

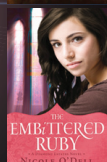
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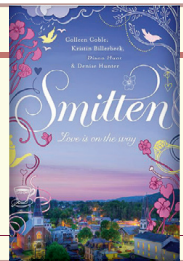
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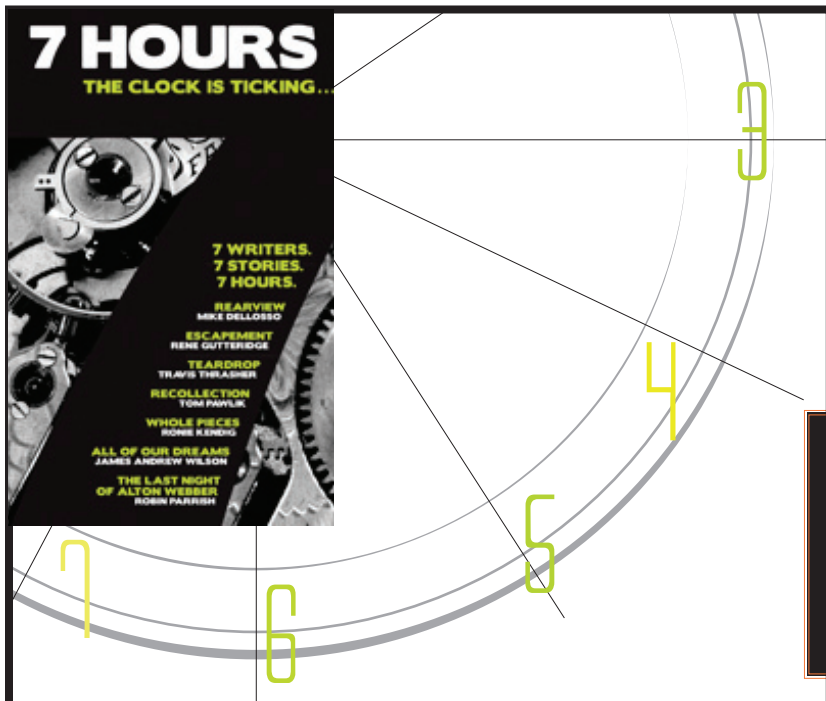
SMITTEN

Bestselling romance authors Colleen Coble, Kristin Billerbeck, Denise Hunter, and Diann Hunt collaborated on *Smitten* (Thomas Nelson), a collection of novellas about the fictional romantic town of Smitten, Vermont.



FEATURES

June/July 2012



7 Hours combines the talents of seven different authors in seven different stories.



The Power of the Cross: Vampires in Christian Fiction



5 Essential Voices in Medical Suspense



Davis Bunn: Dream Big



Bonnie S. Calhoun: Sassy Sleuth



Athol Dickson: Revisiting Old Friends

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Nikki Arana, Don Hoesel, and Lorena McCourtney



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Ted Dekker & Tosca Lee, Mike Duran, and Evan Angler



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WHO WE ARE



CHRIS WELL

Chris Well is the editor of *Family-Fiction* and *FamilyFiction Edge*—plus the website, social media and weekly email newsletter. Somehow, he also finds time to be an author, too. StudioWell.com

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

RelzReviewz.com



REL MOLLET



C.J. DARLINGTON

C.J., the author of *Bound by Guilt*, is the cofounder of TitleTrakk.com.

cjdarlington.com

Katie Hart spends her free time reading, connecting with authors and dreaming up new stories.

BladesofBetrayal.com



KATIE HART



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Christa, the author of *Around the World in 80 Dates*, weighs in on pop culture on her blog. ChristaBanister.typepad.com

Ben Avery, the creator of *Time Flyz* and *ArmorQuest*, writes comics, performs with puppets and plays Lego with his kids.

BenAvery.com



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

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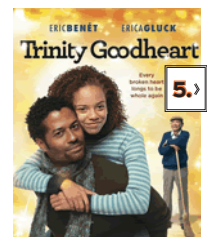
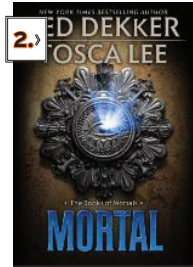
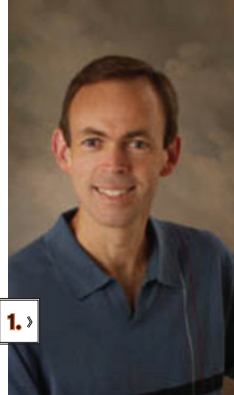
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1. Bryan Davis 2. *Mortal* by Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee 3. *The Last Plea Bargain* by Randy Singer 4. Marcher Lord Press: A Word From the Authors 5. *Trinity Goodheart*



Davis Bunn

DREAM BIG

“In a way, you could say I’ve been researching this story all my adult life.”

As a young businessman, Davis Bunn’s travels took him to over 40 countries—but the real adventure began when he was 28 and became both a Christian and a writer in the span of two weeks.

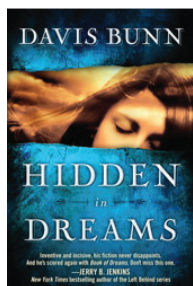
Now his novels, which have been translated into 16 languages, span the globe too. Bunn’s latest, *Hidden in Dreams* (Howard Books), continues the exciting pace of *Book of Dreams* as readers once again root for psychologist Elena Burroughs in her struggle to interpret dreams foretelling a cataclysmic financial collapse, far worse than the Great Depression.

“In a way, you could say I’ve been researching this story all my adult life,” Bunn says. “I did my studies in international economics and finance. Observing the difficulties our nation and economy have faced over the past three years, as well as what my wife and I personally have endured, has been tough. It really was great to have this chance to give voice to what we increasingly hear, that the people at fault need to be brought to justice, and the risk of another economic collapse needs to be halted.”

Bunn often goes to great lengths to authenticate his tales. Before he was published, he even secretly recorded business meetings to document how women speak. “I then went back and wrote out every word,” he says. “It was perhaps the most boring month of my entire writing career, but gradually I found I could ‘hear’ the speech patterns of these women.

“I want to combine a truly entertaining read with a powerful after-effect. My dream is that long after the book is set down, there are still images that surface, lessons that can be drawn, genuine hope and healing, challenges and inspirations. I want my writing to be worthy of the gift.”

FFE



HIDDEN IN DREAMS
Howard Books

Bonnie S. Calhoun **SASSY SLEUTH**

Writing is all about
entertainment for
novelist **Bonnie S. Calhoun.**



**COOKING THE
BOOKS**
Abingdon Press

Through her stories, she loves to show readers they don't live in this crazy world alone. An expert blogger, small business owner and Christian fiction advocate, somehow Calhoun also finds time to run the Christian Fiction Blog Alliance network and its sister e-zine. "It has given me access to a ton of literature and people who love our industry," she says.

She didn't set out to be an author, but in 2006 Calhoun started blogging about books with author T.L. Hines, and soon her own stories were demanding to be told. "My brain is like my office," Calhoun says, "Chaotic and stuffed to the hilt with books and ideas." Writing was a natural progression.

Cooking the Books (Abingdon Press) is her first mystery novel. Featuring Sloane Templeton, Calhoun describes the character as a cleaner version of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum. Sloane's just inherited a bookstore she doesn't want, and if dealing with the quirky cast haunting the place isn't enough,

she starts receiving ominous cyber threats. Is her abusive ex-boyfriend sending them, or could they have something to do with a strange, rare book? A former member of a cyber-forensics team, Sloane has the brains and the guts to find out, but even she can't foresee the twists and turns ahead.

"We have to be able to show real life [in our novels] or the average Christian won't be able to identify with our books," Calhoun says. "For the majority of Christians, their everyday life is not filled with quoting Bible verses, especially outside of church. Sometimes subtle messages are better when you try to reach a fallen world. After all, the book of Esther never mentions God, yet we can see God all over the place." **FFE**

"We have to be able to show real life [in our novels] or the average Christian won't be able to identify with our books."

Athol Dickson REVISITING OLD FRIENDS

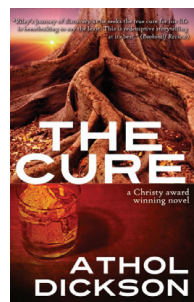
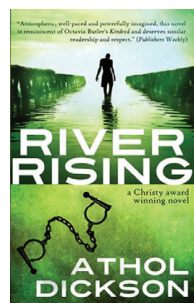
From bartender to carpenter, architect to dental instrument maker, Athol Dickson has experienced a life as varied as his stories. (He even lived on a boat for two years.)

"Before anything, I try to write exiting stories."

A Texan recently transplanted to California, Athol's now content to call himself a writer. As long as he can still get out on the water. Author of seven novels, including several award winners, he's recently set sail on a new adventure re-releasing four of them in eBook form. *River Rising*, *The Cure*, *Winter Haven* and *They Shall See God* have all been tweaked and sport spiffy new covers as well as brand-new author introductions, where Dickson shares details about the books and what they mean to him.

"I'm not making changes to the stories themselves," he says. "No new endings or anything like that, but readers may notice subtle differences in the phrasings and word choices here and there. They are just better written than ever because of the additional experience and practice that has improved my writing skills since these novels first came out."

While all of Athol's books could be classified as suspense, he'll often sprinkle in surprises like *Winter Haven's* gothic flavor and the supernatural elements of *The Cure* to set his style apart. "Before anything, I try to write exciting stories," he says. "Readers tell me the novels are very hard to put down and often keep them up at night turning page after page. But readers also tell me they sometimes put my novels down on purpose, in order to stop and think about what they just read. That's what makes my work unique, I think. The stories are tons of fun, but they're also filled with interesting things worth thinking about. And never are they preachy in the slightest. I work extremely hard to avoid that." **FFE**



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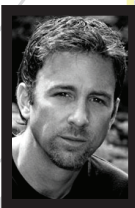
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THE FINAL QUESTION



The ambitious new project *7 Hours* combines the talents of seven different authors—from the worlds of suspense and speculative fiction—to grapple with one epic question.

By Katie Hart



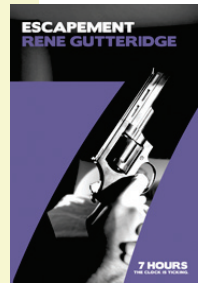
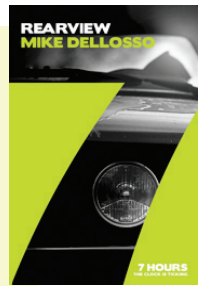
As a way to explore the growing possibilities of fiction in the eBook age, a new digital project called *7 Hours* (Tyndale House) calls on seven unique voices in Christian fiction to struggle with the same question. The resulting novellas—about 25,000 words each—were first released separately in May. The omnibus eBook, with all seven tales, is available in July.

The seven authors—Mike Dellosso, Rene Gutteridge, Ronie Kendig, Travis Thrasher, Robin Parrish, Tom Pawlik, and James Andrew Wilson—each crafted a story around a central premise: What if, minutes before your death, you were given the gift of seven more

hours, either now or in your past? Would you use that time to set your affairs in order, or would you relive precious memories, and perhaps, try to change your future?

The idea for *7 Hours* started with James Andrew Wilson. “I was frustrated that I had all these great novels I wanted to read, but not enough time to read them,” he shares. “I thought, wouldn’t that be cool if my favorite writers came together and wrote shorter stories?”

He also considered the differences between TV shows and movies. “You still have a complete plot, an entire story, but it’s only 45 minutes as opposed to two hours or more. Why couldn’t we do that with fiction as well?”

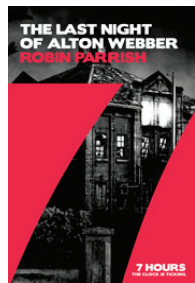


Initializing

James approached Travis Thrasher about the idea, and after the two hashed out the premise, James began contacting other authors. “Everyone I approached seemed to really love the idea.”

Robin Parrish describes his reaction: “I think it was something along the lines of, ‘Holy moley, I just have to be a part of this!’ I thought it was ingenious, and my mind was instantly spinning in a dozen different directions, sifting through the endless potential of what could be done with this premise.”

“We wanted each story to be unique to the author,” James says, “in style, genre, and content. That’s part of the fun of this whole project; it’s like a platter with seven different types of food. It was fun discussing this as a team and brainstorming ideas together. Once the stories were complete, our editors at Tyndale helped us tune things a little to make them feel consistent with each other.”



Individuality

Travis Thrasher explains the differences between the novellas, “Each author took the premise and delivered a story in the style and tone they’re most familiar with. Some are more light-hearted. Some are action-packed. With mine, it combines a love story with a darker and twisted edge.”

“My character doesn’t remember what he’s supposed to do with his seven hours,” Tom Pawlik shares, “so the reader solves the mystery along with the main character.”

James adds, “For my main character, the offer of seven hours wasn’t so much about what he would do with those hours, but rather what he was unable to do with his whole life. His dreams had been torn from him in a way that no amount of extra time could fix.”

Inspiration

Mike Delloso’s battle with cancer impacted his story. “I’m just tired of living with regrets,” he shares. “I want to look forward, not backward, and take life one day at a time moving onward.”

“Mattie has been with me for awhile,” Rene Gutteridge says about her main character. “I knew immediately that this was the story he was going to come out in. I’m really passionate about anti-bully-

ing causes because of my family’s own experience.”

“Our military heroes inspired my story,” Ronie Kendig says. “They’re put into unbelievably stressful situations every day...and we live in a world where their actions are scrutinized unlike any other through our media. Accusations are quick, yet most who are watching through their televisions have no idea what these brave men and women endure and face every day.”

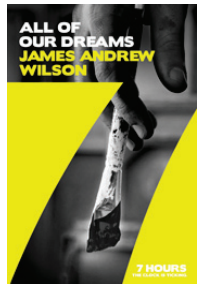
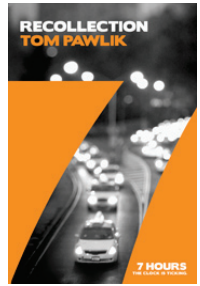
Impact

Mike Delloso hopes readers come away with the knowledge that “we can leave our mistakes or poor decisions or screw-ups in the past where they belong and make a conscious choice to continue on with life looking forward.”

“I think humans are in a lot of denial about death,” Rene Gutteridge puts in. “Most of us seem to convince ourselves it’s not going to happen to us, even though death has a 100% success rate.”

“We should make the most of every moment,” Tom Pawlik adds, “because we don’t know how many of them we have left.”

“We are defined by the choices we make,” Robin Parrish concludes. “A single good or bad choice can change everything.” **FFE**



Mike Dellosso (7 Hours: Rearview)

Mike Dellosso is the author of five novels of suspense: *The Hunted*, *Scream*, *Darlington Woods*, and *Darkness Follows* and his latest, *Frantic* (Realms). Mike is also a newspaper columnist and feature writer for the ACFW's e-zine Afictionado.

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Mike-Dellosso>

Rene Gutteridge (7 Hours: Escapement)

Rene Gutteridge is the author of 17 novels, including *Listen*, the Storm series, the Boo series, the Occupational Hazards series and the novelization of the movie *The Ultimate Gift*. Her latest is *Possession* (Tyndale House).

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Rene-Gutteridge>

Ronie Kendig (7 Hours: Whole Pieces)

Ronie Kendig is the author of seven novels, including *Dead Reckoning*, *The Discarded Heroes*, *Nightshade*, *Digitalis*, and *Wolfsbane*. Her latest is *Firethorn* (Barbour Books).

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Ronie-Kendig>

Robin Parrish (7 Hours: The Last Night of Alton Webber)

As a journalist, Robin Parrish has worked for About.com, INFUZEmag.com, PopCultureGeek.com, b5media, SplashPress Media and many others. He is the author of six novels including *Relentless*, *Merciless*, *Offworld*, *Nightmare*, and *Vigilante*. His latest is the YA novel *Corridor* (StoneHouse Ink).

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Robin-Parrish>

Tom Pawlik (7 Hours: Recollection)

Tom Pawlik is the Christy Award-winning author of *Vanish*, which also won first place in the 2006 Christian Writers Guild Operation First Novel Contest. The sequel, *Valley of the Shadow*, was a Christy Award finalist. His latest novel is *Beckon* (Tyndale House).

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Tom-Pawlik>

Travis Thrasher (7 Hours: Teardrop)

Travis Thrasher is the author of 18 critically acclaimed novels in a variety of genres, including *Isolation*, *Ghostwriter*, *Letters from War* (with Mark Schultz) and *Paper Angels* (with Jimmy Wayne). His latest novel is the third volume in the Solitary Tales series, *Temptation* (David C. Cook).

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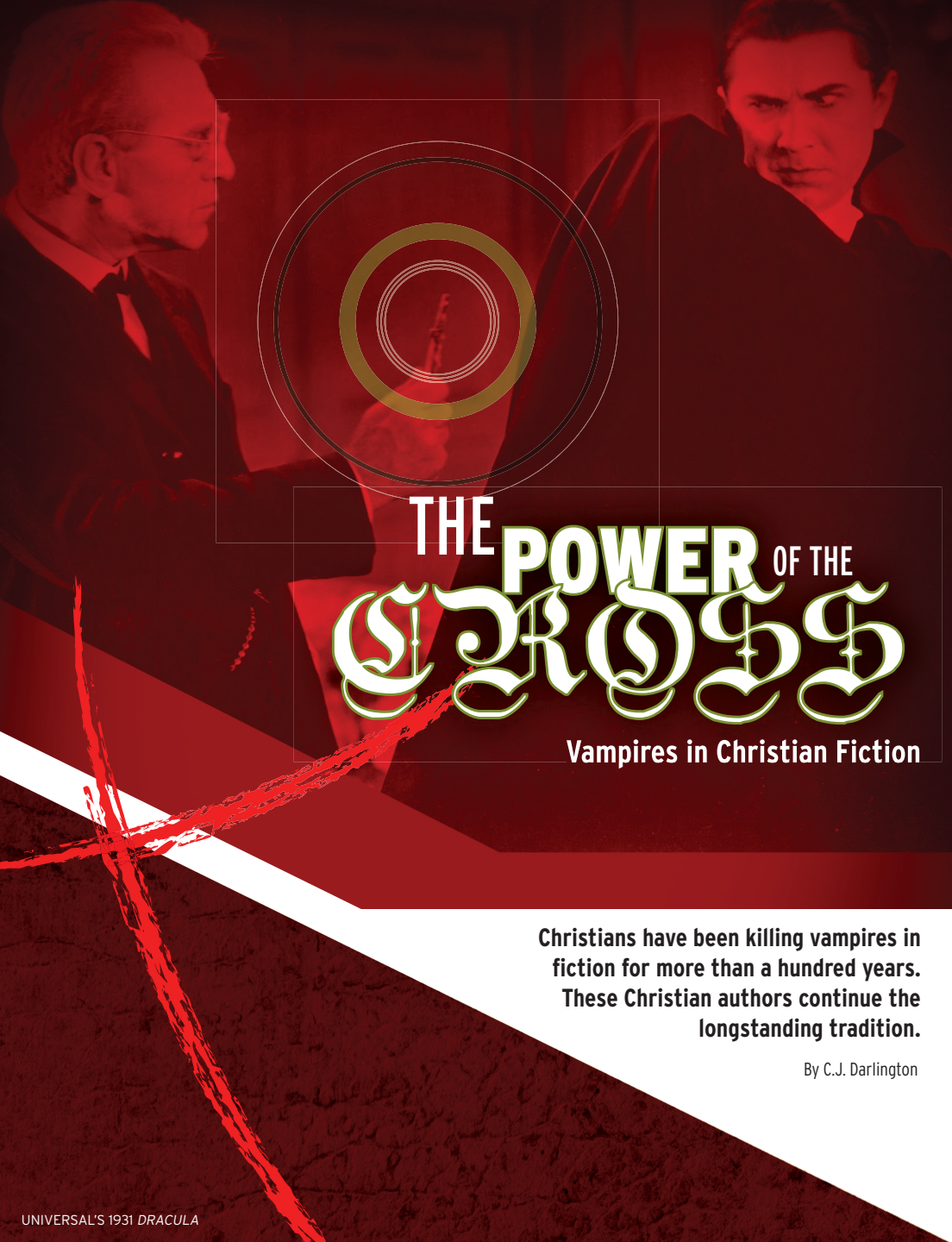
James Andrew Wilson (7 Hours: All of Our Dreams)

James Andrew Wilson started writing his first novel when he was 16. He has directed and edited a handful of short films.

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/James-Andrew-Wilson>

MEET THE AUTHORS





THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Vampires in Christian Fiction

Christians have been killing vampires in fiction for more than a hundred years. These Christian authors continue the longstanding tradition.

By C.J. Darlington

Ever since Bram Stoker published *Dracula* in 1897, the vampire has held its power over literature. In the earliest folklore and narratives, the vampire tale—and all the traditions that came with it—were rife with Christian symbolism. And for most of the twentieth century, that was how the vampire stories were told: *Dracula* was the bad guy. Vampires were evil. Your only hope is faith in Christ and the power of the cross.

Ironically, all those stories were written by secular writers.

But for the past few years, there have been changes in the vampire narrative in the popular culture. They started to be portrayed as sexy. Alluring. Exciting. What started in the 1970s as a few random examples here and there became a freight train in the past few years with the popularity of *Twilight*, leading to a host of similar stories.

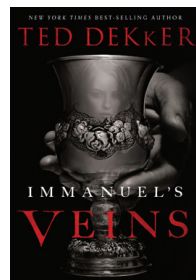
Of course, when a Christian author comes to the table with his or her vampire story, they may be playing against the modern approach—but their Christian worldview goes all the way back to the beginning: *Dracula* is the bad guy.

Vampires are evil. Your only hope is faith in Christ and the power of the cross.

Ted Dekker first wrote about vampires 10 years ago in his novel *Black* (Thomas Nelson). “I called them *Shataiki*,” Dekker says. “A perfect depiction of evil. So seductive and beguiling, so ensnaring. They crossed into our world and became known as *vampirum*. How anyone might have a problem with this kind of characterization of evil is beyond me.”

In his novel *Immanuel’s Veins* (Thomas Nelson), Dekker revisited the vampire theme in an 18th century tale of adventure, romance and redemption. “It’s perhaps the most Christian novel I have ever penned,” he says.

Leanna Ellis wrote about a love triangle in *Plain Fear: Forsaken* (Sourcebooks Landmark), possibly the first Amish vampire novel. Hannah Schmidt, a young Amish woman mourning the mysterious death of her beloved Jacob, must decide between two brothers, between good and evil. When she learns her first love is now the vampire Akiva, she must forsake him and cling to a



new love—a lasting love, one that will save her soul.

“What I love about this story is that it shows the battle of good and evil,” Ellis says. “Evil doesn’t always appear with pitchfork and horns. Quite often, evil is appealing and attractive and hooks us in before we realize what has happened. Such is the case with my heroine Hannah. She simply loved a boy. But she opens her heart and her mind too easily, and the consequences could be devastating. It has a powerful spiritual message, a message the world needs to hear.”

Tracey Bateman plunged into vampire fiction with her books *Thirsty* and *Tandem* (WaterBrook Press). She says that for a Christian author, the vampire novel has to focus on humanity’s hope for salvation—and not on the vampire. “The vampires are not inherently good,” she says. “They are choosing death. Whether they come to salvation is the author’s choice,

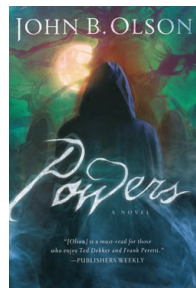
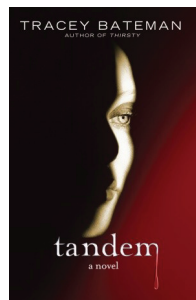
but the message has to be one of redemption regardless. We walk a fine line between not offending and still writing a satisfying and entertaining novel with a dark theme.”

Debbie Viguie, author of *Kiss of Night* and this October’s *Kiss of Death* (FaithWords), thinks it’s ludicrous when anyone suggests that a “vampire story” is out of bounds for the Christian author.

“Satan is evil,” she says. “Should we exclude him from fiction? Hitler was evil; should we exclude him from fiction set in World War II? The antichrist is evil; should we stop allowing people to write fiction set in the end times? Murder and adultery are also evil, but there are tons of Christian novels dealing with these topics.

“Why single out vampires as the one evil thing that no one can talk about? This becomes even more absurd when you stop and think that—of everything I just mentioned—vampires are the one thing that isn’t real.”

In John B. Olson’s paranormal thrillers *Shade* and *Powers* (B&H Books), vampire-like creatures called the Mulo are clearly evil and intent on destroy-



“There is power in the blood. Jesus told us we would find eternal life only through His blood, whereas the vampire seeks to find immortality through human blood. Like so many things, it’s a cheap counterfeit of something godly.” **–Eric Wilson**

ing his characters. Olson explores themes such as guilt vs. grace, science vs. faith, and natural vs. supernatural. “There’s far more to this universe than we can observe with our five senses,” Olson says. “If we live life by sight alone, we’re going to be herded blindly down a dark road that leads to places we really don’t want to visit. I’m praying that [my novels] will help readers look with more than their eyes and feel with more than their hearts.”

These authors certainly aren’t jumping on any bandwagon. In fact, several held onto their ideas for decades.

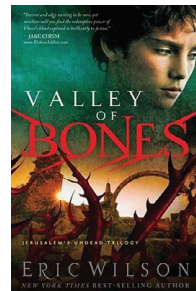
The Jerusalem’s Undead trilogy by Eric Wilson are vampire tales steeped in biblical history. *Field of Blood*, *Haunt of Jackals* and *Valley of Bones* (Thomas Nelson) expose sin’s deception and underscore salvation through Christ alone. “There is power in the blood,” Wilson says. “Jesus told us we would find eternal life only through His blood, whereas the vampire seeks to find immortality through human blood.

Like so many things, it’s a cheap counterfeit of something godly. I wrote my trilogy to take back some of that lost ground, to reclaim and proclaim the power in the Nazarene’s blood.”

“To think ‘bandwagon’ and be cynical about a writer following a trend is just shortsighted,” Bate-man says. “I think a lot of Christian readers pick these vampire stories up off secular shelves because there isn’t a Christian alternative, and it’s disturbing the way the secular world brings these topics into our kids’ lives. Let us give them an alternative.”

“There is power in the cross and power in the blood of Christ,” notes Ellis, whose series Plain Fear continues this summer with *Forbidden* (Sourcebooks Landmark). “That’s what so intrigued me about writing this type of story: Blood is really at the heart of any vampire tale. It’s where a vampire gets his power.”

“In the end,” Viguie says, “the blood of Christ is all that matters.”



FFE

By Rel Mollet

ESSENTIAL VOICES

in Medical Suspense

What do a firefighter/paramedic, a retired Ear, Nose & Throat specialist, two ER nurses and the wife of an ER physician have in common? They are all writers of intriguing medical suspense novels that combine danger, drama, healing and hope!



CANDACE CALVERT

A former ER nurse, lay chaplain and trauma survivor, Candace Calvert breathes much of her own experiences into her character Riley Hale, a nurse chaplain fighting to return to her career as an ER nurse after a traumatic assault leaves her with permanent nerve damage. Riley features in *Trauma Plan*, the first book in the Grace Medical series (Tyndale House). “I drew from my experience as a trauma survivor when penning the character of Riley, especially her fear that she’d be unable to return to a nursing career,” shares Candy. “This character also reaped benefit from my skydiving experience—and time spent doing the Boot Scootin’ Boogie on Texas dance floors.” Calvert’s first published work was her own story of recovery from injury. “In 1997, a serious riding accident landed me ‘on the other side of the stethoscope’ as a patient in my own trauma room.

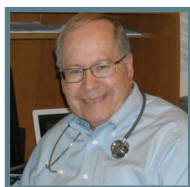
I suffered multiple rib and back fractures, a bleeding lung, broken neck and spinal cord damage.” Intrigued by the success of television medical shows like *ER*, *House*, and *Grey’s Anatomy*, Candace felt the nudge to provide something more. “As a nurse, I know how many prayers are sent heavenward by patients, family and by medical staff, too. I wanted to offer a more complete medical story to readers.” Candace offers appealing characters, strong suspense and meaningful romance, set against the detailed backdrop of the fast-paced, cutting-edge medical environment.

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Candace-Calvert>



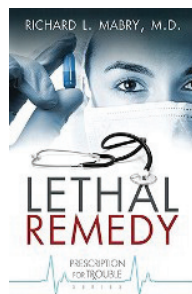
RICHARD L. MABRY, M.D.

With four novels to his name and a new multi-book contract with Thomas Nelson, Richard Mabry, M.D., has turned a highly successful medical career into a burgeoning one as an author of authentic medical suspense. With no plans to write in the non-medical field upon his retirement, the death of his wife led Mabry to pen a non-fiction book. Then, encouraged by several respected professionals, he turned his hand to fiction, leading to his Prescription for Trouble series. The most recent volume is *Lethal Remedy* (Abingdon Press). “I try to bring as much realism as possible into the medical aspects of my writing. But since an ENT doctor’s practice rarely includes the exciting and exotic, most of the experiences I use as background for the medical scenes are those of my colleagues.” Initially, Mabry found incorporat-



ing his faith difficult: “I felt compelled to include things like conversion scenes, the plan of salvation and a liberal helping of Bible verses through-

out the book,” he explains. “I also discovered that the completed product was so benign and sweet it could induce diabetes—even I had no interest in reading it. Then I started writing about characters that are like you and me—flawed people, who are on varying places on their journey. Their stories and the way God touches each of them is woven into all my books, and I find it easy to show my own faith through their journey.” Spring 2013 will see the release of his next book, with the working title, *Stress Test* (Thomas Nelson)—a kidnapped doctor escapes but suffers a head injury, and awakes in the ICU to find he’s charged with murder.



<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Richard-L-Mabry-M-D>

SHAWN GRADY

Describing ferocious fires, brutal injuries and traumatized patients is second nature to Shawn Grady—he's lived those experiences. A firefighter/paramedic, Grady works a dangerous shift, and then puts pen to paper writing suspense-filled action stories of men and women on the front line of saving lives. "Knowing firsthand what it is like to be in the middle of true situations involving the immediate perils of life and death allows me to infuse my fiction with a palpable realism," he explains. "Just as I don't know what a patient's outcome will be when I first come to their side, my goal is to give my readers a

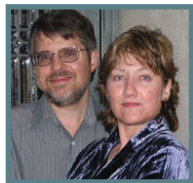


similar suspenseful ride that keeps them turning the pages to see what happens." Grady's novels, all from Bethany House, have featured a firefight-

er (*Through the Fire*), a paramedic (*Tomorrow We Die*) and a smoke-jumper (*Falls Like Lightning*). "I like my writing to have a tangible, genuine sense to it that feels very real. Beyond the external drama, the internal angst and struggles of the responders and their unique camaraderie—or lack thereof—and the banter that takes place between emergency workers really colors the world that they work in."



<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Shawn-Grady>



HANNAH ALEXANDER

Husband-and-wife team Mel and Cheryl Hodde, known as Hannah Alexander, have been writing medical suspense novels for decades. While ER doctor Mel is saving lives in the hospital, Cheryl is doing the same at home at her keyboard! In their latest novel, *Eye of the Storm* (Love Inspired Suspense), Dr. Megan Bradley has escaped to the little town of Jolly Mill after a murder at her former place of employment. Cheryl and Mel hope to honor health professionals in their stories, as Cheryl explains: "I've always seen those in the medical profession as the real heroes. The good ones give up so much of their private time, so much of their lives, and place themselves into deep debt at the beginning of their careers,

just to help people.” Incorporating their faith is a given. “Some Hannah Alexander books have more spiritual angst than others, but each book is written without thought to the amount of spirituality it needs.”

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Hannah-Alexander>

JORDYN REDWOOD

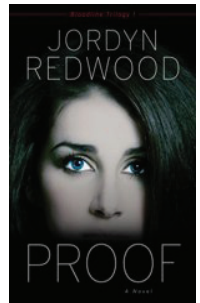
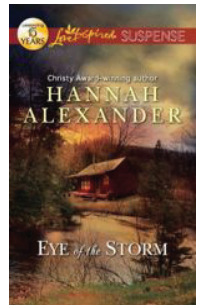
A debut novelist and pediatric ER nurse, Jordyn Redwood has worked in the ER or ICU for nearly two decades. She has incorporated that extensive experience in *Proof* (Kregel Publications), a novel which deals with the ramifications when the gold standard of criminal prosecution—DNA testing—sets a guilty man free. A self-described “medical nerd,” Jordyn likes reading medical textbooks. “I’m fascinated with the intricacies of the human body, so medical fic-



tion was a natural outlet for this. I like to take a medical mystery and turn it on its head. That’s what is fun for me—so much so that I started ‘Redwood’s

Medical Edge,’ a medical blog for writers, where I help historical and contemporary authors write medically accurate fiction.” Redwood’s mom believes *Proof*’s main character, Dr. Lilly Reeves, reflects Jordyn herself, though Jordyn concedes only a little. “Lilly and I share the same tough exterior, but gentle heart.”

<http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Jordyn-Redwood>





SIBELLA GIORELLO

Rock Solid

A fourth-generation Alaskan who now calls Seattle home, Sibella Giorello often draws from the diverse landscape of the Pacific Northwest in her fiction.

Her mystery series stars FBI Special Agent Raleigh Harmon, a forensic geologist. Giorello's fiction is often gritty and poetic but never shies from life's harsh realities, but there's always hope amid the struggle.

"I enjoy writing about a forensic geologist who's also a believer because God wants us to explore the mysteries of science," she says. "His handiwork, His brilliance, is revealed through nature."

In the latest Raleigh Harmon mystery, *The Stars Shine Bright* (Thomas Nelson), Raleigh goes undercover at a horse racetrack. Thoroughbreds are dying, races are fixed, and Raleigh's personal life isn't faring much better. She is determined to dig deep and discover the truth, but to do so she

might also be digging her own grave.

"I have always been intrigued by things like horse tracks, circuses and elaborate gala events," Giorello says. "They're all dual worlds. We see the display, the public part, but there's also the backstage, where it seems to me the real action is taking place. I'm drawn to what goes on behind the curtain. The racetrack seemed like an ideal place to play with double worlds. All those facades and lies, the track's and Raleigh's, versus truth."

Her goal as a novelist is to tell the truth. "That might sound funny considering I write fiction," Giorello admits, "but we all know the feeling when we're reading a story so elementally true, the characters and scenes seem real. That's what continues to stun me about Jesus' parables. He's telling stories, but they're so true, the words pierce our hearts." **FFE**



"My goal as a novelist is to tell the truth."



THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT: A RALEIGH HARMON NOVEL
Thomas Nelson

MORE SIBELLA GIORELLO ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/Sibella-Giorello>

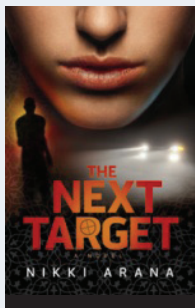
NEWS & NOTES



TARGETED FICTION

Nikki Arana hopes her new novel, *The Next Target* (David C. Cook), will raise public awareness about the huge price Muslims pay to follow Christ. “They are shunned by their families, lose their children and their businesses, and are often targeted for death by family members as required by Islamic law,” Arana says. “That happens even if they live in the United States. As you journey with my heroine, who has an outreach to American Muslims, you will come face to face with this question: Would you share your faith if it could cost you your life?”

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Nikki-Arana>



SNAKE BIT

Serpent of Moses (Bethany House) is the much-anticipated sequel to **Don Hoesel's** *Elisha's Bones*. “I got a lot of emails asking if there would be more Jack Hawthorne adventures,” Hoesel explains, “I was happy to do another. As far as the biblical relic Jack’s looking for in this book, I was looking for something that hadn’t been run into the ground already. And the brass serpent staff of Moses—the one that healed the Israelites after they were bitten by snakes that God had sent among them—fit the bill. The trick was to construct a plausible history for the staff that didn’t completely fly in the face of the more established legends—or the fact that the Bible says that Hezekiah actually destroyed it.”

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Don-Hoesel>

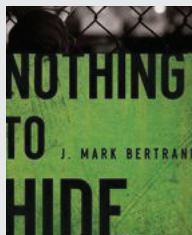
BOOKS AREN'T DEAD

Fans who’ve waited patiently for **Lorena McCourtney** to write another mystery starring Ivy Malone or Andi McConnell will delight in her brand-new series featuring assistant private investigator Cate Kinkaid. *Dying to Read* (Revell Books) finds Cate on her first assignment. “It’s supposed to be easy, uncomplicated, with no danger, murder or mayhem,” McCourtney says. “Instead, she finds herself up to her elbows in Whodunit ladies, a paint-blobbed hunk, a deaf cat and killers.”

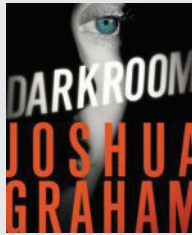
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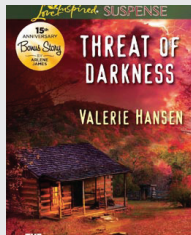
NEW RELEASES



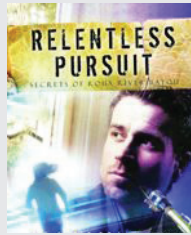
NOTHING TO HIDE (A ROLAND MARCH MYSTERY)
J. Mark Bertrand
 (Bethany House)



DARKROOM
Joshua Graham
 (Howard Books)



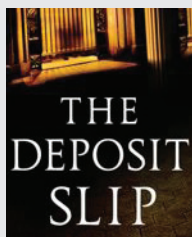
THREAT OF DARKNESS (THE DEFENDERS)
Valerie Hansen
 (Love Inspired Suspense)



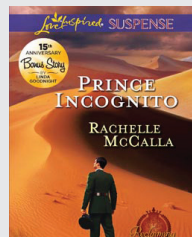
RELENTLESS PURSUIT (SECRETS OF ROUX RIVER BAYOU)
Kathy Herman
 (David C. Cook)



SERPENT OF MOSES
Don Hoesel
 (Bethany House)



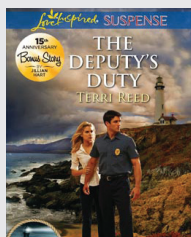
THE DEPOSIT SLIP
Todd M. Johnson
 (Bethany House)



PRINCE INCOGNITO (RECLAIMING THE CROWN)
Rachelle McCalla
 (Love Inspired Suspense)



INESCAPABLE (ROAD TO KINGDOM)
Nancy Mehl
 (Bethany House)




THE DEPUTY'S DUTY (FITZGERALD BAY)
Terri Reed
 (Love Inspired Suspense)



HIDE AND SEEK
Jeff Struecker and Alton Gansky
 (B&H Books)

MORE SUSPENSE TITLES HERE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/suspense/books/>

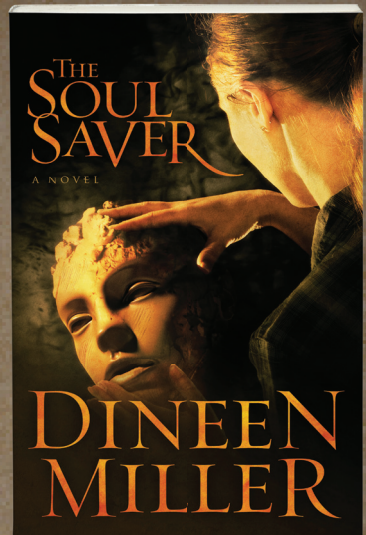


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SIGMUND BROUWER

Hooked on Stories

Of all his fiction, Sigmund Brouwer has found that his *Winds of Light* series has resonated most with readers. So he wanted to go back and fill in much of the story that happened “off the pages.”

He begins that journey with *The Orphan King* (WaterBrook Press), the first novel in the Merlin’s Immortals series. Raised in an oppressive monastery, young Thomas has trained in secret to fight evil, but discerning others’ motives is a bit trickier.

“The secrets that the characters keep from each other are secrets necessary to their survival,” Sigmund explains. “They can’t afford to be open about who they are without risking their lives, and worse, risking the loss of what they are trying to protect. It results in a chess game of sorts, until the characters learn who they can trust and who is the real enemy.”

In addition to revisiting *Winds of Light*, Sigmund and co-writer

Hank Hanegraaff are finally completing their historical take on the book of Revelation with *The Last Temple* (Tyndale House), due August 2012.

“My first goal is to try to make a story engaging,” Sigmund shares. “As humans, we are hooked by story when a character has to overcome an obstacle. I hope readers like my main characters enough to cheer for them and hope for them as they fight to reach their goal.”

When he isn’t crafting fresh novels that expound on fan favorites, Sigmund is helping teachers hook kids on reading with his Rock & Roll Literacy program.

“Good stories are like good songs,” Sigmund says, explaining his program’s title. “They make you feel something.” **FFE**



“As humans, we are hooked by story when a character has to overcome an obstacle. I hope readers like my main characters enough to cheer for them and hope for them as they fight to reach their goal.”



THE ORPHAN KING:
MERLIN'S IMMORTALS #1
WaterBrook Press

MORE SIGMUND BROUWER ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/sigmund-brouwer/>

NEWS & NOTES

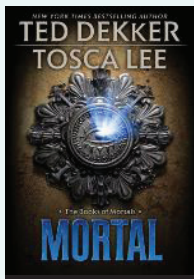


GET MORTAL

Ted Dekker and **Tosca Lee** continue their Books of Mortals trilogy with *Mortal* (Center Street), and hit the road for a six-state book tour to celebrate. “*Mortal* explores the question of what it means to be fully alive in a world in which love is suspect, pleasure is disparaged, and the joy of living is suppressed by rules and regulation,” Tosca shares. “Set nine years after the events of *Forbidden*, it is the continuing saga of awakening spirit in a world that slumbers.”

She adds, “This book was a blast to write, and both story and theme took turns that neither of us expected.”

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Ted-Dekker-and-Tosca-Lee>



TELLING LOOKALIKES

Mike Duran’s sophomore novel, *The Telling* (Realms), brings together a scarred prophet who has abandoned his gift, the doppelganger whose murder he must solve, and a quest to close one of the nine gates of hell.

“It was really a fun, challenging story to unravel,” Mike shares. “*The Telling* is a story about people who, in the midst of horrific circumstances, are grappling with a larger purpose to their lives. What is destiny? Is it human or divine? Can darkness—inside or outside us—short-circuit our destiny? Or are some scars actually destined?”

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Mike-Duran>

SWIPE

The debut novel by **Evan Angler**, *Swipe* (Thomas Nelson), takes readers into a dystopian world where a tattooed mark allows people to shop, go to school and receive health care. Logan is about to turn 13 and receive his own mark, but he can’t shake the feeling that something’s not right.

The Facebook page for the series offers entrance in a fan club for giveaways and contests.

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Evan-Angler>



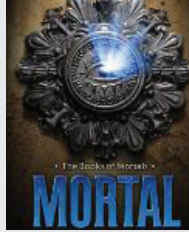
NEW RELEASES



SWIPE
Evan Angler
(Thomas Nelson)



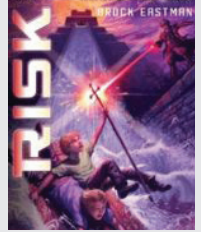
KEY OF LIVING FIRE (SWORD OF THE DRAGON #2)
Scott Appleton
(Living Ink)



MORTAL (THE BOOKS OF MORTALS #2)
Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee
(Center Street)



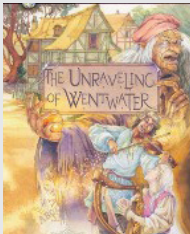
ANGEL EYES
Shannon Dittmore
(Thomas Nelson)



RISK (QUEST FOR TRUTH # 2)
Brock Eastman
(P&R Publishing)



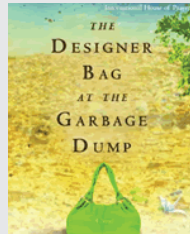
CRATER (HELIUM-3 SERIES #1)
Homer Hickam
(Thomas Nelson)



THE UNRAVELING OF WENTWATER (GATES OF HEAVEN #4)
C.S. Lakin
(Living Ink)



SPIRIT FIGHTER (SON OF ANGELS #1)
Jerel Law
(Thomas Nelson)



THE DESIGNER BAG AT THE GARBAGE DUMP
Jackie Macgirvin
(Destiny Image)



THE SOUL SAVER
Dineen Miller
(Barbour Books)

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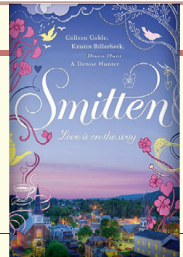
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SMITTEN

Bestselling romance authors Colleen Coble, Kristin Billerbeck, Denise Hunter, and Diann Hunt collaborated on *Smitten* (Thomas Nelson), a collection of novellas about the fictional romantic town of Smitten, Vermont.



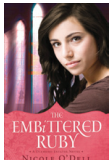
NICOLE O'DELL

The Power of Choice

Nicole O'Dell strives to bring together parents and teens using novels, nonfiction, social media and radio programs.

This passion for uniting families sprouted during her teen years. Her new series, *Diamond Estates*, grew out of her experience spending a year at a Teen Challenge home. Each book in the series features a teenage girl who has wandered down a dark path, whether it involves substance abuse, manipulation, or witchcraft, and finds herself at a crossroads. "My goal is not to sensationalize the glittery glamour of sin, but rather, to show that God is in control," Nicole says.

Book two, *The Embittered Ruby* (Barbour Books), reveals a teenage girl's transition from country club to inner city, thanks to her parents' divorce. Carmen takes matters into her own hands to get her old life back, with disastrous results. Book three, *The Shadowed Onyx*, is due December 2012.



THE EMBITTERED RUBY: DIAMOND ESTATES #2
Barbour Books

Nicole cites fear as the emotion behind her characters' wrong choices. "Fear of physical pain, fear of loss, fear of abandonment—fear is such a consuming, driving force that leads people to make rash decisions. Though many teens wouldn't find themselves in these exact situations and might not make the same mistakes these girls did, it's easy to understand why the characters acted out of desperation."

Her effort to reach parents and teens has led to the creation of Choose NOW Radio (part of her Choose NOW Ministries), which currently offers two online programs: "*Parent Talk* brings topics and guest to parents of teenagers, helping them navigate these years effectively," she shares. "*Teen Talk* is much the same in that it brings the issues to the forefront, helps teenagers make good choices and encourages healthy family relationships." Her previous series for teens, *Scenarios*, emphasizes the Choose NOW aspect of her ministry with six interactive novels in three volumes.



"Though many teens wouldn't find themselves in these exact situations and might not make the same mistakes these girls did, it's easy to understand why the characters acted out of desperation."

FFE

MORE NICOLE O'DELL ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/nicole-o-dell/>

NEWS & NOTES

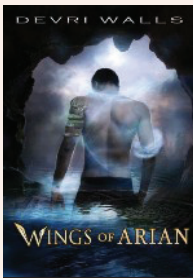


THE PRICE OF TRUTH

Debut author **Devri Walls** weaves a tale of magic, dragons and shape-shifters with the eBook-only YA paranormal novel *Wings of Arian* (StoneHouse Ink). A teen named Kiora thought she had never heard a lie until she was sixteen. But she was wrong. Her entire existence was based on nothing but. She thought that evil did not exist. Lie. That magic was not real. Lie. And that the land of Meros was all there was. One more lie.

With Aleric telling her that evil is knocking on the door and that she is the only one who can stop it, she has a choice to make. Refuse, or start the wildest, most painful ride of her life...

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Devri-Walls>



TIME TRAVEL DIARY

The latest from **Sarah Norkus** is *The Secret Diary of Sarah Chamberlain* (Living Ink): Fifteen-year-old Emily Grace discovers an old journal that is hidden under a plank in an aging house and is captivated by its mysteries and heartbroken by the senseless murder of the author's husband. While helping clean the house, Em has an emotional meltdown and finds herself in the 19th century!

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Sarah-Norkus>

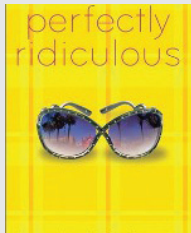
THE EYES HAVE IT

Shannon Dittmore's debut novel is *Angel Eyes* (Thomas Nelson). Shannon shared this about her book: "Fear is a monster young people face every day, but it's not their only invisible adversary. *Angel Eyes* is what happened when I considered the chaos spiritual forces bring to a battle already raging in the hearts of teens everywhere. It's the unseen things that have the deepest impact on us, and there's nothing quite so inspiring as watching young people destroy their invisible enemies."

› <http://www.FamilyFiction.com/authors/Shannon-Dittmore>

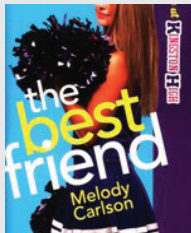


NEW RELEASES



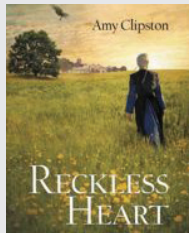
PERFECTLY RIDICULOUS (UNIVERALLY MISUNDERSTOOD #3)

Kristin Billerbeck
(Revell Books)



THE BEST FRIEND (LIFE AT KINGSTON HIGH #2)

Melody Carlson
(Revell Books)



RECKLESS HEART

Amy Clipston
(Zondervan)



STARRING ME

Krista McGee
(Thomas Nelson)



A CHARMED LIFE (3-IN-1)

Jenny B. Jones
(Thomas Nelson)



CRAZY DANGEROUS

Andrew Klavan
(Thomas Nelson)



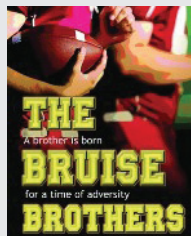
WILD HORSE SPRING (SISTERS IN ALL SEASONS)

Lisa Williams Kline
(Zonderkidz)



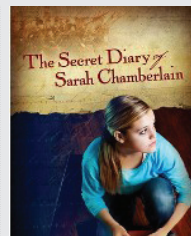
TEMPTATION (SOLITARY TALES SERIES #3)

Travis Thrasher
(David C. Cook)



THE BRUISE BROTHERS: A BROTHER IS BORN FOR A TIME OF ADVERSITY

Joe Jankowski
(Deep River)



THE SECRET DIARY OF SARAH CHAMBERLAIN

Sarah Norkus
(Living Ink)

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RENE GUTTERIDGE

Heart of the Story

Rene Gutteridge loves to collaborate. And with her screenwriting and novelization experience, she was a slam dunk when tapped to write the novelization of upcoming film *Heart of the Country*.

The book is available now as an eBook, with print scheduled for early 2013. The film is in post-production now.

Rene says it's not always easy to make a movie into a novel—a good novelization is more art than gimmick. “A novelization can sometimes just be used as a by-product of a movie, like a mug or a t-shirt,” she says. “But when a project like this becomes art in its own right, then it becomes something special.

“When I take on an adaptation, I want it to penetrate the reader’s heart and further expand and enhance their emotional and intellectual experience. A novelization lacks enticement when



Rene Gutteridge with *Heart of the Country* director John Ward and star Jana Kramer.

“When I take on an adaptation, I want it to penetrate the reader’s heart and further expand and enhance their emotional and intellectual experience.”

it is simply a reworked version of the script that gives no thought to the difference between the two mediums.”

Heart of the Country is actually the tale of two prodigals, a husband and a wife, both searching for meaning, fulfillment and peace. “What I love about this story is how many themes it explores,” Rene says. “But it all comes back to the love of our family, and in turn the love of our heavenly Father. At the end of the day, that’s all that really matters. It’s all we’ll take with us when we go from this earth, yet sometimes it is the thing we sow the least amount of seed into. It is the theme from the beginning to the end of the entire Bible—all that text to say one thing: God loves you.”

FFE



HEART OF THE
COUNTRY

Tyndale House

MORE RENE GUTTERIDGE ONLINE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/authors/rene-gutteridge/>

NEWS & NOTES



THEY'RE JAZZED

Donald Miller's NY Times best-seller *Blue Like Jazz* has finally made it to the big screen. After a record-breaking, fan-based, grassroots campaign raised \$345,000 and saved the film, director Steve Taylor and cinematographer Ben Pearson made the movie on a shoestring budget of 1.3 million. Miller recently talked about how they transformed a nonfiction book into a movie, not a documentary. "We understood the book could not be turned into a film as it was," he says. "We had to fictionalize a story based on the essays that are in the book so it would be thematic and there would be some central characters." The DVD release is expected in August.



THE FLIP SIDE

The filmmakers who brought us surfing movie *Cutback* now tackle the sport of skateboarding in *Hardflip*. Randy Wayne (best known as the star of *To Save a Life*) plays teen Caleb Jones, whose world revolves around his board until tragedy strikes and he's forced to make some serious decisions about his life and his family. John Schneider plays Caleb's father, and professional skaters Christian Hosoi and Brian Sumner show off their amazing skills. Includes music by Brian "Head" Welch.

GAME CHANGER

New football film *Touchback* has been described as *The Blind Side* meets *It's a Wonderful Life*. Given the chance to return to his glory days as a high school football star, 30-something Scott (Brian Presley) has to decide whether to let his fate of being injured in the game unfold or follow a path that will change his future. "The movie is a special film and has a very positive message," Brian says. Kurt Russell stars as Scott's mentor and coach.



NEW RELEASES



**BEYOND
ACCEPTANCE**



**BROTHER
WHITE**



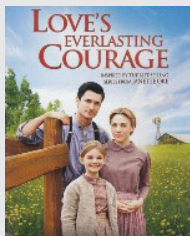
CHECKMATE



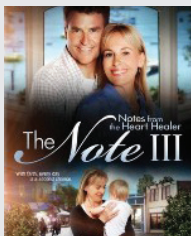
**ELIZABETH'S
GIFT**



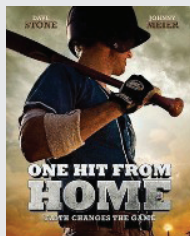
FATHERS



**LOVE'S EVER-
LASTING
COURAGE**



**THE NOTE 3:
NOTES FROM
THE HEART
HEALER**



**ONE HIT
FROM HOME**



**PRAISE
BAND: THE
MOVIE**



**SINGING THE
DEVIL**

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VEGGIETALES

Retelling a Classic Tale

Director Brian K. Roberts cried the first time he read the script.

He was to direct *The Penniless Princess* (Big Idea), the newest VeggieTales video, based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel *The Little Princess*. "I was brought on after the initial draft of the script was finished, and I remember when I read the first draft of the script, I was completely taken by it." He hadn't read the original book, but he was familiar with, and loved, the story and "was really excited to put a VeggieTales spin on it."

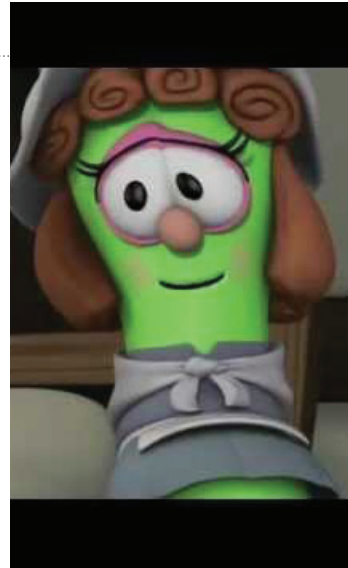
The Penniless Princess is a "riches to rags" story, about a young girl named Sara who has everything she could want, only to find herself "penniless" after her father goes to war. As Sara learns about her true worth, the story presents "themes of hope and imagination and being kind even when others are unkind to you," Roberts says. "(Her father) has always taught her

that God loves her no matter what, and the story is about learning to live that out even when life gets hard."

They chose Burnett's novel as the inspiration for this new story "because of its status as a classic girl's story. For the last two years we've done girl-targeted releases in the summer, and this year we were looking for a classic."

In working out how the story would translate into a VeggieTales version, Roberts explains "one of the challenges was to find the central nugget of truth ... and draw that out." For *The Penniless Princess*, there were two Biblical lessons: knowing your true worth (from Philippians 4:8) and trusting God (from Romans 8:39).

The DVD also includes the silly song "Best Friends Forever" and a singalong version of a song featured in the story, "No Matter What." **FFE**



"(Her father) has always taught her that God loves her no matter what, and the story is about learning to live that out even when life gets hard."



VEGGIETALES: THE PENNILESS PRINCESS
Big Idea

NEWS & NOTES



RETURN TO PAKKINS' LAND

The critically acclaimed **Pakkins' Land** comic book series is coming back in a series of graphic novels, reprinting the original stories with a volume of new chapters that finish the story.

During the height of the comic book's popularity in the 1990s, writer/artist **Gary Shipman** first won acclaim for his engaging story and detailed artwork. "I wanted to do something I would enjoy reading myself," Shipman says.

He hopes reader will see that "the character Paul is just a kid, (but) he has in him the potential to be honest and noble and true."

Pakkins' Land: The Complete Series Volume 2 (Lamp Post, Inc.) comes out this summer.



ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Family Bible Adventures: The Good News for iPad (Rising Star Studios and Faith Inkubators) is an interactive app presenting the life of Christ through short cartoons. A plump cartoon character, Reverend Emmaus B. Fink, narrates the animated Bible stories with a humorous spin. The app includes a matching game, quizzes for children to take after watching the Bible story cartoons, a touch-screen "coloring book," and a song that goes along with each story.

Rev. Fink also hosts a "parents' corner" in the app, where he introduces "The Faith 5 Concept," a quick way to encourage family discussion and everyday prayer.

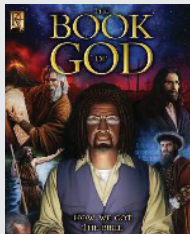
DARK KNIGHT OF THE SOUL

One reason that **Paul Asay** wanted to write *God on the Streets of Gotham* (Tyndale House) was because Batman was "only the coolest superhero on the planet." The book touches on the evil characters Batman faces, "which translate remarkably into sins and temptations," Asay says, and "I talk about how Batman deals with pain and discouragement and doubt, something I think all of us experience as Christians."

Ultimately, Asay hopes "the book might help folks with whatever walk of faith they're on . . . and maybe, for those who struggle with their faith or have a hard time translating their belief into real life, it might make them see God and Christianity in a slightly different light."



NEW RELEASES



**THE BOOK OF
GOD**



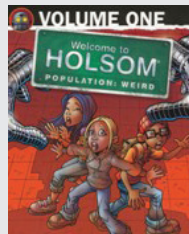
**BATTLE
BETWEEN
(TIMEFLYZ
#7)**



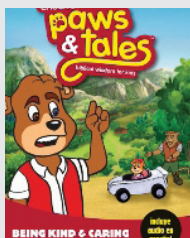
**FINAL
FACE OFF
(TIMEFLYZ
#8)**



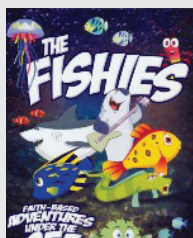
**THE BATTLE
FOR ARGON
FALLS (TOMO
#8)**



**THINGS
NOT SEEN:
WELCOME
TO HOLSOM
VOLUME 1**



**BEING KIND
AND CARING
(CHUCK
SWINDOLL'S
PAWS &
TALES #8)**



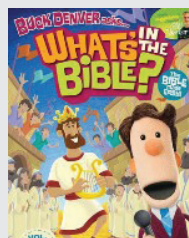
**THE FISHIES:
A LESSON IN
OBEDIENCE**



**THE
PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS**



**VEGGETALES:
THE
PENNILESS
PRINCESS**



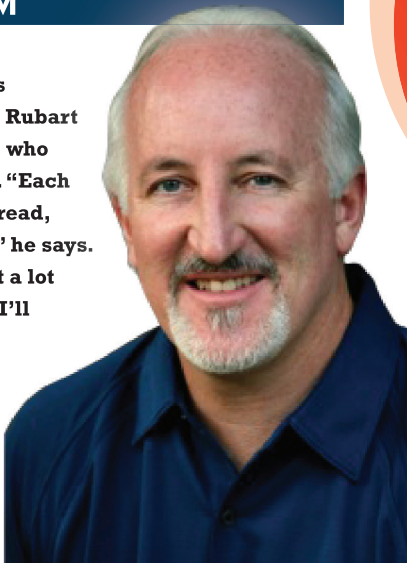
**WORDS TO
MAKE US
WISE (WHAT'S
IN THE BIBLE
#8)**

MORE ANIMATED DVDS HERE: <http://www.familyfiction.com/genres/comics-animation/movies/>

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

The audiobook format is exploding, and James L. Rubart is one of the few authors who narrates his own fiction. “Each book took three days to read, about eight hours a day,” he says. “It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun at the same time. I’ll be narrating the audio version of *The Chair* later this year, as well as *Soul’s Gate*, my first novel with Thomas Nelson.”

—C.J. Darlington



56.2 MILLION

How many iPads experts estimate Apple will sell in 2012—enough to stretch coast to coast two-and-a-half times.
(Source: MSN Money)



➤ Jill Williamson at Barnes and Noble in Austin, Texas



ON THE ROAD

➤ Heather Burch, Bill Myers, and Jill Williamson at the LifeWay Christian Store in Austin, Texas



Last spring, Zondervan’s “Warmer Days, Darker Nights” bookstore tour gave readers a chance to meet with three Christian YA paranormal authors: Jill Williamson (*Replication: The Jason Experiment*), Bill Myers (*Dark Powers Collection*) and Heather Burch (*Halfings*). Events in each city included book readings, signings, in-store giveaways and Q&A sessions with the authors. Read about all the tour details and download samples and wallpaper images at <http://WarmerDaysDarkerNights.com>.

—Katie Hart

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