

Tracie Peterson



Kimberley Woodhouse

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE & KIMBERLEY

1. What inspired you to name the heroine Cassidy?

A beautiful fifteen-year-old girl was killed in a tragic accident in our small community. Her name was Cassidy Faith Hale. As Tracie and I were brainstorming this series and our characters, we both wanted to honor Cassidy by naming our character after her. We also wanted to include some of Cassidy's effervescent personality—and we did. *In the Shadow of Denali* is dedicated in honor and memory of Cassidy.

2. *In the Shadow of Denali* is book one in a new series. Where and when does it take place?

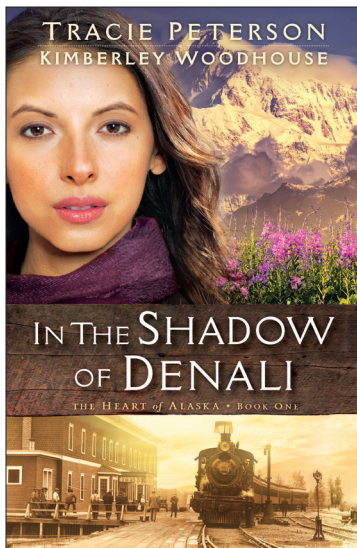
In the Shadow of Denali is the first in the HEART OF ALASKA series. We start in 1917 literally on Denali, on top of the mountain, and then we jump to 1923 and the beginning of Curry, Alaska. Curry was the heart of Alaska for many years as it was the halfway point on the Alaska Railroad that connected Fairbanks to Seward. The Curry Hotel was lavish and even hosted President Warren G. Harding as he traveled through Alaska to drive in the golden spike to commemorate the completion of the railroad.

3. The books you've co-written together have been acclaimed for their historical detail and accuracy. How much research does it take to write one of your books?

Tons of research. We put thousands of hours just into research for each book. That includes reading historical data, books, and journals, and then we always try to go to the actual locations as well and speak to experts, family members, locals, and so on. But it's always worth it—especially when letters from readers pour in and we see one of our novels has sparked an interest in history as well.

4. What is it like co-authoring a novel?

Tracie has done it many times with great success, and I've also written with my daughter, and co-authoring novels has always been enjoyable for me. But writing with Tracie is a beautiful thing. We are dear friends and even though the work is intense, it's always fun to write together. I feel I learn so much through each project, and our readers really seem to enjoy the books.



In the Shadow of Denali

THE HEART OF ALASKA #1

by Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse

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