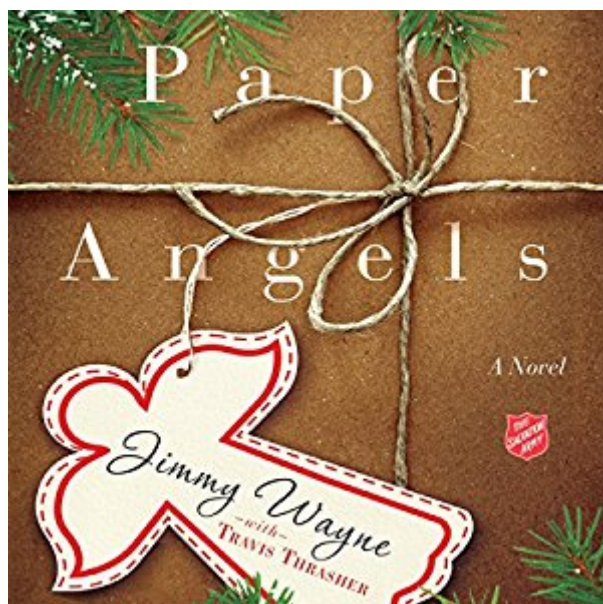


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# Paper Angels: A Novel



## Synopsis

The Salvation Army Angel Tree program gives individuals, groups, and corporations an opportunity to adopt less fortunate children and seniors, and provide personalized gifts and necessities to those who would otherwise receive very little or nothing during the holiday season. When his mom decided it was time for them to leave for good, Thomas knew they better get far away or he'd come and find them. It was Christmas Day, with Mom sweating in a tiny room over a tiny stove, and Dad watching college basketball and drinking with a vengeance. "Thomas, I want you to get your sister and go out to the car, okay?" Mom had promised them that they would be getting a special Christmas present today. Just the two kids. They couldn't mention it to Dad. This is her present, Thomas thought as he waited and worried that the next one out of the house would be the man with the glassy eyes and the tightened jaw. The car left without hesitation. Thomas and Sara had received the best gift ever: freedom. The question was whether it would still be there tomorrow and the next day and the day after that.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a fan of both authors of this book, I had looked forward to reading PAPER ANGELS for well over a year before it was released, AND I had very high expectations. I can honestly say my expectations were met and exceeded! The Salvation Army Angel Tree program provides Christmas to disadvantaged children who would otherwise not receive gifts. Each child's name is written on a "Paper Angel" and placed on the Angel Tree to await being "adopted" by a kind-hearted person.

Jimmy Wayne, co-author of PAPER ANGELS, was a Paper Angel child. It is from this experience, and with gratitude to those who gave, that PAPER ANGELS the book came to be. Jimmy and co-author Travis Thrasher have created a touching and memorable Christmas story, yet PAPER ANGELS is so much more than just a Christmas story. It's an everyday story with realistic characters living lives familiar to many who might read this book. All the characters, minor to major, are people you know or see everyday...neighbors, friends, co-workers, the guy selling papers on the corner, the woman waiting tables at the local diner, the mean kid at school, the new kid no one knows much about, the businessman with a desperate look, a mom who dearly loves her children, a father worried about providing for his family, someone at risk of losing everything dear to them...they could be you. The two main characters, 15 year old Thomas and 43 year old Kevin, come from different worlds and are at different points in their lives, yet something as simple as a Paper Angel randomly chosen from a Salvation Army Angel Tree links the characters together and begins a chain of events that changes both of their lives and those around them. As the reader takes this journey with them they experience every emotion possible...fear, hope, sadness, joy, humor, pain, questioning God, trusting God, anger, love, faith, forgiveness. There is a beautiful lesson for everyone in this story...adults, parents, teenagers, children. It's a story to be shared together as a family and passed along to friends. It opens one's eyes to seeking a better understanding of people you don't really know. It reminds us to appreciate what we have and the loved ones in our lives. It gives hope that a bad situation can be turned into good. It shows how a act of kindness can lead to something so much more and that forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts you can give to yourself. Anyone who reads this book will enjoy it and be touched by its message, but for those who have supported Jimmy Wayne through the years and know his personal story, this book will carry even more meaning through the pieces of Jimmy's own life he and Travis have woven through the book. A line here, a little story there, a place or character that sounds familiar, little tidbits of information that only someone who has followed Jimmy's story would know. This touched me as much as the story itself because it made it so much more personal. For those not familiar with Jimmy's story, nothing is lost by not knowing these things. It would be my hope that after reading PAPER ANGELS more people will learn about Jimmy Wayne and the incredible dedication he has as an advocate for America's foster children and homeless youth. Fans of Travis Thrasher will easily recognize that this is a true collaboration. While Jimmy Wayne is credited as the primary author of PAPER ANGELS, it is evident that Travis contributed much to the story and characters as well. Just as Jimmy's life experiences are reflected in the story, I believe Travis put much of himself into this story too. There is a definite chemistry at work between the two authors which makes the story even

more honest and real and a pleasure to read. Those familiar with Travis's books and writing style know he is a gifted writer who refuses to be "branded". He has written beautiful, heartfelt romances and dark, make your skin crawl thrillers. Travis has used his talent perfectly in weaving together the characters and story of PAPER ANGELS to make it the moving and inspiring book it is. Yes, PAPER ANGELS is a beautiful Christmas story...and so much more. It is a story that should be remembered and lived the whole year through. Buy this book, read it and be inspired to see the good in the world and to make a difference in someone's life. The first step could be this Christmas when you adopt a Paper Angel. And as you read this book, should you question whether an act of kindness can change a life, give someone hope...stop and remember that the book you are holding is a dream come true for a man that once was a Paper Angel.

Kevin is a 40-something family man anticipating the arrival of twins and a major change to his career. Thomas is a teenager dealing with a broken home life and struggling to make sense of the hand he's been dealt. Kevin and Thomas are linked together by a piece of paper hanging on a tree inside the mall. That paper angel changes both of their lives...What I love the most about Paper Angels is the dichotomy of 'broken' and 'hope'. There is so much beauty in hope and in the limitless possibilities of what can happen. But I also see beauty in being broken...when you have to cling to what you believe in and what others believe for you and fight your way back to the light. Perhaps when we're the most broken is when we're most ready to be made whole by the only One who can make us whole. Also very cool is the fact that anyone who knows anything about either of the authors is easily able to see their individual influences throughout the book. While Paper Angels is categorized as a "Christmas" novel, it can (and should!) be read all year long. The story serves as a reminder that one person CAN make a difference, and will hopefully inspire readers to BE that difference in someone's life.

I have been looking forward to reading Paper Angels, as Travis Thrasher is one of my favorite authors. I wasn't terribly familiar with Jimmy Wayne, but enough of a country music fan to know this was probably worth reading, and I was not disappointed. I was looking for something to capture my attention and help to get me into the mood for the upcoming holiday season, and this book was a perfect choice. The book tells the stories of two families who are in very different places, and on the surface appear to be completely removed from one another. When you look beyond the surface though, and their lives intersect, we realize that we really aren't that different after all. Not only are the two intertwining stories interesting and captivating, but the message about generosity,

forgiveness and humility is powerful. I think the thing that hit me the hardest was about realizing none of us is above the need for help. Our help may come in different forms, but we still were not meant to go it alone. When we strip away the pride and pretense, we are all in need, and we just must open ourselves up to that fact. If you are looking for a great read that truly gets to the heart of the holiday season, getting beyond the pretty pictures we put on and diving deeper at a soul level, then read Paper Angels. You won't be disappointed!

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