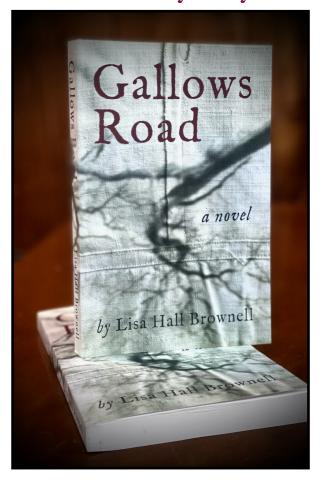
"An 18th-century story of love, sex, heartache, and hypocrisy."



beautiful young woman is condemned to death for a crime that she swears she did not commit. Inspired by true events in Connecticut in the 1750s, *Gallows Road* is told through the eyes of an indentured servant, Mercy Bramble. The mysterious death of her newborn puts Mercy's life in the hands of a jury while three ministers — and a group known as Children of God — all fight to save her soul.

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"Traversing the same rocky footpaths as Nathaniel Hawthorne's quintessential New England novel, *The Scarlet Letter*, Lisa Hall Brownell's *Gallows Road* tells an early 18th-century story of love, sex, heartache, and hypocrisy. Yet Brownell's Mercy Bramble is no opaque and respectful Hester Prynne. Mercy is a feisty, unschooled, and outspoken heroine who challenges the morals and mores of the staid, self-satisfied community that seeks to victimize her. I felt a near-magnetic pull into the pages of this humane, character-driven novel. I suspect you will, too.

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LISA HALL BROWNELL, a fiction writer and editor, believes that stories have the power to connect one person to another, and past to present. A former

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