

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORGOTTEN FOLLOWERS FROM BROKEN TO BOLD **Local Author Elaine Ricker Kelly Launches Historical Fiction Empowering Women**

[Grimsby, Ontario, Monday, Nov 21, 2022] It was a cheerful group of supporters that shovelled out of the snow to come to the Book Launch at Station 1 in Grimsby on Sunday afternoon. For Elaine Kelly, it was a moment to celebrate the accomplishment she has been working towards for over two years: the publication of her new historical fiction *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold*.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and live music played by the author's husband, David Kelly. Their daughter, Lynn Doxtater, led an interview where Kelly discussed her motivations and goals for writing a novel about women in the first century. Kelly reflected on how the Roman Empire allowed women some rights to divorce, to receive and manage financial inheritances, and gain freedom from male guardianship. After the interview, Kelly cut into a cake topped with icing in the design of her book's front cover, and guests munched and mingled.

"It was so gratifying to feel support and encouragement for me and my project. Writing can be a lonely activity, so it was wonderful to hear conversations bubbling all around the room as people shared stories of strong women who overcame difficulties and used their voices. They appreciated me, as a Christian, speaking out against the church limiting women's choices, roles, or freedoms. We have a responsibility to use our gifts and to speak boldly." – Elaine Kelly

Kelly was in the minority when she began her career as a female financial advisor, but it looked like women's rights were moving forward. Thirty years later, she found gender equality had moved backwards. Kelly knew Jesus himself had female financial advisors and patrons and Kelly had taught her three daughters about gifted women of the Bible who performed a variety of roles including speaking and leading. She set about writing an engaging biblical fiction featuring Mara, traumatized by abuse, and Joanna, grappling with racism. *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold* shows Jesus lifting up women, educating, equipping, and empowering them. Kelly believes that fiction impacts the heart in ways that logic and theology cannot, and she hopes her book brings healing and hope to those who have felt marginalized by the church.

A quote on the back cover shows Kelly was successful in her aim:

"These fictional stories are grounded in amazing historical research--and made me see Jesus' love for me in a whole new way." —Sheila Wray Gregoire, author of *The Great Sex Rescue* and founder of *BareMarriage*

Forgotten Followers, produced by FriesenPress, is available for order from most major online book retailers, including the FriesenPress Bookstore and Amazon. The eBook is available at Amazon Kindle, iTunes, AppleBooks, Chapters/Indigo Kobo and GooglePlay. The paperback is also at [The Nook](#), 42 A Main St. W., Grimsby.

About the Author

Elaine Ricker Kelly uses her experience as a female financial advisor to inspire and empower women at home, church, and society. She and her husband have three grown daughters and enjoy hiking, tennis, and music. They live in Grimsby, Ontario and worship in the mainline Protestant Christian tradition. For more on Kelly's writing, visit www.elainekelly.ca

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