

# GREEN PUBLISHES FIRST BOOK IN A NEW SERIES OF INSPIRATIONAL FICTION

By **KATIE EUBANKS**  
**Sun Staff Writer**

IF YOU'VE MET Sherye Green, a woman who once served as Miss Mississippi and just self-published her first Christian romance, you might describe her as generous, sweet and genuine. And you'd be right.

But for someone who fits those three words, Green isn't afraid to tackle unpleasant subjects.

"I teach a class at Mississippi College called 'Hitler's Persuasive Powers,'" Green says, spreading strawberry cream cheese on a bagel. Breakfast with a pageant girl who knows her Hitler is pretty interesting.

Green also teaches two electives that she designed herself at Jackson Preparatory School: One of those classes is called "The Medicine of War" and the other simply "Terrorism."

Christian fiction is typically lighter fare. But Green says the universal theme in her first novel, "Abandon Not My Soul," is that of suffering.

"Every life goes through dark times," she says. "The book is about how we find hope for the next day, or even the next second."

"Abandon Not" centers around a teacher named Abbie Richardson who finds out some awful secrets about her husband four years after his death.

"It rocks her world and her faith in God," Green says.

Abbie meets a man who has suffered a similar loss, and their romance fuels much of the rest of the plot. But Green says she didn't know how the novel would end when she started writing it.

She said the characters, composites of people she's known, sort of told their own story as she wrote it.

"That's just how I found the writing process. ... I just had a general picture. How would Abbie put her life back together?"

**AFTER FINISHING** the book and finding a self-publishing company called iUniverse, Green said she put the story through a "very involved" editing process.

"Around 30 people have read it, whom I've trusted to be very candid. I just want it



**Sherye Green**

to be the best it can be. It is inspirational fiction, but I want people who enjoy literary fiction to enjoy it too.

"I think these characters are real and believable. I think readers will recognize themselves and their own family and friends in it. I hope they do."

Now that the book is out, she said she thinks it has a good chance of success – but she isn't resting on her laurels in the meantime. In addition to teaching, the married mother of two grown children is working on another story and planning the sequels to "Abandon Not."

"The way I designed this, [Abandon Not] is the first of three books in 'The Timothy House Chronicles.' Timothy House is the school Abbie works at, sort of like Piney Woods," Green said.

She also has another story "started": 10 chapters of a prairie romance.

Meanwhile, readers can buy "Abandon Not My Soul" at Lemuria Books or Early Settler in Jackson, Barnes and Noble in Ridgeland, or online at <http://bookstore.iuniverse.com>, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com).