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Dear John,

Thanks so much for considering the ideas I'm putting forward to be a fictional representation of your book *The Awe of God*. I've attached them along with this letter, and also uploaded them – along with short videos that explain the themes I've taken from your book – on a hidden page on my web site: www.davidrawlings.com.au/for-john-bevere.

I was genuinely flattered when Amanda Bostic asked me to audition. As the publisher of my first three novels through Thomas Nelson, she must believe there is a connection here.

My writing style – and ministry – is to write stories that are modern-day parables. I aim for them to be more than a good story to read - they're wrapped around truth, calling on Jesus' process of breaking down concepts to the crowds of His day through examples that they could relate to.

That's why:

- *The Baggage Handler* centers on dealing with emotional baggage told through the eyes of three people to get their baggage mixed up after a flight
- *The Camera Never Lies* talks about honesty in a relationship as a marriage counselor is forced to practice what he preaches in his own marriage
- *Where the Road Bends* is about finding your pathway and destiny in this life. I set this here at home in outback Australia.

My novels are faster-paced with shorter chapters – a little like how you've structured *The Awe of God*, actually. You'll find more on my novels here: <https://davidrawlings.com.au/books/>

My writing approach lends itself to creating a story based on the themes in *The Awe of God*. It's what I do anyway.

Three ideas for novels based on *The Awe of God*

So in response to *The Awe of God*, I have great pleasure in presenting to you:

1. *Follow the Caretaker*

In this story idea, three couples celebrate a milestone birthday with a visit to an ultimate Escape Room in an abandoned mansion. They discover that obedience to the Caretaker is necessary to both enjoy the game and finish well. The rules may not always make sense, or sometimes come at a cost, but following them is the key.

This is my response to Week 4 of the book: Responding to God's Word. There are five distinct aspects of trembling at God's Word, with unconditional obedience at the heart of it. The participants who don't obey the Caretaker in each of these ways is eliminated, showing the importance of unconditional obedience.

2. *Thomas and the non-existent God*

This story idea centers on Thomas Newton – an angry, senior lecturer and former Christian who is now an atheist and Assistant Professor Sarah Wright, a committed Christian who doesn't hear God's voice.

Thomas jumps at the chance to appear on a celebrity streaming network debate about God's non-existence that will give him the chance to unveil a razor-sharp intellect to the nation and shoot his career into the stratosphere. But then one day the God he is certain doesn't exist starts to speak to him and carries a dire warning ... and Sarah has to deal with a God who isn't speaking with her, but instead her atheist friend.

The central theme here revolves around the identity of God. The 'non-existent' God Thomas rails against – who didn't heal his dying mother - isn't truly Him, and neither is the God Sarah believes in, thinking doing more for God is what He wants.

3. *God in her pocket*

The final story idea is about Mackenzie Holt, a wife and Mom who turns to a new AI-powered app to find purpose in life. Despite the protestations of her Grandmother to return to the God she knew in her teens, she loses herself in *Omniscience*, an app the media is trumpeting is like having God in your pocket.

When her Grandmother dies, she hears the voice of God comforting her in her grief. While Mackenzie finds breaking an addictive app is difficult, and when her family is threatened, she discovers that the God she thought she knew – and who she has been scared of all these years - isn't even close to who He really is.

The heart of this story draws out the themes of Week 1 of the book: An Awesome God. It follows a theme of the identity of God, and our connection to Him. God is not a genie who grants wishes or who fits into our lives when we feel we need Him.

The quality of my writing

Lastly – and because it's an audition – I'll fight my usual reticence to talk myself up based on being an Australian Christian man (three groups who don't like to brag). There are two achievements I'd like to share with you:

- *The Baggage Handler* won the Christy Award for best debut Christian novel from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.
- Netflix has just bought the rights for *The Baggage Handler*. While these conversations are preliminary, their plan is for a movie.

As mentioned, I've put together a hidden page on my author web site, just for you, at www.davidrawlings.com.au/for-john-bevere where I've uploaded the story ideas here for easy access, and also recorded a short video to at least introduce myself.

So thank you for the opportunity to pitch some ideas to you. I would be more than happy to provide any more information if required, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David Rawlings