

A New Novel Proposal

CAPTIVES

By Jill Williamson

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Submitted by



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The Manuscript

Title: *CAPTIVES*

Content: When a village is conquered, one young man must rescue his fiancé from the TaskDirector General's harem.

Category: Young Adult Dystopian

Length: 80,000 words, estimate

Audience: Young adults, ages 12-17. Fans of *Hunger Games* and *Matched*.

Back Cover Copy: In a dystopian future, most the population is infected with a plague. The only exceptions are those who live outside the city walls. A mutation in the plague sends city enforcers looking for uninfected nationals in an effort to purge the disease from future generations. When enforcers raid Levi's village, they take his fiancé into the city and hold her captive in the taskmaster general's harem. Levi launches a one-man war against the city in an attempt to free her before it's too late.

Spiritual Payload: Levi and Jemimah both have a strong faith. The elders in their village were wise mentors to them. They both struggle to hold on to the truth and their integrity while being thrown into the wild, enticing lifestyle of Safe Land culture. They know that nothing is more dangerous than "friendly captivity," and Safe Landers don't even know how to blush. Knowing who they are makes it a bit easier for them to resist the hosts of temptations the Safe Lands have to offer. And though Safe Land nationals feel as though they have everything, Levi and Jemimah can't help but ask, what is the point of looking beautiful on the outside when you are dead on the inside?

Additional Titles: *The Safe Lands*
Hourglass
The Messengers
Taskmasters
The Harem

Issues of Unique Interest: *AIDS*
Respecting the elderly
Staying true to Godly standards while living in a Babylonian culture
Temptation

Marketing

Dystopian is a popular subgenre among teens right now. With the success of *The Hunger Games* and its forthcoming film, readers are looking for more books with serious and fantastical subject matters.

CAPTIVES is a suspenseful tale for older teens who are looking for an exciting, it-could-happen-someday adventure. This book has danger, romance, and a race against the clock as our hero fights to save the girl he loves from a government gone bad.

Comparative Fiction

- *Matched* by Ally Condie (Dutton Juvenile, 2010)

COMPARISON: In *Matched*, Society Officials have removed the burden of choice in all aspects of daily life. But when the computers match Cassia with a guy to marry, she rebels against it, instead falling in love with another guy. Both *Matched* and *Captives* have a strong romantic element and remind readers that freedom of choice is precious but sometimes comes with sacrifice.

- *Delirium* by Lauren Oliver (HarperCollins, 2011)

COMPARISON: In Oliver's book, people undergo a procedure to take away their emotional ability to love. Before Lena can get the procedure, she meets Alex, who happens to be an Invalid, one of a tribe of uncured that live in the surrounding wilderness. In both *Delirium* and *Captives*, those living outside the government's reach are the ones who know the truth.

- *The Declaration* by Gemma Malley (Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2008)

COMPARISON: This book explores the concept of immortality while *Captives* looks at the opposite. But both books deal with what happens when reproductive power is toyed with or controlled.

- *Eternity Falls* by Kirk Outerbridge (Marcher Lord Press, 2009)

COMPARISON: Both Kirk's book and *Captives* deal with the concept of glamorizing youth and scorning old age. In Kirk's book, many people take a drug that induces immortality and keeps a person looking forever young.

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 1993)

COMPARISON: In *The Giver*, community Elders choose a career path for each citizen. In *Captives*, taskmasters administer tests in order to place nationals in optimal work environments based on their scores. Both storyworlds operate under the guise of creating a pain-free, utopian society, despite the lies that no one can see.

Promotions

Jill plans to promote *CAPTIVES* in the following ways:

- **Speaking engagements** – Jill is comfortable speaking in front of large audiences. She regularly maintains a speaking schedule, focusing largely on schools and libraries in an attempt to promote her books. While speaking in front of kids or young people, Jill gives out free bookmarks and flyers that have her website and Facebook information on them. She also sells books and does giveaways.

“Our seventh and eighth grade classes had the opportunity to attend presentations by Jill Williamson last week, and teachers and students alike were totally impressed. She did four sessions in our library, to about 80 kids at a time. I don’t remember even one student who was not actively listening to her. She has a relaxed style that appeals to middle school kids and talks as much about her personal history as well as her books and how she got them published. A perfect blend of information.” —Sandy Krueger, Librarian

- **Promotional materials** – Jill will produce and print approved bookmarks, library postcards, mini Chapter One booklets, and other materials that she will use to pass out to readers during her speaking engagements.
- **Print publications** - Jill will craft and distribute press releases to the following newspapers and organizations:
Blue Mountain Eagle, John Day, OR
The Frontiersman, Mat-Su Valley, AK
The Eastern Oregonian, Pendelton, OR
Northwest Nazarene University alumni office
Oregon Christian Writers, members
Christian Authors Network, members
American Christian Fiction Writers, members
- **Media appearances** – Jill has been a guest on the following media outlets, and she plans to solicit interviews again:
Teen Talk Radio with Nicole O’Dell
Fiction Addict with Jake Chism
Christian Work-at-Home Moment with Jill Hart
Snark-Infested Waters with Taylor Kent
Coffee Time Radio, John Day, Oregon
- **Online presence** – Jill has worked hard to create an online presence. The following are examples of current and future websites that could promote her name and book:

www.TheSafeLands.com is a domain name that Jill purchased in case *CAPTIVES* was published.

www.JillWilliamson.com is her author website. It includes her author blog, book trailers, book descriptions, press kit, speaking references, links to her other sites, links to her social networking pages, links to her novels on Amazon (paperback and Kindle versions), free downloads, reviews, book discussion guides, and her calendar.

www.NovelTeen.com was founded in 2007 as a means of promoting Christian young adult fiction. She has reviewed 300+ books, conducted author interviews, and posted author biographies.

www.TeenageAuthor.com was founded in 2009 as a site to encourage teenage writers. Jill spends a lot of time answering questions and posting topics that teen writers are interested in.

Ideas for promoting *CAPTIVES* online, include:

1. Using contacts within the industry to solicit interviews and reviews from bloggers
2. Partnering with other Zonderkidz YA authors to use www.NovelTeen.com to host a Book Release Party with giveaways, interviews, a teen-friendly blog tour, and more.
3. Creating a fun and interactive website at www.TheSafeLands.com.
4. Creating appropriate Facebook pages for *CAPTIVES*
5. Filming a live-action book trailer. (The trailer her fans created for her second novel can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfMBqEkB1IE>)
6. Writing and producing an audio version of the first chapter that would then be made available online.
7. Offering giveaways and contests through her websites.
8. Promoting the book through the many social media sites Jill has joined, including MySpace, Facebook, GoodReads, Amazon, Shelfari, Shoutlife, LibraryThing, and Twitter. (Jill has 4600+ friends on Shoutlife; 2000 friends/fans on Facebook)

Endorsements

The following people are possibilities for endorsements:

- Robert Liparulo, award-winning suspense author of *House of Dark Shadows*
- Michelle Buckman, author of *Death Panels: A Novel of Life, Liberty and Faith*
- James Scott Bell, best-selling suspense author of *Try Dying*
- James Rubart, author of *Rooms* and owner and creative director of Barefoot Marketing

The Author

Jill Williamson is a novelist, dreamer, and believer. She grew up in Alaska with no electricity, an outhouse, and a lot of mosquitoes. Thankfully it was the land of the midnight sun, and she could stay up and read by the summer daylight that wouldn't go away. But the winter months left little to do but daydream. Both hobbies set her up to be a writer. Her debut novel, *By Darkness Hid*, won an EPIC Award, a Christy Award, was a Carol Award finalist, and was named a Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror novel of 2009 by VOYA magazine.

Jill has served alongside her youth pastor husband for the past twelve years and loves working with teenagers, especially to encourage young writers. She gives writing workshops at libraries, schools, camps, and churches. Learn more on Jill's website: www.jillwilliamson.com.

Sales History (as of mid-January 2011)

By Darkness Hid

April 1, 2009

Marcher Lord Press

**** total copies (**** print, **** ebook)

YA Fantasy

To Darkness Fled (Blood of Kings, book 2)

April 1 2010

Marcher Lord Press

**** total copies (**** print, **** ebook)

YA Fantasy

Speaking

Recent and future engagements include:

- *Nazarene Youth Conference, Louisville, KY, July 2011.*
- *Trinity Pines Junior High Camp, Cascade, ID, July 2011.*
- *Weiser Middle School, Weiser, ID, May 2011.*
- *Alaska public school tour, Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage, AK, April 2011.*
- *Dayville Elementary School, Dayville, OR, April, 2011.*
- *Grant County Christian School, John Day, OR, March 2011.*
- *Burbank Faith Church of the Nazarene, Burbank, CA, March 2011.*
- *River Valley Writer's Group, Dayville, OR, March 2011.*

Professional Memberships

- Oregon Christian Writers
- American Christian Fiction Writers
- CAN, Inc. A network of several novelists and nonfiction writers whose sole aim is to better promote our books.
- Co-founder, C-YAWR1 and CWAWR-2 (Christian Young Adult Writers and Readers): An online writers group for Christian young adult writers

Awards

- Winner: Christy Award, visionary category, *By Darkness Hid*
- Winner: Epic Award, *By Darkness Hid*
- Finalist: ACFW Carol Award, *By Darkness Hid*
- Finalist: Next Generation Indie Book Award, *By Darkness Hid*
- *VOYA magazine's* Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror 2009: *By Darkness Hid*
- *VOYA magazine's* Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror 2010: *To Darkness Fled*

A Note from the Author

Last year, my ladies Bible study group completed Beth Moore's study on the book of Daniel. As we learned about the young royals who were taken from Jerusalem to be inducted into the Babylonian culture, I couldn't help but imagine how some of the teen guys in our youth group would fare in such a situation. This train of thought sent me brainstorming the story of *CAPTIVES*.

I wanted to write the story of three brothers, Mason, Levi, and Omar, and how each reacted differently to such an experience. Mason's character was going to parallel Daniel's. I wanted Levi to be searching for his fiancé and Omar to be the one who totally adapts to the Babylonian-like culture.

Our country today has a very Babylonian "me" mentality, and I wanted to explore themes in connection with that. I also feel very strongly about AIDS and wanted to write about the disease and raise questions without preaching and condemning anyone.

All of those thoughts came together to create the idea in *CAPTIVES*, a story filled with suspense, action, romance, and a race against the clock.

Synopsis

Eighteen-year-old LEVI OF ELIAS lives in a village called Glenrock, beyond the walls of the Safe Lands in a post-apocalyptic region of what was once Colorado. Levi is an Outsider, uninfected rebels who live apart from Safe Land laws and the disease that has ravaged the city.

Levi is on a picnic with his fiancé, JEMIMAH OF NATHAN, when his brother, OMAR, brings a message that traders wish to meet with him. Eager to make a successful living as a trader, Levi cuts the picnic short. Omar takes Jemimah back to the village so that Levi can meet the traders and return home before dark.

Upon their arrival in Glenrock, Jemimah and Omar find the village has been raided. Omar suggests they check the village hall. When they enter, Enforcers take Jemimah into custody with the other young women of the village, then...

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Series potential

CAPTIVES was written as a stand alone novel, but it has the potential for a trilogy as Levi and Jemimah lead the rebels in a battle against the government. *CAPTIVES* also has the potential for an apocalyptic prequel that follows the story of a teenaged Elder Elias during the Great Pandemic and how The Safe Lands and the Outsider villages came to be.

End.