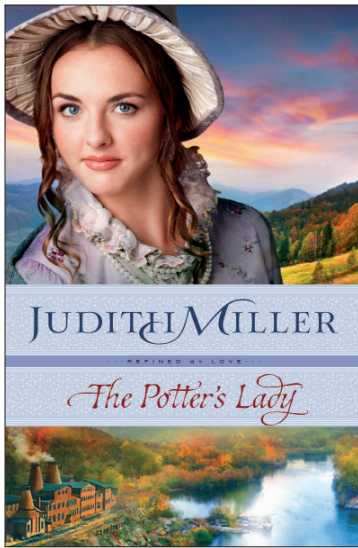




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JUDITH MILLER



The Potter's Lady

REFINED BY LOVE

by Judith Miller

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1256-7

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1. *The Potter's Lady* is the second book in the REFINED BY LOVE series. Will this book revolve around the C&M Brickyard and Ewan and Laura McKay?

While Ewan and Laura are in the background, this book tells Rose McKay's story. Rose is Ewan's eldest sister. Rather than exploring a brickyard again, I'll take readers into the world of pottery-making, where Rose uses her artistic talents and meets a young man who will assist her with the operation of a pottery. I wanted to continue to reveal another art form and business that used clay and became quite prevalent in West Virginia and Ohio during this time period. I've heard from readers that they truly enjoyed learning about the brickmaking process. I hope they'll be intrigued by what they learn about pottery-making during the nineteenth century, as well.

2. You mentioned West Virginia. Is this book set in the fictional town of Bartlett, as well?

No. While the book begins in Bartlett and there are mentions of it throughout, the main portion of the book is set in Grafton, an actual town in West Virginia. The pottery works is fictional, although there were several potteries in Grafton during this time period. I was able to secure research resources for Grafton, and since it is located in fairly close proximity to my fictional town of Bartlett, I decided it would be a good place to set my story.

3. Any interesting research that you conducted while writing this book?

I had the pleasure of going to West Virginia to conduct my research, where I enjoyed visiting several potteries. I visited with the history curator at the Homer Laughlin China Company in Newell, Ohio, who provided me with immense assistance. This is the company known throughout the world for their Fiesta line of dinnerware. I also had the pleasure of visiting The Museum of Ceramics in East Liverpool, Ohio, where I was able to do research and take pictures of a refashioned pottery from the second half of the nineteenth century. Even more fun was the fact that my sister, who lives in West Virginia, and my cousin and his wife, who live in Ohio, were able to join me for portions of my research trip. I count it a double blessing when I locate excellent research resources and also get to visit family.

4. Were there any surprises for you while writing this book?

As a writer, it's always fun when a character takes off and does something that's unexpected—something you haven't planned or thought of while plotting the series. In this particular book, Beatrice Murphy, a distant relative who works as a nursemaid, developed a much larger role than I had planned and became a more cunning character than I had ever considered. At times, her ideas and actions managed to catch me off guard, and she managed to keep me on my toes throughout most of the book!

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