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PRESS RELEASE

God's Perfect Plans Don't Come with No-Risk Guarantees

Beth K. Vogt's debut novel demonstrates how our plans are not always God's plans for us



Seattle: When Allison Denman kisses her fiancé's brother just days before her wedding, she's not sure which is the mistake—the kiss or the wedding. It won't be easy, but Allison is determined to find out. In her debut novel **Wish You Were Here** (Howard Books/May 1, 2012/ISBN: 978-1451659863/\$14.99), **Beth K. Vogt** provides readers with a happily ever after woven through with humor, reality, and God's lavish grace.

In her personal life, graphic designer Allison doesn't believe in coloring outside the lines. She's lived her life unable to escape the pain of being considered a mistake by her father, so she is determined not to make any mistakes herself. She's just five days away from her happily-ever-after with Seth Rayner when her well-laid plans go awry. She finds herself in a sticky situation when she impulsively kisses Seth's older brother Daniel, the guy who has sent her silly "Wish You Were Here" postcards from his adventures around the world.

Daniel, an outdoors consultant, has had his own struggles with living up to others' expectations. He knows he's not his father's favorite son, but Daniel has made a success of his life without the Rayner family influence. Independent and carefree, Daniel hasn't had the greatest success with relationships and has long-denied his attraction to his future sister-in-law. When Allison leaves his brother at the altar, Daniel feels guilty and tries to repair the damage.

Wish You Were Here follows Allison as she tries to figure out God's perfect plan for her. His plan doesn't come with a no-risk guarantee and might even include a few of her mistakes. Allison's attempts to find lasting happiness are sidetracked by Seth's determination to renew their relationship, her growing attraction to Daniel, relocation to a llama farm, unwelcomed blind dates and an avalanche. Ultimately, Allison does find Mr. Right-for-Her, but who is it?

Vogt has had experience with her plans and God's plans not lining up as expected. She is a non-fiction author and editor who said she'd never write fiction, but God had other plans for her. She decided to begin writing contemporary romance because she believes there's more to happily ever after than the fairy tales tell us.

A conference and retreat speaker, Vogt speaks to moms about some of the issues that impact her characters such as how children struggle with the favoritism of their parents. She also talks about how we have to face the realities in our lives—including our struggles and mistakes—and choose to accept those, knowing God can bring good out of them. In her presentations, she frequently addresses important current issues such as how bullying and cyber bullying start, keeping your children safe online, and how to keep your sons away from the lure of pornography.

For more information on Beth Vogt's writing and speaking, visit <http://bethvogt.com>.

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MORE

Advance Praise for *Wish You Were Here*

"Beth Vogt's *Wish You Were Here* is a heartwarming story of reconciliation and second chances. Her characters charmed me from the first page and had me tearing up by the end of the novel. Beth weaves in spiritual truth that massages the soul while sprinkling in LOL moments to tickle the funny bone. Definitely one for the keeper shelf."

~ Lisa Jordan, Author of *Lakeside Reunion* and *Lakeside Family*

"Beth Vogt is a sparkling, new talent whose *Wish you Were Here* brims with life, fun, and depth. Allison has acquired the wrong wedding dress, but worse yet, she may have grabbed the wrong groom. I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did. It's always refreshing to find a new voice in Christian fiction that shines!"

~ Kristin Billerbeck, author of *What a Girl Wants*

"One kiss can change everything! *Wish You Were Here* takes the reader on an emotional journey with Allison Denman as she struggles to find her place in this world. Allison comes to grips with the truth that playing it safe is not the same as living to the fullest—a good lesson for all of us. Beautifully written, *Wish You Were Here* is a lovely debut novel by Beth K. Vogt that illustrates the plans we make may not be God's choice for us. A fun and satisfying read!"

~ Megan DiMaria, author of *Searching for Spice*

"What a delightful story! From the first line to the last page Beth captivated me with her voice and this charming, funny yet poignant story about letting go of your life and finding the love that's been waiting all along. A fabulous first novel . . . I can't wait for the next by this talented new author!"

~ Susan May Warren, Rita Award-winning, bestselling author of *The Shadow of your Smile*

About the Author

Beth K. Vogt is a non-fiction author and editor who said she'd never write fiction. She's the wife of an Air Force physician (now in solo practice) who said she'd never marry a doctor or anyone in the military. She's a mom of four who said she'd never have kids. Vogt has discovered that God's best often waits behind the doors marked "Never."



Vogt earned a journalism degree from San Jose State University. Her publishing credits include: *Discipleship Journal*, *Virtue*, *The Christian Communicator*, and *Crosswalk.com*. She is also a contributor to *Chicken Soup for the Soul: A Tribute to Moms* and *The Mommy Diaries* as well as author of *Baby Changes Everything: Embracing and Preparing Motherhood after 35*.

An encourager at heart, Vogt has more than 20 years experience teaching women at retreats, churches and other events, including the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers International) Convention and the Hearts at Home national and regional conferences. For several years, she edited *Connections* and is currently a consulting editor for *MomSense* magazine and writes a bimonthly column for *MomsNEXT*, MOPS' ezine for moms of school-age children.

Beth and her husband Rob have been married for 31 years. They have four children, ranging in ages from 28, 25, 23 and - thanks to a funny thing happening on their way to the empty nest—an 11-year-old. The Vogt Team, which now includes a "daughter-in-love" and "son-in-love," enjoys hiking and camping in Colorado.

Visit her online home at <http://bethvogt.com>.

Suggested interview questions

- You said you would never write a novel. What happened that changed your mind?
- Two of your characters seem to struggle with not having the approval of their fathers. How do things that others say about us, especially our parents, impact us in a way that affects us the rest of our lives?
- No one is perfect, but do you believe there is such thing as someone "perfect for me"?

- In your own life, you've found that God's best often waits behind the doors marked "Never." Can you tell us about some of those situations you have found yourself in?
- One topic that you are passionate about is helping women realize that a satisfying life doesn't require perfection. Do you find that many women truly expect to achieve perfection?
- You've been involved with MOPS for many years, and much of your writing and speaking ministry has been on the topic of motherhood. Other than having 4 children, what gave you such a heart for mothers?
- What are some of the issues moms need to be particularly aware of today?

Beth Vogt is available for interviews to promote the release of *Wish You Were Here*. To request a review copy, schedule an interview or for more information, please contact Audra Jennings, audra@liffusegroup.com.

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