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PRESS RELEASE

**An Angel Betrays Her Lover to the Nazis
In Author Traci L. Slatton's Latest Novel**

Broken is a sensual, heart-rending, suspenseful historical novel set in occupied Paris during World War II. In *Broken*, bestselling novelist Traci L. Slatton asks, "Can love sustain light when the forces of evil close in?"

Accepted to Yale University at age 16, after finishing her junior year of high school, Traci has published dozens of poems, short stories, and articles in magazines and literary journals. For several years, Traci had a hands-on healing practice and frequently worked with those in emotional and spiritual crises, or what she calls "spiritual unfoldment." For disease, she believed that her role as a healer was not to fix her clients, but to go with them on a spiritual journey of questioning old patterns and re-educating the consciousness in a more whole way of being.

Her connection to spirituality led her to write the story of Alia, a fallen angel trapped in the web of German occupation in Paris, 1939-1942. As Archangel Michael reproachfully asks Alia: "Why are you here in this place that will see so much [evil], with these people who will endure so much? You know what is coming. Why, of all times and places, did you choose here and now?"

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Alia simply answers, "Why indeed?" The deadly noose of Nazi control grows ever tighter, ensnaring her and two of her lovers, a bullfighter and a musician working in the fledgling Resistance. Can she save them and the Jewish widow and her child that she has come to love, or will betrayal take them all?

In her novel (which the author describes as "dark, gritty, and sexual, but also about the power of love"), Traci explores the themes of loyalty, betrayal, and destiny while creating a character who sacrifices everything in the name of friendship -- and who is rewarded by the love of another angel for eternity.

"But, despite its spiritual elements, *Broken* is not a book about spirituality. It's about people who were thrown into horrific circumstances and are just trying to keep themselves, and the people they care about, alive," Traci emphasizes. "Yes, it's about an angel -- but it's about an angel who has to make an agonizing, impossible choice. In my novel, Alia has to decide which of her lovers to give up to the Nazis. And she has to live with guilt because, however pure her motives, she couldn't do enough to save everybody. That, of course, reflects the reality of Paris at the time, and it's a history that I researched extensively while crafting this novel."

Traci is probably best known to her fans as the author of *Immortal*, the historical novel that takes readers from the late medieval Plague into the Renaissance, which was published by BantamDell. With her husband, sculptor Sabin Howard, she wrote *The Art of Life*, a photo-essay about figurative sculpture through the ages. She also wrote *Piercing Time & Space* about the meeting ground of science and spirituality. Traci also founded Parvati Press as an independent press that was recently recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Readers love her romantic dystopian *After* series—*Fallen*, *Cold Light*, and *Far Shore*—which has won awards and spots on bloggers' "Best of" lists. "My timing was pretty good," Traci admits. "The dystopian genre has been gaining in popularity lately, and adding my adult romance spin to it certainly helped, too!"

Broken

By Traci L. Slatton

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Bio: Traci L. Slatton

Traci L. Slatton is a graduate of Yale and Columbia, and the award-winning, internationally published author of several books including the historical novel IMMORTAL. THE BOTTICELLI AFFAIR is a contemporary romp through the art history byways of vampire lore. FALLEN is the first of the romantic After Series set during the end times. COLD LIGHT and FAR SHORE further the dystopian tale. DANCING IN THE TABERNACLE is her first book of poetry; PIERCING TIME & SPACE is a non-fiction look at the meeting of science and spirit. THE ART OF LIFE is a photo-essay of sculpture history and philosophy written with her husband, sculptor Sabin Howard, whose work is also showcased. Her latest novel, BROKEN, has a publication date of September 2014.

She has appeared on television and radio, and she lives in New York with her husband and young daughter.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. How much research do you typically do before you write one of your historical novels?
2. Where did you begin your research for *Broken*, and what was the most interesting or surprising aspect of it?
3. What motivated you to write a book about the Nazi Occupation of France?
4. Do you see any parallels between the way Jews were treated in France under the Nazi Occupation and the Anti-Semitism they're facing in France now?
5. Why did you decide to bring so many spiritual elements into such a dark, gritty story?
6. Your protagonist is a fallen angel, and as a human, she has serious weaknesses including promiscuity. How are readers reacting to your characterization of Alia?
7. What do Alia's flaws say about her character, and why are they so essential to her story?
8. Archangel Michael makes more than one appearance in the story. What is his contribution, and again, how are your readers reacting to the way you characterize him?
9. Alia's morality is tested in the novel when she has to choose between betraying one of her two lovers to the Nazis. How does she determine the "right" thing to do, and do you agree with her decision-making process?
10. Do you believe in angels, and if so, do you see any evidence that they've walked among us during historical times?