



News, Promos, and Musings for Erin's Readers

July 2012

Welcome Erin, If you would like to view in your web browser [Click Here](#)  
You're receiving this newsletter because you've expressed an interest in books authored by Erin Healy.

## Aflame

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photo credit: Gina Barringer, from facebook

Today as I write this, thirteen fires are burning across Colorado. Several hundred homes across the state have been destroyed, many of them here in my hometown of Colorado Springs.

On Tuesday June 26, what meteorologists are now calling "the most significant weather event in Colorado Springs history" blew an inferno downhill into a neighborhood that had been evacuated for less than two hours. The view was almost as staggering as the losses of lives, homes, landscapes, and peace of mind. We all watched and wept, even if we weren't personally affected.

I can think of no stronger blow to the partitions between our physical and spiritual lives than a

face-to-face confrontation with our own powerlessness. Natural disasters, health crises, tragic accidents, injustice, cruelty, death, and all manner of similar experiences never fail to deliver a swift kick to our spiritual ribs. They take our breath away and throw us into the ropes. We might come back swinging or we might sag there. We might turn to God or turn on him in anger. We might discover His comfort in our pain or doubt whether He even exists.

And yet ... at times like these, believers and skeptics alike raise their hopeful voices in prayer. Human beings of all beliefs and persuasions seem to rise without hesitation to the highest standards of humanity. Our capacity for compassion, the depths of our self-sacrifice, the boundlessness of our generosity are never made more clear than when we're fighting for hope.

Colorado is on fire. The partitions between our physical and spiritual selves have been kicked down, and fresh oxygen has rushed in where we might have been unconscious. It fuels within us untold acts of bravery, service, nobility, and kindness toward our friends, neighbors, and complete strangers. Locals have opened their homes, churches, schools, and checkbooks. Volunteers have given of their time and skills to the point of exhaustion. Firefighters, law-enforcement officers, and other officials from around the nation, even from other countries, have laid down their lives for a season in an effort to save ours. There is no greater love.

July 4 is upon us, and we Coloradans find ourselves in that fragile and thin place between independence and reliance, between self-sufficiency and helplessness. But maybe this isn't as terrible as it first seems. Is it so bad to be reminded that we are dependent on a strength that is greater than ourselves—a strength as great as God's, and as magnificent as our human communities? Could it be that when we grasp how small we really are, we can finally become greater than we were?

On the eve of our Independence Day, when there will be no fireworks to help us celebrate this year, it seems a worthy question to ask.

## House of Mercy's Stage Is in My Backyard (sort of)

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Speaking of Colorado, my latest title is set close to home on a fictional cattle ranch in the San Luis Valley—which I'm very, very happy to say is not presently on fire. These gorgeous ranchlands have been photographed many times by renowned photographer John Fielder, whose stunning books *Ranches of Colorado* and *Seeing Colorado's Forests for the Trees* were inspirational as I prepared to write about House of Mercy's setting.



Another important part of the tale takes place in the fictional town of Burnt Rock, which is loosely based on one of Colorado's historic and rugged mining towns, Silverton. In addition to my trademark supernatural suspense, I hope House of Mercy gives you a taste of the breathtaking Centennial State that I've come to call home.

Visit my website to read a summary of House of Mercy and download free sample chapters. And don't forget to stop by after you've read the book to let me know your opinion of it.

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August 1st is the release date for House of Mercy

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