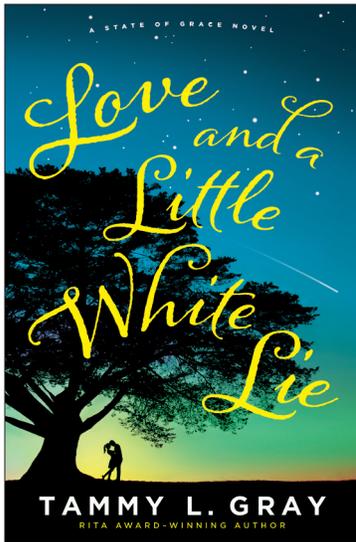




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TAMMY L. GRAY**



**Love and a Little White Lie**

STATE OF GRACE

by Tammy L. Gray

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**1. *Love and a Little White Lie* plunges January, a self-professed atheist, into the world of organized religion. Why did you choose to set up the story this way?**

For many reasons—to include both humor and great story conflict, but mostly to show readers two often conflicting perspectives. We usually know the hearts and intents of others in our cultural circle, but often we make assumptions and stereotypes of others outside those same circles. By using January’s narrative, I was able to show believers how our words and actions affect those around us. I was also able to show why those who weren’t raised in a church setting are often jaded and hesitant to make the leap back into the church.

**2. Healing as a journey is a theme in *Love and a Little White Lie*. What motivated you to write about emotional healing?**

I believe one of the areas Christians struggle in is this idea of needing to be perfect. That once a person is saved, they no longer have the right to feel depressed, overwhelmed, angry, disappointed, or to even to question their faith. This simply isn’t true, and I wanted to show several characters in this story who are strong believers and yet are dealing with emotional setbacks. What I love most about January’s interactions with these believers is that she is a part of their healing and sees Christ even fuller in their transparency.

**3. Truth and deception are both explored in *Love and a Little White Lie*. How did they impact the romantic relationships in the story?**

They have a huge impact. From the beginning, January hides a significant part of her history and belief system from others, and we quickly see how important one little white lie can become. At the same time, there are pockets of deeper truth that weave through those same relationships, and the contrast is a beautiful picture of the grace we all need.

**4. *Love and a Little White Lie* incorporates more comedy than your previous works. Did you enjoy this shift in your writing?**

Yes, I really did! While great romantic tension and strong emotions are still explored, this story is wrapped inside a humor-filled narrative that made it a delight to write. Creating a light-hearted undertone allowed me to be honest and real without creating a heavy, emotional story. I’m especially grateful in light of this year’s challenges. Laughter is more needed than ever.

**5. What themes will you explore in your second STATE OF GRACE novel?**

I am super excited about my next book in the series, especially since it deals with an issue so many of us have faced. What happens when nothing goes as it’s supposed to? When faithfully following God doesn’t save us from heartbreak and disappointment? How do we find our way back when our world has been completely turned upside down? It’s a journey in trust and faith, and I cannot wait for you all to read it!

**Media Contacts**

FICTION PUBLICIST: **Amy Lokkesmoe**

952-829-2596

alokkesmoe@bethanyhouse.com

CANADIAN MEDIA: **Ellen Graf-Martin**

519-342-3703

ellen@grafmartin.com

Please send tear sheets to:

Amy Lokkesmoe

Bethany House Publishers

11400 Hampshire Ave. S. #200

Bloomington, MN 55438