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CCM COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION



BUZZ FACTOR

[CCM READERS SOUND OFF ON THEIR FAVORITE NEW ALBUMS.]



JON FOREMAN
Fall & Winter
(Credential)

These 12 songs (six on each EP) have wonderfully poignant lyrics with great messages. Many are taken directly from Scripture, whereas others make you look at your own heart and how God is using it, or more likely, how you are hindering God from using it. Also, in songs such as "Somebody's Baby," we see a small glimpse into the struggles and hardships of the people whom we commonly ignore—the homeless, the heartbroken and the lost.

Abigail Carr, Apex, NC



JENNIFER SHAW
Finding Beauty
(Independent)

I love it! The lyrics draw me in to thinking about the Lord—how He is good and constant—and draw me to thanking Him for His love and grace. Combined with Jennifer's strong vocals and beautiful music, this CD just simply makes my heart smile!

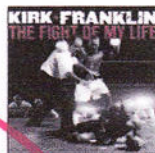
Chris Jorgenson, Leeds, ND



THRICE
The Alchemy Index, Vol. 1 & 2
(Vagrant)

I've been listening to Thrice's new album, *The Alchemy Index, Vol. 1 & 2*. This rock band is a true example of faith in the mainstream. Their faith shines through in almost every song. Their blend of hard rock mixed with soft synth melodies is amazing.

Gabe, Cedar Rapids, IA



KIRK FRANKLIN
The Fight of My Life
(Fo Yo Soul/Gospo Centric/Zomba)

The Fight of My Life is an amazing new album from Kirk Franklin with passionate songs that encourage you when you listen to them. This has to be the best Kirk Franklin I have heard. My favorite songs would be "I Am God" with tobyMac and "I Like Me" with Da' T.R.U.T.H. But I love all of the songs, as it is a very good album. Check it out if you love Kirk Franklin and his music.

Josh DeJong, Calvary, Alberta, Canada



DAVID CROWDER BAND
Remedy (sixsteps)

David Crowder Band's *Remedy* is a good, to-the-point album from Crowder and his band. Ted Nugent plays a killer solo on the record, and Crowder and band always bring a fresh sound to songs of worship.

Phillip Wall, Greenville, NC



Kirk Franklin

EDITOR'S PICK

FRANCIS CHAN WITH DANAE YANKOSKI

Crazy Love: Overwhelmed By a Relentless God (Chan)

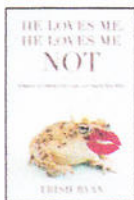


"To read the Bible, attend church and avoid the 'big sins'—is this passionate, wholehearted love for God?" This is just one of many provocative questions of faith

posed in the inspiring pages of *Crazy Love*. Exploring a stalwart faith worth aspiring to, Chan and Yankoski offer encouraging, practical insight that addresses the struggles of living an authentic faith.

TRISH RYAN

He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not: A Memoir of Finding Faith, Hope and Happily Ever After (Faith Words)



With a candid, earthy approach reminiscent of Anne Lamont and *Eat, Pray, Love's* Elizabeth Gilbert, Trish Ryan vividly explores the trials of

love and heartache in *He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not*. Much like a lead in a romantic comedy, Ryan's been through it all with guys. Some of her accounts of love gone wrong are humorous; others hit a little too close to home. That refreshing honesty makes *He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not* a journey worth taking whether or not you've already found Mr. or Ms. Right.

BRENT & DEANNA HIGGINS

I Would Die For You (Revell)



B.J. Higgins was your typical 15-year-old with an unbridled passion for his faith in Christ. Like many teens, Higgins embarked on a

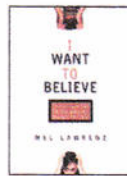
summer mission trip, hoping to serve God in a meaningful way. Little did Higgins know, however, that his trip to Peru would have a life-changing effect on his life. Back in the States, Higgins entered the hospital with what seemed to be a routine case of pneumonia. Later, his family learned Higgins had

actually contracted a rare, infectious disease in Peru. Eventually losing his battle with what was thought to be the bubonic plague, Higgins' life story continues on in *I Would Die For You*. Warning: You might want a box of Kleenex nearby. This one's a tearjerker.

MEL LAWRENZ

I Want to Believe: Finding Your Way in an Age of Many Faiths

(Regal)



In a desire to be relevant in our ever-changing world, there's often an "I'm okay, you're okay" mentality adopted

when it comes to personal faith and beliefs. After all, it's much easier to agree than offend. While that's all well and good, sometimes an opportunity to share a little more about Christianity can get passed up because believers don't feel comfortable discussing certain aspects of the faith. Now with *I Want to Believe*, a primer on the practical realities of Christianity, there's a user-friendly guide that provides answers to tricky questions like "Can there be only one way to God?" in a way that's Scripturally sound and easy to understand.

MICHELLE BUCKMAN

My Beautiful Disaster (Th1nk)



C'mon, admit it: You wanted to be popular, too. In the well-written adventure in teendom

My Beautiful Disaster, Dixie also longs to hang with the "in" crowd. And ever since she's palled around with Heather and Tammy, life's been full of shopping, late-night gabbing and pizza parties. But when the three sneak out to see a hot new band, Dixie's life takes a turn for the worse when she becomes obsessed with the cute lead singer. So is popularity all it's cracked up to be? Well, you already know the answer, but this cautionary tale is entertaining nonetheless.

Christa A. Banister is a freelance writer, author and blogger in St. Paul, Minn. Her first novel, *Around the World in 80 Dates: Confessions of a Christian Serial Dater* (NavPress), is in stores now.

