



News, Promos, and Musings for Erin's Readers

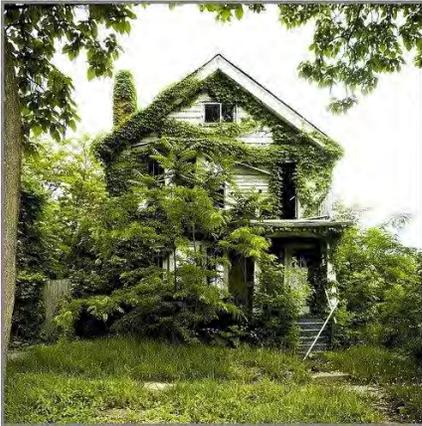
September 2012

Welcome Erin. If you'd like to view this newsletter your web browser [Click Here](#).

You're receiving this mailing because you've expressed an interest in books by Erin Healy.

## What I Really Mean to Say

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Every once in a while I have to explain that my stories are metaphors of life rather than snapshots of life. What I mean by this is that when I write about a demon, the point isn't that demons roam the streets and make lives difficult. Though perhaps this happens, I'm more interested in the idea that a person's inner demons—that is, our sins, our grudges, our bitterness, our resentment, our hatred, our pain, and so on—can have tangible, outward, physical effects on the lives of the people we love.

Well, that's what *Never Let You Go* was about.

In *The Baker's Wife*, Audrey didn't have a psychic gift, she had a larger-than-life capacity for compassion.

What good might happen if we all felt our fellow humans' pain like Audrey can? In *The Promises She Keeps*, the crazy vine that consumed the witch's house was a symbol of eternal life and eternal love—the real sacrificial deal versus the impostors of fame and selfishness and magical thinking. And of course in *House of Mercy*, I'm not touting some belief in animal spirit guides, I'm exploring the mystery of how the wild and not-fully-knowable Holy Spirit works in a land that it hostile to it, among people who sometimes find it wild and fearsome.

My future books will have other metaphors about what it means to be a spiritual being in a physical world. Or they might (as in *Burn*), guess what the spiritual side of life might look like if it were physical too. It's just what I like to write about.

I realize I walk a fine line at times, because many of my readers are Christians who are uncomfortable with this approach in storytelling. To such readers I say, I understand. It's okay. One of the wonderful things about the state of novels today is that there really is something for everyone. My readers don't mind looking at old things with new eyes. They don't mind a Christian writer walking into spiritual lands and taking back the darkness.

I promise to do this with as much integrity as I possess, with as much maturity as I presently

have. I still have a lot of growing to do as a thoughtful human being, and I don't pretend to have a corner on truth or a mastery of theology. But for those who'd like to take the journey with me and don't mind that it isn't always literal, welcome.

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## Just a Few of the Facts in House of Mercy's Fiction

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1. Ranchers in Colorado's San Luis Valley need roughly 20 acres of land for every calf/cow pair. This is nearly ten times more than ranchers in the more lush eastern United States need, but still only about half as much required in the arid plains of Eastern Colorado.

2. Western Colorado ranchers tend to avoid using Thoroughbred horses, because their height works against cowboys when working in the forested hills and mountains.

3. The mountain highway that leads to the old mining town of Silverton (Burnt Rock) doesn't have guardrails, to make the snowplows' work easier.

4. Ergot poisoning may be to blame for the hallucinatory behavior that led to the Salem Witch Trials.

5. Aspen trees do hold the record for largest living organism in the world. They are often the first trees to recover in a burn area, and their soft wood is used to make matchsticks.

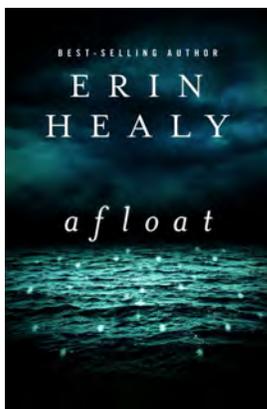


You can read of other behind-the-scenes details about House of Mercy on [my blog](#). Come join the conversation!

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## Free Copies of Erin's next novel

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It's not too late: The first twenty-five readers to submit an approved comment about House of Mercy to my website will receive a signed copy of my next book *Afloat* when it comes out in April 2013. The comment must answer at least one of the following questions:

- How did the story challenge your beliefs?
- Which character did you like best and why?
- Did the ending succeed or fail in satisfying you?
- What kind of reader would you recommend this story to?

Submit your comments on myBooks page [here](#). Criticism is welcome. Comments will be reviewed and posted in the order they were received.

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