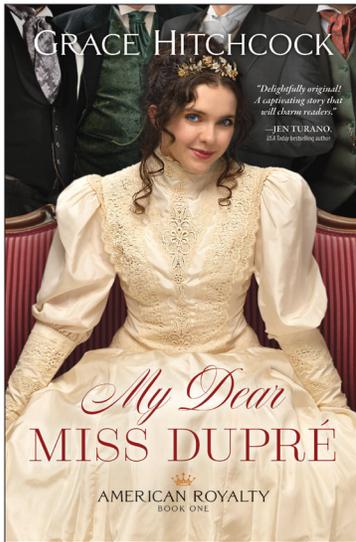




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH GRACE HITCHCOCK**



**My Dear Miss Dupré**

AMERICAN ROYALTY #1

by Grace Hitchcock

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-3797-3

\$15.99; 368 pp.

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**1. My Dear Miss Dupré takes place during New York City’s Gilded Age. What is so special about this particular setting and time period?**

The Gilded Age speaks to me, as it was a time of great change for women. While still having that epic romance feel with balls and dancing and courtships with sweet wooing, women were breaking ground and making history and pairing that with the fact that it was a time of emerging inventions, so it’s an all-around exciting era to research, read and write about. And when I first read about the Vanderbilt ball in all its lavishness, I had to write about it. So, most of the outlandish costumes you see in those chapters, as well as the mention of quadrilles, are factual. In researching for the ball scenes, I was amazed at the grandeur and the amount spent for a single night of entertainment for New York’s elite families, \$6 million in today’s money!

**2. How does your Christian faith play a part in your writing?**

My goal with this novel is to provide readers with clean entertainment while subtly pointing them to Christ. And as with all my books, something that I am learning inevitably ends up in the story in some form or another. The theme verse for *My Dear Miss Dupré* is from Psalm 40:3, which states, “And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.” During a difficult time in my life, this verse became dear to my heart as I turned to God to take a song of loss and turn it into a new song, one of praise that while I do not know the why behind what I was going through, I can trust in Him to carry me through. Even though it feels a bit vulnerable to put my personal lessons in a book, I think that it offers a level of genuineness that can bring life to the story and hope to the reader.

**3. Which scene is your favorite, the one you never tired of editing?**

Chapter 15 has one of my favorite scenes that was one of the very last I added after the first round of major edits. In this scene, I have Willow and her gentlemen visit Bailey’s Beach for the day where Willow has a series of quite calamitous events happen to her that had me laughing while writing and hopefully will have the reader laughing as well.

**4. Do you have any plans for future books?**

Beware of spoiler alerts in this answer! I’m in the editing process of Book Two in the AMERICAN ROYALTY series, *Her Darling Mr. Day*, which will follow the story of Flora Wingfield and the runner-up of Willow Dupré’s competition, and I am currently writing Book Three that will cover Kit Quincy’s journey to find love. After this series, I have quite a few more ideas that I hope will turn into novels!

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