



**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE PETERSON**

**1. *The Icecutter's Daughter* is book one in a new series set in Minnesota. You've never set a series in Minnesota, so why did you choose this location?**

Minnesota has a fascinating history, especially where hard work and the land are involved. I wanted to utilize that history to show the readers something new and to share some of the fascinating things I learned about this great state.

**2. Where in Minnesota did you set this story?**

I chose the town of Waseca, just to the southwest of Minneapolis. There is a great history here of icecutting, and in fact they continue to celebrate that history each year with icecutting demonstrations.

**3. What did you do to research this story?**

I visited Waseca and the surrounding area to research the history. The local historians there were full of great information and suggestions. I watched numerous videos on ice harvesting and was blessed to even find one set in 1917. It made it all come alive for me. I also wanted to share some of the vast cultural history of Minnesota, and so I included Swedish and German characters in this book.

**4. What's the basic premise for this story?**

Merrill is the icecutter's daughter, raised with a bevy of brothers by her father after the death of her mother. Merrill isn't your girly-girl heroine; rather, she's a rough, hardworking woman who loves the Lord. She has one talent passed down to her from her mother, and that is an artistic ability in painting. Enter the hero, Rurik. He comes from Kansas to Waseca to work for his dying uncle in a furniture making business. When Rurik comes to help Merrill's family with ice harvesting, the two are thrown together and the attraction is immediate. However, there are complications to their romance, including a former fiancée of Rurik's, who refuses to let him go.

**5. What is the basic spiritual message you want readers to take away from this story?**

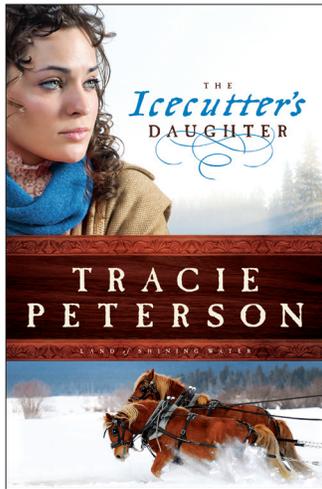
I'd like readers to see the problems that are created when we judge situations and people falsely. I'd like for them to consider the plight of these characters and how problems can be avoided by looking to God for answers, rather than our own faulty judgment.

**6. What did you enjoy most about writing this book?**

I found the people of Minnesota to be awesome to work with, and the setting offered many interesting historical tidbits. It was fascinating to learn more about something we take for granted—like ice and refrigeration, which was a heavy-duty labor that required a great many people's involvement. It was particularly interesting to see how wealthy people in the south vied for ice contracts from folks in the north so that they might have the means to keep their food and drinks cold year-round.

**7. What's on the horizon for book 2 in this series?**

Book 2 will be set near St. Cloud and deal with granite quarries—hence the title, *The Quarryman's Bride*. The cultural flavor for this story will deal with the Scottish immigrants who came to the area and set up quarries.



***The Icecutter's Daughter***

LAND OF SHINING WATER -1

by Tracie Peterson

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-0619-1

\$14.99; 352 pp.

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-7642-1076-1

\$19.99; 352 pp.

Large Print ISBN: 978-0-7642-1077-8

\$17.99; 432 pp.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4412-6096-3; \$14.99

Release Date: March 2013

**Media Contacts**

FICTION PUBLICIST: **Noelle Buss**

952-829-2559

noelle.buss@bethanyhouse.com

CANADIAN MEDIA: **Ellen Graf-Martin**

519-342-3703

ellen@grafmartin.com

UK & IRISH MEDIA: **Ian Matthews**

+44 (0) 7939 098337

ian@gardenhousemedia.com

Please send tear sheets to:

Noelle Buss

11400 Hampshire Ave. S.

Bloomington, MN 55438