

# A Novel Idea

Rodney Walther has been a writer all his life. From essays to short stories—plus all those interesting and informative articles he regularly contributes to *Klatch Magazine*—Rodney has discovered his passion. And as 2010 draws to a close, he is thrilled to report that his debut novel, *BROKEN LACES*, has been published!

“It’s very gratifying,” Rodney says. “I’ve had these characters in my head a long time. And I’ve finally been able to deliver the story I wanted.”

*BROKEN LACES* tells the story of Jack “The Cannon” Kennedy, a suburban workaholic who doesn’t understand the importance of family until he faces life as a single parent. Set in a fictional Little League in the Houston suburbs, *BROKEN LACES* explores the importance of father-and-son relationships, the struggles of shared grief, and the redemptive power of baseball.

“Jack is an imperfect father and husband,” Rodney says. “But he loves his son and wants to build a better life for them. As the tag-line for the book says, ‘Everyone deserves a second chance.’”

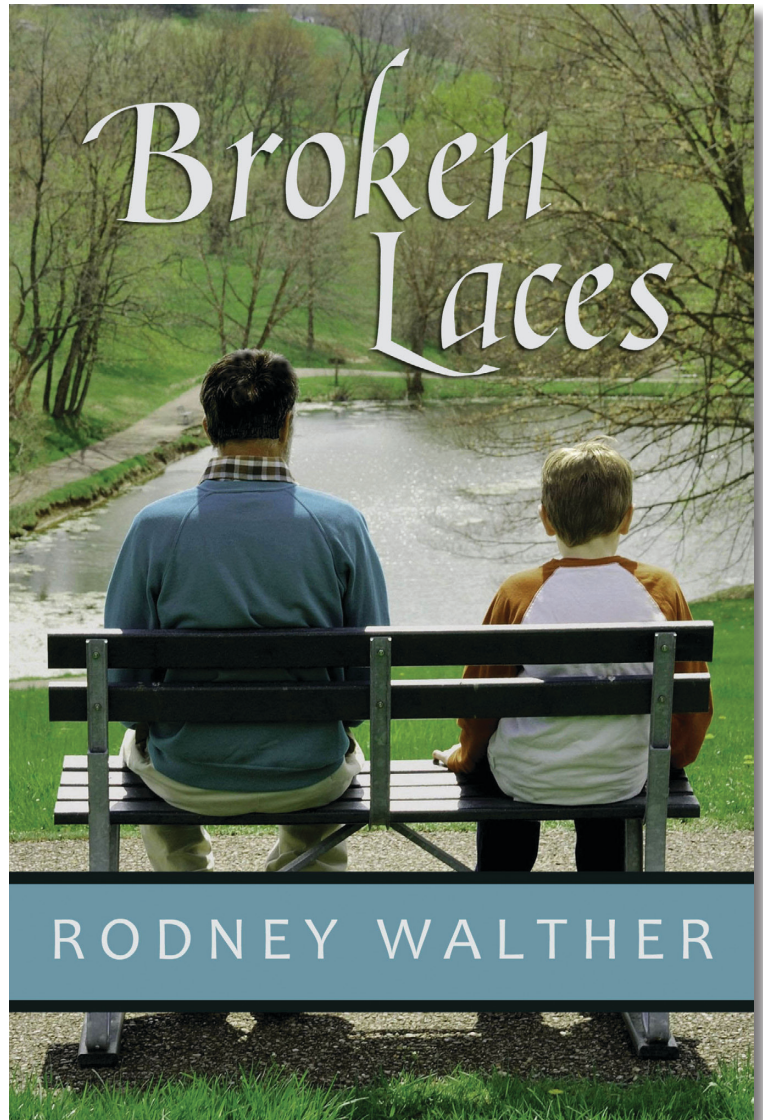
To those who read Rodney’s work in *Klatch Magazine*, it’s no surprise to learn he has garnered a number of awards for his writing. His novel-length fiction has earned first-place awards from the Houston Writers Guild, Maryland Writers’ Association, West Virginia Writers, Panhandle Professional Writers, and North Texas Professional Writers, plus finalist status from the prestigious Writers’ League of Texas.

Judges consistently praise his strong narrative and his ability to evoke powerful emotions. With comments such as “*You have an excellent sense of story and a native ability to infuse the story with emotion*” (Houston Writers Guild), “*There is intelligence, verve, and sensitivity in your style*” (Crested Butte), and “*Powerfully compelling*” (San Gabriel Writers League), readers really respond to Rodney’s honest, straightforward style and emotion-packed storytelling.

Where did the idea for *BROKEN LACES* come from? “I’ve been active in Little League baseball and girls’ softball for fifteen years,” Rodney explains. “Served as a manager, coach, volunteer umpire, and league director. We’ve all seen over-the-top coaches before. I wanted to explore how the traumatic events of someone’s past can damage their most important relationships. And I wanted to show how baseball, especially Little League, can offer even the most flawed man a chance at redemption.”

Rodney’s eyes light up when asked about his target audience. “I’m delighted that both women and men enjoy the story. Parents, in particular, seem to respond to the fragile father-and-son relationships of the various characters and to Jack’s struggles to reconnect with his son. For moms and dads who stay involved with their kids, especially those participating in the world of youth sports, this book is for them.” He winks and says, “It’ll make a great Christmas present!”

Indeed, readers who enjoy the flawed protagonists, complicated family dynamics, and strong emo-



tional themes from authors such as Jodi Picoult, Nicholas Sparks, and Pat Conroy will certainly find familiar ground in *BROKEN LACES*.

What about Rodney’s role with *Klatch Magazine*? “I really enjoy writing for *Klatch*,” he says, “and getting to know the people who run these local businesses. We have a lot in common, because we share a passion for what we do. And I look forward to continuing to share their stories with the reading public.”

*BROKEN LACES* is now available at Rodney’s website ([www.BrokenLaces.com](http://www.BrokenLaces.com)).



**Broken Laces**

[www.RodneyWalther.com](http://www.RodneyWalther.com)

[www.BrokenLaces.com](http://www.BrokenLaces.com)

[www.facebook.com/rodney.walther.author](https://www.facebook.com/rodney.walther.author)

