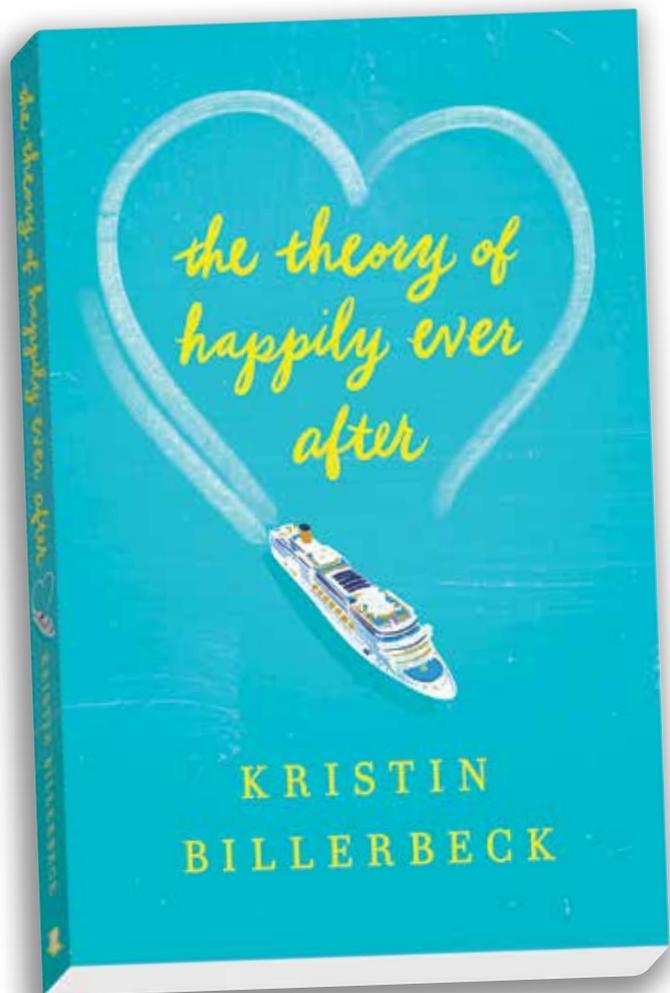




A Miserable Happiness Expert May Find the Path to Bliss Isn't Always What She Expects



- Billerbeck's novels have sold more than 700,000 copies
- Dr. Maggie K. Maguire is the resident expert on the science of happiness. So why is she the most miserable person she knows?
- Will appeal to readers of Becky Wade and Melissa Tagg

According to Dr. Maggie Maguire, happiness is serious science, as serious as Maggie takes herself. But science can't always account for life's anomalies—for instance, why her fiancé dumped her for a silk-scarf acrobat and how the breakup sent Maggie spiraling into an extended ice cream-fueled chick flick binge.

Concerned that she might never pull herself out of this nosedive, Maggie's friends book her as a speaker on a "New Year, New You" cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. Maggie wonders if she's qualified to teach others about happiness when she can't muster up any for herself. But when a handsome stranger on board insists that smart women can't ever be happy, Maggie sets out to prove him wrong. Along the way she may discover that happiness has far less to do with the head than with the heart.

Filled with memorable characters, snappy dialogue, and touching romance, Kristin Billerbeck's *The Theory of Happily Ever After* shows that the search for happiness may be futile—because sometimes happiness is already out there searching for you.

The Theory of Happily Ever After

Kristin Billerbeck



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: May 1
 \$14.99
 978-0-8007-2944-8

trade paper
 5½ x 8½
 288 pages
 Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Romance
 FICTION / Romance / Contemporary
 Rights: Worldwide

MERCHANDISING

shelf talker
 978-0-8007-7231-4

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kristin Billerbeck is the author of more than 30 novels, including *What a Girl Wants* and the *ASHLEY STOCKINGDALE* and *SPA GIRLS* series. She is a fourth-generation Californian who loves her state and the writing fodder it provides. Learn more at www.KristinBillerbeck.com.



ENDORSEMENT

"Billerbeck has the most delightful voice I've ever read. I adore her stories, and she returns with an enchanting new novel, *The Theory of Happily Ever After*. I laughed, cried, and rejoiced with her wonderful characters and was sad when the story ended. Highly recommended!"—**Colleen Coble**, *USA Today* bestselling author.

EXCERPT

Something in my mind had short-circuited, and my dreams were crossing over to my waking life. After years of properly separating the reality I experienced in my dreams from my true reality here in Eden, I was mixing things up. Like a schizophrenic.

My mind told me all these things in rapid fire, and I took a tiny bit of comfort in them, but not much. Because my mind was also hearing the sound of his breathing now. Was he here or was it just my imagination? Which part of my mind was telling me the truth?

"Both," he said.

He could read my thoughts? Of course. He was in my head.

"You're not real," I said in a thin, wispy voice.

"No?" I could hear him cross the floor toward the kitchen and couldn't help but think of the knives there. "But I am. Just as real as you make anything else in this world."

A pause and a breath. I could almost hear him grinning. . . .

"I'll make you a deal," Shadow Man said. "I'll trade my sight, which is perfect, for yours. Make this one exchange and you'll be able to see in this world, just like everyone else. I'll never bother you again. What do you say?"

My fingers were trembling. When I could see in my nightmares, he blinded me. Now I was blind and he was offering to give me sight. . . .

"Come on," he said, close again. "My sight. For your sight. One way or the other I'm going to get it."

"I'm blind!"

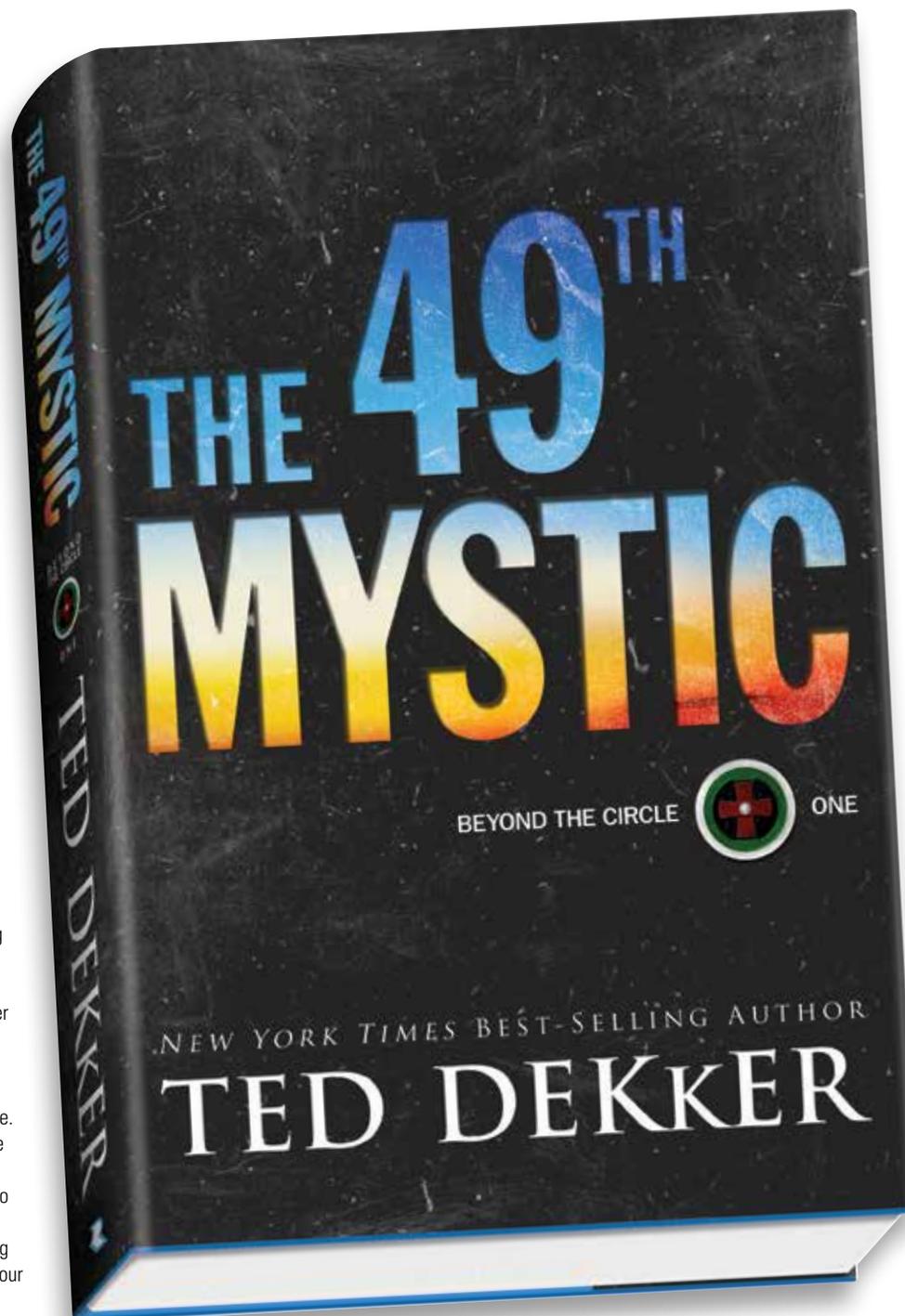
"Oh, but you can see, sweetheart. You're the 49th, the only one who can see. Let me see that world, and I'll let you see this world."

"You're not real," I said again, trying to convince myself.

"No, I suppose not." He spit something out. "No deal then? You're sure? That's your final answer?"

I was breathing too hard to respond. At this point, all I wanted was for him to go away, because if he touched me . . . if he laid one finger on me . . . I would rather die.

He sighed. "Very well. But you must know that it took a lot of work to crawl inside your mind, and I'm just getting started."



Ted Dekker Returns Readers to the World of His Most Popular Series

- *New York Times* and international bestselling author Ted Dekker has sold more than 10 million books
- Dekker's passion is simple: to explore truth through mind-bending stories that invite readers to see the world through a different lens
- "Dekker convincingly blurs the lines between fantasy and reality."—*Publishers Weekly*
- "Ted Dekker is a master of suspense."—*Library Journal*

Some say the great mystery of how one can live in two worlds at once died with Thomas Hunter many years ago. Still others that the gateway to that greater reality was and is only the stuff of dreams.

They are wrong. In the small town of Eden, Utah, a blind girl named Rachele Matthews is about to find out just how wrong.

When a procedure meant to restore Rachele's sight goes awry, she begins to dream of another world so real that she wonders if Earth might only be a dream experienced when she falls asleep in that reality. Who is a simple blind girl to have such strange and fantastic dreams?

She's the prophesied one who must find and recover five ancient seals—in both worlds—before powerful enemies destroy her. If Rachele succeeds in her quest, peace will reign. If she fails, both worlds will forever be locked in darkness.

So begins a two-volume saga of high stakes and a mind-bending quest to find an ancient path that will save humanity. The clock is ticking; the end rushes forward.

Ready? Set?

Dream.

The 49th Mystic

BEYOND THE CIRCLE #1

Ted Dekker



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: May 15
\$24.99
978-0-8007-2978-3

hardcover
6 x 9
432 pages
Case Quantity: 20

Category: FICTION / Christian / Suspense
FICTION / Thrillers / Supernatural
Rights: Worldwide

MERCHANDISING

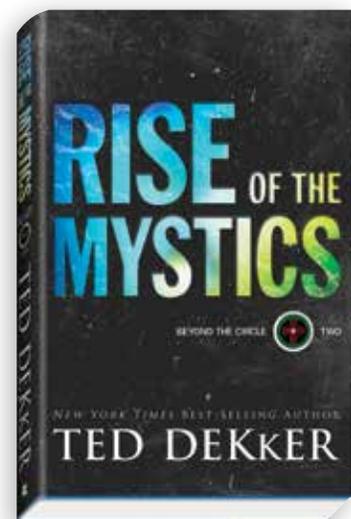
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978-0-8007-7230-7
endcap merch kit
978-0-8007-7235-2

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

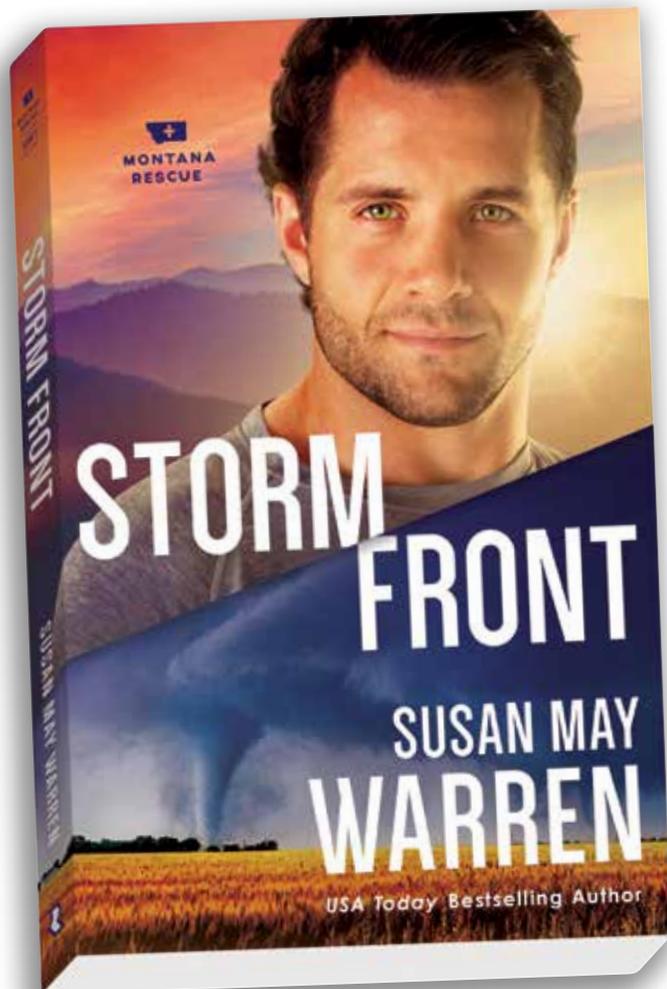
Ted Dekker is the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of more than forty novels, with over 10 million copies sold worldwide. He was born in the jungles of Indonesia to missionary parents, and his upbringing as a stranger in a fascinating and sometimes frightening culture fueled his imagination. Dekker's passion is simple—to explore truth through mind-bending stories that invite readers to see the world through a different lens. His fiction has been honored with numerous awards, including two Christy Awards, two Inspy Awards, an RT Reviewers' Choice Award, and an ECPA Gold Medallion. In 2013, NPR readers nationwide put him in the Top 50 Thriller Authors of All Time. Dekker lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Lee Ann.



COMING OCTOBER 2, 2018



A Group of Kids Is Missing after a Tornado— Can the Team Find Them before the Next Storm Hits?



- “Bestselling Warren’s fans have come to expect outdoor adventures, thrills, and romance in her novels. . . . [She] certainly delivers.”
—*Booklist on Rescue Me*
- Warren dials up the passion in this contemporary romantic adventure
- The members of PEAK Rescue create an unlikely family as they save lives—and each other

A tornado has destroyed a small Minnesota community and among the missing are not only a group of students but PEAK Rescue team leader Chet King. Ty Remington will stop at nothing to rescue his mentor, not even when the girl he loved—and lost—walks back into his life. But Brette needs his help more than he knows, despite her stubborn determination to push him away. And when he gets a second chance, loving her just might cost him more than he can imagine.

A blogger for Vortex Storm Chasers, Brette Arnold didn’t expect her adventures to land her in the same place as Ty, the guy who she walked—no, *ran*—from over a year ago. She had her reasons—good ones. The kind that tell her that falling for him again would only lead to heartache. But Ty isn’t the kind of man to give up—not on the missing students, or on her.

Life and love hang in the balance in Susan May Warren’s breathless story of holding on to hope during a deadly summer of storms.

Storm Front

MONTANA RESCUE #5
Susan May Warren



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: May 1
\$14.99
978-0-8007-2747-5

trade paper
5½ x 8½
336 pages
Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Romance
FICTION / Romance / Contemporary
FICTION / Romance / Action & Adventure
Rights: Worldwide

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Susan May Warren is the *USA Today* bestselling author of over fifty novels with more than 1 million books sold, including *Wild Montana Skies*, *Rescue Me*, *A Matter of Trust*, and *Troubled Waters*. Winner of a RITA Award and multiple Christy and Carol Awards, as well as the HOLT and numerous Readers’ Choice Awards, Susan has written contemporary and historical romances, romantic suspense, thrillers, romantic comedy, and novellas. She makes her home in Minnesota and can be found online at www.susanmaywarren.com, on Facebook at Susan May Warren Fiction, and on Twitter @susanmaywarren.

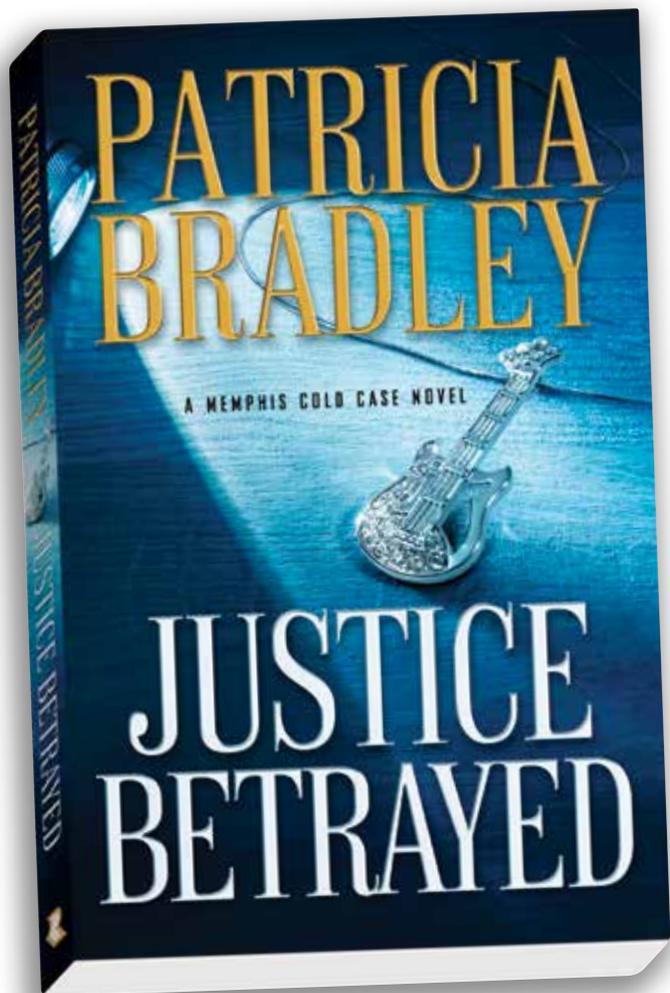


ALSO AVAILABLE

- MONTANA RESCUE**
- 1 Wild Montana Skies**
978-0-8007-2743-7
 - 2 Rescue Me**
978-0-8007-2744-4
 - 3 A Matter of Trust**
978-0-8007-2745-1
 - 4 Troubled Waters**
978-0-8007-2746-8



“Bradley’s novels are always page-turners.”—*Booklist*



- “A quick and tense story, enthralling readers with its thrilling, high-octane plot.”—*Library Journal on Justice Delayed*
- Two unsolved murders 17 years apart get personal when a detective discovers a connection to her own mother’s death. Can she solve the cases before she becomes the next victim?
- Appeals to readers of Irene Hannon, Dee Henderson, Terri Blackstock, and Lynette Eason

It’s Elvis Week in Memphis, and homicide Detective Rachel Sloan isn’t sure her day could get any stranger when aging Elvis impersonator Vic Vegas asks to see her. But when he produces a photo of her murdered mother with four Elvis impersonators—one of whom had also been murdered soon after the photo was taken—she’s forced to reevaluate. Is there some connection between the two unsolved cases? And could the recent break-in at Vic’s home be tied to his obsession with finding his friend’s killer?

When yet another person in the photo is murdered, Rachel suddenly has her hands full investigating three cases. Lieutenant Boone Callahan offers his help, but their checkered romantic past threatens to get in the way. Can they solve the cases before the murderer makes Rachel victim number four?

Justice Betrayed

Patricia Bradley



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: June 5
\$15.99
978-0-8007-2716-1

trade paper
5½ x 8½
368 pages
Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Suspense
FICTION / Christian / Romance
FICTION / Romance / Suspense
Rights: Worldwide

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

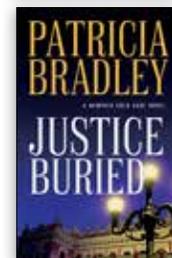
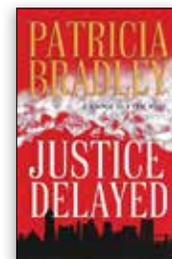
Patricia Bradley is the author of *Justice Delayed* and *Justice Buried*, as well as the LOGAN POINT series. Bradley won an Inspirational Readers Choice Award in Suspense, was a finalist for the Genesis Award, won a Daphne du Maurier Award, and won a Touched by Love Award. She is cofounder of Aiming for Healthy Families, Inc., and she is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. Bradley makes her home in Mississippi. Learn more at www.ptbradley.com.



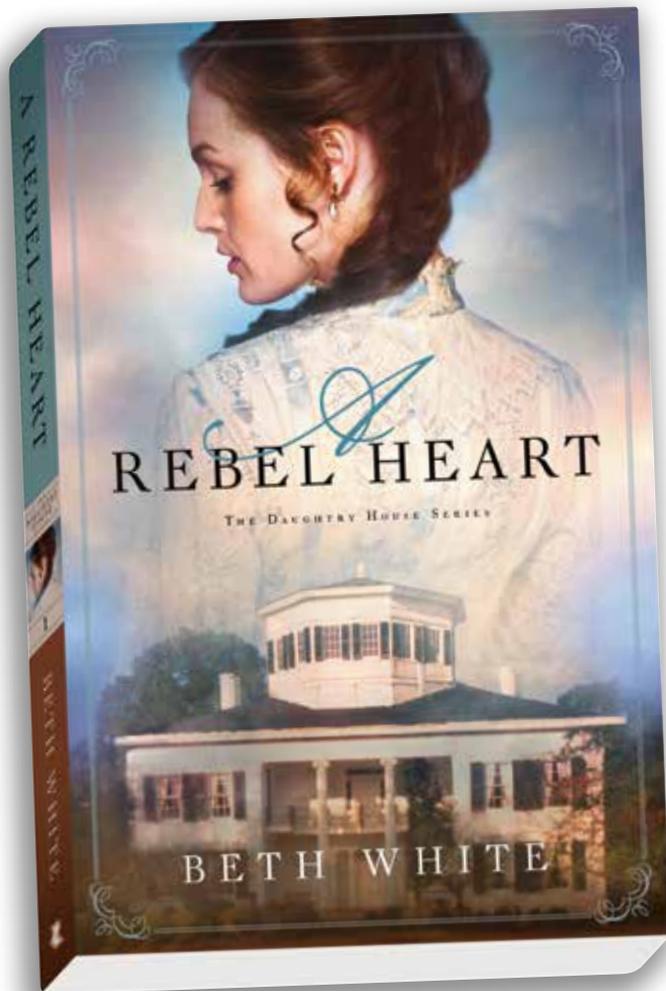
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ALSO AVAILABLE

Justice Delayed
978-0-8007-2708-6
Justice Buried
978-0-8007-2712-3



A Destitute Southern Belle Must Save Her Plantation Home—Is a Former Union Soldier the Answer?



- “White’s carefully researched story . . . is filled with duplicity, danger, political intrigue, and adventure.” —*Booklist*, starred review on *The Pelican Bride*
- New series focuses on three Southern belle sisters living in the family’s plantation home after the Civil War
- White is the winner of the Carol Award, the RT Book Club Reviewers’ Choice Award, and the Inspirational Reader’s Choice Award

Five years after the final shot was fired in the War Between the States, Selah Daughtry can barely manage to keep herself, her two younger sisters, and their spinster cousin fed and clothed. With their family’s Mississippi plantation swamped by debt and the Big House falling down around them, the only option seems to be giving up their ancestral land.

Pinkerton agent and former Union cavalryman Levi Riggins is investigating a series of robberies and sabotage linked to the impoverished Daughtry plantation. Posing as a hotel management agent for the railroad, he tells Selah he’ll help her save her home, but only if it is converted into a hotel. With Selah otherwise engaged with renovations, Levi moves onto the property to “supervise” while he actually attends to his real assignment right under her nose.

Selah isn’t sure she entirely trusts the handsome Yankee, but she’d do almost anything to save her home. What she never expected to encounter was his assault on her heart.

A Rebel Heart

DAUGHTRY HOUSE #1

Beth White



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: June 5
 \$15.99
 978-0-8007-2689-8

trade paper
 5½ x 8½
 368 pages
 Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Romance
 FICTION / Christian / Historical
 FICTION / Romance / Historical / General
 Rights: Worldwide

MERCHANDISING

shelf talker
 978-0-8007-7232-1

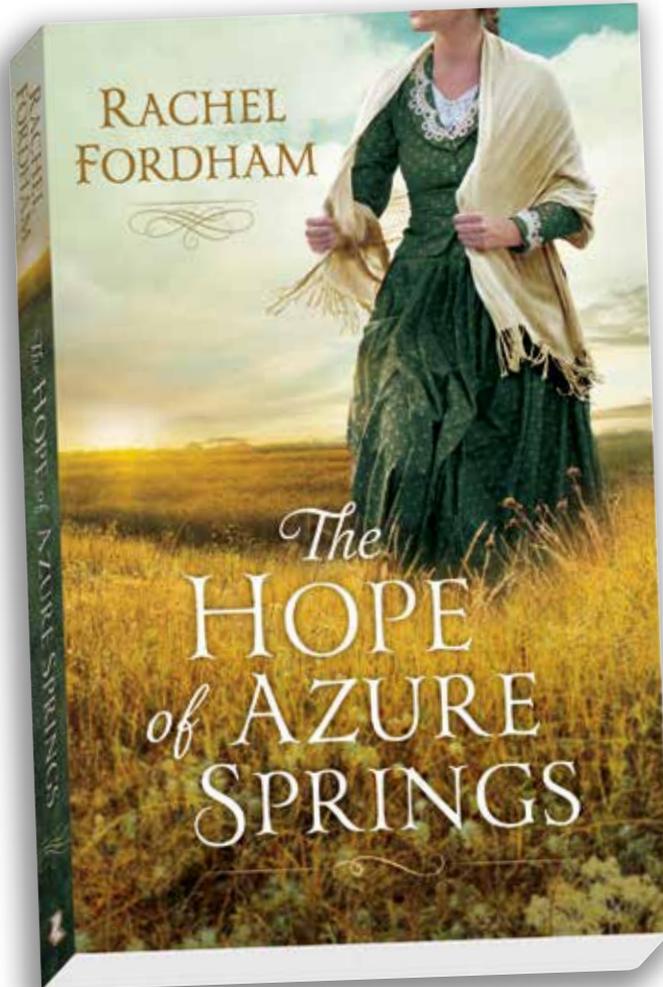
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beth White’s day job is teaching music at an inner-city high school in historic Mobile, Alabama. A native Mississippian, she writes historical romance with a Southern drawl and is the author of *The Pelican Bride*, *The Creole Princess*, and *The Magnolia Duchess*. Her novels have won the American Christian Fiction Writers Carol Award, the RT Book Club Reviewers’ Choice Award, and the Inspirational Reader’s Choice Award. Learn more at www.bethwhite.net.



© Wendy Wilson Photography

Alone in a Strange Town, Can Em Find a Way to Bring Healing to Her New Home and Herself?



- This well-crafted prairie romance will appeal to readers of Janette Oke and viewers of *When Calls the Heart* television series
- Great curl-up-and-read with a tender romance and memorable characters
- In this debut novel set in the 1880s, a young woman with secrets finds herself in a frontier town full of nosy neighbors

Seven years ago, orphaned and alone, Em finally arrived at a new home in Iowa after riding the orphan train. But secrets from her past haunt her, and her new life in the Western wilderness is a rough one. When her guardian is shot and killed, Em, now nineteen, finally has the chance to search for her long-lost sister, but she won't be able to do it alone.

For Azure Springs Sheriff Caleb Reynolds, securing justice for the waifish and injured Em is just part of his job. He's determined to solve every case put before him in order to impress his parents and make a name for himself. Caleb expects to succeed. What he doesn't expect is the hold this strange young woman will have on his heart.

Debut author Rachel Fordham invites historical romance readers to the charming town of Azure Springs, Iowa, where the people care deeply for one another and, sometimes, even fall in love.

The Hope of Azure Springs

Rachel Fordham



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: July 3
 \$15.99
 978-0-8007-3473-2

trade paper
 5½ x 8½
 320 pages
 Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Historical
 FICTION / Christian / Romance
 Rights: Worldwide

MERCHANDISING

shelf talker
 978-0-8007-7233-8

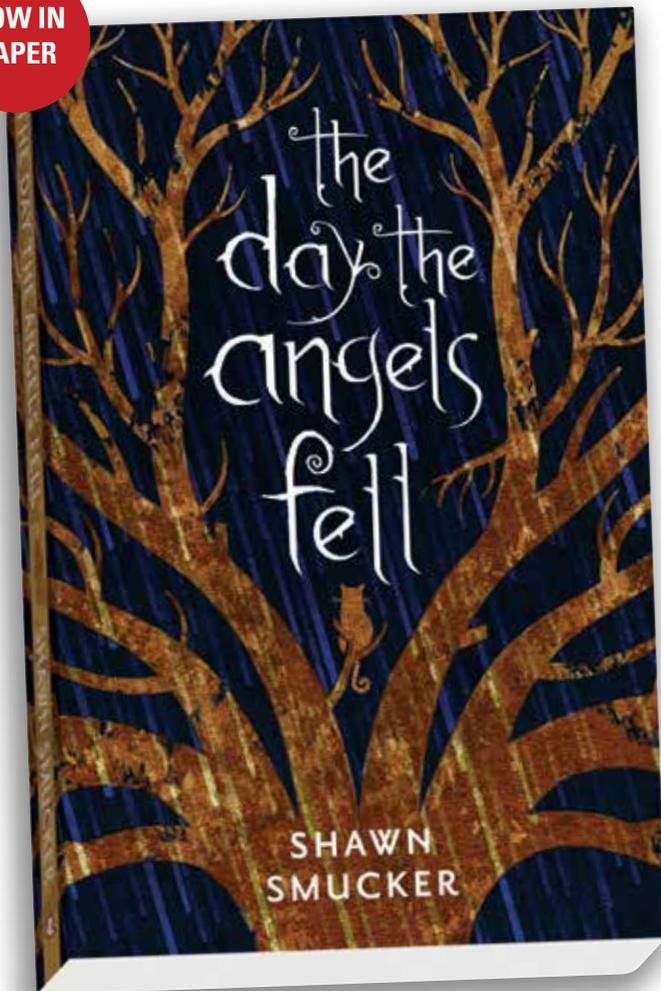
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rachel Fordham started writing when her children began begging her for stories at night. She'd pull a book from the shelf, but they'd insist she make one up. Finally she put her love of good stories with her love of writing and she hasn't stopped since. She lives with her husband and children on an island in the state of Washington.



Could It Be Possible That Death Is a Gift?

NOW IN PAPER



- “The novel’s blood and bones are thoroughly and relatably human.”—*Foreword Reviews*
- Samuel is determined to find the Tree of Life to bring his mother back, but what he finds leaves him with more questions than answers
- Will appeal to readers of Frank Peretti and James Rubart
- Now in trade paper

It was the summer of storms and strays and strangers. The summer that lightning struck the big oak tree in the front yard. The summer his mother died in a tragic accident. As he recalls the tumultuous events that launched a surprising journey, Samuel can still hardly believe it all happened.

After his mother’s death, twelve-year-old Samuel Chambers would do anything to bring her back. Prompted by three strange carnival fortune-tellers and the surfacing of his mysterious and reclusive neighbor, Sam begins his search for the Tree of Life—the only thing that could possibly bring his mother back. His quest to defeat death entangles him and his best friend Abra in an ancient conflict and forces Sam to grapple with an unwelcome question: could it be possible that death is a gift?

Haunting and hypnotic, *The Day the Angels Fell* explores the difficult questions of life in a voice that is fresh, friendly, and unafraid. With this powerful story, Shawn Smucker has carved out a spot for himself in the tradition of authors Madeleine L’Engle and Lois Lowry.

The Day the Angels Fell

Shawn Smucker



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: July 3
 \$14.99
 978-0-8007-2910-3

trade paper
 5½ x 8½
 320 pages
 Case Quantity: 32

Category: YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Religious / Christian / General
 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Coming of Age
 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Action & Adventure / General
 Rights: Worldwide

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

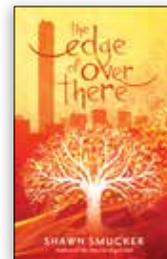
Shawn Smucker is the author of *The Day the Angels Fell* and *The Edge of Over There*. He lives with his wife and six children in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. You can find him online at www.shawnsmucker.com, where you can also sign up for his newsletter.



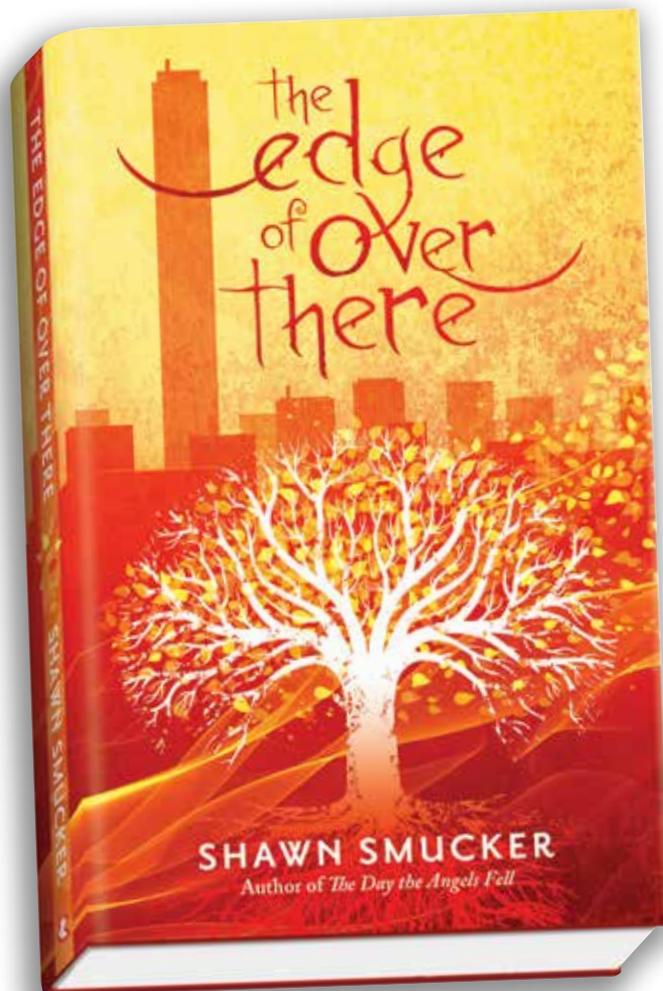
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ALSO AVAILABLE

The Edge of Over There
 978-0-8007-2850-2



“Smucker enchants with a deftly woven tale of mystery and magic.”—Bill Coffey on *The Day the Angels Fell*



- The dramatic sequel to the highly acclaimed *The Day the Angels Fell*
- Abra Miller carries a secret and a responsibility that she never wanted. When it takes her into a crypt at New Orleans Cemetery No. 1, will she get out alive?

Before the Tree of Life, everything in Abra Miller’s life had been predictable. But after the Tree and the lightning and the angels, everything felt tenuous, like holding a soap bubble in the palm of her hand. She spent years looking for signs of that other world, waiting for it to break through. When it didn’t, her friendship with Sam Chambers grew cold and distant, and they both wondered how any of it could actually have happened.

Four years later, 16-year-old Abra’s long-delayed quest to find the next manifestation of the Tree of Life is renewed when she sees a woman walking up the road—a woman who looks exactly like Sam’s dead mother. The woman directs her to New Orleans where she will find the grave of Marie Laveau, one of seven gateways between this world and Over There. As Abra enters The Edge of Over There and begins her pursuit of the Tree once more, she doesn’t know whom to fear or whom to trust. But she’s starting to think that some doorways should never be opened.

The Edge of Over There

Shawn Smucker



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: July 3
 \$17.99
 978-0-8007-2850-2

hardcover
 5½ x 8½
 320 pages
 Case Quantity: 20

Category: YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Religious / Christian / General
 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Coming of Age
 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Action & Adventure / General
 Rights: Worldwide

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shawn Smucker is the author of *The Day the Angels Fell* and *The Edge of Over There*. He lives with his wife and six children in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. You can find him online at www.shawnsmucker.com, where you can also sign up for his newsletter in order to find out when and where the Tree of Life will turn up next.



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ALSO AVAILABLE

The Day the Angels Fell
 978-0-8007-2910-3



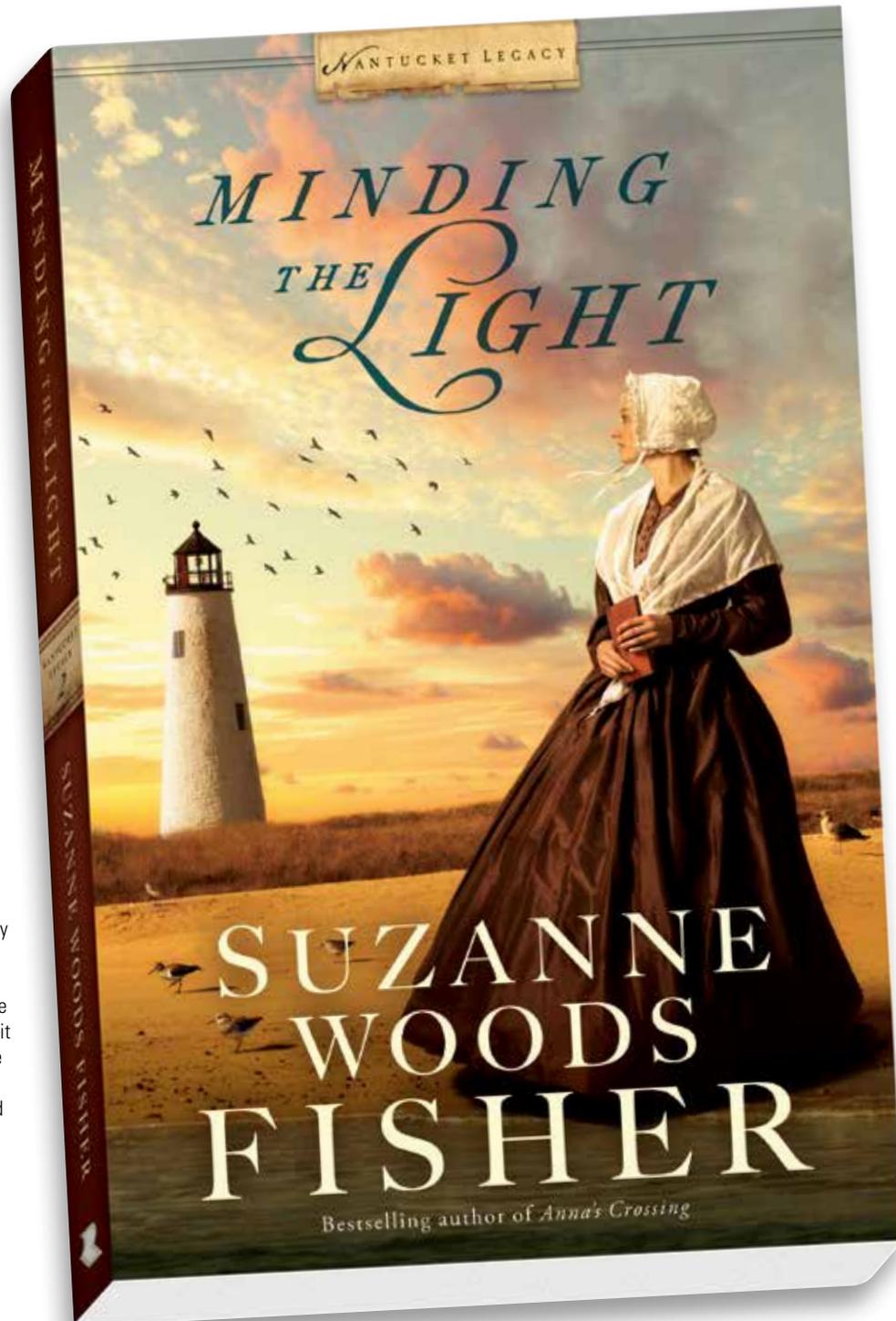
EXCERPT

All the world, or at least all of Nantucket, considered Tristram Macy to be Daphne's intended. The man she would marry, although he hadn't gotten round to asking her yet. How many times had Daphne thought Trist was going to propose marriage? Just the other day, they were walking along the beach at sunset—a perfect Nantucket evening. He had taken her hand and covered it with his own, and she thought, *Tonight. Surely, tonight he will ask.* But he didn't.

So how did Daphne feel about him? She and Tristram had known each other all their lives. She knew him when his stutter made him the target of school-yard mocking. He knew her when she was round as a barrel, much like Hitty was now, before she started to grow and grow and grow, and her body rearranged itself.

She had watched as Trist evolved into a very handsome man, dashing and decadent, whose charming personality had a dazzling effect on women—including her own mother. Daphne did not feel dazzled by Tristram Macy, which might be why he favored her. Her feelings for him were akin to sitting by the hearth on a rainy day with a well-loved book to read and reread, warm and cozy.

Daphne saw Trist make his way toward the far end of the wharf, picking his way between clusters of townspeople, clapping hands with the crew as they emerged from lighters. By the pleased looks on their sun-weathered faces, and the fact that the *Endeavour* sat low in the brine, it seemed the rumors were true—it had been a greasy voyage. Mayhap Jane was right—now Tristram would believe that the business he and Ren had started was on solid footing and he would make plans for the future.



A Quaker Woman, an Irreverent Sea Captain, and a Summer That Would Change Their Lives Forever

- “Crisp prose and close attention to historical detail will keep readers engrossed.”—*Booklist* on the AMISH BEGINNINGS series
- An award-winning author with sales over 900,000 copies
- The NANTUCKET LEGACY series welcomes readers back into the 19th-century Nantucket world of Quakers and whaling ships

Six long years ago, Captain Reynolds Macy sailed away from his bride, looking forward to the day when he would return to Nantucket Island with a ship's hold full of whale oil. But when that momentous day finally arrives, Ren soon discovers that everything has changed in his absence. *Everything*. “Is nothing on this island as it appears to be?” he whispers in despair.

Unlike most islanders, bold and spirited Daphne Coffin doesn't defer to Ren as an authoritative whalemaster, but sees through his aloofness to the aching heart beneath. She encourages him to return to his Quaker roots and “mind the Light,” finding solace in God and community. As Ren becomes the man she believes him to be—honorable, wise, faithful—she finds herself falling in love with him.

But how can she, when her heart is spoken for? Tristram Macy is Ren's business partner, cousin, and best friend—and Daphne's fiancé. Love always comes at a cost, but when is the price too high?

Suzanne Woods Fisher welcomes readers back to the Quaker community on Nantucket Island for this riveting love story, full of unexpected moments.

Minding the Light

NANTUCKET LEGACY #2
Suzanne Woods Fisher



9 780800 721633

VITAL INFORMATION

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\$15.99
978-0-8007-2163-3

trade paper
5½ x 8½
320 pages
Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Romance
FICTION / Christian / Historical
FICTION / Romance / Historical / General
Rights: Worldwide

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Suzanne Woods Fisher is an award-winning, bestselling author of more than two dozen novels, including *Phoebe's Light*, the AMISH BEGINNINGS series, THE BISHOP'S FAMILY series, and THE INN AT EAGLE HILL series, as well as nonfiction books about the Amish, including *Amish Peace* and *The Heart of the Amish*. She lives in California. Learn more at www.suzannewoodsfisher.com and follow Suzanne on Facebook @SuzanneWoodsFisherAuthor and Twitter @suzannefisher.



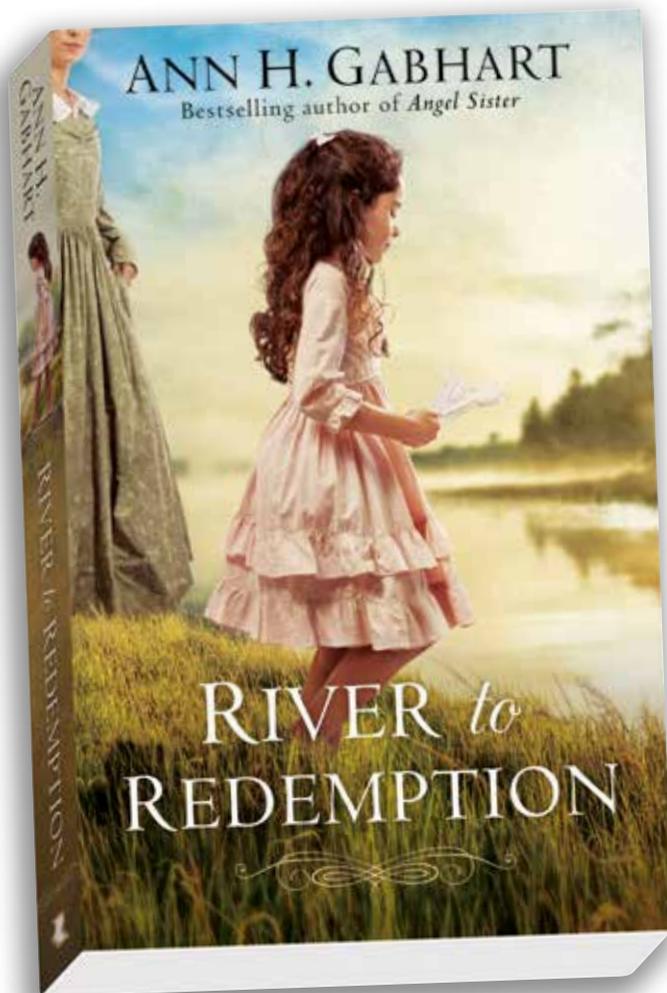
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ALSO AVAILABLE

NANTUCKET LEGACY
1 *Phoebe's Light*
978-0-8007-2162-6



“Masterful storytelling.”
—Publishers Weekly on *Love Comes Home*



- “Gabhart creates a story that shines . . . this is well researched and detailed.”—RT Book Reviews on *The Innocent*
- Orphaned during an early 19th-century cholera epidemic and helped by a slave to find a new home, Adria Starr must now stand up for his freedom—and maybe find her own in the process
- Gabhart’s popular historical novels have sold more than 400,000 copies

Orphaned in the cholera epidemic of 1833, Adria Starr was cared for by a slave named Louis, a man who stayed in Springfield, Kentucky, when anyone with means had fled. A man who passed up the opportunity to escape his bondage and instead tended to the sick and buried the dead. A man who, twelve years later, is being sold by his owners despite his heroic actions. Now nineteen, Adria has never forgotten what Louis did for her. She’s determined to find a way to buy Louis’s freedom. But in 1840s Kentucky, she’ll face an uphill battle.

Based partly on a true story, Ann H. Gabhart’s latest historical novel is a tour de force. The vividly rendered town of Springfield and its citizens immerse readers in a story of courage, betrayal, and honor that will stick with them long after they turn the last page.

River to Redemption

Ann H. Gabhart



VITAL INFORMATION

Available: July 3
\$15.99
978-0-8007-2364-4

trade paper
5½ x 8½
336 pages
Case Quantity: 32

Category: FICTION / Christian / Historical
FICTION / Christian / Romance
Rights: Worldwide

MERCHANDISING

shelf talker
978-0-8007-7234-5

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ann H. Gabhart is the bestselling and award-winning author of several Shaker novels—*The Outsider, The Believer, The Seeker, The Blessed, The Gifted*, and *The Innocent*—as well as *These Healing Hills, Angel Sister, Small Town Girl, Love Comes Home, Words Spoken True*, and *THE HEART OF HOLLYHILL*



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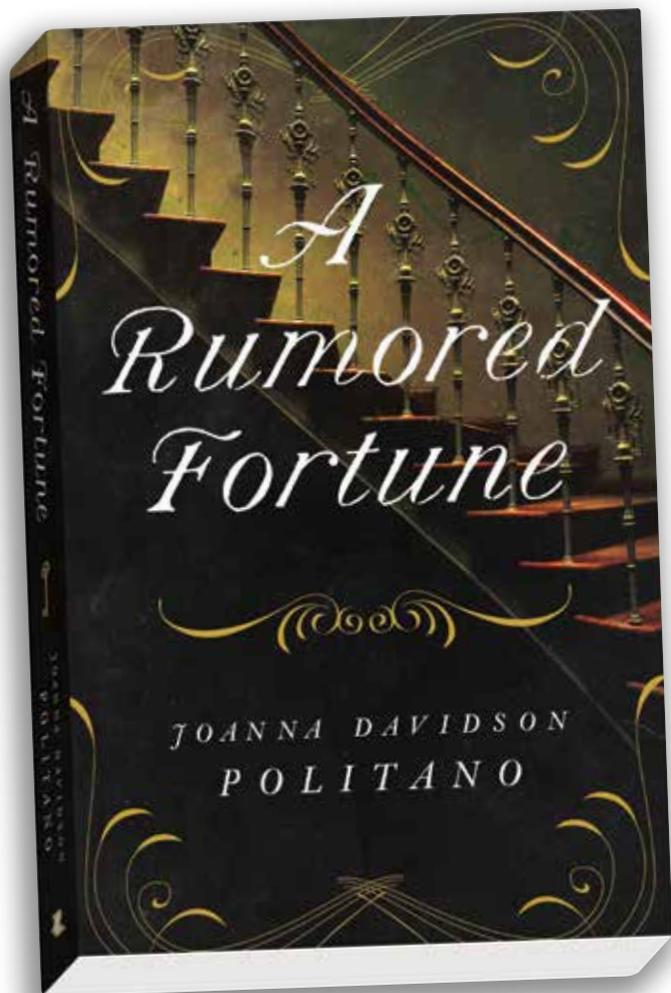
series. She is also the author of the popular HIDDEN SPRINGS MYSTERIES series as A. H. Gabhart. She has been a finalist for the ECPA Book of the Year and the Carol Awards, and has won two Selah Awards for *Love Comes Home*. Ann and her husband enjoy country life on a farm a mile from where she was born in rural Kentucky. Learn more at www.annhgabhart.com.

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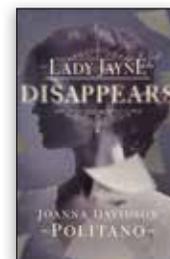
Joanna Davidson Politano is the award-winning author of *Lady Jayne Disappears*. She freelances for a small nonfiction publisher but spends much of her time spinning tales that capture the colorful, exquisite details in ordinary lives. She is always on the hunt for random acts of kindness, people willing to share their deepest secrets with a stranger, and hidden stashes of sweets. She lives with her husband and their two babies in a house in the woods near Lake Michigan and shares stories that move her at www.jdpstories.com.



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EXCERPT

With Carson's warm hand against the small of her back, Penny stepped inside the massive foyer. Marble beneath her feet and a bazillion-dollar chandelier above her head. Wow.

The door shut behind them and the man's smile faded. His eyes roamed over her and he shot a look at Carson. "Good, good. Nice."

Alarms instantly jangled. "Um . . . I don't mean to be rude, but could I use your powder room?"

The man lifted a brow, and at first she thought he was going to refuse, but then the smile returned. "Of course. Carson can show you the way."

"Thank you."

Carson gripped her hand, harder than he'd ever done before, and pulled her with him. She jerked out of his grasp. "That hurts."

Anger flashed in his eyes for a split second, then disappeared. "Sorry." He opened the door for her. "I'll be waiting for you."

"Okay. Thanks."

Once inside the bathroom with the door shut, she pulled out her cell phone and tapped Damien's name. The phone rang twice. "Penny?"

"Damien, I think I need your help," she whispered.

"Where are you?"

The call dropped. The signal on her phone was gone. "No. Come on, come on, please."

She tapped a text to him even as she knew something was terribly wrong. Fear like she'd never felt before twisted inside her. She was so stupid. Every warning Damien had ever lectured on about human trafficking rang through her mind.

But no. Carson wouldn't do that, would he?

Tears sprang to her eyes and she drew in a breath. She would not panic. She'd keep her cool.

A knock on the door caused her to jerk. "I'll be there in a minute." She flushed the toilet and eyed the cabinet under the sink.

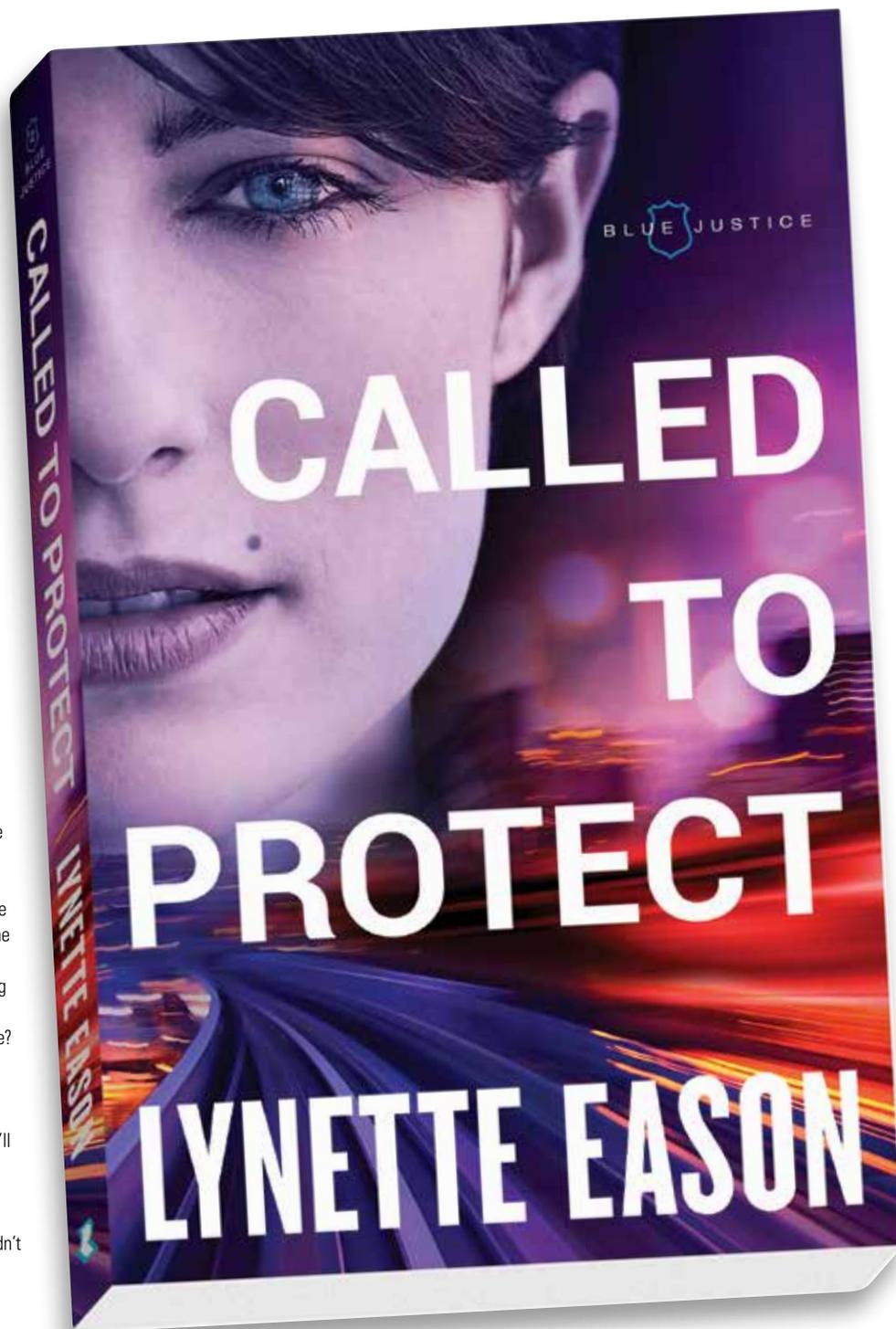
"Come on, Penny."

He was going to kick the door in if she didn't hurry up. She slid the phone under the large armoire-like corner cabinet, then stood.

With a prayer on her lips, she opened the door. "What's the rush, silly? I—"

A liquid spray hit her in the face and she gasped. Carson's face blurred. "What—"

She went to her knees before Carson caught her. "It's okay, Penny, don't fight it."



A K-9 Cop Must Mobilize All Her Resources to Stop a Human Trafficking Ring before Another Girl Goes Missing

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lynette Eason is the bestselling author of *Oath of Honor*, as well as the WOMEN OF JUSTICE series, the DEADLY REUNIONS series, the HIDDEN IDENTITY series, and the ELITE GUARDIANS series. She is the winner of two ACFW Carol Awards, the Selah Award, and the Inspirational Reader’s Choice Award. She has a master’s degree in education from Converse College and lives in South Carolina. Learn more at www.lynetteeason.com.



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