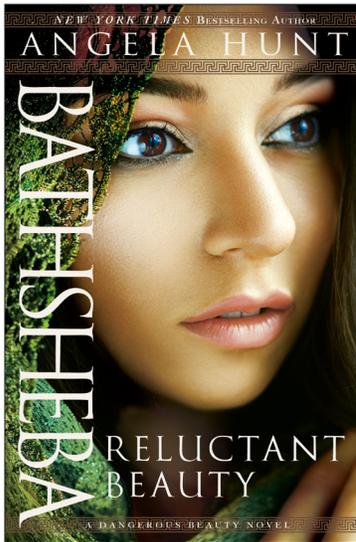




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH ANGELA HUNT



Bathsheba: Reluctant Beauty

A DANGEROUS BEAUTY NOVEL
by Angela Hunt

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1696-1
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1. Biblical fiction readers always want to know how much of the novel is true and how much is fiction. How much did you have to invent for *Bathsheba: Reluctant Beauty*?

Not much. In my biblical fiction—in all my historical fiction, really—I take pains never to contradict the historical record. And since the Bible is the alpha historical record, I took great pains not to contradict anything in it. Example: I didn’t realize that Bathsheba had three other sons until my third or fourth draft, so I had to go back and write them in! It would have been easier to simply focus on David, Bathsheba, and Solomon, but that wouldn’t have been accurate.

Scripture doesn’t tell us much about Bathsheba, but it tells us a great deal about David, Solomon, Ahithophel, and all the other players, so it wasn’t difficult to put all the pieces together and then imagine what Bathsheba must have been feeling and doing in those situations. It’s a fascinating story when you consider what life in David’s palace must have been like.

2. Readers have noticed that you always include a bibliography at the end of your historical novels. Why?

Because it’s so easy for readers to assume that I simply made things up. I started my career as a nonfiction writer, so everything I write is based in reality (probably why I don’t write fantasy). Novels may not be *actual*, but I believe they should deal with facts and truths. The “fictional” parts that I have to create have their roots in facts, logic, and probabilities.

3. What sort of historical novels do you like to read?

All of them! I haven’t yet found a time period that didn’t interest me. The only books that don’t interest me are those in which too much is “made up.” I would never use a novel for research, but as a writer, I want to believe that other writers did the necessary homework.

4. Which do you like better, writing historicals or writing contemporary novels?

I have to say that I don’t have a preference. All of my novels have required research of some sort (I love research!), because my contemporaries are usually about something interesting—to me, anyway. The two genres require exercising different creative muscles, so I enjoy mixing them up. After a few historicals, I yearn to write contemporary; after a few contemporaries, I’m ready to go back into history again. (And when I’m tired of writing, I pick up my camera!)

5. Is there a genre you haven’t tried yet but would like to tackle?

YES! Time travel. I’m itching to write a time-travel novel or maybe a series.