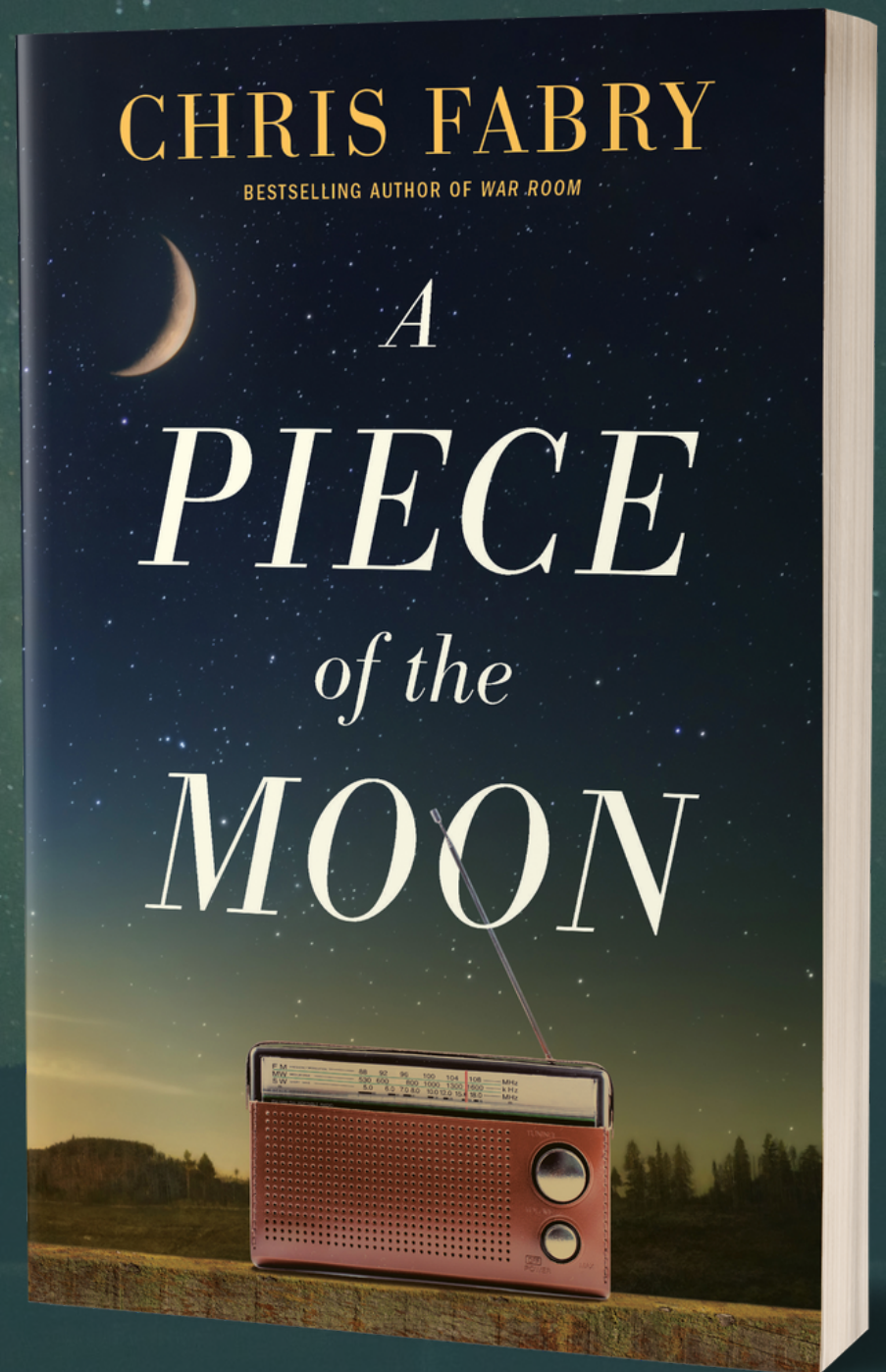


BOOK CLUB KIT

“*A Piece of the Moon* has it all. . . . Spending time with Waite and TD and Clay and Pidge and all the other folks in Emmaus was pure joy. The best novel I’ve read in ages.”

Liz Curtis Higgs, *New York Times*
bestselling author of *Mine Is the Night*



ABOUT CHRIS FABRY



Chris Fabry is an award-winning author and radio personality who hosts the daily program *Chris Fabry Live* on Moody Radio. He is also heard on *Love Worth Finding*, *Building Relationships with Dr. Gary Chapman*, and other radio programs. In 2020, he was inducted into the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame. A native of West Virginia, Chris and his wife, Andrea, now live in Arizona and are the parents of nine children.

Chris's novels, which include *Dogwood*, *June Bug*, *Almost Heaven*, and *The Promise of Jesse Woods*, have won five Christy Awards, an ECPA Christian Book Award, and two Awards of Merit from *Christianity Today*. He was inducted into the Christy Award Hall of Fame in 2018. His books include movie novelizations, such as *War Room* and *Overcomer*, and novels for children and young adults. He coauthored the *Left Behind: The Kids* series with Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, as well as the *Red Rock Mysteries* and the *Wormling* series with Jerry B. Jenkins. He encourages those who dream of writing with his website heyoucanwrite.com. Find out more about his books at chrisfabry.com.

Follow Chris Fabry on social media & sign up for his newsletter on chrisfabry.com



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A PIECE OF THE MOON SOUNDTRACK

Listen to the soundtrack before your book group gathering to take a virtual trip to the country and set the stage for your discussion of *A Piece of the Moon*.

LISTEN TO THE SOUNDTRACK:

<http://bit.ly/pieceofthemoon>

P.S. Movies have theme songs, why can't books? Hear an instrumental recording here of the *A Piece of the Moon* theme song: <http://bit.ly/APOTMthemesong>.

Q&A WITH CHRIS FABRY

Read this Q&A with your book group and discuss how hearing the author talk about the novel deepened your understanding of key themes and characters in the story.

Q. How do you hope this story will resonate with your readers?

First, I hope it will draw you in and make you laugh at the faults and foibles in Emmaus. I also hope it grabs you so deep in the heart that you will shed a tear at some of the real struggles you encounter. But mostly I think the takeaway I received is that faith is allowing God to be who he is and letting him work in our lives at his own pace rather than making him conform to my idea of how he should act. Real faith in God hangs on to him in the flood instead of taking us out of the deep water. And then we'll see that we weren't really hanging on as tightly as he was hanging on to us.

Q. Could you relate to this story? How so?

I was surprised at how much I wrote about my own heart. One theme I didn't mention is that struggle is a sign of life, not failure. So the struggle in this little town and at the little radio station is what propels people into real life. And I've seen that at work in my own heart through the years. I equate things going "smoothly" and "well" as success. But most of the really good things that have happened have come through a wilderness journey at some point. So I think anyone who reads it will find the same concept at work in their own lives.

Q. What key lessons or themes permeate this story?

One of the biggest themes is the "second chance." The little radio station in town, Country 16, is populated with people who have been given another chance by the manager, Waite Evers. Waite is a kindly soul who has his own hurts and struggles, so he knows the value of a second chance. There's also a theme of forgiveness and the power of that act in your own life as well as the lives of others. Of course, there's a love story in town and I follow that trail with a person who doesn't believe she's worthy of love.

Q. Did the story unfold in any way that surprised you?

Every story I write catches me off guard. With *A Piece of the Moon*, I began writing about Gideon and his desire to do something good and I knew the people at Country 16 would play a pivotal role in the unfolding. I didn't know the depth of the backstories of those people, so as it came to me, I realized some of the complexities of the lives they led and the hurts they had experienced. Rick Bragg said the best stories are about people in trouble. And I was surprised by all the trouble these people had encountered. I'm hoping readers will see some of their own troubles represented in the story.

Q. This story takes place in Emmaus, West Virginia. What inspired this setting for your novel?

I find my writing becomes more vivid when I set it in my home state of West Virginia, and I chose the fictional town of Emmaus since it has such rich, biblical meaning. The real treasure in West Virginia is its people, who often are caricatured and marginalized as "simpletons." But the people I write about are complex people with lots of hurt and pain and struggle as well as grit and determination. I love writing about this area and the people who are part of me, even though I live a "fur piece" from there now.

Q. Who is your favorite character in this story and why?

Her name is Pidge Bledsoe. Pidge is her nickname because years earlier she adopted a wounded pigeon that hit a guy wire at the radio station and she brought the bird into the office at the junkyard where she works and lives. Pidge has had so many obstacles in life and little hope of finding lasting love. Because of her good heart, she's also taken responsibility for her nephew. I love Pidge's out-look on life and how it changes throughout the story.



Inside a Small-Town Radio Station

By
**Chris
Fabry**



“When radio gets in your blood, Fabry, it’ll be with you the rest of your life.” That’s what my first station manager, Naseeb S. Tweel, said to me early on in my radio career. I dedicated *A Piece of the Moon* to “Seeb,” and his heart runs through the book. He would give just about anyone a second chance.

On the banks of the Mud River in Milton, West Virginia, Seeb wanted the station call letters to be WMUD, but those were taken, so he used his initials, making it WNST. (Those call letters now are used by another station in another state.) “Country 16” was our station tagline for AM and FM.

When you work at a small station, you learn how to work every shift and do all duties as assigned, everything from writing commercials, answering the phone, taking out the trash, and even plumbing. It was that local station that gave me a view of the “real world.”



I remember writing commercials for a local grocery store. I chose several items from the ad each week, pork and beans, chicken breasts, soda. Somewhere in the copy I said, “You’ll find the lowest prices on everything at . . .” Another announcer looked over my shoulder and said, “You can’t say that. They don’t have the lowest prices on everything. Be careful about that.” And in that brief encounter, I realized the importance and power of words.

In *A Piece of the Moon*, Waite’s drive to the station brought back morning show memories. Coffee is the prerequisite to a successful morning program. It’s a fight in the trenches to shake away the fatigue and sound like you’re wide-awake. At a small station, it’s a luxury to have two people on the air at the same time and this is why the interaction between Waite and TD is so special. They’re on the same team with the same goal of helping people get up and go, plus there’s a lot going on with both of them personally and I loved writing that interaction.

That little station in West Virginia was both a launching pad for people who were just breaking into the business and a landing pad for those who had made mistakes. There were announcers who worked at “big” stations in nearby towns who would “fall” and wind up at Country 16. And I learned a lot from each of them.

Many things have changed since the early 1980s. Computers and the ability to prerecord talkovers and phone calls allows even those at small stations to present a bigger market sound. But I’ll be forever grateful to have lived in an era when what you said live went on the air. It was both nerve-racking and exhilarating. And it was one of those things that got in my blood and is still there today.



Discussion Questions

- 1 Most of us have daydreamed about finding a fortune in the backyard. Waite asks Country 16 listeners what they'd do with a million dollars and receives a wide variety of answers. What would you do if you suddenly received a million dollars?
- 2 Early in the story, TD says, "Whether [Gideon Quidley] actually heard from the Lord, I'll let you decide." What conclusion did you reach?
- 3 Waite seems willing to take a chance on almost anyone God sends his way. As a result, Country 16 is "a revolving door of misfits and castoffs, a radio Goodwill." How does Waite's philosophy work out for him? Has anyone extended a helping hand to you when you needed a second chance? Is there anyone in your life who needs a second chance?
- 4 Pidge reflects that "pain would make you miss some good things in life. Fear would do the same." What do characters in this story risk missing out on because of fear or past pain? Where have pain or fear threatened to hold you back in your own life? What was the result?
- 5 How old were you in 1981? If you remember the 70s and 80s, what memories did this story stir for you? Or if you're too young to remember, what "retro" details were fun or surprising?
- 6 As Wally laments the state of his life, Waite uses the image of a crumpled and stained twenty-dollar bill to challenge him, concluding, "We've all been baptized in something we didn't want to be baptized in. Doesn't mean you've lost your value." Have you ever been tempted to believe you've lost your value because of past hurts or mistakes? How does Waite's message speak to you? Who else in your life might need to hear it?
- 7 Listening to "The Class of '57," Waite muses that "the line that always got him was about Janet who taught grade school. . . 'and probably always will.' He thought about his life and his own 'probably always will.'" Is there a "probably always will" in your life? Is it something you're at peace with or is it a source of discontentment? Is there something you thought was a "probably always will" that changed?

8 When TD asks Pidge what it would take for her to give him a chance, she replies, “How about you bring me a piece of the moon?” What do you think a piece of the moon symbolizes for Pidge? What might it mean to TD?

9 Listeners sometimes criticize Waite for playing songs that seem contradictory to his faith. Did you agree with his response to the comments? How can Christians be a light in places that seem to promote negative behavior?

10 TD finally confronts someone in his life for his past actions, saying that by his decisions, “You were showing God what you really believed. . . . I don’t think that was faith. That wasn’t God telling you what to do. It was you telling God what he had to do.” Do you think he’s right that this person tried to force God’s hand? How would you describe the difference between trying to manipulate God and genuine faith?

“A Piece of the Moon represents what I love most about fiction. . . . It took me back to the years of small radio stations and the earthy music of the old days.”

Cindy Morgan, author and Grammy nominee

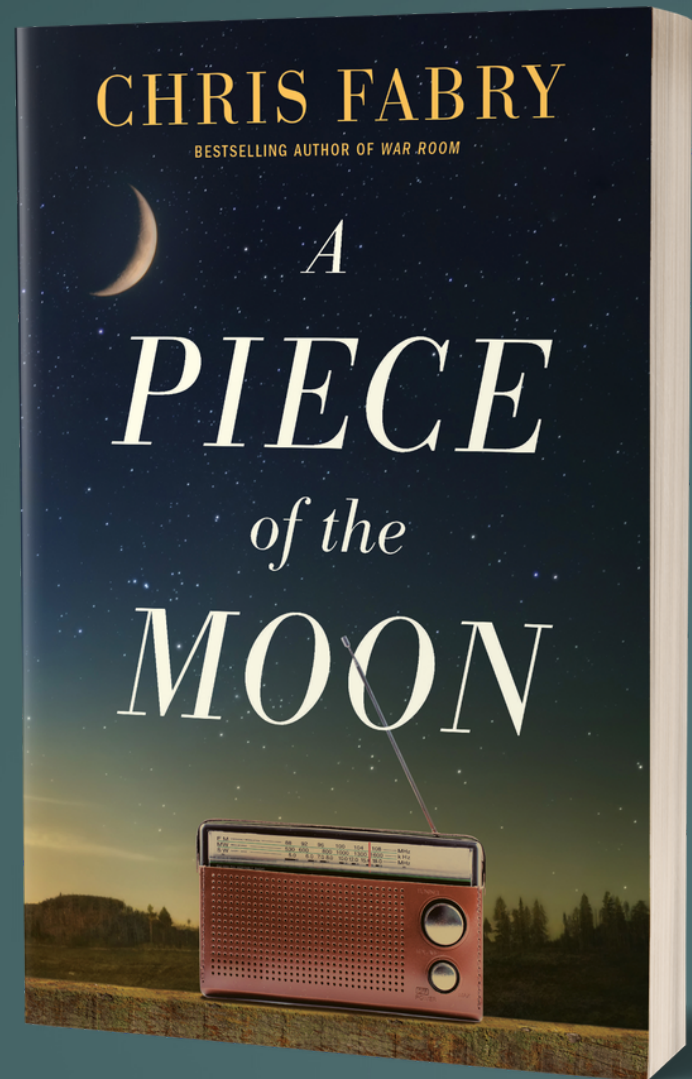
11 Clay says, “I’ve heard [Waite] say that the closest we ever get to loving others like God loved us is when we give somebody a second chance to hurt us.” Do you agree?

12 Mack Strum says, “All good songs leak from a broken heart. And the good ones don’t give you something, as much as they take what’s already inside and blow on the embers.” What songs would you include on the playlist of your life?

My Book Group Questions

Jot down some questions you want to ask your group:

**Thanks for
choosing
*A Piece of
the Moon*
for your
book club!**



Discover more great fiction by Chris Fabry on [Tyndale.com](https://www.tyndale.com)