



Sherye Green

Author Introduces Novel

Jackson author Sherye Green knew she had story on her heart that she wanted to share with others.

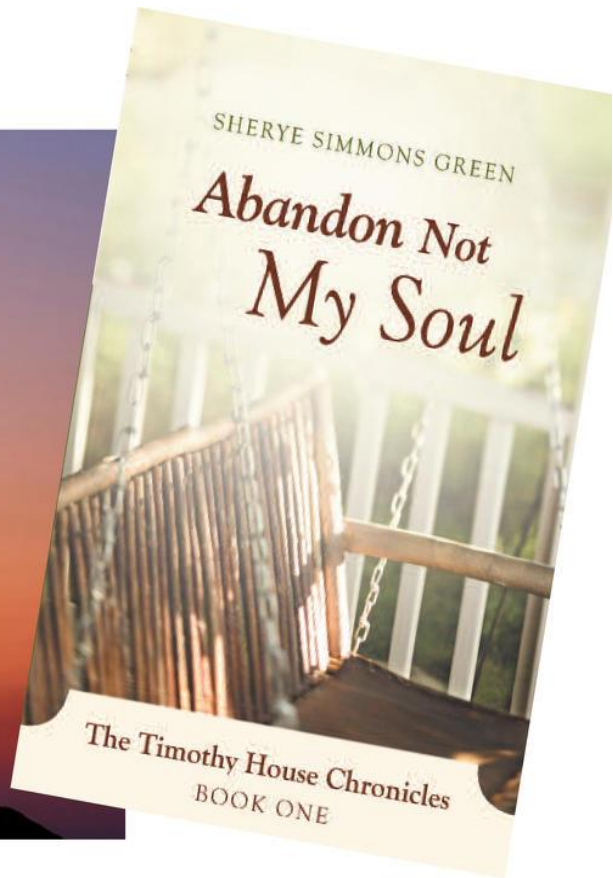
"I love putting words and thoughts together. It's like verbal quilting," said Green of her writing career.

Her largest accomplishment to date is publishing her first work on fiction. *Abandon Not My Soul* was released in the spring of this year, and Green said it was one of the most challenging things she has ever done.

"I've written several non-fiction pieces, but I have always wanted to try writing a fiction piece," she said.

For Green the art of dialogue was something she had to master.

Story by Joanna Robert



“It had to be real, and it had to be something that the characters would actually say,” she noted. “That’s why I had a group of trusted friends who read the book and gave me their most honest opinions.”

The book highlights the story of Abbie Richardson and Keith Haliday. Each have suffered devastating loss in their lives, and both share a common link - Abbie’s dead husband, Joe. For years after his death, Abbie struggles to put the pieces of her life back together while her husband’s gambling addiction still haunts her and their 21-year-old son, Drew.

“Abbie wonders if God has abandoned her,” said Green.

“That’s something I think we, as Christians, have all wondered at some point in our lives.”

For Abbie, making sense of the areas of her life, especially her job as a teacher, is a struggle. An unexpected offer to join the faculty of Timothy House, a residential school in eastern Tennessee, forces Abbie to take a long, hard look at her life and confront the inner landscape of her heart.

A mysterious letter and a serendipitous meeting at Camp 4Ever, the school’s summer camp, bring Abbie face to face with Joe’s old college friend, Keith. Slowly putting his life back together after losing his wife and two teenage children in

a horrific car crash, Keith is learning to rebuild his trust in God one step of faith at a time.

For Green, the story is one she hopes displays the fact that wounds can cause Christians to separate themselves from God, but He remains the same.

“God is who He says He is, and nothing changes that,” said Green. “That’s what I hope readers of this book take away from it.”

Green said she identifies with Abbie and her struggles.

“I think any Christian can identify with the struggles of both of these characters. I have encountered some of Abbie’s same feelings on my own spiritual journey. There have been

times when I wondered if God had forgotten me, but the wonderful thing is that God never abandons us. He's always right there for us."

Since the book's release on March 20, it has received rave reviews.

"*Abandon Not My Soul* is an incredible story of a journey from despair to hope, betrayal to risk, fear to trust, and from panic to rest. Sherye Green weaves a beautiful tale of grace, reconciliation, purpose, and hope. Once you start this book, you will not be able to put it down," said Dr. Ron Mumbower, Counseling and Congregational Care Pastor and founder of Summit Counseling at First Baptist Church in Jackson.

"I was drawn into Abbie's life from the very beginning. I felt like I was spending time with a special friend as I was reading," wrote one reader.

Another said of the book, "I love how prayer is such a natural part of the lives of your characters."

Green noted that one of the hardest things for her was finding a publisher for the book.

"I have learned you have to be very determined as a writer," she said. "I knocked on doors for three years, and couldn't get published."

But Green believed in the story, and did not give up. She had the book independently published.

"Publishing the book that way made me even more involved,"

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~Reader Comment

she said, "but I believe in this story. I believe in the struggles of the characters. They are very common situations each of us go through.

"We live in a fallen world, but we can take heart because God is trustworthy. He never changes, and that's one of the great lies Satan tries to sell. He wants us to believe that God is not trustworthy."

While Green remains focused on promoting her book with signings at locations throughout the area, she already has begun on the second book.

"*Abandon Not My Soul* is one of three books in the *Timothy House Chronicles*," she said, "and the second one is underway."

Her plan is to make the chronicles a three-book series.

"In these upcoming books, readers will see a lot of new characters facing new challenges," she said. "This series is similar to our own path in life. As we go through life our walk widens and our circle widens. There are different people who come into our lives and each one faces a different struggle."

As she works to develop the *Timothy House Chronicles*, Green said her main focus at the moment is on promotion of *Abandon Not My Soul*.

"I've got book signings at Lemuria, Barnes and Noble, Lifeway and the Early Settler all in Jackson," she said.

For her readers, she hopes they walk away from the book with a better understanding of the struggles each person face in life.

"I hope they can relate to the characters, and maybe see some of themselves in the story.

"For those who are not Christians, I hope they see what a difference God can make in their lives. I hope they realize that He is always near, and he wants us to put our whole trust in Him."

For Green the sense of accomplishment she has felt with the completion of the book is great.

"I can put my head down at night and know that a dream I had has seen the light of day. I know that with the help of God, I have been able to complete this book, and I pray that it speaks to someone out there who may be searching for God."—OS