

Dear Book Club Coordinator,

Do you remember the exhilaration you felt watching *Indiana Jones* on the big screen? How about *Romancing the Stone*, *National Treasure*, or *Tomb Raider*? That's what I hope you'll experience if you select my debut novel, *Submerged*, in your reading list for the coming months: the thrill of adventure, the excitement of travel to far-off places, the romance of falling in love, and the heroism of saving the day.

The idea for *Submerged* came to me while I was watching a movie about cave divers. The adventure fascinated me and made me wonder what type of person would pursue something so highly skilled and dangerous for a living. From there, my love of research took over, and I devoured everything I could find on cave divers, adventure athletes, Alaska, and Russian-Alaskan history.

I love the story in *Submerged* because it combines so many things I adore: history, research, travel, adventure, mystery, and romance. The feedback I've received so far tells me that others enjoy these elements, too.

Here's what reviewers are saying about *Submerged*:

"Pettrey's debut, the first in the ALASKAN COURAGE series, combines all the perfect elements for romantic suspense with a meaningful spiritual message. The Alaskan setting is magnificently described. Bailey is a sympathetic, flawed character that readers will identify with, and her relationship with Cole is true to life."

— *RT Book Reviews*, 4 1/2 Star review

"*Submerged* launches Pettrey's ALASKAN COURAGE series. Combining romance, danger, and a dose of Russian history, the novel proves a rapid and entertaining read. Bailey Craig must return home to Yancey, Alaska, when her aunt [dies] unexpectedly. Although she loved her aunt, Bailey dreads the trip, because people in small towns have long memories. Cole McKenna leads Yancey's team of expert divers, his siblings. They're on a recovery mission after a plane crash, of which Bailey's aunt was a victim. As Bailey sorts through her aunt's possessions, Cole searches for evidence about the cause of the plane crash. Their paths inevitably intersect, and soon the pair must confront lingering feelings for one another. Pettrey builds suspense as the plot twists and turns. Yancey's Russian heritage becomes a critical key to the mystery. Murder victims keep appearing, yet the killer's motive remains unclear. Cole and Bailey, along with their friends and family, must get to the bottom of things before another person is killed. Will love or death prevail?"

— *Booklist*



WWW.DANIPETTREY.COM

Discussion questions are available to facilitate book club conversations. Your group members can preview these questions and read an excerpt of the book on my Web site, or at www.bethanyhouse.com, before they purchase the book.

I've also included a lot of extras on my Web site (go to: www.danipettrey.com/fun/) to give readers a better feel for the world of *Submerged*. You can see profiles of my main characters, take a dive quiz, play a diving treasure discovery game, and look at underwater images from Alaska. Did you know there's amazingly colorful coral off the Alaskan coast?

If you decide to select *Submerged*, please let me know. My publisher would be happy to send out bookmarks or to arrange for me to "join" your book discussion via conference call.

Contact bookclub@bethanyhouse.com for more information.

Dani



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SUBMERGED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Bailey is afraid to return to Yancey. Why? Have you ever been afraid to face a person or group of people? If so, how did you overcome that fear? What are some Bible verses that speak about overcoming our fears?
- 2) Bailey was worried that everyone in Yancey would view her as she used to be years ago. Have you ever made mistakes in your past that you regretted? Have you ever struggled to let go of past mistakes, past choices? What does Jesus say about our past when we come to a saving relationship with Him? What does He say about our new life in Him?
- 3) Cole's heart aches when some of his colleagues joke about Bailey upon her return to Yancey. Has anyone made fun of someone dear to you? If so, how did you react? What do you think about Cole's reaction?
- 4) Cole felt like a teenager all over again when he sees Bailey for the first time after years of separation. Have you ever run into somebody from your past that brings old feelings rushing back? Who are some people in your life that bring back old memories when you see them?
- 5) As a dive rescue captain, Cole McKenna makes more body recoveries than live rescues. How does Cole deal with the discouragement? How would you? What other professions might prove equally as trying?
- 6) Cole's family runs an adventure outfitting company. Are there any adventures you'd like to take? Any new experiences you've always wanted to try? Skiing, white-water rafting, scuba diving?
- 7) Bailey is a professor of Russian History. Is there a particular country or time period that fascinates you? Prior to reading *Submerged*, were you aware of Alaska's Russian history? Did anything surprise you?
- 8) Bailey inherited her love of Russian history from her aunt. Have you ever inherited a hobby or interest from someone you love? If so, what, and who shared it with you? Do you hope to pass that interest on to someone else—perhaps a child, niece, friend?
- 9) God uses this difficult period in Bailey's life to help her grow and heal. Has God ever worked through a difficult period in your life to help you grow or heal? What are some Bible verses that remind us that He is at work in our lives even in the difficult times?
- 10) Cole reaches a point where he feels utterly helpless. Have you ever felt that way? Where does Cole turn for help? Are his prayers answered?



PRYANIKI (RUSSIAN SPICE COOKIES)



Recipe via: Raia's Recipes Blog. Image via About.com

Ingredients:

4 T. butter
½ c. sugar
1 c. honey
2 eggs
1 t. vanilla
1 ½ t. baking soda
½ t. cardamom
½ t. cloves
½ t. allspice
a pinch of nutmeg
4 c. flour

Directions:

Cream butter, sugar, and honey together in large bowl. Beat in eggs and add vanilla. Combine soda and spices in small bowl; add to honey mixture and mix well. Stir in flour. (Dough will be soft.) Cover and refrigerate for about 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350. With well-floured hands, take a heaping tea-spoonful of dough and roll into a ball (add a spoonful of strawberry jam to the center before you roll the dough into a ball for an extra treat!). Place on greased or non-stick cookie sheet and bake for 10 minutes or until golden.

As soon as the cookies come out of the oven, dip each one into the glaze and spread the glaze evenly over the tops using your fingers. Place cookies on a cool, dry surface. When finished glazing the tops, turn them over and glaze the bottoms. Completely cover the cookie with glaze; it will keep the cookie soft longer. Serve with tea or coffee.

Glaze:

1 c. powdered sugar
4 T. water

Combine in small bowl and mix well; a little water may be added to get to spreadable consistency.

MOOSE TRACKS MILKSHAKES



Ingredients:

Moose Tracks ice cream (Vanilla ice cream with peanut butter cups and famous Moose Tracks® fudge)

Milk

Additional squirt of chocolate syrup if you **really** like chocolate ☺

Directions:

Fill blender to the 1st line with milk.

Add 2 scoops of ice cream and optional squirt of chocolate syrup.

Mix, first at high speed, then low.

Add ice cream or milk to thicken or thin mixture to taste.

Add whipped cream.

Add dark chocolate shavings.

Or if you're really adventurous you can make homemade Moose Tracks ice cream and go from there.

<http://www.food.com/recipe/moose-tracks-ice-cream-414689>

ALASKAN TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What do you call more than one moose?
a. mooses b. moose c. meese
2. What is the name of the tallest mountain in Alaska?
3. Where was the last battle of the Civil War fought?
4. What is Eskimo ice cream?
5. What is the shorter route to Paris?
a. New York b. Anchorage
6. What is "Dog Salmon?"
7. What is a tidal bore?

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1. b. Moose
 2. Mt. Denali, also called Mt. McKinley
 3. In the Gulf of Alaska—between a Confederate raider and the U.S. Navy, after the South had surrendered.
 4. Crisco shortening (or traditionally, fat from a seal or reindeer) mixed with local berries
 5. b. Anchorage by way of the polar route
 6. Dried salmon fed to sled dogs
 7. The 2-6-foot-high wall of water traveling up to 10 mph during the tide changes in the narrow Turnagain Arm of the Cook Inlet. (When water travels up a river or narrow way against the direction of the current.)

ANSWERS

ALASKAN SLANG QUIZ

1. Tin Dog
a. The Alaskan Highway
2. Cheechako
b. Fishing waders
3. Sourdough
c. A parking place for an airplane
4. Alaskan sneakers
d. Big, fat, white rubber boots
5. Twofers
e. Spend summer in Alaska & winter south
6. Going outside
f. The continental U.S.
7. Tiedown
g. Anyone old to Alaska
8. Bunny boots
h. Snowmobile
9. The Bush
i. The end of the Alaskan winter
10. Sundog
j. Sockeye salmon
11. Snowbird
k. Circle around the sun on cold days
12. Breakup
l. Leaving Alaska
13. Lower 48
m. Place reachable only by plane or boat
14. Alcon
n. Anyone new to Alaska

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1. (l)
 2. (n)
 3. (g)
 4. (b)
 5. (l)
 6. (l)
 7. (c)
 8. (d)
 9. (m)
 10. (k)
 11. (e)
 12. (h)
 13. (f)
 14. (a)

ANSWERS