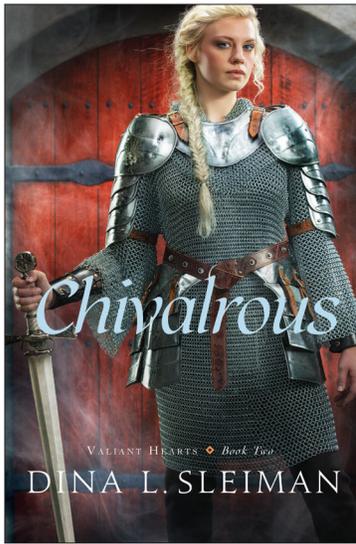




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DINA L. SLEIMAN**



**Chivalrous**

VALIANT HEARTS #2

by Dina L. Sleiman

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1313-7

\$12.99; 368 pp.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4412-2883-3

Release Date: September 2015

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**1. Your first book in the VALIANT HEARTS series, *Dauntless*, had a Robin Hood inspiration. What legend inspired *Chivalrous*?**

*Chivalrous* relates in many ways with Arthurian legends, particularly Sir Lancelot. It takes place in a fictional dukedom in Northern England that strives to live by Arthurian ideals, including a round-table type of government. It is a story of tournaments, chivalry, and courtly love with a surprising twist on the Lancelot and Guinevere story.

**2. Sounds like you've taken this story in a whole new direction. In what ways does it relate to *Dauntless*?**

This story follows everyone's favorite character from *Dauntless*, Allen, who will soon be dubbed Sir Allen of Ellsworth. Allen is the guy who didn't get the girl in book one, but he takes off for North Britannia in search of his rightful place in the world, and I'm guessing he just might stumble across love once he gets there. This story also relates to the VALIANT HEARTS series as a whole by bringing in a new spunky heroine who has secretly trained to be a knight.

**3. Tell us a little bit more about your main characters in *Chivalrous*.**

Allen stands out immediately because of his deep connection with God, but he is also struggling with his identity. He was raised to be a peasant farmer but has been given many opportunities to advance in the world, and he isn't sure of his new role. As is often the case with people so close to God, the weakness he deals with is pride, and although it is subtle, it has the potential to destroy everything.

Gwendolyn longs to be a knight like her chivalrous brothers, but her domineering father sees her as nothing more than a marriage pawn. He is determined to see her wed to a brutish man who will break her spirit. She is unsure how she even feels about a God who would create her—as she sees it—a second-rate female when she would rather be a knight. And, boy, does she have a temper. But Gwendolyn also has a softer side. She loves dance and music and children. She will have a long way to go to find her true identity.

**4. What do you hope your readers will take away from *Chivalrous*?**

This book deals with what it means to be a woman of valor. Because of Gwendolyn's situation, she must struggle to discover a woman's true role in both the family and society. She has seen her mother abused into a shell of herself and does not want that to be her fate. Both Gwendolyn and Allen end up dealing with unjust authorities, and must learn to balance godly submission with the importance of taking charge of one's own decisions. To borrow a modern phrase, they must learn how to establish healthy boundaries. A message of God turning all things for good for those who love Him comes shining through the story. And as in all of my books, the importance of having an intimate relationship with God and learning to hear His voice is stressed.

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**5. What can we expect next from the VALIANT HEARTS series?**

Book 3, *Courageous*, will be coming out next summer. It will follow the story of Gwendolyn's lady's maid from *Chivalrous*. Rosalind of Ipsworth is haunted by a tragic mistake, but a crusade to the Holy Land just might offer her the chance to earn her redemption. Inspired by the vision of the Young Lady Sapphira, Rosalind joins a group of men, women, and children as a defender of the cross. She will gladly give herself to the cause of Christ, as she believes she no longer deserves such joys as normal life, marriage, and family might bring.

Sir Randel Penigree was reared for a life in the church, but his own desire is to fight and protect the innocent as a knight. After a stunning defeat, his parents issue an ultimatum: join the church or be disowned. A crusade to the Holy Land will offer him the opportunity to find the famed Knights Templar and become a warrior monk, finally merging his parents' wishes with his own.

As they work together to train and protect a group of adolescents, their hearts begin to heal, and Randel and Rosalind find themselves undeniably drawn to one another. When they face political machinations, danger, and an unknown enemy bent on their destruction, they are forced to reconsider their priorities, and the very nature of the God they serve.