



# On Hummingbird Wings

*Lauraine Snelling*

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## **On Hummingbird Wings** Lauraine Snelling

"But Mother is always dying," is Gillian Ormsby's sarcastic response when her younger, favored sister tells her that she has to go take care of their hypochondriac mother. Much against her will, since she and her mother never have gotten along, Gillian arrives in California to find the garden and yard dead, the blinds all drawn, and her mother indeed in bed--waiting to die. But when Gillian talks with the doctor, he assures her there's no medical reason behind her mother's state.

Now on a mission to restore her mother to health, Gillian insists Mother get out of bed, eat, exercise and hopefully, choose to live. She also sets about reviving the garden to its former glory, enlisting the help of Adam, a handsome man who owns a family gardening business with his father. Gillian is delighted when a pair of hummingbirds appear, and her friendship with Adam grows.

Soon, Mother's health improves, and one day she announces she and her friend Enzo are going on a cruise. Before Gillian has time to turn around, her mother is gone and she is left high and dry again, and wondering, what is she going to do with the rest of her own life?

## **On Hummingbird Wings Details**

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# From Reader Review On Hummingbird Wings for online ebook

## Anita says

In the beginning I thought relationships among the mother and her 2 daughters was interesting, but in the end I didn't feel there was much depth or resolution. Mom says she is dying so one daughter flies across the country to help. She's there for a total of about 2 weeks, pretty much force-feeding mom and getting her up out of bed once a week to shower. Mom's never been like this before, although she has been manipulative in the past. Daughter comes home from errands one afternoon to find mom and mom's male friend, packed and leaving on a 2 week cruise. HUH??? Mom was barely out of bed - where did this come from? The other daughter has her own issues but they're never explained. Most of the book you think her husband is a jerk but towards the end when you actually get to meet him, he seems ok. Another HUH? Just thought the whole thing could have been better in delving into family relationships.

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## Kelli Benedik says

I really enjoyed this book - great vacation read, but it definatly needs a follow up. It ended with too open story lines.

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## Mary Beth says

A sweet, feel-good book, but not very realistic.

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## Dale Harcombe says

Probably just the sort of read I needed after my previous read. This is an easy read about family relationships with a bit of romance as well.

To begin with I wasn't that keen on Gillian who is more concerned about her job than she is about family relationships, which means her mother, younger sister Alison and her family. The way Gillian sees, it Alison has always been the favourite so Gillian has left her to deal with keeping in touch with their mother. Then comes the phone call saying their mother is dying. Reluctantly since this is a familiar refrain from their mother, Gillian makes a brief trip home. As the story went on, it was Gillian I warmed to most and Allie who ended up annoying me with her whining. I began to suspect that there was an underlying issue in Allie's marriage that made her the way she was.

While I enjoyed reading this novel I was left feeling that in at least two cases, that of Dorothy, the mother and Alison, behaviour changed too drastically without adequate motivation for the sudden shift. I did like some of the other characters, namely Adam, the love interest and his father was a sweetie. Since this is Christian fiction there is a bit of talk about church and prayer for guidance etc. There is no bad language and the romance is kept at a chaste level. So it was a pleasant read, but I thought the motivation of characters could have been explored in more depth. However, it does raise some questions about what things are most important in life. Loved the cover of this book.

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## **Maria says**

I reviewed this book for Night Owl Reviews

On Hummingbird Wings by Lauraine Snelling is a heartwarming and thought provoking look at a fortyish woman's reflection on life and her choices. I was completely captivated by Ms. Snelling's storytelling and with the characters she created. It really made me think about the choices we make daily, the sacrifices they might require and our ability to start over.

Gillian Ormsby is a great character; she's in her mid forties, still in great shape and attractive. She's also dedicated all of her life to her career. At the start of the story, she's on a deadline when her sister calls to talk about their mother and her claims of dying. Gillian really doesn't want to deal with her mother, they've never gotten along. She does realize though that she hasn't been home in a long time, five years in fact. She takes the red-eye to California to deal with her over the top mother and sister and plans to return to New York in a couple of days. She's given up a lot to get where she is and she's looking forward to an early retirement and the start to her own life. I really liked how Ms. Snelling pointed out that to get to the top; Gillian gave up a lot, her family in California and the chance for love and a family of her own.

When Gillian arrives home and realizes the situation is as dire as her sister threatened, she's angry about her sister's inability to handle things and takes charge. Only things aren't as easy to take care of as Gillian expects; everything takes time – something she doesn't think she has, until she discovers her job has suddenly ended and she's now unemployed. Deciding to use her time off, there's the possibility her previous boss will find a job for them both when he comes back from his month long vacation, Gillian begins taking care of her mom and restoring her mother's garden. As both neighbors and friends of her mother help Gillian get things back on track, she realizes she not only left behind her family, she'd also left her faith in God lapse. She begins to wonder when that happened.

While Gillian is the focus of the story, the secondary characters are really important. From Gillian's mother, who is somewhat difficult at first but improves greatly when she realizes she's loved, to Adam Bentley, the neighbor's son, who helps Gillian with her mother and the garden, and becomes more important to Gillian when they begin to date and fall in love. Throughout the story, Ms. Snelling, weaves parts of Gillian's rediscovery of her faith and her reconnection to her family. Gillian grows both inside and out and soon she's more comfortable with the life she's living in California than with the life she left in New York.

Will Gillian decide to stay in California with her family and new friends when a job opportunity in New York opens up? Will Adam be willing to accept whatever decision Gillian makes, even if it requires a long distance relationship or his relocation? And will Gillian's slow path back to her faith in God and her trust for his direction in her life be a part of her future? Read On Hummingbird Wings, I highly recommend it.

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## **Joyce Morgan says**

## **I love all the books that I have read with Laurarine Snelling as the author**

?The main character made the right choices at the very ending of the book. How wonderful that this one came to check on her Mother and she did some very good things as she tried to help her Mother and bring her back to a normal life.

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## **Connie says**

### **Two Sisters who compete for their Mother's attention..**

I have so enjoyed most of Lauriane Snelling books but this one is weak in character development. Also the faith that she portrays in other books is simply good morals and doesn't affect the lives or the struggles of the characters. Nice ending...but predictable.

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## **Lynne says**

Very predictable but a sweet story of elderly parents, adult children, love and starting over

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## **Laurie Buchanan says**

Growing up, I teathed on Grace Livingston Hill books, so it was a pleasure to dive into the pages of ON HUMMINGBIRD WINGS by Lauraine Snelling, a modern day author whose writing is lightly reminiscent of days gone by—even though the setting is present day.

A story about relationships, two sisters, now in their 40s, are each under the impression that their mother likes the other one best. This, a direct result of undeniable manipulation by their 73-year-old mother. The friction this causes between the siblings—not to mention the handsome, single man who lives two doors down—is what keeps readers turning the page.

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## **Debbie says**

The book was an ok love story but I should give it less stars cuz of the God talk. So annoying. Why is it religious writers always have to push their beliefs on others? A religious book should be marketed as such, not hidden with nothing mentioned anywhere on the jacket. Makes me question her agenda. Her writing was ok, but I won't read her again.

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## **Nancy says**

This is a story about learning to deal with life changes and adjusting yourself accordingly. Gillian is a successful New York career woman who finds herself going home after all these years because her mother

has stopped eating and won't get out of bed. There is nothing physically wrong with her mother. Gillian steps into a new role as a caretaker to her mother until she can get back on her feet.

Meanwhile, Gillian's sister, Allie, is suffering from a midlife crisis. This part of the story is never clearly resolved. Allie is younger and has two teenagers. She lives in a picture perfect home with a picture perfect husband but she is unhappy. Why? There is a little hint that she wishes she'd been career minded, too. Anyway, Allie doesn't want to be the primary caregiver anymore.

It's a pleasant read. I liked it fine. I found it a little slow for my tastes and the characters lacked the depth I would have preferred. There is nothing I disliked about the book. It's just kind of forgettable.

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### **Pamela says**

Fabulous premise: Quibbling sisters, the eldest a big city corporate powerhouse, the youngest a placating domestic mouse, and their quandary of how to pull their drama queen, cantankerous mother back from the brink of imagined infirmity and depression. And of course, with a couple side dishes? of chick-lit required romance thrown in for good measure.

Well . . . for measure, anyway. Good - in terms of quality and believability - is relative.

As for the actual story, and my perspective: Strong, enticing beginning. Hooked me with the brick smashed window. A bit sluggish and repetitive mid book (overkill with inner dialogues, too) but still quirky-good. Three stars, I'm thinking, for sure.

Then . . . **BAM!** Drastic change of course, three-quarters in. The story went from Quirky Creek to the torrential river of '**Ridiculous**' with one flip of the page. I was like, REALLY? No way!!! I'm all for plot twists, but they do require some measure of plausibility.

And from there, I simply skimmed to the end. Disappointed, to say the least. The sound of a star imploding, from three to two, echoed in my room.

TWO \*\* Plot Twist Ruination, Chick-Lit \*\* STARS

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### **Holly (2 Kids and Tired) says**

A light, mildly Christian story about family relationships. It was hard to get into and even harder to follow. Gillian is the successful, career driven older sister who has little time or understanding for her younger sister. Allison was an annoying, whiny woman who wouldn't talk without sulking or complaining and who gave every impression of being an unhappily married woman and then suddenly becomes nice towards the end. When we finally meet her family, we find that they're nice and normal and her husband is pretty cool, with no signs of any difficulties. It was a strange, abrupt turn.

Gillian's Mom spends the first half of the book angry, depressed and convinced she's dying. Yet, practically overnight she suddenly snaps out of it and goes off on a cruise with her friend. Again, a strange, abrupt turn of events.

The entire story was somewhat disjointed and just didn't flow well. My copy is an ARC and perhaps some of these structural issues are resolved in the final copy. I did love the San Francisco Bay Area setting. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and I know the areas described here, well. The nostalgia was nice, but this is a light diversion, nothing more.

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### **Jacquelyn J Tarpinian says**

#### **Pros and cons**

I liked the book but gave it a 4 star because of its predictability. I knew from the get go about the outcome. I would have liked to have seen Dorothy's and Enzo's relationship bloom a bit more and she become a bit stronger before the surprise. It would have been more realistic having been on 17 cruises myself. All the packing..getting there...it is hard for a couple older people when you are strong. Making decisions with pros and cons is a great way to make decisions. I liked the way Gillian handled her mother.

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### **Kerstin Gunia says**

This one is a rare bird, pun intended?. The genre of contemporary Christian fiction is littered with young women left at altars, men who can't commit, who against all odds end up married anyway.“  
How refreshing to meet Gillian and Adam who have built successful lives and are mostly content with being single. Snelling not only builds an authentic romance but also accurately depicts that it is often the unmarried sibling who cares for widowed or aging/ill parents. Both Gillian and Adam have to figure out how to build a relationship while being caregivers. I also enjoyed the honesty that it is not easy to give up a lifestyle where you can come & go as you please. Often authors gloss this over with “I love you so much that I want to spend every moment with you” when in reality you do have to be willing to negotiate what you are willing to give up. Gillian and Adam are able to do this without all the sappy rhetoric.

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