

# **City of Angels**

Tracie Peterson , James Scott Bell

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A Compelling New Historical Series!

In the tradition of Cheney Duvall, M.D. comes a stunning heroine determined to break the mold of society and enter a career in law.

The combination of a legal drama and a fascinating era provides readers with a captivating and unique new series.

James' law expertise and Tracie's strong standing in the historical fiction market bring a special authenticity to this series.

Arriving in the turbulent and exciting city of Los Angeles just after the turn of the twentieth century, Kit Shannon dreams of a future as a practicing lawyer. Yet under the care of her socialite aunt, Kit quickly comes to realize that few understand the burning desire within her to seek justice for the poor and oppressed.

Drawn into the upper-class social world, Kit struggles against her aunt's insistence that she find a proper husband, and her own confused feelings for a young man whose dreams are as lofty as her own. In the courtroom Kit is forced to confront an attack against the Christian faith she holds dear.

## **City of Angels Details**

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## From Reader Review City of Angels for online ebook

## **Cherie Kasper says**

I have read several of Tracie's books and have enjoyed them all. I have to say that this book was a special surprise to read. The story included some well known figures of that period, people we all know, and introduced us to a special attorney that I had never heard of, but was really glad to discover that I liked him a lot

Kathleen (Kit for short) Shannon looses both her mother and father by age 13 and grew up at St. Catherine's school. Kit was already an avid reader, especially law books, by the time she went to law school. She had an aunt in California and decided that was the best place for her to succeed as a beginning lawyer. What she doesn't count on is her aunt pushing her into society.

Earl Rogers has been called dangerous, but he has never lost a case. Will he be the one who helps Kit get on her feet, or knock her off. The world in 1903 is not ready for women to be in the workplace but there comes a time when things have to change, to progress.

I felt the characters stepped off the pages for me and invited me right into the story. I loved the way they interacted with each other and I especially loved the faith Kit showed through each day of her life in the story.

I would recommend this to all who love Traci Peterson, or a really good story.

## Jenny Getchell says

## Thumbs up!

This book was amazing; the best fictional book I've come across in a very long time! It follows the story of Kit Shannon, a young lady with a dream to become a lawyer-back before it was acceptable for females to do so. Kit is the daughter of a preacher who was killed by a drunk for standing up to defend the Word of God. Her mother was heartbroken after her father's death and was taken advantage of by a swindling "friend" of the family. With no relatives willing to take her in, Kit is sent to a Catholic orphanage, where she grows up steadfast in both her parents' beliefs. This is an exciting read, with good doctrines to boot! I can't wait to read the next book in the series!

## Charly Troff (ReaderTurnedWriter) says

This was such a fun read! At first, I wasn't sure, but the further I got in it, the more I liked it. I particularly enjoyed the lawyer/detective aspect of the story. I didn't know anything about the book going in really, so that was a pleasant surprise. I loved Rogers, one of the main characters, and I loved Kit's determination and strength. It was very Christian, not in a bad way, but very focused on that. I also was just a little let down by the ending. Overall, great read and I will probably look into the rest of the series later.

#### Ron says

"It is hard to fail but worse to have never tried to succeed." Theodore Roosevelt, quoted in the text.

Well-researched and well-told historical fiction. Written in two genres about which I have low expectations—women's fiction and Christian fiction—this book stands on its own two feet and demands attention as simply a good story.

Before you deluge me with hate mail, I hasten to add that I don't pretend to expertise on either of those genres. I have read a lot of both, but most offerings haven't struck a responsive chord with me. In the case of the former perhaps because I'm a man. On the other hand I am a Christian, but my experience with modern Christian fiction is that it tends to be simplistic and saccharin. Simplistic in that Christian fiction often presents an idealized view of the world which doesn't correspond to the world we live in. (Christian science fiction?) And, like saccharin, much Christian fiction is sweet but without food value. Few get saved the way folks do in Christian fiction, and fewer will get saved by reading it.

Having read parts or all of other Peterson works, I conclude that the presence of James Scott Bell accounts for the difference. The writing is much more complex, though where this story is going is obvious by the end of Chapter Two. The characters have depth. And the setting is well-developed enough that the reader had little trouble losing his- or herself in turn of the century Los Angeles.

Satisfying as few of this genre have satisfied me.

## **Christine Dillon says**

After a long string of poor books this one was a relief.

If you like historical Christian fiction (this has lots of Christian content) c 1903 Los Angeles with court cases, mystery - then this is a fun and easy read. Looks like being an excellent set.

## Gerrie says

3.5 out of 5 stars. There was so much to like about this book. I love historical fiction and courtroom dramas, so this book was just my cup of tea. Plus it's a compelling story that's well written, with the history skillfully interwoven with the fiction.

It's 1903, and Kit Shannon, the heroine, comes to Los Angeles from New York hoping to establish a legal career in the less rigid west. While there were some women lawyers at that time, there were very few, and the obstacles to their practicing law were considerable. Luckily for Kit, she meets and becomes a protégée of Earl Rogers. Earl Rogers was one of the greatest - if not the greatest - trial lawyers of the 20th Century. Many trial tactics and practices that are routine today were first introduced by Rogers, and at the time these tactics (and he) were considered revolutionary and unorthodox. Rogers is so skillfully written into the book that one might not realize that he was an actual person (I don't know what Rogers actually thought about women lawyers, but his support for Kit is believable in the book).

The problem for me with this book is that it was very preachy, and that's why I didn't rate it higher. Like most members of Goodreads I'm a voracious reader, and always looking for new authors, so I'm always

willing to give new-to-me authors a try. In any genre. There are several excellent authors of Christian historical romance that I enjoy who wield a very light, subtle touch in the way they incorporate religion into their books. I don't want to be bludgeoned over the head, and will usually stop reading a book that does so. The fact that I finished this book (and plan to read the other five books in the series) is a testament to the absorbing story line of a woman fighting for the right to practice law in the early 20th Century, and the fascinating legal issues the books deal with.

I realize that I'm probably not the reader that this book is aimed at. I understand and respect that. However, this compelling story line could probably appeal to a much wider secular readership if it weren't so preachy, and I'm sorry that it probably won't.

## Jan Pfeifer says

#### **Spellbinding Trial!**

Kit is a woman ahead of her time. She seeks justice and truth in this the first book of the series. James Scott Bell is a master at weaving a story that will wrap you up until the very end!

## Geo Hendrick says

I did not get into the book untill Chapter 5. I kept reading because I have read 5 other of her books just knowing it would be good. Around Chapter 18 it became a page turner! Could not put it down. Reading till late in the evening! The Lawayer in this book Earl was a real trial lawayer. And the first story in court is true as well. It briefly says in the back of the book.

## ? Gramy? says

This series provides compelling entertainment, accurate historical facts, and spotlights many injustices of the times, and detailed courtroom drama, based in the early 1900's in California. It a time of great changes in the world, many positive and some negative. Fascinating things were happening, which allowed Kit Shannon, a female, to actually stand up for those who needed legal assistance, which had blatantly been a men's world up to that point.

This story portrayed how basic rights were non-existent, clearly depicting how far the legal field has changed since then. The social ladder that ruled, based greatly on money, discriminating indeterminately, seems so preposterous. I found myself cheering for the courageous heroine, who was looked down upon because she was a woman, working in a man's world. I am so grateful that I did not live in that era.

Thankfully, this heroine found a tremendous mentor, a rare man, that provided guidance as he encouraged her to follow her dream as a lawyer. I was beyond thrilled when she doggedly overcame obstacles. The

demonstration of her duty to help others, based on her faith in God was incredible. However, she was somewhat distracted romantically by a man that was already betrothed in this story.

This story is able to stand on its own, it is clean, and there is a prevalent H.E.A.

#### **Darren says**

Kit is definitely is a young lady ahead of her time. She strives to be a lawyer, and a time when it was just not excepted, by society, for women to be involved with law. Kit has already drawn the attention of a few people who would like to see her come to harm. One person wants her to leave, another has far more sinister plans for her. She is unaware of either. Her troubles have only just begun!

## Carey Box says

This book helped get me hooked on reading again! Loved it!

## Jeni Enjaian says

I remember ardently loving this series back when I first read it. I was hesitant to pick it back up again (as part of my slog through my books to see which ones stay and which ones go) because I have become increasingly soured on Tracie Peterson. To put it simply, she is part of a large number of Christian authors whose work is full of fluff and nonsense. (aka trite "Biblical" wordings, plot lines and characters written very poorly)

James Scott Bell, however, is not one of those authors. His contribution to this story is the only reason I continued reading. I could easily discern which sections were written by which author. Bell has a compelling style. He does not shy away from Biblical topics, rather he approaches them head on in the nitty, gritty realities of life that we all live.

While I cringed a few times at some occasional obvious preaching, I really did enjoy the book.

I would definitely recommend this book as a good stepping stone between trite Christian fiction and the good stuff. :)

#### **Shelly Stewart says**

Kit Shannon lived through a very difficult childhood, growing up in orphanages and girl's homes. She developed a keen desire to make a difference in her world by becoming a lawyer. However in the early twentieth century, it was thought to be improper, even scandalous for a woman to attempt such a career. Kit earned her law degree in college, but must find a sponsor and must pass the bar to become a lawyer. Leaving her home in New York, she traveled to Los Angeles, the City of Angels, to live with her widowed aunt. However, her lack of social skills and headstrong personality are an embarrassment to her Aunt Fredrica. Kit

runs into obstacle after obstacle, even being asked to move out of her aunt's home. After making acquaintance with the city's leading criminal defense attorney, Kit's life takes on a new direction as he guides her and teaches her about criminal law, human tendencies, and tenacity. Kit acts as his associate, and guides him in the paths of righteousness with her knowledge and steadfast adherence to the Bible. Both benefit. This is a refreshing story, mixing facts about an actual lawyer, Earl Rogers, with fiction. I appreciated that it shows that an adherence to scripture and God's laws will only bring benefit. The twist ending was great!

## Elisabeth Turner says

#### **Exhilarating Read**

Fascinating mystery and courtroom drama brew in California in the early 1900s. The historical details come to life in this harrowing murder mystery. Another masterpiece by JSB!

## Joleen says

Has everything a good book needs. I usually read inspirational historical romance but this historical suspense kept me flipping pages. What a great find.

One of the most overtly Christian books I've read in a while in the sense of amount of scripture quoted and "witnessing" done by a character. It was quit refreshing. I mean, if I'm going to be spending hours reading something, I want it to cause me to think on Christ as that is what is important in my life.