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“Readers who loved *Blue Like Jazz* will find here a...more mature Miller, still funny as hell but more concerned about making a difference in the world than in merely commenting on it.” —*Publishers Weekly*

**Eagerly Anticipated New Work by *Blue Like Jazz* Author Donald Miller Out This October:  
*A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life***

*A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life* (Thomas Nelson, \$19.99 hardcover, October 2009), the eagerly awaited new book by best-selling author Donald Miller, tells how his life changed when he began to edit it as if he were a character in a movie. Now, he wants to help others live more meaningful stories.

Years after writing his best-selling memoir *Blue Like Jazz*—which has become a contemporary spiritual classic, selling more than one million copies, and making the New York Times paperback bestseller list 45 times in the six years since its release—Miller, 37, fell into a funk. One story had ended, and he was unsure how to start another.

Then, when two movie producers approach him about making a movie based on *Blue Like Jazz*, Miller finds himself in a new story. As he works with the filmmakers to fictionalize his life for film—they tell him his real life is “too boring” and that they need to create a structured narrative out of his meanderings—Miller is intrigued by what he learns about the principles of story. Realizing that they are the same principles that make a good life, he decides to apply them. Following what he learns from the filmmakers, and from the legendary Robert McKee’s “Story” seminar, Miller edits himself into a better story, opening himself up to new experiences, journeys, relationships, motivations, and character transformation.

“People who live great lives intuitively know about story. They may not know they are doing it, but they structure their experiences in such a way that their experiences are charged with meaning,” Miller says.

Filled with stories both hilarious and poignant, Miller reveals a newfound emotional and spiritual maturity. His transformation—his character arc—includes:

- seeking out and forgiving his father, whom he hadn’t seen since he was very small (growing up fatherless is the subject of Miller’s book *To Own A Dragon*);
- getting into shape to hike the challenging Inca Trail in Peru—he did it to impress a girl, but then relished changing his self-image from a fat guy who can’t do anything athletic to one who can complete a grueling hike;
- opening himself up to the possibility of love and marriage.

And, as he takes to heart the story element that a character’s ambition must be sacrificial, his story includes life-changing subplots such as:

- riding his bike across the U.S. to raise money for Blood:Water Mission to build wells in Africa;
- traveling to Uganda with a friend who works to restore the justice system there;
- founding the nonprofit Mentoring Project, which works to provide positive male role models to boys between the ages of 7 and 14.

Miller ends up a million miles from where he started, a changed man. “I could hardly process that I was once a person who had trouble getting out of bed in the morning or who struggled with fatalism,” he says.

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Miller, who has attracted a devoted following with his writings on life, faith, and meaning, has a new understanding of those things now. He's too busy living a new story, one that involves sacrificing for the sake of others, to worry about the meaning of it all.

"I truly believe my best stories are ahead of me," Miller says. "I don't think I've told many good ones so far. Since I've understood the power of story, the power of a good protagonist wanting something noble and overcoming conflict to get it, I haven't been able to go back to a normal life."

"In living a great story, we defy a dark force propagating the lie that the stories we have within us are not worth telling," he says, challenging readers to prove that force wrong by living a better story. "How brightly a better story shines. How easily the world looks to it in wonder. How grateful we are to hear these stories and how happy it makes us to repeat them."

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### **About the Author**

Donald Miller is a writer and speaker on issues surrounding the relevance of Christ to the human experience. His books include *Blue Like Jazz*, *Searching for God Knows What*, *To Own a Dragon*, and *Through Painted Deserts*. He is the founder of The Mentoring Project, a not-for-profit that creates mentoring programs for young men growing up without fathers.

Miller is a popular speaker often sought out for comment by national media on cultural and political issues facing young evangelical Christians. He gave the benediction at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver on its opening day, and has been named to President Obama's Task Force on Fatherhood.

Miller lives in Portland, Oregon with his chocolate Lab, Lucy.

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by Donald Miller

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