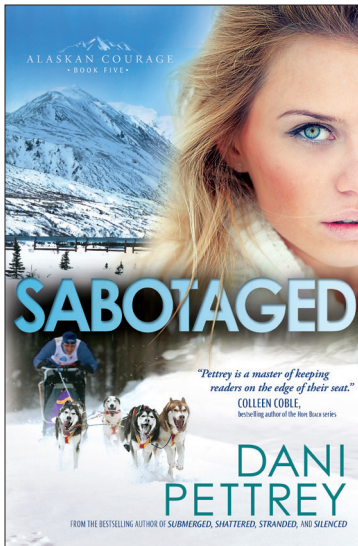




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DANI PETTREY



Sabotaged

ALASKAN COURAGE #5
by Dani Pettrey

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1. Sabotaged takes place during the Iditarod. What was your inspiration for setting your story during the Last Great Race on Earth?

It's an idea I'd been toying with since the start of my ALASKAN COURAGE series. The McKennas' world revolves around adventure and extremes. There's no place on earth where you find a better combination of the two than during the Iditarod.

2. Did you learn surprising facts or trivia while researching the Iditarod?

So many things. For example, race times have gotten twice as fast since it started. The first Iditarod took place in 1973 and took about 20 days to complete; currently, it takes about 10 days. Additionally, sled dogs need to consume 10-12,000 calories a day during the race. It goes without saying, but I am truly in awe at the brave athletes who compete in such a grueling and arduous race—both the men and woman mushers, and of course, the sled dogs. I loved seeing the musher's devotion and care of their animals, as well as the bonding that exists between the two. It's really touching.

3. Sabotaged releases February 1, which is around the same time as the Iditarod, right? When does the race begin this year?

It begins on March 7, and you can follow it live on <http://iditarod.com>.

4. Sabotaged is the last installment in the ALASKAN COURAGE series. Was it difficult saying good-bye to the McKenna family?

Writing Reef and Kirra's story was bittersweet. I loved getting to know the black sheep of the family, and I adored getting to know the often reserved Kirra Jacobs, but yes, it was difficult knowing this would be the last story I'd be spending with the McKennas (at least for now. I never like to say never). I really hope readers will feel it was a good wrap-up to the series.

5. What is the underlying theme/message of Sabotaged?

The theme for *Sabotaged* is hope in the midst of brokenness. God is able to bring healing and hope despite the worst of circumstances. It doesn't happen overnight most times, but if we trust Him and wait on Him, He is faithful to bring healing—to turn our mourning into dancing. It doesn't mean that all our questions will be answered, but we can hold tight to the promise that He will provide the grace we need to get through, even if it's simply the grace to make it through day by day. God is faithful.

6. I'm sure this is a question on everyone's mind. What do you have planned in the future?

I'll be doing a new four-book series with Bethany House that I'm extremely excited about. The first book in my CHESAPEAKE VALOR series will be out next year. I hope readers will enjoy meeting a great cast of new characters and exploring a new location with me. The series will be set in my backyard, along the shores of the gorgeous Chesapeake Bay.

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