Outstanding Books Reviewed in This Issue

An uncertain choice, by Jody Hedlund.

Hidden like Anne Frank: fourteen true stories of survival, by Marcel Prins & Peter Henk Steenhuis; translated by Laura Watkinson.

Simply good news: why the Gospel is news and what makes it good, by N.T. Wright.
A Letter from the Publisher

Dear CLJ Readers:

Thank you for your patience in awaiting this first issue of 2015! Many changes have been afoot here at CLJ, resulting in our decision to make this issue a double issue.

As many of you know, we have been gradually transitioning leadership from Nancy to me and the current CLJ team. The CLJ staff has now grown to include Justina McBride, our Editorial Assistant, and Valorie Cooper, our Special Features Writer. There has been so much to learn from Nancy! Because of the learning curve for all of us, and also in order to bring our publishing schedule in line with industry custom, we are bringing out this Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr issue in March. Subsequent issues will then come out toward the beginning of the bimonthly period covered.

We are also excited to announce that CLJ will now include Special Features. This month's Special Feature is a Resource Spotlight - an article that presents information about a resource that we think will be useful to our readers. Future Special Features will include author interviews - we have an outstanding one planned for the May-June issue!

We pray you are blessed in reading this issue and putting it to use for the glory of God, as we were blessed in its preparation.

In Christ,

Angela Walsh
Publisher and Editor
The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide reviews from a Christian point of view, of both Christian and secular titles for the Christian reader. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Christian Library Journal*.

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**

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*Taken from An uncertain choice by Jody Hedlund. Copyright © 2015 by Jody Hedlund. Used by permission of Zondervan. www.zondervan.com*
RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: Evangelical Church Library Association

In addition to reviews of quality books, CLJ seeks to provide its readers with resources to assist them in their roles as librarians, educators, parents and/or homeschoolers. In this issue, we would like to make our readers aware of the Evangelical Church Library Association, a group that was formed to serve church libraries but whose mission has broadened to offer resources to all Christian book-lovers.

The Evangelical Church Library Association, or ECLA, was formed in 1970 in Wheaton, Illinois. The association grew out of the personal ministry of Arthur K. Saul, manager of the Scripture Press Bookstore in Wheaton, who conducted workshops for church librarians in his area. Now a registered non-profit, ECLA held its first conference in 1970 and has continued to host an annual conference ever since.

ECLA is a fellowship of Christian churches, schools and individuals whose mission is to promote church libraries to encourage Christian growth, and to offer spiritual encouragement and professional assistance to librarians. The organization currently includes members from 33 states, as well as Canada and the Czech Republic, and also has a complimentary membership with the Australian Church Library Association.

Important programs and activities include the annual conference each October and a free mentoring service that assists with issues such as collection development; recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers; promoting and marketing your church library; running a summer reading program or book club; selecting and implementing a library catalog, circulation system or web OPAC; and investigating and working with ebooks. This year’s conference is scheduled for October 23-24, 2015 at College Church in Wheaton, IL. ECLA Co-President Ceil Carey (who is also one of CLJ’s valued reviewers) says: “The conference is awesome! We have many workshops on a variety of subjects—some particularly for church librarians, some for school librarians, and some general ones that would interest book lovers and any attendees. Our book swap is very popular. Usually we have authors attend and do presentations and we always have a local Christian bookstore present so attendees can purchase books at a discount. We always have a keynote speaker who inspires church librarians! Publishers are present and talk about new books and, of course, one of the most popular parts is the book giveaway at the end of the day where those same publishers give away most of the books they brought. It takes almost a year to prepare for the annual conference, and we have already begun plans for this year’s.”

ECLA’s focus on spiritual encouragement and professional growth offers many opportunities for education and participation. Carey encourages readers of the ECLA blog to “add comments.” There is also a template for readers to fill out with a book review. According to Carey, most book review submissions get posted on the blog.

For more information, and to sign up for email updates to the ECLA blog, visit www.eclalibraries.org and like and follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/eclalibraries.

Valorie Cooper, CLJ Special Features Writer
Review Rating System

*5 Outstanding — a book which impacts someone’s life or thinking
5 Excellent — well written, among the best
4 Very good — definitely worth reading
3 Good — may be a good source for relaxation or to meet needs for information
2 Fair — poor writing or editing; read only if very interested
1 Poor — not much going for this title.

Recommended with caution (may be used with any of the above ratings)–Note reservations within the review.
Not recommended (may be used with any of the above ratings)–Note problems within the review.

Value of the book:
With fiction, the rating includes the quality of plot development/pacing, characterization, sense of time and place, mood, and atmosphere, dialogue, depth of perception, sensitivity of writing, use of humor. Be aware that some books are character driven, so character development is extremely important. Others are plot driven, so character development isn’t as critical; plot is.
With nonfiction, the rating includes quality of the information, accuracy, up to date, stimulates further inquiry, adds to the understanding of the topic, illustrations which are informative and appropriate.
With picture books, first be aware that these are written today for various age groups, so don’t assume little children. The rating includes those above for fiction and nonfiction, and also emphasizes the illustrations.

Commonly used abbreviations in CLJ reviews

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Primary Fiction

The redcoats are coming! / Marianne Hering, Nancy I. Sanders ; illustrated by David Hohn. (Imagination Station; 13)
Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
135 p. : Ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 2-5
Fic Rating: 4

Captured on the high seas / Marianne Hering, Nancy I. Sanders ; creative direction by Paul McCusker ; illustrated by David Hohn. (Imagination Station; 14)
Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
130 p. : Ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 2-5
Fic Rating: 4

Surprise at Yorktown / Marianne Hering. (Imagination Station; 15)
Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
135 p. : Ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 2-5
Fic Rating: 4

Marianne Hering and Nancy Sanders continue their series that lets the reader experience significant events in history through the adventures of Beth and Patrick. The young cousins use the Imagination Station invented by Mr. Whitaker (from Focus on the Family’s Adventures in Odyssey series) to travel back in time.

In The Redcoats Are Coming, Beth and Patrick embark on a patriotic adventure in 1775 Concord, Massachusetts—just before Paul Revere’s famous ride. Their mission is to deliver a letter to Paul Revere. They meet John Hancock and Samuel Adams, as well as a teenage girl named Sybil (possibly Sybil Luddington?). When the letter is misplaced, they try to get it back, only to be accused of being spies. Will they be able to convince Paul Revere they only want to help the patriots?

In Captured on the High Seas, after helping Sybil warn the townspeople in Concord that the British are coming, Patrick and Beth find themselves on board an American ship in the middle of a 1781 battle. The British take possession of the ship, putting Beth and Patrick in even more danger. Beth, disguised as a boy, and Patrick join forces with a young freedom fighter—a freed slave—to sabotage the gunpowder onboard the ship. Will they complete their work before they are discovered?

In Surprise at Yorktown, Beth and Patrick find themselves in General Cornwallis’ headquarters. They discover his plan to fake a surrender. They must escape the enemy camp to warn George Washington about the British general’s plans. Will they reach Washington in time as they dodge cannonballs and bad weather?

Focus on the Family and Tyndale co-publish this historical fiction series for children to explore the way faith has played a role in biblical, world, and American history. Parents will appreciate the historical facts and biblical worldview expressed in these stories.

Recommended for public and school libraries, as well as home schooling students.

Carol R. Gehringer, Worthy2read.wordpress.com

A thirst for home : a story of water across the world / Christine Ieronimo ; illustrations by Eric Velasquez.
LCCN 2013039001 ISBN 9780802723079,
Hunger and lack of clean drinking water are daily struggles for Alemitu and her mother Emaye in sun-baked Ethiopia. The hardships lead to adoption and a new life for Alemitu in America, where the sunshine and rain preserve a connection to her birth mother and homeland. Alemitu becomes “Eva,” which means “life.” A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water across the World is a fact-based picture book by Christine Ieronimo, who has an adopted daughter from Ethiopia and is involved in sustainable projects there.

Poignant and memorable, A Thirst for Home introduces a contemporary problem that is likely to be eye-opening for most readers. Author Christine Ieronimo speaks poetically through Emaye to convey that water is a precious and universal need. Her evocative and descriptive phrases such as the “hot, sticky breath” of the sun add to the overall quality and flow of the story. Water imagery is everywhere—in the rain, puddles, and Emaye’s tears. Mixed media and oil renderings by Eric Velasquez thoroughly enhance the book. Earthy palettes show Alemitu’s loving but difficult life in Africa. Brighter illustrations depict Eva’s (somewhat idealized) assimilation into her new family. The artist beautifully captures some of the verbal imagery: the “fierce lion” (hunger) is seen in a cloud and the water’s reflection hints at what Alemitu and Emaye see and feel. Older readers will appreciate the elegance and messages within the artwork in scenes such as Alemitu asleep beside her tearful mother and later nestled safely between her adoptive parents.

The characters in this affecting book face their challenges with quiet dignity. Alemitu’s adoption may seem to be a drastic solution, though a detailed author’s note explains that this is quite a common consequence of the conditions in rural Ethiopia. A Thirst for Home would be an absorbing classroom read-aloud, timely for World Water Day (March 22), and a valuable addition to school library collections.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ

Zoe’s jungle / by Bethanie Deeney Murguia.

LCCN 2013039059 ISBN 9780545558693, hardcover, $16.98.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm. Grade PS-2 E Rating: 5

Zoe the clever and brave explorer is in pursuit of the strange Addiebeast. From under the brush, across a fallen log, and up in the treetops Zoe pursues her prey...but time is running out! Zoe’s Jungle is the third book about Zoe and her little sister.

When Mama tells the girls they have to leave the playground in five minutes, their game of chase becomes a dramatic adventure. Author Bethanie Deeney Murguia enriches young readers with challenging vocabulary (“stealthy”, “relentless”, “unfathomable”) and a delightful story of how a little girl’s imagination can transform her world.

The author/illustrator’s whimsical pen-and-ink and watercolor drawings reflect the charming interactions between Zoe and her sister Addie and their wild escapade. The story playfully alternates between reality and fantasy with a sweet capture-your-heart ending.

Zoe’s Jungle is the total picture book package, with its loveable characters, smart writing, artistic appeal, and relatable plot. Perfectly suited for
reading aloud, *Zoe’s Jungle* is likely to become a fast bedtime favorite.

* Nina Ditmar, *CLJ*

**A letter for Leo / Sergio Ruzzier.**


LCCN 2013034502 ISBN 9780544223608, hardcover, $16.98.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm. Grades PS-3

E Rating: 4

leo, a weasel, is the mailman for a small town. He is everyone’s friend but he is lonely, and he has never received a letter himself. One day, he happens upon a small bird who’s been left behind. Leo takes the little bird home, and they become a family. But Cheep grows up and flies away to rejoin his flock. Leo returns to his old, lonely life. But one day, he receives a letter from Cheep. And that makes him smile.

*A Letter for Leo*, written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier (who also illustrated Eve Bunting’s *Tweak Tweak and Have you Seen My New Blue Socks?*) is a sweet story of loneliness, unexpected friendship, growth, loss, and reconnection. Bright pastel watercolor illustrations bring this sweet story to life and fill in many interesting background details. This book will be a touching read, again and again.

* Valorie Cooper, *CLJ*

**Mr. Putter & Tabby turn the page / Cynthia Rylant ; illustrated by Arthur Howard.**


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm Grades 1-4

E Rating: 4

Mr. Putter loves books, but he especially loves reading his books out loud with others who enjoy them including his cat, Tabby. In *Mr. Putter and Tabby Turn the Page*, the library has a special advertisement: “Read aloud with your pet at Story Time.” Mr. Putter is excited to share both his cat and his favorite book at the library’s story time. He is so excited about the special story time that he tells his neighbor and friend, Mrs. Teaberry, who decides to share her favorite story and her rambunctious dog at the library’s story time. Suddenly, “[r]eading was not so quiet anymore. Reading was an adventure!”

Cynthia Rylant’s story is sweet, and Arthur Howard’s cartoon-like illustrations depict the words aptly and with humor. Mr. Putter and Mrs. Teaberry may remind young readers of their own grandparents. Most young readers will appreciate the relationship Mr. Putter and Mrs. Teaberry have with their pets. Rylant’s clever use of words makes the story a treat to read while not being too difficult. The setting may also ring with familiarity if young readers have spent much time in a library—though they may want to add story time with pets to their libraries’ calendar.

* Kristina Wolcott, *CLJ*
Hello, Moon! / Francesca Simon and Ben Cort.

LCCN 2013035042 ISBN 9780545647953, hardcover, $16.98.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm. Grades PS-1
Rating: 4

A wide-eyed, lonely boy waves at a smiling full moon from his bedroom window and wonders what he and the moon have in common. “Do you like chocolate ice cream?” “Do you play pirates?” The boy imagines all the moon can see of the whole wide world and wonders who the moon’s friends are. He imagines them to be the Milky Way and several major constellations.

In Hello Moon! author Francesca Simon presents a magical bedtime adventure, and illustrator Ben Cort perfectly captures the story in colorful acrylics. The moon appears on most pages, bright and benevolent, and when the boy’s imagination has run its course, he happily tells the moon good night and falls asleep. The moon sleeps, too.

The story sparks imaginations and provides a bit of education about constellations. The illustrations—using large amounts of deep blue—lend a peaceful and sleepy feel.

Valorie Cooper, CLJ

Primary Nonfiction

Thank you, God / by J. Bradley Wigger ; illustrated by Jago.

LCCN 2013044346 ISBN 9780802854247, hardcover, $16.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 31 cm. Grades PS-3
Rating: 5

Thank You, God is a prayer of gratitude in picture book form. Author and religious education professor J. Bradley Wigger presents an extended family thanking God throughout their day for everything they have and see.

Digital paints and photographic textures are employed by Jago to illustrate the multi-ethnic family enjoying a meal, a campfire, the natural world, and each other’s love. The eye-catching artwork is radiant, emphasizing the beauty of the earth and the joy of family and home. There is a particularly dear page of animals.

Thank You, God has a peaceful rhythm and a timeless truth. Every scene begins with “Thank You, God” and the final thanks is for His love for us. The author reminds us to be grateful for the sun and stars and also for blessings less obvious: for new words learned, for rain, for restful sleep.

Thank You, God would make a memorable gift for a young child, likely to be shared by the whole family and revisited often.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ

It’s raining / by Gail Gibbons.

LCCN 2013002898 ISBN 9780823429240, hardcover, $17.95.
32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm. Grades K-2
Rating: 4

It’s Raining! is a picture book exploration of the water cycle, different types of clouds, and how families and communities deal with rain showers and more serious storms.

Gail Gibbons’ colorful book opens with people scurrying for raincoats and umbrellas as rain
begins to fall. Subsequent pages show the importance of water and the constant redistribution of moisture in our world. The author/illustrator incorporates text, labels, maps, captions, and diagrams into her vivid watercolor drawings, giving this educational book the feel of a child-friendly pictionary. Even the appearance of a rainbow includes a notation about the order of the colors.

For younger readers, broad headings introduce topics such as: types of clouds and storms; the effects of flooding and pollution; environmental advantages of hydro, wind, and solar power; and safety advice. In smaller font, expanded (but very manageable) paragraphs provide more detailed explanation for older readers. It's Raining! has appeal as a read-aloud with elementary students, homeschoolers, and budding scientists. A final page offers additional facts and definitions with suggested websites for further exploration.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ

Celebrating North Carolina / by Marion Dane Bauer ; illustrated by C. B. Canga. (50 states to celebrate)

36 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 23 cm. Grades 1-4
975.6 Rating: 4

Celebrating Washington State / written by Marion Dane Bauer ; illustrated by C.B. Canga. (50 states to celebrate)

36 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 23 cm. Grades 1-4
979.7 Rating: 4

Mr. Geo teaches geography in a fun and entertaining way with the 50 States to Celebrate series. During his travels, he teaches kids interesting facts about each state.

In Celebrating North Carolina, Mr. Geo starts at the beautiful Outer Banks. He shares information about the first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk and stories from the Native Americans at Oconaluftee Indian village. The Lost Colony is still a mystery, but kids can learn about this and what it was like in those earlier times at the Roanoke Island Festival Park. Sweet potatoes, tobacco, cotton and peanuts are important crops in North Carolina. Readers also find out about racing in Charlotte and the many options for sports lovers in North Carolina. Mr. Geo ends his trip camping by a lovely waterfall.

In Celebrating Washington State, Mr. Geo begins his travels at Hurricane Ridge. The Olympic National Park is huge and has mountains, forests, and the shore. Seattle is home to the Space Needle—a tall structure that looks like it’s topped with a flying saucer and that affords a beautiful view from the top. Mr. Geo takes kids to the Annual Northwest Folklife Festival held in May, where different cultures are celebrated with stories, music and dance. There is also information about Seattle’s rainy weather and its popular sports teams. Kids learn about the five active volcanoes in the Cascades, and join Mr. Geo as he enjoys the scenery during a ferry ride through Puget Sound.

Marion Dane Bauer has produced a series that teaches geography to kids in a colorful and fun way. The illustrations effectively show the beauty of each state. Each book includes a state map and a map of the U.S. There are sections featuring important dates and fast facts (e.g., the state bird, state capital and state flag). A glossary defines words listed in bold throughout the books. There are fun activities included which would be a great resource for teachers and homeschoolers.
Recommended for public and school libraries.

Trina Chase, CLJ

Intermediate Fiction

The spy catchers of Maple Hill / Megan Frazer Blakemore.

LCCN 2013039857 ISBN 9781619633483, hardcover, $16.98.
312 p.; 22 cm. Grades 4-6
Fic Rating: 4

In The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill, Hazel Kaplansky—"future double agent"—carries a mystery notebook, prepared for the day she uncovers a big mystery that will launch her career. When Samuel Butler comes to town, Hazel feels challenged for her spot as the smartest kid in class. When they both get relegated to the triangle section in music class, Hazel knows she's found a friend. Though referred to as "triangle people" by the snooty kids in class, they are anything but "triangle" as Hazel drags Samuel around, trying to uncover the mystery of Paul Jones and his status as a potential spy. Samuel tries to temper Hazel's vast assumptions, but once Hazel thinks she knows something, nothing can change her mind. Unfortunately, Hazel learns that basing her thinking on "[r]umor, whisper, lie" makes her "just as bad as everyone else in town" (p. 259).

Megan Blakemore's charming characters and setting deliver a story that entertains and educates. Set in 1953 small-town America, readers glean a bit of cold-war history delivered by Hazel Kaplansky, a bright, energetic girl. From the whispers and rumors about investigations of suspected communists in town, Hazel and most of her community draw some hasty conclusions. She grows as a character as she learns that she shouldn't base her thoughts on circumstantial evidence and rumors. The dialogue feels organic and aids in giving a clear picture of each character. Mostly the plot clips along, with occasionally slower pacing. Even though the mystery lingers in Hazel's mind, the mood of the book is happy-go-lucky, as Hazel tends to be in spite of challenges with friends and feeling like an afterthought in the lives of her parents. The real mystery comes when Hazel tries to rectify some of her mistakes after being encouraged to: "Use that brain of yours. Think before you act." (p. 284)

Kristina Wolcott, CLJ

The badger knight / Kathryn Erskine.

LCCN 2013042527 ISBN 9780545464420, hardcover, $17.98.
325 p.; map; 22 cm. Grades 4-6
Fic Rating: 4

Adrian of Ashcroft longs to be useful and respected in Badger Knight. His small stature, sickly constitution, pale skin, hair and eyes, and poor eyesight lead some of his peers to bully him and some adults to deride him. Adrian knows he is meant to do something great, and when he is in private he trains diligently to be an archer. In spite of poor eyesight, he shows extraordinary skill. Unfortunately, he is only 12 years old, and his father will not allow him to join in defending his town when they are endangered by the Scots. Adrian thinks his father doesn't respect him enough to allow him to apprentice as a bowyer, he thinks his cousins are hateful, and that war is glorious.

When his best friend, Hugh, sneaks off to join in the fighting, Adrian is determined to find and join him. Along the way, Adrian spends time in a city where he discovers chamber pots are emptied from windows and life on the streets to be
harrowing. He learns the horror of war when he witnesses an arrow piercing and killing a friend. Through the course of the story, Adrian makes new friends, experiences a war, and befriends an enemy.

Kathryn Erskine set Badger Knight in 1346 England and Scotland, and she deftly brings the medieval period to life. Adrian’s character grows as he learns the importance of finding and fulfilling his purpose instead of striving for glory. Once Adrian leaves his small village of Ashcroft, England, the tension tightens and makes the story more compelling. Adrian witnesses a battle scene complete with men being chopped up with pickaxes and crying out for mercy. When extremely frustrated, Adrian sometimes mutters “God’s bones” (p.5), “God’s lungs” (p.9), and “Saint Jerome’s bones” (p. 60). In some spots Adrian references his understanding of eternity as well as protection by saints. The theme—that things (and people) are not always as they appear—is beautifully summed up when Adrian learns that even he is not as he appears, but instead he is “someone useful from the village of Ashcroft” (p. 325).

Kristina Wolcott, CLJ

Under the egg / Laura Marx Fitzgerald.

LCCN 2013017790  ISBN 9780803740013,  
hardcover, $16.98.  
247 p.; 22 cm.  Grades 4-6  
Fic  Rating: 5  

Theodora “Theo” Tenpenny inherits a painting and a problem following her grandfather’s death in Under the Egg. When Theo finds her grandfather Jack in the middle of the road in a pool of his own blood and surrounded by EMTs, some of his last words are: “Look under the egg... before it’s too late” (p. 4). Through a series of events, Theo discovers a painting by an old master underneath the painting of an egg that used to hang above their fireplace. Knowing her grandfather never made enough money to afford such a piece of art leads her to wonder how he acquired it and what to do with it. Unfortunately, Theo’s mother is, in Theo’s grandfather’s words, “a bit off” (p.9) and unable to care for Theo or herself. Therefore, in addition to a mystery to solve, Theo also takes full responsibility for the house and her mother.

In her search for information about the painting and her grandfather’s past, Theo acquires more wealth than she could have ever imagined in the form of new friends. One of her new friends, Bodhi, offers friendship and invaluable help in solving the mystery. Reverend Cecily also helps solve a portion of the mystery, as does Mo, who had been in the military with Theo’s grandfather and shares information from their shared war experience.

Laura Marx Fitzgerald devises a clever, quickly moving plot and loveable, quirky characters. The mystery behind the painting and the tension of Theo’s responsibilities drive the plot quickly. Theo grows as a character as she learns the value of friendship. Upon one of the biggest discoveries about the painting, Theo says, ”Oh. My. God.” (p. 142) But the biggest discovery of all is Theo’s discovery of the ways friends enrich life: “So long ago...Jack and I had barricaded ourselves in our little fortress of self-reliance, scavenging the city for crumbs. But since Jack’s death, the city had changed. I had changed. Now, when I ventured out, I saw not crumbs, but a feast of possibilities.” (p. 233)

Kristina Wolcott, CLJ
Dash / Kirby Larson.
LCCN 2013042525 ISBN 9780545416351, hardcover, $16.98.
243 p.; 22 cm. Grades 3-7
Fic Rating: 5
Award-winning author Kirby Larson has written a number of books with a dog as the central character, her most recent one being a story about a family’s German Shepherd during World War II. Dash is about another family dog, this one belonging to a Japanese-American girl whose family is sent to an internment camp.

In Dash, life changes for fifth-grader Mitsi Kashino and her family after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Americans of Japanese ancestry are bullied, ostracized, and forced to relocate to internment camps like Camp Harmony (the former state fairgrounds). The living conditions are sparse—straw-filled mattresses, outdoor latrines, no privacy, and meals in a mess hall. A friendly neighbor agrees to take care of Dash because pets are not allowed, but for how long will that be?

Mitsi writes a letter to General DeWitt for permission to keep her dog at camp, but permission is denied. Mitsi and Dash stay in touch through letters while they are separated. Just when the family begins to adjust to life at Camp Harmony, they are moved to a camp in Idaho and begin the process all over again. Will they ever see Dash again?

Larson pens this companion book to Duke, set in the same time period: World War II. She excels at creating a well-written historical novel that readers will enjoy, despite the fact that the event in American history was deplorable. Based on a true event (the letter to General DeWitt was written by Mitsue Shiraishi whose dog stayed behind when her family was sent to an internment camp), Dash conveys patriotism and bravery in the midst of trying circumstances.

Recommended for public and school libraries.
Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Intermediate Nonfiction

I survived true stories : five epic disasters / by Lauren Tarshis. (I survived)
136 p.; 21 cm. Grades 3-6
363.34 Rating: 5
Lauren Tarshis, author of the bestselling I Survived series, writes a nonfiction companion volume about five true stories of kids’ survival in the midst of major disasters.

In I survived True Stories: Five Epic Disasters, one reads the accounts of survivors of the Children’s Blizzard (1888), the Titanic Disaster (1912), the Great Boston Molasses Flood (1919), the Japanese Tsunami (2011), and the Henryville Tornado (2012). The book features the resilient people Tarshis discovered in her research.

Each story tells of a kid who lived through an “epic disaster.” Eight-year-old Walter Allen survived Children’s Blizzard (1888), even when others overlooked him as they left him in the schoolhouse. When his father and older brother returned to the schoolroom, they missed seeing Walter buried in the snow. In the Titanic Disaster (1912), seventeen-year-old Jack Thayer jumped overboard when the lifeboats were too full. He was eventually rescued by a nearby lifeboat. Eight-year-old Anthony di Stasio was rescued by a firefighter after the molasses tank exploded in the Great Boston Molasses Flood (1919). Fourteen-
year-old Aki Kawasaki helped the younger students to escape the Japanese Tsunami (2011). In the Henryville Tornado (2012), the elementary school was destroyed by two tornados, but all the children were safe.

Lauren Tarshis based her successful I Survived series on the nonfiction articles she writes for Storyworks, a Scholastic magazine. Well-researched and well-written, this book takes her earlier articles and expands them with new facts. An author’s note, photo credits, her sources, and titles for further reading are also included.

Highly recommended for public and school libraries. The I Survive books fly off the shelves and are read eagerly by boys and girls alike.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Hope for winter : the true story of a remarkable dolphin friendship / told by David Yates, Craig Hatkoff, Juliana Hatkoff, and Isabella Hatkoff.

LCCN ISBN 9780545750370, hardcover, $17.98.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 25 cm. Grades 1-4
639.97 Rating: 4

Hope for Winter tells the true story of how one dolphin comes to live at an aquarium and ends up saving another dolphin through companionship.

Winter is a dolphin missing a tail. After being rescued by employees of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Winter was rehabilitated and given a prosthetic tail. Five years and one day after Winter's rescue, the team at Clearwater Marine Aquarium received a call about a sick baby bottlenose dolphin. She was also rehabilitated at the aquarium and took on the name “Hope.”

For dolphins, companionship is vital. Prior to Hope’s arrival, Winter and an older dolphin named Panama were the only bottlenose dolphins at Clearwater. After 18 months at the aquarium, Hope joined in playing with Hope and Panama. When Panama passed away, the trainers worried about how Hope and Winter would cope. Fortunately, because they have each other, Hope and Winter are thriving today.

While the simple and easy-to-read text tells part of the story, the best part about the book is the pictures. Each picture included in the book is an actual photograph from the events depicted. On the copyright page, the authors note: “We are fortunate to have Hope's arrival at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. While these photos are not high resolution, they give us a valuable sense of the drama of this part of the extraordinary rescue as it was unfolding.” It is because of the less-than-perfect photos that readers are able to feel like they are experiencing the events of the book firsthand.

The book’s main theme of friendship is encouraging and uplifting. When Winter and Panama faced having another dolphin invade in their lives, they chose to embrace Hope. When Panama died, Winter had Hope to lean on. Hope for Winter reminds readers just how important friendship is for everyone, not just for dolphins.

Dani Seilhamer, CLJ
Middle School Fiction

Dust of Eden / Mariko Nagai.
LCCN 2013033074 ISBN 9780807517390, hardcover, $16.98.
121 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8
Fic Rating: 4

Mariko Nagai presents a novel in verse about the internment of Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

In Dust of Eden, thirteen-year-old Mina Tagawa shares secrets with her best friend Jamie and lives with her family in Seattle. Her grandfather speaks only Japanese, while her parents speak English to Mina and her brother Nick. When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, their family experiences discrimination from classmates and those around them.

Eventually, they are forced to move to an internment camp where they spend the next three years. Jamie gives Mina half of a heart necklace to symbolize the friendship broken by the circumstances. It also symbolizes how her family is broken; they are never the same.

There are letters between Jamie and Mina, between Mina and Nick (after he enlists and goes to fight in the war), as well as poems that express the way her family feels as American citizens who are treated as enemies. Nick writes a moving letter when he participates in the liberation of Dachau, a concentration camp in Europe.

There is use of mild swear language (specifically, the word “d_mn”) in the voice of the older brother, in a manner consistent with his character in the story. The word is also used in a display of strong feeling in the opening poem by an

“Unknown poet from Minidoka Concentration Camp.”

Overall, Dust of Eden is an interesting book on a less well-known part of American history. With a novel in verse format, the bleakness and sadness of this Japanese-American experience is evident, though the target audience might have difficulty in relating to the format.

Recommended for middle school collections in public and school libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Middle School Nonfiction

Because they marched : the people's campaign for voting rights that changed America / Russell Freedman.
83 p.; ill.; 23 x 29 cm. Grades 7-10
323 Rating: 5

Because They Marched: The People’s Campaign for Voting Rights That Changed America by Russell Freedman explores the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Many obstacles still prevented black Americans in the segregated South from registering to vote, even though a Constitutional Amendment had granted this right to all U.S. citizens after the Civil War. In March 1965, a march from Selma to the Alabama state capital brought lasting and widespread attention to the issue. Thousands of supporters of all ages and from all over the country took part in the 54-mile march, hampered by violent conflict with law enforcement and
Author Russell Freedman combines historical explanation, first-person narratives, and a wealth of archival photographs to give an overview of the civil rights movement and to tell the story of the 1965 march in poignant detail. His focus on individuals—many of them young people—strengthens their words, dignifies their struggles, and honors their achievements. The book is rich with full-page black and white photographs that present readers with searing images—some cruel—to accentuate the historic value of the information.

*Because They Marched* would enhance classroom discussion and school library collections for middle school and above. The publication coincides with the 50th anniversary of the landmark act, and an epilogue notes its ongoing relevance. Extensive source notes, selected bibliography, and a timeline are included for reference or further study.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

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**Big Book of Quizzes** offers a lighthearted way for tweens to think about and share their feelings on a variety of subjects. Though suggested for ages 8-12, the book contains a fair number of questions (“Are You Totally Crush Crazy?”, “Who’s Your Perfect Guy?”) that seem more appropriate for an older range.

*Big Book of Quizzes* might be fun at a slumber party, as an icebreaker with new friends, or as a tool for girls to discuss mutual concerns. However, sections dealing with teen issues such as social media, shopping, flirting, and makeovers seem to overshadow the more substantive topics of being grateful, being a good sister, and connecting with God.

The illustrations and graphics are cute and wholesome. Youthful jargon (“convos” for conversation, “vacays” for vacation) fits with the flavor of the book, but today’s savvy teens may find it unnecessary.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

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**Louis Zamperini: Redemption** is a new addition to the “Heroes of History” series by Janet and Geoff Benge. This youth biography recounts how an unsettled boy became a stellar athlete and war hero, and how his later years were shaped by Christian faith.

Growing up in 1920s California, young Louis Zamperini is continually in trouble, from fighting and stealing to drinking alcohol and running away from home. Guided by his brother, Louis reveals
exceptional talent as a runner and, with focused training, becomes a 1936 Olympian with a bright future. However, when America enters World War II Louis joins the Army Air Corps and goes on to endure the unimaginable challenges of a plane crash, 47 days lost at sea, and two years as a war prisoner in Japan. After the war, Louis is free but spiritually broken—until he discovers salvation and God’s path for the rest of his life.

Compelling and suspenseful, *Louis Zamperini: Redemption* introduces an American hero of remarkable resilience and strength. Authors Janet and Geoff Benge package biographic, historical, and geographic facts in a narrative story format that will capture the interest of student readers. There is brief mention of the ethnic slurs that provoked the Italian Zamperini as a boy, honest details of his youthful misdeeds, and frank accounts of the horrific prison conditions and brutal torture he survived.

With Louis Zamperini’s death in 2014 at the age of 97 and the very recent biographical movie *Unbroken*, there is renewed and relevant interest in the life of the “Torrance Tornado.” *Louis Zamperini: Redemption* follows the long and varied journey of Zamperini’s astonishing life, concluding with his ultimate acceptance of Christ and his commitment to sharing the grace of love and forgiveness. The dramatic and emotional content of the book is apt to inspire thought and discussion, making it a stirring read for teens and above.

A bibliography is included for reference or further study.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

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**High School Fiction**

**Thunder : a novel / Bonnie S. Calhoun.** *(Stone Braide chronicles; 1)*


LCCN 2014016629 ISBN 9780800723767, hardcover, $16.98.

425 p.; 23 cm. Grades 8-12

*Fic* Rating: 3

Bonnie S. Calhoun makes her debut with this young adult dystopian/science fiction entry, set in a world where life is very different 150 years from now. Most of the world’s population lives in isolation, living off the land, amidst the ruins of American cities destroyed by a nuclear holocaust.

In *Thunder*, Selah’s life changes dramatically on her eighteenth birthday when she captures a Lander, an alien to her country worth a handsome bounty, especially if he still bears the Lander’s mark. Her brothers steal him from her, but not before she touches him. That touch causes the Lander’s unique mark to appear on her shoulder the next day, revealing her true parentage. She is part-Lander, something her brothers already knew.

Up until now, Selah Chavez thought her brothers just disliked her. Now she knows they see her as the enemy. Selah runs for her life to the Mountain to find her birth father. The only person who can help her is Bohdi Locke, the Lander she freed from her brothers. Who are the Landers? Why does Selah have new telepathic powers? What are the scientists planning from within the Mountain?

Calhoun creates a futuristic world with a strong heroine, which should appeal to fans of *The Hunger Games* (S. Collins) and Lisa Bergren’s Remnants series. Romance builds between Selah and Bohdi. The scenes of violence and death and the presence of human trafficking and genetic...
engineering make this book more appropriate for older teens. Although the book is intriguing, the faith element is essentially non-existent, and one wonders if it will be more evident in future books. The next book, *Lightning*, is coming in Fall 2015.

Recommended for public libraries and school libraries.

*Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ*

**Jupiter Winds / C. J. Darlington.**

292 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 9-12
Fic Rating: 4

Award-winning author C. J. Darlington pens her first entry—*Jupiter Winds*—in young adult speculative fiction. Two teenage sisters scratch out a living in a futuristic world where the Mazdaar government controls the people with required communication implants.

In *Jupiter Winds*, sixteen-year-old Grey Alexander and her fourteen-year-old sister Rin smuggle contraband to survive. The girls assume their parents are dead since they disappeared five years ago during a trip. A neighbor, Mrs. March, helps the sisters in the absence of their parents.

When General Yurkutz takes Grey to Jupiter to use her as bait to draw her scientist dad out of hiding, Mrs. March and Rin try to rescue her, using the spaceship their family hid. Separately, the girls discover that their parents (and their parents’ friends) were more than just revolutionaries who avoided the implants—they were part of a larger resistance effort (the Yien Dynasty). On Jupiter where some of the Earth’s extinct creatures still roam and human life is now sustainable, a battle is shaping up. Will their family be reunited? And who will win control over Jupiter?

In *Jupiter Winds*, Darlington writes an engaging read—part science fiction, part dystopian, part suspense—which should appeal to its intended teen audience. The story is told from both sisters’ points-of-view. There is no romance but plenty of adventure, so the book should appeal to guys as well. Her characters are well-developed, her futuristic world is described in good detail, and the plot has several twists along the way. The faith element is integrated almost seamlessly, so *Jupiter Winds* should also appeal to the general market.

Recommended for high school collections and public libraries.

*Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ*

**An Uncertain Choice / Jody Hedlund.**

254 p. ; 21 cm. Grades 9-12
Fic Rating: 5

Jody Hedlund, historical fiction author, pens her first young adult novel by telling the story of a fourteenth-century young woman faced with a life-altering decision.

In *An Uncertain Choice*, Lady Rosemarie is one month short of her eighteenth birthday—the day she goes into the convent to fulfill her parents’ vow. She found out about the vow when her parents died from the Plague four years earlier, so she has had time to prepare for life in the convent. Rosemarie thinks she will still be able to rule her people from behind the convent walls.

Her late father’s close friend, the Duke of Rivenshire, arrives with three handsome knights to tell her that she has another choice—to marry...
before midnight on her birthday, releasing her from the vow. After being on her own, Rosemarie is torn between the possibility of marriage and entering the convent. What is God’s plan for her?

As the knights compete to win her heart, someone is sabotaging the competition. One of the knights appears to be guilty, but is he? Should she marry or go to the convent? She has only one month to make the correct choice.

As always, Hedlund brings a story with descriptive narrative, believable plot, and endearing characters, making it an enjoyable read—except, perhaps, for the torture endured by prisoners. An Uncertain Choice can easily be read by adults and teens alike.

Fans of Lisa Bergren’s River of Time series and Melanie Dickerson’s medieval young adult books will also enjoy Hedlund’s medieval trilogy. Readers may want to read Hedlund’s novella, The Vow (available only in ebook format), a prequel to An Uncertain Choice.

Recommended for teen collections in public libraries and school libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, worthy2read.wordpress.com

The long way home / by Andrew Klavan. (The Homelanders; 2)
345 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12
Fic  Rating: 5

The truth of the matter / by Andrew Klavan. (The Homelanders; 3)
346 p.; 23 cm. Grades 9-12
Fic  Rating: 5

The final hour / Andrew Klavan. (The Homelanders; 4)
347 p.; 23 cm. Grades 9-12
Fic  Rating: 5

In the first book of The Homelanders series (see: review of The Last Thing I Remember in Christian Library Journal, July/August 2014), Charlie West wakes up in a real-life nightmare—and he cannot remember how he got there. After several narrow escapes, he still can’t remember a year out of his should-be-in-high school life. He eludes police who think he is a murderer, but they are the least of his worries. In The Long Way Home, the Homelanders track Charlie down to a public library and put in motion a perfect plan to execute him. How will the resourceful Mr. West escape this time?

The Truth of the Matter continues Charlie’s story, as he struggles to find the truth about last year, while still on the run as a fugitive wanted by every law enforcement agency in the country and hunted by the shadowy group of terrorists—The Homelanders. Charlie’s only clue is to find the man named Waterman, his single hope for getting answers and clearing his name. But if he learns the truth, will he be able to live with it?

In The Final Hour, Charlie is finally collared, but not before discovering the cause and partial cure for his amnesia. However, the answer comes with a high cost. As more memories return, Charlie suspects the remaining Homelanders are plotting to unleash a massive terrorist strike against some US target. How will Charlie get word to his
shattered secret government network? Again, Charlie is the only one left to stand in the gap against unspeakable evil. The Final Hour, which completes the series, delves deeper spiritually where among other things, Charlie learns the meaning of real sacrifice, and takes trust to a new level. The ending will not disappoint—a great capstone to a great series.

Throughout “The Homelanders” series, Andrew Klavan keeps the pedal to the metal, each book a high-octane action adventure that glues readers to the pages. The careful mystery will keep them guessing. How did Charlie lose a year of his memory? Who really murdered his best friend and how did they frame Charlie? Charlie, an ordinary church kid, turns out to be extraordinary, narrowly escaping one disaster after another. Though not weighty spiritual books, they do depict a Christian teen trying to do the right thing. His inner journey leads him to discover what kind of person he really is—and whose side he is on. The overarching theme is never give up, never give in, trust in God, and hold out for truth. This series is an action adventure-mystery, with a tale of duty, romance, and love of family and country rolled into one.

Glenn Haggerty,
www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com

Like moonlight at low tide / Nicole Quigley.

Beginning with the title, Like Moonlight at Low Tide, Nicole Quigley draws the reader in with gorgeous, lyrical language in her story of Melissa Keiser, a high school junior formerly called “Messy,” who returns to her home town hoping things will be different this time. But she may not be prepared for the ways in which her life changes.

With a mother who has a penchant for drama and who makes questionable decisions in her personal relationships, Melissa finds escape by sneaking into a neighbor’s backyard and “night swimming” in her pool. When caught in the act by the neighbor’s handsome grandson, Melissa finds a friend and, at times, an unwanted caregiver, who provides her with a secret key to another pool at a cottage where he promises she won’t be discovered. When her former crush, the most popular boy in school, decides to call her “hot,” Melissa finds that she must question how far she’s willing to go to gain a new identity and keep her sudden popularity. As the story progresses, a heavy letdown by a trusted adult friend sparks an unforeseen tragedy for someone close to her—one that changes everything and ultimately causes her to question whom she truly wants to be with and, more importantly, what she believes and who she wants to be.

Nicole Quigley’s Like Moonlight at Low Tide deals with issues of bullying, self-image, and grief, set amidst the desire for love, acceptance, and popularity. The story is romantic and dark, and its spiritual after-effects may linger in adolescents, particularly those struggling with identity and/or the aftermath of a suicide.

Jill Bergkamp, CLJ

Running lean / Diana L. Sharples.

Calvin Greenlee lost his brother in Afghanistan
during his junior year but found a sympathetic ear in Stacy Varnell, the new girl in his rural high school. Beautiful, smart, fun and creative, Stacy seems what Calvin needs to work through his grief—and everything he could want in a girlfriend. But Stacy has a secret that is coming between the two. By the time Calvin figures out she's anorexic, he is deeply attached and embarks upon a mission to "fix her." Egged on by her questionable friend Zoe, Stacy sees Calvin's efforts as controlling and thwarts him at every turn, even as her obsession for Calvin grows. Her behavior devolves into the bizarre and manipulative. How long before Stacey's secret is out? Will their relationship stay alive? Will she survive?

Diana L. Sharples’ *Running Lean* examines the complexities of anorexia, self-image, and grief in an adolescent romantic relationship. Calvin has drifted and Stacey is far from faith; however, both, although tempted, are committed to abstinence, and as the story progresses, prayer, faith, and the support of family and friends provide a powerful spiritual take-away. *Running Lean* is illuminating for adolescents, particularly those struggling with, or who have friends who struggle with, these issues.

*Glenn Haggerty,*
www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com

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**High School Nonfiction**

*Curiosity's mission on Mars : exploring the red planet / by Ron Miller.*

64 p. : col. Ill. ; 24 cm. Grades 6-12
523.43 Rating: 5

In November 2011, NASA sent the rover Curiosity to Mars with the aim of learning information about Mar's climate and geology, and since its landing on Mars in August 2012, Curiosity has provided details in uncovering the past and present Mars.

The first chapter of Ron Miller’s *Curiosity’s Mission on Mars* explains what Curiosity is and how it was manufactured. Each of the next three chapters describes discoveries Curiosity has made, such as a streambed where water once flowed, rock samples with soil that suggest Mars still has water, and the presence of chemicals necessary for life—sulfur, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, and carbon.

The full-color maps, diagrams, and photographs on most pages make it easy to hold the attention of students. Sidebars offer helpful added notes—e.g., why friction is necessary for space travel. A two-page index gives a quick resource for students doing a report on the subject, which both middle school and high school students can use with ease and interest as there is a lot of relevant and applicable information.

Some students will not be interested in the detailed technical sections of the text, but the ample number of photos, illustrations, and sidebars will keep the casual reader involved and also provide opportunities in homeschooling.
families. *Curiosity’s Mission on Mars* is not the only title on this subject, but does offer some unique advantages for its intended, younger audience. For example, *Mars Up Close: Inside the Curiosity Mission* by Marc Kaufman is National Geographic’s enterprise and the only Mars Mission book written in consultation with NASA scientists, but it is directed more to the older student and even adults. *Curiosity: An Inside Look at the Mars Rover Mission and the People Who Made It Happen* by Rod Pyle has a lot of information too but is less visually appealing and less likely to keep the casual student involved than Miller’s resource.

Leroy Hommerding, CLJ

**Hidden like Anne Frank:** fourteen true stories of survival / Marcel Prins & Peter Henk Steenhuis ; translated by Laura Watkinson.

LCCN 2013040908 ISBN 9780545543620, hardcover, $16.98.
211 p.: ill., maps; 22 cm. Grades 7 & up
940.53 Rating: *5

Jewish survivors of the Holocaust who were hidden as children or teenagers recollect their experiences in *Hidden Like Anne Frank: Fourteen True Stories of Survival.*

Inspired by his own mother’s story, author Marcel Prins, along with Peter Henk Steenhuis, interviewed 14 survivors. Rita Prins-Degen gives the first of the compelling accounts. *Hidden Like Anne Frank* is an extraordinary collection of first-person narratives that are hauntingly similar yet individually heartrending. Each survivor’s ordeal is told in his or her own words (translated by Laura Watkinson), giving tremendous emotional impact to the book.

Unlike the famous Anne Frank, most Jewish children who went into hiding were separated from their families and relocated multiple times. Enduring hunger, loneliness, and an ever-present fear, and hiding in attics, barns, under floorboards, and behind walls, the survivors give much credit to the resistance workers and Christian neighbors who risked their own lives to protect them.

The book is a tribute to the fortitude of the survivors, some of whom were discovered and sent to concentration camps. All had to rebuild their lives after the liberation, having lost their homes, businesses, and extended families. Wartime and modern day photographs of each contributor add even more tangibility to recollections already vivid and rich with detail. Additional photos show documents, safe houses, and transport camps.

Annotated with a glossary, historical footnotes, and maps, *Hidden Like Anne Frank* is suggested for grades 7 and above, but adults would find it inspiring and memorable as well. There are two brief mentions of intimate relations. A forward by the first author provides historical context and a supplementary website ([www.hiddenlikeannefrank.com](http://www.hiddenlikeannefrank.com)) offers additional information, recordings, and animated drawings.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ
Adult Fiction

*Keepers of the covenant / Lynn Austin. (The restoration chronicles; 2)*

477 p.; 23 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

*Keepers of the Covenant* is the second book in Lynn Austin’s *The Restoration Chronicles* (the first book, *Return to Me*, was reviewed in the Christian Library Journal, March-April 2014). In 539 B.C. many Jews chose to remain in Babylon when King Cyrus issued a decree allowing them to return to Jerusalem. Now, 60 years later the Jews are subjected to another decree under King Xerxes, one that allows the Gentiles to kill them and seize their goods. All seems lost until quiet, scholarly Ezra feels God’s leading to call the Jews to repent and pray for mercy. Weeks later, the King does not rescind the edict, but he gives the nation of Israel the right to defend themselves.

The story moves quickly as readers follow an array of characters. Ezra, a priest who, by law, must marry his sister-in-law after the death of his brother, is thrust into the unwanted role of governor while, his wife Devorah seeks to understand God’s plan for their lives. Amina, an Edomite girl, must choose between her love for the Hebrew God and her love for her Jewish husband. Reuben, a young Levite who turns his back on God after the death of his father and loss of his inheritance, arrives at a crossroad that forces him to choose his allegiance.

Set in biblical times, *Keepers of the Covenant* explores the issues of forgiveness and faith through multiple points of view. The characters are given depth and realism through effective dialogue and descriptions. Author Lynn Austin integrates narrative and discourse to provide information about the cultural and social mores of the era. The publisher includes an endnote that explains the author’s use of paraphrase versus direct quotations from the Bible. A glossary and list of Scripture references are also supplied for readers who desire further study. *Keepers of the Covenant* is an informative yet entertaining story that may be enjoyed by adults and teens, although because of periodic episodes of violence might be best read with discussion in mind.

*Linda Matchett, CLJ*

*With every breath / Elizabeth Camden.*

360 p.; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

*Beyond all dreams / Elizabeth Camden.*

362 p.; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

Elizabeth Camden’s *With Every Breath* and *Beyond All Dreams* are both set in Washington, D.C. during the late 1800s of the Progressive Era, a time of extensive industrialism and reform.

*With Every Breath* protagonist Kate Livingston was the smartest girl in high school, and she could have been anything she wanted if she had been awarded the college scholarship offered by her private academy. She has since learned to be content with her job as a statistician for the U.S. Census Bureau. Then Trevor McDonough, the
undeserving, rich boy who won the scholarship, walks back into her life.

A renowned, Harvard-trained physician, Trevor offers Kate a new career aiding him in his work to find a cure for tuberculosis. Despite her dislike of the man, she accepts the job and soon discovers she and Trevor have more in common than she thinks. When threatening letters start to appear at the hospital, Kate realizes there is more to Trevor’s past than he has told her. The two must decide whether they can trust each other and acknowledge the love that has begun to develop between them.

As far as she’s concerned, Anna O’Brien has a job Beyond All Dreams as a map librarian in the Library of Congress. When she discovers an error in one of the library’s reports about a ship lost at sea, she brings it to the Navy’s attention only to be told she is mistaken. After continuing to pursue the situation, she is threatened with the loss of her job.

Luke Callahan was a powerful congressman until he angered the wrong people. As a result, he is now serving on the Committee on Fisheries. Anna is assigned to be his research assistant, and Luke is smitten with the intelligent, quick-witted librarian. He agrees to help her solve the mystery of the lost ship, but the two are soon embroiled in secrets at the highest levels of government.

Elizabeth Camden has provided well-researched stories that will impact readers long after they have turned the last page. The characters are richly developed through realistic internal and external dialogue as they struggle with faith, forgiveness, and redemption in their everyday lives. Vivid description and historical references give readers a deep sense of the era. In With Every Breath Ms. Camden provides end-notes about tuberculosis, and in Beyond All Dreams, she provides end-notes about the mystery surrounding the U.S. ship Virginius.

Linda Matchett, CLJ

Rules of murder / Julianna Deering. (A Drew Farthing mystery; 1)
331 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

Death by the book / Julianna Deering. (A Drew Farthing mystery; 2)
317 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

Murder at the Mikado / Julianna Deering.
(A Drew Farthing mystery; 3)
333 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

Julianna Deering’s series featuring amateur sleuth Drew Farthing is set in Hampshire, England during the 1930s.

In Rules of Murder, mystery-buff Drew Farthing is pulled into real mystery and intrigue when one of his party guests, a handsome playboy, is killed. Drew’s American visitor, Madeline Parker, joins him in the hunt for the murderer. Things get personal for Drew when a family member is found dead. Secrets surface as Drew and Madeline start digging for clues, and the two sleuths discover that no one is who they seem to be.

In Death by the Book, Drew and Madeline are drawn into another mystery when the Farthing
family solicitor is found dead with a cryptic note pinned to his chest. Days later, a second victim is discovered in the same manner, yet the police are unable to make any connection between the two murders. As more bodies turn up, Drew and Madeline race against the clock to find the killer before he or she strikes again.

In *Murder at the Mikado*, Drew's former girlfriend, actress Fleur Landis, arrives on his doorstep seeking help. The lead actor in her production of *The Mikado* has been killed, and the police have fingered her as the main suspect. Madeline begs Drew to pass up the case, but when a second murder occurs, Drew disregards Madeline's request and delves into the investigation to discover that everyone in the troupe seems to have reasons to kill. Will Drew and Madeline's relationship survive the strain?

These mysteries are well-written "cozies," reminiscent of (and, indeed, with more than a nod to) Dorothy Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries. The reader is occasionally reminded of the era through description and dialogue. Although part of a series, each volume may be enjoyed as a stand-alone book. All three books feature multiple murders, most of which are described in some detail. There are repeated references to smoking and alcohol consumption, including on the part of the main characters.

*Linda Matchett, CLJ*

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**Born of persuasion / Jessica Dotta. (Price of privilege; 1)**

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2013.
435 p.; 21 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

**Mark of distinction / Jessica Dotta. (Price of privilege; 2)**

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
437 p.; 21 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

Jessica Dotta weaves her fascination with Victorian England into her gothic Price of Privilege series. It follows Julia Elliston, a young woman who is orphaned and unmarried, during a time when women have no legal standing without a husband or father.

In *Born of Persuasion*, seventeen-year-old orphaned Julia finds herself in a precarious position when an unknown guardian plans to send her to Scotland as a widow's companion. Hoping to avoid that, Julia tries to marry her childhood sweetheart but finds that is not an option. When a dowager offers to sponsor her, it seems that her problem may be solved. Before long, Julia finds out that she is a pawn between two powerful men—Lord Roy Pierson and Chance Macy. A questionable marriage and the revelation of her true parentage complicate the direction of her future.

In *Mark of Distinction*, now under the protection of Lord Pierson, Julia walks a fine line between truth and illusion as he presents Julia to London society. Caught in the power struggle between two influential men, she makes plans to marry another in an attempt to regain control of her own fate.

In *Price of Privilege*, Julia escapes with her
childhood sweetheart, only to find their welcome at home is not as she expected. Together they face people who censor their actions without knowing the entire truth of their situation. The future is unclear, as the truth and lies begin to unravel for all concerned. Meanwhile Julia experiences a spiritual awakening in the midst of her trials. Did Pierson commit fraud? Is Macy a villain or protector? What is the truth? What is the price of living a life of privilege?

Jessica Dotta presents a series with historical detail, character development, and surprising plot twists. Intrigue, deception, and treachery abound in this gothic series. The faith element is light but evident, especially in Julia’s spiritual journey. Each book has discussion questions, making it a suitable candidate for book clubs.

Fans of the Bronte sisters and Victoria Holt will rejoice at finding a new author of Victorian romantic suspense with gothic nuances.

Recommended for public and school libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Esther : royal beauty / Angela Hunt. (A dangerous beauty novel; 1)

348 p. ; 22 cm.    Adult
Fic    Rating: 5

Angela Hunt stays true to the Bible in her offering of the story of Esther, one of the Hebrews living in Susa during the reign of Xerxes, King of Persia. The story is told through the eyes of two people: Esther and Harbonah, a eunuch in the service of the king. Alternating chapters narrate and describe the life and times of the Persian court and the people who populate it in this timeless Bible story.

Esther is introduced as a young eleven-year-old girl in her home with her cousin Mordechai and his wife Miriam, who have raised her as their child and who teach and train her. Even though she is curious about the king and royalty, Esther goes on with her life and is engaged to be married at age sixteen when the king issues a royal decree for beautiful virgins to be brought to the harem, one of whom he will choose to be his queen.

Foreign to anything she has ever known, the harem is where she will live out the rest of her life unless the king happens to choose her as the queen. This seems a far-fetched idea to the simple girl. However, a year later, this is exactly what happens. Esther eventually finds herself in a position to protect her people from a plot to kill the Jews.

Hunt uses meticulous detail to describe the home life of both commoners and royalty. She arouses the emotions with her picturesque descriptions throughout. Palace life, and the life of the king and his concubines, are described in intricate detail. There are accounts of feasts and battles as well as everyday life. There are somewhat graphic descriptions of executions and torture and brief discussions about eunuchs.

Esther: Royal Beauty is the first in a series about dangerous beauties in the Bible. Future volumes will include stories about Bathsheba and Delilah, women who were not described in the Hebrew not as yapeh, women who were good looking, but as tob, women who were so beautiful that they aroused the desire of men who saw them.

Highly recommended.

Juanita Nobles, CLJ
Somewhere safe with somebody good / Karon, Jan (Mitford; 10)

LCCN 2014012105 ISBN 9780399167447, hardcover, $27.95.
511 p. : col. maps; 24 cm. Adult  Fic  Rating: 5

In her return to the Mitford series after a 10-year absence, author Jan Karon brings everyone's favorite hometown to life again. Father Tim is back from his trip to Ireland, and other unforgettable Mitford characters continue living life in their own special ways.

Some things have changed in Mitford, but the things that really matter are still the same. There are births, deaths, mysteries, tragedies, new businesses, and new relationships to live through and explore. Everyone has his or her own unique perspective and way of handling things, and Father Tim—forever a keystone, no matter his employment status—continues to share his quiet and steady guidance.

As he struggles with what to do in retirement, a health crisis leads Father Tim to become a part-time bookseller, and a tragedy results in an opportunity to return to the pulpit. The café has a new owner, and a newcomer brings a tanning booth to Mitford. Dooley makes steady progress toward his professional and personal goals, but his little brother Sammy continues to present challenges.

Karon's simple prose paints a warm and vibrant picture of the small town life for which so many yearn, while her quotes from literature, poetry, and the Bible enlighten and spark deeper thoughts. The subtle but overarching theme in this unforgettable book is best summarized by Father Tim himself: "I have confidence that God is with us in all things, both tender and tough" (pg. 496).

As always, Jan Karon is a master of distilling truth from both the simple and the extraordinary. This book will engross the hearts and minds of both old fans and first-time readers.

Valorie Cooper, CLJ

Secret of Pembrooke Park / Julie Klassen.

460 p. ; 22 cm. Adult  Fic  Rating: 5

Award-winning author Julie Klassen is well-known for her inspirational Regency novels filled with entertaining dialogue, historical detail, family secrets, and a sweet romance. Klassen's latest book, The Secret of Pembrooke Park, tells of the Foster family's move to a deserted country manor, empty of occupants but filled with secrets.

In The Secret of Pembrooke Park, a solicitor offers the financially-strapped Fosters the use of Pembrooke Park for one year. They are startled to find it exactly the way it was left, as if the former occupants abandoned it abruptly. Although welcomed by the local curate and servants, they find that none will discuss the former occupants or why the manor has been unoccupied for eighteen years. The curate warns them about people claiming to be heirs to the estate, seeking a secret room supposedly filled with treasure.

Clues about the hidden room and past occupants are left for Abigail to unravel the mysteries surrounding the manor's history. What happened to Pembrooke's former occupants? Will she find the treasure she seeks? Who else is trying to find the treasure?

Klassen has written some amazing novels, and The Secret of Pembrooke Park counts as one of
them. Although longer than her recent novels, the plot flows and twists, keeping this reader engaged until the final page. It is one of her better novels, with excellent plot and character development. Klassen gives a nod to her love of all things Austen by naming two characters “Lizzy” and “Jane.” The romance is clean, and the faith elements are well-integrated, not heavy-handed. Discussion questions are also included.

Recommended for public libraries as well as school libraries, and especially for fans of historical fiction, Jane Eyre, Jane Austen, and good mysteries!

Carol R. Gehringer, Worthy2Read.wordpress.com

The river / Beverly Lewis.

316 p.; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

Tilly and Ruth are two sisters brought up in an Amish home, both now living in the “Englisch” world. Their faith in Christ has remained strong, but neither has had any desire to return home, even for a visit. It takes a lot of courage for them to decide they should attend their parents’ anniversary get-together. The fact that their father is not well is the piece that cinches the matter for them. Going home together will surely be easier than returning alone.

The past meets the present in their homecoming. Tilly still carries guilt for her young sister Anna’s drowning and would love to know why her father has never truly seemed to love and accept her, always showing such a critical spirit toward her in every way. And what will her mother say when Tilly returns Anna’s kapp, a memento she took of this young sibling whose death affected her so greatly? Ruth is still single—has her former beau changed enough that she might reconsider their relationship? Could she re-enter the Amish life after living so free and independently? Questions, secrets, and decisions hound Tilly and Ruth during the week they spend with their Amish family.

Written in true Beverly Lewis style, the author has created another Amish story that will please Lewis fans as well as new Amish readers. Being a stand-alone book, The River will appeal to those who would prefer not to begin a new series or those who want to sample the pleasures of Amish fiction.

Ceil Carey, CLJ

To everything a season / Lauraine Snelling. (Song of blessing; 1)

342 p.; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

A harvest of hope / Lauraine Snelling. (Song of blessing; 2)

348 p.; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

In the Song of Blessing series, Lauraine Snelling returns to town of Blessing in the Red River Valley of North Dakota as the setting for the continuation of the Bjorklund family story—as well as the romance of Trygve Knutson and nurse-in-training Miriam Hastings.

In To Everything a Season, readers are given a great deal of background on the main characters as well as the large Bjorklund family whose members make up many of the book’s
personalities. When Trygve Knutson, part of a construction crew in Blessing, meets Miriam Hastings his head is in the clouds and he can think of very little else. Miriam is determined to become an accredited nurse, hoping to be able to support her ailing mother and her siblings, all still in Chicago. An emergency sends her back to her family with divided feelings. She has strong feelings for Trygve yet feels a great personal responsibility to take care of her family. She also does not know what to think about the strong faith of the Bjorkland family members—faith that leads them to welcome strangers, practice forgiveness, and weather ill health and loss.

In *A Harvest of Hope*, Miriam attempts to meet the needs of her siblings yet is drawn back to Blessing by the letters she receives from Trygve and her memories of the kindness and abundance she experienced there. Trygve is building a house with hopes that Miriam will return and become his bride. Torn between Trygve's love and her family's needs, she doesn't know which path to take. Divisions among the townsfolk—to which Miriam has inadvertently contributed—also complicate matters. When calamity strikes, will the town's challenges serve to unite or further divide its denizens?

In both books, beyond the main plot there are many interesting subplots that draw the reader close to the town of Blessing and its mostly lovable inhabitants. There is much authentic detail about the challenges of farm life in North Dakota and of the practice of medicine in rural areas. Some medical procedures are discussed in graphic detail. The Christian faith is strong in the Bjorklunds and their extended family. This is demonstrated often in their day-to-day lives in a way that is an inspiration to Christ followers today.

*Ceil Carey, CLJ*

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**Miracle in a dry season / Sarah Loudin Thomas.**


300 p.; 22 cm. Adult

Fic Rating: 4

It is 1954, and single mother Perla Long arrives in the tiny town of Wise, West Virginia for a fresh start. She’s come to escape the gossip and judgment back home, but it’s only a matter of time before tongues start wagging in Wise.

Casewell Phillips is satisfied to be Wise's most eligible bachelor until Perla comes to town. She's everything he could want in a wife, except for her fatherless child. When Casewell’s father falls ill, and a drought brings the small hamlet to the brink of starvation, some of the locals claim the town is cursed by God. Perla’s unique gift can save the town, yet Casewell and Perla find themselves the objects of suspicion and condemnation as forgiveness and faith battle for supremacy.

*Miracle in a Dry Season* is Sarah Loudin Thomas's debut novel, and it starts slowly. However, the story picks up quickly and is reminiscent of Francine River's *The Sin Eater*. Written with folksy, down-home dialogue, the book includes intriguing and diverse characters who try to make ends meet during difficult economic times, struggle to understand illness and death, and learn that forgiveness often begins at home. Told from multiple points of view, *Miracle in a Dry Season* is a tale of redemption. It is a clean read, and may be enjoyed by adults as well as teens, but because of the central topic of unwed pregnancy might be best read with discussion in mind.

*Linda Matchett, CLJ*
The dance : a novel / Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley. (Restoration series; 1)

Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2013.
344 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

The promise : a novel / Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley. (Restoration series; 2)

Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2013.
300 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

The desire : a novel / Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley. (Restoration series; 3)

325 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

These three books belong to the Restoration Series co-authored by Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley and will be joined by The Legacy in April 2015. Each title features a different member of the same family. The Dance begins with the parents whose relationship has deteriorated to the point where Marilyn Anderson leaves her husband of 27 years. Her husband Jim’s behavior toward her has been overbearing, proud, and demonstrating little love. An unexpected ally helps him discover the way to win his wife’s heart back.

In The Promise, Jim’s adult son has lost his job and will soon lose his home and car, but carries this burden alone, putting on a façade that he is continuing to go to work each day. He cannot bear to share the truth with his wife, but even more so, with his father, who he is convinced will have a heartless and unforgiving attitude toward him.

And in The Desire, Jim and Marilyn’s daughter Michelle is obsessed with having a baby. Although her husband Allan shares that desire, they are not on the same page emotionally. Michelle is researching fertility treatments, yet Allan seems more concerned with the missionary involvement of their church in supporting displaced children in Africa.

Gary Smalley’s expertise in relationships is evident throughout each book, so much so that at times the reader may feel they are reading a non-fiction tome on Christian marriage. This seems a little heavy-handed on occasion, but despite this, the story lines are compelling and hold the reader’s attention. Each one has an emotional and satisfying ending.

Ceil Carey, CLJ

Evergreen : a Christiansen winter novella / Susan May Warren. (A Christiansen Family novel; 3.5)

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
xiv, 192 p. ; 19 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

Susan May Warren continues her contemporary romance series with this novella about the relationship of John and Ingrid Christiansen, parents to the six Christiansen children.

In Evergreen, Ingrid and John are facing an empty nest as their adult children marry, go to live in far-away places, and undergo other life changes. Deep wounds affect their relationship; with the absence of their children in their home, these wounds rise to the surface. Two of their children are estranged, two are married, one is planning a
wedding, and the youngest has left to study abroad in Prague.

John plans a surprise trip to Paris for them over Christmas while Ingrid accepts the responsibility for their town’s live Nativity. Their sixteen-year-old dog requires surgery,. Their nephew, a troubled youth, comes to live with them temporarily.

John wants to fix his marriage to Ingrid, but doesn’t know how. Ingrid wants her broken family mended and her heart healed from the pain of a past loss. Ingrid and John’s relationship is cold like winter. Will Ingrid let go of her bitterness? Will John learn to listen to Ingrid more? Will their relationship thaw?

Warren’s other books begin with a letter written by Ingrid. Evergreen begins with part of Ingrid’s Christmas letter about some of the changes in their family during the past year: Darek’s marriage (Take a Chance on Me), Eden’s marriage (It Had to be You), and Grace’s upcoming marriage (When I Fall in Love). The final version of the letter concludes Evergreen. Discussion questions are also included.

Recommended for adult collections in public libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Always on my mind / Susan May Warren. (A Christiansen Family novel; 4)

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2015.
380 p.; 21 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

Susan May Warren continues her contemporary series set in Deep Haven, Minnesota, featuring six adult children in the Christiansen family and their relationships.

In Always on My Mind, Casper Christiansen returns home to face his problems after a failed dig in Honduras. Still attracted to Raina Beaumont, Caspar finds her about to give birth, and he is not the father! He realizes she just needs him to be a friend as she makes hard choices for her baby. Meanwhile, Caspar tries to change his reputation by working two jobs—one of which keeps him in frequent contact with Raina. Both are history buffs, so they work together to unravel a town mystery involving an old wedding dress and a treasure. Will they overcome their bad decisions from the past to believe in a future together?

Warren writes character-driven, contemporary books that draw in readers, making them care about the characters. Each book opens with a letter from their mother, giving insight into the main character. Always on My Mind focuses on Raina’s need to believe the truth about herself from God’s perspective, rather than based on her circumstances or bad decisions. Caspar, on the other hand, needs to learn he can’t fix another person’s problems but needs to allow God to work in that person’s life.

While each book is a stand-alone novel, the stories from the earlier books continue as ongoing plot lines. More than just contemporary romances, these are stories of flawed individuals and how God woos them back into relationship—which is why readers are so captivated by this series. The next book, The Wonder of You, is coming this summer.

Recommended for public libraries and church libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ


The Amish Vines and Orchards series tells the story of an Amish community facing various challenges, both personal and financial, but still managing to work together.

In A Season for Tending, Rhoda Byler is managing her canning business with the help of her English friend, Landon. Members of her community already think she’s odd because of her “visions.” Rhoda is used to all of the rumors and gossip concerning her unusual gift, so she focuses on her gardens and business and keeps to herself to avoid problems. Samuel King is struggling to make ends meet with his family’s apple orchard. He’s unsure of the future of the orchard and hopes to find a way to salvage it. When Rhoda finds a young girl asleep in her garden, she doesn’t realize how this will change her life personally and professionally.

In The Winnowing Season, Rhoda and the King brothers are ready to start a new Amish community in Maine. They have purchased an abandoned orchard and are preparing to nurse it back to health. Jacob King has fallen in love with Rhoda, but his past holds him back from beginning a new future. Samuel King has secrets of his own—secrets that he can’t afford to let anyone know.

In For Every Season, Rhoda and the King brothers are determined to make their orchard and new community a success. With the help of family and Landon, the work is hard but it looks like they will have a profitable future. Thanks to Samuel, Rhoda has learned to accept her visions as a gift from God. She’s frustrated with Jacob because he’s always disappearing to take care of problems from his past. Samuel is the one person that stands beside her through her trials, and she can’t help but notice this.

In Seasons of Tomorrow, Rhoda has become more settled in her feelings towards the King brothers. Jacob leaves town to pursue his dream of doing construction work. This results in extra work for the remaining orchard workers, but they are able to use the new families that have moved into their community. These newcomers also bring new tensions, as does Leah’s fascination with the world outside their Amish community. When a tragedy strikes the Byler family, it takes all hands to be strong for the family and to continue working the orchard.
Cindy Woodsmall presents a well-written series that stays true to the Amish faith and love for family. Each title incorporates strong character development, details about the Amish way of living, and the everyday struggles of an Amish family, including the impact of the Amish Old Order’s strict rules. The main characters’ faith is strong and grows through the course of the stories. Rhoda’s visions sometimes seem prophetic and she seems to see her dead sister several times, but there is eventually an explanation for these visions that is consistent with her faith. Each book includes recipes and a glossary of frequently used Amish phrases.

Trina Chase, CLJ

**Adult Nonfiction**

**Simply good news: why the Gospel is news and what makes it good / N.T. Wright.**
189 pages; 24 cm Adult
230 Rating: 5

*Simply Good News: Why the Gospel is News and What Makes it Good* by N.T. Wright presents an argument for why the good news is simply that, as the original Old English word “gospel” suggests. He asserts that it is not good advice on how to live, speak, or pray, or a formulaic prayer to keep one from hell. Rather, the good news of Christianity is that, through Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection, a loving God has taken charge of the world and invites his children to join in His work of new creation. Wright conveys this through careful reasoning as well as personal and historical anecdotes: his joy in a rugby triumph, a member of the Early Roman Empire’s delight in knowing a peaceful ruler was coming, and Paul’s announcing a new and different kind of god through his writings.

The language is clear and accessible, and Wright’s use of parable provides tangible examples for the reader who may be unfamiliar with the Old or New Testament. His use of imagery allows readers to perceive how good news can be like opening a curtain to let in the light, or that a message can be distorted over time like found pieces of stone from a once-larger sculpture. Wright provides enough history to tease the reader to explore more in-depth theology, as well as an abundance of illustrations of why the good news is relentlessly good—and has ramifications for all of creation. He closes with an explanation of the Lord’s Prayer, suggesting that were one to pray it as Jesus did, it would transform lives.

N. T. Wright is a noted New Testament scholar, and he cites from his own translation of the New Testament. This book will appeal to those who are curious as to what the good news concept is really all about.

Jill Bergkamp, CLJ

**Encounters with Jesus / Timothy Keller.**
xvii, 213 p.; 19 cm. Adult
232.95 Rating: *5

*Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life’s Biggest Questions* is shorter than most of Timothy Keller’s other works—and is well worth the read. Using stories from Jesus’ life, the book focuses on questions that Christians and non-believers all have at some point in life, such as: “What is my purpose in life?” “Why is there so much wrong in the world?” As explained in the
introduction, the first five chapters are based on talks given at Oxford University in 2012. The remaining five chapters are based on messages delivered to a breakfast club for businessmen at the Harvard Club in Manhattan. Keller’s purpose in writing this book was so that the reader would be “struck again by the person of Christ and what he has done for us” (p. xvii).

In the first half of the book, Keller turns over the rich theological soil found in the Gospel of John, expounding on several meetings with Jesus. He goes beyond the typical Sunday school version of the stories of Nathaniel; the Samaritan Woman; Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; Jesus’ mother at the wedding party at Cana; and Mary Magdalene to reveal the true purpose of these individual stories and why they are relevant to the reader’s struggles 2000 years later. With glaring wit and perception and highly accessible language, Keller pulls each individual story into the whole story of Jesus’ first coming. Keller’s one-of-a-kind insight makes this book a delight for both Christians who want to go deeper into the Scriptures as well as the skeptic—no mean feat to accomplish.

In the second half of the book, Keller searches other Scripture passages and focuses on Jesus’ roles as Advocate and Obedient Master. His insight into the Ascension—a topic not discussed nowadays as frequently as it should—is both enlightening and inspiring. Keller concludes the book with a focus on the humility and obedience of Mary as a model for all Christians.

This book would be a great choice for a weekend retreat, personal devotions, or an evangelistic book study.

Martha Jo Dendinger, CLJ

Before amen : the power of a simple prayer / Max Lucado.

174 p.; 15 X 23 cm. Adult
248.32 Rating: 5

In Before Amen, Max Lucado explores the power of prayer. He begins by reminding readers that God is our Father who desires continuous conversation with all of His children, not just those who feel confident about their praying ability. Lucado believes that remembering this fact alone can transform one’s prayer life.

Lucado structures Before Amen around a simple “pocket prayer.” Lucado encourages readers to utter this prayer in times of trouble and times of joy; it is a prayer for any and every occasion. Throughout the book, Lucado reminds readers that there is no wrong way to pray: “Just as a happy child cannot mis-hug, a sincere heart cannot mis-pray” (p. 18). By simply praying, Christians can move from being “prayer wimps” who are afraid to pray or fear they are doing something wrong to “prayer giants” who are in constant, sincere communication with their Father. Lucado asserts that the “pocket prayer” eliminates the need for perfection and encourages readers to be in constant communication with God.

Lucado’s conversational writing style makes this book an enjoyable read. While writing on the serious subject of prayer, he manages to insert humor through the telling of personal stories. Each story illustrates a point and resonates with readers. The last third of the book consists of a study guide written by Jenna Lucado Bishop, with sections corresponding to each chapter of the book and containing Bible verses for further study, personal application questions, and activity suggestions (e.g., writing down prayer requests,
verses to memorize, etc.).

*Before Amen* is a worthwhile read because it reminds readers of God’s presence. Of course, Christians know that God cares, but this short book serves as a crash course in just how much God desires to be a great presence in His children’s lives. This is a book every Christian should read—“prayer wimps” will be blessed by its simple explanation of prayer and the reassurance that one cannot pray incorrectly, and prayer giants will be encouraged to keep growing in their prayer lives.

*Dani Seilhamer, CLJ*

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**Seeing beauty and saying beautifully: the power of poetic effort in the work of George Herbert, George Whitefield, and C. S. Lewis / John Piper.** (The swans are not silent; 6)

LCCN 2013043737 ISBN 9781433542947, hardcover, $19.98.
158 p.; 24 cm. Adult
261.58 Rating: 5

*Seeing Beautifully and Saying Beautifully* by John Piper is the sixth installment in The Swans Are Not Silent series, and this volume focuses on the lives of George Herbert, George Whitefield, and C. S. Lewis. Their literary artistry is the focus of the volume, and pastor and author John Piper has very personal reasons for focusing on these three men and for defending their use of literary gifts in communicating Christian truth.

Piper himself is a gifted wordsmith who has used poetry, preaching, and writing in his long ministry—just like Herbert (a poet), Whitefield (a preacher), and Lewis (a writer). And yet Piper feels an acute danger embedded in his literary gifts, namely that eloquence would empty the cross of its power.

Piper nonetheless opens the book with careful scriptural arguments for the use of eloquence. The Bible itself uses eloquence, even in the passages that warn against it, *so abusus non tollit usum*—abuse doesn’t negate proper use. Paul doesn’t say eloquence is bad, only that God’s ministers must not use it in such a way as to exalt themselves and belittle the cross. Problematic eloquence is “the sophistry of using language to win debates and show oneself clever and eloquent and powerful” (pg. 25). It’s when “scribes and debaters…bolster their ego with language jousting and leave the cross in the shadows” (pg. 25).

This introductory discussion about eloquence is followed by three longer chapters, each focusing on one of the three figures—Herbert, Whitefield, and Lewis. Piper presents something of a biography of each, but the rhetorical focus is on the ways in which they all showed that “poetic effort is a path to seeing more truth and more beauty” (pg. 116). Piper is theologically closer to Herbert and Whitefield, but he has mined Lewis’ writings deeply, and it shows. He offers a careful evaluation of Lewis, one honest about disagreements he has with the apologist and still deeply grateful for his insights.

*Mark L. Ward, CLJ*

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**The waiting: the true story of a lost child, a lifetime of longing, and a miracle for a mother who never gave up / Cathy LaGrow, with Cindy Coloma.**

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
viii, 323 p.; photographs ; 22 cm. Adult
277.3 Rating: 5

*The Waiting* is a testament to God’s unfailing love,
the power of prayer, the fortitude of the human spirit, and the strength of familial bonds. This true story is inspired by the life of Minka DeYoung Disbrow. At the age of sixteen, Minka’s life is unequivocally altered when she is sexually assaulted during the summer of 1928. Because of the stigma attached to being an unwed mother, Minka is sent away by her parents to have the baby in secret.

Minka is surprised at the deep, emotional connection she immediately forms with her newborn baby girl and is torn between wanting to keep her baby and giving her up for adoption. After she makes the gut-wrenching decision to part with her precious baby, Minka returns to her parents’ dairy farm in South Dakota. A few years later she gets married and has two more children, but she never gives up hope of reuniting with her firstborn. After seventy-seven years of prayerfully waiting for a miracle, Minka and her long-lost daughter share a beautiful reunion.

In collaboration with Cindy Coloma, Cathy LaGrow, the granddaughter of Minka, has written a poignant story of a woman who never loses faith in God no matter what adversities she faces in her life. This book will touch the heartstrings of anyone who has given up a baby for adoption and is a wonderful illustration of how God never forsakes those who devote their lives to following Him. The endearing photographs both on the book jacket and inside the book add a personal touch that brings the story closer to the heart. A wealth of historical detail about technological changes that occur during Minka’s lifetime is skillfully woven into the story. Readers who are interested in an in-depth study of this fascinating book can access a free online discussion guide.

Dianne Woodman, CLJ
CORE COLLECTION
FOR CHRISTIAN READERS

Being developed by librarians:
Donna W. Bowling: Fiction
Nancy L. Hesch: Nonfiction

The Core Collection, under construction, is a help for parents, teachers, librarians, and others in choosing the best books for the children and teens in their care. And when finished, the Core Collection will be a major reference source for schools and churches interested in building a new library.

Goal: to develop a list of highly recommended books for Christian readers, Christian school libraries, and church libraries.
Primary Fiction

E
Bower, Gary
Perfect Christmas : a carol of calm in the midst of mess / by Gary Bower ; illustrated by Jan Bower
31 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm. Grades PS-3.
Rating: 5
Family life--Fiction.
Christmas--Fiction.

E
Camcam, Princesse
Fox's garden / Princesse Camcam. (Stories without words)
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 16 x 27 cm. Grades PS-2.
Rating: 5
Foxes--Fiction.
Animals--Treatment--Fiction.

E
Collins, Suzanne
Year of the jungle / by Suzanne Collins ; illustrated by James Proimos
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm. Grades K-3.
Rating: 5
Separation (Psychology)--Fiction.

E
Holland, Loretta
Fall leaves / by Loretta Holland ; illustrated by Elly MacKay
1 v. : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm. Grades PS-4.
Rating: 5
Autumn--Fiction.

E
Kingsbury, Karen
Whatever you grow up to be / Karen Kingsbury
1 v. : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades K-2.
Rating: 5
Mothers and sons--Fiction.
Growth--Fiction.

E
Lord, Jill Roman
If Jesus came to visit me / written by Jill Roman Lord ; illustrated by Amy Wummer
LC : 2013010651. ISBN 9780824919085, board book,
OP; buy used.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 16 cm. Grades PS-2.
Rating: 5
Jesus Christ--Fiction.
Christian life--Fiction.

E

Lucado, Max

The boy and the ocean / Max Lucado ; paintings by T. Lively Fluharty
Wheaton, IL : Crossway, 2013.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm. Grades PS-3.
Rating: 5
God (Christianity)--Love--Fiction.
Christian life--Fiction.

Primary Nonfiction

232.9

Grün, Anselm

Jesus / written by Anselm Grün ; illustrated by Giuliano Ferri ; translated by Laura Watkinson
LCCN 2013033290. ISBN 9780802854384, hardcover, $16.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades K-2.
Rating: 5
Jesus Christ--Biography.

974.4

Greenwood, Mark

The Mayflower / by Mark Greenwood ; illustrated by Frane Lessac
LCCN 2013011144. ISBN 9780823429431, hardcover, $16.95.
Rating: 4

B

Dalgliesh, Alice

The Columbus story / Alice Dalgliesh ; pictures by Leo Politi
LCCN 55014976. ISBN 9780684131795, library binding.

Flight of the honey bee / Raymond Huber ; illustrated by Brian Lovelock
Rating: 5
Honeybee.

791.06

Davis, Kathryn

Mr. Ferris and his wheel / by Kathryn G. Davis
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm. Grades K-4.
Rating: 5
Ferris wheels--History--Juvenile literature.
Inventors--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature.
OP; buy used.
1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 27 cm. Grades 2-4.
Rating: 5
Columbus, Christopher.
Explorers.

Intermediate Fiction

Fic

Suneby, Elizabeth

Razia's ray of hope : one girl's dream of an education / written by Elizabeth Suneby ; illustrated by Suana Verelst. (CitizenKid)
ISBN 9781554538164, hardcover, $18.95.
1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 32 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Jan, Razia--Juvenile fiction.
Girls--Education--Afghanistan--Juvenile fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the shark attacks of 1916 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 1)
87 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Survival skills--Fiction.
Shark attacks--Fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the destruction of Pompeii, AD 79 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 10)
Rating: 5
Vesuvius (Italy)--Eruption--Fiction.
Pompeii (Extinct city)--Fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the sinking of the Titanic, 1912 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 2)
96 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Titanic (Steamship)--Fiction.
Shipwrecks--Fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived hurricane Katrina, 2005 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 3)
95 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Survival skills--Fiction.
Hurricane Katrina, 2005--Fiction.
Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the attacks of September 11, 2001 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 4)

82 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Terrorism--Fiction September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001--Juvenile fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 5)

95 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Survival skills--Fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the Japanese tsunami, 2011 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 8)

Rating: 5
Tsunamis--Japan--Fiction.
Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, Japan, 2011--Fiction.

Fic

Tarshis, Lauren

I survived the Nazi invasion, 1944 / by Lauren Tarshis ; illustrated by Scott Dawson. (I survived series; 9)

89 p. : ill, map ; 20 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Jews--Poland--Fiction.
World War, 1939-1945--Fiction.
Intermediate Nonfiction

231.7
Ham, Ken
The answers book for kids: 22 questions on creation and the fall / Ken Ham with Cindy Malott. (The answers book for kids; 1)
48 p. : col. ill. ; 16 cm. Grades 2-6.
Rating: 5 Creation--Juvenile literature.
Fall of man--Juvenile literature.

231.7
Ham, Ken
The answers book for kids: 22 questions from kids on dinosaurs and the flood of Noah / Ken Ham with Cindy Malott. (The answers book for kids; 2)
48 p. : col. ill. ; 16 cm. Grades 2-6.
Rating: 5 Creation--Juvenile literature.
Noah (Biblical figure)--Juvenile literature.

231.7
Ham, Ken
The answers book for kids: 20 questions from kids on space and astronomy / Ken Ham with Cindy Malott. (The answers book for kids; 3)
48 p. : col. ill. ; 16 cm. Grades 2-6.
Rating: 5 Astronomy--Juvenile literature.
Outer space--Juvenile literature.
231.7
Ham, Ken
The answers book for kids : 22 questions from kids on Babel and the Ice Age / Ken Ham with Cindy Malott. (The answers book for kids; 6)
48 p. : col. ill. ; 16 cm. Grades 2-6.
Rating: 5
Babel, Tower of--Juvenile literature.
Glacial epoch--Juvenile literature.

621.3
Rusch, Elizabeth
Electrical wizard : how Nikola Tesla lit up the world / Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Oliver Dominguez
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm. Grades 2-6.
Rating: *5
Tesla, Nikola, 1856-1932.
Electrical engineers.

811
Grady, Cynthia
I lay my stitches down : poems of American slavery / written by Cynthia Grady ; illustrated by Michele Wood
LCCN 2011022481. ISBN 978080802853868, hardcover, $17.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 32 cm. Grades 4-6.
Rating: 5
American poetry.
Children's poetry.

D'Aulaire, Ingri
Columbus / Ingri & Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Garden City, NY : Doubleday, 0.
LCCN 86024356. ISBN 9780385241069, hardcover, $24.98.
1 v. (unpaged) : ill. (some col.) ; 31 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: *5
Columbus, Christopher.
Explorers.

Rosenstock, Barb
Thomas Jefferson builds a library / Barb Rosenstock ; illustrated by John O'Brien
LCCN 2013931061. ISBN 9781590789322, hardcover, $16.95.
Rating: 5
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Juvenile literature.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Books and reading--Juvenile literature.
B

Sewall, Marcia

The pilgrims of Plimoth / written and illustrated by Marcia Sewall

New York : Atheneum, 0.
LCCN 86003362. ISBN 9780689312502, hardcover, OP; buy used.
48 pl : col. ill. ; 22 x 27 cm. Grades 3-6.
Rating: 5
Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony)
Massachusetts--Social life and customs--To 1775.
Middle School Fiction

Fic

Phillips, Michael R.
The sword, the garden, and the king ; fairy tale for children of all ages / by Michael Phillips. (Annals of the forest ; 1)
Rating: 5
Forests and forestry--Fiction.
Brothers and sisters--Fiction.

Middle School Nonfiction

B

Meigs, Cornelia
Invincible Louisa : the story of the author of Little women / by Cornelia Meigs
New York : Little Brown, 0.
210 p. ; 19 cm. Grades 5-8.
Rating: *5
Alcott, Louisa May--1832-1888.

B

Zeeuw, P. De
Augustine : the farmer's boy of Tagaste / by P. de Zeeuw
LCCN 98037869. ISBN 9780921100058, paperback, OP; buy used.
93 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-8.
Rating: *5
Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo--Juvenile literature.
Christian saints--Algeria--Hippo (Extinct city)--Biography.

B

Williamson, Mary L.
A confederate trilogy for young readers / by Mrs. Mary L. Williamson
ISBN 9780873779937, hardcover, OP; buy used.
Rating: 5

B

Bradford, William
Homes in the wilderness : a pilgrim's journal of Plymouth plantation in 1620 / by William Bradford & others of the Mayflower company ; edited by Margaret Wise Brown ; illustrated with drawings by Mary Wilson Stewart
LCCN 87028069. ISBN 9780208021977, hardcover, OP; buy used.
74 p. : ill. ; 23 cm. Grades 5-8.
Rating: 5
Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony)
Massachusetts--History--New Plymouth, 1620-1691.
High School Fiction

Fic

Bergren, Lisa Tawn

Season of wonder / Season of wonder; 1. (Remnants : 1)
Grand Rapids, MI : Blink, 2014.
414 p.; 21 cm. Grades 9-12.
Rating: 5
Gifted teenagers--Fiction.
Dystopias--Fiction.

Fic

Coker, Rachel

Interrupted : a life beyond words / Rachel Coker
247 p.; 21 cm. Grades 9-12.
Rating: 5
World War, 1939-1945--United States--Juvenile fiction.
Teenage girls--Juvenile fiction.

Fic

Dickens, Charles

Oliver Twist : the parish boy's progress / by Charles Dickens
5 sound discs (ca. 330 min.) : digital ; 4 3/4 in. + 1 videodisc (4 3/4 in.). Grades 7-Adult.
Rating: *5
Orphans--Fiction.
Pickpockets--Fiction.

Fic

Dickerson, Melanie

The princess spy / Melanie Dickerson
293 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12 (Adult).
Rating: 5
Identity--Fiction.
Courtship)--Fiction.

Fic

Dittemore, Shannon

Broken wings / Shannon Dittemore. (Angel eyes; 2)
308 p.; 22 cm. Grades 7-11.
Rating: 5
Angels--Fiction.
Demonology--Fiction.

Fic

Dittemore, Shannon

Dark halo / Shannon Dittemore. (Angel eyes; 3)
LCCN 2013011841. ISBN 9781401686390, paperback,
$9.99.
356 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 7-11.
Rating: 5
Angels--Fiction.
Demonology--Fiction.

Fic

Stevenson, Robert Louis

The strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde / Robert Louis Stevenson ; with an introduction by Joyce Carol Oates. (Vintage classics)

LCCN 90050600. ISBN 9780679734765, paperback, $7.95.
xiv, 97 p.; 21 cm. Grades 10-Adult.
Rating: *5
Self-experimentation in medicine--Fiction.
Multiple personality--Fiction.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

Uncle Tom's cabin / Harriet Beecher Stowe ; with an introduction by Alfred Kazin. (Everyman's library)

xxix, 494 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 10-Adult.
Rating: *5
Slaves--Fiction.
Plantation life--Fiction.

Williamson, Jill

Rebels / Williamson, Jill. (Safe lands series ; 3)

Grand Rapids, MI : Blink, 2014.
384 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 9-12.
Rating: 5
Government, Resistance to--Fiction.
Science fiction.

High School Nonfiction

220.61

Concordia's complete Bible handbook, second edition

St. Louis, MO : Concordia, 2013.
Rating: 5
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.--Juvenile literature.
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

220.61

Zondervan handbook to the Bible, 4th edition / [edited by David and Pat Alexander]

816 pl : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 22 cm. Grades 4-12 (Adult).
Rating: 5
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

242

Hurnard, Hannah

Hinds' feet on high places / by Hannah Hurnard; adapted by Dian Layton;
illustrated by JoAnn Edington.
LCCN 94182597. ISBN 9781560431114, hardcover, OP; buy used.
115 p. ; 23 cm. Grades 10-Adult.
Rating: *5
Christian life.
Allegory.

530
Tiner, John Hudson
Exploring the world of physics / John Hudson Tiner
160 p. : ill. ; 28 cm. Grades 6-12.
Rating: 5
Physics.
Physics--History.

822.33
Shakespeare, William
Hamlet / edited and rendered into modern English by Alan Durband. (Shakespeare made easy)
LCCN 85022952. ISBN 9780812036381, paperback, $6.95.
330 p. ; 19 cm. Grades 10-Adult.
Rating: 0
Princes--Drama.
Revenge--Drama.

822.33
Shakespeare, William
The complete works / general editors, Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor ; editors Stanley Wells .. [et al.] ; with introductions by Stanley Wells
LCCN 2005047272. ISBN 9780199267170, hardcover, $40.
Rating: 0
Drama--English.

B
Swift, Catherine M.
Gladys Aylward / Catherine Swift. (Women of faith)
LCCN 89061792. ISBN 9781556610905, paperback, OP; buy used.
128 p. ; 18 cm. Grades 9-12 (Adult).
Rating: 5
Aylward, Gladys.
Missionaries--China--Biography.

B
Douglass, Frederick
Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave / Frederick Douglass ; [edited by] John Stauffer
LCCN 2014946565. ISBN 9781598533514, paperback, $7.95.
xxi, 141 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 10-Adult.
Rating: 0
Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895.
Slaves--United States--Biography.
Ten Boom, Corrie
The hiding place / Corrie ten Boom with Elizabeth and John Sherrill
269 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 10-Adult.
Rating: 0
Ravensbrück (Concentration camp)
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, Dutch.

Wellman, Sam
John Bunyan : author of The Pilgrim's Progress / Sam Wellam. (Heroes of the faith)
ISBN 9781557488794, paperback, OP; buy used.
203 p. ; 21 cm. Grades 8-12.
Rating: 5
Puritans--England--Biography.
Authors, English--Early modern, 1500-1700--Biography.
Adult Fiction

Fic
Hannon, Irene
Deceived : a novel / Irene Hannon. (Private justice ; 3)
408 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Rating: 5
Missing persons--Investigation--Fiction.
Private investigators--Fiction.

Fic
Ladd, Sarah E.
The heiress of Winterwood / Sarah E. Ladd. (Whispers on the moors ; 1)
314 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Rating: 5
Infants--Fiction.
Ship captains--Fiction.

Fic
Ladd, Sarah E.
The headmistress of Rosemere / Sarah E. Ladd. (Whispers on the moors ; 2)
312 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Rating: 5
Girls' schools--Fiction
Young women--Fiction.

Fic
Reynolds, Michael K.
Flight of the earls / Michael K. Reynolds. (Heirs of Ireland; 1)
423 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (Grades 10-12).
Rating: 5
Ireland--Emigration and immigration--Fiction.
United States--Emigration and immigration--Fiction.

Fic
Reynolds, Michael K.
In golden splendor / Michael K. Reynolds. (Heirs of Ireland; 2)
xii, 433 p.; 22 cm. Adult (Grades 10-12).
Rating: 5
San Francisco (Calif.)--19th century--Fiction.
Romantic suspense fiction.

Fic

Reynolds, Michael K.

Songs of the Shenandoah / Michael K. Reynolds. (Heirs of Ireland; 3)
xv, 431 p.; 22 cm. Adult (Grades 10-12).
Rating: 5
Irish--United States--Fiction.
Immigrants--Fiction
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