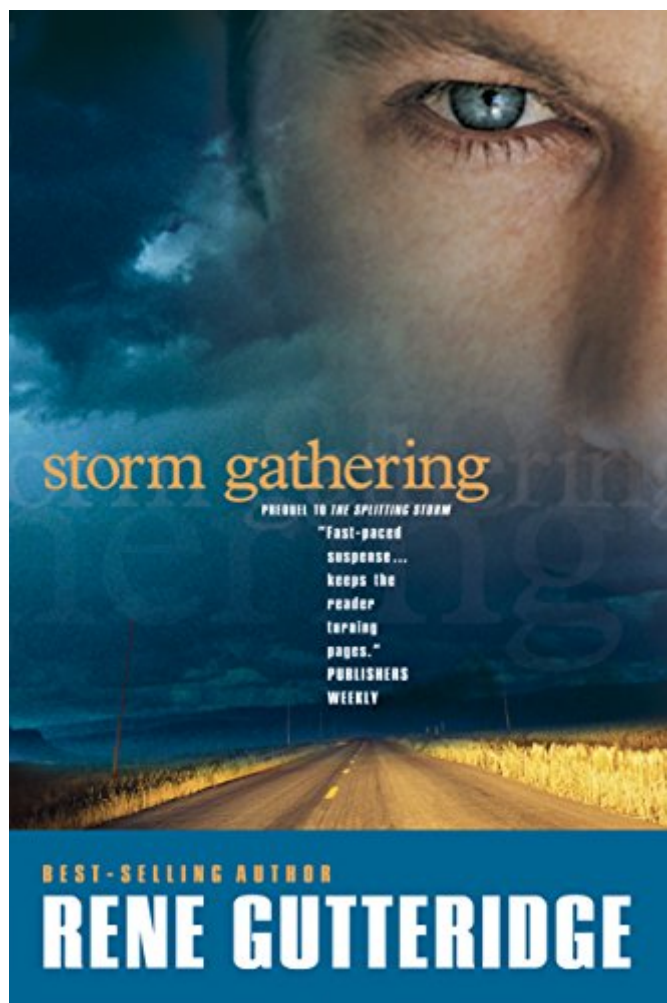


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# Storm Gathering



## Synopsis

In this exciting prequel to *The Splitting Storm*, we meet Mick Kline at a time when his life is spiraling out of control. Mick finds himself accused of the kidnapping of a woman he hardly knows, and he refuses to turn to his estranged brother for help.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Guttering is an amazing writer, she knows how to hold your interest. I didn't want to put the book down.

Good story. Read it all in one day. Couldn't put it down.

This book was a great read! I recommend this author to anyone! I can't wait to read book 3. I know it will be just as good!

Storm Gathering by Rene Gutteridge is the Prequel to the Splitting Storm. The story opens with Taylor Franks working as an airline ticket counter agent. Near the end of her shift, an airplane is delayed and she is forced to deal with a very rude person. Not being able to take it anymore she ends up telling him off and her superior sees it and releases her from her position. Mick Kline is down on his luck. He has lost his job as an accountant and is barely holding on to his job as a part time coach. And to top it all off, his brother Aaron has just informed Mick, that he is getting married to Jenny, Mick's former girlfriend. Taylor and Mick meet in a bar and end up visiting. The next morning Mick finds himself in Taylor's apartment with Taylor missing. Days later a search is on to find Taylor and Mick is the prime suspect. Mick loses his job, the police are after him and he has not where to turn. He turns to his brother Aaron. But as the police close in on him, he runs and takes the police force on a long chase. Aaron is a police officer and despite their differences, he believes Mick. This is the first Rene Gutteridge novel I have read and I really like it. It is full of suspense. I like how she brings in family love and Christian living into the story.

Ok, there are 3 books in this series by Rene Gutteridge. The question is, which to read first. I chose the prequel, figured that was a good place to start. I guess no matter where I've started, I have yet to read something by Rene that I didn't love. This was no exception! What makes Rene Gutteridge great is to the effect of this; In one book she can be hilarious, like in the "BOO" books. Those had me rolling in my seat, and literally laughing out loud! And then this was dead serious for the most part, and made quite the mystery, very thrilling throughout the whole thing. A young lady disappears, and Mick Kline is the prime suspect. But his brother, Aaron, who happens to be on the police force, believes his story. What to do? right? WELL, hey this just really gets interesting. Keep in mind that there may be a few corrupt forces lurking about. This also has a few good chase scenes in it. But it also gives the big picture of who is in charge. You don't see a whole lot of reference to God in this, but to get the message across, it isn't necessary. Another small clue, but not a give away: You don't have to read "The Count of Monte Cristo" to know there will be an unexpected twist or two in this. This was original in it's own way, yet it reminded me a lot of Ted Dekker's debut, "Heaven's Wager". Mick Kline vaguely reminded me of Kent Anthony, so the ending was a little palpable. But that's ok. Rene Gutteridge offers a window to the soul. She's a witness for Christ, and a vessel that He can use. That's what keeps me coming back!

When airline ticket counter attendant Taylor Franks considered the mayhem that would momentarily ensue once the "delayed" sign above her head was activated, she felt sick inside. Anticipating the

mad rush of the crowd, the angry responses, the irritated passengers, and the subsequent reassignment nightmare to follow, it was no wonder Taylor hesitated to make the announcement. It wasn't long before her inner misgivings were proven correct. An angry displaced passenger began berating Taylor for his delayed flight; as the altercation rose, airport police arrived to handcuff the man but not before Taylor faces him off. On this dismal note, Taylor is asked to leave her post --- but what no one knew was that this single standoff would catapult a series of events that would forever change Taylor and those who lay within her path. Enter perpetually dueling brothers Aaron and Mick Kline. The former is a police officer, a Christian, and the good boy of the pair; the latter is the handsome black sheep and rebellious brother. After a physical battle of both the will and the body, the brothers retreat per usual and go their separate ways, each licking his own particular wounds. What neither realizes is that a single choice will force both of them to face up to their past, their present, and their future as brothers and as men. Of course, this duo must be battling over something significant --- and that something has a name: Jenny, the now fiancée of Aaron and former girlfriend of Mick. Despite their ongoing terse and tense interactions, both Aaron and Mick understand that it isn't only Jenny who's been the dividing wall between them. It's God --- Aaron's God --- and Mick's resistance to anything pertaining to matters of faith. With this foundation of exploited emotions and scarred psyches in place, author Rene Gutteridge sets the scene for a tale of suspense and intrigue. She skillfully employs both realistic dialogue and believably sympathetic characters to assist her as she weaves a story about loss of hope --- in God and in people --- and a revisiting of this faith amidst horrific and terrifying circumstances. Within a carefully constructed framework, Mick and Taylor meet and find some tenuous common bond of suffering between them. After an evening together, Mike awakens in Taylor's apartment only to find Taylor missing. It doesn't take long before the absent Taylor brings about some suspicions and Mick is the obvious suspect. Though this plot isn't necessarily fresh, Gutteridge does a nice job keeping the action moving with interesting twists between the characters. She has readers guessing as to who is responsible for Taylor's disappearance and does a particularly fine job of not giving away too much information...just enough to have readers contemplating what may have occurred. By bringing in some oddball characters in the guise of an eccentric police officer, a lawyer who has his obvious life issues, and other assorted dysfunctional supporting roles, Gutteridge makes the journey lively and sets the stage for a continued storyline. By the book's close, readers will have their most glaring questions answered and will be awaiting the next installment of the brothers Kline. --- Reviewed by Michele Howe

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