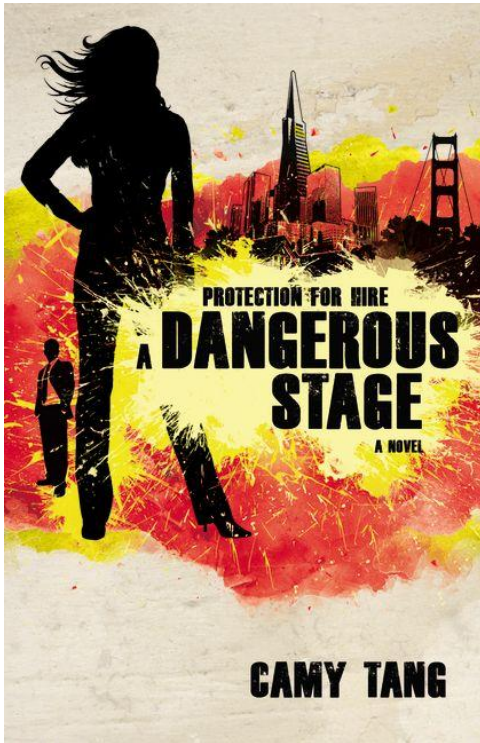




# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Jennifer VerHage  
(616) 698-3331 [P]  
jennifer.verhage@zondervan.com



## ***A Dangerous Stage***

A Novel

By Camy Tang

**"A kick-butt new series." ~ USA Today**

The second book in Camy Tang's Protection for Hire series, *A Dangerous Stage* taps into the popular, global craze of reality television singing competitions.

A former member of her uncle's Japanese Mafia gang, until she was sent to prison for a murder she didn't commit, Tessa Lancaster is now a body guard for a contestant from a nationally televised singing competition, who has information that the show is rigged.

Tessa is once again working with Charles Britton, the lawyer who sent her to prison, to help her discover the dark figures manipulating the contest from behind the scenes. Tessa's abilities will be tested like never before as she's forced to balance the safety of her client's family and her deepening relationship with Charles.

With humorous culture clash, Tang once again delivers a clever mix of action, mystery and romance in *A Dangerous Stage*.

**Camy Tang** grew up in Hawaii and now lives in northern California with her engineer husband and rambunctious dog. She graduated from Stanford University and was a biologist researcher, but now she writes full-time. She is a staff worker for her church youth group and leads one of the Sunday worship teams. She won first place in the debut author category and second place in the chick lit category of the ACFW Carol Awards with her novel, *Sushi for One?*

Visit [www.CamyTang.com](http://www.CamyTang.com).

## ***A Dangerous Stage*** A Novel

By Camy Tang

Zondervan

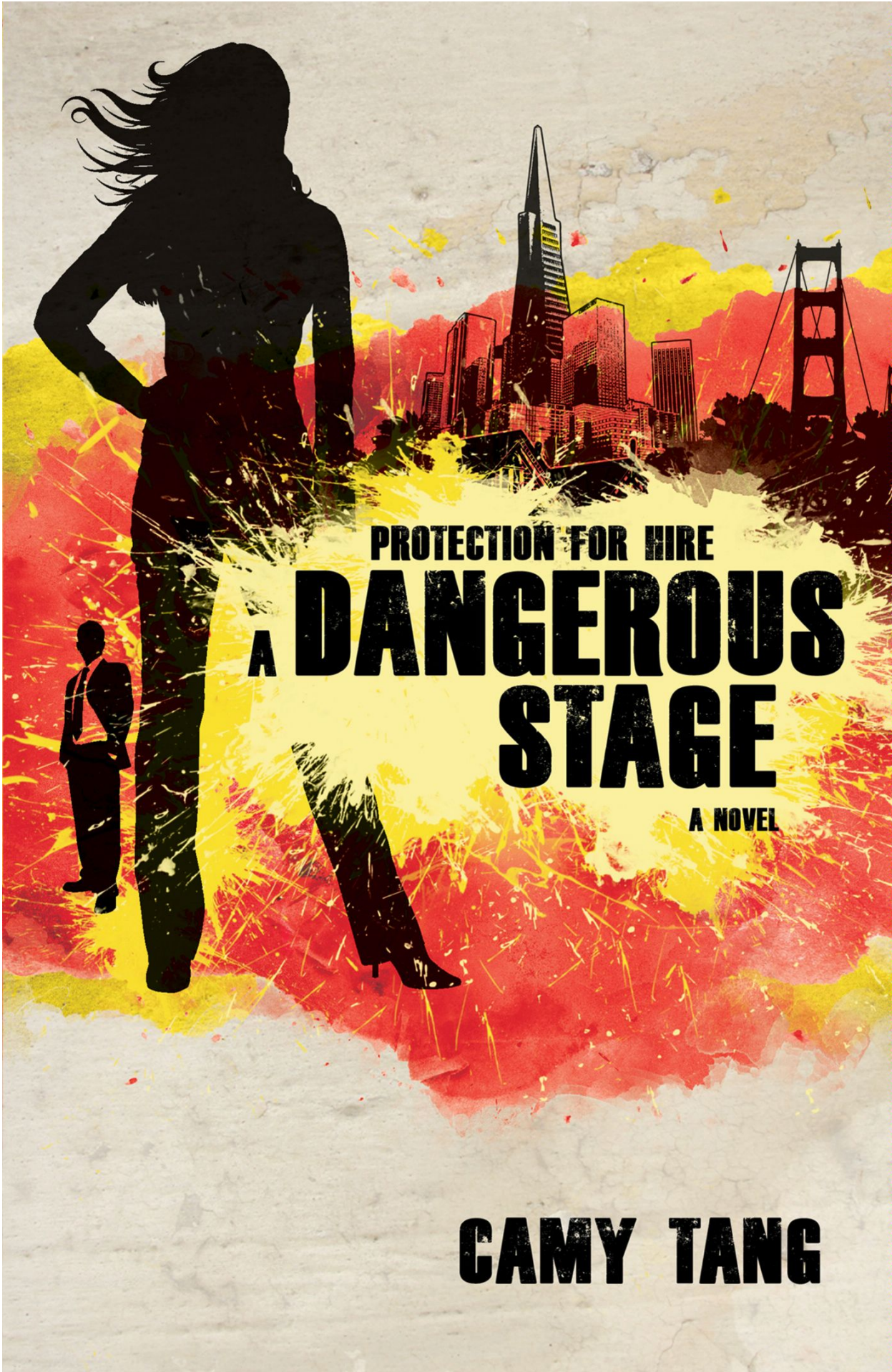
9780310320340

336 pages

\$12.99

Softcover

PUB Date: November 2012



**PROTECTION FOR HIRE**

**A DANGEROUS  
STAGE**

**A NOVEL**

**CAMY TANG**







Trade Fiction

## Advance Marketing and Sales Information

**ISBN:** 0310320356  
**Title:** *A Dangerous Stage*  
**Subtitle:** *A Protection for Hire novel*  
**Author:** Camy Tang

### Author (1) Public Biography

Camy Tang writes romance with a kick of wasabi. She grew up in Hawaii, but now lives in San Jose, California, with her engineer husband and rambunctious mutt, Snickers. In a previous life she was a biologist researcher, but these days she is surgically attached to her computer, writing full-time. In her spare time, she is a staff worker for her church youth group, and she leads one of the worship teams for Sunday service. She belongs to several writers' groups including American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America, and she won first place in the Debut Author category and second place in the Chick lit category of the ACFW Book of the Year awards with her novel, *Sushi for One?*.

Website: [www.camytang.com](http://www.camytang.com)

Blog: [camys-loft.blogspot.com](http://camys-loft.blogspot.com)

### Synopsis *[one sentence if possible, including main focus of the book]*

A Christian ex-yakuza bodyguard must work with the Louisiana lawyer who helped sentence her to jail to protect a contestant from a nationally televised singing competition who has information that the show is rigged.

### Description *[100-500 words]*

Tessa Lancaster worked for her uncle in the Japanese mafia until she was sent to prison for a murder she didn't commit. Now, after finding God behind bars, she takes odd jobs as a bodyguard to keep her distance from the family business.

In *A Dangerous Stage*, the second book in Camy Tang's Protection for Hire series, Tessa gets caught up in the web of lies surrounding a shady singing competition. Hired by one of the contestants, she works with Charles Britton---the lawyer who sent her to prison---to discover the dark figures manipulating the contest from behind the scenes.

Tessa's abilities will be tested like never before as she's forced to balance the safety of her client's family and her deepening relationship with Charles. In the midst of the chaos, she holds on to her faith to keep her safe and bring down the shadowy organization.

## **Internet Marketing**

### **Blog:**

<http://camys-loft.blogspot.com/>

### **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/CamyTangAuthor>

### **Twitter:**

<http://www.twitter.com/camytang>

### **Goodreads:**

<http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/49078>

### **Ravelry:**

<http://www.ravelry.com/people/camytang>

## **Marketing Information**

### **What made you write this book?**

I love Stephanie Plum and *The Joy Luck Club*, and so I wanted to write a book with all the humor of both and with the action/suspense of the Stephanie Plum series.

I also love strong, capable heroines like from the TV shows *Alias*, *Nikita*, *Covert Affairs*, and the movies *Tomb Raider* and *Resident Evil*. I wanted to write about a strong woman with a heart for God, so I came up with my character, Tessa.

I wanted to give Tessa a reason to keep being involved in different crimes (so that I could have more books with her as the heroine) and the idea came to me that if Tessa had a shady past before coming to Christ, that past would provide good spiritual conflict as well as causing external problems in her life. I am a fan of *The Sopranos*--I don't care much for the violence, but I liked the more humorous parts of the series, especially those involving the family fiascos. I thought it would be fun if Tessa belonged to the Japanese mafia, and I created a Japanese version of *The Sopranos*, which makes it both exciting and funny, mirroring the feel of the Stephanie Plum series.

For her hero, I thought up the most unlikely pairing--a straight-laced lawyer from Louisiana--and as I wrote, I let the sparks fly!

When I first wrote *A Dangerous Stage*, I knew I wanted the backdrop to be a singing competition like *American Idol*, or *The Voice*, or *X-Factor*. I couldn't use the name of any of those shows for legal reasons (and I wouldn't want an angry note from Simon Cowell anyway!) so I had to come up with a name for my fictional singing competition.

I brainstormed for days, but couldn't come up with anything better than "Screechers," which my husband vetoed. :) So I posted on my Facebook Author page (<https://www.facebook.com/CamyTangAuthor>) to ask my Facebook friends for help.

I had a ton of great ideas! The best one was from Amancay, which was *Grab the Mic*. I loved that title right away and inserted it into my manuscript only a few days before I sent it to my editor at Zondervan.

### **How was your personal background involved in the writing of this book?**

As a worship leader at my church and one of the millions who love the TV show *Glee* and televised singing competitions like *American Idol* and *The Voice*, I was able to dig into my own love of music with the writing of this story.

I delved into the stories of my Asian American family and friends, as well as my own background, to craft the foibles of the heroine's family.

An avid mixed martial arts fan, I also utilized what I have learned about the technical aspects of street fighting and mixed martial arts to give the heroine strength and fearlessness, as well as a skill advantage even though she is smaller than her attackers, which I hope will encourage women taking self-defense classes.

### **What message do you want readers to take away from *A Dangerous Stage*?**

Life is short--we need the wisdom and courage to follow God's will for us, without fear.

### **What are the spiritual themes of *A Dangerous Stage*?**

I really enjoyed writing about Tessa and Charles again for multiple reasons. Tessa's struggles with forgiveness parallel some of my own struggles with forgiving people who have hurt me, and I hope readers can relate and also find hope that the hurt can be healed with God's help.

I hadn't written that much about Charles's character in *Protection for Hire*, but I knew I needed to reveal more about his heart and his spiritual walk in *A Dangerous Stage*, and I was strongly impacted by Psalm 90:7-12:

*We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* (TNIV)

I thought it was an important reminder to me that I am flawed but Jesus has saved me, and I need to remember God's power and respect Him rather than taking Him for granted. Life is short and I need to take advantage of each moment God gives to me. It made me look at my life differently and make different choices, trying to follow God's will rather than my own.

Charles struggles with these types of choices and whether he is truly passionately committed to Christ. My prayer is that his struggles will help readers make their own decisions to follow Christ with intensity and passion.

### **What is your favorite line/scene in *A Dangerous Stage*?**

The whipped cream scene. I briefly referenced it in *Protection for Hire*, and readers will recognize the Youtube video mentioned in the scene. :)

### **What inspired you to write about the Japanese mafia, and what sort of research did you have to do to get it all right?**

I've always been fascinated by Japanese mafia because I grew up watching Japanese movies (subtitled!) with my father. Also, I grew up in Hawaii and the yakuza have been entrenched there for many decades. I am also Japanese American (fourth generation) and to some extent I understand the cultural aspects that drive the philosophies of the Japanese mafia.

A friend of mine, Danica Favorite, mentioned mafia to me as a story idea and it seemed the perfect opportunity to write about the yakuza. I've also enjoyed the TV series *The Sopranos* (well, I enjoyed the humorous family scenes, not the violent ones) and wanted to write my own take on a crime family.

For research, I read a lot of books (some really not very interesting at all--I mean, how can someone make Japanese mafia sound so dull???) and I also contacted the FBI here in San Francisco with questions.

### **Did anything really surprise you in your research?**

I also had to do research into Southern families since my hero is from Louisiana, and what was really neat was that there were a lot of similarities between Japanese and Southern families and their relationships with each other.



There are some of the obvious cultural differences like the food, the way people talk, and the level of displays of affection in Japanese and Southern families, but there are also lots of similarities--the matriarchs and patriarchs in the families, how the families stick together and value loyalty, the funny and exasperating things family members do to each other.

**Family is a huge part of many of your novels. Is that a conscious decision on your part? What draws you to write about these fascinating dynamics?**

It's both conscious and unconscious. Family is very important to me, and I love hearing about other peoples' crazy families and reading about crazy families in novels. I found that I couldn't write a story without the characters' families somehow getting involved in the action. Once I realized that, I decided to follow my natural inclination and I've always had some sort of family interaction in all my books.

**Any advice for Christian retailers in promoting this book?**

This book is like *The Joy Luck Club* meets the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich, meets *American Idol*. It has the fun family dynamics of *The Joy Luck Club* or *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, and the action and humor of the Stephanie Plum series and *The Sopranos*, with the wacky relatives thrown in, too. Adults and older teens after an entertaining read with a strong but subtle spiritual message will enjoy Tessa and her adventures.

**Other titles previously published:**

**Sushi series:**

- #1 Sushi for One? (Zondervan)
- #2 Only Uni (Zondervan)
- #3 Single Sashimi (Zondervan)
- #4 Weddings and Wasabi (self-published)

**Sonoma series:**

- #1 Deadly Intent (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)
- #2 Formula for Danger (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)
- #3 Stalker in the Shadows (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)
- #4 Narrow Escape (Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense)

**Protection for Hire series:**



**#1** Protection for Hire

**#2** A Dangerous Stage



## **What readers are saying about PROTECTION FOR HIRE by Camy Tang:**

**I have read a lot of Christian fiction and I can't remember one that reads like Camy Tang's Protection for Hire. It is a cross between Alias and Covert Affairs with an overlay of faith!**

**—Connie**

**This book deals with second chances, forgiveness, acceptance. For myself I think this is Camy's best book so far and defiantly in my top ten for the year.**

**—Jenny**

**I enjoy Camy Tang's style of writing, it is easy to follow and her stories flow with characters that are believable and you can relate to their struggles. However, Protection for Hire Camy Tang takes her writing to a whole new level.**

**—Holly Magnuson**

**If you like a thriller with a family oriented, tough-gal, soft-hearted hero, you'll love Camy Tang's PROTECTION FOR HIRE.**

**—Jean Kinsey**

**You simply cannot miss out on a fun reading experience when you choose a novel by Camy Tang. She has a unique flair for creating and plotting that makes every story a fresh experience, and you'll be longing for more.**

**—Deena Peterson**

**I was reminded that God's plans aren't always the same as mine, but that He knows where I am and is faithful to take care of me.**

**—Christie Hagerman**

**The unexpected enchants and enthralls in this insightful story of tradition, challenges, redemption and temptation. Camy Tang has penned a winner!**

**—Vicki Hinze**

**A refreshingly different romantic suspense novel that doesn't sacrifice the suspense for the romance.**

**—C.J. Darlington**

**This book is one I would recommend to anyone, even those who aren't regular Christian fiction readers. Great book!**

**—Michelle L.**