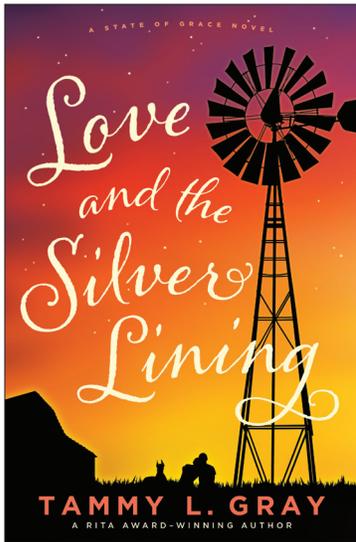




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TAMMY L. GRAY**



**Love and the Silver Lining**

STATE OF GRACE

by Tammy L. Gray

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-3591-7

\$15.99; 384 pp.

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**1. *Love and the Silver Lining* features five foster dogs that become a major part of Darcy’s growth. What role does that relationship play in the spiritual theme of this story?**

The lessons Darcy learns from each animal are a huge part of her spiritual journey. Each dog represents a specific obstacle that Darcy has to overcome: trauma, rebellion, sadness, anger, and fear. As the story progresses, the parallel of Darcy’s work with each animal and the Lord’s work in Darcy’s heart is evident. And with each step forward, Darcy learns how to let go of the life she thought she’d have and instead begin to trust the Lord with the new life He has given her.

**2. Darcy, the heroine in the novel, is a Christian who struggles with understanding how bad things can happen even though she’s devoted her life to God. What motivated that aspect of her character?**

I wrote this story during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and was honestly dealing with a lot of those same questions. The church my husband and I both work at had to close its doors and go online only, several of my friends buried family members, vacations were canceled, school went virtual, our family got sick, and the list goes on. It seemed as if we were getting hit on all sides and left to wonder where God was in all of the heartbreak. So much of my own healing was poured into this story, and I learned alongside with Darcy that true faith is trust when nothing makes sense, and God is big enough to take all my emotions, justified or not, and love me anyway.

**3. Bryson Katsaros, a minor character in the first of your STATE OF GRACE novels, was often seen as an antagonist for the heroine. What inspired you to make him such a significant part of *Love and the Silver Lining*?**

Bryson has always been a fascinating character for far more reasons than just his talent and confidence as the lead singer of Black Carousel. The pain of rejection and abandonment that shaped his brooding, harsh exterior was something I wanted to crack from the very beginning. Darcy needed someone who would be honest with her and not allow for excuses, and Bryson needed someone who would take the time to push past his emotional guards and genuinely care for the vulnerable person inside. I personally love the spark that ignites each and every time they are on the page together.

**4. What do you think readers have come to expect from your books?**

A compelling romance that feels authentic and real. My readers want characters they can relate to, empathize with, while also being thoroughly entertained. It is my hope that every time a reader finishes a Tammy L. Gray novel, they will feel as if some part of their soul was touched. I truly believe that walking through someone else’s struggles helps give us the power to tackle our own. I pray this story, along with all my books, empower that very thing.

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