



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE PETERSON

1. Tell us why you wrote *The Quarryman's Bride*.

I wanted to write a story that would deal with old family traditions that get in the way of true love and life in general. I also wanted to utilize the Minnesota quarry business setting to share some of the historical aspects of life in that region. As I began to develop my research, I found so many interesting things about quarry work and life in Minnesota that it created a wonderful foundation for the book.

2. Where in Minnesota did you set this story?

I chose the city of St. Cloud. The area has a wonderful park—the Quarry State Park—where you can walk around and see some of the old quarry works.

3. What did you do to research this story?

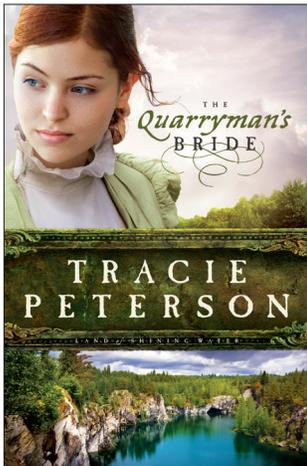
I was able to spend some quality time in the St. Cloud area and get a firsthand look at granite quarries and the work required to get the rock out of the ground. I visited local museums and talked to people who worked in and around quarries, along with reading a great many books that helped me to better understand what quarry workers were up against in the late 1800s. This was difficult and dangerous work to be sure. I also wanted to have a cultural flavor for my story, and I chose those of Scottish heritage since they were heavily involved in quarry work. I've been to Scotland and have Scottish heritage myself, so I found it quite interesting to dig deeper and learn more about the traditions that existed.

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

Emmalyne and Tavin have been in love since they were young. Their wedding, however, is called off when a tragedy takes the lives of Emmalyne's younger sisters. In her family there is a tradition that the youngest daughter remains unmarried to care for the aging parents. With the death of her sisters, Emmalyne must now take on that responsibility. Her father puts an end to the engagement and they move away, leaving Emmalyne and Tavin torn apart. Emmalyne desires to be obedient to her father and mother—to honor them as the Bible says. But at the same time she longs to reunite with the only man she'll ever love. How can God possibly soften the hard hearts of two bitter men without crushing the dreams and hopes of a loving young woman?

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

I wanted to address what it means to honor your mother and father. What does God expect of adult children in the ways of honoring and caring for their parents? I also wanted to show the painful consequences of the choices people make and how often one seemingly small event can ripple down through the years to completely alter lives.



The Quarryman's Bride

LAND OF SHINING WATER
by Tracie Peterson

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

I loved the time I spent walking around Quarry State Park in St. Cloud. It was like another world. The setting transported me in time, and I could almost see myself there in the late 1890s. I love the way God works to show me things in that way. And it's always such a pleasure to find people from the area who love their history. Minnesota folks are great, and they are proud of their heritage. I also did some additional research while in Scotland, learning about the Celtic language and traditional Scottish recipes. I even made a few to share with my family as I wrote about them in the story.

7. What's on the horizon for book 3 in this series?

Book 3 is set in the Ely, Minnesota, area and deals with Italian immigrants and iron mining. This story has a bit of a Romeo and Juliet theme with a strong spiritual message of learning to let go of past wrongs and forgive for the sake of the present and the future.