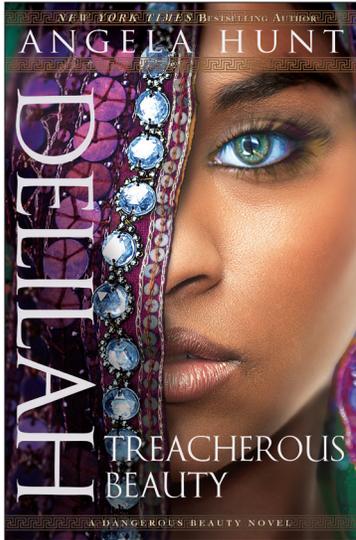




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH ANGELA HUNT**



**Delilah: Treacherous Beauty**

A DANGEROUS BEAUTY NOVEL  
by Angela Hunt

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**1. Why write a novel about one of the Bible’s “bad girls”?**

Why not? First, Delilah fits into the series theme of *dangerous beauty*. Her beauty not only put her at risk, it proved to be trouble for Samson too. Second, I don’t believe that people are bad without reason. People are always able to justify the bad things they do, whether the rest of us agree with those justifications or not. So I knew Delilah had reasons for betraying Samson, and I wanted to explore what those reasons might be.

**2. After writing about dangerous beauties, have you come up with any insights about beautiful women?**

Of course. First, beauty comes from God. He is the master designer, and he created all things beautiful. Sin corrupts beauty just as it corrupts everything. Esther, Bathsheba, and Delilah lived in a time when women were not always free to make their own choices about right and wrong. Women were considered little more than chattel in ancient times, and if you were too beautiful, you could put your entire family at risk (for example, when Abraham told Sarah to lie and say she was his sister, not his wife). Each of the three women I chose to write about got into trouble because of her beauty, but God redeemed them and brought beauty out of their terrible situations.

**3. What lessons does Delilah teach women today?**

One of the themes of Delilah and Samson’s story is that God can redeem anything, and that he works all things according to his will. Over and over in Samson’s story, we see him making unwise choices, but God used even those to fulfill his plan for Samson and for Israel. Scripture doesn’t tell us much about Delilah, yet I believe God used her unwise choices in the same way. That’s his way.

**4. You write unstintingly about sexual abuse in this story. Why go there in inspirational fiction?**

While I never like to wallow in details about unpleasant, sinful situations, I do believe it’s important for Christian readers to live *in* the world and yet not be *of* the world. Too many of us want to live in a “Christian bubble” where we hear no evil, see no evil, touch no evil. But if we are going to relate to the people around us, and be salt and light in an increasingly dark culture, we have to know what’s going on around us. And that sort of abuse *is* still going on. Sexual slavery is a huge problem in our world today. I don’t believe we appreciate the light in all its fullness and splendor unless we also appreciate the depths of the darkness around us.