

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH REGINA JENNINGS****1. What inspired you to write *A Most Inconvenient Marriage*?**

My family's roots have been planted in the rocky soil of the Ozark Mountains for over 150 years, but the plot inspiration for *A Most Inconvenient Marriage* comes from a very different source—*Downton Abbey*.

If you're a fan of the show, as I am, you might remember when William, a dying WWI soldier, wanted to marry Daisy. Although Daisy didn't return the sentiment, she married him anyway, feeling that it was her patriotic duty. Watching that episode, I told my husband—don't tell anyone he watches it with me—"He's not going to die. Just wait. He'll get better and then she'll be stuck with him." I was wrong. He did die, leaving Daisy free to go on with her life.

But the potential for conflict in that set-up spoke to me. What if a nurse married a dying soldier as part of a bargain, and he didn't die? What if there was a mystery concerning the identity of the soldier? Is the man who appears after the war really who he says he is?

**2. What message do you hope your readers come away with?**

In the immortal words of Elsa from *Frozen*, "Let it go."

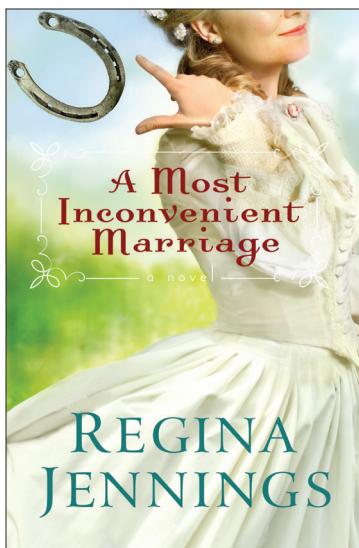
Jeremiah Calhoun comes home from a war he lost, crippled, with his farm in shambles and his sweetheart no longer wanting to marry him. He's determined to get his life back to how it was. Of course, stubborn determination can accomplish much, but Jeremiah has to determine what's worth fighting for and what he has to lose if he wins.

I hope readers take a minute, like I did, to examine which of our goals are God-ordained and which are distracting us from a richer blessing.

**3. Historical novels require so much research. What did you learn while writing *A Most Inconvenient Marriage*?**

My research mainly fell into two categories—Missouri history and medical history, and I was surprised by discoveries in both areas.

I knew that times were very rough in the Ozarks in the mid-nineteenth century—my own great-great-great grandpa was murdered while plowing his field—but I had no idea how harsh the laws and rulings were during that time. Missouri was a neutral state, yet four whole counties were ordered to be completely evacuated during the war, displacing over 20,000 people and leaving their farms and homes to be looted and burned. General Order No. 11 was intended to end the guerilla warfare between the Kansas jayhawkers and the Missouri bushwhackers, but instead, it extended the hostilities in the region for decades after the war was over.

***A Most Inconvenient Marriage***

by Regina Jennings

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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

11400 Hampshire Ave. S.

Bloomington, MN 55438

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As far as the medical research goes, Jeremiah's sister Rachel has a heart ailment, and before my study, I assumed doctors of the day would recognize exterior symptoms of heart disease, but had no way of knowing exactly what was wrong. Shows how much I know. Can you believe that doctors during this time could diagnose which valve was leaking just by listening to the patient's heartbeat? I was astonished at how much they learned through observation.

On a lighter medical note, while working in the prison hospital ward, our heroine Abigail trains with a doctor who has worked under Doctor Per Henrik Ling. The real Dr. Ling founded two very popular health practices. He's known as the father of both Swedish massage and physical therapy. It's lucky for Jeremiah (and that hurt leg of his) that Abigail has that experience.

**4. What's next for readers?**

My next Ozark Mountain Romance series is titled *At Love's Bidding*. This story is about Miranda Wimpletegate, a Bostonian art appraiser, who heads west with her grandfather to manage his newly acquired auction house. When she arrives, she learns that her grandfather has dementia, that instead of an art auction house he has purchased a livestock auction, and the cowboy in charge won't be managed by any woman.