

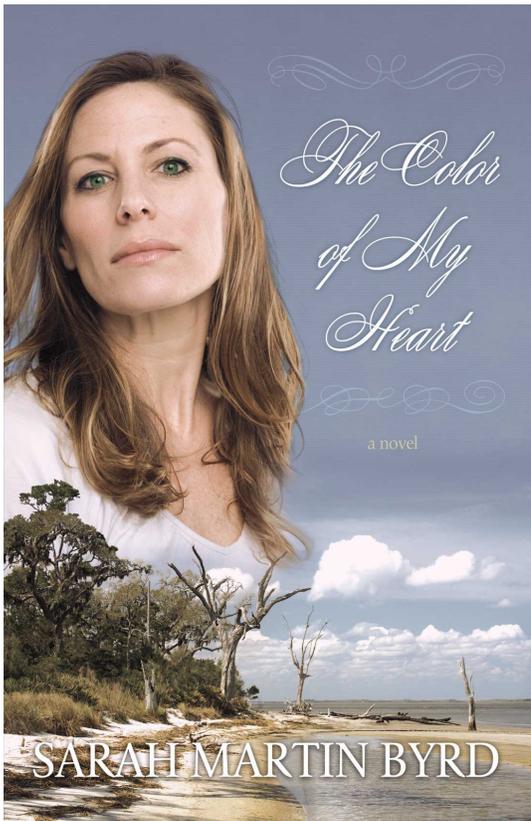


news release

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NEW NOVEL ADDRESSES RACE ISSUES IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH *Author Believes Heart Matters More Than Skin*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Do you see the color of someone's skin or the color of their heart? That's the question author Sarah Martin Byrd hopes readers ponder as they enjoy her new novel *The Color of My Heart* (Ambassador International; October 2012; \$14.99; Paperback). The book follows Laura Carter, whose perfect life is rocked by a shocking letter from her great-grandmother revealing secrets about her birth family. A stack of diaries traces Laura's ancestors' heartbreaking voyage from Africa to Georgia on a slave ship. "Laura is thrown face-to-face with prejudices that exist in her community and in her own family," says Byrd. "Ultimately she understands that we all have one maker. No matter what color we are on the outside, it's the inside that truly matters."

Byrd quotes scripture to highlight the theme of the novel *The Color of My Heart*. "8There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:28-29, NIV). "God does not judge us based on our race, skin, beauty or lack of," says Byrd, "He judges us by the condition of our hearts. Not our wealth, color, or position in life. So the color of one's heart matters more than the color of skin."

Sarah Martin Byrd is a graduate of the Institute of Children's Literature. She is a published novelist, newspaper columnist and blogger. Sarah loves sharing her life story with children of all ages. *The Color of My Heart* is Sarah's second published novel.

RELEASE DATE: October 2012
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 288
PRICE: \$14.99
ISBN:9781620201145

To learn more about the author Sarah Martin Byrd and *The Color of My Heart*, visit www.sarahmartinbyrd.com. For interview requests please contact publicist Alison Storm at media@emeraldhouse.com.

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ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out [Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. What led you to write *The Color of My Heart*?
2. Have you had any encounters with racism?
3. How does Laura's husband respond to her discovery? What do you hope readers learn from his reaction?
4. What is your understanding of freedom?
5. How can you share the themes of this book with children?
6. What do you hope to accomplish by writing this book?
7. You seem to weave a lot of history throughout your books. Are the historical facts true in *The Color of My Heart*?
8. Is your personality reflected in any of your characters?

Praise for *The Color of My Heart*:

"I have just finished *The Color of My Heart*. . . Tears are still in my eyes and I am having a difficult time finding the words to describe how I feel. What a book! Thank you for sharing it with me for it has touched my heart in a way that I'll never forget.

- LaDonna Dare Brinson



author bio

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SARAH MARTIN BYRD *Author of "The Color of My Heart"*



Born at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sarah Martin Byrd realized early on that to succeed you must work hard. She learned this from her overachieving father who drove her to excel in all endeavors.

Through two careers, she has written stories, poems, and articles. After many strokes of the pen, she retired to compose full time. *The Color of My Heart* is Sarah's second novel to be published. She has several other books in the works including a children's book.

Sarah resides still at those foothills with her husband of over thirty years. Aside from her books, her best friend is her daughter. Sarah's granddaughter Emma also occupies many happy hours of her days.

Connect with Sarah Martin Byrd

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