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Missionary teaches compassion, diversity through children's historical fiction series

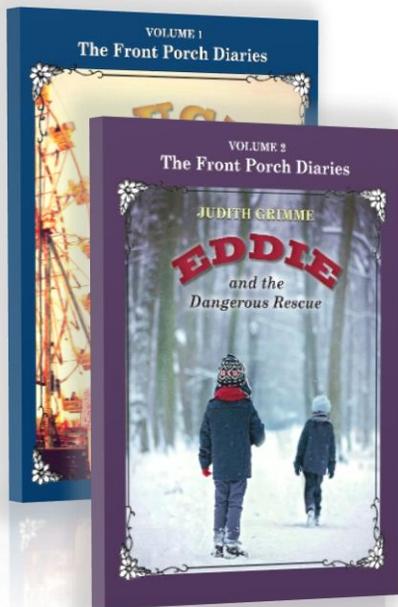
Judith Grimme

Author of

THE FRONT PORCH DIARIES series

Releases Vol. 2: EDDIE and the Dangerous Rescue

Available for interview and book signings



The Front Porch Diaries takes place in the mid-1960s in the fictional small Indiana town of East Howard. Nine-year-old Lucy Miller, along with her two older brothers, Eddie and Jon, and younger sister, Carly, find their way into and out of childhood adventures with their family and friends, and transport the reader to an uncomplicated and joyful existence. "The series is made of chapter books perfect for your readers age 9-12, or to read to younger children. Full of adventure and all the pathos that happens during those pre-teen years, the series is a clean read that will give parents opportunity to talk about important issues with their children," says publisher Leslie Turner. "Although each book gives a nod to important social and political issues through historical context, as well as addressing life traumas small and large that virtually all children face, more than anything else, it's intentionally just a fun, uncomplicated read for children that allows them to escape in a healthy way to another place and time."

Eddie and the Dangerous Rescue, the second volume in the series, reels through the fun, joy, and calamities of Christmas and winter for the children of East Howard, then finds Eddie and Lucy in the most dangerous situation of their young lives.

The 2nd volume also includes fun activities and a French-English glossary to encourage readers to learn new language and practice creative writing. All volumes introduce new vocabulary in English and French, and give readers a glimpse into different cultures and countries, as well as life in the mid-west United States during the mid-20th Century.



EDDIE
and the
Dangerous Rescue

**Volume 2 of The
Front Porch
Diaries**

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Retail: \$8.99

Kindle eBook \$5.99

138 pages, 17 chapters
19 illustrations, 5 activities
Paperback available
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MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

Judith Grimme began writing the fictional story of Lucy and her siblings around 2007, a passion that moved into a serious publishing project in 2014 when she realized so many children’s chapter books no longer depicted families where parents had high values, were happily married and provided a safe and stable environment for their children. She noticed very few stories where children worked hard in school, had healthy relationships with their friends and siblings, obeyed their parents, and found their way through life’s ups and downs within a loving and supportive community. “Such families and communities do still exist,” she notes, “and children need to see that family life can be good. Having good friends and strong family relationships is important for us all.” Perhaps more important than any of the broader themes implicit in the series, Grimme states, “My real intent for the books is just for kids to have fun reading them, just simple relationships between friends without the drama of this world we live in.”

Grimme grew up in the 1960s and 70s in New Haven, Indiana, a small town outside of Fort Wayne. With farms surrounding their little home and plenty of siblings and neighbor children to play with, most of the stories in *The Front Porch Diaries* come directly from her childhood experiences. “I grew up in a simpler time,” Judith said. “At least for *us* as *children* it was simpler; even though it was a tumultuous time in the country we were insulated from all of that until later in life.” Still, the book is set during a time of drastic social change, and the author eases into these subjects through a child’s limited awareness and perspective, in such a way that allows parents to open a conversation with their children if they wish.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

1. You say your intention is for kids to just have fun, uncomplicated stories to read, yet you’ve set your series in the mid-60s, right in the middle of the Civil Rights movement and the beginning of the Vietnam War. Two of the characters in your first book were victims of Apartheid. How are you handling these tough social and political issues on a child’s level?
2. As a missionary and sociologist who has spent many years living abroad, what do you see as the biggest difference between American children and children growing up in other cultures?
3. Even though you’ve dedicated many years of your life to serving the Lord in the mission field, this book is really neutral in terms of the Christian faith; it’s not an aggressively Evangelical children’s book. Why is that?
4. If a child is being raised in a complicated and perhaps unstable environment, how does that child benefit from reading about a family and community life so different from their experience?
5. This book is written for reading-age children age 6-14, yet uses some vocabulary and manners of speech that seem out of reach, at least for the younger children. What was your thought process on that?
6. This is Volume 1 – how many volumes do you plan to write and when will we see them?

To arrange for interviews or a digital media copy before, during and after ICRS 2017, please contact the publisher: Leslie Turner, 812-987-6148 or leslie@encouragebooks.com. This press release and related media photos available online at: <http://www.encouragebooks.com/media.html>

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