

- **Release Date:** April 25, 2023
- **ISBN:** 9781632695918
- **Retail:** \$17.99
- **Pages:** 230
- **Category 1:** FICTION / Christian / Historical
- **BISAC:** FIC04203
- **Format:** Softcover

## The Bathtub Full of Holes

“Plane crashed, pilot dead.  
 One broken leg and a bloody head.  
 Summer moved out, winter moved in;  
 Hope of rescue seems fairly thin.”

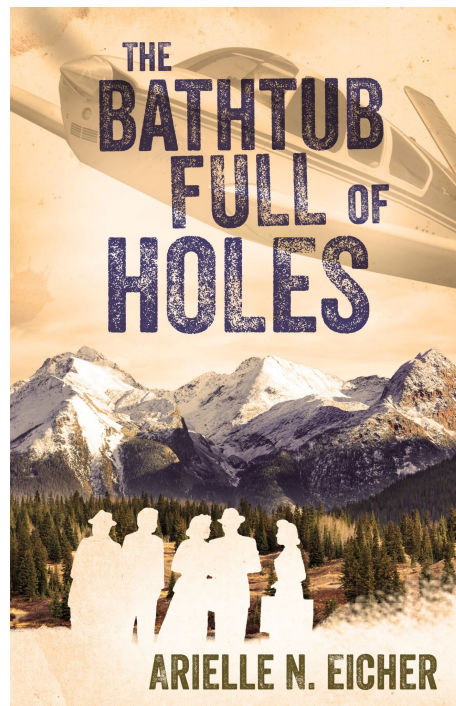
It is October 1947, two years after the end of the Second World War. One airplane is scheduled to go to California—the other is scheduled to go down.

When the conspiracy of an alleged smuggler goes awry, five employees of the Jensen Aircraft Manufacturing Company become entangled in the ruthless plot that sabotages their airplane and leaves them stranded in the Colorado wilderness. But surviving a plane crash is the easy part, and the trials of the five friends have only just begun.

Still grieving his wife’s death at Pearl Harbor, Jack was ready to give up on life, but now his only option is to find the strength within himself to help his friends pull through. Camille’s hope for marriage went to war and never returned; severely injured, she believes herself unattractive and unwanted. Carl’s term in a Gestapo POW camp left him scarred but strong, yet mere strength will not win Camille. Maria says she loves her husband—this is her chance to prove it. And as for Eddy, after dropping out of medical school, it takes the trauma of an airplane crash to carry him beyond fear and return him to the calling for which he was made.

Each of them must figure out how to survive the wilderness alongside the others. They must find the willpower to hold out for the desperate hope of rescue. And they must be prepared to face what comes after: the fight to see justice served to a fleeing Nazi war criminal. Pitted against the elements, faced with debilitating injuries, confronted by the specters of their own pasts and an embezzler desperate enough to kill, do these five adventurers have the strength and loyalty needed to thrive beyond mere survival?

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# About the Author



**Arielle N. Eicher** lives in Oregon as an author, photographer, church vocalist, and livestock keeper. She lives out in the country where cell phones don't work—and loves it. Having grown up in a family with six brothers and one sister who knew how to have fun together, she is endowed with a unique sense of humor. She loves animals and learning life lessons from God's creatures, even if it means spending half an hour on hands and knees studying ants! Arielle began writing as a young teen and has written short stories, children's books, and skits, some of which have been performed at her church. Her nieces and nephews make good guinea pigs for her latest stories. When not busy wearing down pencils, Arielle enjoys hiking, needle-felting, and watching her Doberman Pinscher zip through the sagebrush on the tail of a coyote in rural Oregon.

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# Suggested Interview Questions for Arielle N. Eicher, Author of *The Bathtub Full of Holes*

**Q: What was your inspiration for the title “The Bathtub Full of Holes”? What inspired the story itself?**

**A:** I like that question! But I’m going to say to read the book! The title is integral to the plot, so I won’t spoil it here. The basic germ for the story came from a discussion around the dinner table. One of my brothers is a pilot, and he was talking, and I decided it needed to be a book.

**Q: Are any of the book’s events drawn from your own experiences?**

**A:** I’ve never crashed an airplane. I’ve never sabotaged an airplane. I’ve never wrestled with a big cat. But I did meet a parrot named Oscar. And I do play the accordion.

**Q: Do you have a favorite scene in the book?**

**A:** The scene that gives Chapter 9 its name: One Small Seed.

**Q: Do you have a favorite character?**

**A:** I started out liking Eddy. He’s a good-natured, amiable fellow. But he was too simple to carry the plot. That task fell on Carl, and once I was working from Carl’s perspective, I liked him. I was sorry that Jack didn’t get more time, but he was always quiet and reserved—even with me!

**Q: Did you have trouble with any of your other characters?**

**A:** Oh, yes! Maria was a pain from the beginning. No one who read the early manuscript liked her—me least of all! But a friend of mine challenged me. So, I took Maria, tore her to shreds, and remade her into the character you see now.

**Q: Are your characters based on real people?**

**A:** Didn’t you read the front matter? It says any resemblance to people, living or dead, is purely coincidental. More seriously, I have conglomerates. Mostly I think my characters tend to be me—not so much in this book, but in other things I’ve written, my character’s struggles might be my own. Their strong points might be in areas where I wish I were stronger. It’s very humbling to write something, and then later your creation points his finger at you and tells you to listen up!

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**Q: So your characters talk to you?**

**A:** If they didn't talk to me, they wouldn't speak to you.

**Q: What was your first piece of writing?**

**A:** The first story I remember crafting, I was very sad, because I got interrupted in the middle of it. And when I came back to it, since I could neither read nor write, I couldn't remember where I had left off. So that story never made it very far.

**Q: Why did you decide to write a novel?**

**A:** I didn't. Early drafts have "Short Story" on the title page. I've been known to say repeatedly, "I'll be done in 20 more pages." And then 20 more. And 20 more.

**Q: Can you think of anything more difficult than writing a novel?**

**A:** Sure: editing that same novel.

**Q: Do you have a specific intention when you write?**

**A:** It bothers me that Christian fiction is oftentimes secular fiction with a mealtime prayer and church thrown in. Secular culture has infected Christian culture. It's time for Christians to affect secular culture. Actions speak louder than words—you don't need to write a sermon in your novel, but your characters need to express a godly worldview and model Christ-like living.

**Q: Do you have anything new in the works?**

**A:** I'm putting a second draft on a contemporary fiction piece called *The King Who Would Not Be*.

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