

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DANI PETTREY



Stranded

ALASKAN COURAGE #3
by Dani Pettrey

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1. Tell me about *Stranded*. Where did you get your inspiration?

Stranded is the story of Darcy St. James and Gage McKenna. It opens when Darcy's friend goes missing from a cruise ship.

The inspiration came while I was vacationing on a Mediterranean cruise with my family a couple summers ago. I enjoyed getting to talk with a few members of the crew each day as we ate breakfast and learning about their life aboard the ship. Add in a few news articles about people missing from cruise ships and my curiosity was piqued.

2. *Stranded* takes place primarily at sea. Were there any challenges writing a story set in one locale?

It was an interesting change from my last novel, *Shattered*, which took place in a number of states as well as British Columbia. I found it a challenge to keep the setting fresh and intriguing, as well as the pacing moving at a fast clip. I really enjoyed finding new ways to keep the tension high.

3. What is the underlying theme/message of *Stranded*, and why did you choose it?

I never start out with a theme in mind. I always wait to see what it is after the story is written. In *Stranded* I would say the theme is hope: Hope that God can heal our hurts. Hope that He will give us a future. Hope that He has our times in His hands.

4. Your website has a lot of fun "extras" for *Submerged* and *Shattered*. What do you have planned for *Stranded*?

Character dossiers are already available for Gage and Darcy, as well as the *Stranded* story soundtrack—a compilation of the musical inspiration behind the book. I'll also be revealing a *Stranded* Pinterest board, a book trailer, and a book club packet on my website. I love adding extras that help readers feel more a part of the McKennas' world.

5. In *Stranded*, Gage McKenna leads kayak and camping excursions for the cruise ship passengers of the Bering. Have you ever been camping or kayaking?

Yes. My husband and I especially loved camping in the mountains of New Mexico when we were living in Albuquerque. There is something so special about being away from it all. It always makes me feel closer to God when I'm surrounded by His glorious creation. I also really love kayaking. In fact, we just celebrated our daughter's twentieth birthday kayaking on the Chesapeake Bay.

6. What can we expect from you next?

Silenced, book four of the ALASKAN COURAGE series, will be available in May 2014.