



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE PETERSON



Love Everlasting
BRIDES OF SEATTLE #3
by Tracie Peterson

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Media Contacts

FICTION PUBLICIST: **Amy Green**
952-829-2596
agreen@bethanyhouse.com

CANADIAN MEDIA: **Ellen Graf-Martin**
519-342-3703
ellen@grafmartin.com

Please send tear sheets to:
Amy Green
Bethany House Publishers
11400 Hampshire Ave. S. #200
Bloomington, MN 55438

1. Why did you write *Love Everlasting*?

Love Everlasting is the conclusion of the BRIDES OF SEATTLE series. Throughout this series the focal character of Abrianna Cunningham has led readers on a merry chase through the streets of Seattle, dealing with the poor and homeless as well as the young bridal candidates at the Madison School for Brides. The series has shown Abrianna come to accept that she can't always charm or even force her way through the circumstances of life. Now she realizes her childhood friend Wade Ackerman is the man she loves, but she fears that accepting his proposal of marriage will change everything.

2. Why was this particular setting and time period important to you?

Seattle lost most of its downtown to a fire in 1889. As I read about the details related to that fire and the aftermath, I was amazed at how quickly Seattle rose from the ashes. Also amazing was that no one was killed in the fire, despite a very faulty series of city water pipes and an understaffed and underfunded fire department. Seeing the opportunity to make their town better, the citizens refused to wallow in self-pity and instead put their hearts and minds into re-creating Seattle. Much of the town was rebuilt in a year. *Love Everlasting* covers some of that time period, and hopefully the characters reveal that drive and inspiration.

3. How did you go about researching for *Love Everlasting*?

Since it was book three in the series, I had a great deal of the information already on hand. However, there were details that sent me back to Seattle for research. I also had an amazing Seattle historian who helped me with all sorts of pesky questions. I'm always blessed by the people God sends my way who help deliver some of the most amazing facts.

4. What motivated the spiritual aspect of the story?

The heart of survival is an underlying theme throughout the story. Not only was this important in the citizens of Seattle but also in the lives of my main characters. Abrianna faces several challenges that threaten to destroy all that she loves. She finds her strength in God, but she also comes to realize that sometimes God sends help in the form of others. She has to learn that "no man (or woman) is an island" and that, as the Bible says, "Two are better than one," and sometimes an entire team of people is better still. Abrianna fears change because she's grown accustomed to her independent life. Throughout her spiritual journey she will come to terms with change and dependency, as well as love and its many forms.

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5. Will there be additional books related to this series?

I'm often asked this question, and my answer is that I never say never. I really loved the setting and the characters. The bridal finishing school was a wonderful setting for diversity and new character focus, and I think it would be a lot of fun to write another series, say set twenty years or so in the future. Maybe focus on Abrianna and Wade's children. I keep meticulous notes on characters and story outlines, and that has often led me to write additional series related to a previous set. I also listen to the readers' responses. Often they encourage me to tell the story of a minor character or to let them see into the lives of the characters years later. It's always fun to accommodate them.

6. What do you hope the reader takes away from *Love Everlasting*?

Hopefully they will enjoy the culmination of the series in seeing Abrianna finally grow up without losing her passion for life. Women in this time period had very little say over their lives, yet there were those stalwart females who helped to shape the lives of the men around them. I would also like the reader— especially younger readers—to see that passion for life and God need to be tempered with wisdom, godly counsel, and patience. Abrianna's character would have avoided a great many problems had she done this, but then we wouldn't have had a series detailing her exploits. Trusting in God and not our own understanding pretty much sums up what I hope the reader will take away.