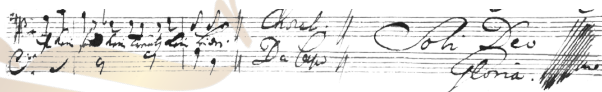


SYMPHONY of *Grace*

A Collection of Short Works

Edited by
Anne Hamilton & Ruth Bonetti



Hazel Barker
Linda Barton
Antoni Bonetti AM
Ruth Bonetti
Diana Davison
Miranda de Jager
Rose Dee
M. Lester Dighton
Michelle Dennis Evans
Sandra Florentina
Terry Gatfield

Anne Hamilton
Dell Saddler Hamilton
Pamela Julian
Nola Lorraine
Rosemary New
Raelene Purtill
Rebekah Robinson
Karen Roper
Jo Wanmer
Jenny Woolsey
Justin Yeend

Symphony of Grace

Anne Hamilton, Ruth Bonetti (editors)

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Introduction

ANNE HAMILTON & RUTH BONETTI



'Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.'

Matthew 18:19 NIV

This volume of short stories and poems takes its title, *Symphony of Grace*, from the thought expressed in Jesus' remarkable promise about prayer. The word used in Matthew's gospel for *agree* means to be *in symphony, in accord, harmony or concord*.

The different voices of the twenty-two authors in this collection come together like the various instruments of an orchestra—some high and haunting, some bright and tinkling, some deep and profound. There's even a short story about an orchestra to round out this offering of praise to God in verse and prose.

Symphony of Grace

Many authors would resonate with Johann Sebastian Bach, who frequently initialled his blank manuscript pages with the marking, 'J.J.' (*'Help me, Jesus'*) or I.N.J. (*'In the name of Jesus'*). At the manuscript end, Bach initialled the letters S.D.G. (*'Soli Deo Gloria', 'To God alone, the glory'*).

It's our prayer that these stories will resonate with you and fill your heart with hope, healing and wonder. May you be blessed beyond measure as you read.

Grace and peace,

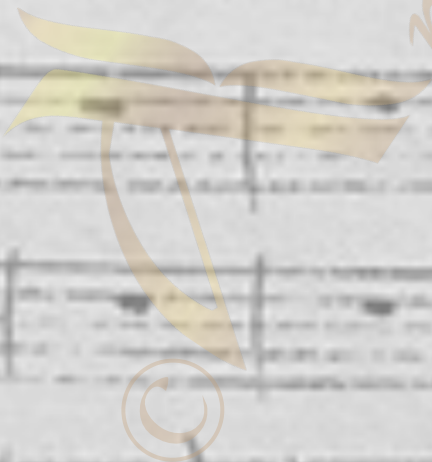
Anne + Ruth

January 2025



Armour Books

FICTION



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The Stoop
REBEKAH ROBINSON



You think Him graceless. His words are harsh, you say; but I was there, I was the one on the receiving end, and I tell you—there is none more gracious than He. Let me share with you the full story.

We were desperate. My boy, he had a disability. He suffered from panoplepsy. It caused pandemonium inside him. You think I use that word lightly. No, I don't. I mean it literally. *Pan. Demon. Ium.* His whole life he'd had seizures—not just the kind that make a person absent, or rigid, or trembling. We got the trifecta. My boy's seizures were like an arrest of his body and mind, sending both out of control. He flailed and screamed and gnashed his teeth. He foamed and shook violently. He threw himself into the fire or water, as if he wanted to end it all. It was terrifying. Only our love for him kept us from hightailing it out of there.

There were occasional moments of respite when my sweet boy emerged, broken and helpless, still unable to speak;