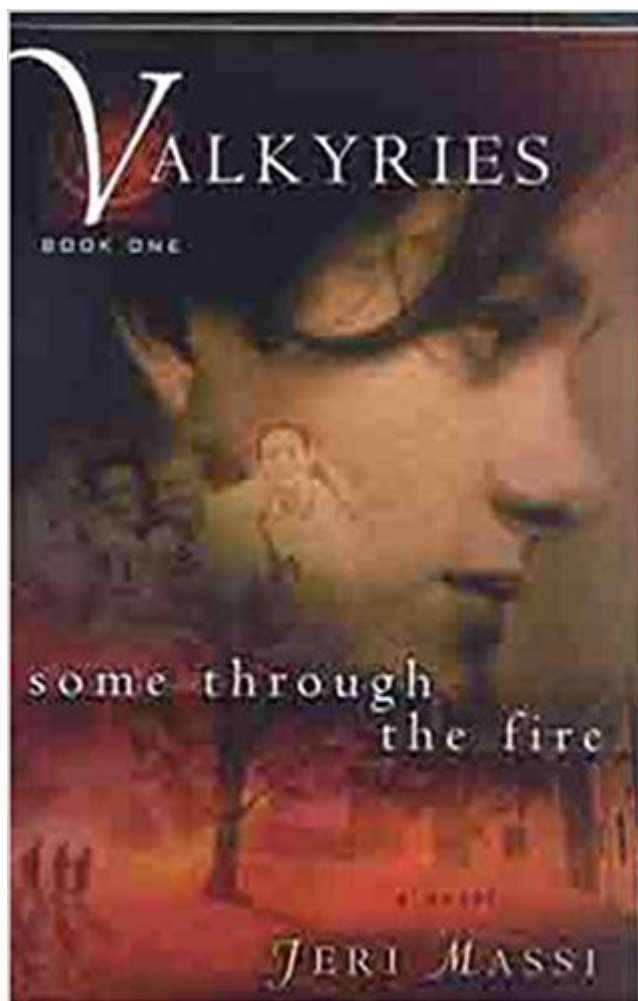


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# Some Through The Fire (Valkyries Series)



## Synopsis

Valkyries tells the story of a teenage girl in the '70s who commits herself to Jesus at a tent meeting and is then immediately plunged into her family's traumatic breakup, which results in violent abuse from her father and neglect from her mother. Finally sent away to a Catholic boarding school for girls, Tracey recognizes some hard truths about her own anger and her inability to possess inner goodness - in spite of being a Christian. She also discovers, in the course of things, an unexpected talent for basketball. Some Through the Fire follows Tracey's story from her commitment to Christ to her exile at a Catholic boarding school. About the title: The Valkyrie, a female warrior from Norse mythology, is the basketball team's mascot - but this mythological figure takes on much deeper significance for Tracey as she struggles for spiritual victory.

## Book Information

Series: Valkyries Series

Paperback: 496 pages

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## Customer Reviews

A truly rare coming of age story, blending elements of boarding school memoir, sports thriller, and Christian conversion. Tracey Jacamuzzi's story is told with passion and plenty of humor, but there is a gut wrenching quality to the narrative that makes it a page turner from start to finish. -- Indiana Home Schoolers The story of Tracey's conversion to Christ and halting journey to a secure faith is probably the most realistic conversion account you'll ever read. -- Christian YA Review Moves with the pounding [rhythm of a basketball being driven down the court](#). Once I got started, couldn't put it down! -- Lucinda Pettigrew, Editor Lots of laughter and many tears in this fast, heartfelt account of a bruised and battered teenager finding faith and happiness after years of struggle. --

Underground Christian Reader --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I wrote VALKYRIES because I was tired of the syrupy and contrived young adult stories that were flooding the market at that time. I also wanted a story for girls, about girls, that didn't bog down into marriage and romance. VALKYRIES is about basketball, but more importantly, it's about faith, and it's about courage and individuality: items too often ignored in Christian YA fiction aimed at girls and women. Jeri Massi --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"I am blessed and encouraged after reading this story. I feel - I remember why I believed in Jesus when I first did. Thank you for reminding me of what is good and true in the Lord." "I'm speechless. I just finished it, and I know I have to write to you, but I truly have no idea what to say. What an amazing story! The way you wrote it made me feel as if I was there watching it." "I have just finished reading your Valkyrie series. It was a work of the very highest standard. Rarely have I read a story that has engendered such a range of emotions in me or moved me in such a spiritual way." "I VERY much enjoyed reading that book. I think it's Christian fiction at its finest." "I just wanted to thank you for your work in writing it and making it available.... The message of God's grace in light of our own failures was not lost on this reader, and I hope it reaches many more people in the years to come." "I genuinely feel...that apart from the undisputed classics like NARNIA and the CURDIE books, VALKYRIES is the best Christian novel for young people that I have \*ever\* read."

Haven't has time to finish reading it. But I feel sure it will be good.

I have not read this book in years. HOWEVER, the title and author has stuck with me, and I soon plan to buy this book. I am not Christian, nor am I a person to read fiction with religious themes in it. I AM religious, Hindu to be exact, but when I read fiction I am not thinking of scripture, I am reading for entertainment. So I picked up this book with hesistance. But WOW, I still remember it, because it made an imprint on my heart. I read this book when I was going through tough times and it helped me to be strong. I was having religioius conflict in my family and in my heart when I read this book, and it enabled me to continue onwards and not give up hope, and to find strength in me and realize the God was giving me strength; that every one step I put forth towards God, God would return it with ten steps towards me. this book was inspiring. But as well as being inspiring, it is also a gripping read. You are sucked into Tracey's life and Tracey's head and you care about her, SO much. Massi is excellent at making you relate to and care for this character, even if you thought you

wouldn't. Furthermore, the story is entertaining and funny. It is not all somber and solemn, although it does address deep issues and philosophical questions. This book is an intelligent book, entertaining, overall a GREAT read. I would recommend it to all.:) The sequel, "All Through the Blood" I think it is titled, is equally amazing and satisfying.

The Valkyries books (Moody Press) are really parts one and two of one story: a rare blend of a coming-of-age tale set in the 1970's, an exciting athletic narrative, and the story of a young girl's poignant and gripping spiritual journey. Just after her 8th-grade year, Tracey Jacamuzzi goes against her Italian-Catholic upbringing by attending a Baptist tent meeting and "getting saved"--a term that baffles her friends and family. Tracey's conversion is too much for her parents--a father who is already violent toward her, and a mother who is too preoccupied with an extramarital affair to give her eldest daughter much thought. A violent showdown with her father results in Tracey being banished to the Sanctuary of Mary and Joseph, an all-girls' Catholic boarding school. Here she endures cruel hazing before realizing that basketball is the school's all-consuming passion, and she must become skillful at the sport in order to survive. An older girl takes Tracey under her wing as a basketball coach and mentor, and becomes her best friend in the process, making life more bearable at the school. The team's mascot, the Valkyries--valiant female warriors in Norse mythology--become symbols of Tracey's quest for strength and truth. But Tracey must still deal with questions in her growing faith, and the fact that what she is reading in the Bible is often at odds with the doctrines taught at the school. In addition, the fact that she is outspoken and often headstrong makes for some severe confrontations with Sister Mary, the rigid and coldhearted acting principal. Along the way, God brings people into Tracey's life that give her love and acceptance and help her answer the spiritual questions that haunt her. School volunteer Maddie Murdoch imparts wise counsel and the promise of a motherly love Tracey craves. Jeri Massi brings the story grippingly to life. You feel outrage when Tracey is abused, share her pain when she is treated unkindly and unfairly, and are moved when she learns new spiritual truths. (The fact that I, a 40-something, non-athletic woman from a conservative Baptist background, could so empathize with this Italian-Catholic teen-aged girl, is a credit to Massi's ability to make this story so real.) Massi's descriptive pen makes you actually see the mist shimmering on the serene campus, and vividly described dream sequences hint at her background in writing science fiction. And the basketball scenes are fastpaced and exciting, and could only be written by someone intimately acquainted with the sport. If you are a Catholic, you may not appreciate Massi's unflinching criticism of the church's doctrinal conflicts with Bible teaching. But she doesn't vilify Catholics

themselves--one of Tracey's "good angels" in the book is the elderly Sister James Anne, who gives her unfailing love and acceptance; Father "Bing," the school's Bing Crosby-look-alike headmaster, shows her kindness; and she develops good relationships with some of the nuns who teach and coach her. Ultimately, I was captivated by Tracey's story (I scarcely put the books down while reading them!), and enriched by the lessons she learned about God's grace, His Sovereignty and His loving plan for one girl's life. Although these books would be ideal for a teenaged girl--especially one who is interested in sports--the common themes and the page-turning narrative make them a terrific fit for anyone who enjoys top-notch fiction.

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