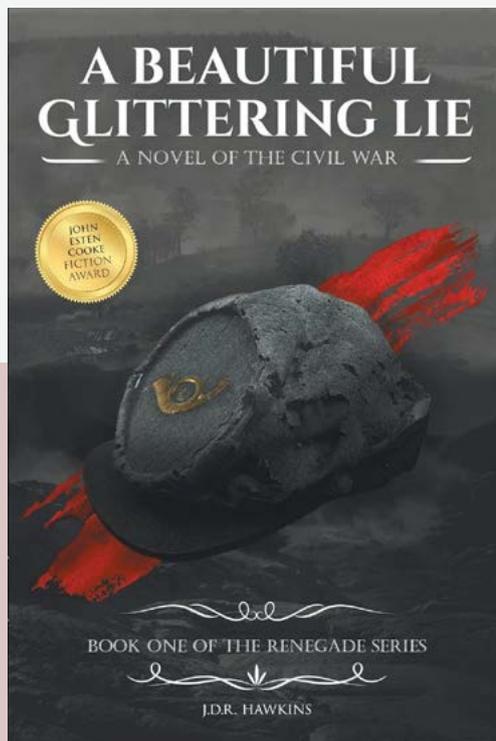


J.D.R. HAWKINS

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A Beautiful Glittering Lie

by J.D.R. Hawkins

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A Beautiful Glittering Lie: A Novel of the Civil War — A Gripping Tale of Family, Sacrifice, and the Cost of War

Author J.D.R. Hawkins invites readers to journey through a tumultuous period in American history with the release of *A Beautiful Glittering Lie*, the first installment of *The Renegade Series*. Since its paperback release on August 5, 2021, the book has garnered praise, earning a stellar 4.5-star rating from readers and the prestigious B.R.A.G. Medallion Honor.

Set against the backdrop of the Civil War, *A Beautiful Glittering Lie* explores the destructive impact of the war on the Summers family. As northern Alabama descends into chaos, farmer Hiram Summers makes the fateful decision to enlist with the Fourth Alabama Infantry Regiment. His departure marks the beginning of a heart-wrenching saga about loyalty, bravery, and the sacrifices required in the name of duty.

Hiram's journey to Virginia thrusts him into the brutal realities of battle, while his son David, eager for adventure, stays behind to witness the encroaching conflict through innocent eyes. As their paths diverge, Hiram's wife Caroline works tirelessly to maintain their farm and uphold the family's spirit, all while anxiously awaiting letters from her beloved husband.

Through Hawkins' evocative storytelling, readers will experience the naïveté of a young nation torn apart, the weight of a father's sacrifice, and the yearning for adventure that comes with youth—all tangled with the chilling understanding of the true cost of war.

"A Beautiful Glittering Lie is more than just a historical novel; it's a poignant exploration of love, loss, and the buried truths of a divided nation," says Hawkins. *"I hope readers walk away with a deeper understanding of not merely the events of the Civil War, but how it reshaped the lives of everyday families."*

Join Hiram, David, and Caroline as they navigate a world torn by conflict and emerge transformed by the choices they make. *A Beautiful Glittering Lie* is now available for purchase in paperback and can be found at major retailers and online platforms.



J.D.R. Hawkins is an Amazon, USA Today and Wall Street Journal bestselling, award-winning author. She is one of a few female Civil War authors, uniquely describing the front lines from a Confederate perspective. Her *Renegade Series* includes *A Beautiful Glittering Lie*, winner of the 2013 John Esten Cooke Fiction Award and the 2012 B.R.A.G. Medallion. The sequel, *A Beckoning Hellfire*, is an Amazon bestseller and winner of the 2022 B.R.A.G. Medallion. *A Rebel Among Us*, the third book in the series, is the recipient of the 2017 John Esten Cooke Fiction Award and winner of the 2022 B.R.A.G. Medallion. *Double-Edged Sword*, the fourth book in the series, is the recipient of the 2023 B.R.A.G. Medallion and the 2023 John Esten Cooke Fiction Award. These books tell the story of a family from north Alabama who experience immeasurable pain when their lives dramatically change from the war. Ms. Hawkins has published a nonfiction book about the War Between the States, titled *Horses in Gray: Famous Confederate Warhorses*. She has also published a short story titled *A Becharmed Callie Christmas* to go with the *Renegade Series*, as well as another short story for the series titled *Fool's Gold Folly*. Ms. Hawkins is a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Historical Novel Society, the International Women's Writing Guild, Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, and Pikes Peak Writers. She is also an artist and a singer/songwriter.

PRAISE

"A remarkable storyteller who blends rigorous historical research with unforgettable emotional resonance, enriching Civil War fiction with depth, nuance, and rare perspective."

– Novelist Post

"J.D.R. Hawkins crafts poignant Civil War tales, blending history and humanity with unmatched grace and authenticity. A remarkable storyteller!"

– Reader's House

"A remarkable historian-storyteller, J.D.R. Hawkins blends accuracy and emotion to illuminate overlooked perspectives with rare skill and narrative power."

– Mosaic Digest

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What initially drew you to writing about the Civil War from a Confederate perspective, particularly as one of the few female authors in this field?

After visiting the Gettysburg battlefield, I was so impressed that I wanted to write a book about the Civil War, but something different from the ones I had read. Most of those books were about officers or Union army soldiers, so I decided to write from the Southern perspective, since that is something often overlooked. I wanted to write about a typical Southern soldier. Hence, my protagonist, David Summers, is a farm boy whose family doesn't own any slaves. The first book I wrote was *A Beckoning Hellfire*, but it was too long, so I split it into two books, thus creating *A Rebel Among Us*. After that, I wrote a sequel, *Double-Edged Sword*, and then I went back and wrote the prequel, *A Beautiful Glittering Lie*. There will be one more book in the *Renegade Series*, which I have yet to write.

How did you approach balancing historical accuracy with fictional storytelling in the *Renegade Series*?

Each book generally took me six months to research and six months to write. Because of the required research, I read hundreds of old nonfiction books. In fact, *A Beautiful Glittering Lie* is based on the journal of R.T. Cole, who served as an adjutant in the 4th Regiment, Alabama Volunteer Infantry. The main characters in the series are fictitious, but nearly everything they went through, such as battles, really happened, and some of the characters surrounding them were real people.

Which character in your series has been the most challenging for you to write, and why?

My protagonist, David Summers, has been the most difficult to write, because at the onset of the Civil War, he is only sixteen years old. As the series progresses, his character arc changes dramatically and he is forced to grow up quickly. The horrors and losses that he experiences were difficult to write about but essential to his story.

Your book *Horses in Gray* explores a unique aspect of the war. What inspired you to focus on the role of warhorses?

After hearing someone give a talk about these horses, I did some research and learned that there was enough information to fill an entire book. Their stories are so fascinating that I wanted to write about them so that they wouldn't be lost to history.

Your short story, *A Becharmed Callie Christmas*, delves into the experiences of a young girl during the Civil War. What inspired you to explore the war from a younger, more personal perspective, and how does this story complement the broader narrative of the '*Renegade Series*'?

I wanted to write a Christmas story to go with the series, and I felt Callie's story needed to be told. Although her character arc doesn't change much in *A Becharmed Callie Christmas*, the book still explains how the Civil War impacts her. The story falls between the first two books in the series. I have also recently published another short story, *Fool's Gold Folly*, to go along with the series. This novella takes place after *Double-Edged Sword* and will tie in to the fifth book in the *Renegade Series*.

How do you research your novels to ensure authenticity in the details of battles, settings, and daily life?

I visited many museums, read hundreds of old books, journals, letters, etc., and visited the battlefields to ensure that I was getting everything right. I even visited areas such as the Pennsylvania countryside, as well as various old buildings like courthouses, etc.

What themes do you hope readers will take away from your books beyond the historical events themselves?

Since the series is a family saga, I want readers to understand what life was like in the 1860's during America's most devastating war. Every member of society was impacted, including women, children, immigrants, and native Americans. The war also decided the outcome of what was to follow, which dictated the use of slavery, the transcontinental railroad, and Westward expansion.

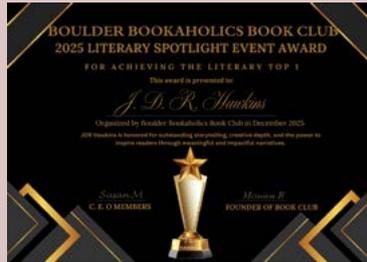
Has being both an artist and a songwriter influenced your writing style or the way you develop your narratives?

Absolutely! One of the reasons why I chose David to enlist with J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry is because David is a musician and plays guitar, as do I, and General Stuart was a music lover. All of the books include music from that era. David is also artistic in that he is a creative woodworker, and his friend, Patrick Mulligan, is a talented artist.

What advice would you offer to other authors who wish to write compelling historical fiction?

Make sure you do your research. I learned a lot while I was exploring that time in American history. Since then, I have participated in many book signings, and the people I meet always want to know more about the Civil War, the southern perspective, and what inspired me. There are many people who are knowledgeable about the Civil War, so if I didn't know what I was talking about, they would definitely call me out on it. I also strive to tell compelling stories so that the novels don't read like dry history books. It is my goal to bring my characters, and the times and experiences they went through, to life.

AWARD WINNING



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To arrange an interview or request a copy of the book, please reach out, and my team will respond within 1 to 2 business days.

