

Until We Meet Again



Story by Susan Jones

Illustrations by Shirley Antak



Title offers comfort and hope to those facing grief and loss.

It's Not Goodbye

»» Susan Jones, author of *Until We Meet Again* (\$24.95, c, 50/50 Publishing), dedicated her first published book to her father, Earl Jones, who died in 1997. "The story plants the idea that memory-making is a way to fill our hearts for times of change or loss," Jones said.

CBA Retailers+Resources asked Jones about her title.

What prompted you to write *Until We Meet Again*?

Very early one morning, I was awakened from a deep sleep. Comforting thoughts and tenderhearted images of a little boy and his grandfather sharing ordinary moments were flashing through my tired mind. Wanting to close my eyes and continue sleeping, I told myself if I don't write this down, it may be gone forever. Reaching for the ever-present pad and pencil on my night table, I wrote simple jottings nonstop for the next two hours until the last thought subsided. Not knowing what to do with the rough draft, I put it away and continued my career as a teacher.

Tell us about the journey that led you to a published book.

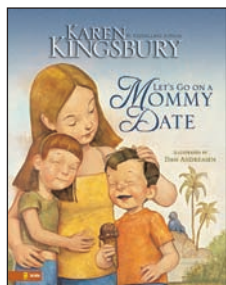
In hindsight, I believe those thoughts were gifted to me as a form of healing following the death of my parents and a very dear friend. Although the story depicts a relationship between a little boy and his grandfather, the memories in the book are ones I actually shared with various people in my life.

PRODUCT INTELLIGENCE

Kids Books

Let's Go On a Mommy Date

Karen Kingsbury / Zonderkidz
c \$15.99 ISBN: 9780310712145



This sweet story will become a fast favorite with kids ages 4-8. Spending the day with Mommy becomes a great adventure at the zoo, the park, the circus, a movie theatre, and an animal farm.

The artwork is soft

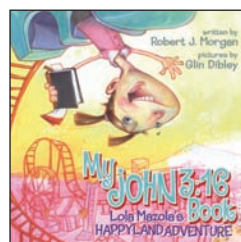
and inviting, allowing readers to slip inside the pages and become part of the story. When the day is done, the best part of a "Mommy Date" is simply spending time together.

Let's Go On a Mommy Date will foster quality family time and teach kids that playtime with parents is another way to say, "I love you."

—Becky Pummell

Lola Mazola's Happyland Adventure: My John 3:16 Book

Robert J. Morgan / B&H Publishing Group
c \$9.99 ISBN: 9780805446333
Lola Mazola is facing



a major disappointment. She doesn't have enough money to go with her friends to Happyland. *Happyland* has 60 rides, 20 shows, 3 hotels, 2 lakes, a waterpark, and a zoo! Lola desperately wants to go, but she's about to learn some important truths about another "Happyland" and how God has given a priceless gift of love to pay her way.

This age-appropriate picture book guides children in a step-by-step understanding of John 3:16. A message to adults in the introduction explains how to use the book to lead young children to make—and document—a personal decision for Christ. Charmingly written and delightfully illustrated, this is a special book to share with a child.

A special ministry edition will be sold under the title *My John 3:16 Book: Lola Mazola's Happyland Adventure* (\$49.90, pack of 10 paper).

—Kristine Wilson

Manga Messiah

Hidenoi Kumai / Tyndale
p \$12.99 ISBN: 9781414316802



Many kids today are interested in anime and Japanese comics, and teens or preteens who are bored or tired with reading a traditional Bible will enjoy this different rendition of the Gospels.

In Japanese-comic format, *Manga Messiah*, offers this newest form of Bible stories. Each book of the Gospels is accurately portrayed in a new and entertaining way, with colorful and action-filled pictures to spice up the stories. Readers will find an easy-to-read format, with stories that aren't interpolated and the exact Scriptures of each story found at the bottom of the page.

Even those not interested in Japanese comics will like the fresh, new, fast-paced *Manga Messiah*.

—Krysta Grimm

I could never have predicted the magnitude of what was about to unfold. Over time, paths connected to an editor, an illustrator, and a designer. Collectively, we believed in the manuscript's message and amidst numerous ups and downs and years of dedicated work and prayers the book *Until We Meet Again* came to be.

Why a picture book?

That's how the story appeared to me. Subconsciously, was it because I taught first grade for many years and I felt the need for a story about life lessons, the preciousness of memory-making, and the reality of anticipatory loss and death? Was it because I learned adults as well as children love a beautiful picture book? One thing was very clear; I envisioned colorful, cheerful illustrations depicting an emotional connection with a style that offered comfort, hope, and inspiration. It was important the words tell the story without the illustrations just as the illustrations tell the story without the words. But when viewed as one, all senses would be engaged. I believe Shirley Antak's artistic talent was a God-given gift to this project.

Who is your intended audience?

The audience evolved as people of varying ages read the manuscript. It seemed to touch readers in ways I never imagined. With tears in his eyes, my uncle was the first to say the story made him realize he wasn't alone in his cancer. Innocent children became hopeful as

the story made them less afraid as they witnessed a loved one changing before their eyes. Adults were deeply touched depending upon where they'd been in their life, where they're now, and where they're headed.

How would you recommend Christian retailers hand-sell this title?

It's a story for all ages and every generation. For parents, a tool to begin the dialogue while telling a child someone they care about is dying or has died. For children, a way to identify with a little boy who helps someone he loves simply by being himself. For new grandparents, to celebrate the birth of their grandchild and let the memory-making begin. For adults, it confirms the preciousness of memories while grieving (or anticipating) the loss of a loved one. For the patient, it offers hope and encouragement that they're not alone in their journey. For families, it models the simplicity of life lessons through sharing ordinary moments. For any loved one (especially a survivor), it's a thank you for memories shared and those yet to be.

Although I've told a story of a little boy's love for his grandfather—their relationship symbolizes the importance of making memories in any loving relationship while time allows. May it offer comfort and hope as readers come to believe it's not goodbye, but "until we meet again."

For more, visit www.bookofferings.com or call (612) 788-4341.

>>> CrossStaff Publishing and Huhu Publishing



released *The Ten Commandments Movie Storybook* by Ed Naha, who wrote the screenplay for *The Ten Commandments*, releasing in theatres Oct. 19.

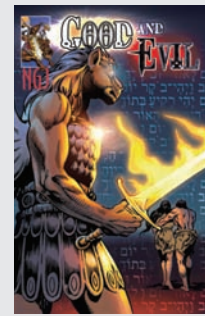
The Ten Commandments is the first of 12 films in the "Epic Stories of the Bible" series, produced and distributed by Promenade Pictures. The second film, *Noah's Ark—The Beginning*, will release in 2008. For more on the film, visit www.epicstoriesofthebible.com.

>>> **B&H Kids'** *My Child, My Princess* (\$14.99, c) by Beth Moore is newly retitled and redesigned. Moore's first children's book was first released in

2003 under the title *A Parable about the King*.

>>> No Greater Joy Ministries

(STL Dist.) released *Good and Evil: Part 1 The Beginning*, a full-color comic book written by Michael Pearl and illustrated by Danny Bulanadi, formerly of Marvel Comics (Incredible Hulk).



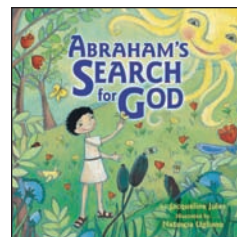
Send Kids news to Lisa Tamayo >>> E-mail: ltamayo@cbaonline.org



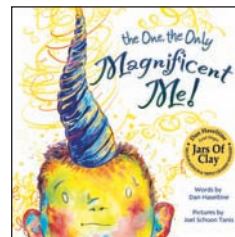
Bethany's (Baker) *Fear No Evil* (\$13.99, p) by Steve Russo explores teens' interest in the supernatural and the dangers they encounter while "dabbling." Includes practical tools students can use as they deal with the presence of evil in their schools.



Howard's (Simon & Schuster) *Girls of Grace Daily Devotional* (\$14.99, p) offers wisdom and grace to teen girls by the women from the multiple Dove Award-winning group Point of Grace. Topics include self-esteem, family relationships, dating, friendship, faith, purpose, body image, and more.



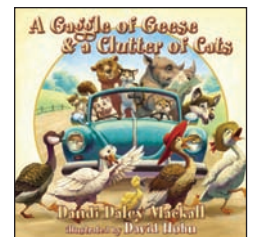
Kar-Ben Publishing's picture book *Abraham's Search for God* (\$17.95, c) by Jacqueline Jules tells the story of Abraham growing up in a society of idol worshippers.



Mackinac Island Press released *The One, The Only Magnificent Me!* (\$14.95, c) by Dan Haseltine, lead singer of multi-GRAMMY winning band Jars of Clay. Haseltine's debut kids title fosters imagination and reminds kids they're amazing and wonderful.



Thomas Nelson's *The Ballad of Matthew's Begats* (\$14.99, c/CD) by Andrew Peterson recounts Jesus' genealogy from Matthew 1:1-16. Includes fun facts, "Did You Know" elements, and sing-along CD featuring the author.



WaterBrook's *The Blanket Show* and *A Gagggle of Geese and a Clutter of Cats* (\$9.99 each, c) both by Dandi Daley Mackall are from its "Dandillion Rhymes" series.