

BACKCUT

by Cynthia Soule Levesque

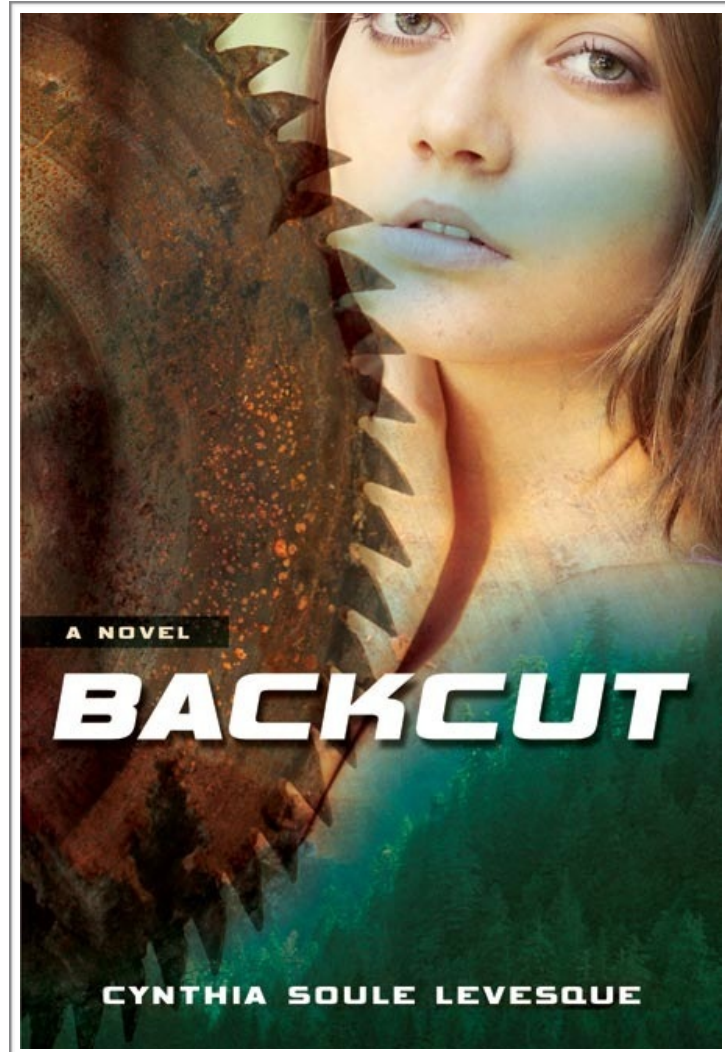
Can a company's greed lead to environmental fraud – even murder?

Lisa Stone, idealistic environmental activist/scientist, has a great new job at a premier logging company in Washington State, a strong faith in God, and a loving family. But in only three short months, her picture-perfect existence is turned on end.

The supposedly eco-friendly company is hiding something, and Lisa can't trust anyone. A desperate hunt for answers to the cover-up soon turns into a life-and-death struggle for survival. This strange new world makes her a thief, a liar, and a pistol-packer, fearing for her life, and desperately clinging to her faith.

Little did she know she held information that could be the key to unlocking the mystery of a deadly childhood disease that affects hundreds of children each year.

"Backcut" is a unique environmental mystery that provides roller-coaster suspense, whirl-wind romance and a medical puzzle all rolled into one.



Please contact Jami Carmichael at: jami@deepriverbooks.com for more information.

Deep River
B O O K S

Cynthia Soule Levesque - San Antonio, Texas

Cynthia Soule Levesque has always loved science, writing and foreign missions. Armed with a biology degree, she became a missionary teacher in Central America right after college, and then decided to work in environmental management, which allowed her to marry her scientific curiosity with keeping the planet clean. Over a 27-year career at a utility company, she obtained necessary environmental permits and maintained environmental compliance. Then God called her to early retire and go back to the mission field.

She and her husband lived in China for four years, where she taught English at a Chinese college and the registered Protestant Chinese church. Writing and editing are passions she has used over the years to create missions and education newsletters and develop writing skills of Chinese students.

She and her husband live in San Antonio, Texas and enjoy ten grandchildren.

Connect with Cynthia Soule Levesque:

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Endorsements for Backcut:

"In Backcut, Cynthia Levesque gives us so much: a wealth of information about the logging industry, insights into endangered species and the role they can play in developing new medicines, and even a romance—all wrapped up in a suspenseful, well-plotted environmental mystery. It's also written from a Christian point of view and relevant to the real lives of twenty-first-century people, dealing with real doubts and dilemmas. This is an impressive book."

-Linda Brinson, writer and editor; adjunct lecturer at UNC Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication, NC

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"Cynthia Levesque weaves a fictional tale, but one that bears truth about the greed, corruption, evil, goodness, kindness, and love found within human hearts. Her incredible story reminds us that we are caretakers of this gift called Planet Earth and shows us the Christian response to those who would harm God's gift—our home. I couldn't put this down."

-Keith Vaughn, business manager and freelance writer, GA

Suggested Interview Questions for Cynthia Soule Levesque, Author of *Backcut*

1. Why did I write a Christian fiction book about the environment?

First, I want to help people become more aware of environmental issues that they may not understand or think about. I was an environmental manager for 27 years by profession and bring my experience and knowledge into this environmental mystery. Through a fictionalized setting, *Backcut* provides readers a look at the environmental impacts of forestry management as well as the medical implications of preserving an endangered species. Second, as a Christian, I believe we have a responsibility to be stewards of God's creation and this story provides a backdrop for understanding sustainable forestry practices. Third, I present the gospel message in a unique fictional format as several of my characters are devout, born-again Christians who practice and promote their beliefs.

2. What makes my fiction book unique?

I have a dual story line --- a mystery faced by a young environmental scientist in her first job and a health mystery involving an endangered species and a rare children's disease called Niemann-Pick Type C. Moreover, I think the depiction of a Christian environmental professional working for industry is unique, because my character is trying to be the company's "environmental conscience". I depict the struggle and faith journey that she faces as she ultimately discovers the company CEO's unethical and malevolent dealings. Niemann-Pick Type C is a real disease that involves the harmful accumulation of lipids such as cholesterol in various parts of the body. The disease is always fatal and most afflicted children die before age 20 (many before age 10).

3. What challenges do environmental professionals face today?

There is a learning curve and pressure to learn all the applicable environmental rules and regulations that affect one's company. Honest, ethical conduct is

important for everyone to practice and as Christians, we should try to live as an examples of Christ. My main character tries to balance her moral, ethical and spiritual responsibilities to try to report truthful issues but her journey causes her to change as she struggles to cope with situations that become more confusing and menacing.

4. What challenges does the forestry industry face today?

Forests provide many benefits to society and the environment including carbon dioxide absorption (thus helping to offset climate change), fun recreational areas and provision of timber that can be used for shelter, furniture, paper and cardboard. Managing forests resources carefully and sustainably is happening currently in today's forestry world. Efficient and ecologically sustainable techniques practiced by loggers today preserve forest health and productivity. Rules and regulations govern nearly aspect of the forest management plan to ensure that timber harvesting is done in a sustainable and effective way.

5. What do I hope readers take away from reading this book?

There are several take-away messages: I present a female role model of scientist and professional who is also a strong Christian; I provide greater awareness of the pressures faced by environmental managers who work for an industry; I emphasize the impact of the loss of an endangered species to medicine; I show the need to find a cure for the real deadly children's disease called Niemann Pick Type C.; and I present the gospel message in conversations to friends and colleagues by faith-led Christians.

6. Why is it important for everyone to be an environmental steward?

There is often a throwaway mentality in today's society due to our fast food lifestyle and all the packaging that comes with it. We must all realize that earth's resources are limited and take advantage of the excellent recycling programs available in our neighborhoods. Using recycled materials helps to save our natural resources such as timber, water and minerals that would be used in the manufacturing process. We can also conserve energy which can reduce the demand for electric power generated from natural resources such as coal, oil and gas.

7. What are practical things I can do to help keep the planet clean and free of unnecessary pollution?

You can practice energy conservation in your home by changing your thermostat or reducing air leaks with caulk, weather stripping and insulation, and use energy – efficient lighting such as compact fluorescent light bulbs. Recycling conserves energy by reducing pollution from resource extraction, manufacturing and

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disposal. Keep regular maintenance of your vehicle and purchase fuel-efficient or hybrid cars.

8. What is the importance of November 6 (your book launch date) as far as environmental protection?

It seems appropriate to bring to light the loss of forests and other parts of the environment from the casualties of war and its aftermath. This day has been set aside by the U.N. General Assembly as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. From the web site: <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/> "Though mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage."

A documentary produced in 2008 is "Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War", the environment is war's silent casualty. Land can be damaged from bombs or indirectly by looting and coping strategies of people or the decay and breakdown of institutions. <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/documentary.shtml>