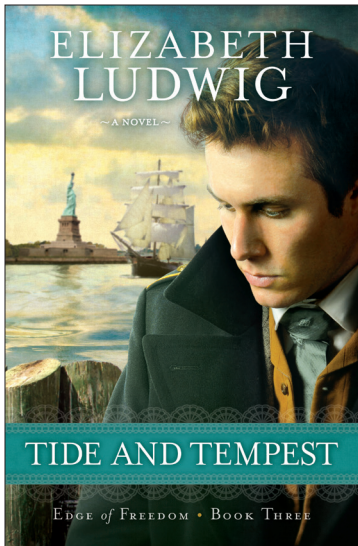




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH ELIZABETH LUDWIG**



**Tide and Tempest**

EDGE OF FREEDOM #3

by Elizabeth Ludwig

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1041-9

\$14.99; 368 pp.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4412-6358-2; \$14.99

Release Date: March 2014

**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

**1. How did you become a novelist, and did you always want to write?**

I didn't always want to be a novelist, but I did always love making up stories. I used to spend hours giving life to characters in my head, and I thought that meant I would become a star of stage and screen. LOL!

Also, I tended to rewrite the closing scenes of books that maybe didn't end the way I wanted them to, and since I read a lot, you can imagine the hours I spent daydreaming.

Anyway, fast forward twenty . . . um . . . thirty years, and that love of reading changed into a love of writing. I still visualize characters in my head, but now that transfers onto paper.

**2. What do you think is significant about Christian fiction?**

I've often been asked what kinds of books I like to read and if I have any favorites. After I'd had time to ponder those questions, I realized deep down what I'd always known to be true—I like books that challenge me. I don't want something that stands on shock value, or that showcases the ugliness of the world. I want something that offers hope. That's what's so wonderful about Christian fiction. Not only are these books well written, they tell a wonderful story! They're also about cutting away everything that hinders us from relying fully and completely upon Jesus. They're about entrusting the people and things we love most in the world to Him. And they're about learning to cast aside every unspoken fear and throwing ourselves on the infinite grace and mercy of the Savior. That is what I believe is significant about Christian fiction. It draws people closer to God.

**3. What responses to your novels have affected you the most and why?**

I've had all kinds of responses to my books—both good and bad. The ones that impacted me most are the ones where people said their lives were changed. One woman wrote to say she wasn't overly religious, but my books made her question her faith. Another person said she found hope after loss. Those words mean so much to me.

**4. How has being a novelist impacted your relationship with Christ?**

Writers are insecure . . . I get that, but honestly, I never dreamed that writing fiction would force me to rely on Jesus as much as it has. No matter how tough your skin is, reading a harsh review makes you question your skill! And rejections? Yeah, I still get plenty of those. Bottom line, I've had to surrender every bit of this writing adventure to God, and accept that when He says I'm done, I'm done.

**5. What can you tell us about your latest novels?**

I never imagined when I set out to write the *EDGE OF FREEDOM* series for Bethany House that I would be writing about grief. Or loss. Or separation.

I knew I'd be venturing onto unproven ground—combining historical romance with romantic suspense. I spent numerous conversations with the marketing gurus trying to figure out the best way to promote these books. We talked about cover designs, titles that invoked a feeling of romance and suspense, even colors for my website, and for many weeks, marketing was my focus.

---

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH ELIZABETH LUDWIG**

---

But as He often does, God had bigger plans, though He waited until all three books were written to reveal that information to me.

“What are these books about?” an interviewer asked. “Besides the romance and suspense, what would you say is the theme?”

Normally, I do alright in an impromptu interview, but the answer that rose to my lips surprised even me.

“Grief,” I said. “These books are about losing someone you love and finding the faith to go on.”

“Grief? Isn’t that sort of an odd theme for a romance?”

I shook my head. “Not really. True love, the kind that God gives, always involves sacrifice.”

Is there anything more beautiful, or more difficult, than that?

**6. What stories can your fans expect from you in the days ahead?**

I’m so looking forward to the release of the third book in my *EDGE OF FREEDOM* series, *Tide and Tempest*. Originally, I had intended *EDGE OF FREEDOM* to be a two book series, so this was the only story that wasn’t planned. It has turned out to be my favorite. I love, love, love this hero and heroine—Keondric and Tillie. Their story amazed me, and their love was just phenomenal to write.

Also, I share a common grief with Tillie—the loss of a child. I think that’s why she resonated with me so deeply. I really hope her triumph over guilt and grief speaks to readers.

**7. What would you like to say to your fans?**

I think I would say there’s a reason that God described the spreading of the gospel as the planting of “seeds.” A seed is small, but it can yield a great harvest. There is always a seed in my books. Sometimes, it’s a seed of salvation. Other times, it’s seeds of forgiveness or trust. It’s my prayer that by reading my books, people will be able to glean those seeds, and that they will yield a great harvest of faith and encouragement in their lives.

**8. Do you have any parting words?**

I love connecting with my readers. I wish I could visit with every single one—find out where they are in life, and what hope or encouragement (if any) they drew from reading my books. Stop by and visit with me! I post information on upcoming releases on my website at [www.elizabethludwig.com](http://www.elizabethludwig.com).

Or check out my blog at [www.theborrowedbook.blogspot.com](http://www.theborrowedbook.blogspot.com). We do author interviews, weekly devotionals, and book giveaways. We also post book reviews and list upcoming releases from many of your favorite Christian authors. In other words, there’s something for everyone!

Lastly, if you just want to see what I’m up to, search for me on Facebook. I would love to visit with you.