

NOVEL PREDICTED CLONING BREAKTHROUGH

(May 18, 2013) -- When author J R Lankford sent her thriller, *THE JESUS THIEF*, to animal cloning pioneer Dr. Robert H. Foote of Cornell in 2003, he responded at length, dubbing the novel a "Spellbinder" and expressing concern that it was so realistic, readers might think her story of cloning Jesus of Nazareth from DNA on the Shroud of Turin was true. Now it is, in terms of the science.

Brought out in paperback last October, *THE JESUS THIEF*'s depiction of human cloning, and its medical, ethical and legal challenges, reads like today's headlines. This week, scientists at Oregon Health & Science University announced that they perfected Nuclear Transfer (NT) on human cells and achieved a 50% success rate, precisely like Lankford's character, Dr. Felix Rossi. Details are in the upcoming issue of the journal, *Cell*. NT is the crucial first step in producing embryonic stem cells for medical research, as the Oregon scientists intend—or in attempting to produce a human clone.

Lankford says, "Though to our knowledge, no one in the U.S. is trying to clone a human being, there are serious, on-going efforts overseas to clone both the living and the dead. Couples who've lost a child or who can have a biologically-related child in no other way are the prime clients. The day is now closer when their efforts will succeed. The day is also closer when someone will want to try to clone Einstein, for instance. Knowing we'd have to deal with this, I wrote *THE JESUS THIEF* in a way that readers painlessly learn the science and the issues while reading the novel."

The late Dr. Foote maintained a correspondence with the author in support of The Jesus Thief series. Lankford says, "I think the age of human cloning and all its challenges has officially begun. I wish Dr. Foote were here to see it."

Lankford continued the story in the sequels: *The Secret Madonna* and *The Sacred Impostor*, published last year. Translation rights to all three are being acquired by foreign publishers. Hollywood film rights have been optioned twice and Lankford would like to see *The Jesus Thief* become a movie.

An electrical engineer turned novelist, Lankford travelled widely in her former career in international standards, falling in love with the people, cultures and beliefs she encountered. She turned her passion for the world, its science and its beliefs, into *The Jesus Thief* thriller series. The Jesus Thief, the first in the series, is predictive of cloning science. Due in September the fourth thriller, *THE COVERT MESSIAH*, is a stunner on the subject of faith.

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Read the cloning announcement from the journal, *Cell*: <http://www.jrlankford.com/Cell-NTSuccess.pdf>

Too complicated? Read *The Jesus Thief* and find out what we're in for.
<http://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Thief-J-R-Lankford/dp/0971869413>

J R Lankford is available for interviews and speaking engagements.
See www.jrlankford.com and <http://www.facebook.com/authorjrlankford>