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**AUTHOR-SURVIVOR WRITES BOOK ABOUT
FORGIVENESS AND HEALING FOR DRUNKEN DRIVER
WHO HIT HER**

Sausalito, Cali. -- Skywriter Books has announced the July 2009 publication of *Kingdom of Simplicity*, Holly Payne's third novel, written as a response to a drunken driver who left her unable to walk for nearly a year. He asked for her forgiveness, but rather than write him a letter, she wrote him a book.

A native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the author was inspired by the Amish practice of forgiveness -- which she witnessed while writing the novel, when on Monday morning, October 2, 2006, five Amish girls were shot and killed in a one-room school house in Lancaster County. Immediately, the Amish forgave the shooter, who killed himself, then attended his funeral the same day they were burying their daughters.

Payne's novel follows the journey of Eli Yoder, a misguided Amish youth, who, unable to forgive the driver who killed his five sisters, leaves home during *rumspringa* searching for acceptance in the Outside World only to confront the biggest question of his life: how to let go of the past and heal. Payne was working on the last chapters of the book when the school shooting occurred. "I considered abandoning the book, but committed to completing it with the intention that the drunk driver would one day forgive himself."

Kingdom of Simplicity is the winner of a Marin Arts Council Grant for Fiction. Payne's first novel, *The Virgin's Knot* (Dutton/Plume 2002), published in nine countries, was a Discover Great New Writers book and a Border's Original Voices selection. Her second novel, *The Sound of Blue* (Dutton/Plume 2005), is based on the true story of a Serbian refugee she befriended while teaching English in Hungary, where she healed and learned to walk again. Payne has since gone on to compete in triathlons from 1998-2004. She continues to bike and hike with her husband in the hills of Marin County, California.

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For photos, blurbs and more information, visit www.kingdomofsimplicity.com, or contact Sondra Harris at 415-939-2665 sharrispr@comcast.net
Kingdom of Simplicity, Skywriter Books, Summer 2009; \$16.95 ISBN: 978-0-9822797-7-9