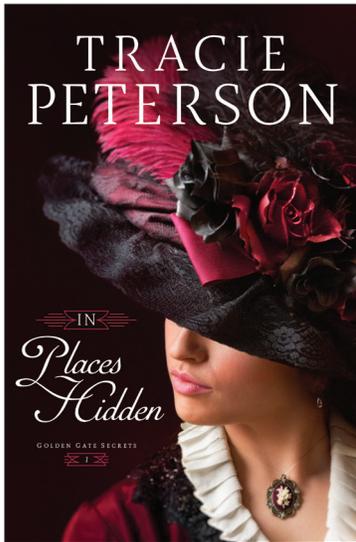




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE PETERSON



In Places Hidden

GOLDEN GATE SECRETS #1

by Tracie Peterson

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1. What is *In Places Hidden* about?

In Places Hidden is the first book in a new series set in San Francisco in 1905. Camrianne Coulter's brother, Caleb, has disappeared, and she has come to San Francisco to find him. On her way there, she teams up with two other young women who are also making their way to the city in search of something. The women agree to help each other and immediately find themselves having to deal with issues and problems of the day. Patrick Murdock is also searching for Caleb. As a lawyer, Caleb saved Patrick from a murder charge, and the two became fast friends. Now Patrick feels honor-bound to try to save Caleb's life. But Caleb has disappeared without a trace, and Patrick and Camri find themselves thrown together in unusual circumstances to figure out what has happened. Through the course of their search, Camri finds her eyes opened to how opinionated and snobbish she has been as a fierce believer in women's rights and education. Patrick's Irish background takes Camri into an entirely new world where her beliefs are challenged and remade. As her heart is softened to better understand God's love for the poor, Camri also finds herself in love with Patrick. Can a poor Irishman and opinionated women's rights believer ever make a future together?

2. Why did you choose this setting and time period?

I've wanted to write a series set in and around the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire for a long time. There were so many interesting things going on in that city during that period. The earthquake and subsequent fires that destroyed so much of downtown created a fascinating backdrop for my story, and many of the real-life characters fit well into my overall scheme.

3. Are your characters factual?

I set fictional characters amid factual ones to weave what I hope is a compelling story. San Francisco in the early 1900s was full of political strife and problems with graft, sub-standard building, and deceptive business practices. There were corrupt characters who were responsible for death and destruction, but also really good people who gave of their heart to help those in need. I wanted to show a little bit of it all.

4. Did you have to do special research for this book/series?

I always try to do as much research as possible for each book. I try to visit the location, talk to locals, and get an in-depth knowledge of the time period. I read a great many books on the events that take place during my series, as well as books on the location and the people who lived in my story's time period. One fascinating thing was that this particular era allowed me to see actual videos from the time. I was able to watch several videos of San Francisco in the full swing of life before the earthquake and fire, then see the destruction and living conditions afterward.

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5. What kind of spiritual theme did you want to share with the reader?

Throughout the series there are several. A main theme in book one is to understand that reaching out to others in need is a matter of heart and not philosophies or religion. God has created us to truly love one another, and that should play out in actions and not just words. When we allow God to let us see others through His eyes, we come to understand what love is truly all about and how it can change the world.

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I'm just so grateful for yet another chance to share the stories God has laid on my heart. My writing is a ministry to extend hope and encouragement to those who may otherwise feel forsaken. It's also a chance to share the Gospel message. There are so many people out there who will not pick up the Bible but will pick up one of my books. I feel a responsibility to share the hope that is within me and pray that the books will draw the reader closer to God.