



## Q&A with Rachelle Dekker

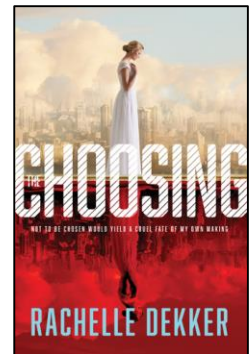
### Author of *The Choosing*



**About the Author . . .** The oldest daughter of *New York Times* bestselling author Ted Dekker, **Rachelle Dekker** was inspired early on to discover truth through storytelling. She graduated with a degree in communications and spent several years in marketing and corporate recruiting before making the transition to write full-time. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Daniel, and their diva cat, Blair. Visit her online at [rachelledekker.com](http://rachelledekker.com).

#### 1. How did you come up with the story for *The Choosing*?

This is a hard question because it has many answers. I wanted to write a theme-based novel about identity. I wanted to write a dystopian novel. I wanted to write in a world that was familiar, but in a setting where I could change the way the world worked. It actually is several ideas I'd been toying with pulled into one story. Once I landed on Carrington's core revelation and story arc, I simply fell in love with her as a character and drew the rest of the story around her. That's usually how it works for me. I come up with a character, good or bad, and create the story from there.



#### 2. You based your main character, Carrington, off of your younger sister. In what ways is Carrington like her?

It's more the beliefs that Carrington struggles with that remind me of my sister. The idea of worth, of not feeling like you're enough, or questioning whether anyone would choose you. Carrington came about as I spent time with my sister and her college-age friends and saw that a large majority of them were searching for significance, searching for worth—none more than my sister at the time.

#### 3. Throughout the book, Carrington struggles with understanding her identity and worth and what is true. Why did you decide to write about the theme of identity?

Someone once asked me, If you could leave one message for your younger sisters, what would it be? The answer was always the same: I would pray they knew what they were worth. Identity is everything. There isn't a theme that doesn't start with identity, or circle back to identity. Knowing who you *truly* are is the greatest journey we face. Am I enough;

am I worth it? I believe everyone faces these questions, and I sought out to explore them through this story.

**4. Do you think women tend to struggle with identity more than men?**

I don't think women struggle with identity more than men. Not at all. I just think we struggle differently. As a woman I understand the identity struggle from a female perspective more, but I think most men wonder if they're enough just as much as women do. We are all the same at our core, really. We are on this earth for a short time, trying to figure out our purpose and worth. Searching for recognition, usually in all the wrong places. The truth I am discovering is that there is no need for searching. The truth already resides inside of us. The Father has already marked us as chosen, worth it; He has already given us a purpose. It's only a matter of looking inward to the soul and to the Creator of that soul to find our worth.

**5. One of the story's most significant lines is, "Life is a journey of remembering and forgetting." What do you mean by this?**

It means exactly what you probably think. We have these flashes of clarity where we see so clearly who we are—and our connection to the Father—but then, in a single moment, something pulls our attention away and we forget who we are. This is the journey of life, remembering and forgetting. But I believe the more we remember, the more we set our gaze on the Father, the less often we forget.

**6. What do you hope readers will take away from the story?**

I hope readers are filled with joy and power as they either realize for the first time who their Father is and what they are really worth, or as they simply remember this truth.

**7. Did you discover anything about your own identity through the writing process?**

I will steal a line from Ted Dekker on this one: "I write to discover." They are one and the same. Even when I think there's nothing left to discover, if I let myself be open to discovery, it almost always comes. So yes, I did. And I told my husband, if nothing ever comes of this book, it would still have been worth writing because of the way it impacted my life.

**8. What would you say to the person who is struggling, trying to find their identity in temporary, unsatisfying places?**

I would say we have all been there, and that those places will only serve as a prison in the end. They may seem like happiness now, but eventually they will become suffering. But that's just part of the journey of identity. Some people need to learn the hard way—I did for sure! I searched for significance in darkness and somehow the Father still led me to the light. So when I see people going through what I did, I empathize, but also know that in a single moment they can discover their true identity.

**9. *The Choosing* is the first of a three-book series. What can we expect in the next two books?**

More struggles with identity, but in different ways. Familiar characters dealing with fear and worry and forgiveness. We'll walk with our characters as they continue to understand the true way of Aaron's Father. More excitement, more romance (of course), and more self-discovery.

**10. What is it like being Ted Dekker's daughter? Did your father help you with the writing process?**

Being Ted's daughter is wonderful! He's the best, but then I hope many daughters feel that way about their fathers. He is a bit of a mystery, though. Sometimes, even sitting at the dinner table, I can tell he's lost in thought, and I wonder what it might be like to have his mind.

It's been a blessing to watch him write and struggle with writing, so that now when I struggle I have an understanding ear to talk off. He is always willing to talk me through the emotional and mental side of writing (which is where the biggest battles lie in wait) but as far as story, for the most part he lets me fend for myself. It's always been important to me to write through my challenges on my own. To figure out scenes alone. In fact, he didn't even read *The Choosing* until I was already in conversations with Tyndale about publication. I think that's because he wanted me to believe I could do it on my own.

But when I doubt my ability as a writer, and when I forget who I am, he is the one I call. And he reminds me that life is a journey of remembering and forgetting, and helps me in remembering once again.