

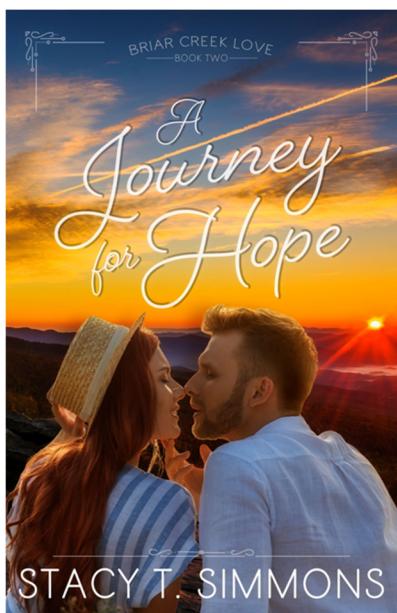
Family of Beloved Fiction Author and Blogger Stacy T. Simmons Release New Novel *A Journey for Hope*

"A Journey for Hope is a story that will wrap itself around any romance-lover's heart, bring the warmth and cozies to their evening read, and bless their hearts with exactly what the title implies: hope. Filled with heartwarming faith, this is a novel sure to bring contentment with the turning of the last page. Don't miss out on this new release from Stacy T. Simmons."

-Jaime Jo Wright, author of *The Premonition at Withers Farm* and the Christy Award-Winning, *The House on Foster Hill*

"I'm so fortunate that Stacy and I were part of the same close-knit circle of writing friends. Stacy wrote her books with a great deal of heart, dedication, and love. And she never failed to share her kindness and encouragement with me and the rest of the women in our group."

- Becky Wade, Christy Award Hall of Fame author



In her new release, *A Journey for Hope*, author Stacy T. Simmons does what she did best – write compelling, beautiful novels about love and hope. Working as a special education paraprofessional by day, and a novelist by night, Stacy was indeed living her dream. With her unexpected passing in October 2022, Stacy's beloved husband of thirty-five years Michael and her sister Beth, are honoring her by making sure this book is shared with the world. *A Journey for Hope* is the second of three planned novels in her BRIAR CREEK LOVE series and was Stacy's last complete manuscript. In addition to being a novelist, Stacy also had a very popular blog, *FUELED BY FAITH AND CAFFEINE* where she enthusiastically featured various novels. She was a huge supporter of authors, and the writing community.

In *A Journey for Hope*, Hope Fuller has life all planned out. Following a short trip to Briar Creek, North Carolina to help her sister, Hope will return home to Florida and begin her teaching career. When she sees Dylan Gaines, someone from her past, Hope's life may just take an unexpected turn – one that will change her life forever. Devoted fans of Stacy, and new readers to come, will

love Stacy's ability to tell a story about something everyone wants – hope, love and second chances.

"It's almost 3 months since Stacy passed and I'm still discovering what an amazing person she was to those around her. When Stacy began to write and went to her first writer's conference, she began to build a community, a network of writers, friends, and family. She started her own Facebook group aptly named 'Literature Chicks' where she helped encourage others. She developed a newsletter and helped promote other writers in their endeavors. I have been blessed to hear so many wonderful stories of how Stacy provided words of encouragement and prayers during difficult times. She had a way of making you feel special by calling you by your name even after a brief encounter sometime ago. She treated everyone as they should be treated, with respect and kindness. It is what made Stacy the wonderful person that she was every day." says her husband, Michael Simmons.

Stacy's writing story may be best told by the countless kind words and tributes that have poured in from readers and fellow writers, like the one below from Lynne Gentry. She was described as an encourager, champion, cheerleader, and friend to so many. The amount of love and respect for Stacy is more than can fill a page, and while the loss is most felt by her husband, her daughters and her family, there is also an entire writing community that sorely misses her presence every day. Her husband Michael Simmons and sister Beth Collins are continuing her legacy by promoting *A Journey for Hope*, and any works that might be published in the future.

"She was a hard worker and determined to get her stories into the hands of readers. Week after week she came to group, bringing pages she'd poured over for hours. And as she watched others in the group succeed, she put her own disappointments behind her and cheered long and hard for each of them," says best-selling author Lynne Gentry, a member of her authors critique group.

Stacy T. Simmons wrote uplifting fiction to delight the reader's romantic sensibilities. Her debut novel (*A Promise for Faith*) was published in January 2022 and her novella (*Christmas in the Cotswolds*) was published one week before her untimely passing in October 2022. A multi-year president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the American Christian Fiction Writers, Stacy was an inspiration to many fledgling and aspiring writers. Her determination helped her to finally realize her dream of becoming a published author at the age of 56. As the title of her blog indicates, Stacy was indeed "Fueled by Faith and Caffeine." She was often found working on her manuscripts with a piece of dark chocolate and a cup of coffee nearby. Married to her best friend Michael for thirty-five years, Stacy raised two grown daughters and had a menagerie of pets she liked to call "Noah's Ark." She was a beloved member of the women's Christian fiction writing community and will be sorely missed. Stacy's husband and family are seeking to carry on her legacy by promoting *A Journey for Hope* and are maintaining her social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest, as well as her blog, Fueled by Faith and Caffeine. More information can be found at www.stacytsimmonsauthor.com.

A Journey for Hope
By Stacy T. Simmons
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A Selection of Quotes from Online Tributes to Author Stacy T. Simmons

“To Stacy- I love you. I miss you. Your sweet smile across the room. Sitting at a table amidst hundreds of established authors, and somehow believing we belonged. Your quiet leadership and constant encouragement. Your ability to take chances. The loyalty of your friendship, even from a distance.”

- Author Janet Morris Grimes

“She was the most cheerful, encouraging, upbeat, bubbly person I think I've ever met. She always had a smile on her face and her positivity was infectious. She's a light that will be truly missed.”

- Becca Weidel, TheBeccaFiles.com

“She was such a bright light, and I long to be as encouraging as she was. I keep saying what a treasure she was, because that is how special she was.”

- Author Rebecca Yauger

“I'm heartbroken for the writing world. We lost one of our biggest encouragers and quiet warriors. To know Stacy was to have a fan in your corner.”

- Author Mary Vee

“Stacy T. Simmons was a doll - always leaving supportive comments on posts, sharing fellow authors' books, and she was also a leader in the author community. This on top of her teaching job, writing her own books, and being a wife and mom.”

Author Anne Carol

“I gained so much in loving her... The joy that I have to grieve one who just brightens up a room, one who just leaves your heart full. Oh, my goodness, that girl! ... Guys, please open up. Have those friendships! Let somebody in. Yes, it hurts but I don't know what life would have been like without having her.”

- Author Joy K. Massenburge

“The timing was such that Stacy was able to experience the joy and achievement of seeing her work in print before going home to Heaven. She brought honor to the Lord through her creativity, obedience, and dedication. And she was a kind-hearted friend to many.”

- Author Becky Wade

“Stacy was so much more than what you saw. She's so much more than what you will hear. She is so much more than you could ever imagine... Stacy was the type of woman who lived out every word that she spoke to you. If it was a word of kindness, you could see it in her interactions with students and teachers. If it was a word of encouragement, she walked in that hope.”

-Gary Cooper, Theater Director at Lawler Middle School

“She radiated positivity and this allowed even the most challenging students to experience success in my classroom.”

- Meera Karia, 8th Grade Teacher at Lawler Middle School

“She was always a ray of sunshine and offered 'joy' to brighten any day.”

- Colivian Green, Principal at Lawler Middle School

“Stacy invested time to touch every person she met. If she noticed someone was not having a good day, Stacy would make a point to check in... She always had a funny story or made us laugh with her Stacy-isms like, 'that sweet honey,' 'chips and salsa,' 'good gravy,' or 'that little honey-bun.'”

-Bridget Mitchell, Special Education Instructional Coach