

Interview Questions for Shellie Arnold regarding *Abide with Me*

Interview Questions:

Your passion is to help Christian marriages. Why write fiction?

How did helping marriages become your passion?

What is the Barn Church series?

How did the idea for this novel come to you?

Is the wife the only main character in the story? Tell us about the wife and the husband.

What is the couple's big problem in *Abide with Me*?

Have you dealt with this issue in your own marriage? If so, what kind of effects did it have?

In *Abide with Me*, the couple was extremely in love in the beginning, yet they drifted apart over time. Why did you write it that way?

What's the spiritual takeaway for your reader?

What's your background? Are you a counselor? A therapist?

What would you say to someone who feels their marriage has been one of slowly drifting apart?

What would you say to a spouse who always feels left behind?

What kind of ending can readers expect from your novels?

Your website offers ways to help Christian husbands and wives think strategically, work with God, and transform their marriages. Can you explain?

How does *Abide with Me* demonstrate this?

SPECIFICS:

Title of the Novel: *Abide With Me* (Book Three in The Barn Church series)

Genre: Contemporary inspirational fiction

Other books in series: *The Spindle Chair* and *Sticks and Stones*

High concept: After returning from a friend's extravagant Las Vegas wedding, a wealthy wife whose marriage is emotionally bankrupt, finds her husband accused of fraud and must liquidate her assets to finance his defense.

Scriptural inspiration: Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV)

Theme: Spiritual fulfillment in our walk with God and true intimacy in our marriages, come only as we actively pursue building those relationships.

Synopsis: *Abide with Me* is the story of Angelina and Nicholas Rousseau, a couple in their mid-thirties. Angelina is a painter who pours all her emotions into her work. Nicholas has a lucrative international consulting business. While attending a friend's wedding in Las Vegas, loneliness gets the best of Angelina, and she almost has an affair. Meanwhile, Nicholas—also an avid real estate investor—is arrested for fraud and calls Angie, demanding she return home. Even as the charges against Nick are temporarily dropped, he learns Angelina considers their marriage all but over. As they face bankruptcy and begin liquidating their assets to finance Nick's defense, both are faced with the state of their marriage. As they consider the decisions that did so much damage to their relationship, they reach for each other and God. Soon it appears Nick will be cleared of all suspicion of fraud, then unexpectedly, he is re-arrested. This time Nick is charged with murdering Gavin Hawk, his long-time financial consultant and business attorney. It seems Nick and Angelina will never be together again. With renewed determination, both Nick and Angelina surrender themselves and their future to God.

Back cover blurb:

After ten years of marriage to the only man she's ever loved, why is Angelina so unhappy?

As a wealthy yet lonely wife, Angelina Rousseau pours all her emotions into her paintings. Desperate for affection and attention, she finds herself willing to do almost anything to feel loved. Her husband Nick is determined to provide everything Angie could want, including finally giving her what she's asked for most—time with him. When what seems to be the perfect investment turns sour, he's arrested for real estate fraud, but soon learns being accused of multiple felonies is the least of his worries.

Once again, Nick's choices negatively affect Angelina. This time she's forced to part with cherished possessions to finance his defense and protect her future. When Angelina's carefully built walls begin to crumble, both husband and wife must examine their emotionally bankrupt marriage. Yet even if they discover what went wrong between them, Nick could still spend the rest of his life in prison.

Could "having it all" cost Nick and Angie more than they ever imagined?