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## Fiction Reviews

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Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Walters, N. (2019). <i>Deadly Deceit</i> . Grand Rapids: Publisher. 330 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9781493419579	Lillian Purdy, Louisiana College	Mystery	Blackmail videos lead to murder, and a journalist and local deputy work together to solve the murder and reveal the blackmailer.	Both Ryan Frost, a small town sheriff, and Vivian DeMarco, a journalist, have issues with their fathers and do not want additional emotional attachments in Walton. Early in the relationship, they have an estrangement, but it's obvious they will get back together.	The setting is present time in a small town in Georgia.	Those who have been hurt can still find true love. Forgiveness.	Readers who enjoy a good mystery with a romance on the side will enjoy this book. Teenagers and up will appreciate the novel. The work is the second in a series and follows a Walton, Georgia, deputy and a new reporter who has moved to town to prove her skills as a journalist and to take refuge from her past. The romance arch within the book is predictable, but the characters are likeable. Several of the characters demonstrate their Christian faith in their daily lives, and the book ends with hope that family estrangement issues will be resolved.
Goddard, E. (2019). <i>Always Look Twice</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 366 pp. \$15.99 ISBN 9780800737108	Anne-Elizabeth Powell, Point Loma Nazarene University	Romance	Crime scene photographer on vacation in Wyoming witnesses a murder through her telephoto lens and must avoid becoming the next victim.	Harper Reynolds is a crime scene photographer taking a year off after being diagnosed with PTSD. In addition to the graphic nature of the crimes she photographs, she is overcoming the trauma of witnessing her father's murder as a child. Details of her job make interesting reading and give a sense of reality to the character. She is filled with understandable self-doubt, survivor's guilt, and desire to assist in solving the crime because her own father's murderer was never brought to justice.  Heath McKade, a reserve sheriff's deputy and guest ranch owner is Harper's childhood best friend. Though they have been apart for many years, a strong attraction between them still exists when they are reunited following Harper's witnessing of a new murder. Heath has experienced his own trauma, having been shot and left for dead by someone he once trusted. Details of his own career and backstory are slower to emerge, leaving the reader wanting to know him more deeply for much of the first half of the book. Set in the present, in and around Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming. Overcoming and healing from past trauma and learning to trust both God and others.	Set in the present, in and around Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming.	Overcoming and healing from past trauma and learning to trust both God and others.	For teens to adults. Will appeal to readers of both mysteries and romances. Plot is compelling with action scenes drawing the reader into the race between the killer's ultimate purpose and the protagonists' attempts to solve the murder. Readers will care about the characters as they struggle to heal from trauma and learn to trust again. The book would benefit from tightening. A tauter writing style would allow the reader to develop a greater sense of urgency for the safety of the protagonists and capture of the murderer. Repeated minor details and protracted/repetitive scenes of self-doubt and introspection on the part of the main characters slow the story.
Finkbeiner, S. (2020). <i>Stories That Bind Us</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 371 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735708	Grace E. Andrews, Wesley Biblical Seminary	Fiction	A grief-stricken young widow learns how to keep living when her husband has died.	Betty Sweet, her estranged sister, and Betty's husband's family.	LaFontaine, Michigan, 1960s	Coping with grief, reconciliation	Rooted in the hope of the gospel and crafted with tenderness, <i>Stories That Bind Us</i> narrates the story of a family that must rely on each other when their world is turned upside down. Though told with small-town charm, this novel grapples with loss on many different levels, exploring the pain of widowhood, the loneliness of grief, the incomprehensibility of mental illness, and the hard work of building a life in the face of such tragedy. Finkbeiner weaves a tale that demonstrates the power of story to bring people together, giving them the courage to sing even in the darkness.
Fordman, R. (2020). <i>A Life Once Dreamed</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 330 pp. \$15.99 ISBN 9780800735395	Amy J. Harris, Saint Leo University	Romance	Due to a secret in her family, Agnes Pratt goes west to find a new life. But will her secret catch up with her?	The main characters are Agnes Pratt and her ex-fiance, James Harris. Keeping in mind the historical period, the characters are interesting and mostly believable.	Set in the Dakota Territory in 1880 in a frontier town named Penance.	This book is really about love overcoming social stigmas.	While Fordman typically sets her books in Azure Springs, Iowa, this novel is set in the Dakota Territory. Fordman has done her research on this area and time period. Like most romance stories, the love interests are at an impasse. Agnes has left her wealthy family due to a secret she dare not reveal. James must eventually learn Agnes' secret and decide if his love can overcome it. Fordman offers an unusual twist. The unique aspect of this historical romance is the nature of Agnes' secret. This gives dimension to the story and adds relevance after the events of 2020.
Smith, J.E. (2021). <i>Miriam's Song</i> . Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group. 408 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800734725	Jennifer M. Brady, Southwest Baptist University	Biblical Fiction	The story of the Israelites from the perspective of Miriam.	Miriam, Moses, and Aaron and their families. This is an interesting telling as it gives voices and perspective to individuals not frequently thought of as having principal roles.	Biblical times. The book follows the time from Moses birth under the enslavement of the Egyptians to the forty years wondering in the desert.	God's love of His people, man's rebellion against God, the cost of disobeying God's commandments.	<i>Miriam's Song</i> is a reimagining of the journey the Israelites endured from Egyptian slavery to wondering in the desert for forty years; creating a picture of what it could have been like for the women who were serving along with the men of God and praying for their deliver to take God's people into the promised land. The book is scripturally sound but it feels scattered over multiple characters, often abandoning Miriam for multiple chapters. The reader may find they do not feel the story, while enjoyable, is truly about Miriam, but the family unit as a whole.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Gabhart, A. H. (2020). <i>An Appalachian summer</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 368 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800729288	Cindy Hyer, Trinity College of Florida	Historical	Using what God has blessed us with, whether money or time, to benefit others.	Piper Danson and two potential suitors: Braxton Crandall and Jamie Russell. These characters are interesting and draw you in immediately. Piper's love story is the backdrop to a fascinating depiction of the Frontier Nursing Service and its couriers.	1933, Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky during the Great Depression	Casting off societal expectations and pursuing what God has for an individual.	An Appalachian Summer by Ann H. Gabhart is a wonderful read of adventure. It focuses on not settling for an easy life or what is socially expected of us. I found the characters to be interesting, deep and well crafted. It holds its own in the genre of historical Christian fiction. It has a unique addition, however, with the fascinating weaving of the Frontier Nursing Service throughout the story. The FNS was established by Mary Breckinridge, who used her affluence to create a nursing service in the Appalachian Mountains. This service mostly brought healthcare to mothers and children in areas of great poverty. Between the use of the FNS, Mary Breckinridge and Piper Danson, the author shows how privilege can be used as a resource to benefit those around us and influence the world for a greater purpose. The love story as well adds to the development of the characters and the richness of the book, leaving you wondering often which gentleman Piper will choose.
Eason, L. (2019). <i>Code of valor</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 315 pp. \$15.00 ISBN 9780800727048 (Blue Justice 3)	Hannah Loewen, Providence University College and Theological Seminary	Mystery	After investigating suspicious bank deposits Emily Chastain is followed.	Emily Chastain, Brady St. John, the St. John family, other law enforcement officials, criminals	Sicily and Columbia, South Carolina and surrounding area	Good and evil, faith and trust	Emily Chastain is being targeted. After her best friend disappears, Emily realizes the reason is the suspicious deposits she discovered at the bank. Brady St. John becomes involved after a daring rescue. As the body count rises, we are no closer to solving the mystery. Who is involved? What are they involved in? Throughout the danger, Emily trusts in God. She is confident in her worth in His eyes. Her faith is an example to those around her, drawing others to choose to follow Him. Fans of Dani Pettrey, DiAnn Mills, Dee Henderson and Terri Blackstock will enjoy this book.
Zook, Jr. A. M. (2019). <i>The Crashin' Coaster mystery</i> . Friendswood, TX: Bold Vision Books. 281 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9781946708434	Kathleen Flanagan, Benedictine College	Mystery	Two wrongs don't make it right!	Two brothers and their dogs who solve mysteries.	Set in the recent past 1999.	Truth wins over deceit amid friendship and loyalty	Who is Mr. G? How does this new package he sent to the boys figure into the theme park disasters? Alex and Gabe use their training, experience, and clues in the box to solve the mysteries. The one behind the disasters thinks he is helping his father's business mistakes while trying to keep his friend's position on football team away from the new-comer. In this clever young adult novel, truth wins over deceit!
Harris, L. (2019). <i>Deadly intentions</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 297 pp. \$11.00 ISBN 9780800729165	Hannah Loewen, Providence University College and Theological Seminary	Mystery	Suspicious deaths set Caitlyn on edge and cause her to reach out to detective Josh Solomon.	Caitlyn Lindsey, Josh Solomon	Present time	Good and evil, faith and trust	Three people from the lab where Caitlyn Lindsey works as a research scientist have died within the last year. When a vehicle that has been following her forces her off the road, she gets suspicious. She enlists the help of detective Joshua Solomon to figure out what project at work is worth killing for. Whom can they trust? Will they discover the secret in time to stop the criminals? Will Caitlyn learn to trust again? Fans of Lynette Eason, Dani Pettrey, Dee Henderson and Terri Blackstock will enjoy this book.
Dekker, R. (2020). <i>Nine</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 348 pp. \$17.99. ISBN 9780800735968	Grace E. Andrews, Wesley Biblical Seminary	Science Fiction	The government's biological weapon experiment has gone wrong.	A girl grown in a lab, a waitress, and an FBI agent	Arkansas, Texas, and Tennessee, present-day	A quest for identity, a struggle between self-giving love and self-protection	Lucy, the mysterious girl with uncanny abilities. Zoe, the waitress who has learned to trust no one but herself. Seeley, the FBI agent who will sacrifice anything for his job – even his own soul. Thrown together in an unwanted adventure, these three find a common bond in fear of their own dark pasts, distrust, and the dawning question of whether they can shape their futures. Featuring punchy action sequences laced with tender scenes, this spine-chilling YA novel will thrill readers in one scene and plunge them into deep contemplation in the next. Dekker delivers an engaging emotional roller-coaster.
Goddard, E. (2020). <i>Don't keep silent</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 368 pages. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800729868	Bethany Groves, Asbury University	Mystery	While searching for her missing sister-in-law, a reporter must face people and events from her own past.	Rae Burke is an investigative reporter and Liam McKade is a former DEA agent who almost lost his life saving Rae's. Their actions and reactions are believable and true to people in their given situations and occupations.	Set in the present time, with references to events that happen in the recent past, the story takes place in Colorado & Wyoming.	This is a story about forgiveness, love (both romantic and familial), and trusting in God's providence and protection.	The third book in the Uncommon Justice series by Elizabeth Goddard, <i>Don't Keep Silent</i> is a suspenseful story centering around investigative journalist Rae Burke. Stopping at nothing to follow a story and save a life, Rae often finds herself in perilous situations. But when her sister-in-law, Zoey, disappears, Rae's past begins to resurface, including former DEA agent Liam McKade, who aides in the search. Although at times the many flashbacks can be confusing, the alternating narrative perspectives of Rae and Liam are effective in helping the reader learn about the past and present situations in which the two main characters find themselves. Often heart-pounding and engaging, the detailed story can stand on its own apart from the series and has many twists that leave the reader wondering if the main characters will succeed. Best for adult readers, this story addresses the issue of human trafficking in the United States, all while infusing the difference trust in God can make in a person's life.

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Cabot, A. (2021). <i>Dreams rekindled</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 340 pp. \$ 15.99	Rose Van Houten, Christian Junior/Senior High School	Fiction	Love story with past events adding to present issues.	Dorothy Clark Brandon Holloway Newspaper partners	Texas 1850's	Brandon's past-wanting to start over. Dorothy-wanting to make a difference with her writing.	<i>Dreams Rekindled</i> is the second book in Amanda Cabot's Mesquite Springs series. Set in a small Texas town in the 1850's the two main characters, Brandon and Dorothy are drawn together to create a newspaper that tells the truth but also stays away from political controversy. Events from Brandon's past come back to cause problems with the paper as well as putting townspeople in danger. The characters in the book are believable and their work and person relationship keep the story line moving. The professional dream of Dorothy, that of having her writing make a difference in the world, sometimes contributes to the problems that the publishing of the paper brings about, but her perseverance and desire to make things right brings her fulfillment in the end. <i>Dreams Rekindled</i> would be a good addition to a church or personal library.
Ruchti, C. (2021). <i>Facing the dawn</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 320 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800737290	Bethany Groves, Asbury University	Fiction	A woman experiences a horrific loss and must learn to persevere.	Mara Jacobs is a mother of three, whose husband works overseas. Her emotional journey is real and heartbreaking. She reacts as anyone in her situation would. The author portrays her as relatable without sugar-coating her reality or denying the character's feelings.	Set in the present. Mostly set in Wisconsin, with small scenes in Florida and Uganda.	The pain of loss and the power of God to heal, protect, and provide a future; friendship	In <i>Facing the Dawn</i> , Cynthia Ruchti eloquently and tenderly portrays one woman's journey through grief. Mara Jacobs is just barely holding it together as she acts as a single-mom to her three children, while her husband is off saving the world in Africa. Then unexpectedly, everything changes. While the sudden changes occur without warning throughout the book, the aftermath and the description of Mara's feelings and reactions are relatable and heart wrenching. Due to difficult subject matter, this book is best for adult, or mature teen, readers. Throughout the novel, Ruchti uses beautiful imagery and symbolism as she describes Mara's inner turmoil and growth. Readers may want to have a tissue close at hand as they journey with Mara to discover the steadfastness of God's love and learn the promises of a new day.
Fisher, S.W. (2021). <i>At lighthouse point</i> . Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell. 307 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735005	Naulayne R. Enders, Kentucky Christian University	Romance	The youngest daughter overcomes her grief to become an independent adult with God's help.	Blaine Grayson, a Cordon Bleu Chef, and Artie Lotosky, her friend and island doctor, have been friends since college and are a support system for each other.	Set in the present day on a coastal island of Maine	Learning how to deal with family as an adult when you are the youngest child. Spiritual and emotional maturity help the main character in dealing with her grief and depression.	Fisher's writing handles the topic of depression with gentleness and kindness. She emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth in dealing with this mental health issue with the introduction of her sub-character, Jean-Paul. Her dialog between characters makes it easy to see the conflict between being an adult and dealing with family members that treat you as they always have. While the book has a melancholy feel throughout the book, her description of food makes you want to joyfully head to the kitchen and try the recipes that you can almost taste.
Fisher, S.W. (2020). <i>On a coastal breeze</i> . Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell. 306 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800734992	Naulayne R. Enders, Kentucky Christian University	Romance	The middle daughter overcomes misunderstandings of her past to enter into a romantic relationship that has God as the centerpiece.	Madison Grayson, a marriage and family therapist, and Rick O'Shea, the new pastor. Their past relationship creates a fun-tension that resolves into a romantic one that is centered on God.	Set in the present day on a coastal island of Maine.	Healing that comes from the love of family and trust in God. These characters cannot move forward without trust in God as the center of their relationship. Their belief in God is what helps them to put their physical issues as well as romantic issues into perspective.	Fisher uses flashbacks to the past to develop a strong tension between the two main characters. Their misunderstandings require them to pray their way to forgiveness and good communication which allows them to develop a healthy romantic relationship. Fisher's character development contributes to the ability of the reader to identify with each person. Their dialogue is realistic and relatable. While Fisher's setting descriptions are 'nice', they tend to be more nature oriented and not specific to the location. They are a nice generic layer and make it easy to relate to as a 'beach' read.
Carlson, M. (2020). <i>The Christmas swap</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 163 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9780800738020	Amy C. Rice, Northwest Nazarene University	Romance	Two people are reluctant participants in a house exchange during Christmas.	Emma, a teacher by day who wants to pursue music as a career. Gillian, Emma's friend from college who always invites Emma to spend Christmas with her family. West, a house swap owner who is delayed leaving town. Harris, a guest of Gillian's family	Contemporary Breckenridge, Colorado	Love and friendship	Since the author has already had one of her novels adapted into a Hallmark Channel movie, this novel could easily be adapted to the small screen in the future. It has all the classic elements: mistaken identity, more than one person harboring a secret, and a potential love triangle. Familiar – and formulaic – elements do not take away from the heartfelt story of two people who forge a connection strong enough to overcome obstacles. Characters are believable in most respects, though readers' credulity may be stretched to the limit when the classic miscommunication threatens to end relationships.
Deibel, J. (2021). <i>A dance in Donegal</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 349 pp. \$15.39. ISBN 9780800738419	Reviewer Amy C. Rice, Northwest Nazarene University	Historical	A woman takes a teaching position in her late mother's hometown.	Moira, an American schoolteacher and the townspeople of Ballymann, Ireland	Ballymann, Ireland, 1920s	The effects of deceit and resentment and the redemption of forgiveness	When Moira Doherty takes a teaching position in her mother's hometown after her mother passes away in Boston, she encounters the challenges of teaching the children of Ballymann, but the biggest challenge may be the mystery of her mother's legacy and her own reputation in Ballymann. Fans of historical fiction will appreciate the ways the author realistically portrays details of a rural Ireland town and what a newcomer to a tight-knit town may encounter when trying to integrate into the community. The compelling mystery and its consequences will keep readers on the edge of their seats throughout the novel.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Nappa, M and Kosci, M. (2020). A dream within a dream: A Coffey & Hill novel. Grand Rapids: Revell. 410 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800726461	Amy C. Rice, Northwest Nazarene University	Mystery	Private investigators contend against the Boston Mob in their search for a person of interest in the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum art heist	Trudi Coffey, a private investigator whose degree is in literature and languages  Samuel Hill, Trudi's ex-husband, private investigator, former CIA, and current policeman  Dream, a man skilled in art forgeries, who needs help from Trudi and Sam	Present day Atlanta and Boston		The third book in the Coffey & Hill series, this novel is an action-packed mystery thriller that will appeal to fans of Robert Ludlum's Bourne series and to those who appreciate literary connections. Each book in the series has a connection to Edgar Allan Poe in some way. Further, those who are familiar with the art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990 will enjoy the Boston connection. Like the Bourne series, this novel depicts violence as the characters engage with their adversaries. Familiarity with the second novel in the series will help readers understand a couple of secondary characters.
Burkard, L. R. (2020). Miss Tavistock's mistake. Waynesville, OH: Lilliput Press. 241 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9781733311120	Amy C. Rice, Northwest Nazarene University	Romance	A young woman in Regency England wants to make the most of her first Season in London	Margaret Tavistock, whose given name is Feodora, embarking on her first London season.  Gabriel Rempeare, Margaret's cousin. Their uncle, The Duke, intends Mr. Rempeare to marry Margaret when she comes of age.  The Duke of Trent, who has taken in Margaret after her parents die. Mrs. Filbert, Feenie's companion.	Yorkshire and London, England, 1811	One lie begets many lies	Fans of Jane Austen and historical romances may appreciate the precocious Margaret Tavistock, who, in a fit of pique, misrepresents herself as a woman the gossip columns have been speculating about and embarks on her first London season as the other woman. This one act of deception is the catalyst to more misadventures in a humorous cautionary tale about the lengths one might go to preserve a lie. Intermingled in the plot are historical details about the Regency period, and the author provides a supplementary guide to one of the main events of the novel.
Eason, L. (2019). Protecting Tanner Hollow: Four romantic suspense novellas. Grand Rapids: Revell. 375 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800736460	Amy C. Rice, Northwest Nazarene University	Romance	Each novella's two main characters are either encountering a perilous situation or are a first responder: police, firefighter, or pastor.	Residents of – or visitors to – Tanner Hollow. Each of the stories also connects with one character at some point: the local police detective.	Present day Tanner Hollow, NC	God's providence in the midst of evil	Each of the romantic suspense novellas, someone is in grave danger, for various reasons. The term romantic suspense may tempt the reader to think that romance is at the forefront of these stories. However, each novella opens with heart-stopping dangerous situations, with the exposition and romance gradually unfolding after the reader is immersed in the action. The author is known for stories that incorporate characters who are military, law enforcement, and first responders. Similarly, in these stories, one of the main characters is someone who fits that description, and each story includes contact with the local police detective.
Fisher, S.W. (2019). Stitches in time. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 329 pp. \$ 15.99. ISBN 9780800727529	Rose Van Houten, Christian Junior Senior High School	Fiction	Foster care-in a fictionalized setting	Mollie Graber-school teacher Deacon Luke and Izzy Schrock	Present time	Foster care Also the responsibilities of leadership in the Amish community	Stitches in Time continues the story begun in the Deacon's Family series book one. Mollie Graber comes to Stoney Ridge to teach in the Amish school, looking for a fresh start in her life. Much of the story centers around the Amish community's being drawn into becoming involved in fostering girls from a nearby group home. Mollie is one of the first to volunteer and ends up with two girls who cause all kinds of problems for her. A concurrent theme in the book is the ongoing story of Luke and Izzy Schrock. Luke had made a promise to a former deacon that he would work on emptying the foster care system in Lancaster, a promise he is finding very difficult to fulfill. This book brought together two different worlds, that of the traditional Amish lifestyle and the world of foster care. Though fictionalized it brought to light some of the challenges and blessings of foster care. Stitches in Time would be a good addition to a church library or personal collection.
Threadgill, T. 2020. Collision of lies. Grand Rapids MI: Revell. 390pp. \$15.99 9780800736507	Paul B. Drake, Pacific Islands University	Mystery	Three years after a horrific train crash that killed a bus of school children, the mother of one of those children received a text message, "Help me, Mom."	Amara Alvarez, a police detector on the San Antonio Police Dept.	Present day, or within the past 15 years. Not a factor in the story.	Good and evil. Families dealing with disaster.	This is not a Christian novel in the sense that the Bible, God, and faith are not presented. It is a struggle between forces for good as presented by Detective Alvarez and the people behind the train-school bus collision as part of a much larger scheme. Age range is upper high school and above, but basic details of the deaths of children in a collision explosion might be disturbing to some readers. Not graphic. The storyline moves quickly in 77 chapters over 377 pages. The writer's style is engaging. The characters are portrayed as real people, with relatable feelings and fears. The description of police forensics is understandable and adds to the complexity of the investigation.

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White, B. (2019). A reluctant belle (Daughtry House Book #2). Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 370 pp. \$8.79. ISBN 9780800726904	Kristina E. Claunch, Sam Houston State University	Historical	Living in the South after the Civil War.	Sisters, a cousin, love interests, black friends, and the southern community. Real people with real struggles.	Set in Mississippi and the South after the Civil War.	Love, hate, fear, embracing others, and the true Christian walk.	This is the second book, and it dives right into the culture of the South after the American Civil War. The story utilizes details of battles and historical events which can be slightly confusing for the unfamiliar. Backstory from the first novel is also important and reinforces the need to read the books in order. In the context of the truth of God's love, the story addresses racism, prejudice, and the struggle for change in the South. It offers another perspective of life during this tumultuous time when all of America needed to heal and grow as a nation.
Threadgill, T. 2021. Network of deceit. (Amara Alvarez Book 2) Grand Rapids MI: Revell. 378pp. \$15.99 978-0800736514	Paul B. Drake, Pacific Islands University	Mystery	A teenager is found dead at a waterpark on a very hot day. The cause is expected to be heat stroke or overdose. The investigating detective uncovers a huge amount of money in the teen's room which has very sophisticated computer equipment. There seems to be much much more to his death and life.	Amara Alvarez, a police detector on the San Antonio Police Dept.	Present day	Good and evil.	This is not a Christian novel in the sense that the Bible, God, and faith are not presented. This is the second book about Detective Amara Alvarez of the San Antonio Police Department as she has finally received her promotion to the Homicide Division. Her first case of a teen death at a waterpark appears to be straight forward, but her instincts and perseverance lead her continue for search for the truth. Age range is upper high school to adult. The storyline moves quickly in 58 chapters over 365 pages. Details on computer and hacking help to add detail to the storyline, and doesn't bog it down.
Hannibal, J. R. (2021). The Paris betrayal. Grand Rapids: Revell. 348 pp. \$15.99. 9780800938501	Bob Phillips, Fort Worth, TX	Mystery	Special agent Ben Calix inexplicably finds himself in a maelstrom of unexplained attacks by a sinister force and abandonment by trusted colleagues from within "The Company." Not only must Calix outwit those who would do him harm, but he must also discover why the Company itself has seemingly betrayed him.	The complex cast of characters includes Ben Calix, top agent for the "Company"; Clary Razny, Calix's neighbor caught up in the intrigue; Otto, her dog; Jupiter, a billionaire psychopath intent on world domination; and his henchmen who chase Calix across western Europe.	Set in the present, the action moves from Rome to Paris to Luxembourg, Rotterdam, Zurich, and Spain—ending in the United States.	Questions of theodicy control the narrative – why do bad things happen to good people? Does evil always win? The author promises a companion Bible study (Job) later this year.	The complex cast of characters includes Ben Calix, top agent for the "Company"; Clary Razny, Calix's neighbor caught up in the intrigue; Otto, her dog; Jupiter, a billionaire psychopath intent on world domination; and his henchmen who chase Calix across western Europe.
Warren, S. M. (2020). The way of the brave. Grand Rapids: Revell. 345 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735845	Jennifer A. Rich, Hope International University	Romance	Reconciliation through a rescue	A former parachute jumper and CIA profiler broken by war. They meet again on Denali amid a deadly situation. The horrors of war still affect them.	Set in the present with some build up locations, the major story focuses on the perils of climbing Denali	While dealing with PTSD and guilt from war, the two main characters wrestle with if there is a God and why He allows certain painful events to happen.	Would a good God allow bad things to happen? Warren has her characters tackle this question through a harrowing climbing adventure on Denali. Through memories, the reader sees Jenny and Orion meet in Afghanistan before a painful event physically destroyed Orion and mentally devastated Jenny. Years later, they meet again in a deadly situation on Denali. The precise details of the equipment and techniques, as well as the topography of the climb add to the suspense as the reader watches the characters meet God and work through their painful pasts. As the situations become dicey, God's work is clearly revealed.
Warren, S. M. (2020). The heart of a hero. Grand Rapids: Revell. 357 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735852	Jennifer A. Rich, Hope International University	Romance	Understanding forgiveness and grace	A former SEAL and trauma surgeon weather a hurricane and other traumatic events.	Set in the present-day Florida, with some events in Minnesota and Europe	How does one accept grace when unable to forgive oneself and still survive a hurricane?	This book continues the adventure with Jake and Aria from the previous novel. A Category 4 hurricane ruins Aria's Florida vacation and, surprisingly, Jake flies to the rescue. They must contend with multiple life-and-death situations that lead Aria to realize she does not need to succumb to the guilt that accompanies her transplanted heart. They both learn that love is worth the effort. This novel ends with a bit of cliffhanger to set up the next segment of the trilogy.
Warren, S. M. (2020). The price of valor. Grand Rapids: Revell. 363 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735869	Jennifer A. Rich, Hope International University	Romance	Love in the midst of secrets and lies	A former SEAL and a CIA spy uncover a network of deadly traitors.	Set in the present-day Europe and Midwest USA.	Can love continue to grow when there are deadly secrets and lies?	For the last installment of the trilogy, Warren reveals that Hamilton Jones' wife is alive (after twice being "killed"), as a CIA spy. He comes to rescue her in Italy, after she is hunted by enemies throughout Europe, only to have a volcano erupt at the reunion. She hesitantly agrees to return with him to the USA when an attempted assassination on her occurs following the natural disaster. Trouble follows them home, but their love is renewed during the trials. The question is whether the truth will strengthen their love or destroy it for good.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Goddard, E. (2021). Present danger: Grand Rapids. Revell. 379 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800737986	Ruth E. Martin, Lancaster, PA	Romance					This suspenseful well written first book in the series Rocky Mountain Courage introduces readers to Montana born mountain lovers bound together by loss and pain. Terra, a single US Forest Service Special Agent, is the main character having returned home to MT to live near her grandfather and brother. The series follows 3 childhood friends, Terra, Erin and Alex, as they each identify unique careers and continue their childhood friendships. Terra investigates a murder with former FBI agent & boyfriend, Jack Tanner as crimes and secrets are exposed. With many twists and turns, this complex story will be enjoyed by those that love a good mystery and like several unusual turns as the story is completed. While weaving an interesting story with elements of abandonment, self-worth, family, and lasting friendships, readers will see murder, blackmail, and more. Recommended.
Hannibal, J. R. (2019). The Gryphon heist. Grand Rapids: Revell. 379 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735777	Tiffany Hudson, Southwestern Assemblies of God University	Fiction	Rookie CIA agent Talia navigates the difficulties of her first assignment while facing demons from her past. Who can she trust?	Talia Inger is the main character; while she does act like a real person, she is not interesting. The secondary characters are much more interesting, especially Adam Tyler. A series focused on Tyler's history would be significantly more engaging than Talia's.	Set in the current day, traveling from Virginia to the former USSR to various places in Europe.	Forgiveness	More accurately classified as spy fiction, Gryphon Heist fails to live up to the high standard authors like Tom Clancy have set. Hannibal struggles with writing an interesting female character. Additionally, Hannibal depends on fatphobic tropes to develop some of his minor characters, relying on the false idea that fatness = badness. The theme of forgiveness is woven throughout the story successfully, though, and does not feel forced. Readers who want to wet their feet in spy fiction before committing to a heavier read could enjoy this book; however, most readers would be better advised to pick up Patriot Games.
Hannon, I. (2021). Blackberry beach: Grand Rapids. Revell. 336 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9780800736156	Ruth E. Martin, Lancaster, PA.	Romance					A Hope Harbor Novel, Hannon provides a warm romance based in Oregon. She picks up the story of Zach, brother to Josh in a previous title, who gives up his dream job for a laid-back small business in the town of Hope Harbor. The Perfect Blend is a hub in town where many locals meet. Hannon develops characters with struggles about career choices, family difference, security, and second chances. The predictable story is a bit slow at times. We meet again a town favorite Charly, an artist and taco master, but wonder if he is more than he seems. Those who like Hannon will likely enjoy this title.
Bradley, P. (2019). Justice delivered. Grand Rapids: Revell. 357 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800727192	Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello	Mystery	A young woman escapes human traffickers and then begins investigating those behind her abduction.	The main character is Carly Smith. She is a complicated character dealing with anxiety issues that stem from her past. She is a very sympathetic character.	It is set in modern day Memphis, Tennessee.	The theme is forgiveness of self and others.	Patricia Bradley has written an eminently readable thriller that keeps the reader on the edge of their seat throughout the entire book. This is the fourth in a series set in Memphis however, it can read as a standalone novel. This is a very well written book that speaks to the talent of the writer for how well she describes the abuse and fall out from it that victims of human traffickers deal with on a daily basis. Readers should be aware that the topic of human trafficking is a very heavy subject but Patricia Bradley handled it with the care it deserves. Justice Delivered will be a great addition to any Christian thriller collection.
Fordham, R. (2019). Yours truly, Thomas. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 309 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735388	Greta Breukelman Grond, Northwestern College	Historical	A young woman, intrigued by love letters she reads at the dead letter office, sets out to find the writer of the letters	Penny, an employee at the dead letter office; Thomas, the writer of letters and a new farmer in Iowa; a solid cast of townspeople	Washington, DC area and Azure Springs, IA, 1883	Love, choosing one's own path, forgiveness	In this novel, good-humored Penny grows curious about Thomas, a man who writes poignant but undeliverable letters. Penny attempts to learn more about the guarded Thomas, even seeking him out in an Iowa town, yet the new friendship is complicated by their pasts and familial pressures. Unique supporting characters add color to the tale. The author uses letters to advance the plot, but critical scenes may have been better relayed using the novel's voice. Furthermore, the climax of the story seemed far-fetched. Even so, the burgeoning relationship, pastoral setting, and engaging characters will likely satisfy fans of historical romance.
Fisher, S.W. (2021). The Moonlight school. Grand Rapids, MI. Revell 320 pp. \$ 15.99 9781493428588	Rose Van Houten, Christian Junior Senior High School	Fiction	Cora's plan to eliminate illiteracy in Rowan County, KY	Cora Wilson Stewart Lucy Wilson Wyatt Tolliver	Early 1900's Rowan County, KY	The problem of illiteracy in America and one woman's fight against it	The Moonlight School is a fictionalized story based on the true story of Cora Wilson Stewart, the first female superintendent of education for Rowan County, KY, back in the early 1900's. Her mission was to combat poverty by encouraging literacy among not just the mountain children, but also adults. Offering what came to be known as Moonlight School the adults had the opportunity to come to the schoolhouses in the evenings by the light of the moon after their workdays were done. Even though this book was fiction there were many historical details about the huge problem of illiteracy in the time period, early 1900's. The characters in this book were telling the story in an interesting and caring way, giving insights into the traditions and superstitions of the people who were caught in the cycles of poverty and illiteracy. The Moonlight School is an informative book about a serious subject, but told in story form with interesting characters and enough romance and family interactions to make it a good read. This book would be a good addition to a church or personal library.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Koslin, M. (2021) Never miss. Grand Rapids, MI., Revell . 352 pp. \$ 15.99.	Rose Van Houten, Christian Junior Senior High School	Fiction	Trying to stop a deadly virus from being unleashed	Kadance Tolle Lyndon Vaile	Present day	2 characters on a quest to stop a virus while each one comes to terms with past heartaches and tragedies	Never Miss is a fast paced action story with an unlikely romantic twist between the two main characters. Kadance is a former CIA sniper who comes from a family of assassins. While trying to stay under the radar she encounters Lyndon and saves him from an attack on his life. Lyndon is on a quest of his own, that of trying to prove that the Ebola virus that killed his parents is actually man made and that there is a deadly plan to spread it, starting in the nation's capitol. Combining their unique gifts and talents they bring all this to a surprising conclusion and also manage to fall in love along the way. Never Miss is a page turner that would be a great read for anyone who enjoys a fast paced and intriguing plot.
Bradley, P. (2021). Obsession. Grand Rapids: Revell. 359 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735746	Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello	Mystery	A Natchez Trace Ranger has a deadly stalker while also trying to solve her twin brother's disappearance from ten years ago.	Natchez Trace Ranger Emma Winters and Natchez Trace law enforcement district Ranger Sam Ryker are the main characters. They are dealing with a shared past as well as the danger of the present situation. The characters are well created and act as one would expect them to act in their respective situations.	It is set in modern day Natchez, Mississippi.	The themes are forgiveness and restitution.	Patricia Bradley has created an interesting series located in the Natchez Trace. This is the second book in the series following a Natchez Trace Ranger named Emma Winters. The two threads in the book seem to compete for attention much of the time but the author resolves them neatly. Patricia Bradley has an easy writing style that pulls the reader into the story and holds them until the end. Obsession is a fun thriller that will engage readers who enjoy a little danger with their love story. It will be a good addition to any library with a Christian thriller section.
Kirkpatrick, J. (2019). One more river to cross. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell. 345 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800727024	Mary Tatro, Augustana College	Fiction	The fight for survival	Immigrants moving west to California	1844-1845 in Sierra Nevada Mountains and California	Friendship	Based on true events, One more river to cross focuses on the last few months (from October 1844 to March 1845) of the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend Party, a group of mostly Irish Catholic immigrants consisting of men, women, and children, as they travel overland from Missouri to California. All goes well until they reach the Sierra Nevada Mountains in November. With snow starting to fall and food supplies dwindling, this group has several hard life and death decisions to make including should they stop and seek shelter or push ahead and continue their journey over the mountains?
Cabot, A. (2020). Out of the embers. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 336 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735357	Amber C. Wessies, Union University	Romance	A young woman and her orphaned charge move to Mesquite Springs. They open a restaurant and build a life while trying to stay safe from potential dangers of the past.	Evelyn, a young woman whose parents were murdered ten years ago. Polly, a 6-year-old orphan who cannot tell anyone her last name. Wyatt, horse farm owner who lost his father several years ago.	Set in Texas Hill Country, specifically Gilmorton and Mesquite Springs from December 1855 to Spring/Summer 1856	Set in Texas Hill Country, specifically Gilmorton and Mesquite Springs from December 1855 to Spring/Summer 1856	Out of the Embers is on par with the first novel in many other Christian historical romance series, so those readers who enjoy the genre will appreciate the novel. Cabot incorporates suspense and mystery within her love story highlighting both romantic and familial love. The main characters have a strong propensity to forgive those things that would seem unforgivable. Their forgiving spirit and sacrificial love tug at reader's heartstrings. Overall, this book is recommended for a public library's historical fiction or romance collection.
Drexler, J. (2020). Softly Blows the bugle. Grand Rapids: Revell. 303 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9781493426638	Lillian M. Purdy, Louisiana College	Romance	A young, Amish Civil War widow has two men vying for her hand in marriage, but there is an evil element attempting to invade her community.	A young Amish widow and her extended family and friends. Her family portrays an innocence as well as kindness to strangers. The Amish community daily demonstrates their Christian faith.	Post-Civil War in Ohio.	True character is shown when an individual is tested.	This book is the last in the series The Amish of Weaver's Creek. Readers of the previous novels in the series will enjoy this final story line. The author provides a glimpse into the simple lives of the Post-Civil War Amish as they become more involved with the outside world. The book offers outsiders a better understanding of Amish ways and lives and shows how the spiritual aspects of their Christian faith is interwoven in all aspects of their lives. The novel presents a surprising contrast of innocence and evil, and readers are drawn in to the protagonist's marital prospects.
Kirkpatrick, J. (2020). Something worth doing. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell. 312 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800736118	Mary Tatro, Augustana College	Fiction	One woman's passion to help women	Abigail Scott Duniway	1852-1912 in Oregon	Women's rights	Something worth doing chronicles the real life of Abigail "Jenny" Scott Duniway starting with her journey overland from Illinois in 1852 and settling in the Oregon Territory with her father, stepmother, and her siblings. Abigail becomes a teacher, a wife, a mother, a writer, and an entrepreneur. However, she constantly sees injustice toward women. They have no voice, no power, no rights, no vote. But what can she do? How can she help women? Is this a cause worth doing regardless of how long it takes or how it turns out?



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Smith, J. E. (2020). <i>Star of Persia: Esther's story</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 354 pp. \$15.99 ISBN 9780800734718	Noelle C. Keller. Adrian College	Biblical Fiction					Jill Eileen Smith's latest volume in her <i>Daughters of the Promised Land Series</i> stars Queen Esther, (aka Hadassah) as the Star of Persia. The novelization of Esther's story from the biblical book bearing her name is primarily set in the reign of King Xerxes I, King of Persia, approx. 519 BC-464/5 BC. The Persian kingdom's capital city of Susa is the geographic backdrop just prior to, during, and after war with Greece. The additional biblical cast of main characters includes: Queen Vashti; Mordecai, Hadassah's adopted father and scribe to King Xerxes; and Haman, Amalekite enemy of the Jews. Fictional supporting characters are: Atossa, King Xerxes' Mother; Armestris, Mistress of King Xerxes; and Levia, Mordecai's wife. Each part of the book is prefaced with a passage from the book of Esther as a framework. This version of Esther's story focuses on the women's perspectives and weaves in secular historical context. Queen Vashti's fictional point of view is particularly featured in Part I. Armestris' scheming are prevalent in Parts 2 and 3. The relationships, conflicts, and palace intrigue present a different take on the biblical account. The psychological motivations of the women advance the fictional account. The ancient historical setting is the backdrop of a story fit for a modern soap opera drama plot. However, this fictional presentation of the story of Esther did little to advance historical understanding of the period and felt more modern in its approach to the characters' motivations. The negative portrayals of the male characters betrayed a convention of modern media that was distracting and disheartening. It would be appropriate for late teenagers through adults due to the nature of the wives, mistresses, concubines, and harem that are part of the history and story. Although tame by contemporary standards there are a couple of passages that could 'warm the cheeks' of a modest reader. If you like the author's other Old Testament fiction retellings of the <i>Wives of the Patriarchs, Wives of King David</i> , or other women in the <i>Daughters of the Promised Land series</i> , then you will want to include <i>Star of Persia</i> on your reading list. There are many fictional retellings of Esther's story including: Angela Hunt's <i>A Dangerous Beauty</i> series first installment, <i>Esther: Royal Beauty</i> , and Tommy Tenney's <i>Haddasah: One Night with the King</i> , the basis for the 2006 20th Century Fox film adaptation. Part 4 stays closest to the biblical account and gives the most specific voice and attention to Esther. Little of her depiction in Parts 1-3 prepares the reader for the heroic Esther of the last section. Esther's story is a good model for how to face a seemingly impossible situation that you never imagined you would experience with faith, obedience, and courage. However, the biblical account and other fictional accounts are more inspiring.
Hannon, I. (2020). <i>Starfish pier</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 343 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800736149	Susanah J. Wilson Hanson, Trinity School for Ministry	Romance	Will the secrets of these people destroy their budding relationship? Can a couple with diverse views find love together?	Combat veteran Steven Roark and first grade teacher Holly Miller	Set in the present in Hope Harbor, Oregon	Love	Readers who enjoy the novels of Debbie Macomber and similar authors will likely enjoy this novel. There are plenty of plot twists and secrets to keep the reader engaged. Depth was achieved in this book by discussing such topics as alcoholism/addiction and right-to-life issues. While God is mentioned in the book, and so is church, the name Jesus is not. While there was good character development throughout much of the book, there were a few characters who were a bit far-fetched: the seagull "couple" and the clerics, whose banter was a bit cliched (ribbing each other about golf, etc.)
Blackburn, L. H. (2021). <i>Unknown threat</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group. 345 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800737955	Kathleen Flanagan, Benedictine College	Romance	Taking out those who interfered, one agent at a time.	Two Special Agents	Set in the present.	Trust in the other	FBI Special Agent Faith Malone has been assigned to investigate the attacks on the local US Secret Service Agency. US Secret Service Agent Luke Powell is her "partner" from the Agency. Several Secret Service agents have lost their lives in the span of a few months and staying alive has become the mission of those left. As both agencies support one another in the investigation, the two primary agents work together learning to trust and respect the other as they follow leads and acknowledge own growing fondness for each other.
Eason, L. (2019). <i>Vow of justice</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 316 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800727208	Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello	Mystery	FBI partners work together to take down a Russian Mafia leader and his criminal organization. The past comes back in a vengeance for one of the FBI agents and they must work together to keep each other safe.	Lincoln St. John and Allison Radcliffe are the main characters. Lincoln is the more well- rounded of the two as Allison does not have quite the range of emotions that one would expect in her circumstances.	The book is set in modern day South Carolina.	The main themes of this book are: revenge, forgiveness and love.	Lynette Eason is known for her high-octane thrillers with a Christian undertone. This novel is no different. It is the fourth book in the <i>Blue Justice Series</i> . The author takes her readers on a nonstop journey following her main characters in their attempt to bring down a Russian mafia leader while remaining safe and exploring a new personal relationship. She brings in themes of revenge and forgiveness which makes her characters seem all the more real to her readers. This is a wonderful addition to a library with patrons who enjoy thrillers or mysteries.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Finger, C. (2019). <i>Capsized by Death</i> . Plymouth, MA: Elk Lake Publishing Inc. 161 pp. 12.99 (paper, Amazon). 9781951080860	Gary Averill, Sum Bible College and Seminary	Fiction	Finding a killer while vacationing in Maui	Jo Oliver more human than in most mysteries. Nick Vitarello more stereotypical, thoughts/emotions not as developed	Present, takes place on Maui	Family and friends	A three-part story. The first is the capsizing of Jo's boat with conversations about miracles, good and evil, and God (Bible verses are used). The second part is mostly about how Jo feels and interacts with family,
Sundin, S. (2021). <i>When twilight breaks</i> . Grand Rapids: Revell. 365 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800736361	Juliana Morley, Biola University	Historical	As Evelyn and Peter begin to uncover the brutality of Hitler's regime, Peter's optimism wanes, and he begins to work against the Nazis by feeding sensitive information to Evelyn for her reports. Together they experience harrowing and heroic moments during Kristallnacht and the burning of a Jewish synagogue. As the war progresses, they draw the unwanted attention of the Nazis and fall deeper into danger - and in love with each other.	Evelyn "Firebrand" Brand is an American foreign correspondent trying to make her way in a male-dominated profession. She is tired of writing "fluff stories" and wants to expose the tyranny and injustice happening in Nazi Germany - at any cost. Peter Lang is a handsome, compassionate American graduate student working on his PhD in German. Still reeling from the chaos of the Great Depression, he is enjoying the order and success of German society.	1938 Munich	Good and evil, love, courage, WWII	Sarah Sundin is the bestselling author of several WWII romance novels. <i>Through Waters Deep</i> and <i>When Tides Turn</i> were named in Booklist's "101 Best Romance Novels of the Last 10 Years." This gripping, love story surrounded by the conflict of WWII is another testament to Sundin's knack for historical accuracy and compelling drama. While the characters are not as deeply developed as in her previous novels, the romance is still intriguing, and Evelyn and Peter work well together as protagonists who learn to communicate with God and trust each other. Informative and engrossing, <i>When Twilight Breaks</i> is highly recommended for all historical fiction collections.

