



EXTRACT from TAKEN by DEE HENDERSON

"...A young woman was sitting on the floor in the hallway outside his hotel room. She didn't rise when he drew near, just looked up at him. She looked ... tired. And mildly curious. Her white shorts showed off long tanned legs, and the sandals revealed dainty feet with painted toenails. The contrasting pink top was remarkably sedate, blousy, and pretty. The look suited her and reminded him of his daughter. For that reason more than any other he simply offered a casual, "Looking for me?" She opened an envelope, pulled out a newspaper clipping, and held it up. "Is this you?"

He accepted what she ordered. The newspaper article with accompanying photo was old, well-worn, and crumbling at the fold. From the Boston Globe, he thought, recognizing the photo and knowing the date it had been taken. He was holding his daughter, her head lowered under the hood of a police's sweatshirt, walking with her down the police station's steps. She had just turned sixteen—shy, scared, gangly, and thin. The photo had been snapped late on the day of her rescue as he was taking her home. It'd been the best day of his life since her disappearance when she was eight years old. "My daughter and I," he confirmed.

That image had captured the start for the two of them of a journey that had pushed them together into a father-daughter relationship that was to this day still hard to explain. Becky had been, in alternating waves, suicidal and angry, terrified and manic, overjoyed with freedom, so determined to rebuild her life and push away what had happened in those missing eight years. He'd been there for his daughter, getting her through those years and beyond to something now remarkably healthy, happy, and if not whole, at least wise and wonderful and able to deal with the past in a sane way when others brought it up. "She's finishing her first year in college," he mentioned, smiling as he said it, remembering Becky as she had been this last weekend, straddling a stool in the kitchen of their Boston home on a flying visit home from college to grab more clothes and different posters, munching on a carrot and arguing the fact he just had to get a haircut and please, please, please could he remember to lose the old leather jacket before he came to meet her new roommate's family? They already thought he was a Spenser-type tough guy with credentials as a licensed private investigator. Introducing himself as a retired cop would be okay, but a PI implied he liked to snoop.

He'd laughed at her request and fed her clam chowder that night, promising to be on his best behavior when he met the roommate's family, pleased that his daughter was moving from a single room to a double and acquiring a roommate. He had in fact done a bit of snooping. He knew more about her new roommate than the girl's parents probably did, and concluded his daughter would be safe with her. The roommate loved to party and be out and about town, but she refused to drink or do drugs and was exclusive in her relationship with her boyfriend. She was the extrovert to his daughter's more reserved nature and, Matthew thought, a very nice girl. One of the reasons he'd agreed to come speak at this Atlanta conference as a last-minute replacement was because his daughter had truly now settled at college, with plans to stay on campus to take summer classes.

Matthew took a final look at the article and photo, then refolded it.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS with DEE HENDERSON

1. Tell me about your most recent novel *Taken*. What's the story about?

Taken is the story of Shanon Bliss, who went missing when she was sixteen. Years have passed. She has just contacted a retired member of law enforcement. She wants to go home. *Taken* is the story of the next three weeks. Matthew Dane and Shannon Bliss are compelling together. He's helping her navigate a journey that only a few people ever experience.

2. Why did you decide to write *Taken*?

I wanted to write a story focused on a crime victim, to walk with her through the process of taking back her life and rebuilding a future. There's something unique in the spirit of a survivor that makes for a compelling story. Shannon is no exception. What she learned about God, how she handles family, how she deals with and navigates other people's expectations, is a window into how we all handle life when it doesn't go as we had hoped. She had to make some choices that most people will never face, and it was fascinating to watch her journey. I love the fact she could be optimistic about life in the midst of what was going on.

3. Your stories often have an underlying message about life or about God. What did you discover while writing *Taken*?

What I discovered is this: No matter how many years have passed by with a life you didn't want, that isn't the end of the story. You still have time to look forward and see a different future. God can do what seems impossible. You

still have time to get there. This book is mostly one of promise, of expectation, of wonder, as sometimes life can surprise you with good, too.

4. Where can a reader learn more about Taken and your other books?

The first chapter of Taken and my other books can be found at the website www.DeeHenderson.com

5. Taken is your 20th novel. What comes next?

I like to explore how people handle life. Right now I'm working on a short story about a man whose mother goes missing. Those sudden full-stops that happen in our lives, when the road takes an unexpected turn, reveal what is most important in our lives and why. Love is a major deal, and the love between a mother and a son is one of the strongest forces

He wondered why this woman would have such an old clipping. He offered it back to her. "Can I show you something else?" "Sure." She pulled another clipping from the envelope. Tired of towering over her, he hunkered down beside her, one arm resting casually on his knee, drink in hand. He took the second clipping. A missing-person case out of Chicago, picked up by the Associated Press, this also from the Boston Globe. Shannon Bliss, age sixteen, missing along with her car; she had not arrived home after visiting friends over the three-day Memorial Day weekend. A reward of twenty-five thousand was offered for information. The photo looked like it'd come from a high school yearbook. A pretty girl, he thought. He looked at the date on the clipping . . . this had happened eleven years ago. He studied the woman who had offered it. He could see a good resemblance.

He didn't work many missing-person cases anymore. Becky had asked him to give those up for a few years, to consider going back to being a cop working robberies, or teaching at the police academy—and let his company, Dane Investigations, be run by his staff, at least the day-to-day. A missing sister could explain why this woman had sought him out, and he did know some people in Chicago who might be able to help her. A few of them were at this conference, and he could make some calls and introductions on her behalf. "Your sister?" he asked. "That's me." Silence lingered after her quiet words. "I'd like to go home," she whispered. He watched her knuckles turn white where she gripped the envelope, her other hand flexed against the carpet. Her eyes averted from his to stare down the empty hall. A stillness settled into his muscles. "Did you run away?" She was quiet for so long he wasn't sure she would answer. "No." More a breath than a word, but he heard it. He felt his heart begin to crack on her behalf. The nuances mattered now, seeing

them, hearing them, and he didn't have history with this woman to fall back on to help him understand her. "What name do you go by now?" "Shannon White." "Have you spoken with the police?" She shook her head swiftly. He didn't let himself show a reaction to that news, just absorbed it. There were things his job had taught him, experiences with his daughter, an awareness that came from so many he had talked with over the last decade, and it all coalesced and settled in his mind. He couldn't afford to project or assume the wrong thing here. The odds she was in fact Shannon Bliss were small, but they were real enough to pursue. She looked as though she was telling him the truth as she knew it. God, help me. The quiet prayer went straight to his Father, and he took a deep breath, let it flow out. A hallway wasn't the place for this conversation, but a pause would give her time to change her mind about talking with him, so he stayed where he was. There were things he had to know simply not to hurt her further, and he chose his next words with extreme care. "Eleven years is a long time. When did . . . ?" Her hand settled very lightly, very carefully, on his arm as she shook her head. "Please don't ask." ...

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Biblica and Zondervan

Celebrate the 50-Year Anniversary of the NIV, the World's Most-Read Modern-English Bible Translation, with a Year-Long Campaign and Launch of a Mobile App!

January 2015 marked the beginning of a year-long campaign to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the commissioning of the New International Version (NIV). In its 50 years, the NIV has become the world's most-read modern-English Bible translation with over 450 million copies distributed worldwide.



To commemorate the 50th anniversary, Biblica and Zondervan will celebrate by releasing videos and articles that tell the historical story of the translation. The campaign is supported by four main themes: Made to Read, Made to Study, Made to Share, and Made for You.

“Made to Read” is the first theme that will launch the first quarter of 2015. “Made to Read” will highlight the historical milestones that led to the commissioning of the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT). This committee’s original establishment recognized the need and laid the foundation for an accurate Bible translation in contemporary language. In 1955, the original vision for the NIV was cast by Christian businessman, Howard Long. After a failed attempt to share the Gospel using the King James Version, Long began his search for a Bible that was both readable in contemporary language and reliable to the original texts. Ten years later, a cross-denominational group of evangelical scholars was assembled to work toward one mission: to create a contemporary English translation of the Bible.

The formation of this group of 15 scholars, representing a broad spectrum of Christian denominations, marked one of the most significant events in the history of the English Bible. After more than a decade of painstaking translation work, the complete text of the NIV was published in 1978, enabling Christians to read the entire Word of God in contemporary English while also remaining faithful to the original texts. In less than 10 years the NIV became the world’s bestselling modern-English Bible translation, an honor it still maintains today. “Our prayer for this anniversary campaign is to capture the attention of Bible readers, pastors, and Bible teachers with the history of the NIV, to introduce the committee of distinguished scholars that continue to work on the translation; and to share the impact the NIV is having all over the world,” said John Kramp, SVP and Bible publisher for HarperCollins Christian Publishing.

“The first theme of the campaign – Made to Read – provides historical context into the need for a contemporary English translation of the Bible. Today we, along with the CBT and Biblica, celebrate a translation that is true to God’s Word and has changed how people read, experience, and live out the Bible.” The Made to Read campaign video can be viewed at www.thenivbible.com, along with several stories related to the theme under the “50th Anniversary” tab. Free resources, including reading plans, Scripture memes, and Bible sam-

plers are also available on the site, as well as a guide to assist readers in finding their best Bible match. In addition, Biblica, Zondervan, and Tecarta have launched a free **NIV 50th Anniversary mobile app** available on IOS and Android that provides free access to the NIV for the 2015 calendar year. In addition to providing the NIV text, the mobile app includes additional quarterly anniversary content and many study and devotional Bibles made available for a trial period.

For additional information on the NIV 50th Anniversary, please visit www.thenivbible.com.



About Biblica

For over 200 years, Biblica has provided God’s Word so people can enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ and be formed by him. The Colorado Springs-based non-profit organization works in Africa, East Asia, Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, North America, and South Asia. Biblica translates and publishes the complete Bible into the world’s 100 most widely spoken languages and is the translation sponsor and worldwide publisher of the New International Version® (NIV®) Bible, the most widely used contemporary English translation in the world. For additional information, please visit www.biblica.com.

About Zondervan

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