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September/October 2013

create **romance** fiction writing contest

**MEET ALL 10
FINALISTS AND THE
GRAND PRIZE
WINNER**

6 Authors Share Their
Literary Heroes

Getting Personal
with **Cindy Woodsmall**
You Asked—She Answered

ALSO
Nancy Moser
Erica Vetsch
C.J. Darlington
MORE...

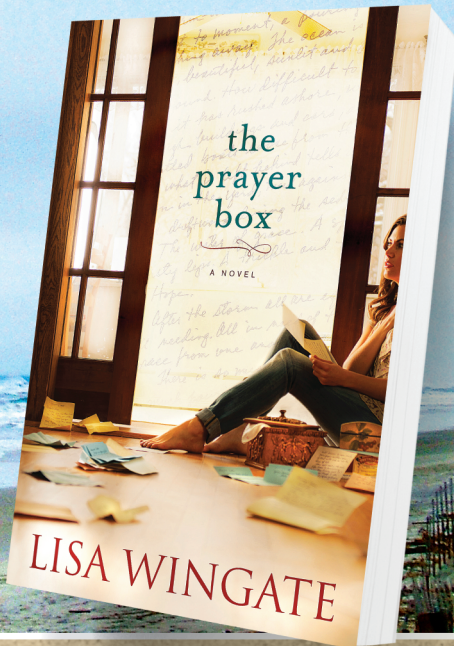
PLUS 20 New Titles in our
Fall Reading Guide



LISA WINGATE

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Short-Short Fiction Competition



The Create Romance Writing Contest **Winners**



Lisa Harris



YA/Amish Hybrid
Fiction



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Questions with
Cindy Woodsmall



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Petersheim



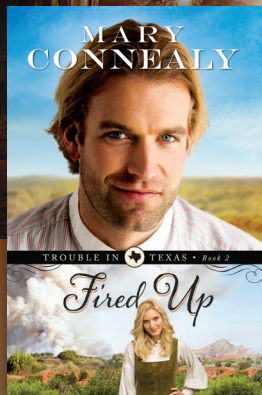
5 Essential
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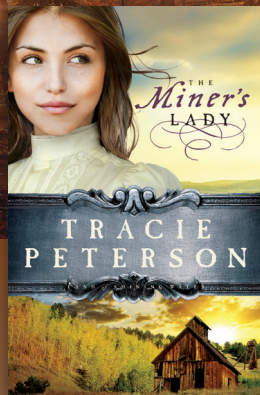
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Adventure & Romance for Autumn Nights



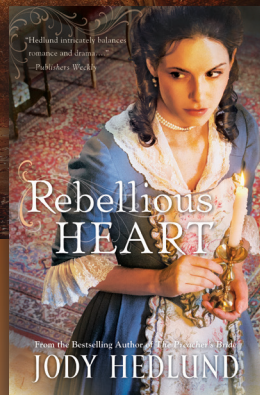
Doctor Dare Riker wants to leave his war days behind and move on with his life—preferably with Glynna Greer at his side. But will he survive long enough to have his chance at love?

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by Tracie Peterson
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DEPARTMENTS

Sept/Oct 2013



ONE QUESTION

What author has had the most impact on you as a writer and why?



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C.J. Darlington

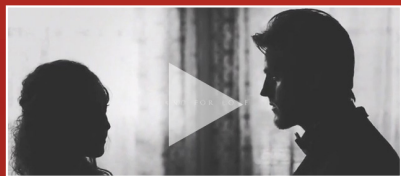
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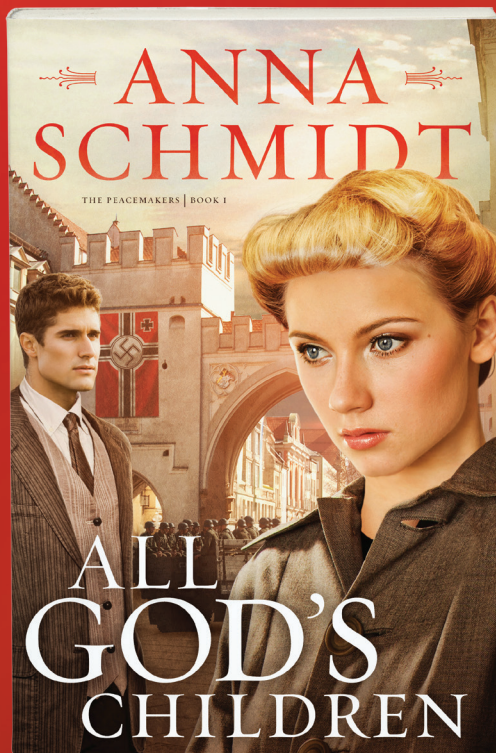


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TURNS INTO A
nightmare...

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Deidra Romero is a twenty-something blogger and book worm. She loves good company, good coffee, and a good story.

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Chris Jager works at a great bookstore, writes a review blog and just generally reads as much as she can.

www.Bbhfiction.blogspot.com



CHRIS JAGER

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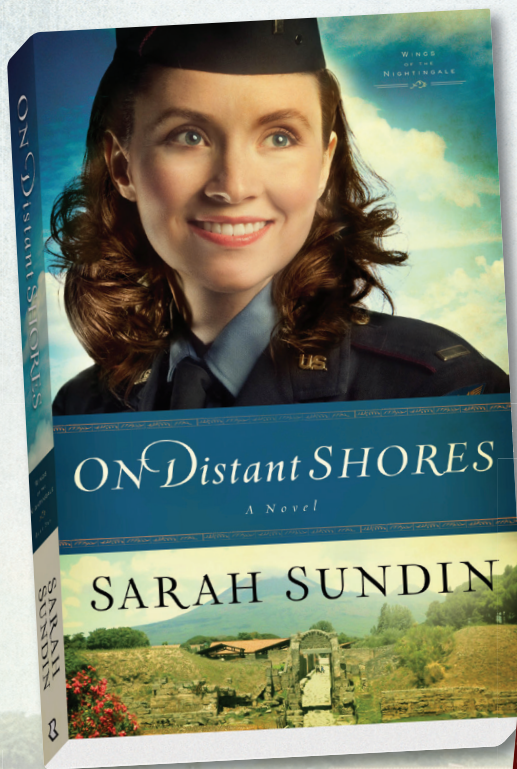
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—MELANIE DOBSON, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *The Silent Order*



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"What author has had the most impact on you as a writer and why?"



SANDRA ORCHARD

Author **Susan May Warren** has had the greatest impact on me as a writer. She is both an excellent writer, and an excellent teacher. I hired her to critique a synopsis and sample chapters in 2007, and learned so much through that experience, and through her blog, workshops, and how-to books that followed. She's become a cherished friend in my writing journey.

JAMES L. RUBART

I have to mention three authors: **C.S. Lewis**, **C.S. Lewis**, and **C.S. Lewis**. I say three authors because Lewis wrote children's books, non-fiction, and fiction, and I was massively changed through all three forms of writing. Brilliant, penetrating, mind and spirit stretching, and wildly entertaining. For me, no other author comes close.



DANI PETTREY

Dee Henderson has absolutely had the most impact on me as a writer. She took me under her wing about seven years ago and has been shepherding me ever since—not only with writing, but also the writing life. She's an amazing author, but also an amazing person. I feel tremendously blessed to call her my friend.

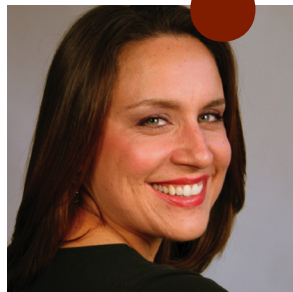


"What author has had the most impact on you as a writer and why?"



KRISTA MCGEE

C.S. Lewis has influenced me more than any other writer. Not only was Lewis an incredible storyteller whose faith permeated everything he wrote, but he was also supremely versatile. He wrote for children and for adults, he wrote fiction and non-fiction; he wrote about animals, about space travel, about mythology, and literature. He is my hero!



JORDYN REDWOOD

Dean Koontz, hands down. He's a master storyteller and can weave a terrifying tale like no other I know. Colorful characters, intriguing story lines and beautiful prose mixed with blood-chilling suspense are a few of his gifts. When I'm struggling with my own writing—I reach for one of his books. *Life Expectancy* is an all time favorite.

JEREL LAW

Tough question, but I would say **Frank Peretti**. When I was a kid he brought worlds alive I never knew existed. He opened my mind to possibilities and piqued my curiosity in spiritual things. Ultimately, God used him to grow my faith.





LISA HARRIS

FIRST PLACE WINNER

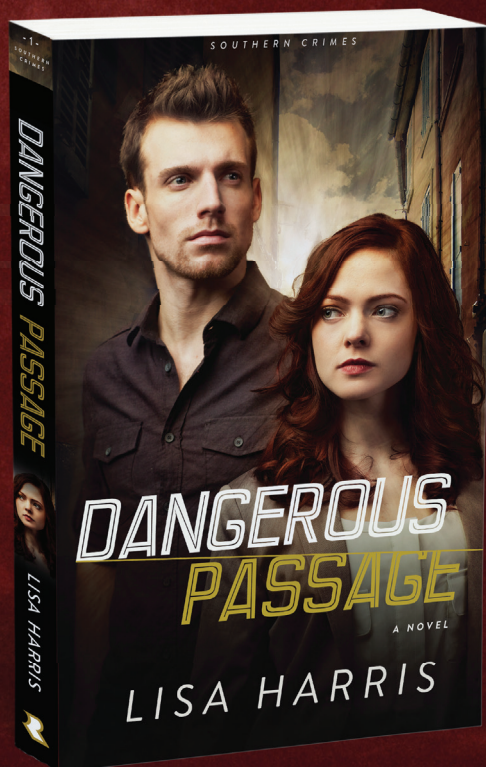
Deidra Romero

Between raising her kids and running a daycare, Lisa Harris managed to start writing her very first book. It took six years before she was a published author. That was ten years ago and since then she has written over twenty novels and novellas spanning fiction and nonfiction works. Lisa's short story titled "Paris in the Spring" is a charming and delightful romance that captured the attention of the Create Romance judges and is sure to warm your heart.

"I never expected this story to become so personal. Not long before I started writing it, I found out that my biological father had passed away. I hadn't had contact with him for almost twenty years, so I was surprised at how deeply I was affected by his death." It was this event

**"AN INTRIGUING TALE OF
ROMANCE AND MYSTERY.
Well-crafted characters and tight writing
will keep readers flipping the pages."**

—LYNETTE EASON, bestselling author of the Deadly Reunions series



For Avery North, it's a race against time to stop a serial killer before another Jane Doe is murdered—and falling in love with a handsome medical examiner is not part of the plan.

www.LisaHarrisWrites.com

that inspired Lisa to dig deeper into the feelings about her father's death and write the short story "Paris in the Spring." Lisa admits that writing this story turned out to be the best form of therapy. Examining the story from a writer's perspective allowed her to look closely at each layer and recognize the complexity of her emotions at the death of her father.

Another personal element Lisa incorporated while writing her story was the setting of Paris. It's her favorite place to visit. She adores the city with its history, buildings, museums, bakeries and beautiful language. It was easy for her to set her story in such a beloved place. In fact, one of her new projects which is currently unnamed will be set in Paris.

For Lisa, writing has always been an intensely personal experience. For every project she strives to find some personal element that resonates with her in order to really spark her inspiration. Lisa adds, "I always want to share something I'm passionate about that will minister to those reading my stories."

Can you tell us about other projects you have in the works?

Yes, I'm very excited about several new books. The first one releases in September and will launch my Southern Crimes series with Revell. This series revolves around the Hunt family who has served their country through the armed services or police department for generations. The first book kicks off with the discovery of a second murdered Jane Doe who has a magnolia tattoo on her shoulders, and quickly thrusts my hero and heroine into a sinister criminal world.

I also have several books coming out with Love Inspired Suspense, including one set in South Africa on a game reserve that deals with the daughter of an ambassador whose life is in danger, the Texas Ranger sent to ensure her safety, and the high stakes of rhino poaching. I'm also getting ready to jump into another one set in...you guessed it...Paris!

**DANGEROUS PASSAGE**

Lisa Harris
Revell

You typically write Romantic Suspense novels. What are the ingredients for a good Romantic Suspense story?

This is great advice straight from my amazing editor, Andrea Doering, about the four essential elements in a romantic suspense. One, the story needs to be action packed. Think of the story moving like a movie script. Two, the characters need to be involved in something bigger than their normal lives. Three, the heroine and hero might be on the run, but there needs to be enough romantic tension to keep their romance going. And lastly, the bad guy needs to get what he has coming to him.

What advice would you give to writers who are just starting out?

It's an exciting time to be a writer as there are so many options available today for writers. But while there are many changes in technology, learning your craft is still just as important. Read books about writing, go to conferences, learn all you can, and most importantly, write! **FF**

READ LISA'S SHORT STORY "PARIS IN THE SPRING"

<http://www.familyfiction.com/short-stories/create-romance-2012/paris-in-the-spring/>

CHECK OUT MORE FROM LISA HARRIS ON OUR SITE!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/lisa-harris/>



THE RUNNERS-UP

We asked you to write a short romance that could capture a heart in 1,000 words or less. The stories submitted from these authors had it all: intrigue, conflict, characterization, and most importantly, heart-fluttering romance.



CAMILLE EIDE

Your short story is about a soldier in Afghanistan and the girl he left behind. Are any elements from this story pulled from real life?

Not personal elements, for which I'm grateful. But, unfortunately, there is an element of truth in the plot. There have been attacks on military airbases similar to the one Ryan's company suffered in the story. A brother who served in the military told me about

a real-life incident when an unsecured, routine transfer site became the target of a massive ambush, causing injuries, capture, and casualties to US military personnel.

How long have you been writing and what projects do you have in the works?

I've been writing fiction for publication for about six years. I have two full-length novels I call romantic relational dramas (think Nicolas Sparks meets Karen Kingsbury—strong love story meets inspiring relational drama) which

are currently looking for the right publishing home. I've published a Christmas Romance (eBook novella) called *Savanna's Gift* (White Rose Publishing, 2011). And I am currently working on my third full-length novel, an inspirational historical romance set in 1940s Hollywood that you might call a "classic romance."



ELIZABETH GODDARD

In your story, "The Dress," your main character thinks she sees a sign. Do you believe in signs?

Most definitely yes! Of course, one has to be careful they aren't seeing signs everywhere. But when something is bathed in prayer, I think we need direction from God. He can open doors for us, or close them. In the case of "The Dress," there are two signs—one in the beginning that leads her to the fundraiser, and one at the end that brings the hero and heroine together. Of

course, the dress itself serves as the sign in both cases.

What was your motivation for writing this story?

I looked for just the right idea for a short story for this contest. As a novelist, writing a story under a thousand words was a challenge to me. But I enjoy challenges. I narrowed my ideas down to three and then I came across a true story about someone who found a dress at a thrift shop that ended up being created by a famous designer. Obviously, the dress was worth much more than the thrift store price. So I began to ask the usual questions. What if the dress belonged to the hero's sister?



CHRISTIE LOVVORN

Where did you get the idea for your short story?

I was struggling to write a story for the Create Romance contest and did not like my previous attempts when suddenly there was a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico. I let my imagination run free and imagined what it would be like to be looking forward to your wedding when a storm loomed, threatening to ruin your plans.

How does your faith influence your writing?

My faith sets the standards for the content, language, and message of my writing and there is always a spiritual component to the plot. I want to see God's hand working within the story to reflect how His hand works in real life.



CATHY LIGGET

Where did you get the idea for this short story?

From grocery shopping—I found myself tuning out to what I was doing and tuning in to the Muzak. I'd daydream about a married couple (possibly even me and my husband!) doing romantic twirls down the aisles—not that I'm a good dancer by any means. As more trips to the grocery and more daydreaming ensued, I finally realized I not only had the dance ending for "A Perfect Ten," but I also had the rest of the couple's story too.

What advice do you have for aspiring writers?

Personally, I would say try to find a critique group, some kind but honest people you can share your writing with. As for myself, I don't know what I'd do without my critique friends. We've been meeting every other week for over ten years now and they are a great blessing in my life. They not only help me get my writing on target, but they're there through all the highs and lows of the business and can empathize like few other people in my life can.



**VALORIE BENDER
QUESENBERRY**

Where did you get the idea for your short story?

The library is one of my favorite places, and this particular day, I had gone to the local library with the goal of writing the short story for the Family Fiction Create Romance contest. I am very

good friends with the children's librarians. I stopped to chat with them about my writing project. These ladies were very interested, remarking that they had often thought of writing a book. As I was talking with them, an idea formed in my own mind. How about a short story set in a library with the children's librarian being the main character? How could I get a romantic angle out of that? How about a little adventure thrown in the mix? I hurried upstairs to begin writing and the story came rather quickly. I loved the characters who emerged in these 1000 words, even the iguana whom I gave a literary name since it seemed fitting for a lizard in a library.

What current projects are you working on?

I just finished a contribution to a book of prayers for girls with Barbour Publishing, and presently, I am working on a novel set in WWII Germany as well as ongoing freelance work.



CINDY REGNIER

Your story is about an unfortunate circumstance that turns out to be life-changing. Has this ever happened to you in real life?

I've not experienced what happened to Faith, but often something comes our way that seems terrible at the time. In most instances, the unpleasantness is left behind and we come out on the other side better off than before. I think it's important to share these circumstances, real or fictional, to encourage

others as they face these unwelcome difficulties.

Where did you get the inspiration for this story?

Most of my story ideas just fall into my mind and then I have to write them to make them quit running through my head. When I sat down to write this short story, I had no idea what would fill that page. But it always comes to me, just a phrase or thought to start out and then a basic plot. After that, the words come easily.



MARLO SCHALESKY

Your story is about young love and its powerful nature but also its fragility. Why did you choose to write about this?

When I was thinking of a story to submit to the contest, three couples close to me were going through divorce. None of them had tried to save their marriage and restore it through counseling. Instead, they had just given up. It broke my heart to see these relationships that were once so full of hope and love

being abandoned, and I wondered ... what if? What if they could go back to those first moments when love was new? Would they choose differently if they could only see what they once saw, believe as they once believed, live once again, if only for a moment, in a love that was filled with hope, filled with God? And so *Shadows of Remembrance* was born.

How do you get your best ideas and inspiration for writing?

Everywhere! *Beyond the Night* came from a dream. *Veil of Fire* came from a story told by my mother-in-law over tacos and enchiladas at our local Mexican restaurant. I love seeing the wonder of God in everyday life, and the wonder of a story in places I would least expect it.



JILL URBACH

Your short story is about forgiveness, grace and how God can turn anything around for good. Where did you get inspiration for this story?

While “Messy Blessings” is pure fiction, several aspects of my own life inspired the story. The setting was inspired by my husband’s job with our small-town sheriff’s department. And, as a mother of a teenager and a preteen, I can imagine how

terrible it would feel to find that my child had committed a crime. Since, in a short

story, it's important to get straight to the conflict, I simply dropped my characters into the messiest part of the situation—the first meeting after the crime, when there would be lots of questions and turbulent emotions.

What advice do you have for anyone aspiring to write romance?

Read the kinds of romance stories you want to write. You can learn a lot from others. There are also some great organizations for romance writers such as Romance Writers of America, which are wonderful resources. Then, write. Having the dream is essential, but nothing will come of it unless you actually plant yourself in the chair and put words to your thoughts.



LACY WILLIAMS

Your story is about a girl who ends up on a date with a man who is out of her league, or so she thinks. Where did you get the inspiration for this story?

Can I share a secret? I wasn't going to enter the Create Romance contest. I had heard about it but didn't think I had time to craft an entry (and I have a hard time writing short!). Well, God had other ideas! I have little kids and three small/medium dogs, so I try to vacuum as often as I can—one day while I was vacuuming the opening line came to me, and the rest of the story followed when I sat down to write it. I did have to cut about 500 words with help from my critique partners.

Do you have any projects in the works?

I have two books coming out this year, *Roping the Wrangler* (August) and *Return of the Cowboy Doctor* (December), both from Love Inspired Historical. These books start my new series "Wyoming Legacy" and are the stories of adopted brothers who have sort of banded together to make a family. Now they're all grown up and falling in love—with some challenges, of course! **FF**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE AUTHORS AND READ THEIR SHORT STORIES HERE!



JOLINA PETERSHEIM

Jolina Petersheim's premier book released this June after much anticipation. Jolina answered our questions about her inspiration, Plain background, and her book, *The Outcast* (Tyndale House).

Q What is your book about?

My debut novel, *The Outcast*, is a modern retelling of *The Scarlet Letter* set in an Old Order Mennonite community in Tennessee, much like the community I used to visit as a child. Though *The Outcast* is entirely fictional, the premise is actually based on a story someone once shared with me. It was about the power of desire and the reverberating cost after that desire was left unchecked; a story that, shockingly enough, took place in an idyllic Old Order Mennonite community.

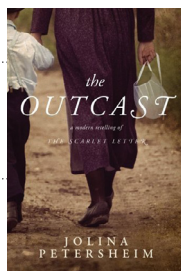
For people who may not be familiar with your work, what would you want them to know about you and the kinds of stories you write?

I just received a wonderful e-mail from a woman who said she will do everything she can to help promote *The Outcast* because she believes in its message that much. This brought me to tears. *The Outcast* is more than a work of fiction to me. My vision for *The Outcast* is to show that sin has repercussions that often hurt those who have not sinned. And yet there is also redemption if the sinner repents and seeks forgiveness from God, those he has wronged, and the person with whom he has sinned. I believe its message of healing needs to be shared with our entire generation.

What is your connection to the Amish or other Plain cultures?

My husband and I both have a Plain heritage that originated in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. My husband's grandfather was raised Amish, but the

"My childhood was filled with stories of my ancestors hiding TVs from bishops and concealing permed hair beneath kapps."



rest of our family members have a Mennonite background. My family moved from Pennsylvania to Tennessee when I was three, but my childhood was filled with stories of my ancestors hiding TVs from bishops and concealing permed hair beneath kapps. Now my parents work one-on-one with the Amish and Mennonite communities in Tennessee and Kentucky, selling their wares through Miller's Amish Country Store that's located forty-five minutes north of Nashville.

When did you become interested in the Amish?

The Amish and Mennonites were always part of my life. So much so, in fact, that I did not appreciate my heritage until I went away to college (the first in my family to attempt a higher education) and realized that I did not want to become a

journalist in the big city as I had once planned. Instead, I found myself drawn to creative writing and to a simple life, reminiscent of the heritage I had once tried to flee. The two eventually combined, and after I married my husband and we started building our house on our land, I stared at our rolling Tennessee mountains, and *The Outcast* was born.

Insider details and glimpses of Plain life make your stories come alive. How do you collect that information?

I ask my mother questions, who then recalls details from her childhood and the afternoons she spent with my Plain grandmother, Verna Reist Mummau Grove. Or I ask my formerly Amish friend, who can help me with the Pennsylvania Dutch vocabulary. Getting the spelling correct with an unrecorded language was the most difficult task for me. Thankfully, Tyndale has some great copy editors, so we researched it together. I should also mention that my agent, Wes Yoder, has a Plain background as well. He actually contacted one of his friends to get the correct Pennsylvania Dutch phrase when someone is being baptized into the church. This will be placed in my next book. **FF**

5 Essential Voices in Literary Fiction

Rel Mollet

While literature critics and students will debate the definition of the term "literary fiction," readers know it refers to novels of exceptional merit, stories with complex layers and intriguing characters. Whatever definition you choose, these five authors have written novels worth diving into.



Julie Cantrell

Former editor-in-chief of the Southern Literary Review, Julie Cantrell hit the New York Times and USA Today bestseller lists with her debut novel, *Into the Free* (David C Cook), in 2012. She continues her tale of Millie Reynolds and Bump in *When Mountains Move*.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/julie-cantrell/books/when-mountains-move/>

Peter Leavell

Historian Peter Leavell began researching one of the many fantastical story ideas he had tumbling in his head and *Gideon's Call* (Worthy) was born. A heartfelt coming of age story, set against the backdrop of the Civil War, about a young slave named Tad envelops this fictional character with real life characters and historical events.

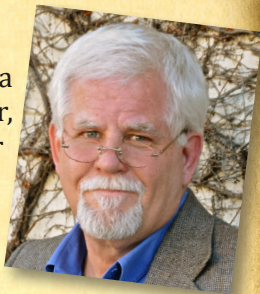
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Dale Cramer

Sutter's Cross (Bethany) heralded a new talent with a lyrical and evocative style in former construction worker, Dale Cramer. Dale went on to win Christy Awards for *Bad Ground* and *Levi's Will*. His most recent books, *The Daughters of Caleb Bender* trilogy, share the story of an Amish community seeking a refuge to practice their faith in 1920s Mexico.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/dale-cramer/books/sutter-s-cross/>



Charles Martin

Since 2007 and the release of the *The Dead Don't Dance* (Thomas Nelson), Charles Martin has released eight additional novels characterised by Southern charm, unique characters, and the deepest of human emotions. *Unwritten* (Center Street) takes a priest, a hermit, and an actress fleeing her former life on a journey to discover grace.

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/charles-martin/books/unwritten/>



Susan Meissner

Driven to put her thoughts on paper from a very young age, Susan Meissner published her first novel, *Why the Sky is Blue* (Harvest House), in 2004. A decade on this talented writer will release her fourteenth novel next year. Travel to Florence, Italy in her most recent story, *The Girl in the Glass* (Waterbrook).

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/susan-meissner/books/the-girl-in-the-glass-a-novel/>





Deidra Romero

Young Adult/Amish Books

Literary hybrid genres are popping up everywhere: Romance/Suspense, Historical/Mystery, and more recently Young Adult/Amish novels are finding a base of readers.

With big-name authors like **Melody Carlson**, **Amy Clipston**, **Kathleen Fuller** and **Kim Vogel Sawyer** carving out this genre, there is plenty of potential for more books in this family.

Annette Bourland, Senior Vice President and Publisher at Zondervan, believes YA/Amish books have to separate themselves from “traditional” Amish novels. She feels YA/Amish books should take a “more teen-centric approach that melds the Amish culture with themes related to what ‘English’ teens are facing and experiencing as well.” It’s this idea that teens all deal with the same issues that bridges the two cultures in YA/Amish books.

Author **Kathleen Fuller** recognizes this concept to be true as well. She found that no matter what the setting, “there are universal problems [teens] encounter—dealing with parents, pushing against rules, and of course, unending curiosity about the world around them. I also found that while culture and times have changed, the feelings and reactions of teens have stayed the same.” Since Kathleen mainly writes adult Amish fiction, she was delighted at a chance to get inside the mind of a younger audience and write a book that would connect them with the characters and readers of her adult Middlefield series. Kathleen wrote *Hide & Secret* (Thomas Nelson), a Young Adult Amish novel, in 2011.

Kim Vogel Sawyer added, “When writing for young people, you need to find themes that are relatable. Most teenage girls have a

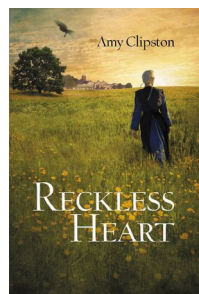


desire to ‘fit’ with their peers.” Kim’s main character in her 2011 Katie Lambright series (Zonderkidz) was no exception to this rule. For Katie, however, the challenge of fitting in was unique because she was Amish.

According to **Melody Carlson**, she enjoys the challenge of writing storylines absent of cell phones, cars, and television—all of which are very important for teenage life today. Her first book in the YA/Amish genre was titled *Double Take* (Revell Books). “It was a hoot taking a modern sort of ‘Gossip Girl’ character and foisting her onto the slow paced Amish world—meanwhile the sweet doppelganger Amish girl grapples with the mayhem of Manhattan. I also had fun taking a talented Amish girl and thrusting her into the cut-throat world of reality TV where she competes in a show similar to American Idol. It’s just so fun to play with the juxtaposition of these two opposite cultures—and at the same time teach some important coming of age lessons. I had no idea I would enjoy it this much—but I do!” After the success of *Double Take*, Melody started working on *A Simple Song* (Revell Books), which released earlier this year. Melody has a third YA/Amish book, *My Amish Boyfriend*, which is set to release this winter. She even has plans for a fourth book in the same genre, which is untitled at this time.



In 2012, **Amy Clipston** wrote *Reckless Heart* (Zondervan) her first YA/Amish book. Amy, like Kathleen Fuller, writes mainly adult Amish books, found it challenging to write a YA book. “Young adult books are more difficult to write in my opinion, but I love the challenge. The books not only have to appeal to teens, but they also must have a life lesson. The character has to mature and grow by the end of the story’s journey.” In Amy’s book, *Reckless Heart*, an Amish teen confronts the pressure she feels to conform to her Amish culture.



Can we expect more books in this YA/Amish genre? **Lonnie Hull Dupont**, Executive Editor at Revell Books, believes readers of all ages are responding to the expansion of this genre. “We’re thrilled these novels have found an audience and believe women who like reading about the Amish are reading these books as much as teenage girls are reading them.” **FF**

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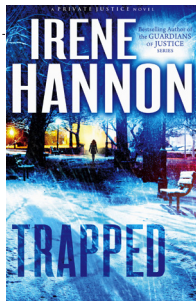
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2013 FALL READING GUIDE

A little chill in the air. Color in the leaves and the smell of wood burning in fireplaces. Fall is here. It's a great time to slow down and get lost in an intriguing mystery or inspiring romance. To help, we're bringing you our *FamilyFiction Fall Reading Guide*, filled with quick spotlights on all the latest and greatest fiction offerings. So grab a book and bundle up. There's reading to do!



TRAPPED*by Irene Hannon*

A desperate young woman teams up with a tenacious private investigator to find her missing sister before the trail goes cold.

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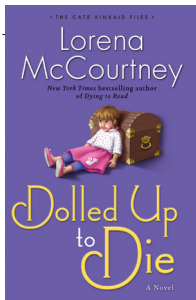
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DANGEROUS PASSAGE*by Lisa Harris*

For Every North, it's a race against time to stop a serial killer before another Jane Doe is murdered—and falling in love with a handsome medical examiner is not part of the plan.

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DOLLED UP TO DIE*by Lorena McCourtney*

With tension that is matched only by humor, *Dolled Up to Die* is the exciting second book in Lorena McCourtney's Cate Kinkaid Files. You won't find a place to stop and take a breath in this fast-paced story.

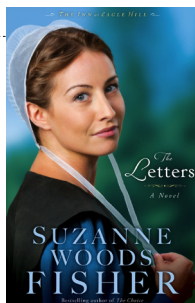
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by Suzanne Woods Fisher

Lainie Davis has never had anyone to count on but herself. Will that change when she finds herself stranded in Last Chance, New Mexico? Drawn into the small-town dramas and to a handsome local guy with a secret of his own—could she actually make a life in this little town? Or will the past catch up to her?

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WELCOME TO LAST CHANCE

by Cathleen Armstrong

Scarlet Lindsey is making a name for herself as the best wedding cake designer in Texas, but will a handsome guy with designs of his own derail her dreams?

"This breezy, fun-filled romance is sure to please."
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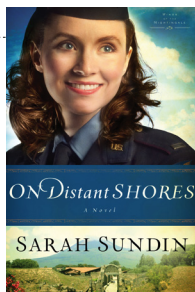
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Caught between the war raging around them and the battles within, two souls long for peace—and a love that remains true. Sarah Sundin weaves an exciting tale of emotion, action, and romance that will leave you wanting more.

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LOVE'S AWAKENING*by Laura Frantz*

The path to true love lies somewhere between two feuding families.

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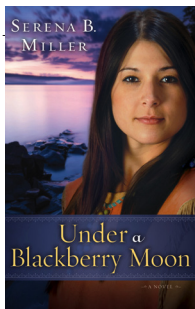
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THE INVENTION OF SARAH CUMMINGS*by Olivia Newport*

A clever young servant in the Banning household uses an assumed identity to pursue a life of privilege, but discovers love and belonging where she least expects them. Will she sacrifice love to continue her pretense? OliviaNewport.com

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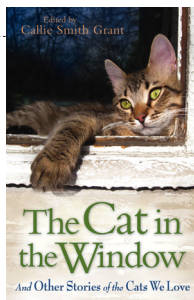
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A woman without a prospect. A man without a homeland. Can love give them a future? Banished to her family's country estate, the youngest Bainbridge daughter meets the man of her dreams—but is he really who he claims to be? LaurieAliceEakes.com

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A RELUCTANT COURTSHIP
by Laurie Alice Eakes

Melissa Tagg's first novel offers witty banter, heart-tugging moments, and a charming cast of quirky characters. Alternately set on a homebuilding TV show and in a stunning Smoky Mountain hideaway, *Made to Last* is the sweet story of a young woman who needs to find herself before she can fall in love.

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MADE TO LAST
by Melissa Tagg

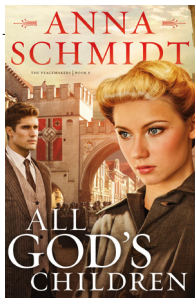
Members of a new group of students in Emma's quilting class find friendship, faith, healing, and restoration while gathered around their quilts, under the Father's guiding hands—for only He can take what's ragged and shabby from the lives of His children and turn it into beauty for His glory.

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THE TATTERED QUILT
by Wanda E. Brunstetter

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN*by Anna Schmidt*

As World War II erupts, Beth Bridgewater, a Quaker pacifist, and Josef Buch, a passionate German Patriot, join together in nonviolent resistance of the Nazis—and in love. Does their love stand a chance in the midst of such evil...if they even survive at all?

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QUEEN OF SHEBA*by Roberta Kells Dorr*

The Queen of Sheba, Bilqis, is a woman as modern as her story is ancient. Constantly in conflict with priests and high lords of her kingdom, she longs for love but fears that she may lose her throne if she chooses the wrong man. In Solomon, she finds both love and a new faith, the covenant between man and woman and the covenant between humankind and God.

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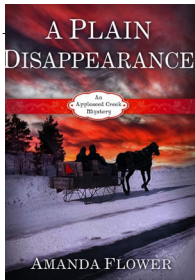
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A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR ROSE*by Tricia Goyer*

Born in the midst of The Great Depression, Rose grew up in Ohio, with a loving Amish family. But she is overwhelmed by self-doubt when she learns the truth: born English and abandoned when her family moved in search of work. Inspired by a true story, *A Christmas Gift for Rose* is a heartwarming novella of sacrifice and love.

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A PLAIN DISAPPEARANCE*by Amanda Flowers*

It's Christmastime, and Chloe Humphrey has begun settling into her new life, excited to see where her relationship with Timothy Troyer will lead. In Amanda Flower's third addition to her Appleseed Creek Mystery series, her sleuthing main character is trying to solve another mystery in Amish country—the murder of a teenage girl.

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CINDY WOODSMALL



You Asked

Submitted by FamilyFiction Facebook Fans

Our devoted Facebook fans sent their burning questions to Cindy Woodsmall. She answered candidly, speaking about her mother's death, how she got her start in writing, and her connections to the Amish community.

Do you have family ties with the Amish community that have inspired your writing?

—Donna Butler Simmons

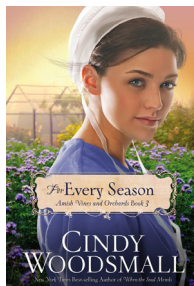
While growing up in Maryland, I had a best friend who was an Amish-Mennonite. The moment I stepped inside her house, I could sense that there were a lot of differences between her home and mine. My friend, like all the females in her family, wore the prayer Kapp and caped dresses. Her parents didn't allow television or radios, and many other modern conveniences were frowned upon. We only attended school together for a couple of years before her parents withdrew her from public school and began a school of their own for all the Amish-Mennonites in the area.

My earliest childhood memories are of spending hours at a time developing stories. And I had a vivid imagination. So when this girl and I became friends, my imagination started filtering the differences and devising stories. That time in my life planted the first seeds of writing about the "Plain" life.

What made you want to be a writer?

—Cherie Shuman Otis

I blame my mom. Seriously, one of my earliest childhood memories is of my mother reading to me before bedtime. After she left the room, I reworked every story she'd read to me. If Cinderella had been the ugly one, how would that change the outcome? If the stepsisters had been the nice ones, how would that have affected the story? I hated when I became too sleepy to continue working on those ideas and imagining the new story lines. That was the beginning of my love of thinking



FOR EVERY SEASON

AMISH VINES AND
ORCHARDS

Cindy Woodsmall
WaterBrook Press

about plotlines and characterization.

My mother died unexpectedly in 1998, and her death was the catalyst that made me need to put the stories inside me down on paper. In 1999, with my three children still living at home, I sat down to write. It was therapeutic after losing my mom, and I thought that if I wrote out some of the stories swimming around in my heart, they'd leave me alone. Instead, one story—Hannah's story from *Sisters of the Quilt*—seemed to demand that I focus on telling her story in such a way that readers could see her life unfold in their minds and hearts.

How do you pick the names of the places in your books?

—LeAnn Mooneyham

It's a fun process! I create the main setting of the story in a fictional town next to a real town that I've visited. Because my ties to the Amish community are real, I keep the story's town fictional so no one can think I'm writing about actual people in an actual place.

I begin my search of the perfect town name by studying the history of that region. When the background of a nearby town strikes a chord, I begin to play with the real names of other places nearby. I can spend days researching different names online to see what feels right for that story.

READ THE FULL INTERVIEW ONLINE!

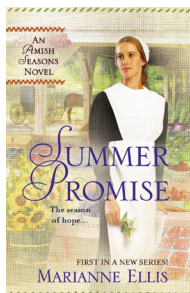
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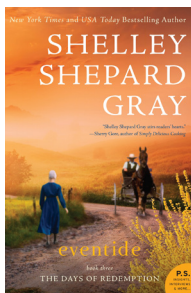


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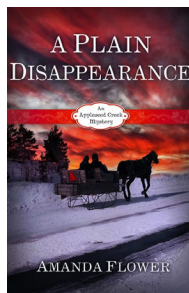
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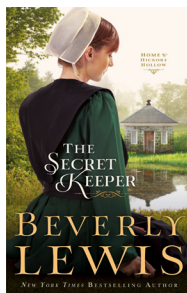
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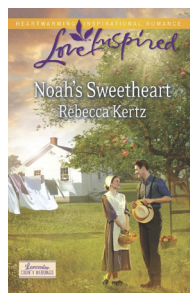
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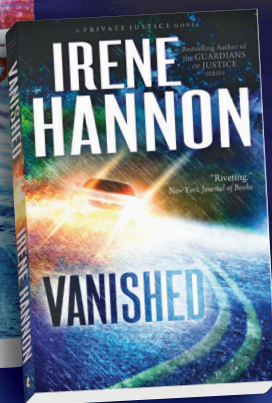
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NANCY MOSER



Who would leave everything familiar and comfortable to pursue the unknown across the country? The many pioneers who ventured west after the Civil War are the heroes and heroines of Nancy Moser's new novel *The Journey of Josephine Cain* (Summerside Press).

What inspired the setting of the Wild West for your novel?

I grew up in Nebraska and my ancestors were pioneers in Minnesota, so the “pioneer spirit” is ingrained in me. I’ve always been fascinated with the courage it must have taken for people to venture into the unknown and start from nothing. Why not just stay where they lived and carry on in the life they already knew? Why abandon everything to deal with unimaginable hardships, risking death, all for the chance to start over—when your odds of success were miniscule? Those who went west were extraordinary people and I want to let readers be inspired by their strength and gumption.

Plus, I am inspired by the vision of those who imagined the impossible—and the building of a railroad from Omaha to Sacramento was impossible. Foolhardy. Crazy even. Yet these visionaries made it happen and our lives have never been the same.

Can you tell us about your main character, Josephine? What makes her special?

Josephine lost her young-womanhood to the war. She was a general’s daughter and lived in Washington D.C. where she expected a life of privilege, parties, and marriage to a man of society. Her life was set—until the war takes all that away. And then, her life is further changed when she witnesses the assassination of President Lincoln. Then her father gets assigned to oversee the Union Pacific crews building a railroad west out of Omaha. And her life is further changed when she visits the Wild West for herself and falls in love with its pulsing excitement, breathtaking sunsets, and endless possibilities. Of course there is also a certain Irish workman who catches her eye.



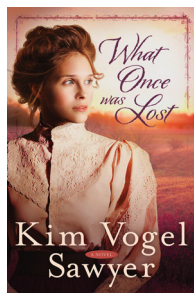
THE JOURNEY OF JOSEPHINE CAIN
Nancy Moser
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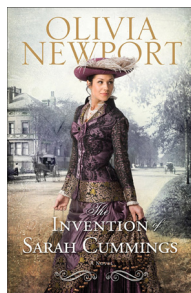
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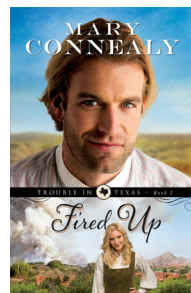
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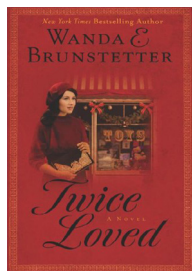
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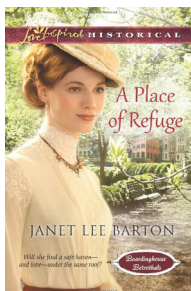
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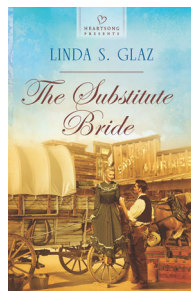
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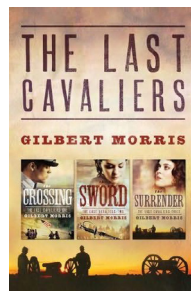
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ERICA VETSCH



Erica Vetsch's new book is a combo pack 3-in-1. It's three short novels about romance and the art of matchmaking that comprise the book *North Star Brides* (Barbour Publishing). Erica talked with us about the inspiration behind her new Historical Romance.

Your novel is about some mismatched matchmaking. What inspired this interesting plot?

I visited Duluth, the setting for these stories, and was intrigued by the story of the shipwreck of the Mataafa. I wondered what it must've been like to stand on shore, watching the ship, just out of reach of rescue, being beaten apart by the waves, knowing there were still men on board who were alive, praying they would be all right until the storm blew out. That became the basis for the first of the stories, and the next two grew out of that.

How does your faith influence your writing?

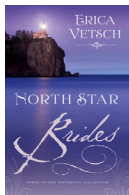
I tend to incorporate the faith issues I've faced into my fiction. My characters tend to learn the lessons I've either learned or am currently learning. My faith saturates my life and my worldview; so naturally, it spills over into my writing.

What is the main theme of this book?

Since it is three novels in one, each has its own theme, but the overarching theme, I believe, is the Sovereignty of God. Other themes that appear are forgiveness, surrender, and obedience.

Where do you get your best ideas?

Definitely from museums and history books. I love touring museums and learning new things, and I love reading history books, biographies, old newspapers and magazines. I often get story ideas from a single object in a museum or tidbit from a newspaper article written a hundred years ago.



NORTH STAR BRIDES

Erica Vetsch

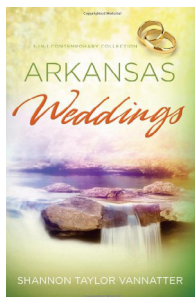
Barbour Publishing

READ THE FULL INTERVIEW ONLINE!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/erica-vetsch/books/north-star-brides-romancing-america/>

NEW RELEASES

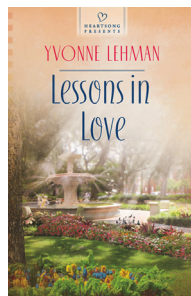
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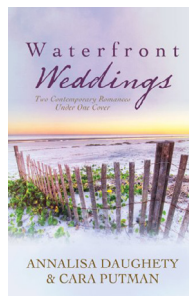
ARKANSAS WEDDINGS
ROMANCING AMERICA
Sharon Taylor Vannatter
Barbour Books



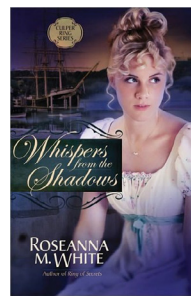
THE COURTING CAMPAIGN
THE MASTER MATCHMAKERS
Regina Scott
Love Inspired Historical



LESSONS IN LOVE
Yvonne Lehman
Heartsong Presents



WATERFRONT WEDDINGS
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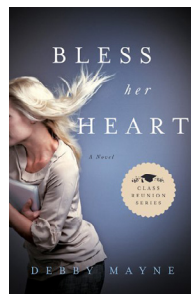
WHISPERS FROM THE SHADOWS
CULPER RING
Rosanna M. White
Harvest House



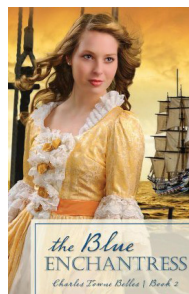
CAROLINA RECKONING
Lisa Carter
Abingdon Press



PATTERN FOR ROMANCE
QUILTS OF LOVE SERIES
Carla Olsen Gade
Abingdon Press



BLESS HER HEART
CLASS REUNION
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MORE NEW RELEASES ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/romance/books>

C.J. DARLINGTON



What would you do if you discovered you have two sisters you've never met? And a father you desperately want to find? That's the premise of C.J. Darlington's newest novel, *Ties that Bind* (Mountainview Books). Follow Brynn's journey as she seeks to recover all that's been lost and create a new life after incarceration.

Where did the idea for your new novel *Ties that Bind* come from?

For a long time I was intrigued with the idea of writing about someone just released from prison. What sort of difficulties would they face? I began to ask myself "what-if" questions, and my main character Brynn Taylor was born.

I often write about characters who don't know Christ, but in *Ties that Bind* I wanted to write about someone who had known the Lord at one point in her life but drifted away from her childhood faith. Through Brynn's journey, I hope to show that this person is also deeply loved by God. He desires for His children, no matter how far they've traveled away from Him, to come back into His arms.



TIES THAT BIND
C.J. Darlington
Mountainview Books

Is the town where you set *Ties that Bind* real or fictional?

Elk Valley, Colorado is situated roughly where the real town of La Veta, Colorado currently sits. However, Elk Valley is a little bigger, and The Perfect Blend coffee shop, The Book Corral, and Triple Cross ranch are all fictional. Wish they weren't! I'd love to visit Elk Valley. All of the ranching and horse details in the novel are based on real life.

What theme runs through all your books?

That no one is ever too far gone for God to reach. Whether you're a chain-smoking alcoholic searching for love in all the wrong places (Thicker than Blood), a heart-broken teen on the run (Bound by Guilt), or a just-released former drug addict like Brynn in *Ties that Bind*, I want to show that God's love and forgiveness is available to all.

READ THE FULL INTERVIEW ONLINE!

<http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/c-j-darlington/>

NEW RELEASES

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**BEST LAID PLANS**

A BLOOMFIELD NOVEL

Martha Rogers

B&H Publishing Group

**THE SEA GLASS SISTERS**NOVELLA
PRELUDE TO THE PRAYER BOX*Lisa Wingate*

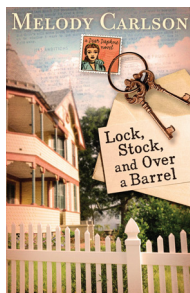
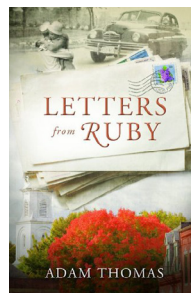
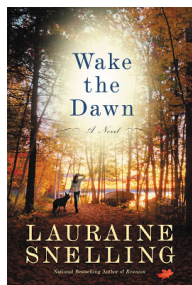
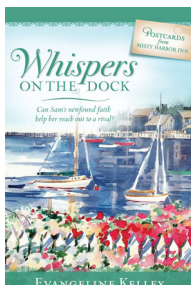
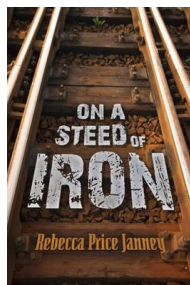
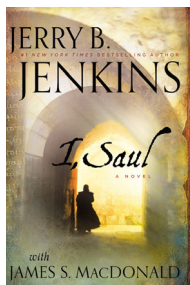
Tyndale House

**WELCOME TO LAST CHANCE**

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Cathleen Armstrong

Revell

**LOCK, STOCK, AND OVER A BARREL**DEAR DAPHNE
Melody Carlson
B&H Books**LETTERS FROM RUBY***Adam Thomas*
Abingdon Press**WAKE THE DAWN***Lauraine Snelling*
FaithWords**WHISPERS ON THE DOCK**POSTCARDS FROM MISTY HARBOR INN #3
Evangeline Kelly
Guidepost Books**ON A STEED OF IRON**GREAT AWAKENINGS #1
Rebecca Price Janney
Living Ink**I, SAUL***Jerry B. Jenkins*
James S. MacDonald
Worthy Publishing**WINTER IN FULL BLOOM***Anita Higman*
River NorthMORE NEW RELEASES ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/contemporary/books>

GIDEON'S TRUMPET

18 years ago Tim Eaton had a thought: *Gideon's Trumpet would make a great name for a bookstore.* It wasn't until four years later that he and his wife Kay decided to open a store in Minot, North Dakota. This past year, Tim and Kay moved their store out of the mall where they initially opened their doors. The move was something they felt led to do. They knew they could better serve the people of their city through their new neighborhood.

Ministering to the community has always been the mission of Gideon's Trumpet, not just their patrons but also the residents who never darken their doors. The Eatons want to provide everyone with the best possible material, whether it is Bible Study curriculum or Christian fiction.



GO ▶ <http://www.gideonstrumpet.net/home.asp> Phone: 701-837-1880
Toll Free: 888-948-1880 Email: trumpet@srt.com
Store Hours: M-F 10AM to 9PM. Sat 10AM to 7PM. Sun 12 Noon to 6PM.

Because of their location, **Lauraine Snelling's** Red River of the North series, set in North Dakota, does very well for their store. **Irene Hannon** and **Dee Henderson** are also favorites. When asked what makes their store unique, Kay was quick to brag about her staff. Although they are a young staff, they are very knowledgeable and willing to learn. "They want to help our guests find the perfect book. The staff wants to have the best knowledge available and loves to send the customers home with exactly what they are looking for."

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NUMBER OF CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES IN WASHINGTON, DC

Source: Christian Booksellers Association

2

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