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*Missionary brings gentle touch to social issues
through children's historical fiction series*

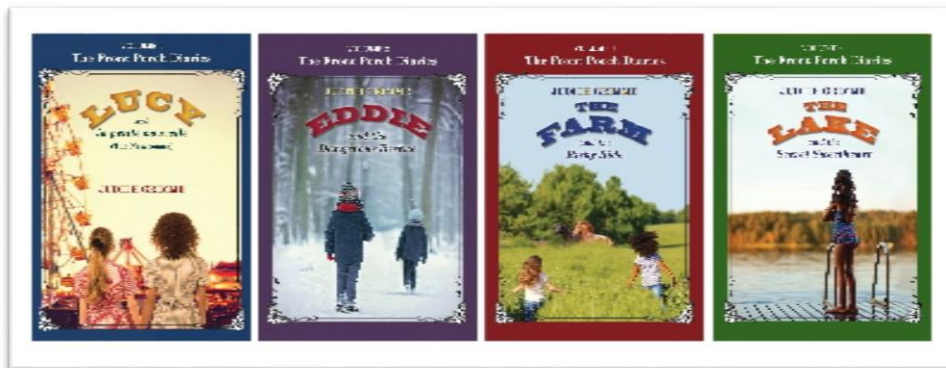
**Final two books of
THE FRONT PORCH DIARIES
Release December 10, 2019**

Judith Grimme available for interview



**The
Front Porch
Diaries**

LUCY 9780998559209
EDDIE 9780998559223
The FARM 9780998559278
The LAKE 9780998559285
Bundled Series:
97809985592



The Front Porch Diaries is set in the mid-1960s in the fictional small Indiana town of East Howard. Lucy Miller, along with her two older brothers, Eddie and Jon, and younger sister, Carly, find their way into and out of childhood adventures with their family and friends, and transport the reader to an uncomplicated and joyful existence. *"The Front Porch Diaries* is free of violent or sexual content, profanity, as well as references to mysticism, fantasy, or the occult," says publisher Leslie Turner. "Although each book gives a nod to important social and political issues through historical context, as well as addressing life traumas small and large that virtually all children face, more than anything else, it's intentionally just a fun, uncomplicated read for children that allows them to escape in a healthy way to another place and time." Series synopsis below.

Judith Grimme (pronounced GRIM-ee) received her degree in Sociology from Colorado State University. Early memories of a relative who served as a Catholic nun in Bolivia, as well as their own experiences working in such countries as Canada, Romania, Slovenia, Madagascar, Panama, and El Salvador, fueled Judith's passion for helping people learn to appreciate other cultures, a theme that runs throughout the *Front Porch* series. Learn more about Judith's inspiration and background below.

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Published by



SERIES SYNOPSIS:

Lucy and la petite nouvelle: *Nine-year-old Lucy Miller loved to dream about visiting other countries, but from her front porch view in the small Indiana town where she was growing up, flying off to exotic places around the world was just that—a dream. That is, until a newcomer came to town who would open her eyes to possibilities—and problems—Lucy never knew existed. It was the fall of 1966. Was Lucy’s peaceful world about to change forever?*

Eddie and the Dangerous Rescue: *Eddie Miller always loved his family’s Christmas visits to their grandparents’ farm, and school break fun together with his sist, Lucy, seemed to finally be calming their recent squabbles. That is, until a reckless mistake left Eddie an Lucy facing a deadly situation. It was the winter of 19y67. Would the dangers about to unfold bring them closer together, or tear them apart forever?*

The Farm and the Risky Ride: *Lucy was so excited about taking Simone to her grandparents’ farm for a summer holiday, with no brothers tagging along to tease them. But life in the country proved to be more wild and frightening than the girls thought! Eddie and Philippe found their share of adventure in the woods behind the Miller home, too. It was the summer of 1967 and lots of things were changing all around them. What new things would these friends from different worlds discover about each other, and themselves? Were they prepared for the days to come?*

The LAKE and the Secret Sweetheart: *The Miller children had grown so close to Simone and Philippe, but everyone knew the time was fast approaching when the Corbetts would return to their home in France. This last summer together was certain to be an adventure to remember, full of triumph, loss, and discovery. It was 1968, a moment in time that would shape the future for each of the young friends, especially Lucy. Jon and Philippe would also need to summon the courage for a big leap of faith, and Eddie and Simone would soon learn the cost of keeping secrets, and promises. Even little Carly would surprise everyone!*

MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

Judith Grimme began writing the fictional story of Lucy and her siblings around 2007, a passion that moved into a serious publishing project in 2014 when she realized so many children’s chapter books no longer depicted families where parents had high values, were happily married and provided a safe and stable environment for their children. She noticed very few stories where children worked hard in school, had healthy relationships with their friends and siblings, obeyed their parents, and found their way through life’s ups and downs within a loving and supportive community. “Such families and communities do still exist,” she notes, “and children need to see that family life can be good. Having good friends and strong family relationships is important for us all.” Perhaps more important than any of the broader themes implicit in the series, Grimme states, “My real intent for the books is just for kids to have fun reading them, just simple relationships between friends without the drama of this world we live in.”

Grimme grew up in the 1960s and 70s in New Haven, Indiana, a small town outside of Fort Wayne. With farms surrounding their little home and plenty of siblings and neighbor children to play with, most of the stories in *The Front Porch Diaries* come directly from her childhood experiences. “I grew up in a simpler time,” Judith said. “At least for *us* as *children* it was simpler; even though it was a tumultuous time in the country we were insulated from all of that until later in life.” Still, the book is set during a time of drastic social change, and the author eases into these subjects through a child’s limited awareness and perspective, in such a way that allows parents to open a conversation with their children if they wish.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

1. You say your intention is for kids to just have fun, uncomplicated stories to read, yet you’ve set your series in the mid-60s, right in the middle of the Civil Rights movement and the beginning of the Vietnam War. Two of the characters in your first book were victims of Apartheid. How are you handling these tough social and political issues on a child’s level?
2. As a missionary and sociologist who has spent many years living abroad, what do you see as the biggest difference between American children and children growing up in other cultures?
3. Even though you’ve dedicated many years of your life to serving the Lord in the mission field, this book is really neutral in terms of the Christian faith; it’s not an aggressively Evangelical children’s book. Why is that?

4. If a child is being raised in a complicated and perhaps unstable environment, how does that child benefit from reading about a family and community life so different from their experience?
5. This book is written for reading-age children age 6-14, yet uses some vocabulary and manners of speech that seem out of reach, at least for the younger children. What was your thought process on that?

To arrange for interviews or a digital media copy, please contact the publisher:

Leslie Turner, 812-987-6148 or leslie@encouragebooks.com. This press release and related media photos available online at:

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EXCERPTS FROM “LUCY and la petite nouvelle”
Volume 1 of *The Front Porch Diaries* by Judith Grimme

Fall was certainly in the air at the Miller home with the variety of trees that surrounded the house, providing a lovely backdrop to the autumn sky. The grass had become emerald green from the coolness of the evenings, and the mums were blooming as if to say “Hey, look at me! I’m here to perk up your days.” On the wide front porch hung a whitewashed swing covered with a plethora of thick, inviting pillows, along with a few other wooden rocking chairs, swaying gently in the evening breeze. A few of the front windows were perched open to allow some fresh fall air to permeate the interior. From those windows could be heard the laughter and conversation of a family catching up on the day’s events.

By the time Mr. Miller arrived home, Lucy was feeling a little dizzy. Mr. Miller carried little six-year-old Lucy to his car, buckled her in and showed her how to hold her arm as much in the air as possible while leaning her head on the car door. The ride to the doctor’s office seemed long, but everyone was ready for the Millers when they arrived. The nurse immediately had Mr. Miller carry Lucy into an exam room, where she removed the towel from Lucy’s arm to see the extent of the damage.

“Not bad, for a girl!” Eddie replied. “How about if I try fishing this time, then I’ll give you another chance afterward?” “That’s fine,” Lucy said as she sat back on her elbows and watched Eddie drop the hook in the water again. They were talking away when, suddenly, Eddie jerked the line back just a little. “Did you feel something?” Lucy said as she sat up straight. Eddie answered, “Yeah, I think there is a fish on the hook. Back up a little so I have room to pull it in.” Lucy moved back toward the brush, away from the water. As she was sitting there watching Eddie, out of the corner of her eye, she spotted something moving in the grass and leaves. “Eddie, what was that!” she whispered rather nervously. Eddie replied, intently concentrating on the fish that was flipping around in the creek, “I didn’t see anything, I’m trying to keep this fish on the line...”

Lucy was anxious when she arrived at school the day Mr. Corbett was to arrive. When she met her friends, Liz and Janie before classes began, her mind kept drifting. Janie noticed Lucy’s nervousness and asked, “Why aren’t you listening to what I said, Lucy? I was asking if you think you could come for my birthday this Friday after school and spend the night at my slumber party. We will have so much fun; I am inviting you, and Liz, and Mary, and Joanna. Do you think your mom will let you come?”

“When I was talking to Janie before class, she said something about Simone not ‘looking like us’. Do you think she meant that because Simone’s skin is a little darker than mine or anybody else in my class that she’s not like us? I don’t understand how that can make any difference, because even if Simone is a little different on the outside, she sure is a great person on the inside! Besides, I think she is really pretty, like her momma, don’t you?”

Eddie and Philippe didn’t know the older boys, but they recognized two of the younger ones because they were in a different fourth grade class in the same school. “What do you guys want?” Eddie asked. “What do you care, pipsqueak!” one of the older boys sarcastically blurted out. Then another shouted out, “Get out of our way, goofballs!” Philippe stepped back off the path, because he didn’t want any trouble. Just then, three of the bigger boys decided to get physical and shoved Eddie and Philippe’s friends back. Eddie was ready to jump in to defend his friends, but Philippe grabbed onto his arm and held him back. Philippe spoke softly to his friend Eddie, “Just stay here, Eddie! We don’t need any trouble!”