *Standing Firm* is now available in Video-On-Demand format. Director and Producer Kyle Prohaska says, "This is very exciting but new territory for Christian movies. Very few Christian movies have ever released this way, and we're fortunate to have a company working with us to make this happen. The film is now in front of millions of people for the very first time, and that blows my mind." *Standing Firm* tells the story of a father and son who face a tragedy that threatens their faith.

NO MORE NARNIA?

We reported in the May/June issue that the next Narnia movie was set to be *The Magician's Nephew*. Unfortunately since then, Walden Media's contract for the series expired. Douglas Gresham, stepson of C.S. Lewis, confirmed the news on Middle Earth radio. He says, "For a variety of different reasons we cannot immediately produce another Narnia movie. But it is my hope that the Lord would spare me and keep me fit and healthy enough so that in three or four years time we can start production on the next one... it's in the Lord's hands. He knows what He's doing better than we do."

HORSIN' AROUND

Just released to DVD is a fun movie for the whole family, but girls and horse lovers will especially delight in *The Greening of Whitney Brown*. Preteen Whitney (Sammi Hanratty) is privileged and spoiled. When her parents (Brooke Shields and Aidan Quinn) move her to the family's country farm, Whitney meets a horse that will change her outlook on life. The equine star of the movie, a distinctive black and white Gypsy Vanner horse, was played by "Odd Job Bob" and his two stunt doubles. Sammi had never ridden before, which gave a genuine feel to her scenes with the horse. Kris Kristofferson also stars as Whitney's grandfather.

NEWRELEASES



BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR



COURAGEOUS



DECISION



DOLPHIN TALE



ME AGAIN



THE MIGHTY MACS (THEATRICAL)



REAL



SEVEN DAYS IN UTOPIA (DVD)



TRINITY GOODHEART



WWJD2: THE WOODCARVER

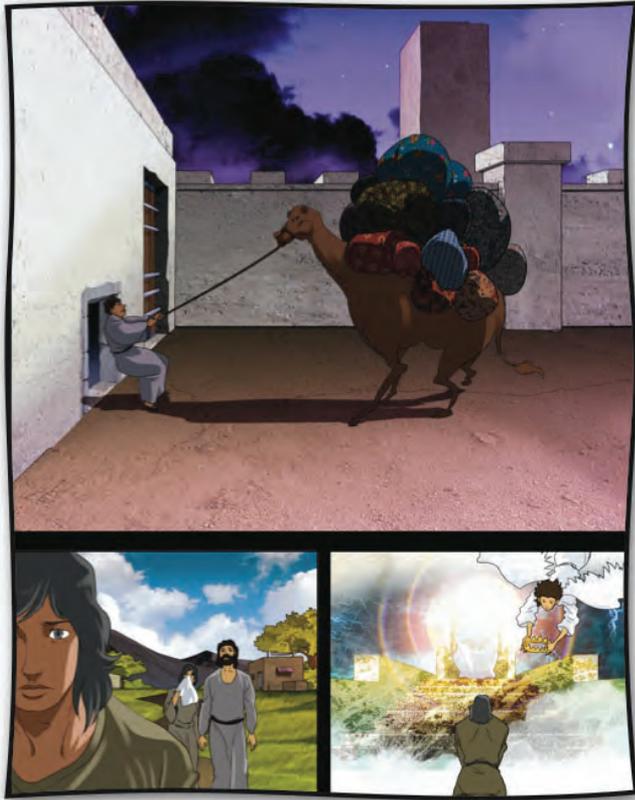
MOVIES/DVD



The Almighty Bible

Subscribing to the Truth

BEN AVERY



new 150-page volume will be sent to subscribers. “We start with Luke and we mix between New Testament and Old Testament books,” O’Donnell explains. Acts is the second book subscribers will receive, followed by Genesis and then Exodus. Mark, Revelation, and Joshua & Judges are some of the other upcoming titles.

The art teams behind the vibrant, colorful visuals are based in Korea. The art style will be familiar to readers of manga and comic books, but the layout of the page has a distinct and unique style. There are no word balloons or caption boxes. Instead, the text appears at the bottom of the page, beneath the artwork, along with scripture references to direct readers to the source material.

By focusing on the words in this way, O’Donnell hopes it will point young readers back to the graphic novel’s source material. The Almighty Bible series was created for parents, grandparents and teachers. “They want their kids to read the Bible,” O’Donnell said. “They want it to be something that will engage the kids.”

In other words, they share O’Donnell’s vision.

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The people behind The Almighty Bible graphic novels had a clear vision. “We were looking to create a series of books that are very accessible to a large number of kids,” says Almighty Bible cofounder Kevin O’Donnell. To do this, they created a series of graphic novels, covering different books in the Bible.

But with economic uncertainty affecting book publishing, closing bookstores, and creating difficulties for new publications, they found themselves facing a tough question. They wanted to publish books that would get kids interested in the Bible, but how could they get the books to the kids?

After months of experimenting, they came upon a unique solution. Instead of going through bookstores, they are using a “book of the month” subscription model. Each month, a

MORE CHRISTIAN COMICS ONLINE

<http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/comics-animation/books/>

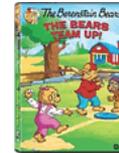
News&Notes

BEN AVERY

NEWRELEASES



THE MOST SPECTACULAR STORIES EVER TOLD...FROM THE BIBLE
Sheldon Mayer, Joe Kubert, Nestor Redondo
DC Comics



THE BERENSTAIN BEARS: THE BEARS TEAM UP!



SERVING OTHERS (CHUCK SWINDOLL'S PAWS & TALES #7)



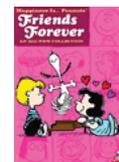
USING YOUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS (CHUCK SWINDOLL'S PAWS & TALES #6)



DAVEY AND GOLIATH: VOLUME 9



EXILE AND RETURN! EZRA, NEHEMIAH & ESTHER (WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE #7)



HAPPINESS IS... PEANUTS: FRIENDS FOREVER



GOD'S LOVE (THEO #1)



VEGGIETALES: IF I SANG A SILLY SONG



VEGGIETALES: ROBIN GOOD AND HIS NOT-SO-MERRY MEN



RIGHTEOUS RODENTS

Church Mice, a weekly webcomic by Karl A. Zorowski, doesn't just ask the question "what's so funny about church?"—it answers it.

"*Church Mice* gives me the opportunity," Zorowski says, "to point people's attention toward God while presenting a lighthearted, but sometimes serious, look at Christianity and the institution of organized religion."

Using artwork and characters reminiscent of Disney and Looney Toons, Zorowski hopes to show people "that God is all about love, and being a Christian is all about relationships. God loves us, we can love God, and we need to love each other."

<http://www.churchmice.net/>

SILLY SONGS BY THE FANS AND FOR THE FANS

The results are in, the fans have spoken, and Larry the Cucumber will reveal the 20 favorite silly songs of all time in Big Idea's newest DVD, *If I Sang a Silly Song* (Big Idea).

The 20 fan favorites were voted for on the VeggieTales Facebook page. Fans voted on a selection of songs from VeggieTales' first decade (with songs like "Where Is My Hairbrush") and second decade (like "SUV"). Ten songs from each decade will be on the DVD.

But *If I Sang a Silly Song* features 21 songs in total. The 21st song was not voted on by fans, but actually suggested by fans. Again, using their Facebook page, Big Idea asked for silly song ideas to turn into a brand new silly song, featured on this compilation.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/movies/veggietales-if-i-sang-a-silly-song/>

BLAST FROM THE PAST

In 1975, DC Comics published an oversized comic book called simply "The Bible." Some of the best comic book creators of the time worked on the book, with Sheldon Mayer scripting, Joe Kubert laying out the pages and editing, and Nestor Redondo finishing the artwork. DC Comics is now reprinting the classic book in a hardcover edition.

The book itself covered the book of Genesis, including the creation, Noah's Ark, and Sodom and Gomorrah. In a 1975 interview with Mayer from *The Amazing World of DC Comics*, he recounted the scripting process: "I rough-sketches that script rather than typed it because I needed the advice of several theologians, and it was easier for them to look at pictures than to wade through the scene descriptions."

More issues of *The Bible* were planned but never produced.

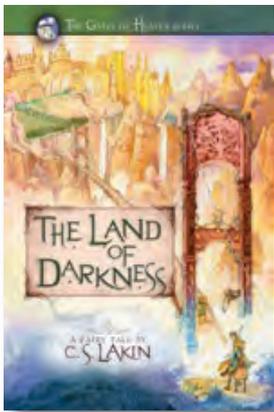
<http://www.familyfiction.com/books/the-most-spectacular-stories-ever-told-from-the-bible/>

5 Questions: C.S. Lakin

Susanne C. S. Lakin grew up collating television scripts for her mother, who was a screenwriter, story editor, and producer for television. As an adult, Susanne assisted in developing series for television. While raising two daughters and running a bed and breakfast inn in northern California, she wrote her first three novels and a cookbook. The latest volume in her Gates of Heaven fantasy series is *The Land of Darkness* (Living Ink).



C.S. LAKIN



What led you to write the Gates of Heaven series?

I wanted to create an original series using fairy-tale elements we are all familiar with, reworked to be completely new stories with biblical sub-

themes and metaphor. The neat thing about fairy tales is that they often feel very real and start off with characters in their ordinary world, but then magic intrudes. Like “Jack and the Beanstalk,” where Jack is off to market to sell a cow so he and his mother don’t starve.

What inspired *The Land of Darkness*?

I came across the Alexander Tales from the 4th century, one of which told of a land of darkness where Alexander the Great finds the water of life. I also wanted to do a variation of *Pilgrim’s Progress*, and have a bridge that spanned the great chasm separating us from God. This book is all centered around Isaiah 53 and the parables of Jesus.

How does your faith influence your writing?

I wrote a few novels years ago for the commercial market and am still trying to sell those books. But I seriously prayed to God to tell me what to write for Him, and He led me to writing these fairy tales.

How long have you known that you wanted to be a writer?

I’ve been writing all my life and come from a family of professional writers—so, although I never intended to become a novelist, it was meant to be...

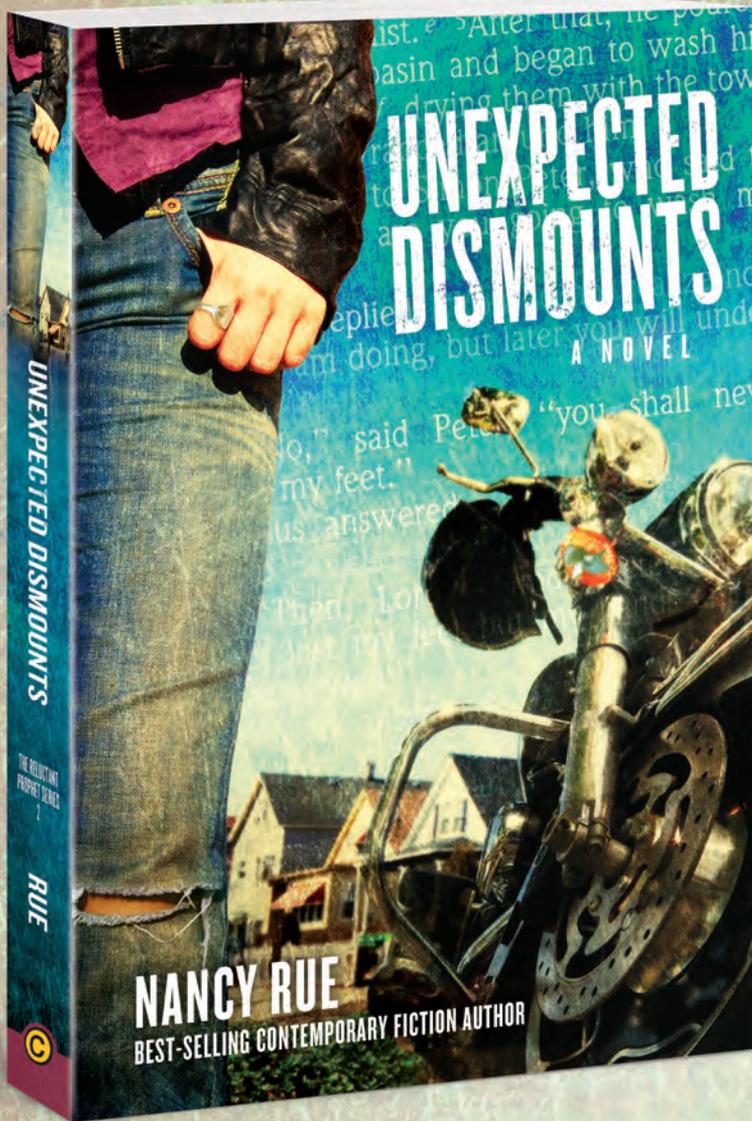
What do you hope that readers get from reading your work?

I want them more than anything to be drawn to God, to get a feeling that He is an awesome, loving God who has a plan for their lives and offers an unbelievable hope for the future.

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MORE ABOUT C.S. LAKIN ONLINE

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/C-S-Lakin>



NEW

from best-selling contemporary author

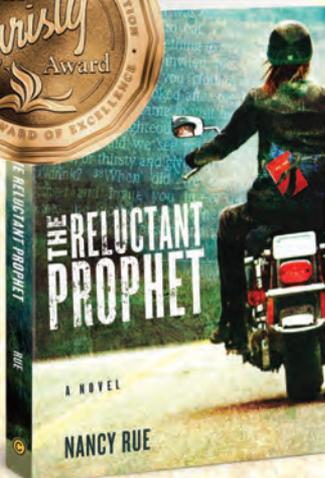
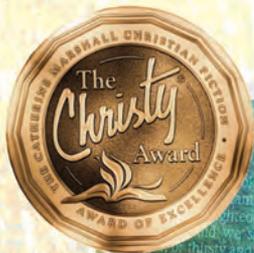
NANCY RUE

"In Allison Chamberlain, Nancy Rue has created a fresh and unique protagonist to challenge all who follow Christ. How will we change the world? By being willing to leave our comfortable pews and habitual routines to truly *listen* to the voice of the Spirit ... and show the world that Jesus called us to love. Not to take care of ourselves, but to take risks in loving others... a wonderful book with the power to changes hearts and lives."

Angela Hunt, author of *The Debt*

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5 QUESTION: C.S. LAKIN

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