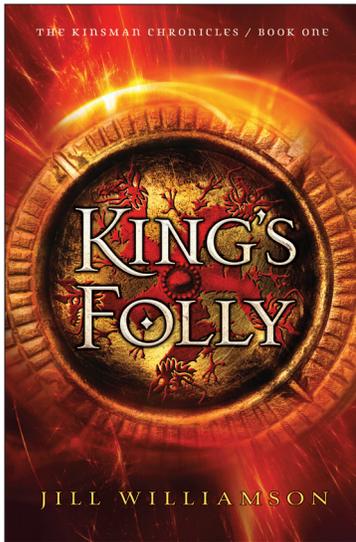




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JILL WILLIAMSON



King's Folly

THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES #1

by Jill Williamson

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1424-0

\$15.99; 560 pp.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4412-2972-4

Release Date: April 2016

1. Can you describe your new series?

When their homeland is destroyed, the rulers of the Five Realms fight to save their people from extinction. Which realm will survive?

THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES is an epic fantasy series set in the same world as my BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy. The story starts out on a continent called the Five Realms, set five hundred years before the BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy takes place. It tells the story of how Achan's ancestors came to Er'Rets and began to follow Arman as their One God. I drew parallels from the era of Judah and Israel, when many kings did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

2. How did you come up with the idea for THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES?

In my BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy, I mentioned that hundreds of years ago Arman (who represents God) bestowed the magic of bloodvoicing upon those with royal blood when the kings first came to the land of Er'Rets. That got me thinking about where these ancient kings had come from and why they'd left their homeland. I started playing around with the idea of a prequel series, and I was hooked.

3. You released the first three parts of this series as ebooks, and now *King's Folly*, which includes those three parts, is releasing as volume 1 of the series. Why did you choose to follow this format for releasing your work, and how many parts will be included in the whole series?

The idea of serializing the ebooks came from Bethany House. Rather than making readers wait a full year between the releases of each print book, they thought it would be fun to break up the books into ebook parts and release a new one every four months. That way readers wouldn't have to wait as long between installments. I thought it was a fun idea to try. In this ever-changing market, it's always exciting when a publisher is willing to try new things.

There are nine ebook parts to THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES. There will be three paperback volumes that each include three ebook parts. The paperback volumes are called: *King's Folly*, *King's Blood*, and *King's War*. The first three ebooks included in *King's Folly* are: *Darkness Reigns*, *The Heir War*, and *The End of All Things*. You can see the current breakdown on my website: jillwilliamson.com/books. As an introduction to the series, *Darkness Reigns* is free on all ebook platforms.

4. How is this project different from your previous ones?

THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES is true epic fantasy, while the BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy was more of a heroic fantasy. The scope of THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES is huge. There are many point-of-view characters, some from each of the Five Realms. It was a challenge to portray so many characters and make them all compelling for readers. But because this story is so large and I wanted to show people from each realm and how they all came together, this format was necessary. Also, a large part of this series takes place on ships, so I had to do a lot of research about ships and navigation during the age of sail, which was challenging.

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5. Who is your favorite character in this series?

Prince Trevn is my favorite! He is the youngest prince of Armania. His title is The Curious, and he strives to enjoy life, explore, go on adventures, and draw maps of all the places he has been. He grew up in a neighboring kingdom, but his father has called him home to study to be a priest. Though Trevn thrives on learning, his heart is not in the priesthood. He would much rather live up to his reputation as the “firebrand” of Castle Everton, making his servants chase him over rooftops and ride on top of carriages. But deep down, Trevn wants justice for his people. And when he gets drawn into a conspiracy, he will do everything he can to make sure his realm survives.

6. How do you believe this story relates to the lives of readers?

There are several ways readers can relate to the characters in *King's Folly*. The first that comes to mind is the need for self-sacrifice, which is a foreign concept to people today. With nearly every desire available at the swipe of our iPhones, our society has become entitled, impatient, and somewhat self-absorbed. Such is the life of the royal family in **THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES**. They have been spoiled by lush living, but when everything is stripped away, my princes must rise up and set an example for their people and show them “that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3-4 NIV).