



A. LARRY ROSS
COMMUNICATIONS

News Release

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I Am Second Releases New Book of Stories from Individuals Who Overcame Obstacles and Found True, Lasting Love

**Mike Fisher, Carrie Underwood, Sean Lowe, Danny Gokey and More
Share Personal Accounts of Discovering Meaning and Belonging in
'I Found Love'**

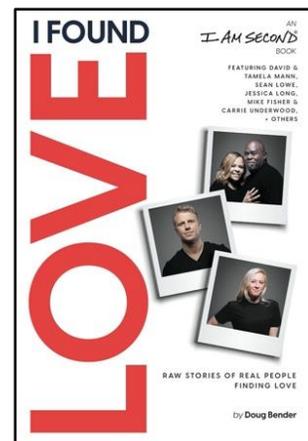
PLANO, Texas, Oct. XX, 2020 - Filled with powerful stories of men and women in the public eye who have broken the barriers of divorce, addiction, racism, abuse, miscarriage, shame and more, "I Found Love: True Stories of Discovering Love, Belonging and Friendship," will release Jan. 12 from global storytelling organization I Am Second. "I Found Love" is authored by Doug Bender, I Am Second's Chief Content Writer, and published by Nelson Books.

"If you're surrounded but alone, 'liked' but unloved, continually sending the world your message but feeling always unheard, then you need the stories in this book," writes Bender. "If busyness has taken the place of connection and if virtual friends have replaced real ones, then these stories of genuine love are for you."

"I Found Love" is a different kind of love story. The book tells the accounts of people who searched and searched for meaning and fulfillment and only found it when they put their trust in Christ.

"I Found Love" includes raw and compelling anecdotes from Seconds who have found life-changing love, belonging and friendship, including:

- "Bachelor" contest Sean Lowe;
- Mike Fisher, former NHL Star, and Carrie Underwood, singer and songwriter;
- Actors and artists David and Tamela Mann;
- American Idol contestants and singers Danny Gokey and Jason Castro;
- Michael Kent, former Neo-Nazi, and Tiffany Whitter, probation officer;
- Paralympic swimmer Jessica Long; and
- Marine and MMA fighter Chad Robichaux, to name a few



-more-

“You are loved—even if you don’t feel it. You are liked—even if you haven’t seen a thumbs-up in weeks,” writes Bender. “A community is here for you, a people ready to say, ‘You are one of us.’ ‘You belong’ is the message of this book. ‘You are loved’ is its anthem. In these pages, you’ll discover broken hearts healed, broken homes rebuilt, and broken lives resurrected.”

“I Found Love” is the fourth book from I Am Second and will release Jan. 21, 2021, from Nelson Books. For more info, visit <https://www.thomasnelson.com/9781400210381/i-found-love/>.

About I Am Second

I Am Second is a non-profit launched in 2008 that ignites hope and inspires people to live for God and for others. Its website, iamsecond.com, features written and film-based stories of more than 100 athletes, actors, models, musicians, cultural influencers and everyday people who have stepped in front of the camera and declared, “I Am Second.” For information, visit iamsecond.com.

About Doug Bender



Doug Bender joined e3 Partners in 2008 and currently serves as Chief Content Writer for I Am Second, developing resources and materials for leaders to help individuals understand what it means to “Live Second.” Bender is co-author of “I Am Second: Real Stories. Changing Lives.” He also authored “Live Second: A Daily Guide to Live a God-honoring Life” and “I Choose Peace: Raw Stories of Real People Finding Contentment and Happiness.”

About Thomas Nelson

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Backgrounder

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About “I Found Love”

“I Found Love” is the is the new book from the influential and ever-growing movement, I Am Second. Authored by Doug Bender, I Am Second’s chief content writer, the book shares stories of people who searched everywhere for fulfillment and wholeness and found love, belonging and friendship. The following individuals share their stories within the chapters of “I Found Love”:



The Manns: actors and artists

David Mann, actor, comedian and producer and wife Tamela Mann, an award-winning gospel singer, share how they found love after both undergoing troubled childhoods and broken families.

Jason Castro, singer and songwriter

American Idol contestant Jason Castro was hiding a big secret that was jeopardizing his future. He shares his story of following God down an unknown path and learning that trust is an important part of love.



Esther Fleece, author

Esther Fleece, author of several books, Christian speaker and business owner, spent years hiding from a dark past and a dangerous father. But, when she opened her heart to God, she learned to open her heart to love.

Danny Gokey, singer

Although Daney Gokey was successful on American Idol, the loss of his wife found him facing grief, doubt and fear. He cried out for God when he did not have any strength left. It was then that Gokey found everything he ever needed.



Sean Lowe, The Bachelor contestant

After stepping into the spotlight in 2012 as a contestant on the Bachelorette, Sean Lowe became a fan favorite. Lowe’s love life became a hot topic, but his faith is what made an impact on this life and the lives of others.

Beth Nimmo, mother of Columbine victim & TJ Stevens, school shooter

Beth and TJ come from opposite sides of the same kind of tragic event—a school shooting. But they both have come to understand the same truth: light overcomes darkness and love wins.



Mike Fisher, former NHL Star & Carrie Underwood, singer and songwriter

After suffering terrible loss through miscarriages, Mike and Carrie wrestled with God. But it was exactly when they felt most abandoned by Him that he leaned in closest to them.

Chad Robichaux, Marine and MMA fighter

In Chad's story, the reader journeys through childhood abuse, a warzone in Afghanistan and a near deadly battle with PTSD. After a lifelong struggle to find his place, Chad rebuilt love in his life by giving his life to Jesus.



Michael Ketterer, singer

America's Got Talent contestant Michael Ketterer saw success on the stage, but he found even more fulfillment with his role as a father. Ketterer points to the example of his Heavenly Father for how he discovered true love.

Jessica Long, Paralympic swimmer

As one of the most decorated Paralympic swimmers in history, Jessica's fierce determination won her the kind of accolades few ever thought possible. Yet her disability and adoption left her with many questions. Her story shows how she found a home in God's family.



Remi Adeleke, actor

Born a privileged African prince, but raised poor on the streets of the Bronx, Remi Adeleke spent most of his life trying to fill the void left by his father. After years of looking in all the wrong places, he saw that God had been the father he always needed.

Stephen Baldwin, actor

Stephen grew up Roman Catholic, but stopped practicing his faith and dove into drugs, alcohol and other destructive behaviors. It was an unlikely friendship that led him back to faith and helped him true satisfaction in Jesus.





Ryan Ries, radio host

Ryan Ries grew up a rebel. He sought his own path and made his own rules. It was a scary encounter with evil that helped him change his ways and find the greatest high and truest freedom.

Michael Kent, Former neo-Nazi & Tiffany Whittier, probation officer

It was an unlikely pair when African American probation officer was assigned to white supremacist Michael Kent. In the end, love is more powerful than hate and wherever these two people share their story, lives are changed and walls are broken down.



Rudy Kalis, sportscaster

When Rudy Kalis immigrated to the U.S., he endured decades of cultural, language and educational challenges. In trying to make a name for himself, he alienated others. These hardnose tactics didn't win him happiness. It wasn't until he chose a new path that he found true joy.



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Endorsements

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“I Am Second’s storytelling ability shines throughout *I Found Love*, bringing truth, hope, and strength during times of uncertainty. These stories of redemption are exactly what we need to hear today.”

—**BRIAN “HEAD” WELCH, legendary Korn guitarist**

“*I Found Love* is a gripping read and retell of the greatest love story of all time. I encourage anyone who is hurting or lonely to dive into the honest and true stories included in this book.”

—**AUTUMN MILES, author and host of the podcast *The Autumn Miles Show***

“*I Found Love* includes the story of my dear friend and combat veteran Chad Robichaux, who is as tough as they come. But even a battle-hardened American Spartan can be brought to his knees by an invisible enemy. Chad’s life is one that realized Jesus Christ had to be the champion, the Warrior of his heart, in order for him to find true strength.”

—**LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALLEN B. WEST (US Army, retired), member 112th US Congress**

“*I Found Love* takes the stories from I Am Second’s website, which we all love, and takes them to a whole other level by adding details and backstory not found in the films.”

—**TIFFINI KILGORE, founder, House of Belonging; author, *Misfit Table***

“In *I Found Love* the common thread of all the I Am Second stories is I Found Jesus. When we fall in love with Jesus everything else will fall into place.”

—**DAVE ROBBINS, musician with Blackhawk and the Outlaws**

“Whether you had love, are in love, or are searching for love, this book provides clarity of just where the purest of love is found.”

—**CAROL BEVIL, *Fuel Body Feel Soul* blogger**