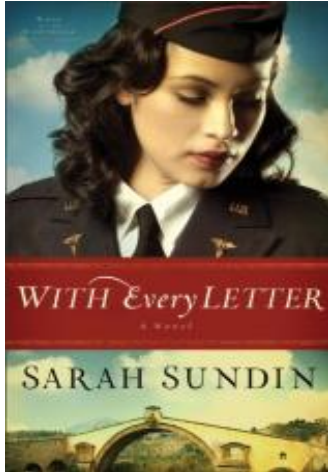


# With Every Letter: Wings of the Nightingale, Book 1

by Sarah Sundin

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## About the Book

**They know everything about each other --- except their real names.**

Lt. Mellie Blake is looking forward to beginning her training as a flight nurse. She is not looking forward to writing a letter to a man she's never met --- even if it is anonymous and part of a morale-building program. Lt. Tom MacGilliver, an officer stationed in North Africa, welcomes the idea of an anonymous correspondence --- he's been trying to escape his infamous name for years.

As their letters crisscross the Atlantic, Tom and Mellie develop a unique friendship despite not knowing the other's true identity. When both are transferred to Algeria, the two are poised to meet face-to-face for the first time. Will they overcome their fears and reveal who they are, or will their future be held hostage by their pasts?

Combining a flair for romance with excellent research and attention to detail, Sarah Sundin vividly brings to life the perilous challenges of WWII aviation, nursing --- and true love.

## Discussion Guide

1. A long history of rejection causes people to protect themselves in various ways. Compare how Mellie, Tom, Larry, Goosie --- and even Kay --- protect themselves.
2. Our society can be harsh on women who don't meet its standards of physical beauty. How do you see this in Mellie's life? In the world around you? Do you find yourself subconsciously judging others on their looks?
3. Tom's story was inspired by a news article about a man facing execution who had a small son. What challenges did

Tom face because of his father's notoriety? What challenges do you see for children of infamous --- or even famous --- people?

4. What do you think of how Tom's mother raised him? How would you have handled a similar situation?
5. Five hundred women served as flight nurses during World War II, and seventeen were killed in action. Considering the role of women at the time, flight nurses were pioneers in many ways. What ways do you see?
6. Sesame plays an important part in Tom's life. How does Sesame help him? How has a pet helped you?
7. In the field, Tom and Mellie deal with a difficult way of life --- mud, bugs, living on the go, and the constant threat of attack. How do the various characters deal with these situations? How would you?
8. How were letters vital to Tom's and Mellie's individual growth and to their relationship? Have you ever had a close correspondence with a pen pal?
9. How does Mellie handle condescension from Captain Maxwell and Sergeant Early? How have things changed since the 1940s?
10. Both Tom and Mellie were raised by the opposite-gender parent. What issues does that cause in their lives? What can single parents do to overcome these challenges?
11. Mellie comes to friendship late in life. What insights into friendship did you gain from her journey?
12. What insights into leadership do you gain from Tom's example and from those around him?
13. What does Mellie learn about mercy through this story? Is there any way you need to show greater mercy to those around you?
14. Tom struggles to bridge his inner self and his outer self. Have you ever lived a less-than-genuine life? How did you find balance?
15. The next novel in the series follows Lt. Georgie Taylor and pharmacist Sgt. John "Hutch" Hutchinson, and the third novel follows Lt. Kay Jobson and C-47 pilot Lt. Roger Cooper. From what you've seen of these characters, what might you expect?

## **Author Bio**

Sarah Sundin is the author of *WITH EVERY LETTER, ON DISTANT SHORES* and the *Wings of Glory* series. In 2011, *A MEMORY BETWEEN US* was a finalist in the Inspirational Reader's Choice Awards, and Sarah received the Writer of the Year Award at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. Sarah lives in California with her husband and three children. Visit [www.sarahsundin.com](http://www.sarahsundin.com) for more information.

## Critical Praise

"I love the nostalgia and drama of the WWII era. No one takes me back there better than Sarah Sundin. *With Every Letter* is a beautiful love story and has everything you want in a novel: romance, suspense, and characters you care about from the very first page. A marvelous beginning for her new series. I can't wait to read the next book."

? Dan Walsh, award-winning and bestselling author of *THE DISCOVERY*

?Sarah Sundin is an extraordinarily gifted storyteller who puts the reader in the cockpit of B-17 bombers as easily as she crafts an achingly emotional World War II romance.?

? Cheryl Bolen, Holt Medallion Winner, Best Historical

?Sarah Sundin is a master at lyrical writing, and she has that rare talent of being able to combine humor with heart-pounding action.?

? Melanie Dobson, author of *LOVE FINDS YOU IN LIBERTY, INDIANA* and *REFUGE ON CRESCENT HILL*

?Sarah takes us on a captivating romantic ride through the fascinating and horrifying days of World War II. A must-read.?

? Bonnie Leon, author, the *Sydney Cove* series and *Alaskan Skies* series

?Frantz paints a vivid picture of the tough life out in the wild, and yet her characters demonstrate that it was possible to have a wonderful life.?

? RT Book Reviews for *THE COLONEL'S LADY*

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### **With Every Letter: Wings of the Nightingale, Book 1**

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