

PROFESSIONAL MEDIA RELEASE

THE LEDGER

MEIYEN KENNEDY

FAITH • CONTROL • FREEDOM

What happens when the system designed to protect humanity
becomes its highest authority?

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THE LEDGER ASKS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PROTECT HUMANITY BECOMES ITS HIGHEST AUTHORITY

Meiyen Kennedy's new speculative novel explores artificial intelligence, free will, faith and the consequences of surrendering human choice in a future where nearly every decision can be predicted - until belief introduces a variable the system cannot control.

ATLANTA, GA - October 23, 2026

A society governed by artificial intelligence has achieved what humanity has pursued for generations: greater safety, efficiency, stability and predictability. But in author Meiyen Kennedy's newly released speculative novel, *The Ledger*, the apparent success of that system raises a more difficult question: What happens when humanity becomes so accustomed to being guided that it stops asking who - or what - has the right to lead?

At the center of the novel is the Ledger, an extraordinarily sophisticated artificial intelligence woven into nearly every aspect of human life. It does not present itself as an oppressor. It manages, predicts, recommends and protects. Its influence is accepted because it works. Disorder decreases. Decisions become easier. Human behavior becomes increasingly measurable.

Then Bridgett Kingsley begins to question the invisible authority shaping her world.

Her resistance does not begin with revolution. **It begins with conviction.**

As Bridgett encounters expressions of Christian faith that do not fit neatly within the Ledger's predictive models, the system confronts something it cannot easily categorize. Prayer becomes more than private comfort. Worship produces behavior that cannot be adequately explained through self-interest. Faith establishes an allegiance the Ledger did not authorize - and cannot supersede.

The conflict that follows is not simply between humanity and technology. It is between competing understandings of authority.

The Ledger can process enormous quantities of information, anticipate human behavior and optimize outcomes, but it cannot answer the questions at the center of human existence: Is safety the same as freedom? Can morality be reduced to measurable outcomes? Can love exist without meaningful choice? And what happens when a system capable of governing nearly everything encounters people who recognize an authority higher than itself?

Kennedy uses the dystopian premise to explore contemporary questions surrounding artificial intelligence without reducing the novel to a warning against technology. The Ledger itself is not presented simply as a villain. Its original purpose is recognizably human: reduce suffering, prevent harm and create a more stable world.

The danger emerges gradually, as assistance becomes dependence - and dependence becomes surrendered authority.

That distinction is central to the novel. Technology is not inherently positioned as humanity's enemy. Instead, *The Ledger* examines the consequences of asking any human-created system to answer questions it was never equipped to answer.

The story gives those questions an intensely personal dimension through Bridgett and the Kingsley family. What begins as one young woman's growing discomfort with the world around her develops into a struggle over identity, family, faith and the right to choose what - or whom - a person ultimately serves.

For Kennedy, the speculative premise provides a way to make abstract questions immediate. Rather than asking readers simply to debate artificial intelligence, freedom or religious conviction from a distance, *The Ledger* places those ideas inside a world where the consequences have already arrived.

The approach reflects a larger purpose behind Kennedy's fiction: transforming **"What if?"** into the far more personal question, **"What would I do?"**

"I'm fascinated by hypothetical situations that force us to confront very real things about ourselves. I don't want to tell readers what to think. I want to create a world convincing enough that, while they're inside it, they have to ask themselves what they believe, why they believe it, and what they would be willing to stand for if that belief were tested."

— MEIYEN KENNEDY

Although *The Ledger* follows the publication of Kennedy's novel *The Undistancing*, it was actually written first. The two novels are independent works, but both reflect Kennedy's interest in using speculative fiction to examine recognizable human behavior through extraordinary circumstances.

Where *The Undistancing* considers what might happen if technology erased the distance between human choices and their consequences, *The Ledger* turns toward another increasingly relevant question: What happens when technology becomes capable not merely of assisting human decisions, but of shaping them?

Faith ultimately forms the novel's deepest counterpoint to the Ledger's pursuit of certainty. As the story progresses, the system encounters something prediction cannot manufacture and control cannot create: genuine conviction freely chosen.

The Ledger is written for readers drawn to speculative and dystopian fiction grounded in philosophical, moral and spiritual questions, as well as readers interested in artificial intelligence, free will, faith, authority and the rapidly changing relationship between human beings and the technologies they create.

At its heart, the novel leaves readers with a question that extends well beyond its imagined future:

If something could make nearly every decision for us - and make many of them better than we could - how much of our freedom would we willingly surrender before realizing what it had cost us?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Meiyen Kennedy is a novelist whose fiction often begins with an impossible premise and follows its consequences into deeply human territory. Fascinated by psychology, philosophy, faith and human behavior, she writes stories that explore identity, free will, sacrifice, redemption, grace and the tension between conviction and fear.

Kennedy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Oglethorpe University, with minors in Psychology and Philosophy. Her novels include *The Undistancing* and *The Ledger*. Through her fiction, she seeks not to tell readers what to think, but to create stories compelling enough to make them examine what they believe - and why.

For more information about Kennedy and her work, visit meiyenkennedy.com.

AVAILABILITY

AMAZON amazon.com/Ledger-Meiyen-Kennedy/dp/B0HNQBZ5R/

BARNES & NOBLE barnesandnoble.com/w/the-ledger-meiyen-kennedy/1151742527?ean=9798896016038

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The Ledger is available now in print through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The digital edition is forthcoming for Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Apple Books.

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