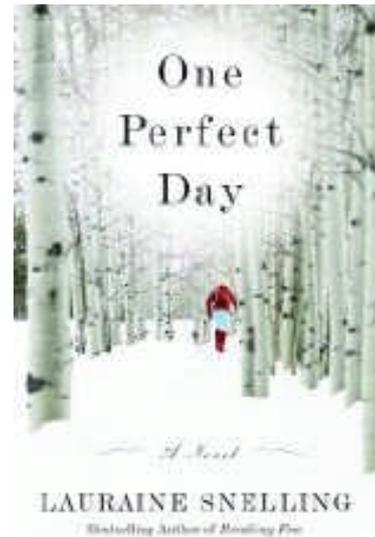


A Review of
One Perfect Day (a novel)
Author: Lauraine Snelling



This emotional story of two families actually focused on the mothers in each family, living out the two sides of organ donation and organ transplantation through a heart rendering Christmas season is well told and comes across as very true to life. Yes, as a heart recipient, I become more attached to stories involving heart transplant but this one, by the author's detailed descriptions, especially of the many emotions involved on either side, kept pulling me back to a true to life story vs. the fictional novel it really is. That takes a gifted writer who has done their research beyond just the surface medical facts we so often find in such novels. Its much harder to understand and then portray the true human experience behind those surface facts and in **One Perfect Day**, Lauraine Snelling captures those feelings well in telling her story of these two families.

The overall format is one of alternating chapters, each in turn showing the impact of loss and joy as lived by each mother. One lives with the fear that in turning off the ventilator, a situation faced by too many families of tragic accidents, she has "killed my son" which I have heard in those same exact words in conversation with many donor families. Another common feeling, that a parent is not meant to outlive their children, touches another common life experience.

On the recipient side, a young girl, fighting for life with a failing heart, receives her Christmas gift of a life saving heart transplant just in time. The emotions on that side offer a counter balance to the reciprocal story, making for deeper understanding on behalf of the reader of how the two sides play out so differently, but so interdependently. I found myself in tears as the urgent call comes and police support plays out in getting the young patient emergency transport to the hospital, so beautifully told in this story teller's gifted writing.

A good family read, there is a thread of spiritual faith throughout, one that shows all sides of the human emotions that play in such circumstances – praying for miracles, anger at seemingly unanswered prayers, frustration and hope, sorrow and joy, all so humanly told, but ending up leaving us a sense of God's support in life. The two stories come together in a rather abrupt but emotional two page Epilogue ending that touches the heart in its reading, but that's all I'll say so as to not spoil your own discovery in reading this wonderful book.

Note: **One Perfect Day** is available in paperback on Amazon.com

Brief bio:

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by contacting him at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.