

AUTHOR'S NOTE

While this story is fiction, it is loosely based on events in my community. The shooting at The Covenant School in the spring of 2023 took the life one of my dearest friends, the head of school, Katherine Koonce. It devastated the city of Nashville. We were and are grieving the loss, and are angry at the lack of significant change to gun laws that could save countless lives. This book is a response to the goings-on in my own heart, but I hope it is also a call to action.

School should be a space safe from the dangers of the outside world, where children can learn and open their minds to ideas that will turn them into the future leaders of this society. They should not have to be vigilant for the best place to shelter from an active shooter. To all the schools across the country who have lost lives to gun violence, my heart is with you. You are not forgotten. We will continue to fight.

JAMIE SUMNER

