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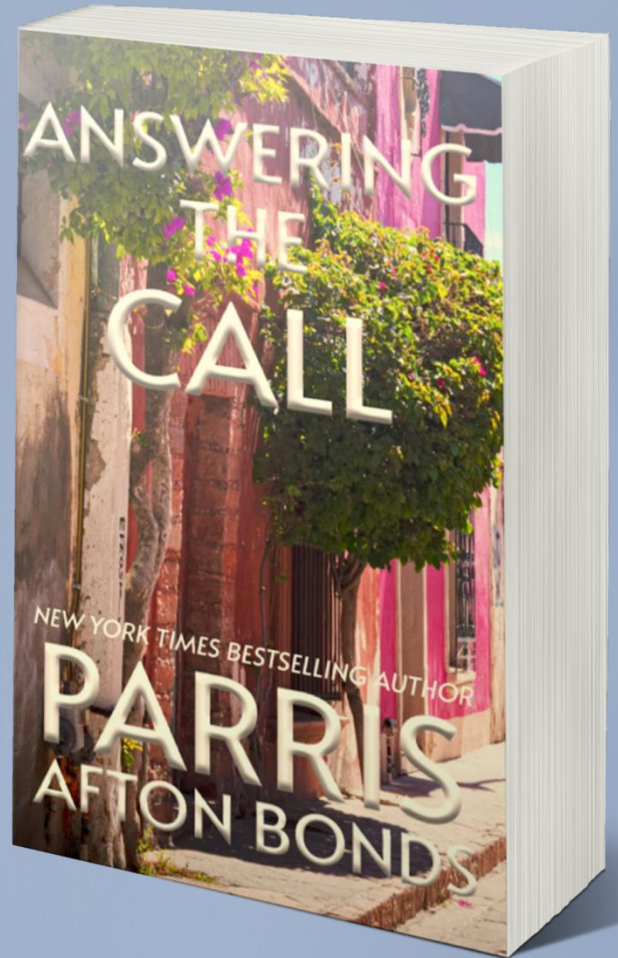
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Author: Parris Afton Bonds

Category: Fiction > Contemporary Women

Print ISBN: Paperback

Publisher: Motina Books



# Author Bio

Parris Afton Bonds is the mother of five sons and the author of over fifty published novels. She is co-founder and first vice president of Romance Writers of America, as well as cofounder of Southwest Writers Workshop.

Answering The Call is loosely based on the author's own experience of moving to Mexico to embark upon an adventure. The message is that women are vibrant, important, and beautiful at any age.

At the age of 77 she made the decision to move from the Dallas Metroplex to the beautiful town of Querétaro, Mexico. It's Ms. Bonds' goal to encourage senior citizens that it's never too late for the adventure of a lifetime.



*Parris*  
*Afton Bonds*

# Book Bio



With her 70th birthday looming, Lauren Hillard is constantly thinking to herself that there has to be an easier way. She has long felt that her family has simply stowed her away like a precious heirloom. She's had it – she is done.

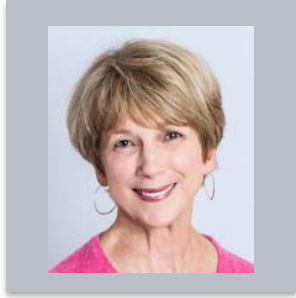
Lauren makes the snap decision to quit managing her daughter's psychotherapist office and answer the call to adventure. It is a risk, she knows. But a risk she is more than willing to take.

She would move to Mexico – it's affordable and exotic. Exotic, like the much younger David Escobar, attorney/former criminal, who informs her that a woman must be brave, smart, and very impulsive to get herself into as much danger as she has.

Lauren has to ask herself if it is wise to continue to answer calls from a treacherous family member who wants to have her committed, a ruthless organ harvester, and her captivating, but high-risk, attorney.



# Testimonials



“Let gifted author Parris Afton Bonds be your guide as you join Lauren on this captivating adventure of a lifetime.”

Cynthia Wright, NYT and USA Today  
Bestselling Author

“Her characters are cut out of real life with real issues and real flaws. But they also exhibit real courage and real passion.”

Murray Pura, award winning author of *Zo*, *The Wings of Morning*, and *The Face of Heaven*



“*Answering the Call* makes me want to return to other books by the author.”

Christina Consolino, Bestselling Author of  
*Rewrite the Stars*

Initially the writing struck me as quite thought-provoking and powerful. There was a particular sentence that was repeated during the first few chapters, and that struck me as powerful too. The characters interested me, and I liked them. This is a story about someone finding what they are looking for later on in life, so in that sense, it was quite heart-warming to read too.

-NetGalley Reviewer

It finishes with a bang and I loved it!

NetGalley Reviewer

I've read several of Parris Afton Bond's books and loved them all. This one, however, is my very favorite. I was so involved in the story that I stayed up half the night reading until I finished it.

-Goodreads Reviewer

# Target Audience

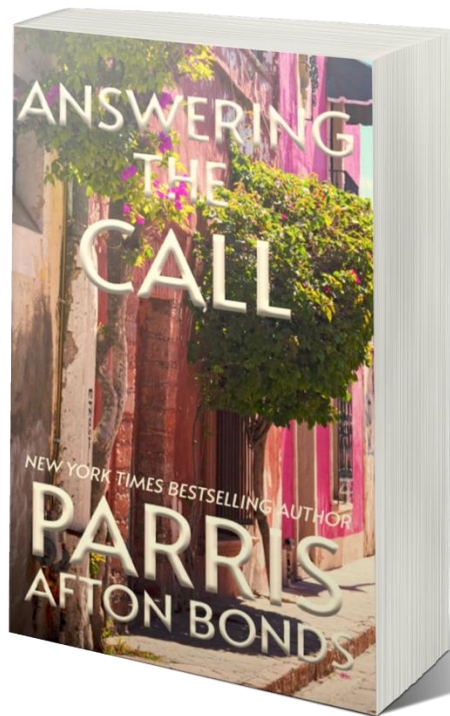
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Book Clubs and members of Senior Activity Centers will love *Answering The Call*. We hope to inspire and encourage older people to take risks – it's never too late to have the adventure of a lifetime!

1. Lauren Hillard sells everything and quits her job at seventy-years-old to move, alone, to a foreign country. While this might be laudable for those young, do you think it is unwise for those older to risk health and finances, when recovery would not be as easy, if at all?
2. David Escobar realizes that his former love interest is seventeen years younger than he – the same number of years that Lauren, to whom he is strongly drawn, is older. Is there a validity to the perception that younger men dating much older women is farcical? Would you date a much older person?
3. Joaquin Macho Lopez, who profits in the gruesome organ trade, preys on the thousands of Latin Americans monthly tramping from South America illegally through Mexico to seek asylum in the United States from crushing poverty and horrific political repression. Is there a point where our United States government should draw the line from its infrastructure being decimated — in opposition to what Emma Lazarus penned, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Do the words on the Statue of Liberty still ring true?
4. Renita, Lauren’s psychotherapist daughter, seeks to confine Lauren on the basis that she is in the early stages of Alzheimer’s. Lauren, now on the run in Mexico, fears for her sanity. Do you think Renita is acting out genuine concern for her mother, reacting from latent childhood anger over her mother’s desertion of her addictive father, or enacting delusional traits symptomatic to her own mental health issue?

# Book Excerpt



## Chapter 2

There has to be an easier way.

As usual, the phrase tumbled from Lauren's lips in tempo with her shower's pelting drops, word by word. There. Has. To. Be. An. Easier. Way.

She had not heard an insistent inner voice since her childhood. Maybe she had been more open to it as a child, when her father would begin his drinking.

He came from oil money that went back through the family's gene pool almost to 1901 when nearby Spindletop spewed its geyser. She had never lacked for anything. Her mother had ensured she attended the best schools, from modeling to music, in an effort to make her more appealing. At one point, her mother badgered her about plastic surgery. "Long, straight noses are out these days, precious. Pixie noses are in." She had managed to outflank her mother on that idea.

Somewhere toward Lauren's high school years, the money drained out, siphoned by her mother's compulsive spending and her father's obsessive drinking. His binges often precipitated one of his tyrannical rampages. At those times, Lauren's intuition might whisper Run! or Hide! Only a single word, never a complete sentence . . . like, There has to be an easier way.

She finished showering. Early mornings were always the worst for her. May's dawning light had yet to breach her condo's high bath window. She craved sunlight. Sunlight to dispel night's lingering despondency.

Often, she would wake at three or four o'clock, unable to return to sleep. In those nocturnal hours, she occasionally would ponder the merits of living to an advanced age. What was the point of living another "Groundhog Day" life until one's last exhalation? One day after another the same.

# Marketing Efforts

IBPA Media Outreach Program

Early review ebooks available on NetGalley

Launch event at Fable & Fire bookstore in  
Rockwall – June 3

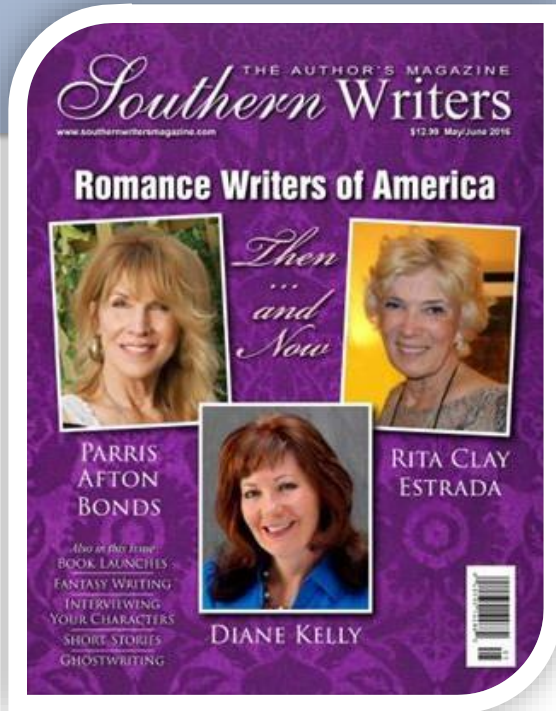
Launch event at Patchouli Joe's bookstore in  
Denton – May 20

Launch event at Sundrop Books in  
Durant, OK – June 17

We will visit Senior Activity Centers in Texas to provide a presentation to the members about how it's never too late to have an adventure. Books will be available for sale.



# Recent Events



Ms. Bonds recently participated  
in the following events:

Zoom Presentation with Mexican American  
Studies class at Bonham Academy in San Antonio,  
to answer questions about *Reluctant Rebel* and the  
El Paso Bath Riots - February 2023

Southwest Writers Presentation – December 2022

Hill County Library – September 2022





# Books by Parris Afton Bonds

Reluctant Rebel

THE TEXICANS

The Brigands • The Barons

The Bravados • The Betrayers

The Banshees

Blue Bayou • Blue Moon

The Calling of the Clan • The Captive

Dancing with Crazy Woman • Dancing with Wild  
Woman

Deep Purple • Dream Keeper • Dream Time • Dust  
Devil

The Flash of the Firefly • For All Time

Kingdom Come: Temptation • Kingdom Come:  
Trespass

Lavender Blue • Love Tide

Made For Each Other • Midsummer Midnight

Mood Indigo • No Telling

Renegade Man • Run To Me

Savage Enchantment • The Savage

Snow And Ice • Spinster's Song





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# *Connect with Parris Afton Bonds*



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