



**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE PETERSON**



**When You Are Near**

BROOKSTONE BRIDES #1  
by Tracie Peterson

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1902-3  
\$15.99; 320 pp.

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-7642-3287-9  
\$22.99; 320 pp.

Large Print ISBN: 978-0-7642-3288-6  
\$17.99; 432 pp.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4934-1722-3  
Release Date: March 2019

**Media Contacts**

FICTION PUBLICIST: **Amy Green**  
952-829-2596  
agreen@bethanyhouse.com

CANADIAN MEDIA: **Ellen Graf-Martin**  
519-342-3703  
ellen@grafmartin.com

Please send tear sheets to:  
Amy Green  
Bethany House Publishers  
11400 Hampshire Ave. S. #200  
Bloomington, MN 55438

**1. What is *When You Are Near* about?**

This is book one in the brand-new BROOKSTONE BRIDES series. The story is set in a fictional wild west show called the Brookstone Wild West Extravaganza. *When You Are Near* follows the life of the co-owner's daughter, Lizzy Brookstone. Lizzy learned how to trick ride at an early age from her father, who was in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. She loves the exhilaration of performing, but when her father dies from a heart attack, she loses the joy of the show and decides it would be best to quit. Her real stumbling block about leaving the show for her parents' Montana ranch is the ranch foreman, Wesley DeShazer—the man she's always loved. Wes always saw her as a kid and the boss's daughter. He married another and now is widowed, and Lizzy can't help but wonder if there might be a future for them. Meanwhile, one of the show's wranglers is murdered, and Lizzy teams up with a couple of the other performers to figure out who is responsible and why.

**2. What prompted you to write this book?**

I had wanted to write a book dealing with a wild west show for a long time. Most of the shows were promoted and performed by men, but I thought it would be fun to have an all-female wild west show and so created the Brookstone Wild West Extravaganza.

**3. What was the attraction regarding the wild west show?**

A lot of people don't know about the once very popular wild west shows. There are rodeos today that often showcase some of the same types of entertainment that folks could see in the wild west shows, but many people don't have a chance to see them or learn the history behind such programs. Buffalo Bill Cody is often remembered as having a wild west show, but there was a time when there were several dozen of these shows, and people, especially in big cities and Europe, were drawn to see these shows and learn about the romanticized wild west. In many of the shows, Native Americans were brought in to describe their culture and practices, and as with Buffalo Bill's show, wild animals that most of the audience had never seen were also part of the act. I thought it would be so much fun to create one of these shows and give the reader a view into the life of a wild west show and its performers.

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

Yes, I did, and what fun I had. I went to a ranch not far from Pueblo, Colorado, and attended a trick riding clinic. The folks there were so good to teach me about trick riding and let me watch as they trained others to trick ride. I was able to see what the riders went through and listen to their stories of their time in the saddle. It was a great experience. I also interviewed multiple trick riders and watched their videos and read numerous books on performing tricks. It was a lot of fun, and the people involved were so kind and generous with their time.

---

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TRACIE PETERSON**

---

**5. Was there a special spiritual theme that went along with this book?**

As always, I share the Gospel message and biblical encouragement. The characters in the story deal with the death of loved ones and where God is in that loss and how one can continue in the midst of sorrow—after all, the show must go on. Some characters look to themselves for strength and others to the bottle, while still others turn to God, knowing He is the only one who can truly see them through. I wanted to show the various ways people deal with grief and how through it all, God is always there to offer consolation and hope.

**6. Is there anything else you'd like to say about this book?**

The wild west shows were an interesting and delightful piece of American history. I hope the reader will enjoy reading about them throughout the series. I hope too that the reader will be encouraged in the Lord as they journey with the characters in this book. Writing for me is a ministry, and it is my desire to encourage the reader in God's hope and mercy for all.