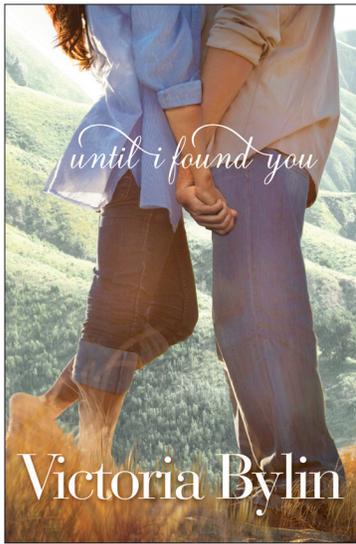


**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH VICTORIA BYLIN****Until I Found You**

by Victoria Bylin

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1. *Until I Found You* is set in the part of Southern California known as “Condor Country.” What inspired you to choose this setting?

My parents discovered the area and retired there in a community called Pine Mountain Club. My husband and I loved visiting on weekends, both for family fun and for just relaxing in the mountains. When our second son came along, we made the decision to leave L.A. so that I could be a full-time mom, which meant my husband had a very long commute to work. We had no idea we were moving to a community we’d grow to love so much.

2. Have you seen condors in the wild?

Yes, I have. What a sight! The birds are big, ugly, and majestic all at once. We were living in Pine Mountain Club when biologists made the attempt to release four birds raised in captivity back into the wild. I had the privilege of seeing two of them circle high above the community pool for almost an hour. They looked more like 747s than birds. I also saw three of the birds up close when they perched on the deck of a house. That interaction with humans was a problem and the reason the birds were recaptured and returned to the zoo for aversion therapy. Having grown up in California, I’ve followed for years the fight to save the species from extinction. The birds go back to prehistoric times and have an amazing history.

3. *Until I Found You* makes some comparisons between condor courtship and our modern dating culture. What inspired you to write this aspect of the story?

Before writing for Bethany House, I wrote fourteen historical romances. Some things in this world haven’t changed. Men and women fall in love the same way they have for generations. But some things have changed, and they’ve changed a lot. I wrote *Until I Found You* because I wanted to explore how the modern dating culture has affected both men and women for better or for worse.

The other reason is that I just love romance! There’s nothing better than a strong hero colliding with an equally strong heroine. Falling in love is one of the most amazing human experiences. It’s also just plain fun.

4. What’s your favorite part of the writing process?

My favorite part of the whole process is looking for the perfect word or phrase. It’s amazing how one little change can sharpen a picture and bring out the emotion. My second favorite phase is brainstorming new ideas. In the beginning, there’s no pressure to write or to be logical. At that point, anything goes. It’s messy and fun in a finger-painting kind of way.

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5. Do you have a writing motto?

Yes. It's just two words: WRITE BIG. Don't hold back on the story. Let 'er rip and clean it up later. My best ideas usually come in a storm of what ifs, and I know I'm on the right track when I gasp out loud at what happens on the page.

6. What advice to you have aspiring authors?

Inspiration is a gift. Discipline is a choice. Technique can be learned. There are some amazing books out there on the craft of writing. Find one that resonates with you and study it. I've wanted to write since reading Walter Farley's *BLACK STALLION* books, but I didn't understand how to do it until I stumbled on a craft book at the Fairfax County Public library in northern Virginia. That moment changed my life.

7. What do you hope readers take away from reading *Until I Found You*?

The pastor at a church we attended for many years used to talk about "kicking the can down the road." That's what I hope this book does for readers—that it kicks the can down the road of faith for everyone who reads it.

8. What's next?

My next book is called *Together With You*, and I just love it. Like *Until I Found You*, it looks at the modern dating culture. It's scheduled for Spring 2015. Right now, I'm brainstorming a third book with a "You" title and eager to get started.