

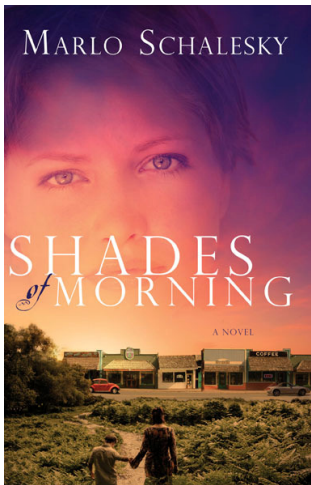
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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What's in your treasure box?

Marlo Schalesky encourages readers to reexamine and release their regrets.



Colorado Springs, CO – Marlo Schalesky understands the impulse to hold onto regrets—a mother of five who has gone through six miscarriages, she's familiar with the “would have, could have, should have's” of life. But the problem with regret, she explains, is that it denies the primary power of God – the power to transform absolutely anything in our lives to His glory. “Regret tells God, “This is too much for You,”” she says, “But nothing – no mistake, no tragedy, no embarrassment, no hurt, no error in judgment – is beyond His power to transform.”

Marlo's new novel *Shades of Morning* (Multnomah Books, on shelves June 15, 2010) features a main character who struggles with her past mistakes, just as many of us do. Marnie's box of mementos, reminders of everything she's done wrong, has become the underlying force in her life—until the Lord sends a powerful messenger who encourages Marnie allow Him to access to it. When her estranged sister dies and makes Marnie guardian of her fifteen-year-old son with Down syndrome—a boy she feels woefully unprepared to care for—Marnie's past collides with her present.

“Marnie's box of regrets is a symbol of the things we all carry in our hearts,” says Marlo. “Her mementoes are tangible. Ours may not be, but they're just as real.” Yet God calls Marnie, and us, to repent, not to regret. It's a challenge that is relevant for readers everywhere.

“We have to stop locking away these parts of our lives from God's touch,” Marlo says. “Regrets will shape you if you give them the power, if they become what you treasure in your heart.” But Marlo challenges us to instead follow Paul's example in Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV), “But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”



MARLO SCHALESKY is the author of several acclaimed novels, including Christy Award winner *Beyond the Night*. A graduate of Stanford University, Marlo also has a masters of theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. She's a regular columnist for *Power for Living* and lives with her husband, Bryan, and five children in California.

PRESS RELEASE

Interview Questions for Marlo Schalesky, author of *Shades of Morning*

We're here with author and mother of five, Marlo Schalesky. Marlo has written a terrific new novel about a young woman whose world is turned upside down when she finds she needs to take care of a teenager with Down's syndrome. Part of that world—and the part we'll be discussing today—is how the Lord uses unexpected events to make us reexamine our lives and draw us closer to Him.

1. Marlo, your newest novel, *Shades of Morning*, features a 15-year-old boy with Down syndrome. What inspired you to choose that particular disability?
2. The main character, Marnie, keeps a box full of pieces of paper where she records her regrets. Why do so many believers struggle to let go of their regrets?
3. How can we find forgiveness and healing from those past regrets?
4. Regret often keeps us from going deeper in our relationship with God. How does Marnie's relationship with God change during the course of the book?
5. Marnie had her life neatly planned out, and all of her plans were turned upside-down when she becomes the guardian of her 15-year-old nephew. As believers, how should we react when life doesn't go according to our plans?
6. As Marnie discovers, beauty is found in unexpected places, and God's gifts to us are often wrapped in unexpected, and maybe even awkward, packages. Can you share an example of this from your own life?
7. Another theme found in the book deals with the regret and fear tied to miscarriage, something you're familiar with. How did you get through those painful experiences, and how can we reach out to women who have lost a baby?
8. Your books always feature a surprising twist at the end. Without giving the ending away, what can readers expect when they turn the last page?
9. Where can our listeners learn more about you, *Shades of Morning*, and your other books?