

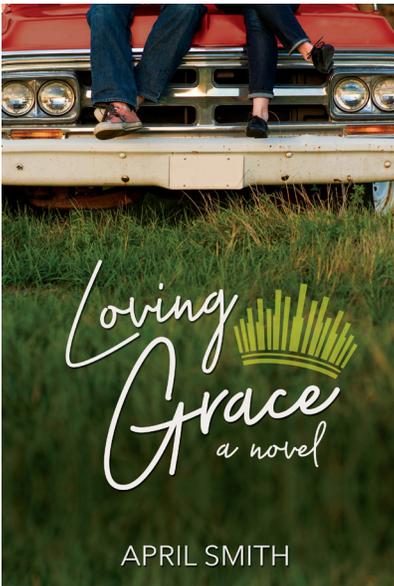


news release

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FORMER WATERMELON QUEEN WRITES A YOUNG ADULT FICTION BOOK A STORY OF LOVE AND GOD'S GRACE



RELEASE DATE: March 20, 2018
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 224
PRICE: \$15.99
ISBN: 9781620206195

For immediate release: As the newly-crowned watermelon queen, Grace Summer is thrust into the spotlight while dealing with a new life and an old past that still haunts her. Grace finds herself in a melon load of trouble when she becomes torn between the boy of her dreams and the boy next door. With her work on the watermelon farm, her crown responsibilities, her painful past, and her new love, Grace doesn't think she can handle everything life has thrown at her. Her loving gramps shows her that God will give her the strength she needs if she will trust in Him.

In her new book, *Loving Grace* (Ambassador International, March 20, 2018, \$15.99), April Smith writes a fictional story about young love and God's grace. Smith spent her summers working on her best friend's watermelon farm, and had the opportunity to work for the industry as one of their watermelon queens. Smith says, "I knew I wanted Grace's story to take place in the watermelon world. I also wanted the reader to learn something. In this case, the main takeaway is that true happiness comes from resting in the grace of God. Things of this world may make us happy for a time, but they tarnish when compared to what God has to offer."

About the Author: Smith was crowned Illiana Watermelon Queen in 2002 and has since held those memories from her tour as queen as some of the sweetest to look back on. Smith lives in Evansville, IN and when she is not writing or teaching, she enjoys reading, sewing, quilting, and spending time with her family.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *Loving Grace*, please contact publicist Keli Garrett at media@emeraldhouse.com.

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.

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. What is one of your favorite memories from working in the watermelon fields?
2. Did you have a favorite promotion you went on as the watermelon queen?
3. Where did your inspiration come from when writing this story?
4. What do you enjoy about the writing process the most?
5. How did you select the names of your characters?
6. What is your favorite watermelon recipe?
7. When did you know you wanted to be a writer?
8. Why did you choose to write Christian YA fiction?
9. What were your goals for writing this book?
10. What does your writing process look like?

Endorsements:

This was a great book! I loved the adventures of Grace and her watermelon family. It's an easy and fun read.

Kristy Cardinal

Illiana Watermelon Promotion's Coordinator, 2000-2008

Past Illiana Watermelon Queen 1998

Present member of Illiana Watermelon Association and National Watermelon Association

As a former National Watermelon Queen, I loved reminiscing about my year and vicariously living through Grace. I couldn't put the book down!

Maggie Bailey

2010 National Watermelon Queen

April Smith provides a captivating romance novel of the tragedy of life and the misplaced trust of the heart that seeks love. The heroin (Grace) finds true love and her first kiss in the only place she had not looked—right before her eyes.

Barb Helm

Miss Indiana Board Member and Field Director

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author bio

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APRIL SMITH Author of "Loving Grace"



April Smith grew up spending summers working on her best friend's family watermelon farm and she was one of those watermelon queens she writes about. She has her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in the Art of Teaching.

Connect with the Author

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