



She Always Wore Red

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Jennifer Graham--mother, student, and embalmer's apprentice-- could use a friend. She finds one in McLane Larson, a newcomer to Mt. Dora, and is delighted to learn that the young woman is expecting a baby. While McLane's soldier-husband serves overseas, Jen promises to support McLane and then learns that her tie to this woman goes far deeper than friendship. When a difference of opinion threatens their relationship, Jennifer discovers weaknesses in her own character . . . and a faith far stronger than she had imagined.

She Always Wore Red Details

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From Reader Review She Always Wore Red for online ebook

Kim says

what a great read...I loved this story

Loraine says

This novel by Angela Elwell Hunt is very thought provoking. Jennifer Graham befriends a newcomer to small town Mt Dora and finds more than she bargained for in her relationship with McLane Larson. Jennifer finds herself having to examine her thoughts on race relations, abortion, and family relationships all on which she has strong faith based beliefs.

I really liked the way the characters were developed in this story and how each of them including Jennifer's two sons grew and developed in their faith through the events that happen within their lives.

This book is actually a continuation of Doesn't She Look Natural but was quite easy to read as a stand-alone.

Louanne says

Thoroughly enjoyed!

Great characters and story lines. I would recommend the book and author highly. The characters faith is encouraging. I live near the area of the book and thought it'd be interesting.

Julia says

She Always Wore Red by Angela Hunt is the second book in the Fairlawn trilogy but can be read as a stand-alone. I however enjoyed meeting up with familiar characters and some new ones too. It is a contemporary Christian novel set in and around Fairlawn funeral home.

She Always Wore Red is a compulsive read. It made me laugh and it made me cry. And along with the characters, it strengthened my faith.

A major theme in the novel is that of prayer. Prayer is powerful as it connects us to God. But what happens when we pray and God says no? "She taught me how to thank God for unanswered prayers... because when God says no, I have to trust that His ways are perfect." Prayer has to be tied in to trust in God. We have to trust even when we do not understand. And we have to realise that God is God and we are not.

Tied in to prayer and trust is that of faith. Faith in a God who loves us. Faith that even when life is tough, we know that God is with us. Faith plus prayer plus trust is an excellent recipe for life. "I have learned that prayer changes us... faith conquers fear." Keeping one's eyes fixed on God is necessary to dispel fear.

The novel deals with racism and prejudice. It is horrifying to see that in the twenty first century there are still people who cannot see beyond the colour of someone's skin. We need to look into a person's eyes and heart and see them as God sees them. There are no divisions in God's world. We are all created equal. Characters

within the novel try to build bridges and open the eyes of others but for some racism is deeply engrained in their hearts. It blinds them to all else and it cuts them off from loving relationships.

Angela Hunt tackles the difficult and heart wrenching areas of abortion, premature babies and disabilities. God does not make mistakes and every life is precious to Him. The baby in the womb is loved by God and has a right to life. All life is sacred. It is not ours to throw away.

Within the novel is love which covers all. Love is an action and the most important action that we can do.

"You don't have to support her decision, you only have to love her." We may not always agree with actions of lifestyle choices of others but our job is not to judge. Our job is to love.

Forgiveness is another theme within the novel. Sometimes the sins of the past are revealed in the present. Sometimes the perpetrator of the sin is dead. Whatever the situation forgiveness needs to happen in one's heart.

Tied in to this theme is the sins of the fathers. Children cannot be blamed for their fathers poor choices.

Children are innocent victims and need to be loved as such.

The novel shows that blood is thicker than water. Our blood ties will bind us together strengthening relationships. We need to focus on our similarities and not our differences and be bound together by love.

"Love speaks louder than words."

As with book one, the characters are all very likeable and well drawn. Their personalities become even more developed in this second book, and the reader gets to know them better. The reader also learns rather more about the process after death as Jen, the owner of Fairlawn is doing an embalming course!

I am really enjoying this Fairlawn trilogy and cannot wait to read the final book. Angela Hunt is an entertaining writer who both educates the reader and creates a bond between the reader and the characters.

Give yourself a treat and buy the Fairlawn trilogy, escape for a few hours and make some new friends along the way.

Teresa Merriman says

I love this book. I started this series because I wanted something light and funny. It is humorous throughout but I don't really consider it to be light. There are issues to be thought through and even though I wanted something light, I am really glad that I am reading this series.

Sherise says

The thing I love about the Fairlawn series so far is that, in both books, I've spent the first third to two thirds of the books utterly annoyed with the characters and their views only to be won over by the nuanced way Hunt allows them to evolve and become more nuanced.

It seems an act of sheer bravery to dare to allow the reader to find every character begin a book immersed in annoyance knowing that you'll win the reader back over by the end. In many ways, facing the trite and shallow thinking of Hunt's characters gave me space to consider any ways my own thinking is equally shallow. I loved it.

Abigail Sands says

Folks learning priceless life lessons sometimes in the most painful ways. Unfortunately, this is true in life too frequently. Some mistakes can't be changed no matter what. Thankfully, some mistakes and poor choices can be salvaged, reworked and made into something else that is good.

Bethany says

It's rare to find Christian fiction that contains a main character who is an embalmer, let alone general fiction! I was ready to like this book, I just could not make it through. Complete lack of interest, you see. There were good issues being addressed, mind you; but when I realized, "Oh yeah! I don't have to read this if I don't feel like it!" it was a great load off my mind. (It's sad I have to remind myself that, but there you go.)

Elizabeth says

Rereading this series has been a lesson in how truly appalling my memory is. I'm beginning to wonder what I DID remember about the books beyond the euphoric feeling that remained with me years later. It's like reading the books for the first time and I'm constantly thinking to myself "I don't remember that happening!" or "What? How could I forget that?!" Honestly, it's starting to make me question my memories of all my other favorite books.

That being said, It's still a great book/series. There are multiple narratives that occur within the Fairlawn family, but it's never confusing nor does it leave you wondering why one or the other was introduced. I didn't really enjoy the main character's obsession with an abortion decision and felt that aspect could've been cut back considerably which would've left room for the other storyline to be fleshed out a little or ever more attention paid to the ending which felt a bit rushed with its summary format. Overall, though, it continues to be entertaining and thought-provoking.

Hope says

There is no doubt that Angela Hunt can write a good story, but the second installment in the series seemed more complicated (and less satisfying) than the first. Jennifer Graham is starting a new life after her divorce and part of that entails learning to run the funeral home that she has inherited.

In addition to the many interesting characters (they are the reason I kept reading), there are way too many details on embalming methods and attempts to deal with big issues such as racism, abortion, and unanswered prayer. I have nothing against any of these issues, but felt that some of the answers came off as pat.

My library copy was 373 pages and it is not a good sign that I was relieved when the book was finished. On the other hand, I have to say that I enjoy Hunt's humor and the fact that she did not make Jennifer's love life the center of this book.

Pamela Saylor says**A good story.**

I know that's a simple statement, this book was so surprising and thought provoking. The story was complicated and sweet. I look forward to reading more of Angela Hunt's books.

Sherry Salfai says**What a wonderful story!**

Not always a happy ending for some of the characters in book 2 of this series, but it is set in a funeral home so that will play a part in the storyline somehow. The sadness is always tempered with wisdom and many lessons about Gods love for us and our love for each other. I highly recommend this series to any Christian who is not perfect. It contains some wonderful insights about love.

Louise E. says

I thought it was a little on the slow moving at first. The story was good.

Sandra G. Harris says**After reading the first book in this series I just had to read this 2nd one and am so glad I did!! Angela Hung**

(sorry -typo!) Angela Hunt has created characters in this series that seem so real I couldn't help but get caught up in their lives and situations! I laughed, cried and cheered for them all. This book made me look at myself and question myself in some areas. I found myself asking the Lord to change some of my thoughts and feelings about some things, to create an unconditional love, better understanding and non-judgemental heart in me - that I will show the true love of Jesus to every one He brings across the path of my life! Really looking forward to reading the next book in this series..

Holly (2 Kids and Tired) says

A sequel to Doesn't She Look Natural, the story picks up several months later. Jennifer Graham is now taking courses to become a mortician. She seems to have settled into the Mt. Dora community and her boys are making friends. Gerald still works at the funeral home and surprise, surprise, Jennifer's unknown half-sister arrives, bringing her own drama.

For the coverage of such serious issues as racism and abortion, the story is still very light and trite, with little depth or character development. McLane seems to be a good addition, but her father is a stereotyped caricature rather than a developed character.

Predictably, the story wraps up neatly, although it's not a completely happy ending. Christian lessons are learned along the way.

My big complaint with this story is the same one I had with the first book: the narration. Jen's story is told in first-person, which I rarely like. The chapters then alternate between Jen and the other characters like her sister, Gerald, and her son. These supporting characters aren't written as first-person, but are an awkward present-tense third-person narrative. It was very annoying and quite distracting. The story would have been much stronger had the author maintained the same style throughout it.

Like the first one, I'd give it 2.5 stars if I could. Good, not great.
