

Media Alert

The Year of Jubilee

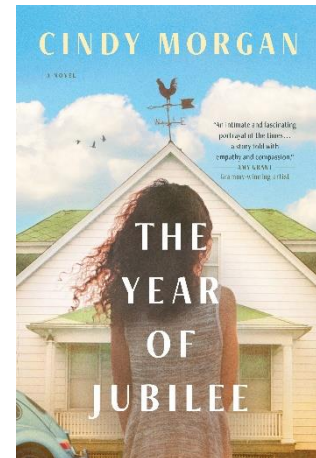
***The Year of Jubilee* is a lyrical coming-of-age novel set against the backdrop of the turbulent South in the early 1960s.**

The Mockingbird family has always lived peacefully in Jubilee, Kentucky, despite the divisions that mark their small town. Until the tense summer of 1963, when their youngest child, Isaac, falls gravely ill. Middle sister Grace, nearly fourteen, is determined to do whatever it takes to save her little brother. With her father and mother away at the hospital, Grace is left under the loving but inexperienced eye of her aunt June, with little to do but wait and worry. Inspired by a young teacher's mission for change, she begins to flirt with danger—and with a gifted boy named Golden, who just might be the key to saving Isaac's life. Then the unthinkable happens, and the world as she knows it shifts in ways she never could have imagined. Grace must decide what she believes amid the swirling, conflicting voices of those she loves the most.

From gifted songwriter Cindy Morgan comes this lyrical, tender tale of a girl standing at the threshold of adulthood, learning the depths of the human heart and the bonds of family that bend, break, and bind together over and over again.

***The Year of Jubilee* is available for review, and two-time Grammy nominee and thirteen-time Dove award winner, Cindy Morgan, is available for interviews to discuss:**

- Writing a coming-of-age story against the backdrop of the turbulent South in the early 1960s.
- Using fiction to explore true events and themes in her own family's life, after losing her brother to a rare form of cancer at the age of 5.
- The character of Grace Mockingbird, a young girl who is dealing with her own fear and pain in the midst of the chaos of the civil rights movement. When her younger brother and best friend becomes seriously ill, will she be able to find her own voice in order to bring healing to those around her?
- Themes of childhood trauma, grief and loss, complex mother-daughter relationships, race relations, forgiveness, and overcoming fear and pain.
- The sovereignty of God in the face of unjust suffering.



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About the Author



Singer/songwriter Cindy L. Morgan is a two-time Grammy nominee, a thirteen-time Dove winner, and a recipient of the prestigious Songwriter of the Year trophy. An East Tennessee native, her evocative melodies and lyrics have mined the depths of life and love both in her own recording and through songwriting for noteworthy artists around the globe, including Vince Gill, India.Arie, Rascal Flatts, Amy Grant, Sandra McCracken, and Glen Campbell. Cindy is the author of two works of adult nonfiction—the memoir *How Could I Ask for More: Stories of Blessings, Battles & Beauty* (Worthy Inspire, 2015) and *Barefoot on Barbed Wire: A Journey Out of Fear into Freedom* (Harvest House Publishers, 2001)—and of the children's picture book *Dance Me, Daddy* (ZonderKidz, 2009). *The Year of Jubilee* is her debut novel. Cindy is a cocreator of the charitable Hymns for Hunger Tour, which has raised awareness and resources for hunger relief organizations across the globe. Cindy has two daughters and splits time living between a small town near Nashville and Holly Springs, North Carolina with her husband Jonathan. For more information visit cindymorganmusic.com.

Interview Questions

- What is the meaning behind the title of the book, *The Year of Jubilee*?
- Although this story is fictional, it is based on real-life themes and struggles endured by your own family. Can you tell us about that?
- In your author's note, you mention that this book is based on your first memory as a child. Can you give us the real account of that? What elements changed from reality to the fictional page?
- Did you do research about the impact of first memories? How do they shape us?
- In what ways does Grace Mockingbird's life mirror your own experience?
- How does faith play a role in the story?
- One of the themes explored in the book is the sovereignty of God in the face of unjust suffering. Why is this an important topic to address?
- One of the more painful ideas explored in the book is the pain that can be caused by well-meaning Christians during times of tragedy. How have you seen that play out in your own life, as well as in the lives of others?
- Why did you choose to set the story in the South during the civil rights movement?
- How does the book specifically deal with the issue of race relations?
- One of the major topics in the book is a difficult mother-daughter dynamic. Did you experience any of that same struggle as a mother with your own daughters?
- You said most of the characters in the book surprised you. Why is that?
- Who was your favorite character to develop? Why?
- Who was the most challenging character to develop? Why?

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- In the book, you mention the idea of “the poor mind.” Can you explain what that is?
- Although you've written two nonfiction books, this is your first novel. How was the process different?
- What is one thing you hope readers take away from the book?

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