



Rabbit Room Press Announces 20th Anniversary Special Editions for The Wilderking Trilogy by Jonathan Rogers Beloved Fantasy Adventure Series Featuring Swamps, Shanties, and Alligators Now Available in Deluxe Hardcover with New Content, Cover Art, and Illustrations



Nashville, TN (May 1, 2024) – Celebrating two decades of **Jonathan Rogers'** beloved fantasy adventure series **The Wilderking Trilogy**, Rabbit Room Press announces new casebound deluxe editions featuring new cover art, interior illustrations, and bonus content from the author. Beloved by parents and children, the **Wilderking** books have become the publisher's most popular children's titles. Book One, **The Bark of the Bog Owl**, arrives June 14, 2024, with books two and three following in July and August.

Author **Jonathan Rogers**, who holds a PhD in British Literature, has created bonus material including new sonnets, riddles, a ballad, and even a swamp shanty, making the 20th Anniversary editions a must-have for tens of thousands of fans. Each **Wilderking** volume will feature brand-new cover art from award-winning designer **Stephen Crotts** and dozens of new interior illustrations by **Joe Hox**. The deluxe hardcover binding ensures that families can treasure these stories for generations.

"**The Wilderking Trilogy** is in a class by itself," says Pete Peterson, Publisher at Rabbit Room Press. "It's funny, it's fantasy, and it's full of the texture of the American South – a rare combination. I'm thankful

Jonathan Rogers gave us the rollicking swamp literature we didn't know we needed. It's a pleasure to re-issue these beloved books in a new format for a new generation."

"Sometimes I hear from adults—people with children of their own—who tell me that they grew up on **The Wilderking Trilogy**, and I marvel that these stories have been making young readers' lives a little swampier for twenty years," says author **Jonathan Rogers**. "I love that a new generation of readers will be able to enjoy these books with **Joe Hox's** illustrations and **Stephen Crotts'** lush covers."

Sarah MacKenzie, host of *The Read-Aloud Revival Podcast*, and thousands of parents have loved reading the **Wilderking** books to their children since the humor and adventure appeal to all ages. Many parents have been delighted to report that the fantasy trilogy appeals to even the most reluctant readers.

Book One of the **Wilderking** series introduces readers to young Aidan Errolson who comes from a long line of storied adventurers – though he has never had any real adventures of his own and considers this the one great injustice of his otherwise happy life. All that changes the day Aidan hears the bark of the bog owl and meets Dobro Turtlebane, one of the Feechiefolk who lives in the nearby swamp. When Bayard the Truthspeaker arrives with a startling pronouncement about the coming of the Wilderking, Aidan's life takes a most unexpected turn. Alligators, battles, surprising friendships, and swampy humor keep readers of all ages engaged and entertained throughout all three volumes.

Rabbit Room Press will celebrate the 20th anniversary of **The Wilderking Trilogy** on June 22 with a ticketed event in Nashville featuring author **Jonathan Rogers** and a slew of swamp-themed family activities (tickets at www.wilderkingbooks.com). The publisher will support the special edition launch with a social media campaign featuring free downloadable **Wilderking** bonus resources. From a curriculum unit designed for teachers and parents to an audio of a Swamp Shanty performed by a Feechie Choir, fans will enjoy going deeper into the world of the Wilderking. **The Rabbit Room's** 2024 Summer Reading Challenge will feature **The Wilderking Trilogy** and other titles on the reading list, with prizes for young readers who complete twelve books during the summer months.



RABBIT ROOM
— P R E S S —

The Rabbit Room cultivates and curates stories, music, and art to nourish Christ-centered communities for the life of the world. Conceived in 2007 as an experiment in creative community, The Rabbit Room put down roots in a 150-year-old farmhouse in Nashville, Tennessee. The community's creative ventures now include a podcast network, book store, Rabbit Room Press, and live events including the annual Hutchmoot conference.
www.rabbitroom.com

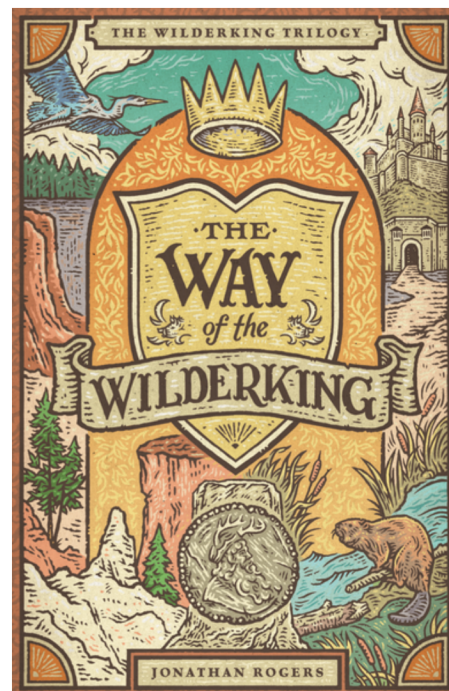
THE WILDERKING TRILOGY BY JONATHAN ROGERS

20th Anniversary Deluxe Hardcover Editions

Available from Rabbit Room Press

www.WilderkingBooks.com

For interview requests contact: Pamela McClure, pamela@mmpublicrelations.com, 615-294-5073



Book One: *The Bark of the Bog Owl*

AVAILABLE: June 14, 2024

PRICE: \$14.99

ISBN: 978-1951872267

Book Two: *The Secret of the Swamp King*

AVAILABLE: July 24, 2024

PRICE: \$14.99

ISBN: 978-1951872274

Book Three: *The Way of the Wilderking*

AVAILABLE: August 22, 2024

PRICE: \$14.99

ISBN: 978-1951872281

CATEGORY: Middle-Grade Fiction FORMAT: Casebound Hardcover TRIM: 5.25" x 7.5"

About Author & Illustrator



Jonathan Rogers doesn't remember one thing about the day he was born. He has been given to believe, however, that it happened in Warner Robins, Georgia. He received an undergraduate degree from Furman University and holds a PhD in seventeenth-century English literature from Vanderbilt University. **Jonathan** is also a lifelong devotee of the vernacular storytelling traditions of the American South, which give shape to his fiction. He is the author of **The Wilderking Trilogy**, a popular adventure fantasy series, as well as *The Charlatan's Boy*, *Saint Patrick*, *The World According to Narnia*, and *The Terrible Speed of Mercy: A Spiritual Biography of Flannery O'Connor*. When he is not writing his own stories, **Jonathan** is shepherding the stories of others as the host of *The Habit*, a podcast and an online hub for writers at TheHabit.co. **Jonathan Rogers** has spent most of his adult life in Nashville, Tennessee, where he and his wife Lou Alice have raised a houseful of robustious children.



Illustrator, Joe Hox was raised on a farm in southern Iowa where he doodled whenever he wasn't spading thistles or feeding pigs. Everyone knew by his crooked hay-rows that he would one day choose art over farming, and they were not wrong. Joe earned his master's degree in art education and is now in the studio full-time, living out his childhood dream of becoming an illustrator. He has illustrated over twenty-five books, including S. D. Smith's *Mooses with Bazookas*, and loves collaborating with his wife, author Kate Hox, on books that help families deepen their faith in God.

Praise for The Wilderking Trilogy

"*The Bark of the Bog Owl* both enchants and entertains. . . . Lovely descriptions and a distinctive voice keep the pages turning."

- *Publisher's Weekly*

"Rogers' writing is terrifically appealing. The adventure and humor are first rate."

- *School Library Journal*

"When I read *The Bark of the Bog Owl*, it instantly flew to the top of my own charts. Truly one of the most well-written, engaging, and riveting books I've ever read. **Jonathan Rogers** combines humor and storytelling to create middle-grade novels that are perfect for fans of either Tolkien or Twain. I love the whole series."

- **Sarah MacKenzie**, Host of *The Read Aloud Revival Podcast*

"**Jonathan Rogers** has pulled off an impressive feat: an enduring fantasy trilogy that reads like both Mark Twain and C. S. Lewis. These beautiful new editions by Rabbit Room Press are going to look nice on the shelf next to either Tom Sawyer or Narnia—I can't decide which."

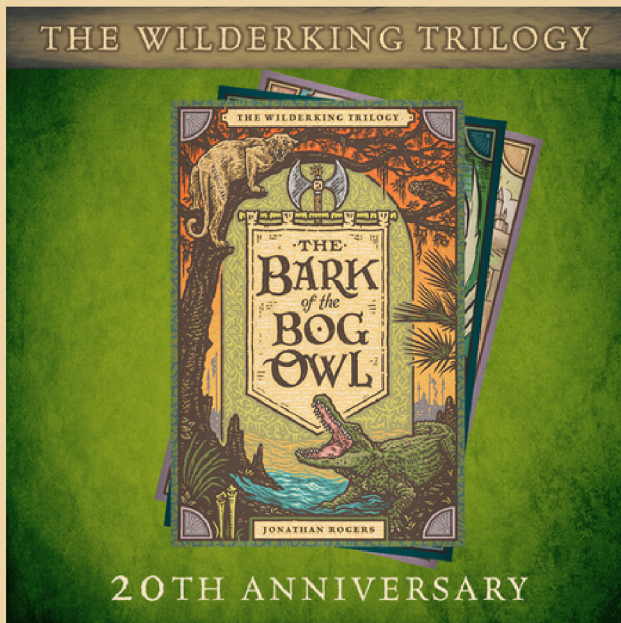
- **Andrew Peterson**, author of the Wingfeather Saga

"I love **The Wilderking Trilogy** you wrote. I pretend that I am Aidan Errolson, my brother is Dobro Turtlebane & my five-year-old sister is a wee feechie. We jump out of trees shouting Haaaaaaa-wwwwwweeeeeee! I love how you've used the story of David & Goliath & made a whole different book."

- **Daniel**, 9-year-old reader, NSW Australia

Suggested Interview Questions

- ▶ **Jonathan**, it's safe to say you are a writer's writer. You've published seven books, both fiction and non-fiction, you hold a PhD in British literature, and you host both a podcast and writing hub to encourage other writers. Tell us about your passion for both writing and building community.
- ▶ Your **Wilderking Trilogy** was first published twenty years ago, introducing middle-grade readers to a fantasy world inspired by the American South. You've called it a "fantasy adventure told in an American accent." For those who are new to the series, tell us more about this unique setting.
- ▶ You say that Flannery O'Connor has been a big influence on your own writing. Did she inspire you to include the Southern dialect in your **Wilderking** books?
- ▶ **The Wilderking Trilogy** is very entertaining, with lots of humor throughout. How important is comedy to your personal worldview?
- ▶ The **Wilderking** characters are vivid, funny, and relatable. One of the most vivid is Dobro Turtlebane who lives in a swamp and has questionable hygiene. For fans of the series, tell us about the real person who inspired that character.
- ▶ Parents say they love reading these books aloud to their children. And Sarah McKenzie (host of the *Read Aloud Revival Podcast*) has said that you are her "favorite living author." What makes this book series so much fun for parents to share with their children? What books do you enjoy reading to your own children?
- ▶ For the 20th anniversary editions, you've gone the extra mile and crafted new songs, ballads, and poems to be included. Tell us more about what's new in the deluxe hardcover volumes.
- ▶ For the wannabe writers in the audience, what is your single best piece of writing advice?



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