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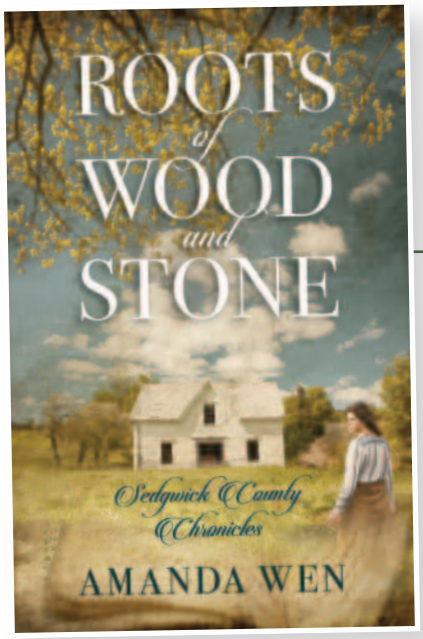
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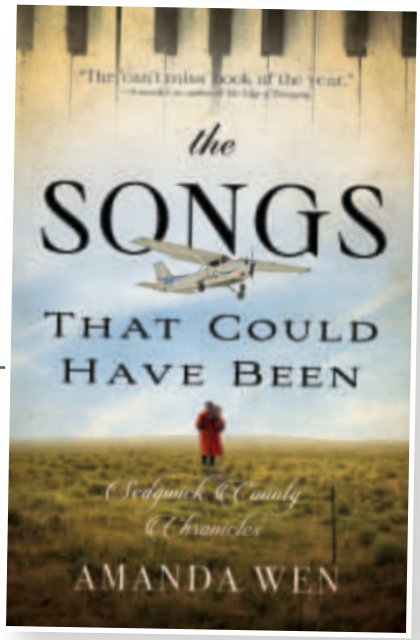
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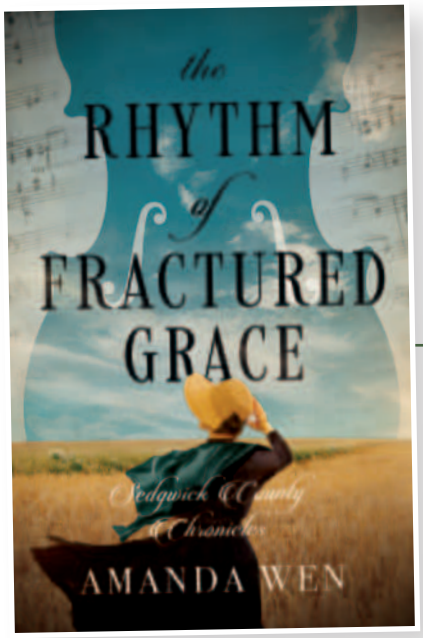
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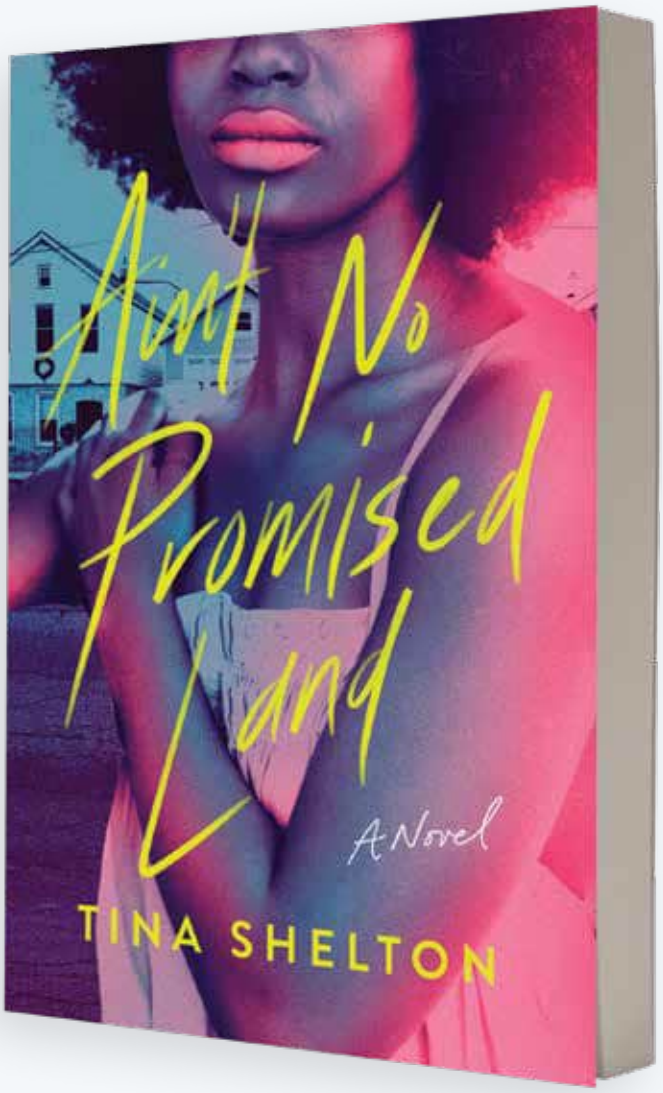
Children of the Shadows

The Thorndike & Swann Regency Mystery Series

Ain't No Promised Land

A Novel

Tina Shelton



No matter how far you run, you can't escape yourself—or outrun the love of God

When her husband dies, Charlotte can't face the things she's done, things that could tear her family apart. So she drops a goodbye letter in the cookie jar and flees south to escape everything—her life, her three daughters, the mistakes she's made, and the secrets that have been eating her alive. She's desperate to find the peace she's looking for somewhere out there.

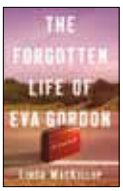
Now Gracey and her sisters are alone on Chicago's South Side with nothing but their home and their belongings, not a parent to be seen. They're doing everything they can to stay together as a family. But three young girls—sixteen, fourteen, and twelve—aren't meant to parent themselves. The close-knit community gathers around them to keep them fed and clothed with the utilities on, but it isn't enough. The girls are struggling and making destructive decisions as a way of coping with abandonment.

Hundreds of miles away, Charlotte is trying to keep her own head above water. She's made a close friend who talks to her about God in a way Charlotte's never heard before. But when her demons catch up to her, she must face her past head-on. Will she be able to find the courage to embrace motherhood? And will that be enough not to lose her family altogether?

Debut author Tina Shelton drops readers straight into 1980s South Side Chicago. Her raw, authentic writing welcomes those who are willing to come alongside characters dealing with generational trauma, abandonment, hidden abuse, destructive choices, and the desire to be set free. *Ain't No Promised Land* will appeal to readers of *Black Cake*, *Miss Pearly's Girls*, and Michelle Obama's *Becoming*.

Tina Shelton is registrar at Chicago Theological Seminary and a pastor in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. She is also the mother of two young adults, and loves walking, working out, and traveling with her family. This is her first novel.

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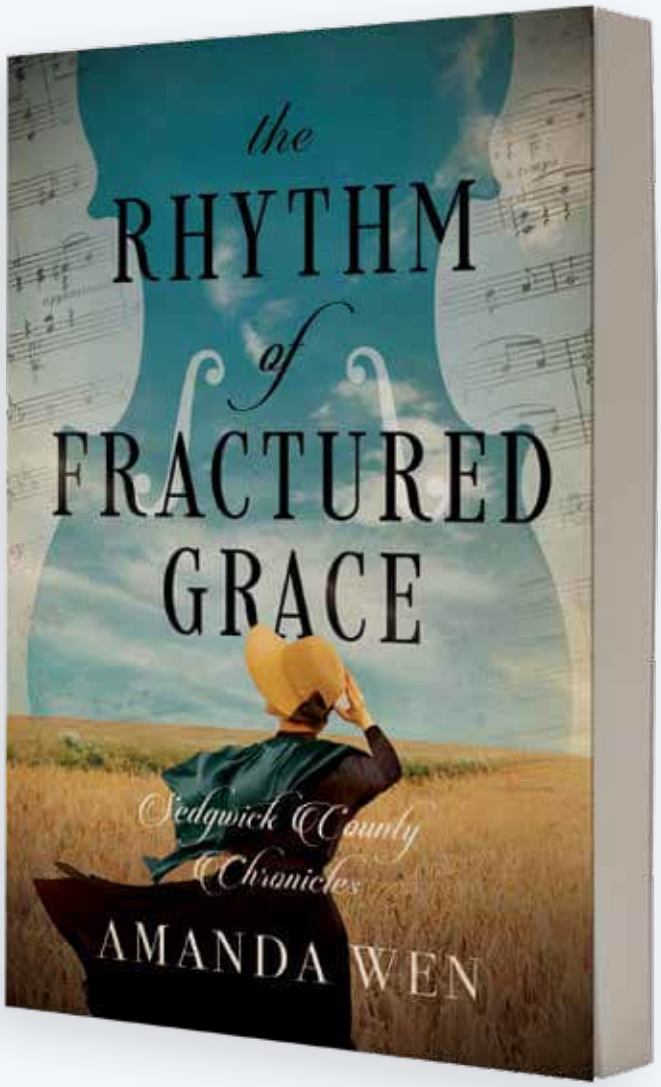
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March 19, 2024

The Rhythm of Fractured Grace

Amanda Wen

SEDGWICK COUNTY CHRONICLES #3



Is Siobhan too far gone to respond to the song of a God who's calling her back to him?

When a new customer brings a badly damaged violin into Siobhan Walsh's shop, it is exactly the sort of challenge she craves. The man who brought it in is not. He's too close to the painful past that left her heart and her faith in shambles.

Matt Buchanan has had a rough start as the new worship pastor. A car accident on his way into town left him with a nearly totaled truck, and an heirloom violin in pieces. When he takes it to a repair shop, he's fascinated with the restoration process—and with the edgy, closed-off woman doing the work.

As their friendship deepens and turns into more, they both discover secrets that force them to face past wounds. And the history of the violin reveals more about their current problems than they could have ever expected.

On the nineteenth-century frontier, a gruesome tomahawk attack wiped out most of Deborah Caldwell's family. Her greatest solace after the tragedy is the music from her father's prized violin. Given her horrendous scars, she'd resigned herself to a spinster's life. But Levi Martinson's gentle love starts to chip away at her hardened heart, until devastating details about the attack are revealed, putting their love—and Deborah's shaky faith—to the ultimate test.

Full of forgiveness and the message that no one is too damaged for God's healing touch, the final book in the split-time Sedgwick County Chronicles will thrill fans of Rachel Hauck, Lisa Wingate, and Kristy Cambron.

Amanda Wen is an award-winning writer of inspirational romance and split-time women's fiction. She is a Selah Award–winning, Parable bestselling author, and has been shortlisted for a 2023 Carol Award. Wen currently lives in Wichita, Kansas, with her husband and three children. To find her blog and short stories, visit amandawen.com.

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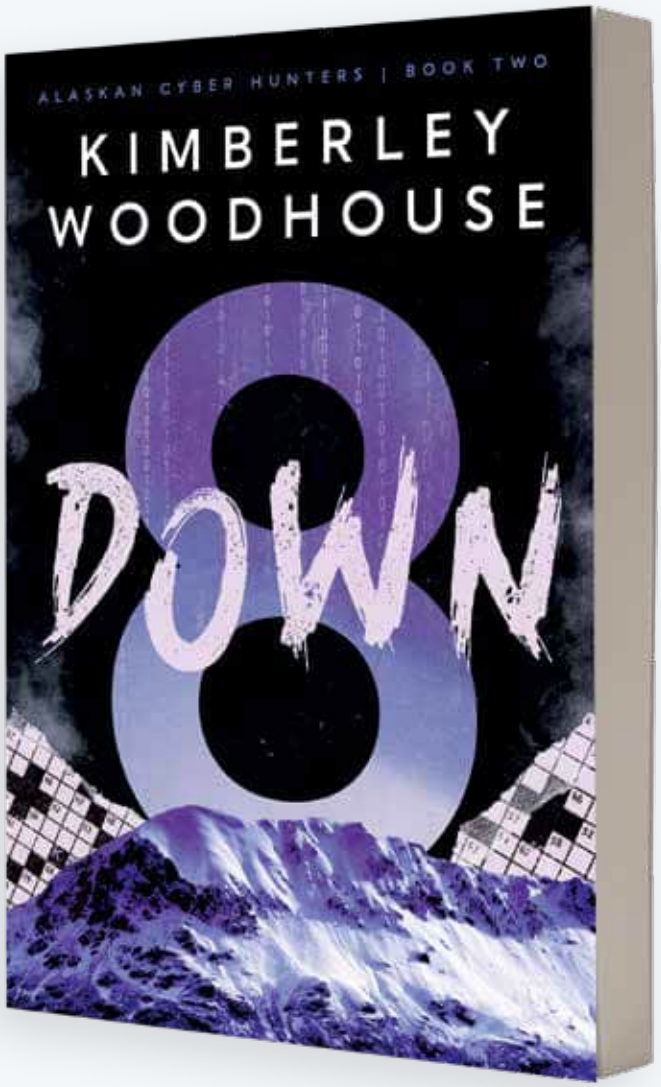
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8 Down

Kimberley Woodhouse

ALASKAN CYBER HUNTERS #2



How do you catch a serial killer who attacks through cyberspace?

Investigator Carrie Kintz has been on the job with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Anchorage for only a couple of months. But she's already been thrown into the deep end: there's a serial killer on the loose. Not only is he claiming he's already killed eight people, he's also vowed that eight more lives will be eliminated if demands aren't met. The only clues to help law enforcement stop him are the ones he sends in crossword puzzles across the country—always in the same 8 Down position.

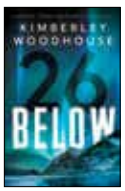
As Carrie works the case, she can't help but feel she's in over her head. And worse, there's signs that the deaths may be part of a frighteningly elaborate cyberattack. But without knowing how the victims are connected, tracking down a killer determined to prove he's smarter than everyone else may be impossible.

With the clock ticking and lives hanging in the balance, Carrie is desperate not to fail and be fired—or worse, to find her faith fading in the face of danger and uncertainty. But when she calls in security specialist Scott Patteson for his expertise on the case, she's suddenly also in danger of losing her heart.

Best-selling author Kimberley Woodhouse's thrilling romantic suspense series continues with this melding of cybercrime and true crime, perfect for fans of Irene Hannon, Lynnette Eason, and Colleen Coble.

Kimberley Woodhouse is the best-selling author of more than thirty books and novellas, including *A Deep Divide*, *Bridge of Gold*, and *The Mayflower Bride*, as well as the coauthor of the Heart of Alaska series with Tracie Peterson. Kimberley's writing has earned a Carol Award, the Christian Market Novel of the Year, the Holt Medallion, and many others. A proud former resident of Alaska, she now makes her home in Colorado. Visit her at kimberleywoodhouse.com.

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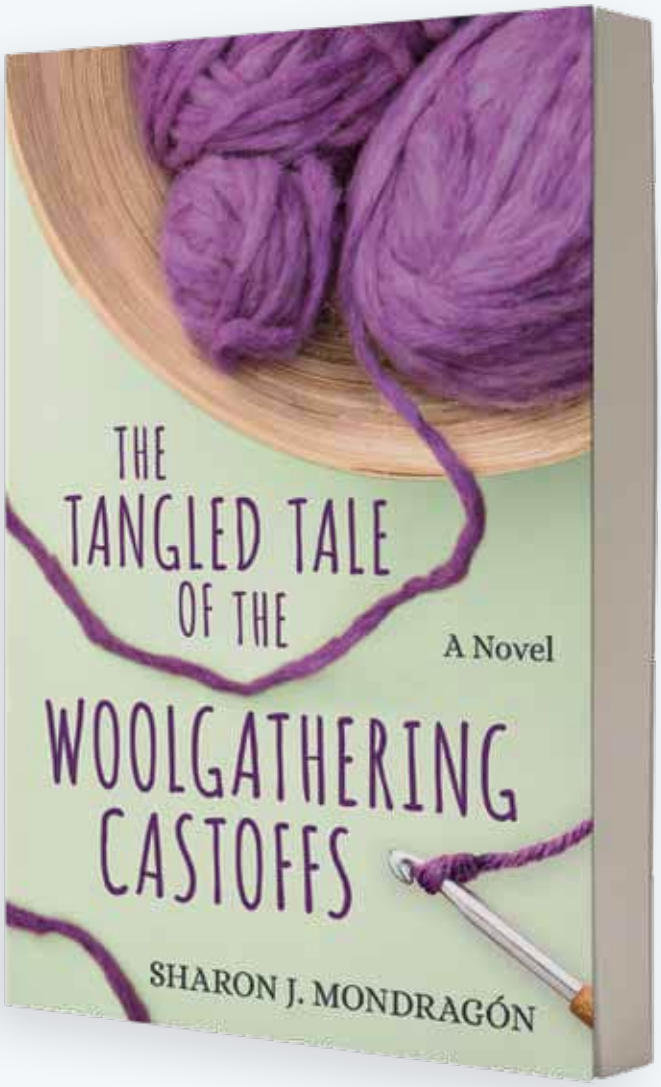
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The Tangled Tale of the Woolgathering Castoffs

Sharon J. Mondragón

PURLS & PRAYERS #2



A humorous, heartwarming tale of love, loss, and the power of community

Fair Meadows Retirement Community might as well be a country club for most of the retirees enjoying the pool, golf course, and book clubs. But for the caregivers whose family members reside upstairs in the special Memory Care Unit, vacation is over.

Comforting these caregivers is exactly why the Woolgatherers group has formed. They make prayer shawls to support those affected by the heartbreaking reality of not being recognized by a loved one—people like Sam Talbot, who has been barely existing since his wife moved into Memory Care. He finds that his life has lost all color and meaning without her.

That's something the Woolgatherers can't bear to see. Flirtatious Jenny Alderman, cranky crocheter Edna O'Brian, kind Rose Harker, and the rest of the prayer shawl group weave him into the circle. Sam has no idea how he got tangled up with them, and he's no good at knitting. But when one member talks him into taking up his wife's old crochet hooks, he discovers that this one small gesture might just have the power to heal his life—or even save it.

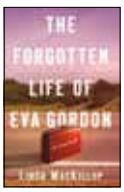
Full of Sharon Mondragón's characteristic humor and heart, this book wrestles with the loneliness of being the forgotten spouse of a dementia patient, moving past the fear that the spouses often face into the love and compassion that can make all the difference.

Sharon J. Mondragón is the facilitator for a prayer shawl ministry and the knitting instructor at Ewe2Yarn near her home in Midlothian, Texas. She has been a school play therapist, a homeschooling military wife, and a writer whose work has earned recognition with both the *Saturday Evening Post* Great American Fiction Contest and ACFW. Find her at sharonjmondragon.com.

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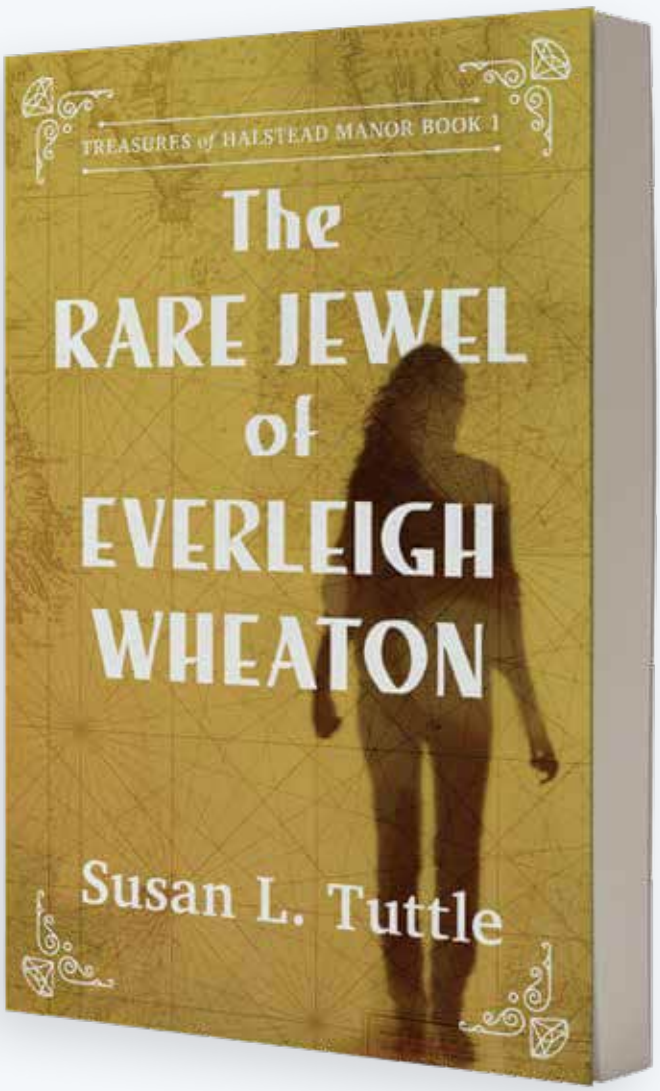
- Follows author's best-selling debut with another winning yarn
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The Rare Jewel of Everleigh Wheaton

Susan L. Tuttle

TREASURES OF HALSTEAD MANOR #1



In her search for a rare gem, will Everleigh end up uncovering the true treasure of her heart?

Personal care nurse Everleigh Wheaton knows it only takes a few well-placed lies to ruin a reputation. She's experienced it time and time again. But there's a silver lining to repeatedly proving herself: she's confident and self-reliant.

When she loses yet another job and an enigmatic stranger offers her a potential way out, she's game. After all, she loves a good mystery, and an invitation to visit the legendary Halstead Manor is irresistible. But she's not about to let her guard down—especially with the other women who received the same invitation.

A strange voice on the phone tells them he's gathered the three of them to work together as treasure hunters. The first assignment requires Everleigh to be a traveling nurse for retired FBI agent Gertrude Levine, who has one cold case she just can't let go of: the Florentine diamond that went missing when the Austrian Empire fell.

With Everleigh's keen ability to solve puzzles, Natalie Daughtry's vast knowledge of history, and Brooke Sumner's connections to the antiques world, they're bound to track down the diamond. Except that Gertie's nephew, Niles Butler, doesn't trust Everleigh's innocent act . . . even if he finds himself falling for her. Worse, Everleigh's walls of self-preservation may doom the entire team.

Hints of real-life historical events combined with contemporary characters make this first book in the Treasures of Halstead Manor series a masterful blend of romance, mystery, and strong female friendships. Readers of authors like Denise Hunter and Nicole Deese who enjoy unfolding relationships and the organic discovery of God's love will relish this new series.

Susan L. Tuttle is a pastor's wife, mom, and the director of women's ministry at her church near Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her previous work includes the Count on Love series, and the Carol Award finalist *Love You, Truly*. Learn more about Susan at susanltuttle.com.

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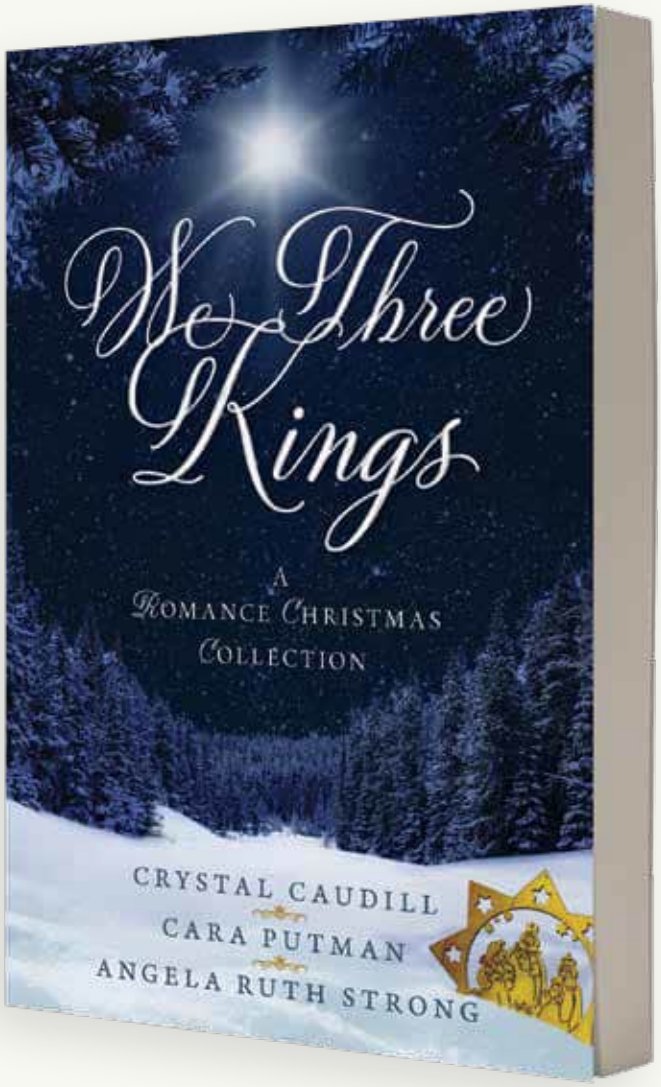
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We Three Kings

A Romance Christmas Collection

Crystal Caudill, Cara Putman, and Angela Ruth Strong



In this Christmas collection, Weise men still seek Jesus—and love

Best-selling romance authors Caudill, Putman, and Strong follow three generations of the Weise family in this third collection of Christmas novellas from Kregel that will prove just as popular as the previous award-winning volumes.

"Star of Wonder" by Crystal Caudill
The Christmas-themed maiden voyage of his family's grand steamer ship was supposed to be Aldrich Weise's chance both to instill investor confidence and to romance Celestia Isaacs. Instead, he must foil a criminal and leave his lady love behind.

"Beauty Bright" by Cara Putman
Lieutenant Charles Weise served as a Monuments Man after World War II and now works to restore stolen art to rightful owners. Captain Lillian Thorsen pairs up with him not only to return treasures but also to fix the war-torn lives around them.

"Perfect Light" by Angela Ruth Strong
Essential oils mogul Brendon Wise is drawn to Lacey Foster, the event planner for his huge Christmas lights festival. But when he inadvertently makes a spectacle of her on television, Lacey wants nothing to do with him. Will a chance to give gifts to those in need at Christmas be the key to discovering common ground—and maybe love?

Crystal Caudill is the author of "dangerously good historical romance," with her work garnering awards from Romance Writers of America (RWA) and American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW).

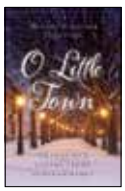
Cara Putman is the award-winning, best-selling author of more than thirty-five novels, including the Cornhusker Dreams series and the Hidden Justice series.

Angela Ruth Strong is a longtime author from Idaho who has had work chosen as a *Romantic Times* Top Pick, as a Cascade Award winner, and most recently as a finalist in the Christy Awards for Contemporary Romance with *Husband Auditions*.

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Hero Debut

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LOVE OFF SCRIPT SERIES



"Once again, Angela Ruth Strong combines comedic moments with gospel truth, delivering another page-turner."
—Toni Shiloh, Christy Award–winning author of *In Search of a Prince*

Gemma Bennett is the leading lady of her own life, and her true love is writing screenplays. With her trusty pink notebook in hand, she signs up for the Citizen's Safety Academy to research her newest blockbuster hope: a rom-com with a police officer as the hero. And the fact that the handsome and heroic Lieutenant Karson Zellner is the one leading the training? Well, who can blame her for wanting to spend time with the man she swooned over months ago when he responded to a call at her home?

Karson already has his fair share of problems before Gemma shows up, and he's not exactly a fan of the ditzy blonde who can't seem to stay out of trouble. The last thing he needs is a damsel in distress to rescue; there are plenty of people in real need of his help. The fact that she seems to think his job makes him a superhero is just one more strike against her. This isn't a movie, and he feels like the furthest thing from a leading man.

Gemma can't seem to stop doing the worst, most embarrassing things at just the wrong time. And as time goes on, Gemma begins to realize that the scripts for a perfect screenplay and a real-life happily-ever-after are two very different things. Can she step out of her own way to find the hero her story needs?

Angela Ruth Strong is a longtime author from Idaho who has had work chosen as a *Romantic Times* Top Pick, as a Cascade Award winner, and most recently as a finalist in the Christy Awards for Contemporary Romance with *Husband Auditions.* She is also an expert on Write That Book, blogs on inspyromance.com and *How to Write a Novel,* and is the founder of IDAhope Writers. She is the author of the Resort to Love series and the CafFUNated mysteries. Find her online at angelaruthstrong.com.

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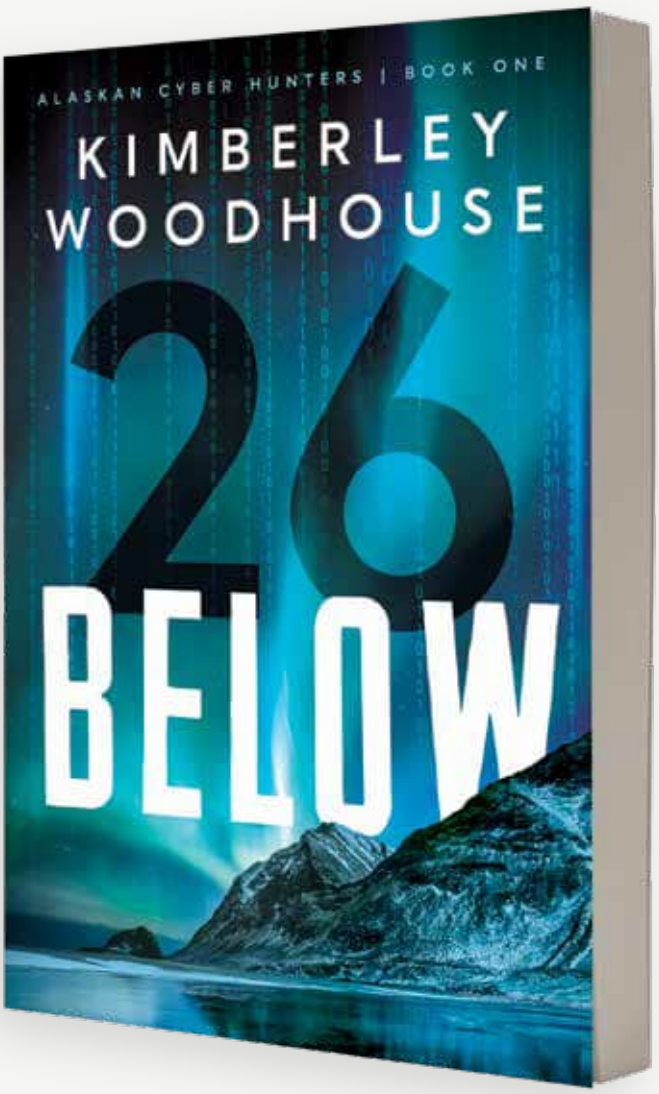
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26 Below

Kimberley Woodhouse

ALASKAN CYBER HUNTERS #1



"A thrill ride. . . as current as today's front-page news!"
—Colleen Coble, *USA Today* best-selling author

In her new role as Emergency Operations Center director for Fairbanks, Alaska, Darcie Phillips prevents disasters. But none of her training can prepare her for the terror that's coming.

As a cybersecurity specialist, Jason Myers is determined to ferret out any threats to the town he now calls home—and that includes his reckless brother and his ecoterrorist friends.

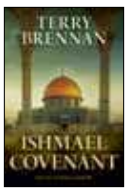
When an old woman's wild prediction—widespread destruction as soon as the Fairbanks temperature falls to 26 below—hits national headlines, neither Darcie nor Jason sees a real risk to anything but tourism. Then the bodies start dropping.

Darcie is relying on her experience and intelligence to stop a killer; Jason is relying on God to guide the way. They'll have to work together to find the truth and prevent their Alaskan town from becoming a city of nightmares.

The first in a thrilling new suspense series from best-selling author Kimberley Woodhouse, *26 Below* will delight fans of Lynnette Eason, Irene Hannon, and Lynn Blackburn.

Kimberley Woodhouse is the best-selling author of more than thirty books and novellas, including *A Deep Divide, Bridge of Gold,* and *The Mayflower Bride,* as well as the coauthor of the Heart of Alaska series with Tracie Peterson. Kimberley's writing has earned a Carol Award, the Christian Market Novel of the Year, the Holt Medallion, and many others. A proud former resident of Alaska, she now makes her home in the Pennsylvania Poconos. Visit her at kimberleywoodhouse.com.

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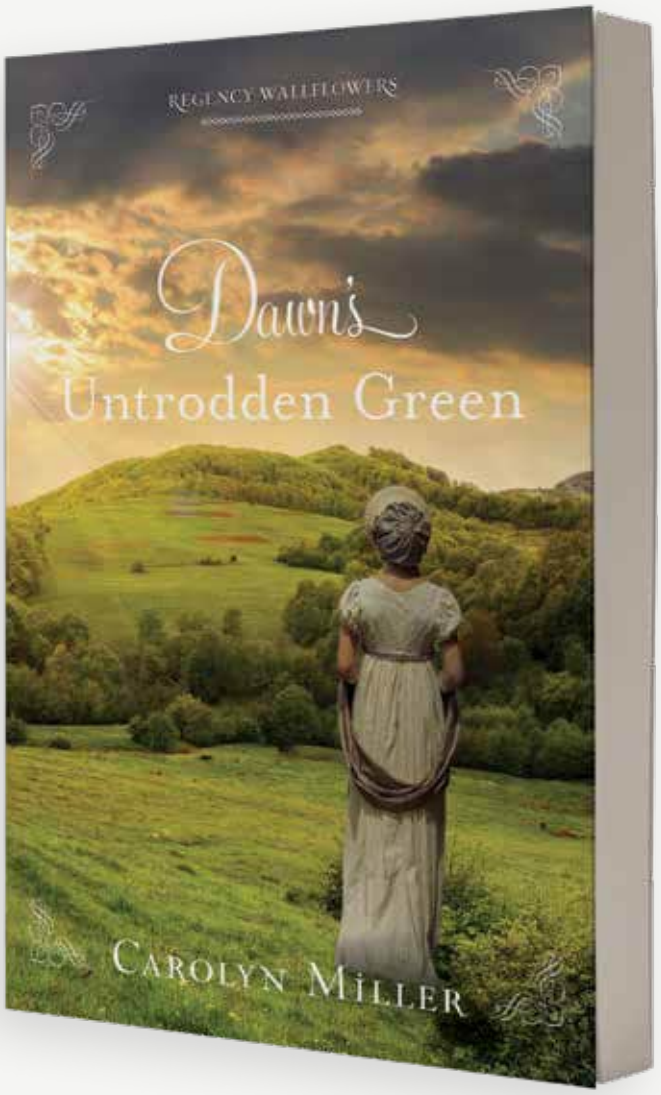
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Dawn's Untrodden Green

Carolyn Miller

REGENCY WALLFLOWERS #3



"Highly entertaining, refreshing, and witty. . . . [A] beautifully written, delightful, and faith-filled romance of two endearing hearts."

—Grace Hitchcock, award-winning author of *My Dear Miss Dupré*

Not much happens in Theodosia Stapleton's tiny Northumberland village. Certainly not to her. She has resigned herself to spinsterhood, caring for her ailing mother in the home of her grandfather, known to the locals as "General Contrary." When her dear friend dies and leaves behind a daughter, it's simple enough to take the child into her own quiet world. That is, until her ward's famous uncle unexpectedly arrives and throws Theo's tidy orbit completely off-kilter.

Fame was the last thing Daniel Balfour sought when he fought in the Peninsular War. But his brave exploits caught the attention of the King, and now the honors he was given hound him everywhere . . . even on his rushed trip to rescue his orphaned niece.

Theo's quick wit and warm smile reassure him that Rebecca is in good hands, and he finds himself free to swiftly return to London and his responsibilities. But those caring hands are beginning to look like they could also safely hold his heart, and he's tempted to linger. Unfortunately, marriage is simply not in the cards; the army is spouse enough for him.

Then an accident and a scandal lead both Theo and Daniel to discover that their best-laid plans may not have been what God designed for them after all.

Carolyn Miller lives in New South Wales, Australia, with her husband and four children. She is an award-winning author and longtime lover of Regency romance. Her best-selling work includes *The Elusive Miss Ellison*, *Dusk's Darkest Shores*, and several other Regency romances in multiple series. Learn more at carolynmiller.author.com.

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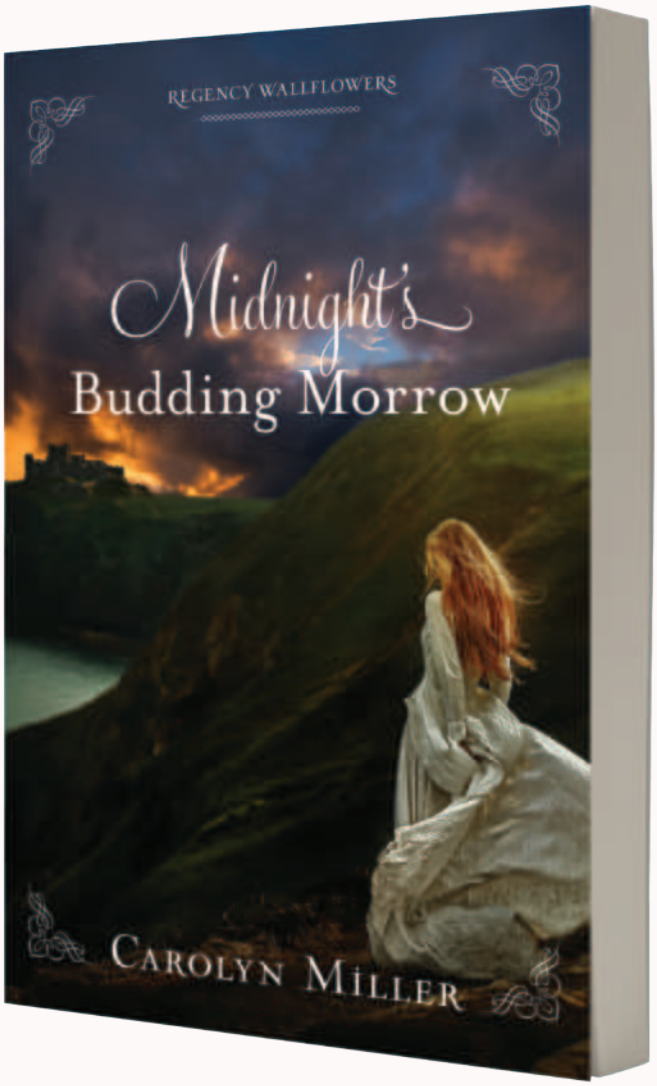
- Georgette Heyer-like banter with Christian themes
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April 11, 2023

Midnight's Budding Morrow

Carolyn Miller

REGENCY WALLFLOWERS #2



Can real love grow between a wallflower and an unrepentant rogue?

Sarah Drayton is eager to spend time with her best friend at her crumbling Northumberland castle estate. Matrimony is the last thing on her mind and the last thing she expects to be faced with on a holiday. Yet she finds herself being inveigled into a marriage of convenience with her friend's rakish brother.

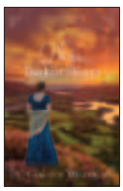
When James Langley returns to his family's estate, he can't be bothered to pay attention to his responsibilities as the heir. War is raging and he wants only distraction, not serious tethers. But his roguish ways have backed him into a corner, and he has little choice but to obey his father's stunning decree: marry before returning to war, or else. Suddenly he finds himself wedded to a clever and capable woman he does not love.

Sarah craves love and a place to belong, neither of which James offered before returning to the battlefront. Now everyone around her thinks she married above her station, and they have no intention of rewarding her for such impertinence. It isn't until her husband returns from war seemingly changed that she begins to hope they may find real happiness. But can she trust that this rake has truly reformed?

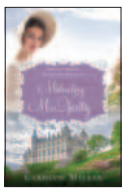
When tragedy strikes, this pair must learn to trust God and his plans. Will they be destroyed . . . or will they discover that even in the darkest depths of night, the morning still holds hope?

Carolyn Miller lives in New South Wales, Australia, with her husband and four children. A longtime lover of Regency romance and award-winning author, she is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Australasian Christian Writers. Her best-selling work includes *The Elusive Miss Ellison, Dusk's Darkest Shores,* and several other Regency romances in multiple series. Learn more at carolynmillerauthor.com.

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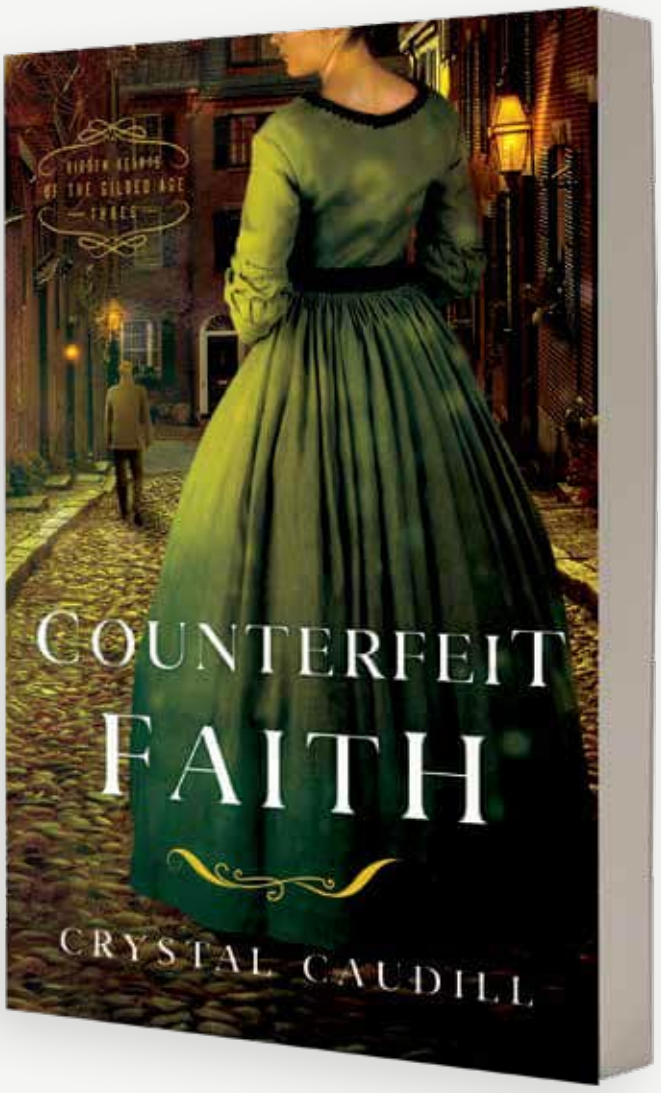
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Crystal Caudill

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She's losing her faith in mankind. He's lost his faith in God. Can working together restore them both?

As matron of Final Chance House of Refuge, Gwendolyn Ellison has dedicated her life to serving the children deemed delinquents by society. She'll protect them with everything she has. So when she suspects someone is using Final Chance for criminal deeds, she's determined to investigate and put a stop to it. But villains don't like to be stopped. Gwendolyn is abducted at knifepoint and threatened to end her interference.

Gwendolyn knows she can't quit fighting. More than her own life is on the line if counterfeiters go free. She must find someone she can trust to help her expose the criminals and protect the children under her care.

Charming and chivalrous Secret Service operative Josiah Isaacs can't turn his back on a woman in trouble—and capturing counterfeiters is his job, after all. The danger he's truly worried about is his attraction to Gwendolyn when his heart wants to remain faithful to his deceased wife.

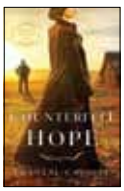
As both peril and interest grow, he wonders if marrying again actually could be in his future—if they can live through this case. At the same time, he's put off by her faith in a God he no longer trusts. Can a future together even be possible when their beliefs are so at odds?

Crystal Caudill is the author of "dangerously good historical romance," with her work garnering awards from Romance Writers of America and ACFW. She is a stay-at-home mom and caregiver, and when she isn't writing, Crystal can be found playing board games with her family, drinking hot tea, or reading other great books at her home outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Find out more at crystalcaudill.com.

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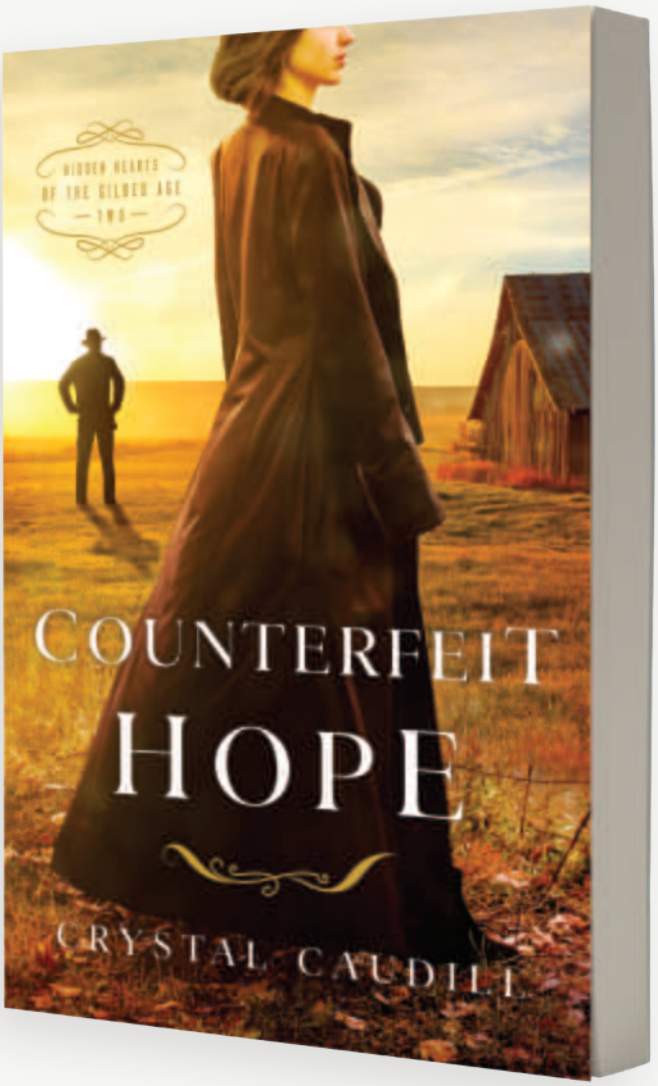
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HIDDEN HEARTS OF THE GILDED AGE #2



Trapped by their pasts, is there hope for a future?

When Secret Service operative Andrew Darlington is brought in to support a US Marshal case involving counterfeiters in rural Indiana, he thinks it's simply the next rung on his climb to the top of his career. But liars can only climb so high—and Andrew is keeping a dangerous secret he doesn't ever want to get out. When he clashes with the criminal family that took over the town of Landkreis and killed the Marshal he was sent to assist, his past life is in danger of being exposed.

Widow "Lightning Lu" Thorne has only one goal: escape the clutches of the Thorne family with her son. Her decision to be an informant and testify against the Thornes looked like the perfect answer. Until the Marshal ended up dead. Now the tether keeping her tied to her felonious family is tightening, and a forced marriage to someone else in the Thornes' clutches threatens to kill any hope of escape.

Andrew and Lu find themselves on the same team—unwillingly. They each believe the other to be the enemy to their future plans. And even if they could learn to work together, the secrets they hold could shatter all hopes and dreams. Despite the encouragement of the local preacher, they're not even sure God can be trusted, much less other humans. Can either of them escape their past—and the family that is willing to kill their own when they smell betrayal?

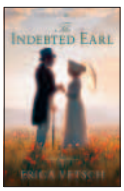
On the heels of her smashing debut, this second entry in Crystal Caudill's historical series maintains the excitement that readers of Michelle Griep, Liz Tolsma, and Elizabeth Camden will love.

Crystal Caudill is the author of "dangerously good historical romance," with her work garnering awards from Romance Writers of America and ACFW. She is a stay-at-home mom and caregiver, and when she isn't writing, Caudill can be found playing board games with her family, drinking hot tea, or reading other great books at her home outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Find out more at crystalcaudill.com.

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Within These Walls of Sorrow

A Novel of World War II Poland

Amanda Barratt



There is no cure you can prescribe for war

Zosia Lewandowska knows the brutal realities of war all too well. Within weeks of Germany's invasion of her Polish homeland, she lost the man she loves. What she doesn't know is how she can fight against the invading evil. That is, until she meets Taduesz Pankiewicz, a pharmacist who dares to operate a pharmacy in the heart of the Kraków Ghetto. As part of his staff, she will risk her life to help the Jewish people trapped under Nazi oppression.

Hania Silberman's family is one of those forced into the Ghetto. Now they must struggle to survive in a world hemmed in by walls and rife with cruelty and despair. A glimmer of hope is sparked when she encounters Zosia, her former neighbor, who now works at the pharmacy Under the Eagle. But as deportations tear away at the Ghetto's population and snatch the lives of those she holds dear, Hania's hope drains away.

As they face the griefs and fears thrust upon them by war and cruelty, the women's lives intersect but never truly intertwine. Until one day, when they must make a desperate choice—one that will bind them together in spirit, even as they're forced apart.

Amanda Barratt's meticulous research and lush, award-winning writing shine once again in this moving look at a little-known pharmacy in the midst of the Kraków Ghetto and the stunning bravery of its employees who save the lives of the Jewish community around them.

Amanda Barratt is a Christy Award–winning, ECPA best-selling author of several novels and novellas, including *My Dearest Dietrich* and *The White Rose Resists*. She is an ACFW member and a two-time FHL Reader's Choice Award finalist. She and her family live in northern Michigan. Visit her at www.amandabarratt.net.

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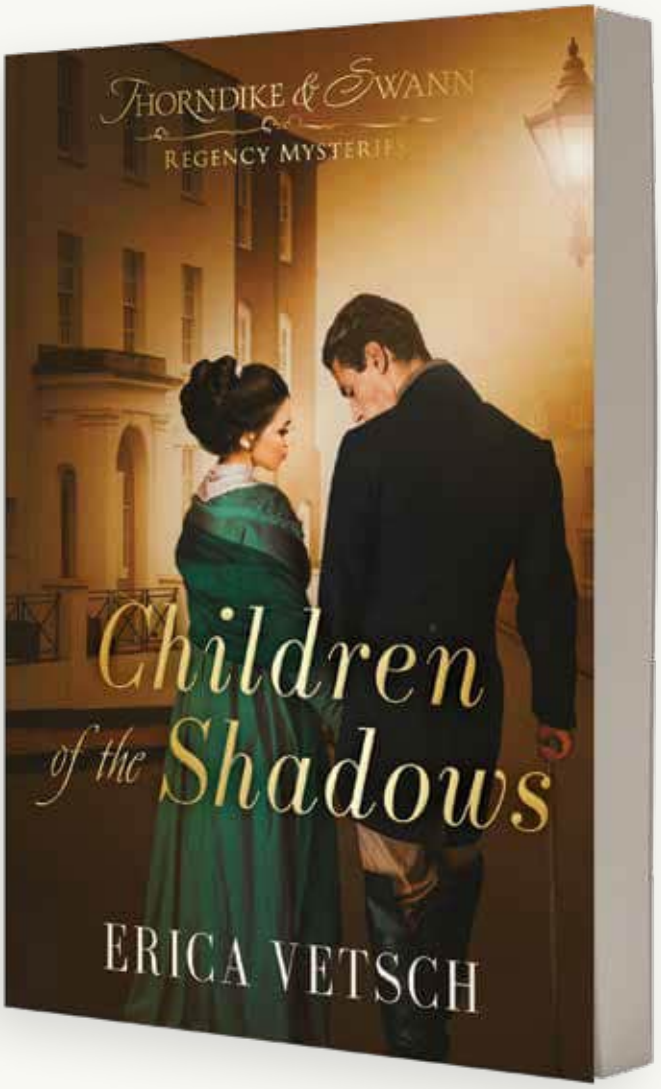
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Children of the Shadows

Erica Vetsch

THORNDIKE & SWANN REGENCY MYSTERIES #3



"Each Erica Vetsch book is better than the last!"
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Detective Daniel Swann and debutante Juliette Thorndike once again team up to solve a dangerous mystery—while trying to keep their growing romance secret.

Someone is preying upon the street children of Regency London. They seem to think no one will notice when urchins go missing—and even if they are noticed, who will care?

Daniel needs to do something about the missing children. But with recent revelations about his past and an unexpected, somewhat unwelcome inheritance to deal with, this is a terrible time to dive back into the seedy underbelly of the crime world. Nevertheless, he's still a Bow Street runner, and Lady Juliette is sensitive to the plight of these wayward youngsters. They're on the case, searching shadowed alleys and coal-drenched streets to find the missing.

But the tangle of expectation and the dynamics of power cannot be easily ignored, even if there are children in danger. When Daniel's past threatens to overwhelm his future, he will need a miracle and the help of his friends to both apprehend the villain and unravel his tangled family web. And it may be that his new responsibilities demand that he leave the children of the shadows to their terrible fate—or lose everything.

Erica Vetsch's popular Regency mystery series concludes with a bang, sure to satisfy readers who have hung on every page since book one.

Erica Vetsch is a *New York Times* best-selling author and ACFW Carol Award winner and has been a *Romantic Times* Top Pick for her previous books. She loves Jesus, history, romance, and watching sports. This transplanted Kansan now makes her home in Rochester, Minnesota. Learn more about Erica at ericavetsch.com.

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