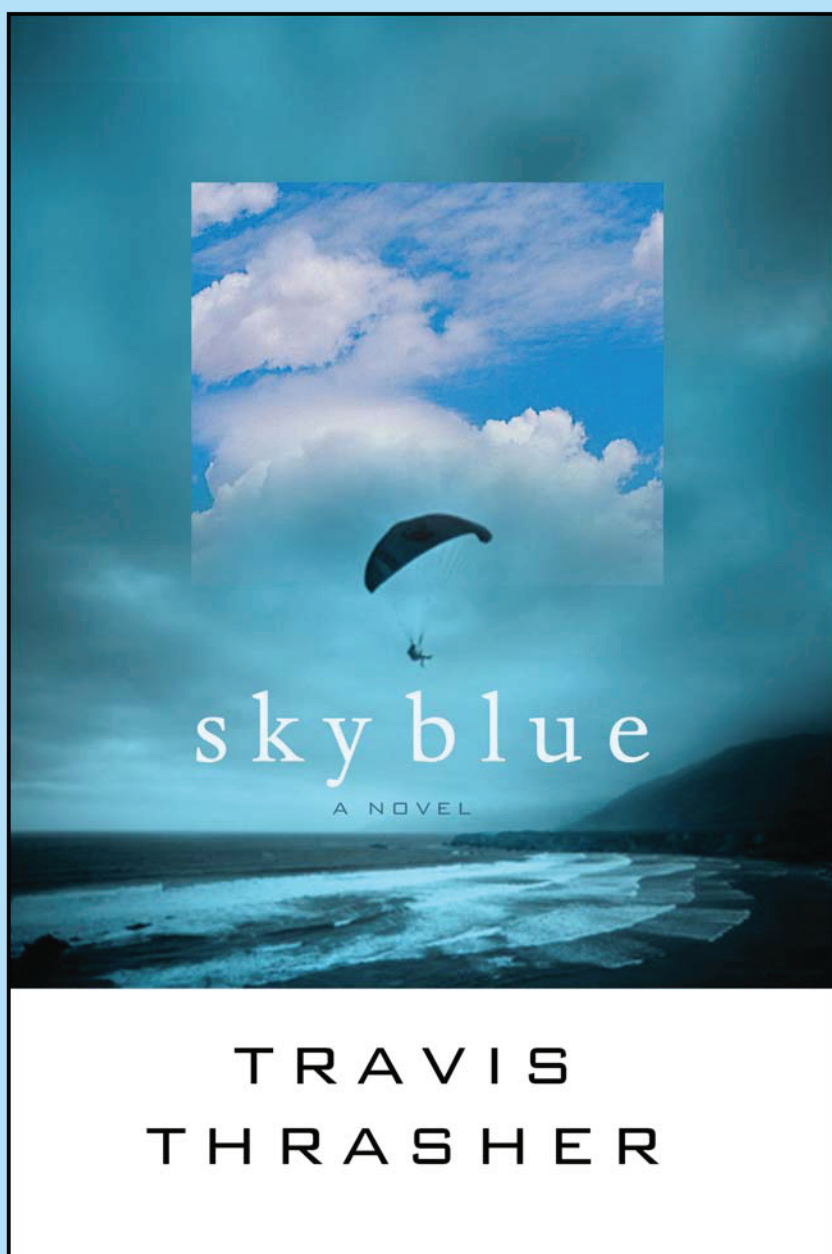


Christian Library

J O U R N A L

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Final Issue

This is the final issue of *CLJ*. After almost 12 years of publication, it is with regret that we cease publication.

Be looking for the core collection for the Christian reader on the *CLJ* site within the next year.

Thank you for your interest and support over the years!

Nancy Hesch & crew

classroom as historical fiction, a companion to the study of immigration, or to teach narrative poetry.

Kristine Wildner

Gavin Goodfellow : the lure of Burnt Swamp / by Candy Abbott. LCCN 2006940792. Georgeown, De. : Fruitbearer, 2007.

HBB, 1886068038, 9781886068025, list price: \$24.95.

Fic. Fantasy; Christian fiction. 367 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm..

MS (HS). Rating : 5.

Burnt Swamp is suffering the effects of a decade-old fire that still burns. But that's because the swamp is a gateway to the underworld... and only a 12-year-old boy can stop it from opening.

Gavin Goodfellow: The Lure of Burnt Swamp is an exciting, smoothly-written tale of spiritual warfare with wonderfully-drawn, engaging characters and beautifully-crafted descriptive passages. The villains, notably arrogant teen witch Bea Daark and Hee-Haw Downes, a local teen burning with anger, are ruthless, but have just enough vulnerability to keep from being caricatures, while the main characters, at least in Book One of this trilogy, are all too human, yet have been chosen by God to fight the monstrous presence lurking beneath Burnt Swamp. Gavin, the hero, is dyslexic, insecure, and in conflict with his father, who prefers Gavin's athletic cousin Eric. Molly, Eric's twin, is super-smart but reeling from her parents' divorce. Dexter, a friend, uses "goodness" to mask the pain of his parents' deaths. These three (plus Uncle Warney, a gentle, deeply religious man) become guardians of the Burnt Swamp diary, kept for centuries by Christ-followers, and the key to stopping the coming evil.

The richly-detailed story contains multiple examples of Christianity and the occult. Molly and Dexter quote the

Bible; Warney has visions and prophesizes; Gavin learns to let God's power shine through him; he speaks with the risen Christ. The villains, meanwhile, meditate, engage in astral projection, see auras, use crystals, and cast spells. While the evil is ferocious and real (there are even demonic characters) there's always the sense that "God wins."

Candy Abbott has crafted a wonderful story. The plot moves swiftly, alternating between suspense, humor, and stark terror. Because this is Book One, few issues are settled, but there are hints of resolutions -- and problems -- to come.

Rosemarie DiCristo

Hearts of stone / Kathleen Ernst. LCCN 2005032756. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2006.

HBB, 0525476865, 9780525476863, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Forgiveness--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Juvenile fiction. 248 p. ; 22 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

Hannah Cameron was just fifteen years old when her father died fighting for the Union Army in the Civil War. As a resident of Tennessee, his decision to fight against the Rebels in the South caused his family to be hated by their neighbors. Shortly after their father's death, bushwackers attack the Cameron family home and the mother is killed. As the oldest, Hannah must care for the children, and decides to bring them to Nashville and look for their only remaining relative. After making the two-hundred-mile journey, the children are devastated to learn of Aunt Ellen's death only six weeks earlier. With nowhere else to go and too worn out to return home, they live on the streets, eventually finding their way to a refugee camp.

Hearts of Stone is a fantastic coming of age novel for young readers. Historically accurate and completely engaging, this dramatic book has won numerous awards. Kathleen Ernst used her knowledge and love of the Civil War era to write this remarkable novel, taking ten years to complete the task. Hannah is a determined young woman with the weight of her family's needs on her shoulders, which can quite readily be felt by the reader with Ernst's descriptive prose. Prejudice, hatred, forgiveness, and strong love for family combine to make *Hearts of Stone* a novel not soon forgotten. Incidences of stone throwing, stealing, death, and cigar smoking are present, but are needed to show the true circumstances of the time period.

Sherri Myers

The night of the burning : Devorah's story / Linda Press Wulf. LCCN 2005052113. New York : Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2006.

HBB, 0374364192, 9780374364199, list price: \$16.00.

Fic. Ochberg, Isaac, 1878-1937--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction; Emigration and immigration--Fiction; Jews--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; South Africa--History--1909-1961--Fiction; Poland--History--1918-1945--Fiction; Historical fiction. xii, 210 p. ; 22 cm.

MS (HS). Rating : 4.

The Night of the Burning: Devorah's Story is a moving historical novel set in Poland during the anti-Semitic pogroms of the early 1920s. Linda Wulf takes the family history of her mother-in-law and creates a story that is considered fiction but is based on one woman's memory of a childhood filled with war, disease, and loss. The writing of this book helped a woman fulfill a long ago promise to her parents to "never forget who we are." (p. 82.) Devorah is only eleven when the pogroms reach her village. Only she and her younger sister,