

# Joy Jordan-Lake

## Brief fun Bio

Although I was born in Washington, D.C., I grew up in the mountains of East Tennessee outside Chattanooga. Much to my sweet mother's bafflement, I always preferred dogs, horses and the woods to dolls and playhouses. A shy kid who was sick a lot, I learned to love reading and creating my own stories--and avoiding wearing shoes at all costs. And though I've loved getting to live all over the country as an adult, including in New England, I still avoid footwear whenever possible.

After earning a masters from a theological seminary and a doctorate in English lit., I taught classes at a number of universities, but longed to write full time. Two biological and one adopted child later, in addition to millions of diapers changed and gazillions of freshman composition papers graded, I finally get to do that--and I never forget to be grateful.

My recent books include the bestselling novel *A Tangled Mercy*, a dual timeline story set in Charleston, South Carolina, and the forthcoming *Under a Gilded Moon*, a historical mystery set at the Biltmore Estate in the tumultuous 1890s. My six earlier books include, *Blue Hole Back Home*, winner of the 2009 Christy Award for Best First Novel and the Common Book selection for several universities, as well as nonfiction and a children's picture book, *A Crazy-Much Love*.

In all my writing, I tend to be drawn to little-known historical events, to humor as well as tragedy, and to social issues and those big existential questions: the human capacity for brutality and bigotry, for example, as well as for remarkable courage and forgiveness. My husband (who also moonlights as my trusted Head Research Assistant) and I have three young adult kids and live just south of Nashville, where a ferocious 10-pound Maltipoo totally rules the house.  
[www.joyjordanlake.com](http://www.joyjordanlake.com)