

‘If Only We Could See’ invites readers to reimagine creativity, compassion, calling through life of missionary, artist Liliias Trotter

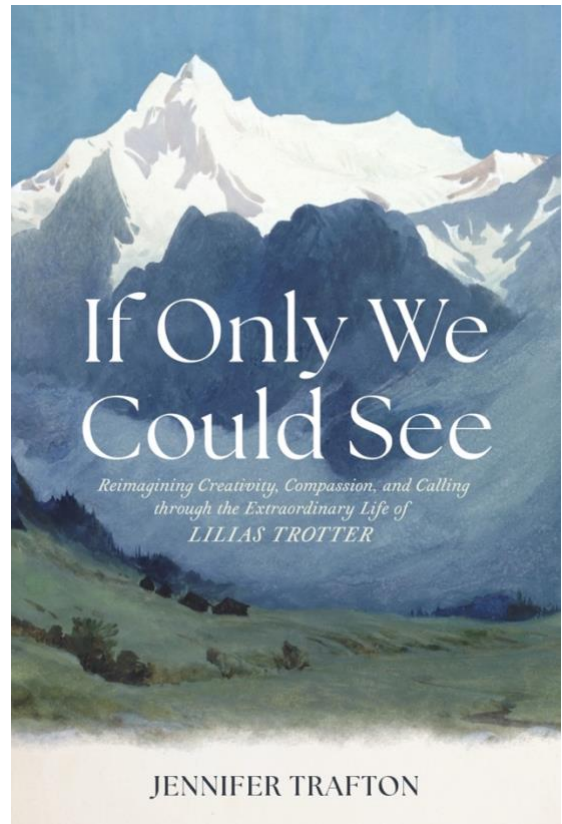
BRENTWOOD, Tenn., Feb. 11, 2026—Author and artist Jennifer Trafton offers readers a portrait of faith, imagination and vocation in her latest book, [“If Only We Could See: Reimagining Creativity, Compassion, and Calling through the Extraordinary Life of Liliias Trotter,”](#) releasing April 14, 2026, from B&H Publishing Group.

In [“If Only We Could See,”](#) Trafton brings new life to the story of Liliias Trotter, a gifted 19th-century artist whose work drew the praise of famed critic John Ruskin—and whose radical decision to turn away from artistic acclaim led her instead to the overlooked communities of London and, later, to the deserts of North Africa. Blending biography, theological reflection and personal engagement, Trafton invites readers into Trotter’s world, where artistic vision and spiritual devotion were inseparably intertwined.

“It’s my hope that readers are inspired by Liliias to rediscover wonder, embrace a calling to creative compassion, and reimagine what faithfulness can look like in everyday life,” said Trafton. “In our deeply divided culture, more than ever we need a new way of seeing—and Liliias offers exactly that, an attentive, generous way of being in the world that can reawaken our joy and transform our community.”

While most readers have yet to learn of Liliias Trotter, many have experienced the influence of her work in the hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” which was directly inspired by her writings.

Rather than offering a conventional biography, [“If Only We Could See”](#) draws readers into a personal encounter with Trotter as her friends knew her: a visionary who approached life with an artist’s eye and a missionary’s heart. Readers are encouraged to see both the world and their neighbors anew—and to consider what the book calls a “beautiful possible life.”



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About the Author



Jennifer Trafton is a storyteller and artist with a passion for exploring the intersections of faith, creativity and the arts. She studied church history and theology at Wake Forest University, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Duke University. Trafton has been a regular conference speaker, writer, teacher, editor and illustrator for the Nashville-based Rabbit Room creative community for over a decade. Her novels for children, “The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic” and “Henry and the Chalk Dragon,” received starred reviews and multiple award nominations, and she has since collaborated on or contributed to a wide array of projects including “The Wingfeather Tales,” “The Lost Tales of Sir Galahad” and “Every Moment Holy, Vol. III: The Work of the People.”

Possible Interview Questions

- What first drew you to the life of Lilius Trotter, and why did her story feel especially important to tell right now?
- Lilius Trotter turned away from artistic acclaim to follow a very different calling. What do you think her decision reveals about how we define success today?
- “If Only We Could See” is more than a traditional biography. In what ways did you want this book to invite readers into something deeper than just the facts of Lilius Trotter’s life?
- Much of your work explores the intersection of faith and imagination. How did Lilius Trotter’s life deepen or challenge your own understanding of creativity as a spiritual practice?
- The phrase “beautiful possible life” appears throughout the book. What does that phrase mean to you, and what do you hope readers will take away from it?
- Lilius had a remarkable way of seeing people—especially those on the margins—with compassion. How might her way of seeing reshape how we engage our neighbors and communities today?
- If readers finish “If Only We Could See” feeling stirred but unsure what their next step is, what would you hope they do differently after closing the book?

To request an interview, please contact Jill Waggoner at jill.waggoner@lifeway.com or 615.330.6821.