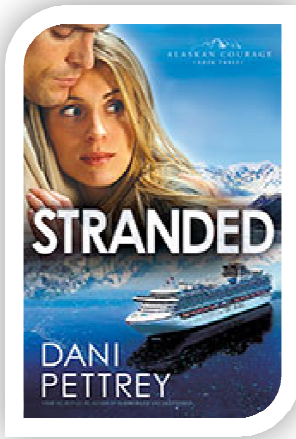


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- October 2013



I am writing this on the very tail end of September, and we've already experienced fall weather and real rain.

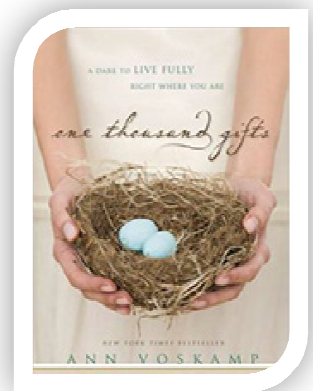
The maple, liquid amber, and ash leaves are all changing color, the nights are cool, and darkness is coming sooner and staying around longer.

I like fall, but I dearly love the longer days of summer. And I know I cannot have it both ways. I do. I really do. (Hear me heave a big sigh.)

I thought to review another suspense novel this month. *Stranded* by Dani Pettrey is a real page-turner in an unusual setting, a cruise ship sailing to Alaska.

I challenge you to guess the ending. I couldn't, that's for sure. A definite sign of a good mystery writer. I can't wait to find *Submerged* and *Shattered*, the first two books in the *Alaskan Courage* series. Dani Pettrey is a fairly new author and definitely one to watch.

I have another book that I am enthralled with this month, too. You know how sometimes we put things off, (or perhaps that is just me), and then wonder why we waited so long? That's how I feel now that I've finally read *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp, after waiting over a year to get to it.



This is not a book you zip through in a couple of hours, but is one of the few books that I will go back and read again and again. *One Thousand Gifts* has been on many major bestseller lists and I now understand why all the reviews were superb.

Ann was on a search for more joy in a life marred by truly hard places, something so many of us have experienced. She was challenged to keep a list of the blessings that came to her each day, and became so excited at the things she was seeing, she kept the journal laid open on her counter as she went about her daily chores as a farm wife, mother of six children, speaker, and writer.

She has plumbed the depths of the magnificent word “Eucharisteo” in this book, and shares with her readers how a life of thanksgiving helps one realize the blessings that bring deep joy, along with sharpening our senses to perceive greater depth and the wealth of our daily living.

Some numbered items from her list are: boys laughing, laundry flapping, wind rushing through an open truck window, a glorious moonrise, spring on the breeze.

This book has become one of my blessings. Ann has helped me look around with new eyes. Her word use creates pictures in my mind. I know reading *One Thousand Gifts* will make your life richer too. Ann is known for her exceptional blog and web site, www.onethousandgifts.com and www.aholyexperience.com

My great news for the month is the release of *An Untamed Heart*, the story of Ingeborg’s life before she made the journey from Norway to America and North Dakota. So many

readers have asked for this book and now I know what her life was like too. And I love the cover.

This has been a wild two months with the releases of my other books happening in quick succession, starting with *Wake the Dawn* in August, *A Pioneer Christmas* and *No Ordinary Owl* in September. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed writing them!

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine