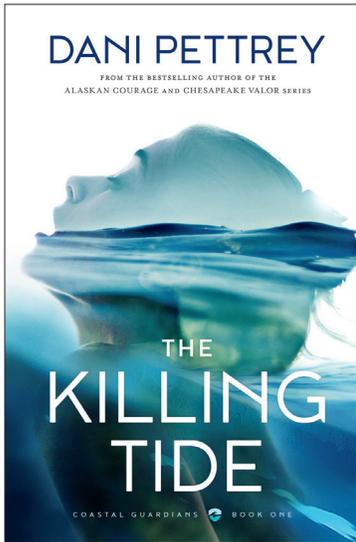




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DANI PETTREY**



**The Killing Tide**  
COASTAL GUARDIANS #1  
by Dani Pettrey

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**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. Tell us a little about yourself.**

I'm a wife, mom, grandma, and the author of the ALASKAN COURAGE, CHESAPEAKE VALOR, and now the COASTAL GUARDIANS romantic suspense series. I feel blessed to write inspirational romantic suspense because it incorporates so many things I love—the thrill of adventure, nail-biting suspense, the deepening of characters' faith, and plenty of romance. My husband and I reside in Maryland, where we enjoy time with our two daughters, son-in-law, and two super adorable grandsons.

**2. What ties the books in this series together?**

The COASTAL GUARDIANS series features a team of Coast Guard Investigative Service agents. Each book features a different member of the team. Before I started researching, I had no idea the CGIS existed, but while researching the Coast Guard in general, I found cases the CGIS had worked and solved. I was fascinated and decided to write a series about the men and women who pursue justice for a living. I hope readers will enjoy getting to know the whole team.

**3. What are some of the challenges you face as a writer? Are there aspects of your life that are hard for family and friends to understand? What are they?**

The biggest challenge I find is trying to balance everything—loving on my family, watching my grandsons a couple of days a week, maintaining close friendships, writing, researching, and marketing. It's definitely hard to juggle it all, and my deepest prayer is for guidance on how to best balance everything God has so kindly entrusted me with.

**4. How do you create characters? Are they based on people you know?**

I'm not a plotter or a planner. I let a story premise percolate in my mind and the characters tend to come along with it, or at least a very loose sketch of them. It isn't until I complete my first (very messy) draft that I feel I know my characters.

There are parts of people I know in a number of my characters. For example, my hubby is the inspiration for one of the McKenna brothers, but only the inspiration. Once the story starts the characters take on a life of their own.

**5. Dani, what interesting facts about the way you write or research might surprise readers?**

I write all my first drafts longhand. I know it's unusual in this day of technology, but put me in front of a computer screen for a first draft and I freeze up. There's something about having pen to paper that helps the words flow.

**6. What are you working on now?**

I'm currently wrapping up the rough draft of book two in my COASTAL GUARDIANS series, *The Crushing Depths*. I'm loving telling this team's stories.