



February / March 2026 update
from...

**Ann Goltz,
Author**

I Wanna Do ALL THE THINGS (but I can't)

In my December/January update, I mentioned that I plan to write on three fronts: my fiction-related reading and writing would live in this bi-monthly newsletter, my theological non-fiction would have a home on a new weekly Substack, and my personal, social media-like posts would show up in an old-school blog on my website. All that would happen while I edit, publish, and release my second book, write my third book, market all my books, begin a new day-job career, prepare to launch my kids into adulthood, figure out with my husband how to be empty-nesters, and have enough downtime to be a functioning human being.

Right. I'm not twenty-three anymore.

What I'm Dropping

I've decided to drop the weekly Substack. Yes, I enjoy exploring current events through a theological lens, but that's not my career. I've decided not to go back to ministry after all, and I have less of an urge to be a public theologian than I did. I may or may not write and publish the theological non-fiction I had in mind, but it's not a priority.

I've also decided not to work on my third book just yet. I'll definitely go back to it once I've gotten my second into the world and have settled into a manageable marketing strategy, but I need to be realistic about how much I can split my focus and still get anything done.

What I'm Still Working On (and how it's going)

The blog is coming, but it requires a complete redesign of my website, which I'm doing myself. It's been a while since I've built a website from scratch (my current incarnation at AnnGoltz.com was done professionally), but I'm getting back into it, and hope to have the new one up and running in the next month or two.

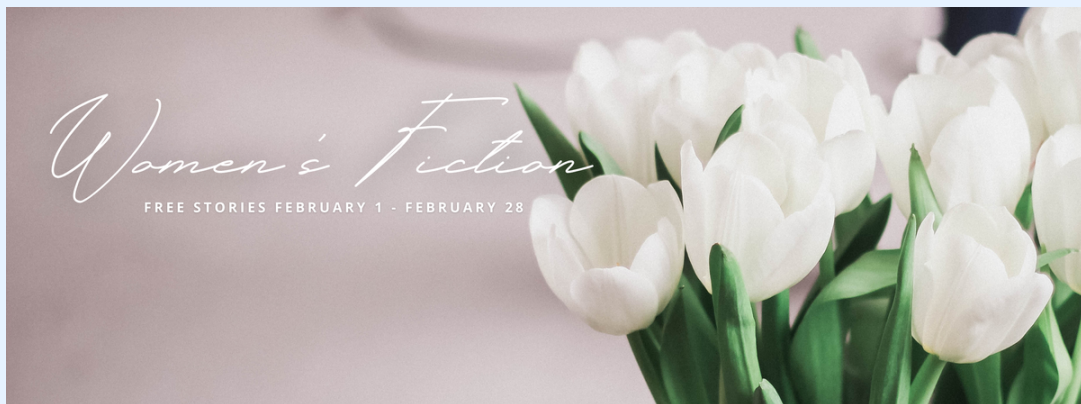
My second book is *What Happened to Zinnia*, and it's moving along again. I've received beta reader feedback and am making some changes based on those comments before I send the manuscript to my editor. I've selected a cover designer, and will begin working with them shortly. I've also been learning how to format book interiors myself, so that's something else I won't have to outsource this time around. You'll be the first to see my new cover when it's ready, and I'll also give you a sneak peek at the first chapter.

Marketing is my least favorite part of being an author, but it's necessary. I'm still working on a targeted plan, but I do have a few things going on in the meantime. For the month of February, I'm participating in a BookFunnel promotion with my prequel

novelette, *Needing Hope* (more on that below). For March, I'm doing another Goodreads giveaway, with 100 copies of the ebook version of *Virtuous Women* up for grabs. I'll send out a short reminder when that begins, or you can put that book on your 'Want to Read' shelf on Goodreads and they'll let you know when the giveaway opens.

The rest of the things on my to-do list are personal, and you can get updates on those on my blog, once it launches.

BookFunnel Promotion: Women's Fiction



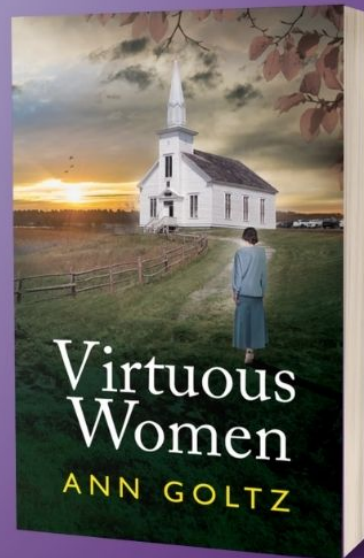
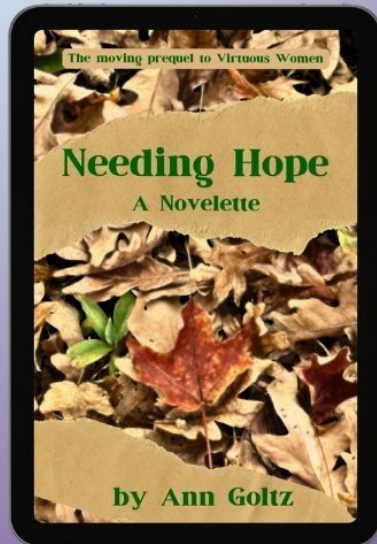
Free Stories!

For the entire month of February, you can download any or all of these FREE Women's Fiction books from indie authors. Click on the link to see what's available--I promise you won't be secretly signed up for anything just by clicking. I've downloaded a couple of these myself, and can't wait to start reading.

Also, I've reformatted the interior of my novelette, *Needing Hope*, so if you'd like a new copy of that, you can also download it from this link.

(I'd love to get your feedback on how the formatting looks to you, and/or any mistakes you find or features that don't work as they should.)

<https://books.bookfunnel.com/februarywomensfiction/fg7umv2n4...>



Buy your copy today!

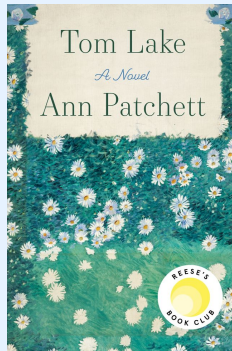
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What I've Been Reading

I'm being more intentional about making time to read for pleasure. I've always loved reading, and it's one of the things I need to do in order to be a functional human being. Here's a quick look at some of what I've finished so far this year. (*All links are to my Bookshop.org affiliate page.)



Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

I'd heard a lot about this and expected it to be overrated. It wasn't. Set up as a frame, the main character (Lara) tells her three adult daughters about her past as an actor and her love affair with the future megastar Peter Duke. Patchett weaves past and present beautifully as she explores love, life, regret, and contentment in a stunningly emotional tapestry. I listened to the audiobook, which was narrated by Glenn Close.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9780063327528>

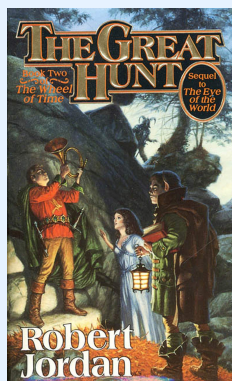


The Things We Leave Unfinished by Rebecca Yarros

I'll confess, I'd never heard of Rebecca Yarros until my younger kid got into the *Empyrean* series (*Fourth Wing*, *Iron Flame*, and *Onyx Storm* so far). It turns out that her runaway romantasy success was a departure from her usual traditional romance stories, and I absolutely love both. *The Things We Leave Unfinished* is one of these more traditional romances, told in alternating timelines. In the present-day, Georgia Stanton is tasked with seeing her late great-grandmother's final work-in-progress finished and brought to publication. This is complicated by the fact that she can't stand who the publisher has chosen to complete the task (good-looking as he may be). Alongside this contemporary romance is her great-grandmother's story of love and loss in World War II, which, as it happens, is the basis for that last, unfinished novel.

I put this under Women's Fiction in my Bookshop.org storefront. Even though it's a romance, I felt that Georgia's emotional journey was far more important than the romance (though the romance was compelling, and, in a couple of places, rather spicy--one of Yarros's trademarks).

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9781682815663>



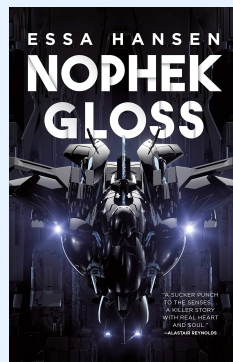
The Great Hunt by Robert Jordan

I first stumbled on the Wheel of Time series back when I was working in a bookstore in 1992. At that time the third book in the series had just been published in hardcover, and I thought it looked like a nice trilogy.

I seriously miscalculated. The fourteenth and final book in that "trilogy" was published in 2013. There were actually fifteen books in all, including a prequel that was published after Jordan was already several books in. It's a pretty good series overall, but it needs to be read in order. You can stop after the third book (the first three actually do make a decent trilogy, and you don't need the prequel), but if you go further, you're in it until the end.

This is my third read-through of the series in its entirety. Yes, I am a little bit crazy.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9781250251480>



Nophek Gloss by Essa Hansen

My kids have been on my case to read this series for years. This one really is a trilogy, and *Nophek Gloss* is the first book. It's YA, but with the understanding that teenagers are capable of a lot more depth than adults realize. As an adult, I was able to connect with the fourteen year old main character as well as the adults in his life. It's something of a space opera, but it's incredibly well-written. I plan to finish the series (and I'd do that even if my kids weren't constantly bugging me to do so).

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9780316430654>

Calling All Authors

Got a book launch coming up? In the 12 Weeks to Book Launch Success group mastermind, Lainey Cameron helps authors create a plan to successfully launch their book. A new group starts March 1st. I was in her founding class in 2023, and I can't recommend this course enough. She also offers scholarships, if cost is an issue.

[Find out more.](#)



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