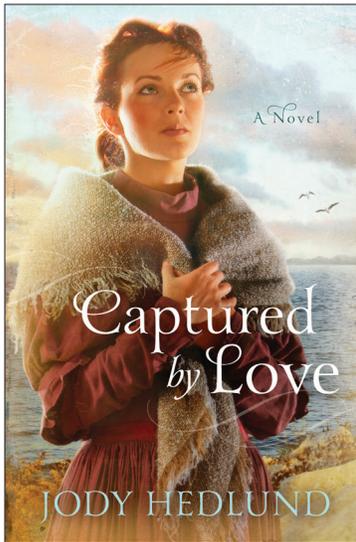




## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JODY HEDLUND



***Captured by Love***

by Jody Hedlund

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### 1. Why did you write *Captured by Love*?

I wanted to write about Mackinac Island, a very popular tourist destination in Michigan. People from all over the country flock to the tiny northern island during the summer to enjoy the mild weather, beautiful rock formations, bicycling, horse-drawn carriage rides, historical sites, and of course, the fudge!

Every time I vacation on Mackinac Island, I visit the old fort built on the bluffs overlooking the quaint town. I stand there and imagine what life would have been like during the dangerous fur-trading days when the island was occupied by soldiers and American Indians.

As I began plotting to write another story set in my home state of Michigan, I decided to write about Mackinac Island during the War of 1812, which was an especially turbulent time for the island residents.

### 2. Did the novel involve special research?

Researching the book gave me an excuse to take another trip back to the island. I decided to make it a special girls' weekend with my mom and two older daughters. As part of my research, we took a guided horse-drawn carriage ride during which the guide shared a plethora of information about the history of the island.

Later, while my mom and daughters shopped, I visited the old fort on the bluff and researched to my heart's content. I took lots of pictures and notes and simply let my imagination run wild.

Then I had to end the research trip with buying fudge. Even though fudge wasn't available on Mackinac Island until much later (the late 1800s), the sweet scent of it permeates the island, and no one can leave without it!

### 3. What are the historical landmarks or events you used in your story?

Mackinac Island was once called Michilimackinac Island. That's a mouthful, isn't it? Early in its history, the island offered a defensible location, especially with its deeply sheltered harbor and limestone bluffs. In addition, the island was a strategic location for the burgeoning fur-trade industry.

A fort emerged as a significant border post on the edge of the new United States in an area filled with hostile French, British, and American Indians. During the War of 1812, however, the British took possession of the island.

In *Captured by Love*, I open the story smack-dab in the middle of the war, portraying the hardships that came during the British rule of the island: starvation, blockades, threats by the British captors, and an impending battle against the Americans who wanted to retake the island.

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As the story unfolds I weave in real details of the war, using the names of several generals and the actual circumstances during the summer of 1814 leading up to the battle that took place as the Americans attempted to regain Mackinac and thus control of the north. You'll have to read the book to find out if the Americans win the battle and save the island residents!

**4. What makes *Captured by Love* stand out from other historical romances?**

First, the book explores the War of 1812, a war that's often neglected among historical fiction writers. Second, it takes the reader to a new location—the northern region of the American frontier near the Canadian border. The elements and weather are harsh, but the land is lush and beautiful. Finally, I weave in real events and people, hopefully bringing the history to life so that, while being entertained, readers are also getting to learn more about our country's history.

**5. You've become known for your sizzling romances. Can you give us a preview of the romance in *Captured by Love*?**

This is my first time writing a love triangle, and I had a lot of fun pitting two brothers against each other as they vie for the love of the beautiful heroine, Angelique MacKenzie. Each of the brothers offers Angelique something she desires. Kind, sweet Jean pledges his devotion to her and the stability of a home on the island she loves. But with the wild adventure-loving Pierre, she finds passion unlike anything she's ever experienced.

Angelique is forced to make an agonizing choice between the two—the man who gives her the security she longs for or the man who captures her heart with his friendship and love. Readers will struggle alongside Angelique in the tough choice she must make. Will she stay on Mackinac Island with Jean and become a farmer's wife? Or will she give up her precious island home and the security it offers to become a voyageur's wife, something she's vowed never to do?

**6. What is the take-away message you want readers to receive after reading your novel?**

The heroine, Angelique, struggles with the instability of her past. Because her father was a fur trader and was gone for long periods of the year, she grew up with a longing for the safety and steadiness of a permanent home on the island. Mackinac Island has become the bedrock of her life.

My hope is that, like Angelique, readers will see that only God can be the steady foundation of our lives. Everything else is like sand. It shifts, blows away, and leaves us dry and empty. God longs for us to stand on him, the Solid Rock that never moves and never forsakes us, no matter where we go or what we experience.