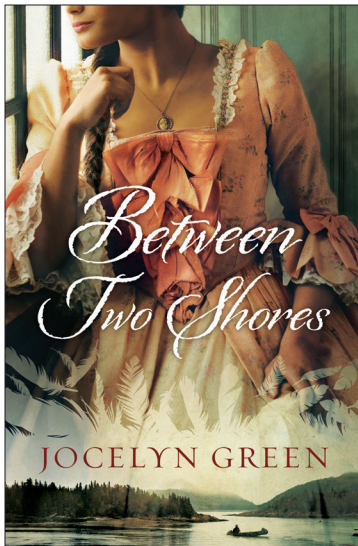




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JOCELYN GREEN



Between Two Shores

by Jocelyn Green

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1. You've said *Between Two Shores* is different from any other novel you've written. In what ways?

This is my first novel that takes place entirely outside the United States: Montreal, the Mohawk village of Kahnawake, Quebec City, and the St. Lawrence River in between. The book is written entirely from one woman's point of view and is driven by family dynamics in a much deeper way than I've done before. What *Between Two Shores* shares in common with my other novels is a deeply immersive read and the exploration of a fascinating but lesser-known slice of history. In this case, it's the interaction between Canadian Mohawks, British captives, and French-Canadian colonists and how that affected the outcome of the Seven Years' War, and more specifically, the pivotal battle for Quebec.

2. Tell us a little about your heroine.

Catherine Stands-Apart is half French and half Mohawk and runs a trading post between New England and New France. She has always navigated between cultures by remaining neutral and believes that all problems can be solved by fair trade of goods, service, or ideas. This transactional worldview falls apart when she is challenged to love and serve without expectation of gaining in equal measure in return.

3. What inspired you as you developed her?

In addition to my research about Mohawk women who served as fur traders between Montreal and Albany, Catherine's character is loosely inspired by the character of Rick from the classic movie *Casablanca*. Both Catherine and Rick tried remaining neutral during war, both have former loves reappear in their lives, and both are forced to choose a side.

4. Did anything surprise you in your research?

Absolutely. In my very early research, I read about the hundreds of British colonists who were captured by Canadian natives in the 1700s. Some of those captives were returned home, some were adopted by the native nations who captured them, and some were "ransomed"—paid for by French-Canadian colonists to either work like indentured servants for years or to be a member of their family. It was this common practice of ransoming that surprised me. In my novel, Catherine and her father both ransom British captives, but for very different reasons. Ransoming applied to military prisoners of war, as well. To help make up for the labor shortage in Canada while so many men were fighting, captured British soldiers who had a trade (i.e. carpenter, blacksmith, baker) were allowed to practice it in Canadian cities while under surveillance.

5. What is the spiritual theme of the novel?

The spiritual parallel I hope readers take away is that of God's ransoming us from what holds us captive (sin), and adopting us into His family, not because we've earned it but because of His great love for us. Secondary spiritual themes include forgiveness and self-sacrifice.