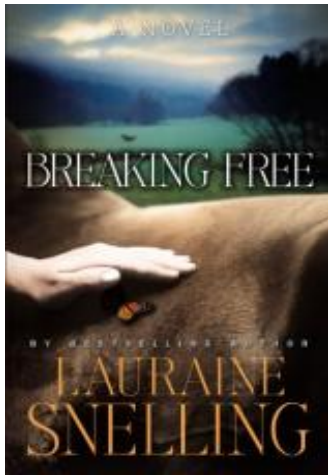


# Breaking Free

by Lauraine Snelling

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## About the Book

Bestselling author Lauraine Snelling crafts a poignant story of hope and restoration for a newly paroled mother rebuilding her life after the loss of her son. Maggie Roberts is starting over again after her reckless driving led to a 10-year prison sentence and the devastating loss of her son.

Having learned to repurpose retired thoroughbred racehorses through an inmate training program, Maggie finds a way to rebuild her life. But it's not until she meets single father Gil Winters and his wheelchair-bound son, Edward, that she finds her calling. In helping Edward with his therapy using horses, Maggie finds herself coming to life again. But when a shadow from the past returns, Maggie is forced to choose between her newfound freedom and getting Edward the life-saving help he needs.

## Discussion Guide

1. What causes Maggie to agree to participate in the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Program?
2. Mr. James says that "working with horses reveals who we are. No matter how hard we try to hide it." How does the program and working with *Breaking Free* help Maggie? In what ways do you see it helps the inmates?
3. Why is Maggie afraid of being vulnerable? How does this help or hurt her while she is in prison?
4. How has the lack of forgiveness for her own mistakes affected Maggie's life while in prison?
5. What parallels do you see in Maggie's and *Breaking Free*'s struggles and recovery?

6. What lessons of forgiveness and second chances does Maggie learn by taking care of and rehabilitating Freebee?
7. How does DC's bullying help Maggie learn to fight for herself?
8. Compare Carly's, DC's, Kool Kat's, and Maggie's approaches to life. Who do you find yourself identifying with most?
9. What lessons does Maggie learn about God's grace in meeting Gil and starting over?
10. How is Maggie's presence in Gil's and Eddie's life good for each of them?
11. How does Maggie's life experience challenge Gil's role as a father to Eddie?
12. How does Maggie's and Breaking Free's brokenness help each of them to heal? Can brokenness be beautiful?

## Author Bio

Award-winning and bestselling author Lauraine Snelling began living her dream to be a writer with her first published book for young adult readers, *TRAGEDY ON THE TOUTLE*, in 1982. She has since continued writing more horse books for young girls, adding historical and contemporary fiction and nonfiction for adults and young readers to her repertoire. All told, she has over 80 books published.

Shown in her contemporary romances and women's fiction, a hallmark of Lauraine's style is writing about real issues of forgiveness, loss, domestic violence, and cancer within a compelling story. Her work has been translated into Norwegian, Danish and German, and she has won the Romantic Times Career Achievement award for Inspirational Fiction, the Silver Angel Award for *AN UNTAMED LAND* and a Romance Writers of America Golden Heart for *SONG OF LAUGHTER*.

As a sought after speaker, Lauraine encourages others to find their gifts and live their lives with humor and joy. Her readers clamor for more books more often, and Lauraine would like to comply...if only her paintbrushes and easel didn't call quite so loudly.

Lauraine and her husband, Wayne, have two grown sons, and live in the Tehachapi Mountains with a watchdog Basset named Winston. They love to travel, most especially in their 40-foot motor coach, which they affectionately deem "a work in progress".

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