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***Blue Like Jazz* Author Donald Miller's Memoir of Growing Up without a Dad Aims to Raise Awareness of America's Fatherlessness Epidemic**

Donald Miller has mined his own life for material for each of his books, from his *New York Times* bestseller, *Blue Like Jazz* to his most recent, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*. But he's at his most personal in *Father Fiction: Chapters for a Fatherless Generation* (Howard Books, \$19.99 hardcover, April 2010), a memoir about growing up without a dad, struggling with what it means to be a man, and eventually meeting and forgiving his father after thirty years.

Miller says it's the hardest book he's ever written. It's also the one that's closest to his heart, as it draws attention to a cause he's passionate about: the fatherlessness epidemic in America.

Forty percent of boys are being raised without their biological dads. Miller, who says he used to hate talking about his "father issues," is now actively working to move the conversation about fatherlessness into public forums. An outspoken advocate for fatherless children, Miller founded [The Mentoring Project](#), a nonprofit which provides mentors and role models for young boys growing up without dads. He also serves on the Fatherhood Task Force of President Obama's White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Miller has seen the importance of mentors and role models in his own life. He was one of the lucky ones who had adult male mentors to teach him essential life lessons about integrity, responsibility, work, love and faith.

"I am convinced that within twenty years, we can shut down prisons because we have provided positive male role models for kids who would otherwise be headed for trouble," he says.

But there's a lot of work to be done—the statistics are getting worse instead of better. Miller says it's time to start a movement that will rewrite the story of fatherlessness in America. "My hope is that Fathers won't be Fiction much longer," he says.

Abandoned by his father as a toddler, Miller has wrestled all his life with the question of how a boy becomes a man. In *Father Fiction*, he recounts his attempt to find his place in the world without a father's guidance. It's about "the hard, shameful, embarrassing stuff...me secretly admitting to you I needed a father, and how I felt like half a man until I dealt with those issues honestly," he writes.

Various father figures entered Miller's life over the years, from ideal TV dad Bill Cosby to his landlord's stoner son who filled in at a father-son scout event, to a youth pastor who encouraged him to take up writing. For fatherless children, who struggle with hopelessness, insecurity and

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aimlessness, a sense of purpose comes as a revelation, Miller says. Encouraged to write for a youth newsletter, he found himself on the path that would lead him to write books like *Blue Like Jazz*, a publishing phenomenon that has become a contemporary spiritual classic.

Father Fiction, originally published as *To Own a Dragon*, features thirty percent new material, including the chapter on Don seeking out and meeting his father after more than thirty years, and how he was able to forgive him.

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Father Fiction: Chapters for a Fatherless Generation

by Donald Miller

Howard Books

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About the Author

[Donald Miller](http://www.donmilleris.com) is a bestselling author and popular speaker whose books include *Blue Like Jazz*, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, *Searching for God Knows What*, 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 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 Fatherhood Task Force of the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

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

www.donmilleris.com

www.thementoringproject.com