BEHIND THE MIRROR

"So, how did you get the idea for *Mirror Images*?"

You never know where you might find inspiration for a story. Years ago, I was paging through a newspaper and saw an obituary which included a picture of a handsome young man. Although I didn't recognize his face or his name, something about his smile and the twinkle in his eyes made me want to know more about him. Although I don't remember any details of the obituary, I remember thinking that twisting the facts would make a good story. How well do we know even our closest friends? Are there large pieces of their lives they've never shared? What if you recognized an obituary photo as someone you were once close to but the write-up bore no resemblance to the life of the person you knew? Voilà. The inciting incident for *Mirror Images.*

Once I have the general idea for a story, I develop a theme. Although it's fine to write fiction simply to entertain, it's important for me to weave a more significant message into my plots. By the end of the story, I want my characters—and hopefully, my readers—to see their problems and the solutions to them from a new perspective. To find that kind of life-changing truth, I go to Scripture.

Maddy's problem in *Mirror Images* was her inability to see Nic—or herself—clearly. It's not a unique problem. We all struggle at times to understand ourselves, our loved ones, and the world around us. The Bible sums it up like this: "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully as I also have been fully known." –1 Corinthians 13:12

This verse gave me my title and the general direction for the cover art.

I have identical twin brothers who literally are mirror images of one another—so Nic and Chris were an easy leap and became the dilemma that forced Maddy to see her situation—and her self—from a new perspective. I like that the title has multiple meanings, alluding to the verse in Corinthians, the identical twins in the story, and the reminder that we are all more than the image we see in the mirror.