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Volume 65 | Issue 1

Article 57

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12-1-2022

## Fiction Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

(2022) "Fiction Reviews," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 65: Iss. 1, Article 57.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.2377>

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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?



Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
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.



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Harris, L. The chase. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 314 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737313	Mary Tatro, Augustana college	Mystery	Over the past few weeks, a series of bank robberies have taken place in the city. On Madison's first day back on the job as a U.S. Marshall after a three month leave of absence due a gun shot wound, she and her partner Jonas Quinn are called in to investigate the robberies when they receive a call that a robbery is in progress, a security guard has been shot, and hostages are involved. Will they be able to free the hostages and arrest the robbers before anyone is hurt or killed?	Madison James and Jonas Quinn are U.S. Marshalls. Madison is still grieving and investigating the murder of her husband and Jonas is still finding closure to a previous relationship. However, these two partners over time become friends willing to help each other through physical, emotional, and mental obstacles on and off the job.	Present day in Seattle, Washington and surrounding area	Good & evil and Relationships and friendships	Young adult / Adult readership; Less violent than other books in this genre
Harris, L. The catch. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 341 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737320	Mary Tatro, Augustana College	Mystery	U.S. Marshals Madison James and Jonas Quinn are searching for the woman who murdered a judge's wife. However, when they find her, she explained what really happened and the case takes an unexpected twist involving kidnapping, witness protection, and mobster connections which involves them traveling to remote areas outside the Seattle area. At the same time, Madison is trying to find her husband's killer. As she gets closer to tracking down the truth, the murderer plots to kill Madison.	U.S. Marshals Madison James and Jonas Quinn	Present day in Seattle, Washington and surrounding area	Friendship and trust	Young adult and adult audiences readership.
Finkbeiner, S The Nature of Small Bids. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 356 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800739355	Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and Seminary	Romance	Change, family, and adopting a Vietnamese child.	Bruce, Linda, Sonny, are orators, there other characters that are important such as the adopted child. This is a real fictional family. You can substitute almost any family in their place and it work.	It is the past (1970's, 1980's, and 2010's). It is the same town throughout the book. It is about a family and how it changes through a life span so different location in that town.	Life, how it flows bringing change.	This book is probably more centered to a female who has had a family though there is a male protagonist that the female author portrayed very accurately. The author has three voices and speaking one moment at time before letting the next protagonist speak. Then after all three protagonists speak, she starts the rotation again. She does this flawlessly. This style of writing is rare and hard to write.

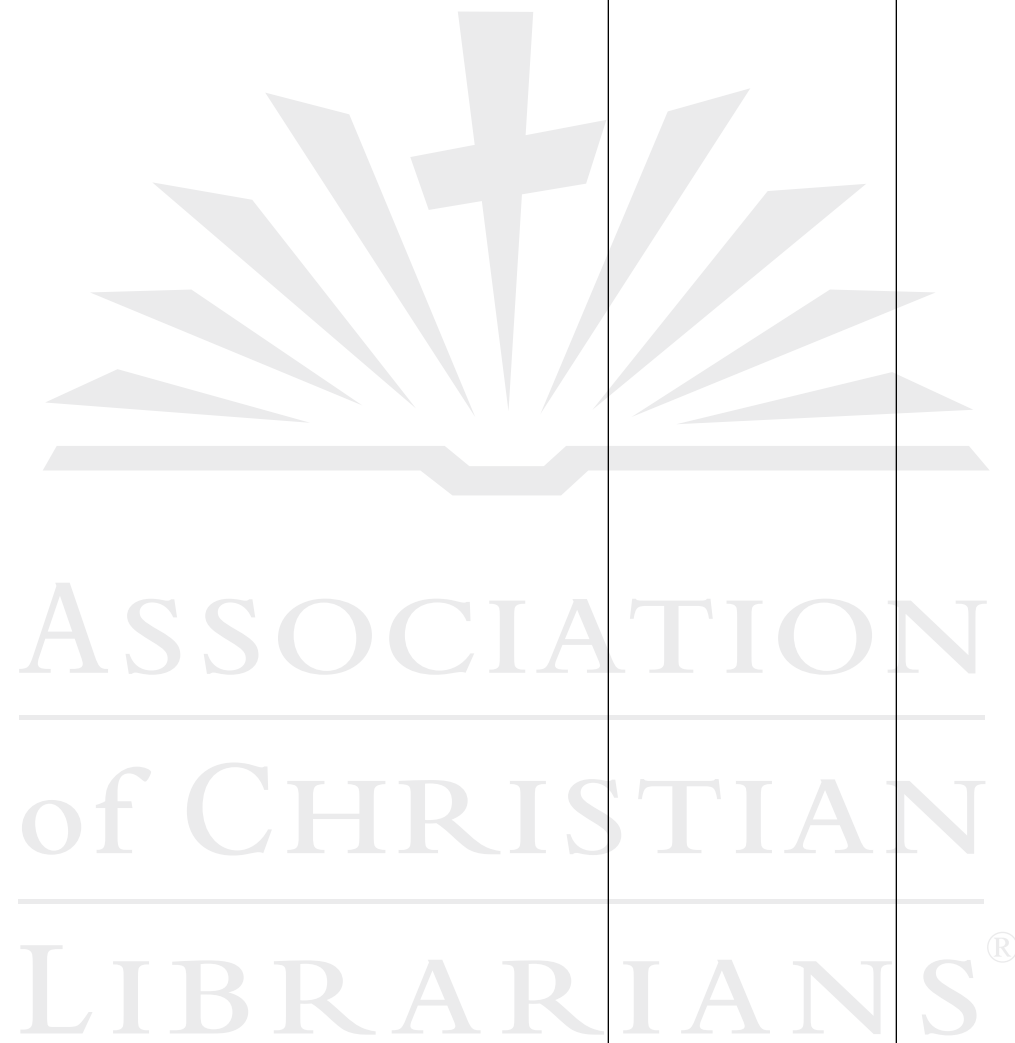
Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Finkbeiner, S The Nature of Small Birds. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 356 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800739355	Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and Seminary	Romance	The reader is taken back to a time that was pivotal to each of the three protagonist and connected to the fourth character Mindy who has no voice but important to the story. Each protagonist goes deeply into their emotions and thoughts including past hurts, family dynamics, and about the challenges Mindy, the adopted Vietnamese daughter faces.	Linda, the mother, at the time she is adopting a child from Vietnam; Sonny, the daughter, when she was transitioning to college; and Bruce, the father, is talking during his twilight years. Some readers will find it hard not to relate the characters, it is real life.	Linda when she is narrating, it is in the 1970s. When Sonny is talking it is 1980s. When Bruce is talking it is the 2010s. They are the same family living in a small town.	The flow of life, changes, both good and bad..	This book is about family as well as adoption, so the audience maybe women, but many more could benefit from this book. The author's gift is how she uses important moments in a larger story and weaves them together. Each moment is a chapter, when that moment ends a new chapter begins with the next of the three protagonists speaking. Once all three have spoken, the cycle begins again. The moments of one protagonist are all interconnected into one story line and the three stories create a larger story about a family going through life. A seamless story.
Connealy, M. The element of love. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers. 304 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764239588	Amber C. Wessies, Union University	Historical, Romance	The three Stiles sisters who have a knack for engineering and leadership are on the run from their stepfather and his plot to marry them off to evil men. While on their escape they join a group of missionaries headed to a shanty mining settlement. Will the sisters be able to find good husbands thus saving their mother and secure the family business? In the first book of The Lumber Baron's Daughter series, Laura takes a liking to Parson Calen Tillman, the leaders of the missionary group.	The main characters are the Stiles sisters, particularly Laura and the missionary parson, Caleb Tillman. Other side characters include Michelle and Jilly Stiles, Zane Hart, Margaret Stiles (the girls' mother), and Edgar Beaumont (the girls' stepfather). The three sisters are extremely intelligent and were raised to run the family lumber business. Their education taught them to use engineering, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and leadership skills, all of which come in handy in the mission field. Although, not stereotypical women of 1800s literature, their knowledge and behavior are believable based on the back story Connealy provides.	This novel takes place in the 1800s during the California Gold Rush. The characters live in a fictional "town" called Purgatory. There are also scenes set in a house in the forests near San Francisco.	The theme of this book is following God's calling and trusting His will. The characters also learn about friendship, honesty, and love.	Readers of Christian Historical Romance will enjoy The Element of Love. It was a quick but engaging read about sisters escaping their stepfather and trying to marry. Connealy consistent portrays the sisters' personality, analytical minds, and intelligence. Readers also see their naiveté as they navigate life's challenges. Although the gospel is not explained in this novel, the behaviors of Christians are evident as the main characters go to God for guidance in prayer. This book focuses on Laura and her potential husband; however, readers also learn about the other sisters, which foreshadows the rest of the series.
Hannon, Irene Labyrinth of lies. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 365 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800736187	Stephanie B. Leupp, Greene County (OH) Public Library	Mystery	Stephanie Laurent and her boyfriend have gone missing from Ivy Hill Academy and there is suspected drug cartel activity in the area. Are they connected?	Zeke Sloan is a detective for the DEA and his former love, Cate Reilly, is a detective for County Police. They've been sent to the same place undercover, Zeke a Spanish teacher and Cate a student. Cate has to morph her 33 year old self back to being 17 again and Zeke uses the serendipitous arrangement to meet for Spanish tutoring. They share information and Zeke works hard to keep to business. Cate was hurt by their breakup and is skittish. The author obviously has researched police methods and makes her characters come to life realistically.	This story takes place at Ivy Hill Academy and local areas, mostly in the St. Louis, MO vicinity.	This is a story about taking down a local drug cartel and finding missing persons.	Adult readers should enjoy this book; it is fast-paced and engaging. One's emotions become involved as one roots for Zeke and Cate to rekindle their romance and for both as they work to find out what is going on at Ivy Hill. At the end, it was frustrating to read that Cate had her personal cell phone when it had been taken by a criminal and she got a call from her boss that woke her up after a nasty ordeal; both unrealistic and to this reviewer, major errors. This book was laser focused on the story line.
Gabhart, A. H. When the Meadow Blooms. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 353 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800737221	Melissa Moore, Union University	Historical, Romance	Widow Rose Meadows is recovering from TB while her daughters are in an orphanage. Her only hope is her brother-in-law, Dirk Meadows, who was horribly scarred in a fire years ago and lives as a recluse on his farm.	Rose is a compassionate mother, separated from her daughters for two years while recovering in a sanatorium, who trusts in God to provide daily for her needs. At fifteen, Calla is curious, hard-working, and seeking the Lord, while nine-year-old Sienna is a daydreamer and lover of all creatures great and small. Dirk is still grieving the loss of his fiancé in the fire which scarred him and battling his inner demons. All of them are well-drawn, believable, and relatable.	1925 Kentucky. Rose lost her husband in the 1918 influenza outbreak.	This book is about family, faith, and forgiveness.	This book will appeal to both adult women and teen girls, because often the perspective is that of fifteen-year-old Calla. Dirk's perspective is often given, so men could enjoy it, though the cover clearly markets it for women. It is well-written historical fiction which clearly creates a vivid setting and simultaneously engages your emotions. While faith is present (Rose is devout, Calla is seeking to follow the Lord, and Dirk has backslidden from his faith in God), the beliefs come across as genuine and are not heavy-handed. The ending is satisfying but not trite or simplified, which I appreciated.



Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Shiloh, T. In search of a prince.. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers. 384 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764238956	Bethany Groves, Asbury University	Romance, Mystery	An ordinary girl discovers she is heir to an island kingdom, but faces many obstacles to ascend the throne, such as the law that she must marry before she can ascend the throne.	"Bri Bayo (Princess Brielle Adebayo) –an ordinary school teacher; Iris -- her best friend; King Tiwa Jimoh Adebayo -- a dying King / Bri's grandfather; various suitors and kingdom staff"	"Present; Imaginary island kingdom of I r llé –off the coast of Africa; New York City"	Friendship, love, and God's ability to sustain and guide your path, especially when He is sought after.	In Search of a Prince is a refreshing spin on what could be a tired tale. Toni Shiloh's protagonist, Brielle Bayo, a strong independent woman who enjoys her life in NYC, receives the news that she is heir to an African kingdom. The reader is immediately immersed in Bri's world and eagerly journeys with her as she follows a path full of unforeseen challenges, questionable suitors, and learning about a new culture she feels ordained to lead. Shiloh has crafted characters that are easy to connect with, whom the reader either roots for or easily despises. Threaded throughout the novel is a theme of trusting in God in every circumstance. In Search of a Prince is perfect for fans of books that contain encouraging romance, with a hint of mystery.
Carlson, M Looking for Leroy. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell. 287 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800739751	Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and Seminary	Romance	Looking a wrong of an Old Love	Brynna a teacher who is coaxed to look for an old love. Leroy is the lost love. Brynna is believable as a woman with a lot of emotional angst who has been hurt by love (common in romance novels). Leroy is a well rounded stereotypical stuck in his ways older man forced to change in both business and love. Many of us would love to correct an action that we did years before, this story connects to that primal need.	It takes place in the present. Most of the action takes place in a Sonoma Vineyard which is owned by Leroy.	It is about God shaping the future, and prayer.	This is written for women. The author, an award romance writer, follows the accepted romance formula. Still, the interactions between Brynna, Leroy, and the other characters do engage the reader, especially moving, a conversation between Leroy's mother and Brynna. Other characters are not flat but not fully developed. They are there to move the story, to add details, and bring about tension. The author also brings the reader into the story through her use of words to paint an easy to visualize picture which also adds to the story. The ending was abrupt and not well developed.
Fordham, R. Where the Road Bends. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 305 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800739744	Melissa Moore, Union University	Historical, Romance	Norah is desperate to keep her family's land in Iowa -- so desperate that she has agreed to marry a stranger. But when an injured man shows up on her property only weeks before the wedding, she is compelled to help him. During the next few days of nursing him back to health, Norah develops a deep and reciprocal connection with Quincy . Quincy realizes he must leave before he destroys Norah's only hope of keeping her farm, so he leaves town. Fast forward two years later, and their paths cross again, only this time it is Norah in need of rescuing. Quincy and Norah seem fated to be together, but can they make it work?	Norah King is a woman of principle who loves her land and dreams of a family. Quincy Barnes finds that just a few days with Norah are all it takes to awaken his faith in God and his desire for a more meaningful life. They are both believable, human characters who elicit hope in others (and in the reader).	1880s Iowa	Being a person of principle is the best way to live.	Women of all ages would like this book. It is very well written, with a creative plot line that faintly mirrors Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers. Fordham is a gifted writer who draws the reader in and doesn't let go. I read the entire book in one day, could not put it down.
Thompson, C. K. The letters. Benton, KY: Mantle Rock. 429 pp. 16.49. ISBN 9781951246204	Stephanie B. Leupp, Greene County (OH) Public Library	Mystery	Rachel Hamar, a severely depressed 35 year old bank teller, begins receiving a letter each day, close to Christmas. These missives unnerve her and she goes to the police, who agree it is the most bizarre case they've ever encountered.	Rachel Hamar, a 35 year old bank teller, her mother Dorothy, who is in a psychiatric asylum, Gordon Ames, Rachel's new boss at Sun Ridge Bank. They are very real people who have great depth of character. I feel like I know them.	The setting is December 2014, New York City	This story is about the toll of sin in our lives and how God wants to forgive us and show us His love for us. He wants us to live an abundant life.	This book was somewhat confusing at first, so I would recommend it for adults. This is my first reading of this author, but I've only read one other Christian author who is as bold about faith as Thompson is and I truly appreciate it. This story made me laugh, cry, and really ponder some issues in my own life. Thompson has a very engaging writing style, using first person narration most of the time. I wish he had wrapped up a few more details at the end, but it was a wonderful story.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Cabot, A. <i>The Spark of Love</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 352 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800735371</p>	<p>Amber C. Wessies, Union University</p>	<p>Historical, Romance</p>	<p>The Spark of Love brings readers back to the small town of Mesquite Springs, Texas. Alexandra has traveled to Mesquite Springs to escape a threatening suitor and reconnect with her father who is building a hotel. Gabe has come to Mesquite Springs to investigate Alexandra's father. Coincidentally, Alexandra and Gabe meet on the stagecoach and begin a friendship that might lead to something more. However, the secrets of the new residents of Mesquite Springs may tear apart Alexandra and Gabe's relationship.</p>	<p>The main characters are Alexandra Tarkington, Calvin Tarkington (King), and Gabe Seymour. They are joined by more nefarious characters of Sonny and Jason as well as the previous Mesquite Springs characters, Laura and Sam. These characters are likable, although those who have not read the previous books of the Mesquite Springs series may find secondary characters like Laura and Sam to be one-dimensional. However, the people of Mesquite Springs embody the image of a small 1850s town while also demonstrating the power of friendship, womanhood, and faith. Keeping track of Jason and Sonny was a bit more challenging as their backstories were important but also somewhat of a mystery.</p>	<p>This novel takes place in 1857. The characters live in a fictional town in the Texas Hill Country called Mesquite Springs.</p>	<p>The theme of <i>The Spark of Love</i> is love and the power of the truth.</p>	<p><i>The Spark of Love</i> is a Christian romance novel that completes Cabot's Mesquite Springs series. Readers will enjoy learning the futures of previous characters as well as the introduction of new characters who also grow in love and faith. Although Christian romance can be limited in depth of emotion, Cabot brings mystery into her series that adds to her character development. Cabot expertly weaves Christian faith into the novel without hitting readers in the face with the gospel. This is a book readers will not want to put down as they discover the hidden secrets of the characters.</p>
<p>Witemeyer, K. <i>In honor's defense</i>. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers. 384 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764232091</p>	<p>Chris Labuda, Pittsburg State University, Leonard H. Axe Library</p>	<p>Historical, Romance, Western</p>	<p>After the unexpected death of her older brother Damaris Baxter moves to Texas to take care of her orphaned fourteen-year-old nephew. She finds it hard to form a connection with him until through a series of interesting events Luke Davenport ends up staying with the two of them on their farm. Luke is a battle- and life-hardened man, Damaris is a bookworm born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, and Nate (Damaris' nephew) is a grieving teen that's taking out his frustrations on those he blames for his predicament. There's cattle rustling, a murder investigation, and a strong bond that forms between the three of them as they find themselves thrown into life and death situations throughout the story.</p>	<p>Luke Davenport, Damaris Baxter, and her nephew Nate Baxter are the main characters. I thought Witemeyer did an excellent job of making her characters believable. I found Damaris particularly interesting as a fellow bookworm. All the characters were interesting and engaging for the reader.</p>	<p>Most of the story takes place in Texas not too long after the American Civil War has ended (Luke is an ex-cavalryman). When we first met Damaris in the Prologue she is in St. Louis, but after that everything happens in Texas.</p>	<p>The story focuses heavily on God's promises, His love for us, and the main characters' love for each other as they grow into a family.</p>	<p>Romance and historical fiction readers could easily find something to love about this book. It is the final book in <i>The Hanger's Horsemen</i> trilogy, but can be read as a standalone book with no confusion. I laughed and cried with the characters throughout the story. The author's writing style was enjoyable and easy to read. Everything flowed well and naturally. I enjoyed this book immensely!</p>

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Frantz, Laura A Heart Adrift. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 391 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800734978</p>	<p>Cynthia Hammell,</p>	<p>Historical, Romance</p>	<p>Captain Henri Lennox was pressed into the British Navy from the American colonies and rose in the ranks. Many of his missions involve taking French and Spanish vessels and their cargo for the British Crown to ensure British colonial supremacy. He meets Esmee Shaw when her family settles in York, Virginia on one of the port cities. The couple share a dream of a lighthouse on nearby Indigo Island, because there is none for that part of the Virginia coast. They want to marry, but Esmee hesitates to marry a man who spends so much time at sea. This is in part because of how much her own mother missed her father when he was away with the navy. Henri and his crew stay away from York for ten years after this sad parting. Then in 1755, he returns after a long voyage. Esmee is running her late mother's chocolate shop selling confections and drinkable chocolate, adjoining her father's coffeehouse. She also does everything she can for the local almshouse. She has regrets about Henri and still thinks about the lighthouse. Can a chocolatier and a "privateer" build a life together? Can Esmee trust God when Henri is chosen for one last voyage? They, Esmee's family and even Virginia colony will face many dangers and trials before they find the answer. Esmee must rely on God's strength and protection and stand on His word when even the sea itself threatens to overwhelm her.</p>	<p>Esmee Shaw and Henri Lennox. Esmee runs a chocolate shop she is not greatly interested in advancing in society unlike her sister and many of her peers. She shows real compassion for the poor. Henri is a sea captain who is against slavery at that time. They have a dream of building a lighthouse to rescue those at sea.</p>	<p>This is set in the past 1755, Colonial Virginia: Williamsburg, York and Indigo Island.</p>	<p>Trusting God in difficult circumstances.</p>	<p>This story will appeal to Frantz's readers and readers who have an interest in American colonial history. The characters and relationships are believable, and the pace will keep the reader's interest. Frantz develops convincing plots with details that make the era and setting come to life, which makes her stand out as an author of Christian romantic historical fiction. This book should be an excellent addition to any library with a fiction collection.</p>



Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>White, R. M. <i>To Treasure an Heiress</i>. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 374 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764237195</p>	<p>Melissa Moore, Union University</p>	<p>Historical, Romance, Mystery</p>	<p>Beth has always been fascinated with adventure and pursuing the stories of her home, the Isles of Scilly, and she is especially intrigued by the possibility of a pirate's treasure being buried there somewhere. When Lord Sheridan shows up also searching for the treasure, she decides to overcome her concerns about him and work together to solve the mystery.</p>	<p>Beth Tremayne is an island girl -- brave almost to the point of recklessness and always curious. Lord Sheridan seems to be a bit pompous at first, but his true character is revealed in his interactions with Beth's family and how he handles the appearance of truly ruthless treasure hunters. There is also a significant secondary storyline of Beth's childhood friend Senara, who fell into sin with a man, and how she comes to seek the Lord.</p>	<p>1906 on the Isles of Scilly, though there is also the story of the pirate prince from 1650.</p>	<p>Adventure, forgiveness, and the value of family</p>	<p>Women of all ages, but especially those who like adventure. White does a wonderful job of dealing tenderly with Senara's wrong choices and the hope of forgiveness and restored purity, as well as crafting Christian characters who struggle with sin, forget at times to pray before the Lord calls them back, and are very easy to identify with.</p>
<p>Carlson, M. <i>A Christmas in the Alps</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 176 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800739331</p>	<p>Jennifer M. Brady, Creighton University</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p>Simone Winthrop has known loss. When her parents left at an early age, she was raised by her grandparents, but now they have passed, and finds herself lost and alone. Lost as to what she is supposed to be doing in life, lost as to where her home is, and lost as to who she is. When she finds a letter in her grandmother's belongings, addressed to her from her great-grandmother, her name sake, her best friend encourages her to start seeking the answers she has longed for her for too long.</p>	<p>Simone Winthrop &amp; Kyle Larson. They are interesting because they are predictable and easy to see ourselves in.</p>	<p>Present with some recalled memories</p>	<p>It is a feel good love story with a underlying story of forgiveness</p>	<p>This is easily a book for any age. I would be hard pressed to call it a Christian novela, but more of a clean novela with just enough mentions of prayer and church to not offend anyone. It is a short Christmas book that is a feel good, quick read that would easily be translated into what as become known as a "Hallmark movie" type book. A fun Christmas read, but a little predictable.</p>





Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Deese, N. All that it takes. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 352 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764239793</p>	<p>Jennifer M. Brady, Creighton University</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p>Val Locklier is good at keeping things in order – it is how she has helped keep her parents business running, why her best friend hired to to come run her business, and how she runs her family. The unexpected or taking risks has never really worked out for Val. Pastor Miles McKenzie's outreach ministry is built on the unexpected however. Serving people and churches internationally has been his passion since he was called to the mission field. When he is reassigned to a local outreach, he wonders if God is telling him it is time to take another risk and leave his home church. Val and Miles are both looking for what God is saying to them as their lives collide though a mutual acquaintance and a shared vision.</p>	<p>Val Lockleir and Miles McKenzie</p>	<p>Present setting, one location</p>	<p>love, listening to God, overcoming one's past to reap the rewards God has instore for our future</p>	<p>YA &amp; Adult readers alike will enjoy this book. Strong Christian engagement with an underlying message of overcoming one's past and personal expectations to allow God to work in us and through us. Good read for single moms and those having trouble forgiving themselves of past transgressions.</p>
<p>Meyer, G. When the Day Comes. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 384 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764239748</p>	<p>Jean Waldrop, Harding University</p>	<p>Historical</p>	<p>This novel, which the author describes as Historical Fiction, is the first of a series. This book is also found on lists for Romances and Time Travel. In the past, Meyer worked for state and local historical societies so the reader won't be disappointed in the historical aspects of the story, although some liberties were taken.</p>	<p>The story centers around the character of Libby, a young nineteen-year-old woman, who lives a double life in two different centuries. One day she wakes up in 1774 and the next morning she is living in 1914 with a totally different family. When she goes to sleep in one life, she wakes up in the other without any time passing. But on her twenty-first birthday she must choose which life she will stay in as she forfeits the other. She has family and friends that she loves in each life so making her choice becomes more difficult and complicated as the story unfolds.</p>	<p>In 1774, Libby lives in Williamsburg, Virginia, as the colonies are becoming unhappier under British rule. Libby has a loving mother in this century but her family faces hardships with her father having passed. Libby becomes one of the first female public printers as she carries on her father's business. In 1914, Libby lives in New York where her family is very wealthy. She has a loving father but her mother is hard on her and frowns upon Libby's work for women's suffrage. Her mother's goal is to find Libby a suitable husband from England so as to gain a title and affluence. In this century, Libby also faces challenges as another war is beginning, World War I.</p>	<p>Throughout the story of Libby's life, she believes God has a plan for her. She faces various challenges which makes her question God and why she was chosen to live a back-and-forth life between two different times. One of the themes found in the book is trusting in God even when one would rather go their own way. In the end, Libby finds that God did have a plan for her all along and it was so much better than she could have ever imagined.</p>	<p>Readers of all ages will find this book enjoyable even though it is not the typical Christian Historical Romance story. The contrast between two different centuries keeps things interesting. Also, the theme that runs throughout the book is thought provoking, as most everyone questions God's plans for them at some time or other in their life.</p>

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Hannon, I. <i>Sea Glass Cottage</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 327 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800736163</p>	<p>Grace E. Andrews, Wesley Biblical Seminary</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p>When Christi makes the long drive from Dallas to a small town in Oregon, she has no idea if her old flame, Jack, will give her the loan she needs to help her best friend fulfill her dream. Especially after what Christi did to Jack eleven years ago. As Christi tries to prove to Jack that people can change, she finds that she's not the only one in this charming coastal town who needs a chance at a fresh start.</p>	<p>- Christi Reece Powers, an heiress who has learned the hard way that first impressions can be wrong and money can't be trusted. Her hardships have transformed her from a shallow girl focused on what she can get to a God-honoring woman focused on how she can help those around her.</p> <p>- Jack Colby, policeman at day and best-selling crime novelist at night. He is driven by justice, integrity, and honor.</p> <p>- Beth and Steve Adams, a couple that is currently separated following the death of their son. Blame and guilt mingle with grief, complicating their road back to reconciliation.</p> <p>- Charley Lopez, local artist and taco chef, acts as the hand and voice of Providence to push people together and ask them soul-searching questions when needed. He is good friends with the resident seagulls.</p> <p>The characters are not always consistent. For example, Charley has every high emotional intelligence and thrives on asking the right questions at the right time without going too far. Yet, when he's talking to Steve about the death of Steve's son, Charley starts spouting platitudes instead of listening. Steve, who should have some kind of grief-driven reaction to this, simply meekly agrees with Charley that he's right.</p> <p>Similarly, the characters don't go far enough. They may get angry, but not angry enough to sin. They may get tired, but not enough to cause a messy and awkward argument that has to be cleaned up. All the mistakes are in the hazy past, and everyone in present-day Hope Harbor is nice and incapable of making mistakes, unless they're mistakes of judgment that get fixed by the end of the novel.</p>	<p>Hope Harbor, Oregon, present time</p>	<p>forgiveness, God's power to change people, reconciliation</p>	<p>The setting of <i>Sea Glass Cottage</i> is wonderfully cozy. This book will appeal to readers who want a safe, predictable romance novel set in a cozy town—hospitable neighbors, heavenly tacos, and chocolate fudge cake included. It's a Hallmark-style tearjerker that draws out the reader's emotions but promises a happy ending for everyone. Replete with overstated metaphors and a consistent preference for telling rather than showing, this makes for an easy, breezy beach read.</p>
<p>Hunt, Angela <i>The Apostle's Sister</i>. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 384 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764233874</p>	<p>Leslie M. Brown, North Greenville University</p>	<p>Historical</p>	<p>Aya, daughter of a prosperous family from Tarsus, chafes under the expectations of her family and her society. She hates the idea of entering into the marriage her parents have arranged for her and has no desire for a the traditional life of her parents. Tired of years of being overshadowed by her brilliant brother, Sha'ul, she longs for the freedom to live her own life and to use the gifts HaShem has given her in some way other than being a wife and mother.</p>	<p>The main characters are Aya, Sha'ul, their parents Zebulon and Avidon</p>	<p>It is set in First-century Judea, primarily in the cities of Tarsus and Jerusalem.</p>	<p>The theme of this book is that God loves each one of us profoundly and unconditionally, that He has given us unique talents and gifts and that He has a perfect and beautiful plan for our lives and the ways in which we can use those talents and gifts to honor Him.</p>	<p>This book is best suited for young teens through adults, female and male. It is well-written and engaging with a first-person narrative style alternative between Aya and Sha'ul's points of view from chapter to chapter. It engages the reader's emotions and allows you to feel as if you were walking with the character. The book is very well researched and gives you a good view into the lives of ordinary people of the time. The author's writing style is natural and keeps the reader engaged. It is easy to imagine yourself actually hearing the characters speak the dialog as you are reading - inhaling the odors of the marketplace and feeling the heat of the sun on your skin as you walk side-by-side towards the synagogue.</p>

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
Fisher, SW. (2020) Two Steps Forward. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 305 pp 15.99. ISBN 9780800727536	Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and University	Romance	It is about the importance of fathers. It is about decisions we make. It is also about how far one will go to get what we want/ need and the consequences of those actions. It about God's hand in all this.	Jimmy who has run away from commitment has to face maturity, responsibility, as well as love. Sylvie who is overwhelmed, has a fatherless child, and does things from the mind not the heart. Luke is a new deacon and a new father of an abandoned baby. Izzy, wife of Luke, is new to the Amish community and has become a mother she could not be naturally through adoption. Edith, the mother of Jimmy, only sees one way, her way. These characters and most of the secondary characters come across as real people in a real town, in a real world.	This is the present. It takes place in an Amish community.	It is about fathers, abortion, second chances.	This is written for women, part of a Christian sub genre that focuses on an Amish character. The author has written both fiction and nonfiction about the Amish. It takes few words for the author to get the reader to relate to any character. The author writes in a series of three, this is the last of the Deacon's family series which is part of a larger saga. It is Christian teachings put into a fictional story. There are discussion questions at the end of the story. Unlike many romances, the ending is both happiness and fear.
Bartels, E. The girl who could breathe under water. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 352 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800738372	Lauren Bedoy, Westmont College	Mystery	The protagonist, Kendra, is an author with writer's block who spends the summer on a lake in Michigan and confronts trauma from her past.	The first-person narrator, Kendra, refers to her best friend, Cami, as "you" throughout the book, which makes it interesting. Kendra grew up with Cami, adopted from Korea, her adopted brother Tyler, and their parents on Hidden Lake each summer. Bartels does a great job with character development, showing all sorts of qualities and flaws in each person, and they behave like real people.	The story, which takes place exclusively at Hidden Lake in northern Michigan, flashes back to memories of childhood and then back to the present.	The book is really about healing and forgiving, while understanding others' experiences.	The Girl Who Could Breathe Under Water is somewhat introspective, Christian women's fiction with a touch of suspense. The protagonist's mysterious trauma is revealed halfway through the book. Kendra grew up with Cami, adopted from Korea, and Cami's family, on Hidden Lake each summer. Kendra is greatly inspired by her friend's father who is a published author. It is not a feel-good story, rather dark at times (it ought to have a trigger warning), but has a hopeful ending. There are three passing mentions of God, but the author's note is overtly Christian.
Cox, A (2020) The Edge of Belonging. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell. 378 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737405	Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and Seminary	Romance	The first story talks about Ivy's early life before she could remember her life. The second story is about Ivy returning to her grandmother's house to take care of her estate. The first story is the foundation to who Ivy's family will be and how she as an infant changed so many lives for the better. The second story is about Ivy discovering the truth of her beginnings. It is also about her finding happiness, how important family is, and realizing the love of her life had been there all along.	Ivy, the baby and the executor of her grandmother's estate. Reese is Ivy's best friend from childhood. Harvey is the one who found Ivy. Thomas and Miriam are the pastor and his wife. Seth is the abusive boyfriend. The grandmother, who recently lost her son and husband in one story and the one who died in the other story, the glue of the story.	Present (Ivy returning home) and the 1990s (beginning of Ivy's life). Other than the beginning of Ivy's story, Triune in Tennessee is the location.	Truth, new beginnings, and relationships	This story appeals to adult women. Amanda Cox, a first-time author, is writing two complete flowing stories in one book. The two connected stories do not get in the way of each other. The author alternates the two stories by dedicating a chapter to Ivy's beginnings and then a chapter to Ivy returning to her childhood home which creates suspense. It gives the reader time to ruminate and become more engrossed with the stories and the life lessons. Her description of the characters' emotions adds another level of depth. The stories are about lasting relationships rather than a budding romance.



Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Luesse, V. F. <i>Under the Bayou Moon</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 324 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737511</p>	<p>Grace E. Andrews, Wesley Biblical Seminary, Ridgeland, MS.</p>	<p>Historical, Romance</p>	<p>When Ellie Fields leaves Alabama and everything she knows to take a job as a schoolteacher in tiny Bernadette, Louisiana, she's not sure what she's looking for. But she knows she has to find a way to make a difference. The fantastical beauty of the bayou immediately captures Ellie's heart, and it doesn't take her long to fall in love with this people. But can she convince this community that she's not like other outsiders--that she loves their language and their stories and their dancing? And can she protect them from those who will stop at nothing to destroy this community and claim their oil?</p>	<p>"Juliet ""Ellie"" Fields, empathetic and free-thinking schoolteacher, is consistently ready to buck tradition--especially if that means helping those she loves. Raphael ""Raphe"" Broussard, kind and contemplative Cajun fisherman, has taken on the role of fathering his orphaned nephew Remy. Heywood Thornberry, Raphe's best friend, always finds beauty in the ephemeral.</p> <p>These are very real characters. As readers, we get to see how their pasts have formed them and experience their current passions and emotions through conversations, jokes, music, and action. Ellie is easy to identify with, Raphe is easy to love, and Heywood is full of surprises."</p>	<p>1950s Louisiana</p>	<p>The search for home, meaning, and purpose</p>	<p>Luesse writes with the tenderness of Lucy Maud Montgomery and the frank Southern humor of Eudora Welty. She's not afraid to include deep questions and dark elements, but the overall tone is one of hope and beauty and wonder. <i>Under the Bayou Moon</i> refreshingly places romance in the context of a wider story, giving readers more to care about than just one relationship. This book is filled with a quiet magic, inviting readers to sit still and notice the glory of the ordinary.</p>
<p>Walters, N. <i>Lights Out</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell Publishers. 320 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800739782</p>	<p>Amber C. Wessies, Union University</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p><i>Lights Out</i> is about the investigation conducted by the SNAP (Strategic Neutralization and Protection) agency and CIA analyst, Brynn, into the disappearance of an Egyptian spy. When their investigation reveals several unrelated clues, Brynn and SNAP must work together to uncover the connections and stop the terrorists before it is too late. Can Brynn and Jack, SNAP's point person, let the past go in order to work together and protect the United States against cyber threats?</p>	<p>The main characters are Brynn and Jack. They also work with other characters like Garcia, Lyla, and Kekoa to form a sort of work family. These characters act like a typical family in that they joke with each other, become frustrated with one another, but ultimately love and care about one another. Walters does well to expand and grow these characters, so they seem like real people.</p>	<p>This book is set in the present primarily in the Washington, D.C. area, including Fort Meade, and Fairfax, VA. There are also scenes in Egypt and Texas. This book takes place in January with descriptions of time, date, and location available at the beginning of each chapter.</p>	<p>The theme of <i>Lights Out</i> is trust, control, and standing for what you believe in.</p>	<p><i>Lights Out</i> will draw readers who enjoy a little bit of romance with their suspense. <i>Lights Out</i> has military and technological language that may be challenging, but Walters gives explanations to most unfamiliar terms. Readers may also keep in mind they may not fully understand every aspect of cybersecurity discussed. Although the resolution is more implied than played out, the suspense and apprehension leading up to the resolution will keep readers' attention until the end. Walters uses her personal experience to introduce readers to military and federal agency work with respect and honesty.</p>



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Gabhart, Ann H. <i>Along a storied trail</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 344 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737214	Stephanie Leupp, Greene County (OH) Public Library	Romance	Tansy Calhoun is a book woman, a female hired by the 1930's Works Progress Administration to carry books to folks in her rural Kentucky mountain home. Her childhood friend, Caleb Barton, has returned home after working for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Tennessee. Much has happened in the time he's been gone and a "flatlander," Damien Felding, has been sent by the WPA to write the stories of the mountain people for guide books.	Tansy Calhoun is a 20-year-old young woman who is almost considered an old maid, but she loves being a packhorse librarian. She lives with her beloved family. Caleb Barton's older brother, Reuben, died six months earlier in a tree cutting accident. Their mother insists Caleb marry Reuben's widow and be a father to his children. Damien finds mountain people amusing and looks down on them, but Tansy has captured his fancy. He thinks she should want to see the world. These characters and the others are believable and I felt like I could name people like them.	This story is set in 1930's Owsley County, Kentucky.	This book is about love. Love of home, family, work, and the one who loves you.	Ann Gabhart knows how to write a great story without extra words or fluff. Her love stories aren't sappy, but she pulls on one's heartstrings for sure. All ages from late teens should enjoy this book.
Kirkpatrick, J. <i>The healing of Natalie Curtis</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 368 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800736132	Lauren Bedoy, Westmont College	Historical	On a trip out west for her health, pianist and singer Natalie Curtis discovers the culture of the Native Americans and wants to preserve it. In the face of government schools taking native children away from their parents, she persists to record their music, language, and sounds on cylinders and writes a well-researched book. Natalie advocates for Indians against forced assimilation.	All of the characters, save three, are real people and animals from history. Natalie travels with her brother George, who was a former librarian. Her Native American friends are many, such as Lololomai, Tawakwaptiwa, and Chiparopai and represent such tribes as Hopi, Yuma, and Navajo. She is backed financially by a woman named Charlotte Mason. Famous characters include President Roosevelt, Geronimo, and John Muir. All of these come alive on the pages of this novel, and keep the pages turning.	The story takes place at the turn of the 20th century, when the west was still wild and trains were just starting to bridge the distance from east to west. It was also the time when the government sought to wipe out Native American culture with policies, codes, and mandatory boarding schools.	Caring about individuals and groups of people and seeking to help preserve their culture is the theme of this story.	Natalie Curtis was an ethnomusicologist among 18 Native American tribes in the west, collecting recordings and writing <i>The Indians' Book</i> . Actual excerpts of her writings are woven into the story. Anyone interested in Native American culture or the history of the west would love this book. It is a compelling story as Natalie must overcome so many obstacles to help preserve the culture of the people she loves. We see her fictionalized thoughts and feelings and experience her joys and sorrows. Kirkpatrick brings a Christian perspective, as well as the spirituality of the Native Americans, to light throughout the story.
Wright, J.J. <i>The souls of Lost Lake</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 375 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764238321	Julie E. Sweeney, Point Loma Nazarene University	Historical, Romance, Mystery	Two mysteries separated in time but connected to Lost Lake, a small spot in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, unfold as one young woman searches for the truth about the family she lost and another searches for a little girl who has just gone missing.	Wren Blythe lives and works at the Deer Lake Bible Camp where she grew up. While her father and brother also live at the camp, Wren struggles to relate to them and spends most of her time with her friend Eddie's family. Wren, Eddie, and others from the camp help in the search for Jasmine, a six-year-old girl who has gone missing. The situation stirs up memories of a local ghost story about a girl, Ava Coons, who lived in the area in the 1930s. Ava's story centers around her attempt to clear her name when she is accused of murders that remind the townspeople of the unsolved deaths of Ava's family members. Noah Pritchard, the town preacher, is the only one willing to help her.	One timeline is set in the present, the other in the 1930s. Both occur in the Northwoods of Wisconsin near the town of Tempter's Creek and the woods surrounding Lost Lake.	The central theme of the novel is the feeling of lostness and the human need for belonging. This theme is explored through the characters' experiences of loss of memories, family members, and relationships.	The book's overlapping genres of Christian fiction, romance, and suspense may be more appealing to audiences interested in reading a Christian romance than to audiences looking for a suspense thriller. The development of the romantic storylines is secondary to the suspense plots in both of the book's timelines and offers no surprises. The suspense writing style that employs short chapters alternating between timelines does keep both stories advancing at a decent pace. However, the key elements that ultimately unlock each story's mystery strain credulity.

Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Stuart, K. <i>The Master Craftsman</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 397 pp. 17.99. ISBN 9780800740429</p>	<p>Alyssa G. Sultanik,</p>	<p>Historical, Mystery</p>	<p>This engaging story begins when a female Finnish craftsman in the House of Fabergé flees Russia to her native country with her family in 1921, guarding the secret of an unknown Fabergé egg created by Peter Karl Fabergé near the end of the Romanov dynasty. Three generations later, a dying treasure hunter entrusts the secret of the missing egg to his estranged daughter, who teams up with her mother and other treasure hunting professionals and undergoes an overseas adventure to retrieve the egg and in the process learns more about her relationships with her family and those around her. The plot culminates with an exciting end that includes an unexpected plot twist that will be a surprise to most experienced readers.</p>	<p>The main characters are divided into two groups: the historical figures in the twentieth century and the modern day. The historical cast of characters include the original master craftsman Peter Karl Fabergé, his wife Augusta, Alma Pihl, who became a master craftsman in Fabergé's workshop, and other craftsmen in the House of Fabergé. These characters feel authentic and help immerse the reader into their story and its surroundings in Imperial Russia just before and during the revolution. Their stories are full of intrigue and are fascinating to follow along in this novel.</p> <p>The modern day cast of characters includes fictional figures such as a famous treasure hunter Nick Laine who is dying of cancer, his estranged daughter Ava, her mother Carol, and fellow team members Zak and Xander who both have a potential love interest angle. The modern day fictional characters are not as deep as the historical counterparts as the modern characters' roles and development seem somewhat contrived and some portions of dialogue feel forced. However, this does not dampen the plot as the intrigue carries the reader along throughout both narratives.</p>	<p>The dual-time narrative story establishes critical historical plot factors in the past, but the fictional action-paced story takes place in the present. The past brings the reader into the 1917 Russian Revolution, focusing on historical places and figures. Locations include 20th century and modern day Russia and Finland, and modern day Florida.</p>	<p>The story, while in the form of visiting a specific moment of history and a modern day treasure hunt, explores a focus on family, choices, forgiveness, and reconciliation.</p>	<p>The Master Craftsman would be a fun read for teens and adults who love historical fiction and treasure hunts. There are a couple instances of repetitive information, but it is forgivable as it is tucked away into beautiful and colorful descriptions of historical and modern day Russia and Finland. The plot includes several components of an engaging spy story such as cover stories, disguises, suspicious villains, etc. Reading the novel is inspiring me to go visit a nearby museum that houses some original Fabergé eggs.</p>
<p>Hunter, K. A. <i>Enchanting the heiress</i>. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 364 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764235276</p>	<p>Mary Tatro, Augustana College</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p>Miss Harriet Hancock, playing the role of an eccentric heiress, enjoys using her wealth and influence to anonymously better the lives of people around her. At the same time, she purposefully keeps everyone at a distance to protect her years-old secret. However, when a friend asks for her help, will her secret be revealed when she begins to have feelings toward her friend's brother?</p>	<p>Harriet Hancock and Jonas Fitzroy are the main characters. Harriet agrees to conspire with Jonas' sister Sophia who wants to see her brother happy pursuing a career in art instead of working with horses and cleaning out stables. Harriet convinces Jonas to help her write a book, but secretly wants him to realize his own writing and artistic skills.</p>	<p>Newmarket, England in 1817-1819</p>	<p>Truth versus lies and true friendship</p>	<p>People who read historical romance fiction will enjoy this well-written, easy to read book. The plot keeps one engaged from start to finish.</p>

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<p>Peterson, T. &amp; Woodhouse, K. Ever Constant. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 344 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764232527</p>	<p>Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and Seminary</p>	<p>Historical, Romance</p>	<p>It is about a woman and her dogs and the doctor she is falling in love with. It is about how she feels alone due to traumas in her life, deaths of love ones, and siblings who no longer needs her. All this has caused her to close herself to others including those close to her. She has also turned to alcohol rather than community. At the same time, the reader sees clearly how the family, their workers, and many of the town's people are intertwined and find happiness and support. With God and those closest to her, she sees how she still has a place in life, forgoing alcohol. Those who find happiness and love have God. Those who do not find God can not find peace, cannot let go of the past, and die unhappy.</p>	<p>Whitney Powell is very rounded. She has many facets. With each person she deals with, a different facet emerges. Dr. Peter Cameron is the doctor. He is rounded, not as much as Whitney. He has baggage which effects all of his actions and his happiness. Judas Reynolds is the model of greed and lack of morals. Everybody has a price or weakness that Judas can use against them. There are other characters, family members, that are given the pages to make them feel like real people.</p>	<p>1889 for a brief moment and 1905 for the rest of the book. Nome, Alaska and the surrounding. This includes the town, a farm outside of town, gold rush camps, and native villages.</p>	<p>Addiction, greed/power, belonging, family, God</p>	<p>The book is written by two experienced writers, this is the third and last of a series. This book can be read by itself. Most historical facts are correct. When they are not; there is a purpose such as the Grand Nome Hotel a place for the rich. Emotion is used as an element to enhance the story. Addiction and greed are the key themes that are deeply delved into, more important than the history. The story wanders at times showing other issues of those times such as overcrowding and how indigenous people were treated. God plays a central role.</p>
<p>Hichcock, G. Her Darling Mr. Day. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 344 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764237980</p>	<p>Gary R. Averill, SUM Bible College and Seminary</p>	<p>Historical, Romance, Mystery</p>	<p>Flora Wingfield goes to New Orleans to snag a husband, Mr. Theodore Day. Things do not go to plan. Mr. Day has had his heart broken twice and does not want to endure it again. He sees her as a friend and a business partner. She also has competition from many other high society women who want to marry him. Her father has chosen a husband that will grow his empire, and that is not Mr. Theodore Day. Her talents or emotions can not sway her father. She is also dealing with jealousy of her sisters because all the suitors that want her not any of the others. During the story, she is almost arrested, falls under a horse, humiliated at a ball, has to canoe away from kidnappers, threatened by an alligator, nearly drowns, almost murdered, and due to her actions almost causes humiliation for her family.</p>	<p>Flora Wingfield, the main character, is well rounded. Peering into her thoughts and motivations, the reader sees she is willing to take the risks to find her true passions/love with or without a husband. Mr. Theodore Day is just as real. He is very much a man of his times, much more bound by societal norms than Flora. He is also struggling to get out of the shadow of his older brother and is Miss Flora's champion. The sisters are given the time to be developed as well. Flora's father is depicted as a robber barren and the author never judges him.</p>	<p>Mostly New Orleans and the Mississippi river. It is 1883.</p>	<p>Greed, true love, feminism, societal pressures, God.</p>	<p>This is a fast paced and detail driven book written for women. It helps reading the previous book since is the second in a series. It is written by a history buff; this book is historically accurate down to smallest detail. including how the character's think (in the note's section, she does defend liberties she takes). It follows the romance formula though the male is the one who is jilted and needs his heart healed. There is emotional angst as when Flora realizes she has toilet pads stuck on her. The number of twist and turns are mind boggling.</p>

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<p>Hedlund, J. To tame a cowboy. . Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers. . 337 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764236419</p>	<p>Chris Labuda, Pittsburg State University</p>	<p>Historical, Romance, Western</p>	<p>Brody McQuaid is Colorado cowboy who is passionate about saving the wild mustangs that live near his family's ranch. He's also haunted by the things he saw and did as a Union soldier during the American Civil War, until he meets Savannah Marshall, an aspiring veterinarian who's healing touch and gentle demeanor captivate him from day one. She's hiding out in the South Park trying to make a decision about where her duty lies, and if she can go through with a marriage to a man who was chosen for her to ensure her family's happiness and future. She finds herself drawn to the gentle but broken cowboy, Brody, and the more time they spend together the more they realize they might just be a perfect match. The only question is will love or duty win out in the end?</p>	<p>Savannah Marshall and Brody McQuaid are the main characters with frequent appearances by Brody's family, including his adorable three-year-old niece, and their ranch hands. All the characters are well-written and believable. I was fully immersed in their story and there world throughout the book.</p>	<p>This book is set in Colorado two years after the American Civil War. It mostly takes place in Colorado's high country, but there are a few scenes that are in other places in Colorado.</p>	<p>The book depicts love's healing power – even for the most broken people.</p>	<p>It's a romance novel; however, there are elements that I think anyone could enjoy throughout the story. The book is beautifully written and it's easy to fall into the beautiful, untamed world of the story. I felt for Brody and Savannah as well as the other supporting characters, including Brody's family, as glimpses into their lives were present throughout. I didn't see any mistakes in the prose. Judy Hedlund has a style of writing that's approachable for most readers. It's a good balance of description, dialogue, and the main characters thoughts.</p>
<p>Rachel Fordham A Lady in Attendance . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell Books. 344 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800739737</p>	<p>Natalie Groff,</p>	<p>Historical, Romance</p>	<p>After five years in a reformatory for a crime that she didn't commit, Hazel attempts to make a new life for herself in Amherst, NY. There she finds employment as a lady in attendance to the shy dentist, Dr. Watts. It isn't long before they start to develop feelings for each other, but with Hazel's tainted past, she doesn't see how she can ever find happiness again.</p>	<p>The main characters are Hazel and Dr. Gilbert Watts. They are interesting and for the most part act like real people.</p>	<p>The majority of the book takes place in Amherst, NY in 1889, though a portion is set in Buffalo, NY.</p>	<p>This book is about redemption and making peace with the past so that the protagonist can find a way to allow herself to be loved.</p>	<p>Fans of Christian romance and historical fiction would like this book. It is very similar to other books in the same genre in that the heroine must rely on God to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to make peace with her past and find love. It does engage the reader's emotions and seems to be historically accurate. On the whole, it's a nice read without really standing out or being particularly compelling.</p>
<p>Johnson, L. Last Way Home. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 340 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737382</p>	<p>Christine S. Gaskin, Southern Methodist College, Orangeburg, SC</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p>Two young people holding each to their devastating secrets, looking for a forgiveness they feel they do not deserve.</p>	<p>Eli Ross is a humbled NIH star. Violet Donaghy is a young ceramics artist holding on to a secret past. Both characters are unique and draw interest. Eli with his real regrets and Violet with her quirky, in your face, attitude.</p>	<p>This is a present day narrative with references to past choices, mistakes, and regrets.</p>	<p>The theme illustrates how the love of family, friends, including community, and God can bring healing and peace.</p>	<p>This would appeal to any adult with a romantic bent. This book is like the slow opening of a flower, allowing gradual discovery and evoking deep empathetic emotion to each revealed painful mistake revealed. The author allows for human nature and the blind spots each of us has individually and as a group. She brings a logical, if not quite unexpected conclusion to give a satisfactory end.</p>

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Gould, L. <i>Threads of Hope</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 342 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764235245	Christine S. Gaskin, Southern Methodist College, Orangeburg, SC	Historical	There is a greater chance of renewing hope in a situation if someone is willing to reach out and get involved.	Tally Smucker, her dreams of teaching set aside to care for her mother, a stroke victim, her life receding into endless days of cooking, cleaning, gardening, and caring for her mother's and brother's needs. Resigned to this life lived in isolation, Tally stays involved by reading, books, magazine articles, and other interesting material she is able to find. Drawn to her quiet, selfless resolve and her reflection on her Bible reading, Tally emulates a well-behaved Amish daughter. When Tally is asked to help a neighbor, the colorful Danielle and her daughter Maggie, she is introduced to a whole new world.	Told in present tense, a local storyteller has been gifted with letters from the past and she weaves a story of the Amish, WWI, and the Spanish Flu, which she shares and whose tale influences those living in the present.	Circumstances have molded those in the present with similar roles faced by those in the past and it is those choices made in spite of circumstance like uncharacteristically reaching out or asking questions that can make all the difference.	This book can be enjoyed by adults and gives insight into the Amish traditions and expectations including church affiliation. It captures the emotions in a time and place of hardship and the joy of reconciliation leaving a chance of renewed hope entrance in the end.
Musser, E. G. (2022). <i>By way of the moonlight..</i> Grand Rapids, Michigan: Bethany House Publishers. 400 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764238802	Jean Waldrop, Harding University	Romance	"By Way of the Moonlight" tells the story of several generations of women who had a love for horses and a love for God. Historical events are mentioned throughout the book as their lives are touched by the Depression, WW II, and the present day pandemic.	Allie Massey's dream is to run a equine therapy center in the Atlanta area but is devastated when she finds that her grandmother sold the family property, which included stables and riding areas, to a land developer. Allie becomes so obsessed with keeping the property that she loses her fiancé. Allie's grandmother, Dale Butler, had hidden secrets that Allie will discover as she finds her grandmother's diary that contains details of her younger life and her courageous acts during WW II. Both grandmother and granddaughter wrestle with loving the men in their lives.	The story takes place in both the present and the past as Allie deals with her own issues in the present while remembering her childhood, growing up with her grandmother in her life, encouraging her love for horses. Dale, her grandmother, also recalls her childhood and how she came to love horses. Dale's story continues as WW II begins and the reader will be inspired as they learn about the Coast Guard Mounted Patrol and German submarines off the Georgia coastline.	One theme that can be seen in the book is caution against obsession. Also the power of prayer and passing the importance of this down to younger generations. There are several other lessons to be learned as well about gratitude, helping others, and being kind and courageous.	Anyone that enjoys reading Christian Romance fiction will find this story enjoyable. Some readers who enjoy history will also find the facts and events mentioned in the book interesting as true events about WWII, great equestrians, Hilton Head Island, and health challenges make up parts of the story. The reader's interest is sparked as the author lets the reader continually learn more about each of the characters as the story builds. The reader may also find themselves thinking about their own prayer life, the people they truly love, and what really matters most.
Clark, A. <i>Where the last rose blooms</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 312 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764237621	Mary Tatro, Augustana College	Historical	Alice runs a flower shop with her aunt in New Orleans. Receiving a phone call from her father regarding the upcoming sale of their family home, Alice goes back to the house and discovers a box hidden in the attic that would change her life and others.	Alice, Sullivan, Clara, Teddy, Rose, Ashley. Alice and Sullivan discover a box that holds clues to the past dating back to the Civil War. Living in the home with parents who support the Confederacy and slavery, Clara, who is 16 years old, faces life-changing and life-threatening challenges when she decides to assist Teddy and others to help slaves, including Rose and Ashley, escape the South and slavery during the Civil War.	The story takes place in present day New Orleans and in Charleston, South Carolina in 1861-1862 during the Civil War.	Friendship, Slavery, Abolitionists	Teenagers and adults who enjoy historical fiction with a bit of romance will enjoy this book.

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Title	Reviewer	General Information	Plot	Characters	Setting	Theme	Analysis/Summary
<p>Fisher, W.F. <i>The Sweet Life</i>. d Rapids: Revel. 320 pp. 29.99. ISBN 9780800741525</p>	<p>Paul B. Drake, Pacific Islands University, Mangilao Guam USA</p>	<p>Historical, Romance, Western, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Mystery</p>	<p>Marnie Dixon, a recently widowed and cancer survivor, decides to move to the historic tourist destination of Chatham on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Her only daughter Dawn has recently had her fiancé cancel their wedding, leaving her jilted and carry. Dawn is working to become a partner in her auditing firm, but hiring of her mother's plans, take a leave from her job and agrees to assist her mother for the summer months. Dawn and her recently deceased father had a passion for making ice cream so it seemed reasonable for her to help her mother get the business started.</p>	<p>Dawn Dixon. She struggles with her straight forward approach to business and life and her mother's more quick decision, almost impulsive manner. She acts as a person who tries to control her life while life becomes out of her control. Marnie Dixon. Dawn's mother. She has a creative way of approaching life and always seems to relate with people. She makes decisions without seeming to think through all the details. She doesn't want to be in a cancer support group because it reminds her that the cancer could always return. Her struggles with that issue is unknown to her at first but is shared by many cancer survivors Kevin Collins. Dawn's ex-fiance who called off the wedding and broke off the relationship with Dawn Dixon. He is concerned with Dawn's atypical decision to take a leave from her job to make ice cream. He monitors her through mutual friends and mom Marnie, out of concern.</p>	<p>present day. Only in the town of Chatham on Cape Cod Massachusetts.</p>	<p>Self-determination. Getting to know oneself</p>	<p>The Sweet Life is the first book in a new series Cape Cod Creamery by bestselling Christian author Suzanne Woods Fisher. Readers from young adult through seniors would like the book. It would interest people in their twenties through older ages as the situations of the main characters are more relatable. The author's description of inner hurts and fears can engage the reader's emotions, but the book is not a real tear-jerker. The writing style moves the story line along at a leisurely pace, always bringing in new factors the main characteristics interactions and lives. The book does not have much overt references to the spiritual lives of the characters which may make this book appealing to a wider audience.</p>
<p>Smith, J. E. (2022) <i>The prince and the prodigal</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 363 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737634</p>	<p>Pamela Greenlee, Olivet Nazarene University</p>	<p>Historical</p>	<p>Smith develops parallel biographies of Joseph and his brother Judah from youth to final reconciliation.</p>	<p>With psychological and spiritual insight, Smith develops realistic characters, thought, and conversations that complement the Biblical narrative.</p>	<p>The historical setting is Canaan and Egypt in the 18th or 19 century BC.</p>	<p>Spiritual development and forgiveness</p>	<p>Faithful to the Biblical account of Joseph's life Jill Eileen Smith creatively constructs an entertaining and historically informative novel demonstrating the consequences of both wise and poor decisions. Joseph the Prince learns and responds to truth and returns to that truth in the life crises of the familiar narrative. He comes to accept, then truly appreciate, God's hand in the blessings and challenges of the process. As a result he can conclude that God intended all of it for good, and is empowered to forgive his brothers. The intriguing counterpoint is the development of the Prodigal brother, Judah. Smith constructs a realistic biography of his possible thought processes and of his life journey during the period between the sale of Joseph to the Ishmaelites and the dramatic events related to the famine in Canaan. This narrative is the genius of the book! With cultural sensitivity and psychological insight Smith weaves the lives of these two brothers toward reconciliation. The book is appropriate for teen and adult readers and compares favorable with other Biblical historical fiction.</p>
<p>Warren, Susan May. (2020) <i>The Way of the Brave</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 345 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800735845</p>	<p>Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello</p>	<p>Romance</p>	<p>Jenny Calhoun and her two best friends are climbing Denali in Alaska. This is a cathartic climb for each lady in a different way. While up there on the mountain, they have to be rescued by the last person that Jenny wants to see ever again.</p>	<p>Jenny Calhoun is a former CIA profiler turned psychiatrist. Orion Starr is a former pararescue jumper. Because Jenny is dealing with guilt, she is very reckless with her physical safety and Orion's anger at God and his past keeps him from planning for a future. This makes them very realistic as characters.</p>	<p>This book is set in the present on Denali in Alaska.</p>	<p>The main theme is forgiveness of God, others and yourself.</p>	<p>The Way of the Brave is an intense Christian romantic thriller that is different from the usual detective story. This book is about humans versus nature and forgiveness versus guilt. It is a nail biter until the very end of the story. Readers who love thrillers will love this book. It is a must read for anyone wanting a slightly different style of thriller this fall. Its exploration of forgiveness against the backdrop of an unforgiving terrain makes for an emotional ride. This is a definite must have for Christian fiction collections.</p>

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Eason, Lynette. (2022). <i>Life Flight</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 329 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800737337	Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello	Romance, Mystery	EMS helicopter pilot Penny Carlton has a killer for a stalker. FBI Special Agent Holt Satterfield makes it his personal mission to save her life. They fall in love during this dangerous time. Holt is also able to solve a personal mystery involving his sister and niece in the midst of the danger.	Penny Carlton is an EMS helicopter pilot. Holt Satterfield is an FBI Special Agent. Penny's character is the most interesting because she does have a past that involved time spent in juvie. She also has a famous mother with whom she does not have a good relationship. Holt seems to be a little more judgmental but by the end of the book he becomes more likeable as a character.	The setting for the book is in present time in North Carolina	The theme of this book is good versus evil and seeing beyond the surface	Lynette Eason is an excellent writer and this new series beginning with book one: <i>Life Flight</i> is no exception. Penny the main character is likeable and has an interesting back story and the reader finds themselves rooting for her to escape the killer's clutches. She and Holt finally figure out where the killer is hiding and what their plan has been all along. It is a quick and fun read and the reader finds themselves interested in the other characters that will eventually have stories of their own. This is definitely a good addition to any Christian romantic thriller collection.
Eason, Lynette. (2021). <i>Hostile Intent</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 310 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800729370	Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello	Romance, Mystery	FBI Special Agent Caden Denning and Ava Jackson work together to solve a mystery that somehow involves her father's mysterious past. This mystery could hold the key to a string of serial murders. While working together, they fall in love and commit to one another.	FBI Special Agent Caden Denning and Ava Jackson. Ava was in the navy and is now a recruit for the CIA. Ava is fiercely intelligent and thus was able to learn of her father's work as a CIA Agent. Her intelligence is what helped her in the Navy and causes the CIA to pursue her as a possible future agent. It is a little hard for the reader to understand however why she has a problem with trusting Caden with the truth because he has been so patient with her throughout the past and present.	Present, South Carolina	The theme of this book is past secrets and how they can harm the present	<i>Hostile Intent</i> is book 4 in the <i>Danger Never Sleeps</i> series by Lynette Eason. Secrets from Ava's dad's past put Ava and many other people in danger. It is up to Ava and Caden to unravel the secrets so they can learn who is killing so many families. The pain of the past is hard to forgive and here it is killing everyone. This is a fun thrill ride that hearkens back to the cold war and brings it into the present. Lynette Eason's work is always welcome in Christian romantic thriller collections.
Eason, Lynette. (2022). <i>Crossfire</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 308 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780800737351	Elizabeth Parish, University of Arkansas at Monticello	Romance, Mystery	FBI Negotiator Julianna Jameson is threatened by angry people from her past due to a school shooting when she was a student. With help from from a school resource officer, Clay Fox, she needs to stop the threats before her sister is put in danger.	Julianna Jameson is an FBI Negotiator. She has a past with time spent in juvie. She is very calm and capable. Clay Fox is a former sniper from the army who is now a school resource officer. He has past guilt from a friendly fire incident that he feels he has to overcome to be worthy of Julianna but they work through it together.	Present, South Carolina	Theme of the book is forgiving your past	<i>Crossfire</i> is the second book in the <i>Extreme Measures</i> series by Lynette Eason. This series follows these women who met in juvie and became extremely close friends. They are all very successful in their careers because they overcame their pasts and trusted God to forgive them. Julianna is a strong woman who trusts in God and her negotiating skills to overcome all situations. The book is a fun thrill ride that is an easy read. It will be a good addition to any Christian romantic thriller collection.
Nelson, C. S. (2022). <i>Shaped by the waves</i> . Minneapolis, MN,: Bethany House Publishers.. 352 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764235405	Bethany Groves, Asbury University	Mystery	Discovering oneself and family	A single-mother, her young daughter, an ill aunt, various friends and community members – all are very realistic and relatable	Set in present-day, a small town in Oregon	God's faithfulness; discovering who you are in God; family is more than those biologically related to you	Christina Suzann Nelson's <i>Shaped by the Waves</i> shares the story of Cassie George, a single-mother who is frantically trying to meet the demands of life. Cassie's world is turned upside down with the news that her beloved aunt, who raised her, is terminally ill. Cassie embarks on a journey home where she discovers secrets about her past and realizes the true meaning of love and family. Due to Nelson's eloquent writing style, readers will feel a part of the small community of Gulf's Bay and hold their breath in anticipation as pieces of Cassie's past are slowly revealed. Containing a diverse cast of characters, who you immediately want to befriend, this novel is ideal for adult readers as it does contain some difficult storylines of suicide and abuse. This thought-provoking, engaging, and heartwarming novel is not to be missed.

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Litfin, B. Every knee shall bow. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 487 pp. 26.99. ISBN 9780800738181	Mary Tatro, Augustana College	Historical	Flavia has been given the difficult and dangerous assignment by Bishop Sylvester to go and take this covert petition to the Emperor Constantine to ask his permission to build great churches and to canon the scriptures. She is accompanied by her mother, her friend, Bishop Ossius, and eventually Brandulf Rex. Unfortunately, powerful enemies do not want this group to succeed in reaching Emperor Constantine and they will try everything (kidnapping, slavery, even murder) to stop them.	Lady Junia Flavia Candida (a Roman senator's daughter) and Brandulf Rex (a Germanic barbarian) As a strong believer in the Christian faith, Flavia is pushed to edge and her faith is tested to the extreme as she faces evil and wicked from all sides. Brandulf risks his life to protect Flavia from the dangerous perils they encounter on their journey.	314 AD to 318 AD in the Roman Empire and surrounding countries	Good and evil; Early Christian Church in Rome	Adults interested in early Christianity history will enjoy this book which blends facts and fiction using actual historical figures, historical facts, insight to the harsh realities of life during this time period in history, and the difficult process of the Christian faith being accepted as a religion.
Dani Pettrey Deadly Shallows. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House. 400 pp. 13.99. ISBN 9780764233456	LaVern Allbaugh, Summit Christian College	Romance, Mystery	Romance, a secret, and 2 people racing to stop a mad man before he kills again.	CGIS Special Agent Noah Rowley and Brooke Kessler, a Coast Guard Flight-Medic. Noah has harbored a secret for so long, it keeps him from telling Brooke of his love. Brooke gets tangled up in a mass shooting and becomes a target for a mad man. Noah struggles to protect her when it's discovered the real reason behind the mass shooting.	This story is set in the Present time.	Love is at the heart of this story	Young adult to seniors will enjoy reading this story. As I read this book, I was drawn into the story and felt the suspense building as the story unravels, but was a little put off by the repetitiveness of the 2 main characters emotions causing me to skip some paragraphs to get back to what was happening in the story. What I appreciated most with this book was the likable characters and their faith being part of the story. This book can be read as a stand-alone and not get too lost, but would recommend reading the previous books first. As a fan of Irene Hannon, and Lynette Eason, bestselling authors, I was not disappointed with Dani Pettrey novel.
Cox, Amanda The secret keepers of Old Depot Grocery. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 313 pp 15.99. ISBN 9780800737412	Lillian M. Purdy, Louisiana Christian University	Romance	Newly widowed Sarah returns to her hometown and learns that the family store is going broke. She wants to help her mother and grandmother save the store, but there are multi-generational secrets that add to the tension. Sarah has secrets of her own. However, all three women discover peace, healing, and reconciliation when the secrets are revealed.	The main characters are Sarah Ashby, Rosemary Anderson, and Glory Ann Clearwater. The women are three generations of a family. The secrets the women keep create mystery, but the secrets also cause unexplained stress in the lives of the women and those they love. The characters do seem realistic because they keep secrets to avoid shame for themselves and hurt for others. They portray individuals who don't just "get over" hurt caused by the secrets. The mother-daughter tensions are realistic.	The story takes place in present time with flashbacks beginning in 1965 and leading up 1990s. The main location is fictional Brighton, Tennessee	Letting go of past sins and mistakes can bring reconciliation	Romance readers of all ages will enjoy this book. The novel is packed with intrigue, and by the time the reader is halfway through, there is no putting down the book. The only possible mistake is that a murder takes place in the past, and it seems odd that a girl who grew up in the small town would not have heard about the murder. However, the writer makes clear jumps between the past and the present and develops the relationships and tensions that manifest themselves in the present day. The characters have natural flaws, and no one is perfect.
Brunsvold, Sara The Extraordinary Deaths of Mrs. Kip. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 361 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800740276	Toriance Fontenot, Louisiana Christian University, Pineville, LA	Mystery	A reporter is desperate for a bigger assignment to prove herself, all while an old woman comes to terms with her aging.	The main characters are the reporter, Aidyn Kelley, and the old woman, Mrs. Kip. They are interesting because readers can see their internal struggles and can relate to them as characters.	The story takes place in the present, and follows the characters through various locations.	This book is a representation of life and death, and the struggle of acceptance of things that cannot be changed.	This was a great book for young adults looking for a mystery. It is engaging, and the characters were easy to relate to. Readers begin to sympathize and care for the characters. This book was a great representation of life and death, and the struggle to accept the things that cannot be changed. In comparison to other mystery books, readers begin to think about how it would feel to experience the same situations. The inclusion of Christian symbols was interesting, and it worked well with author's casual writing style to mention Christianity in a way that was not overbearing.

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Bradley, P. (2022). Deception. Grand Rapides: Revell. 386 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800735760 Deception. Grand Rapides, MI: Revell. 386 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800735760	Josiah P. Reed, Louisiana Christian University	Mystery	An ISB Agent struggling from the trauma of having killed her ex-coworker in self-defense, now must solve a case that seems to be very connected to her past.	An ISB agent must once again begin solving a violent crime, like the ones she did before, which leads to the discovery that her past and even adoption may not be what they seem on the surface.	Set in present day Mississippi, specifically in Natchez and on the Natchez Trace.	One's past does not define who they have to be in the present.	This book is the fourth in the Natchez Trace Park Rangers series. Lovers of crime dramas will enjoy the story. Most readers will be able to identify with the main character since she is forced to deal with common problems today, such as trauma and the loss of family members to suicide. The author gives the reader a firsthand-look at life in Mississippi and life as an ISB officer. The story offers many twists and turns in which new information is revealed or contradicted involving the case. The author continually maintains a Christian worldview throughout the book.
Goddard, Elizabeth Critical Alliance. Grand Rapides, MI: Revell. 326 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800738006	Mackenzie F. Strickland, Louisiana Christian University	Mystery	Mackenzie struggles with the secrecy of her father's tech company while also trying to escape her past mistakes. Alex and Mackenzie are thrown together to discover the truth about Hanstech and must learn to trust each other and forgive themselves along the way.	Mackenzie Hanson is a cybersecurity expert with a shady past. She is held back by the mistakes she has made and has trust issues. Alex Knight is a diplomatic Security Services special agent that has the heart to protect people. He has to learn to overcome his past mistakes and follow his instincts.	This story is set in the present. Most of the story takes place in Montana.	This book is about trust, love, and faith.	Critical Alliance is a great read for all ages. Goddard's use of character development and theme transcends all age groups. Mackenzie's trust issues and Alex's desire to prove himself are problems that readers can relate to. Goddard uses her characters to portray themes of love, hope, faith, and redemption throughout her novel. She paints a world that reflects anyone's ability to overcome past mistakes and find new purpose in life. Mackenzie and Alex's journey invites the audience to join in and experience the thrill of a lifetime while discovering something new within themselves.
Gray, Tammy L. Love and the Dream Come True. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers. 366 pp 15.99. ISBN 9780764235931	Emily M. Sanders, Louisiana Christian University	Romance	The two main characters must overcome their pasts for them to be together.	The main characters in the novel are Cameron, a deeply passionate and determined musician, Lexi, a hard-working mother, and Morgan Lexi's sassy, independent teenage daughter.	Love and the Dream Come True takes place in an old-fashioned, suburban neighborhood in present-day Midlothian, Texas.	Love and the Dream Come True has strong themes of forgiveness, love, and family.	Love and the Dream Come True is a good novel for anyone who loves classic, light-hearted romance. Love and the Dream Come True is a roller coaster of emotions ranging from excitement to shock to frustration. The characters in the novel can only find love by coming to terms with their past and learning to forgive the people that hurt them most. The characters also learn the importance of family amid crisis, conflict, and the power of faith.
Mason, Susan Anne (2022) A Feeling of Home. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers. 360 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780764235214	Victoria Wilkinson, Louisiana Christian University	Historical, Romance	The premise of this story is about two young girls who go through the loss of both parents and struggle to live and rely on God as they try to make it in a new way of life.	Isabell and Marissa Wardrop, Mark and Josh Henshaw are the main characters. These characters are interesting because they show how it feels to lose everything. They act like people in how their actions and words convey their feelings.	This is set in the 1940's during wartime, in Toronto, Canada.	The book is about how two people grow together after difficulties surrounding a mother's death and new love that blossoms from a newfound friendship.	Readers from ages 13 and up would like this book. This author engages the reader's mind, heart, and emotions. The author's writing style is one of simple, yet elegant work that allows the reader to "see" the sights and sounds of Toronto in the 1940's. When the death of Isabelle's mother forces her father to mortgage the house, she and her sister have to find the strength and faith that comes from God to be able to survive the oncoming storms.
Smucker, Shawn Light from Distant Stars. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 386 pp. 9.49. ISBN 9780800728519	Rodney B. Wooten, Mid-Atlantic Christian University	Mystery	A man's journey through life dealing with parental divorce, family hardship, and evil.	Cohen, Kaye, and Calvin Marah. All three characters are people we can see as real people with real issues in life. Cohen is a single man with a great personality but he has many issues dealing with his past. Cohen's sister, Kaye is outgoing, outspoken, married, and pregnant. Kaye is the rock that holds Cohen together. Cohen's father is a minister in the beginning but deals with his own demons throughout the book.	The title fluctuates between a few different locations and times moving from the present to the past in each chapter.	The title is about good and evil, friendship and love.	The primary readers of this title will probably be Young Adults and some adult Christian Fiction readers. The book fits well in the area of mystery, and Christian Fiction and pulls you to continue reading and turning the pages. The title jumps the protagonist from childhood to adulthood from chapter to chapter and submerses you in the ongoing struggles of understanding hard and dark situations. The author is very descriptive and twists you between the current and past, good and evil, as well as dark and light. This title will leave you with lasting thoughts on difficult situations.

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Johnson, Liz <i>Beyond the tides</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 336 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800737375	Jennifer M. Eason, NEFLIN (Northeast Florida Library Information Network)	Romance	When Meg Whitaker's mother begins to suffer cognitive decline, Mr. Whitaker is faced with difficult decisions about the future. His wife needs his full attention and care, which means the time has come to put the family's business - lobster fishing - into new hands. But his choice of new owner, Oliver Ross, creates a dilemma for Meg, Mr. Whitaker's only child. Meg has harbored anger and resentment toward Oliver ever since he ruined her chance at an Ivy League education, and seeing him take her father's place in the business is too much to bear. She impulsively stakes her own claim on the business, in spite of the physical toll the work will take on her. Mr. Whitaker, faced with choosing between Oliver and Meg, makes them both an offer: work together for the upcoming lobster season and prove to him who the better choice is. Meg and Oliver accept, and then the hard work begins. Both must face not only the early mornings and demanding physical work required to keep the business afloat, but also the hurts and fears of the past that threaten to impact their future.	The story is told through the perspectives of two main characters: Meg Whitaker, the intelligent and determined scholar who has returned home to teach at the local school, and Oliver Ross, the complicated but hard-working fisherman who has quietly held his family together through betrayal and heartache. Meg's parents provide a picture of a sweet and loving marriage that is facing a difficult future - Mrs. Whitaker's illness and decline. Oliver's mother and brother have faced challenges alongside him for many years, but they are all dedicated to and supportive of each other. Both families are portrayed realistically - not perfect, but willing to stick together through difficulty. A backdrop of shared faith ties all the characters together and helps create a world where Meg and Oliver can heal and find hope for a brighter future.	Present; a small Prince Edward Island fishing village	love, forgiveness, family relationships, grief	Mature teens and adults of all ages who enjoy the inner struggle and transformation of relatable characters will enjoy this book. The pacing of the book reflects the daily rhythm of the fishing business - steady and consistent with a slow build to the conclusion. Of the two characters, Oliver will likely be more sympathetic to readers due to his long-suffering and patient nature. Some readers might find Meg's resentment toward Oliver slightly overdone during the first chapters, and her release of that resentment might be a bit too abrupt. But the grief Meg experiences as she wrestles with her mother's illness is sincere and believable and deepens the emotional impact of the book significantly.
Oke, J. & Logan, L. O. <i>Unfailing Love</i> . Minneapolis: Bethany House. 326 pp. 16.99. ISBN 9780764235153	Jennifer A. Rich, Hope International University	Historical	Lost children and the lives affected by their running away	Two sister, formally orphaned, running an orphanage when 3 orphans run away	post-World War I Canada	Love and family (through adoption)	This third book in the trilogy, inspired by the two sisters in the TV show, <i>When Hope Calls</i> , can be read as a stand-alone, but would be better understood as the conclusion of the trilogy. It begins by not focusing on the main characters, but rather on the three children who ran from the sisters' orphanage. As the adventure progresses, we see how different forms of love affect each character and their reactions to the situations they face. The happy ending has tinges of sadness, but without those, the true joy that results from reconciliation would not be as powerful.
Wade, B. <i>Turn to Me</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 408 pp. 17.99. ISBN 9780764235627	Jennifer A. Rich, Hope International University	Romance	Two different individuals finishing a scavenger hunt	A male ex-con and a female animal rescue center owner	Present time	Finding spiritual and material treasure	Luke is just out of prison and has come to help a former inmate's daughter, Finley, safely navigate a treasure hunt created by her dead father. The hunt provides Finley with a walk down memory lane and eventually reveals why her father went to jail. In addition to working together on the hunt, Finley provides Luke with a job that is outside his comfort zone. Along the way, she helps Luke see his value and both a person and as a creation of God. The question remains, can the two be in a relationship when the treasure hunt finishes?