



Media Kit

Author Bio:

Laura DeNooyer thrives on creativity and encouraging it in others, spotlighting creatives of all kinds on her blog, Journey To Imagination. A Calvin College graduate, Laura taught middle school and high school writing and art for nine years in Milwaukee. For the past eighteen years, she has taught writing to home schooled students. Between those two jobs, she and her husband raised four children as she penned her first novel, *All That Is Hidden*. An award-winning author of heart-warming historical and contemporary fiction, she is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers. When not writing, you'll find her reading, walking, drinking tea with friends, or taking a road trip.

Blogs:

[Standout Stories](#)

[Journey to Imagination](#)

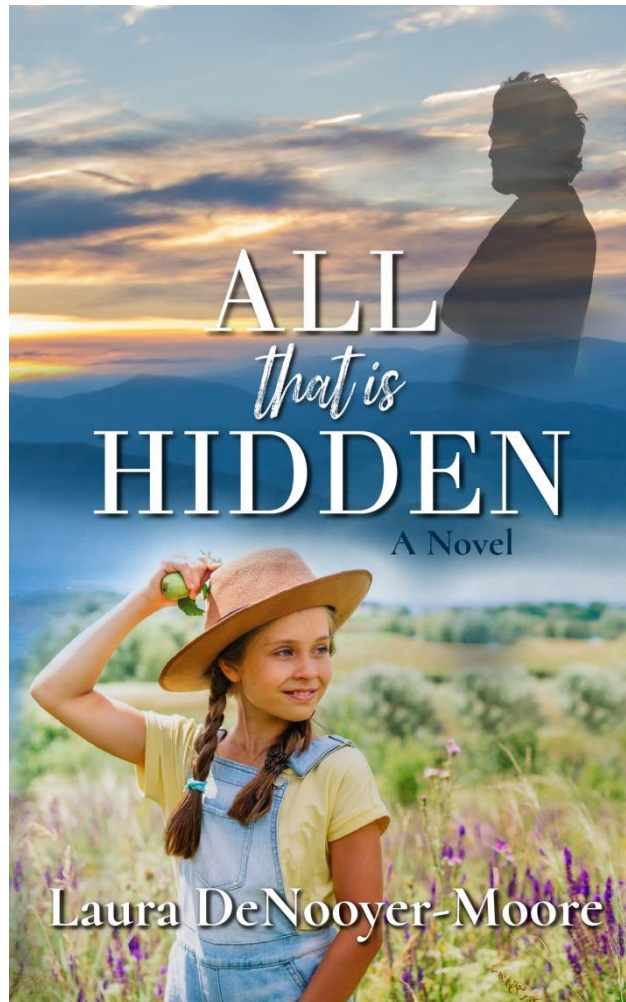
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All That Is Hidden

Tina Hamilton always knew her father had a secret. In 1968, trouble erupts when northern exploitation threatens her tiny Appalachian town. Some folks blame “progress” and the space race. Others blame Tina’s father. A past he has hidden catches up to him, and his secret settles in like an unwelcome guest. The clash of his past and present becomes the microcosm of the clash between progressive ideas and small town values.

Are secrets worth the price they cost to keep?

Find more information [here](#).

REVIEWS:

There's a touch of Laura Ingalls Wilder simplicity in the descriptions of home life, crafts, cooking and chores, a sprinkling of Stephen King in its authentic portrayal of small-town life and dialogue, and a dash of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in its deeper themes of truth, trust, love, betrayal and forgiveness. That's one heck of a mix.

-Ariane Jenkins, *Epinions.com*

This novel captures a vivid sense of life in a family-bonded community in the Appalachian mountains, one in which many readers will see themselves growing up through Little League baseball and major league heroes at a time and place when children spent more time out ranging in the fields and woods than in front of electronic gadgets. The story gives such a strong sense of family interactions that you'll feel you've been invited to a reunion, rich in good food and conversation that often makes you laugh—but also presses on some deep wounds. Central is the clash of progress with a small tight-knit community in which people can be deeply concerned with the work and interests of their neighbors.

-Dr. Steve Eberly, Western Carolina University

All That Is Hidden is a beautiful novel, the kind of book that sweeps you up in its story, makes you fall in love with its characters, and breaks your heart along with theirs when they go through suffering. The “secret,” or, more accurately, secrets, of the first line of this book are artfully hidden throughout the novel, making their ultimate revelation both truly shocking and truly poignant. Tina is a very good narrator, but it is her father and his character who steals the novel—his life story is both original and compelling, and the pain and grace he experiences drew tears to this reader's eyes.

- *Writer's Digest*

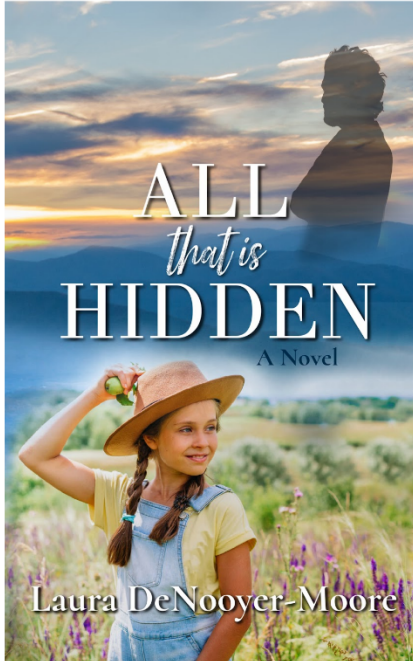
No reader can help but be drawn into the mesmerizing and absorbing world of Tina Hamilton, be transported back to 1968, to Currie Hill, to a world where family values and community held real meaning . . . This richly layered story is a most rewarding read . . . and heart-wrenching to realize the moment when a child sees the truth about a parent, and loses an idol, creating an emptiness that only forgiveness can heal. The gentle power of this book gains momentum until it reaches a dramatic and moving end.

-Ann Emanuel, *Commuter Week*

My extended family is from the hills of Kentucky. I so enjoyed reading the Parts sections that preceded the chapters. . . . It was like going home for a while. I consider those sections the strongest and most creative pieces of writing that I've reviewed for *Writer's Edge* in at least five years.

- *The Writer's Edge*

PUBLICATION INFORMATION SHEET



Title:	All That Is Hidden
Author:	Laura DeNooyer
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ASIN:	B00AOQFZNW (eBook)
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About the Book

Tina Hamilton always knew her father had a secret. In 1968, trouble erupts when northern exploitation threatens her tiny Appalachian town and her father's hidden past catches up to him. Are secrets worth the price they cost to keep?

About the Author

Laura DeNooyer, a Calvin College graduate, taught middle school and high school writing and art for nine years and currently teaches home schooled students in southeast Wisconsin. In between, she and her husband raised four children. A multiple award-winning author of heart-warming historical and contemporary fiction, she serves as president of her American Christian Fiction Writers chapter.

Laura DeNooyer 

Learn more lauradenooyer-author.com

ABOUT LAURA

My Muse made itself known in second grade and struck me with the writing bug. Over the years, we've been on some wild rides, from bicycling across the Golden Gate Bridge to white water rafting in Tennessee, hiking the Appalachian trail, and snorkeling with stingrays in Belize.

But my Muse finds inspiration in quieter moments, too: walks in nature, long talks with friends over tea, and family dinners--actually, those can be noisy, too!

Once I caught the writing bug, I became prolific--for a seven-year-old. I wrote and illustrated over twenty books, each stapled together, thanks to Mrs. Haan. The thrill of crafting a good story continues to compel me. A good day means spinning the story web on my computer for hours straight--without interruption.

After getting my education degree at Calvin College in Michigan, I taught for nine years in Wisconsin. That included teaching high school creative writing, developing the art curriculum for 6th - 12th grades, being a class sponsor, and coaching junior high volleyball.

My creative output reflects each phase of life. During the family years, projects consisted of themed birthday parties, kids' crafts, child-size easels and tempera paint, neighborhood art fairs, tie dye parties, filling up baby books, journals, and scrapbooked photo albums. Plus developing and implementing Vacation Bible School curriculum at church.

For the past eighteen years, I've tutored and taught writing classes to homeschooled students. When my kids grew up and moved out, it was time to *carpe diem* for my own writing--shifting from teacher to (almost) full-time writer.

My longwinded short stories tend to become novels. Whether I'm writing historical fiction, contemporary, or fantasy, my stories embrace overarching themes of second chances, the misunderstood underdog pulling through.

On my blogs, I celebrate the creativity of others. "Journey to Imagination" spotlights artists, musicians, journalists, educators, and more, inspiring all readers to embrace their Muse. "Standout Stories" showcases authors and their books.

When not writing, I enjoy family time, reading, Mexican food, and road trips. Summertime's my favorite. I thrive on family gatherings at Lake Macatawa in Michigan, long walks anywhere, and sitting around the fire pit with my husband Tim and friends. Our roots go deep into the gospel-centered church we've attended since 1992.

Oh--my guilty pleasures are watching *Andy Griffith* reruns and embracing all things Mayberry, plus *The Wizard of Oz* and all things Ozzy.

FAQ

1. When did you first know you wanted to be a writer?

I decided to become a writer in 2nd grade. Mrs. Haan gets all the credit. She was not your basic sit-in-your-seat and finish-your-workbook type of teacher, unusual for the mid-1960s. Instead of merely copying alphabet letters and reading Dick and Jane, she had students writing original stories and making them into illustrated books.

I didn't know what to write for my first book, so I wrote one of my favorite stories "The Gingerbread Man". Instead of chastising me for my lack of originality, Mrs. Haan challenged me to write my own ending to the story. I accepted the challenge. I don't remember what I wrote, but by the time I was done, I decided that writing my own stories was the way to go. I was unstoppable after that.

In elementary and middle school, ideas for chapter books, TV shows, and movie scripts sprouted from fairy tales, family anecdotes, Nancy Drew mysteries, *Hawaii Five-O*, and *Bonanza*.

Years later, at Calvin College in Michigan, Dr. Besselsen took up the role of Muse when he introduced me to Appalachian culture.

2. What is your favorite thing to write?

I love writing stories, so definitely fiction over non-fiction. I write essays about our family life. Though those are enjoyable, I get bogged down with getting the details correct. With fiction, I can make up the dialog and details without worrying about accuracy.

My favorite kinds of novels are realistic and character-driven. I like to delve into the complexities and gray areas of life, into false appearances and misjudgments. With a tendency for long-windedness (when writing), my short stories morph into long ones. I've written several children's stories, too.

3. Where did you get the idea for *All That Is Hidden*?

During my sophomore year at Calvin College (1978), Dr. Besselsen took a group of education majors to Mars Hill College in southern Appalachia, close to the Smokies. As we met people and explored the area, I was struck by the number of people who created meaningful lives by a route much different from those seeking the prosperity of "The American Dream" that I had grown up with in a well-to-do home as the grand-daughter of a self-made businessman. Even with humble surroundings, meager possessions, and simple goals, these people enjoyed rich lives, and missed out on nothing.

Moved by this experience, I wrote an award-winning story about it when I returned home. “The Sandlot” was published in the college magazine and won first place. About five years later, I read it again. Dissatisfied with it as a short story, I decided that it would be a great novel.

After fifteen years of researching and writing (in my spare time between work and parenting), *All That Is Hidden* was born with the help of my writers group. I consider it my fifth child. Read more about the Appalachian inspiration [here](#) and [here](#).

4. What is your favorite and least favorite part of writing?

I love every aspect of writing: conjuring ideas, free-writing the initial scenes, thinking through the plot, revising and editing--as each draft makes it sparkle more. It's hard work that feels like play, because I enjoy it so much. Though I'm an introvert and get my energy from being alone, I can be tired after a day of grappling with all my characters' personalities and problems!

I dislike being so longwinded (writing-wise) that it becomes cumbersome to whittle scenes down. Two of my novels grew to embarrassing proportions--think epic. Though it was rewarding to pare it down to manageable and effective proportions, it was painful. Not just because of cutting pet phrases and words I'd labored over, but because I was getting sick and tired of going through the novel for the umpteenth time! I have since learned how to reign it in as I'm writing so it doesn't get so unwieldy.

The compelling challenge is recreating the story world for readers to seamlessly live the experience—to feel the impact of joys and sorrows, colliding in a way that will be felt long after closing the book. It's what every author wants for her readers.

Thus, I love connecting with readers and hearing how my stories impacted them. After all, the compulsion to tell a story goes beyond the storyteller. It's all about the person listening, right? Therein lies the blessing. Read more about that [here](#).

5. Any advice for authors starting out?

Join a writers group that will both stretch and encourage you. Improvement is in the revising, accountability, and teachability.

Get in a daily (or almost daily) writing habit. Just do it! Find the schedule that works for you.

Attend writers conferences to learn and to meet other writers. Make connections. We need each other. And we have much to learn.

Read, read, read! Read books in your genre. Read like a writer, not just a reader. Dissect each novel. What makes it tick? What techniques does the author use? What works? What doesn't?

If you're drawn to writing like bees to nectar, then persevere. Even if your road to publication is long and rocky, keep writing. If God has given you that desire and some raw talent, cultivate the

gift, for it pleases Him. He's the ultimate Creator and Storyteller, and He made us in His image. He delights in our creativity.

The joy is in the journey. Perseverance and passion are everything.