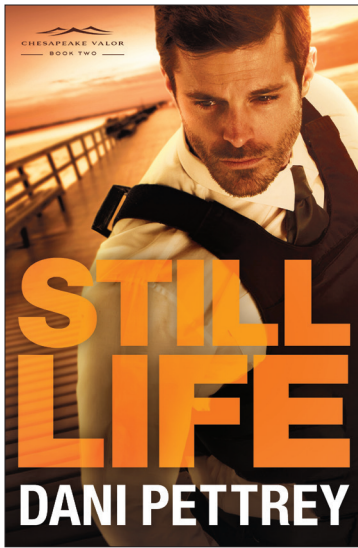




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DANI PETTREY**



**Still Life**

CHESAPEAKE VALOR #2  
by Dani Pettrey

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**1. What was the inspiration behind *Still Life*?**

The inspiration for the specific premise of Avery’s friend, Skylar, posing for a Black Dahlia–inspired showing all came from a photograph I saw on Pinterest. I thought, “What if . . .” and the story evolved from there. With Avery Tate’s background as a photographer, I thought that premise would be an interesting angle to pursue, to let her skills and area of expertise shine.

**2. Share a little bit about the handsome and enigmatic Parker Mitchell.**

Parker Mitchell is a crime scene investigator with a PhD in forensic science. He’s highly intelligent, charming, and loyal. He’s suffered a lot, and within his deep well of a soul he carries a great burden and lost love he doesn’t know how to let go of. I loved seeing him grow and change as God works in his life and Avery comes to live in his heart throughout *Still Life*.

**3. Describe Avery Tate in three words.**

Serious, talented, and determined.

**4. Why did you set *Still Life* in Baltimore, Maryland?**

The friends that the CHESAPEAKE VALOR series revolves around all live or work in the Baltimore area. Living right outside of Baltimore myself, I adore my city and love the opportunity to share Baltimore’s dynamic, creative, and culturally diverse community. The art gallery where *Still Life* opens is located in Fells Point, which is my favorite Baltimore neighborhood. My family and I often spend our weekends down there visiting the farmer’s market, our favorite locally owned stores, and restaurants.

**5. Did you have to do any specific research for the photography details?**

I did have to do quite a bit of research, but fortunately for me my husband is a photographer and was able to answer all my photography questions. I also spent a lot of time studying various photographs and finding what drew me to particular images and what I found captivating in them. My husband also taught me a lot about positioning of the subject as well as the nuances of lighting, which turned out to be far more intricate than I ever imagined.