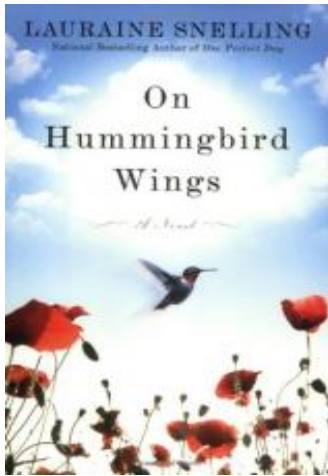


On Hummingbird Wings

by Lauraine Snelling



About the Book

When a phone call from her younger sister interrupts a busy morning at the office, Gillian is first surprised, then irritated. Allison has always been the favored sister --- the one who stayed close to home, got married, and gave their mother grandchildren. Gillian, on the other hand, moved across the country to become a corporate executive. Now, their mother needs a caretaker, and she is being asked to take a leave of absence from her life in New York City, return to California, and care for a woman whose primary ailment seems to be hypochondria? a woman she has never been close to.

She arrives to find the garden and yard wilted and brown, the blinds drawn, and her mother indeed in bed, waiting to die. Focused on restoring her mother's health and will to live so she can return to her comfort zone two thousand miles away, Gillian is unprepared for this temporary situation to suddenly become brighter by the arrival of an older gentleman named Enzo, a pair of hummingbirds, and a handsome gardener. Perhaps the one thing New York is missing is the one thing she can no longer live without --- family.

Discussion Guide

1. An old adage says that as you age you will become more of whoever you are when younger. If you don't like things about you now, what are you doing to change those dislikes before you get locked into bad habits?
2. Gillian clearly struggles with her tumultuous relationship with her mother. What do you think she might have done to smooth and repair this relationship?
3. Have you been through a similar situation? If so, how did you handle it? Are you pleased with the outcome?

4. Typically when siblings come home, they step right back into the roles they played as children. How do you see that happening in your life?
5. Many people are forced into starting their careers over, like Gillian was. What advice would you give someone in that situation?
6. Working in a garden, no matter how small, can bring healing on so many levels. What have you experienced in this area?
7. Heroes come in unlikely packages at times. How would you recognize one?
8. Gillian has found herself falling away from her childhood faith and upbringing. What experiences have you had in your life where life chips away at faith, rather than helping it grow?

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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