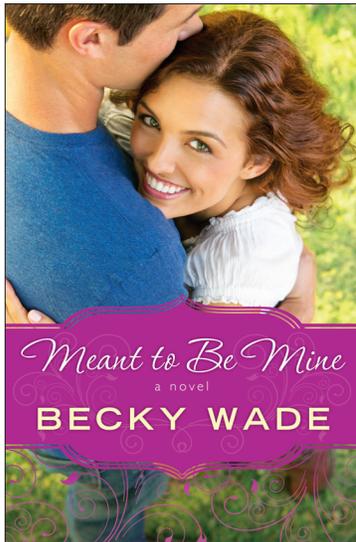




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH BECKY WADE



Meant to Be Mine

by Becky Wade

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1. What was the inspiration behind *Meant to Be Mine*?

I was inspired by a classic romance novel storyline known as the “Secret Baby.” In the case of *Meant to Be Mine*, Ty and Celia get married in Las Vegas on the spur of the moment (after dating each other for four days). They realize the next morning that the wedding wasn’t such a good idea and they part ways. The story picks up five and a half years later, when Ty tracks Celia down in order to inquire about a divorce. What does he discover? Celia has a daughter—his daughter—that she’s kept a secret from him.

Secret baby plot lines never fail to capture my interest! I’m always so eager for the father to discover the baby and then to watch the characters navigate the drama that follows. I’ve wanted for some time to try my hand at this sort of story and am extremely glad to have been given the chance.

2. What did you enjoy most about writing this story?

The banter! Ty is the funniest, most charming, and most confident hero I’ve written so far. When I put Celia into scenes with him, I realized right away that she was going to have to be even spunkier than I’d originally realized. I had a ball writing the dialogue between the two of them. There were times when I could hardly type fast enough.

3. What is the theme of *Meant to Be Mine*?

From the beginning, before I’d written page one, I knew that *Meant to Be Mine* would be about forgiveness.

4. How would you describe your writing style?

Romantic, humorous, heartwarming. I’m interested in writing about imperfect, flawed people who are nonetheless loved by a perfect God. Thus, my books all have a strong faith storyline. I strive to write authentically. I like to laugh. I delight in writing about modern-day people and places. At least one of my two main characters is always larger-than-life in some way. And my books are very romance-heavy. My readers can count on a hunky hero who’s going to fall madly in love with the heroine.

5. This is your first series of connected books. What are your thoughts on writing a series?

I’m both thoroughly enjoying writing a series and thoroughly challenged by it. Novel writing is difficult work! Penning a whole series of novels is extra difficult because I have to weave together an ever-growing cast of characters. That said, part of what I love about writing *is* the challenge. Also, there’s something so rich and charming about revisiting the same town and the same characters over the course of four novels and several years. The Porter family begins to feel like *your* family, and Holley, Texas, begins to feel like *your* place.

6. Any advice for other writers?

I think it’s incredibly valuable to take time to learn the craft of writing via writer’s groups, non-fiction books on the topic, and conferences. While learning the craft, I recommend practice. Write one manuscript through to the end. Then another! As you go, try out different sub-genres and cultivate your own unique voice. In the end, it’s critically important that you take the knowledge you’ve gained and write your book the way that you love it best.

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

11400 Hampshire Ave. S.

Bloomington, MN 55438