



## Refining Fire

*Tracie Peterson*

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Twenty-two-year-old Militine Scott is in training at the Madison Bridal School in Seattle, yet she has no intention of pursuing marriage. What respectable man would have her? But she has found the school provides the perfect opportunity to keep her unsavory past hidden.

Thane Patton, though fun-loving and fiercely loyal to his friends, hides a dark secret, as well. He finds himself drawn to Militine, sensing that she harbors a haunting pain similar to his own.

Will they allow God to make something new and beautiful from the debris of their past?

## Refining Fire Details

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## From Reader Review Refining Fire for online ebook

### Brices Mice Christian Book Reviews says

When I first started Refining Fire by Tracie Peterson, I thought oh dear, just when are we going to find out what was the main idea for this book? A lot of Christian daily life was happening, and that was ok, as I always love a clean and wholesome read. I feel that starting off with book two of the series was ok, since the author did catch the reader up on who was who, and placed the setting in Seattle, Washington Territory...January 1889.

The story takes place at the Madison Bridal School in Seattle, where young girls live and train to be sophisticated, loving knowledgeable brides. Abrianna takes the main attention of the story, as a fiery red headed strong willed young woman, along with her best friend Militine who hides a deep secret from her past. A lot of restrictions are put on young women of those times, but Abrianna pushes the limits in her own endearing ways.

Love finds its way to the girls, each in a different manor and surprisingly in unexpected ways. The end result leaves you having to actually read book three to find a satisfying ending.

I feel the author researched the time period accurately, as the book had an authentic feel to it and tied the cover of the book into the last chapters of the story.

A wonderful, wholesome read but just a bit of extra "fillers" to drag the story down to a slow pace.

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### Vera mallard says

#### Christian Romance

This is the 2nd book in the Brides of Seattle Series, however it can be read as stand alone.

Militine is a very bitter young woman in 1889 Seattle Washington. She has turned her back on God. Her best friend Abrianna Cunningham is the adopted daughter of the prioress of the Madison Bridal School, very religious and zealous in her beliefs, to the point of being obnoxious at times. Both young women live at the Madison Bridal School of Seattle. Militine has a past that she is running from and what better place to hide than the Bride School.

Abrianna is a little general and determined to open a food house (soup kitchen in our time) on the docks for the homeless, poor, and disenfranchised. She pulls in Militine and 2 young men that watch out for the women at the school, Thane and Wade. Thane is a voluntary fireman and boat repairman, he never talks about his violent past to anyone except Wade; Wade is a Christian and a carpenter by trade; he loves Abrianna. The food house is a resounding success. Ms. Peterson painted a vivid picture of how we fight spiritual battles with ourselves. Thane is fighting such a battle but his friend Wade is diligent in presenting the message of God, his forgiveness, and his love. Of course there is a villain, Priam Welby who is very sly

in hiding his true nature from Abrianna whom he desires. The history of human traffic is long and our villain is in the illegal trade of foreign antiques and human trafficking. Ms. Peterson used this unsavory history in her story. Ms Peterson also portrayed Seattle's history of water shortage due antiquated water and hydrant system to fight fires and the great Seattle fire.

Ms. Peterson did a great job of showing the growth of our characters spiritually. We watch Militine and Thane become loving, forgiving, trusting people; they fall in love. The message of God's love and forgiveness is throughout this story, but presented in such a way as to not be preachy or pushy. Ms Peterson gave Abrianna several hurdles to overcome, her father's sudden appearance, a new Pastor that doesn't like women in positions of power and wants to subdue Abrianna, a villain that is courting her, and sweet Christian Wade that loves Abrianna.

We have 2 very different personalities in Abrianna and Militine. Abrianna is an extrovert very forceful in her presentation of God and I felt Ms Peterson was showing how each of us can appear when we are in the mist of doing the jobs we feel God wants us to undertake. She is force to be reckoned with. We watch as she travels the snares of courting. Militine is an introvert. She is hiding her feelings and her past, terrified of being hurt again and the past rising its head. She believes God has abandoned her, and we get to watch her grow into a wonderful and loving person as she comes to know God's love and the love of Thane.

The story never lags, it kept me interested from the first chapter. It has a lot of action, the history in the story was fascinating, and a woman's place in that time period was illuminating, especially as portrayed by the Pastor of her church. I found Abrianna refreshing as she would not fit in the woman's mold as it was thought in 1889. The romance in the story is very clean. Ms. Peterson included mystery, faith, selfishness and unselfishness, forgiveness, guile, reunion, evil and love into a wonderful book anyone should enjoy.

I would highly recommend this book.

I received this book from the publisher and Netgalley in return for an honest review.

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### **Michelle says**

I have read many of Tracie Peterson's books and I know she is a great writer. This book was so terribly slow for me and really hard to get into. I felt like there wasn't very much character depth or really a strong storyline. It was so predictable and I wish I could say otherwise. I didn't really like Militine's character though I did like the setting. Who knew there was a Madison School for Brides?! I love the historical setting I just wanted more out of the storyline.

Four stars.

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### **Claudia {SparrowHawk} says**

*Refining Fire* was a wonderfully woven story of love and self-discovery, but it did not stop there as the added suspense and drama propelled each page forward. Too, this story is peppered with topics on forgiveness, irreligion, remorse, humor, love and sacrifice to name a few.

If you are a fan of Christian historical romance, then you might find pleasure in reading this series. The romance, tension, and emotional strife can all be felt as this alluring story unfolds.

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### **WHAT I LIKED:**

+ It was so wonderful to catch up with the lovely cast in *Brides of Seattle*, but boy was I ever delighted to see our witty feminist Abrianna Cunningham take the spotlight once more. It's always refreshing and uplifting to read a tale that features a strong independent-minded woman who does not settle for less but yet, remains forthright and honest in manner despite the stratified society she finds herself in. Which stands to reason, I was utterly absorbed with the emotional and intellectual conflict Abrianna found herself in. More respectively, with the fuss between her and Mr. Welby, and the emotional tension between her and Wade ? it all worked together so perfectly

+ Tracie Peterson's writing and storytelling is one of my absolute favorites; truly it is. Namely, because she holds the capacity to make any reader escape into a time where marriage and courtships were handled with formality, where etiquette and social decency was held to a high regard, where young women sought a new independence, all while inspiring the reader to seek their own inner strength and purpose in life ? in the most sarcastic and romantic ways possible if I may add. Peterson's genius in her storytelling however, truly lies in her ability to allow the reader to see the events unfold ? like a movie, and is this not what makes a book ever so memorable?

+ The plot ?for the most part ? was engaging. The storyline was well-developed and the pacing was fair, I found the last quarter of the book however, to be the most thrilling. All the same, *Refining Fire* is full of romance and adventure; that's for sure, and there's a bit of mystery and suspense too which is sure to hold your attention. What is more, *Refining Fire* gave me a greater understanding of the repressive societies?which were deeply segregated by class, gender, and social pretension?the women of yesteryear found themselves in

### **WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE:**

– I'm rather confused when it comes to the book covers in this series. One would naturally assume, in view of the women shown on the front cover of the book, that the story would remain in relation to them; however this is not the case. In as much as I adore the character of Abrianna Cunningham, it seems as though *Refining Fire*?as well as, *Steadfast Heart* ?is more reflective of Abrianna. I would even go as far as to say that 25% of the narrative echos around Militine's character arc. Perhaps if the cover art included a picture of Abrianna somewhere in the background, the covers would have been fittingly appropriate? Nevertheless, this is but a minor quibble

– Which sadly brings me to my next point, I reluctantly admit that I was not too fond of Militine's character arc. I'm not sure why, but she seemed withdrawn and insociable bringing no energy to her character; though, this was the true nature of her personality. Be that as it may, this was unfortunate, because this owed to my disinterest in her personal journey within the narrative. Quite frankly, I was more amused and absorbed with Abrianna's faring. Still and all, Militine's and Thane's story line was a beautiful testimony of the power of redemption and this more than made up for the lack of delight in their prose

### **AFTERTHOUGHTS:**

At any rate, I am eagerly awaiting the third book in the series, *Love Everlasting?* which will resolve Abrianna's muddle with the cunning Mr. Welby, and the romantic affair between Abrianna and Wade; be still my heart <3

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### **Rabbit {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says**

DNF on page 30.

I can't seem to get into this.

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### **Katie says**

Loved this book! After reading some reviews I was going to skip it but I decided to try it and enjoyed it even better then the first one! Great story line!

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### **Just Commonly says**

"Refining Fire" by Tracie Peterson is the second book in her 'Brides of Seattle' series. Like the first book of the series, "Steadfast Heart", the description of the book features one couple, but I felt the main focus lies with Abrianna Cunningham and her endeavors. Per the description, Refining Fire is about Militine (cross between Milicent and Christine) and Thane, who both struggle with their frightening and painful past, and together, learn to trust each other, and especially God.

I really enjoyed "Refining Fire" and how it can be read as a standalone book, as well as be able to connect to "Steadfast Heart" so seamlessly. With repeat performance of characters as the 3 ladies of Madison School for Brides, Wade and previous subjected couple, Kolbien & Lenore, we are thrilled to continue our journey in 1885 Seattle. Ms. Peterson has made me truly be immersed in the character of Abrianna, who I've found out will be the subject of the final book in this series. With two books as a strong (and sometimes felt like a main) supporting character, we grew to know and even like Abrianna, for her forwardness and for her love of the Lord. She brings excitement to the plot with her many adventures and her knack for being in the heat of action.

With the main couple of the story, Militine and Thane, we see how they grapple with accepting God because of all the pain and evil they encountered, even part of the plot of the book. With their struggles, and with the responses of characters in the book, we see how and why Ms. Peterson is indeed a leading author in the field of inspirational / faith-based fictions. Understanding, forgiveness and trust are difficult when your heart are marred by pain and even physical scars and nightmares as constant reminders. Sometimes when bad things happened, we just don't know why. Believing in God does not mean bad things will stop happening. Let Him be your source of comfort. "All we can do is trust Him and believe" (loc 3541). I enjoyed reading how two unbelieving and somewhat resentful individuals came together to trust God and to seek Him.

One aspect of this novel that I respect is during the early parts. Early on, we as readers (as well as Abrianna in the book), received a humbling message. "God only desires that you see to your own soul and pray for

others. He wants you to seek Him and know Him for yourself. Then, by this knowledge you must live a life that reflects His mercy...Be a living witness of Jesus, not just a vocal one" (loc 193, 195). Together with the message of trusting God, I am reminded of an old song from Vineyards, sung by many, and popular during praise time before service. Coincidentally, the title is "Refiner's Fire". It truly speak volumes. We need to constantly refine our hearts, purify it from sin, and to choose God. Thank you, Ms. Peterson for a novel that feels true to heart on many levels, and a great storyline that was unexpected.

NOTE: I received a complimentary proof copy of this e-book from the publisher, Bethany House, through Net Galley for an honest review.

Please also check out my blog for further reviews, and a monthly book giveaway.  
<http://justcommonly.blogspot.com>. Thanks!

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### **Cynthia says**

Couldn't get into this one and I love Tracie Peterson's books!

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### **Aerykah says**

Okay so... this book was good. Definitely not as good as the first one, but still an enjoyable read. I'm mostly reading this series because of Abrianna & Wade so I am really excited to get my hands on the final book!!

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### **Meagan says**

I love Tracie's books, and this is on par with the rest of hers. It started off a bit slow, but by a third of the way in, I was hooked and couldn't wait to find out what happened. Definitely recommended!

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### **Joni says**

Really good book. Liking this series and first time I have read this author. Will check out more. There is a storyline underlying on human trafficking. Wish it was stronger and developing fast.

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### **Bailey says**

Refining Fire is the second novel in the Brides of Seattle series, mostly centered around the life of Abrianna Cunningham. There was more about Militine, the character in the blurb, in this book than there was about Lenore in the last book, but it was still predominantly focused on Abrianna's story. For the most part this story was good. The romance was very heartfelt throughout. From the fire on was very exciting and entertaining, a good end to the book. However throughout the novel, I couldn't help but wonder what the

point of it all was. It seems to lack an overarching goal or purpose. We are reading about the lives of these people, and while entertaining, it makes you wonder what they are working toward. Usually in a story there is some achievement being sought after, but in this case it was more just hearing about their lives with different circumstances popping up along the way. So while the things happening are very dramatic, it is a flip flop off of the normal structure of a story that makes me long for some larger accomplishment as the ultimate focus. It was also severely annoying how they believed Welby's story about the women. It makes them seem very foolish, and it didn't line up in my mind with how astute they perceived everything else. It will be interesting to see what happens in the future and how these circumstances resolve themselves.

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### **Melissa Watros says**

I'm a huge fan of Tracie Peterson and have read almost all of her books.

The 2nd book took longer to get into than the first book. It didn't get that interesting until around the 15th chapter, after that, it flooded with lots of chaos and became very intense that I finished the remaining of the book all in one day. I love the 3 old Aunts, they are quite funny and I think Tracie could have spiced up things by adding some disputes among the three sisters. I haven't read the scene for the next book, hopefully there will be some silly and fun disputes among the 3 older sister trio.

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### **Michael & Deborah Stoker says**

#### **Boook2**

Enjoyed it very much. Would recommend it to anyone. It kept my interest and made me want to see what was going to happen.

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### **Amy says**

Thank you to Netgalley for the ARC, and here is my honest review. I struggled to really get into this story, based in a Seattle School for Brides, where Militine is hiding, as she does not want to get married herself, very slow moving, and even though lots of elements are brought into this book, with some topics, I just found it difficult to grasp the characters, who were a little predictable. Sometimes too much is written in trying to attempt a conversation, that the same thing goes on for pages and seems never ending. This is first book I have read by this author and I am not sure I would read another. Maybe? I have not read the first in this series so I can't say whether or not I have missed something, though it seemed pretty straight forward. I couldn't really connect with Militine & though Thane seems likeable, his character lacked some mystery.

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