

HEARTWARMING

CE

Love Inspired<sup>TM</sup>

# JILLIAN HART

HIS HOLIDAY BRIDE



*the*  
GRANGER  
FAMILY  
RANCH



Dear Reader,

I hope you enjoyed this latest installment of the ALASKAN BRIDE RUSH. Though Casey longed for love and a family of her own, she was too afraid to jeopardize her heart, because of the hurts of the past. But in Jake she found a man worth risking it all to love. Jake certainly never expected to find a bride, especially a local tour guide, but how could he resist down-to-earth Casey? Especially when his daughter fell for her, too?

Though Treasure Creek, Alaska, is a fictional town, the Chilkoot Trail is a very real part of American and Canadian history. In researching the backpacking trip that Casey leads Jake and his daughter on, I discovered a world I knew nothing about, and sparked a desire to one day travel to Alaska to hike in the footsteps of the Klondike miners.

Coming next in the ALASKAN BRIDE RUSH series is Dr. Alex Haven's story. Stop by and see what mischief the residents of Treasure Creek are into now.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheri Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What made you pick up this book to read? Did it live up to your expectations?
2. Did you think Casey and Jake were realistic characters? Did their romance build believably?
3. Talk about the secondary characters. What did you like or dislike about the people in the story?
4. Was the setting clear and appealing? Could you “see” where the story took place?
5. What type of vacationer are you? Do you prefer to be active? Would a hike in the Yukon appeal or do you prefer sitting on the beach with a book?
6. Casey was angry at God because of her Uncle’s death. Have you ever felt this way? How did you come to terms with the feeling?
7. In her first romantic relationship Casey felt pressure to compromise her faith. Can you tell of a time when you have been faced with a situation where you felt pressured to bend to the world’s ways rather than God’s? How did you resolve it?
8. When Jake thought Veronica was lost, he realized

he really communed with God only in a crisis and vowed to talk to God every day. Do you talk to God every day?

9. Casey and Amelia had a strained relationship. Do you have a sibling? Can you talk about your relationship?
10. As a single parent, Jake second-guessed his decisions on his parenting. Can you tell of a time when you've second-guessed your parenting?
11. Did the mystery of the Treasure Creek treasure pique your interest? Any guesses as to who might be after it?
12. Notice the scripture in the beginning of the book. What application does it have to your life?
13. How did the author's use of language/writing style make this an enjoyable read? Would you read more from this author? If so, why? Or why not?
14. What will be your most vivid memories of this book?
15. What lessons about life, love and faith did you learn from this story?

*Enjoy a sneak peek at fan favorite Molly O'Keefe's  
Harlequin Superromance miniseries,  
THE NOTORIOUS O'NEILLS, with  
TYLER O'NEILL'S REDEMPTION,  
available September 2010  
only from Harlequin Superromance.*

Police chief Juliette Tremblant recognized the shape of the man strolling down the street—in as calm and leisurely fashion as if it were the middle of the day rather than midnight. She slowed her car, convinced her eyes were playing tricks on her. It had been a long time since Tyler O'Neill had been seen in this town.

As she pulled to a stop at the curb, he turned toward her, and her heart about stopped.

“What the hell are you doing here, Tyler?”

“Well, if it isn't Juliette Tremblant.” He made his way over to her, then leaned down so he could look her in the eye. He was close enough to touch.

Juliette was not, repeat, *not* going to touch Tyler O'Neill. Not with her fingers. Not with a ten-foot pole. There would be no touching. Which was too bad, since it was the only way she was ever going to convince herself the man standing in front of her—as rumpled and heart-stoppingly handsome now as he'd been at sixteen—was real.

And not a figment of all her furious revenge dreams.

“What are you doing back in Bonne Terre?” she asked.

“The manor is sitting empty,” Tyler said and shrugged, as though his arriving out of the blue after ten years was casual. “Seems like someone should be watching over the family home.”

“You?” She laughed at the very notion of him being here for any unselfish reason. “Please.”

He stared at her for a second, then smiled. Her heart fluttered against her chest—a small mechanical bird powered by that smile.

“You’re right.” But that cryptic comment was all he offered.

Juliette bit her lip against the other questions.

*Why did you go?*

*Why didn’t you write? Call?*

*What did I do?*

But what would be the point? Ten years of silence were all the answer she really needed.

She had sworn off feeling anything for this man long ago. Yet one look at him and all the old hurt and rage resurfaced as though they’d been waiting for the chance. That made her mad.

She put the car in gear, determined not to waste another minute thinking about Tyler O’Neill. “Have a good night, Tyler,” she said, liking all the cool “go screw yourself” she managed to fit into those words.

*It seems Juliette has an old score to settle with Tyler.*

*Pick up TYLER O’NEILL’S REDEMPTION*

*to see how he makes it up to her.*

*Available September 2010,*

*only from Harlequin Superromance.*



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# TANYA MICHAELS

## Texas Baby



Instant parenthood is turning Addie Caine's life upside down. Caring for her young nephew and infant niece is rewarding—but exhausting! So when a gorgeous man named Giff Baker starts a short-term assignment at her office, Addie knows there's no time for romance. Yet Giff seems to be in hot pursuit....

Is this part of his job, or can he really be falling for her? And her chaotic, ready-made family!

**Available September 2010  
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## Jake met Casey's gaze.

He gave a helpless gesture. He didn't know how to make his daughter brave enough to cross the bridge. And wasn't sure if he should force her to.

"How about this," Casey said to Veronica. "You hold my hand and your dad's hand while we all cross together."

Casey held out her free hand to Jake. He slid his palm over hers, felt the strength in her fingers as she guided his hand to cover his daughter's other hand. Slowly, Veronica released the rope and gripped his hand. With Casey in the lead, they walked single file across the gently rocking bridge. When they reached the other side, Jake caught Casey's hand as she moved past him. Gratitude and affection filled his heart. "Thank you."

**Alaskan Bride Rush: Women are flocking  
to the Land of the Midnight Sun with marriage  
on their minds**

*Klondike Hero*—Jillian Hart  
July 2010

*Treasure Creek Dad*—Terri Reed  
August 2010

*Doctor Right*—Janet Tronstad  
September 2010

*Yukon Cowboy*—Debra Clopton  
October 2010

*Thanksgiving Groom*—Brenda Minton  
November 2010

*The Lawman's Christmas Wish*—Linda Goodnight  
December 2010

## Books by Terri Reed

### Love Inspired

*Love Comes Home*  
*A Sheltering Love*  
*A Sheltering Heart*  
*A Time of Hope*  
*Giving Thanks for Baby*  
*Treasure Creek Dad*

### Love Inspired Suspense

*Strictly Confidential*  
*\*Double Deception*  
*Beloved Enemy*  
*Her Christmas Protector*  
*\*Double Jeopardy*  
*\*Double Cross*  
*\*Double Threat Christmas*  
*Her Last Chance*  
*Chasing Shadows*  
*Covert Pursuit*

*\*The McClains*

## ***TERRI REED***

At an early age Terri Reed discovered the wonderful world of fiction and declared she would one day write a book. Now she is fulfilling that dream and enjoys writing for Steeple Hill. Her second book, *A Sheltering Love*, was a 2006 RITA® Award Finalist and a 2005 National Readers' Choice Award Finalist. Her book *Strictly Confidential*, book five of the Faith at the Crossroads continuity series, took third place in the 2007 American Christian Fiction Writers Book of the Year Award, and *Her Christmas Protector* took third place in 2008. She is an active member of both Romance Writers of America and American Christian Fiction Writers. She resides in the Pacific Northwest with her college-sweetheart husband, two wonderful children and an array of critters. When not writing, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, gardening and playing with her dogs.

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# Treasure Creek Dad

Terri Reed



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Special thanks and acknowledgment to Terri Reed for her contribution to the Alaskan Bride Rush miniseries.



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TREASURE CREEK DAD

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For I am confident of this very thing, that He  
who began a good work in you will perfect it  
until the day of Christ Jesus.

—*Philippians* 1:6





Thank you to my fellow Alaskan Bride Rush  
authors Jill, Janet, Debra, Brenda and Linda.  
It's been a pleasure working with you.

## *Chapter One*



“Tell me you’ve found him.” Jake Rodgers planted his palms on the Treasure Creek, Alaska, police chief’s desk and tried to keep the guilt and worry churning in his gut from spilling out. His friend Tucker Lawson was missing. And Jake should have done something to stop it.

Police Chief Reed Truscott’s haggard expression bore concern and patience. “Jake, you’d be the first to know if we had. We’ve got search-and-rescue out. There just doesn’t seem to be any trace of him.”

Jake pushed away from the desk. Aggravation and distress burned in his chest. He should have been a better friend to Tucker during his father’s passing. But Jake had been dealing with his own issues, and hadn’t taken the time to console his friend or talk him out of the crazy idea of renting a plane and flying it across Alaska in search of solitude at some remote cabin.

Regret lay heavy on Jake’s shoulders. He ran a hand through his hair, his short nails scraping along his scalp.

“How can a plane just disappear? We’re not in the Bermuda Triangle. This is Alaska, for crying out loud. And it isn’t even snowing.”

“My best guess is he got disoriented in the thunderstorm we had just after he left, and he headed in the wrong direction.” Reed rubbed his jaw. “Thanks to your funding, we’ve expanded the search area. Even as we speak, Gage Parker is leading another search. All we can do now is wait.”

“No, what we can do is pray,” Jake countered, with a meaningful look at Reed, another friend he should have done better by.

Reed’s mouth tipped upward in a rueful grimace. “Right. Good luck with that.”

This was old ground—one Jake and Reed had covered before. Jake didn’t understand Reed’s ambivalence toward faith. For Jake, relying on his belief and trusting in God were the only things that had given him strength to survive the tumultuous years of his marriage, subsequent bitter divorce, and then later, struggling to balance his career and single parenthood after his ex-wife’s death.

Deftly changing the subject, Reed said, “So your dad is finally giving you both reins of the family oil rigs?”

Jake sighed with a mixture of acceptance and anticipation. He’d left home vowing not to be like his parents, and now here he was hoping to carve out a life similar to theirs. “Looks like I’m going to be an oilman after all. He left me in charge of the whole shebang.”