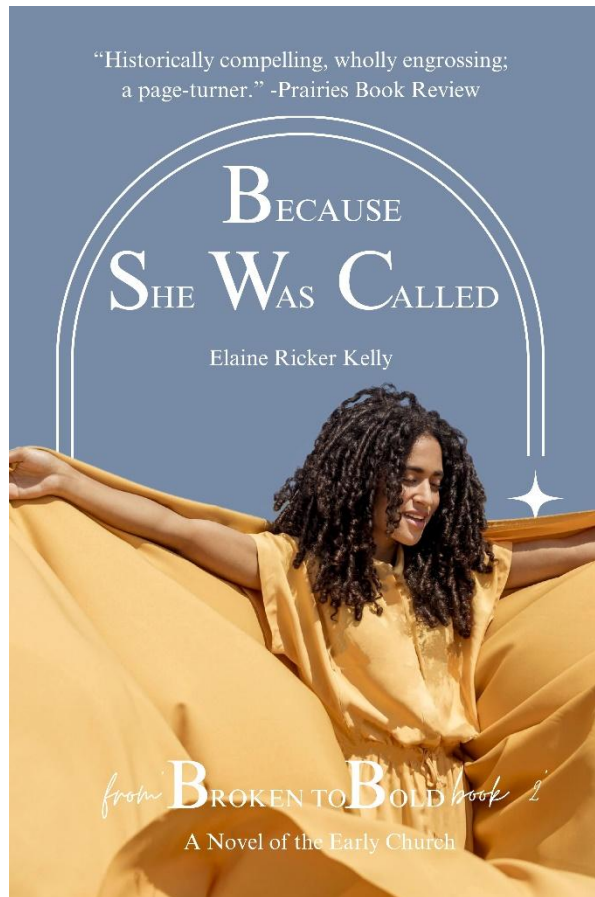


Info Sheet for Retailers:

Elaine Ricker Kelly

Because She Was Called: from Broken to Bold, Book 2

A Novel of the Early Church



After legalists kill Stephen, followers of The Way scatter. Susannah takes off to Caesarea and lands in the arms of a deacon. But will he limit her freedoms? Will romance pull her away from obeying God's call? Torn by grief and anger, where will Joanna turn for shelter? Will she testify before powerful men? Will loyalty to Jesus cost her the loss of her son?

This is a Christian egalitarian and LGBTQ+ affirming fiction. If you are a spiritual wanderer or ex-vangelical, take a sip of fresh, living water with this story of how the early church overcame divisions and changed the world.

While this novel continues character development from *Forgotten Followers From Broken to Bold, Book 1*, each can be read as a stand-alone book.

“Historically compelling, wholly engrossing; a page-turner.... A remarkable tale affirming Christian egalitarianism that will captivate, provoke, and inspire readers on an unforgettable journey through the origins of Christianity.” -Prairies Book Review

FICTION

Ancient Historical Romance, Religious Fiction
Christian Women's Issues, Gender & Sexuality
223 pages, B/W, 6x9 inches

Order from Amazon after April 16, 2024

<https://www.amazon.com/Because-She-Was-Called-Broken-ebook/dp/B0CWWXSWMP>

Paperback

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Retail List Price US\$14.99 (approx. C\$20)

eBook

ISBN 978-1-7388233-3-8

Retail List Price US\$5.99 (approx. C\$8)

Elaine Ricker Kelly is passionate about writing to empower women at home, church, and society. Called in the past to be an investment and insurance advisor, she is now called to write about how the Bible advocates for equality for all people.

Elaine R Kelly lives in Grimsby, Ontario, and worships in the mainline Protestant Christian tradition. She and her husband have three adult daughters. She and her husband enjoy hiking with their dog, tennis, pickleball, music, history, and culture.

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Author Elaine Ricker Kelly

Elaine Ricker Kelly is amplifying biblical scholarship to empower women and endorse equality for all. After a career as a financial advisor, Kelly turned to writing stories based on women in the Bible and early church designed to inspire those who are deconstructing and reconstructing their faith after being sidelined or silenced by the church.



Elaine Kelly and her husband live near Hamilton, Ontario, and worship in the mainline Protestant Christian tradition. They have three adult daughters and enjoy hiking, tennis, pickleball, music, and travel.

- *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold* retells the Gospels from the view of women who are overcoming trauma.
- *Because She Was Called: A Novel of the Early Church*, is set in Acts 2-11 and shows women testifying about Jesus.
- *Finding Her Voice, Acts of Early Female Apostles: A Novel*, tells stories of female apostles and prophets in Acts 11-15.
- *The Sword: A Fun Way to Engage in Healthy Debate on What the Bible says About a Woman's Role*. A set of 104 flashcards introducing the rationale for Complementarian/Egalitarian biblical views.
- *Walk with Mara on Her Healing Journey: 21 Steps to Emotional Resilience*, “a fusion of self-help and devotional”- ReadersFavorite

Editorial Review: The Prairies Book Review

Historically compelling, wholly engrossing; a page-turner.

Set in AD 35-37, Kelly's latest novel is a fascinating blend of historical accuracy, raw emotion, and spiritual enlightenment. After Stephen's murder, Susannah finds refuge in Caesarea and struggles with matters of love versus her obedience to God. Meanwhile, Joanna must test her faith amidst grief and potential loss as she petitions the emperor for protection.

As the narrative unfolds, readers are drawn into a world where faith, courage, and resilience intersect, shaping the destinies of the characters and influencing the course of early Christian history. Through a blend of historical accuracy and creative storytelling, Kelly brings to life the experiences of her characters, including Susannah, Joanna, Mara of Clopas, Clopas, Maria among others, shedding light on their struggles, triumphs, and unwavering faith. Themes of empowerment, redemption, and the transformative nature of belief infuse the narrative, providing modern readers with a poignant reflection on faith and identity.

A remarkable tale affirming Christian egalitarianism that will captivate, provoke, and inspire readers on an unforgettable journey through the origins of Christianity.

<https://theprairiesbookreview.com/?p=18683>

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Excerpts from *Because She Was Called*

100-word Excerpt

“Everyone knew me as the granddaughter of Theophilus, teacher of the laws of Moses.”

“So, your identity changed. And it will again. You will be known as something new in the future. Who you are is different now. When you lose people you love, you see yourself in a new way. You see your own life with different eyes.”

“I don’t know how to see myself.”

“It takes time to work it out. You have now joined the circle of those who have suffered a loss. We see life differently. My husband was not the first one I lost,” said Persis.

200-word Excerpt

“We cannot let this trouble get worse. If we send a brother or sister away without doing anything, they will think our words are meaningless,” said James. “If we don’t put our faith into action, they won’t believe our words.”

“But I need time to pray and meditate! We all do! Jesus always took time to pray before preaching to the crowds,” said Jamie.

“Yes, we need time to pray as Jesus did. And time to spread God’s word. Maybe that’s why we didn’t even notice the problem,” said Andrew.

“We cannot neglect the teaching ministry to wait on tables,” said Matthew.

“The community is growing so fast. Maybe we can no longer do it all ourselves,” said Nathanael.

“Our community’s growth is not a problem; it’s a blessing!” said Maria.

“Maybe we can institute an arrangement where some of the new members focus on the serving ministry, while those who knew Jesus focus on preaching and baptizing,” said Salome.

“We want the food distributed fairly. I propose organizing a system to ensure that happens,” said Barnabas.

“Great idea, Barnabas!” said Thomas.

Salome looked at Maria, who smiled with understanding as Thomas continued.

215-word Excerpt

Susannah took a deep breath. “...Don’t you see all the Roman homes with a woman head of the house?”

“Perhaps it is you who have been spending too much time with the Romans. We don’t imitate pagans. Rome permits women to be free of guardianship and manage a household as a temporary measure because so many men have been killed in battle. Widows are simply covering the gap until their sons are of age.”

“What if they have no sons? What then?” Susannah’s face went bright pink. She swiped at the tears on her cheek “Is having sons all you think about?”

“Of course not! You are getting overexcited. What does it matter to you whether or not women manage their homes. Men are obviously in charge of the world. I can see you are sensitive about this.”

“I am not!”

“Look, you’re caught up in some kind of female hysteria. When you cool off, you’ll see you’re taking offense for no reason. I will report to the apostles that you have been teaching men and women—Palestinians, no less. They will say which of us is right.” Philip appeared calm and confident.

Susannah let out a groan. “I’m going out for a walk. I hope you’re gone when I get back.” The door slammed.

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