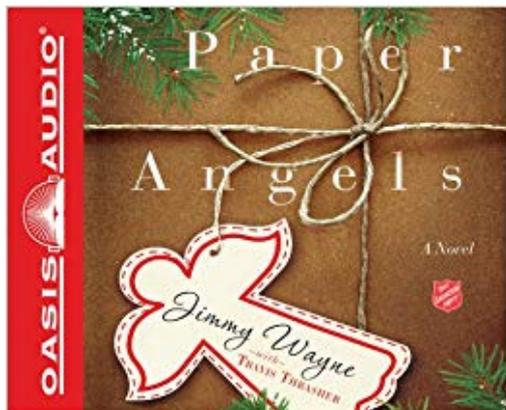


Paper Angels: A Novel *by* Stephen Bowlby, Jimmy Wayne



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The Salvation Army Angel Tree program gives individuals, groups and corporations an opportunity to adopt less fortunate children and seniors, and provide personalized gifts and necessities to those who would otherwise receive very little or nothing during the holiday season. When his mom decided it was time for them to leave for good, Thomas knew they better get far away or he'd come and find them. It was Christmas Day, with Mom sweating in a tiny room over a tiny stove, and Dad watching college basketball and drinking with a vengeance. "Thomas, I want you to get your sister and go out to the car, okay?" Mom had promised them that they would be getting a special Christmas present today. Just the two kids. They couldn't mention it to Dad. This is her present, Thomas thought as he waited and worried that the next one out of the house would be the man with the glassy eyes and the tightened jaw. The car left without hesitation. Thomas and Sara had received the best gift ever: freedom. The question was whether it would still be there tomorrow and the next day and the day after that.



Reviews of the **Paper Angels: A Novel** by Stephen Bowlby, Jimmy Wayne

you secret

As a fan of both authors of this book, I had looked forward to reading PAPER ANGELS for well over a year before it was released, AND I had very high expectations. I can honestly say my expectations were met and exceeded!

The Salvation Army Angel Tree program provides Christmas to disadvantaged children who would otherwise not receive gifts. Each child's name is written on a "Paper Angel" and placed on the Angel Tree to await being "adopted" by a kind-hearted person. Jimmy Wayne, co-author of PAPER ANGELS, was a Paper Angel child. It is from this experience, and with gratitude to those who gave, that PAPER ANGELS the book came to be.

Jimmy and co-author Travis Thrasher have created a touching and memorable Christmas story, yet PAPER ANGELS is so much more than just a Christmas story. It's an everyday story with realistic characters living lives familiar to many who might read this book. All the characters, minor to major, are people you know or see everyday...neighbors, friends, co-workers, the guy selling papers on the corner, the woman waiting tables at the local diner, the mean kid at school, the new kid no one knows much about, the businessman with a desperate look, a mom who dearly loves her children, a father worried about providing for his family, someone at risk of losing everything dear to them...they could be you.

The two main characters, 15 year old Thomas and 43 year old Kevin, come from different worlds and are at different points in their lives, yet something as simple as a Paper Angel randomly chosen from a Salvation Army Angel Tree links the characters together and begins a chain of events that changes both of their lives and those around them. As the reader takes this journey with them they experience every emotion possible...fear, hope, sadness, joy, humor, pain, questioning God, trusting God, anger, love, faith, forgiveness. There is a beautiful lesson for everyone in this story...adults, parents, teenagers, children. It's a story to be shared together as a family and passed along to friends. It opens one's eyes to seeking a better understanding of people you don't really know. It reminds us to appreciate what we have and the loved ones in our lives. It gives hope that a bad situation can be turned into good. It shows how a act of kindness can lead to something so much more and that forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts you can give to yourself.

Anyone who reads this book will enjoy it and be touched by its message, but for those who have supported Jimmy Wayne through the years and know his personal story, this book will carry even more meaning through the pieces of Jimmy's own life he and Travis have woven through the book. A line here, a little story there, a place or character that sounds familiar, little tidbits of information that only someone who has followed Jimmy's story would know. This touched me as much as the story itself because it made it so much more personal. For those not familiar with Jimmy's story, nothing is lost by not knowing these things. It would be my hope that after reading PAPER ANGELS more people will learn about Jimmy Wayne and the incredible dedication he has as an advocate for America's foster children and homeless youth.

Fans of Travis Thrasher will easily recognize that this is a true collaboration. While Jimmy Wayne is credited as the primary author of PAPER ANGELS, it is evident that Travis contributed much to the story and characters as well. Just as Jimmy's life experiences are reflected in the story, I believe

Travis put much of himself into this story too. There is a definite chemistry at work between the two authors which makes the story even more honest and real and a pleasure to read. Those familiar with Travis's books and writing style know he is a gifted writer who refuses to be "branded". He has written beautiful, heartfelt romances and dark, make your skin crawl thrillers. Travis has used his talent perfectly in weaving together the characters and story of PAPER ANGELS to make it the moving and inspiring book it is.

Yes, PAPER ANGELS is a beautiful Christmas story...and so much more. It is a story that should be remembered and lived the whole year through. Buy this book, read it and be inspired to see the good in the world and to make a difference in someone's life. The first step could be this Christmas when you adopt a Paper Angel.

And as you read this book, should you question whether an act of kindness can change a life, give someone hope...stop and remember that the book you are holding is a dream come true for a man that once was a Paper Angel.

Gribandis

I've had this in my Kindle cloud for three years and for some reason never read it. I caught the movie this year and liked the story so much that I decided it was time to read the book. I always appreciate books that tell stories of people who are struggling somehow, and this book was full of mental, physical, and spiritual struggle. I won't summarize the plot because there's plenty of summary already here for you to read if you want to know how the plot goes. I have to tell you about the way the story touched me. It made me realize that we can all give to others, no matter how little we have and no matter how bleak things look. I kind of think we're all paper angels. Each of us needs something that someone else has to give. We're not meant to be alone, especially at this time of year. So I think I'm putting my paper angel up on my imaginary tree and looking for what others need that I can give. This book was a real blessing.

Nuadador

I enjoyed this "side" by side story application and the interaction of the characters. The author brings to light the greatest gifts and better to give than receive themes. Thomas' struggles at a new school, community would apply to many teens. His courageous acts in the face of bullying would give solace to other teens going thru difficult & to them tragic times. The showcasing of his faith was outstanding. Perhaps the subtle message will resonate with other young adults.

Kevin's story is a reflection of many busy, young professional/workers today. They struggle without going to their faith first. The fact that Kevin had the knowledge was a major part of the story. Hopefully, those just like Kevin and especially those without a foundation in Christianity will want a closer relationship with God & find the path to the peace, trust, love, and joy from having a personal relationship with our Creator.

Wonderful story for Christmas or any other time.

Kiutondyl

As a big fan of Travis Thrasher, I highly anticipated this release! Even preordered it. Needless to say, it was worth the wait!

Co-written with country singer Jimmy Wayne, this wonderful story centers around the Angel Tree program. Started by the Salvation Army, this program provides gifts to children every Christmas to families who can't afford to buy gifts. Wayne grew up in foster care with his Sister, and was a recipient of this program. That fact made me want to read the book more.

I admit I didn't know Jimmy Wayne till this book, but I do hope he writes more!

The story centers around four characters essentially. Kevin is a 43 yr old expectant Father. His Wife Jenny insists he pull an angel off the Salvation Army Angel Tree, and he reluctantly does. The name he pulls is Thomas Brandt, a 15 yr old whose home life is crumbling. His Mom leaves his Dad on Christmas Day at the beginning of the book, and the story unfolds from there.

through a lot of unexpected twists and turns, we get to know these characters very well. We see their ups and downs. We root for them. We sympathize with them. You will need tissues for the whallop of an ending. Happy ending though. Maybe I've said too much. Sorry!

Thrasher has a gift for creating characters you instantly like. Real people. Ones you would want as friends or people you want to know. I'm always curious to know how much a professional writer contributes to a collaboration like this, but Thrasher's stamp is all over it! Not sure how much Wayne wrote, but if this is his work then consider me a fan!

Great piece of work, you two! Please write together again!

Read this book. You'll thank me for it. I will admit I've purchased an additional copy as a Christmas gift for a woman in my Sunday School who pulls names every year so our class can go in together and provide everything on the list (withing reason).

A nice gift of a novel. Made me smile and laugh and cry. Hard to find books that can do all that! This one did. Another triumph for Thrasher, a gem of a writer!

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