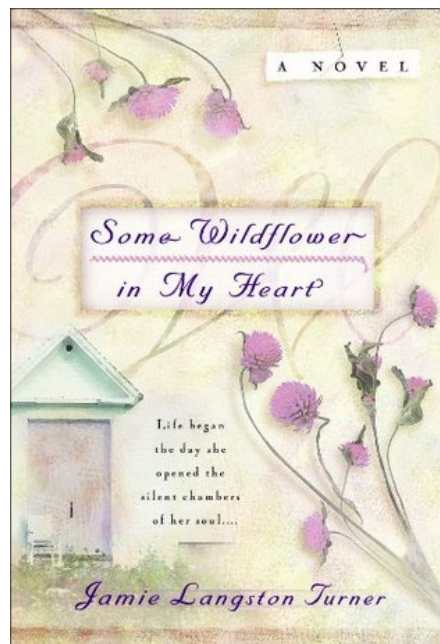




Some Wildflower In My Heart

Jamie Langston Turner

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Margaret Tuttle's story is one of love unsought, for she had been perfectly content with the well-ordered and conveniently predictable life she had arranged for herself. But something dark lurks beneath the surface of her placid and uncluttered being, something dusty with neglect, yet painful to the touch. Birdie Freeman is everything Margaret is not: homely, humble, and generous. It is Birdie who manages, through nothing but acts of love, to dredge up Margaret's memories of things better left buried. Then Margaret discovers that Birdie harbors secrets of her own.

Some Wildflower In My Heart Details

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From Reader Review Some Wildflower In My Heart for online ebook

Tony says

I'm not sure what it is about this book, but I could not put it down. The main character is both likeable and unlikeable at the same time.... You have to read it to understand. I found myself identifying with the characters and really rooting for them to be okay!

Allison Anderson Armstrong says

Second time through this, and I absolutely devoured it. I can't believe I forgot most of the story, but I do remember now how much I love JLT's writing. This book is interesting because it reads like an unedited manuscript and also contains "literary improbabilities" that the writer acknowledges to be "unlikely," and that would not be realistic if written in a novel. The reader would almost conclude the writer and her story were not fictional! I have laughed and usually cried over each of the JLT books and love how all the characters interweave into among her stories, carrying their gospel message out in their daily lives and touching the hurting in loving, meaningful ways.

Jane Hoppe says

Turner's narrator, Margaret Tuttle, pens this story of a remarkably generous woman, Birdie Freeman, who changed Margaret's life. Margaret, always proper and correct, holds herself aloof from everyone for justifiable reasons. Then she meets Birdie. Through Margaret's account of about a year of interactions with Birdie, we see how Margaret came to be the person she is today (she is middle-aged). Turner masterfully creates the old Margaret for us even as the new Margaret blooms under Birdie's loving touches. Many changes, including a bitterly cynical view of Christians and a distrusting view of everyone, are to come.

I liked that Turner shows how Margaret thinks through things. She doesn't give up old defenses easily, but she reasons logically through her old decisions in light of what she observes in Birdie. I liked all the literary references and what Margaret's take-away was from books she'd read. I liked the wry humor, too.

Theresa says

As I finished this book, I tried to determine exactly why I liked it so much.

The author is a good – a very good – writer. Her prose could not be called ‘concise’ but she does have an incredible talent for helping the reader to empathise with her characters. Jamie Langston Turner does not write light, frothy fiction. Her writing is serious and thoughtful, exploring the motivations of the human heart. This author exposes the difficulties of life and helps the reader to feel the reality of situations and to immerse themselves within the hardships she portrays.

I really liked the first book in her “Derby” series, called “Suncatchers”. I had never come across such an

interesting character as Eldeen Rafferty before in literature (although some of Dickens' characters come close!)

This book is much more intricate than "Suncatchers", and takes diligence to work through. There is a reward though, as the reader persists. The questions raised by the main character's plight do get answered and they are not trite, quick fixes.

Margaret Tuttle has had a hard, tragic life. Her happy childhood with a loving, nurturing mother is replaced by tragedy when her mother dies and Margaret at the age of thirteen is plunged into a world she was neither emotionally nor physically prepared for. Now in her fifties, the reader wonders if she will ever be able to function normally and form healthy relationships.

Enter Birdie Freeman.

"For many years I had used my suffering as a wedge between others and myself. I was excused from the requirement of friendly social interaction because my past had taught me to trust neither God nor man... I knew that my friendship with Birdie would force me to recast my life in drastic ways, in ways that I thought of as disruptive."

Birdie reaches out to Margaret, their co-workers, and everyone she comes in contact with. The book itself is supposed to be a character study of Birdie written by Margaret but the more we read about Birdie, the more we understand why Margaret reacts the way she does to Birdie's repeated, unceasing attempts to reach Margaret.

"Don't you think it's interesting," Birdie continued, "that God wanted his people to be happy and even wrote laws requiring them to take rests and have special feasts?"

I could not stop the words which sprang from my mouth. "It appears to me that God put a great deal more thought into providing for the suffering of his creatures than he did for their rejoicing."

Can Margaret ever have a normal life and find peace and even joy in her daily circumstances? It seems impossible, and yet the reader is not just thrown a bone, a quick happy-ever-after resolution. That is probably what most attracts me to this author; she does not gloss over misfortune, discomfort or tragedy, but neither does she offer quick, pat answers that fail to satisfy.

Even though the vocabulary is challenging at times (I made myself keep a list), and the plot is slow-moving, I found this book to be just as inspiring and thought-provoking as the first one by this author! (and, yes. I will be reading the third book in the "Derby" series!)

"We're all responsible for how we act, Margaret," she went on, "and there are a million ways to be mean. We can be mean in big ways by killing people or stealing or cheating, or we can be mean in little ways by being rude and snapping at everybody. A murderer is guilty in a big way, but all of us are guilty when we wrap ourselves up in our own little world and don't think about how we treat others."

Kimberlee says

Five Stars That Are Not Enough

This book was given to me by my Pastor's wife. She really liked the book but she said she thought of me the whole time she was reading it because of the style of writing and the author made references to many books

that are classics she was sure I had read as well. She was correct and the author also happens to be a professor of creative writing at a university.

From the very first chapter I was drawn into the story line of the two main characters Margaret Tuttle and Birdie Freeman.

This is a slow read not because it's hard to read but because you want to savor every word and phrase as the story develops. It is beautifully written and very poignantly told through the narration of Margret Tuttle.

It is a story of great sorrow, yet full of great joy and laughter. Anger and despair but truth and light through each chapter. It is a true story of forgiveness, not such much because of what the characters endured but because when a person has been so severely abused you sometimes have to forgive yourself even though the blame is not yours. the love in this story is slow and careful but beautiful beyond description.

This book can fill who ever reads it with a inner light.

Anita Coleman says

I received this book as a gift from its editor a few years when I confessed to her about my loss of love for fiction. This book totally re-awoke my passion for English literature, especially fiction. Lyrically written and incredibly moving it is the story of a woman learns who learns to love.

Jeni says

This is one of my favorite books of all time. I'll admit that Jamie Langston Turner's books are not action-filled, and some might find them to drag, but her characters are so realistic that I find them a delight to read. This story about an unlikely friendship between two women with secrets really touched me. The main character, Margaret, has suffered much pain emotionally by events in her past, causing her to close up her heart and isolate herself relationally. But she is befriended by a cheerful co-worker that doesn't seem to realize when she's getting the cold shoulder. This new friend, Birdie, has her own pain from the past, but has learned how to overcome it. The dialogue is both touching and humorous, and I felt like I really got to know these women.

This is the 2nd book set in the same Southern town, but it's not really a sequel. I do like to read books in order, but I read this one first (it was how I discovered the author), and it was no problem to go back and read the 1st book later.

Michele says

Wow~ I usually do NOT enjoy Christian fiction but this is SO well written! The characters are fleshed out SO thoroughly, the vocabulary is SO rich, and the storyline is SO interesting that I couldn't put it down.

Jeanette says

Deep in detail tale about friendship and love finally accepted. We have two very different women. It's a slow process. Faith and trust develop with example and sharing. And within a circle that expands and does not limit. Birdie is a character to remember.

This is set within everyday life in a South Carolina small town. It moves slowly and yet pain of the past is overcome. Finally and in a way that breaks the solitary shell.

Abby says

Of the three Turner books I have read (the others being Winter Birds and Sometimes a Light Surprises), this was definitely the best. I thought the statements about pride in one's own suffering were spot-on. I also appreciated the realistic ways in which the narrator fights against God's drawing her to Himself.

Birdie Freeman is such a challenge (it sounds trite, but she really is) to me. She spends nearly a year just being a friend to bitter and hurting people. Christian fiction should be like this - an encouragement to Christians to live like Christians.

Amber Fuller says

This book was recommended by one of my best friends. It did not disappoint. It's impossible not to fall in love with the main characters, Birdie and Margaret. I also fell in love with this author.

Margaret and Birdie came to life in a profound way on the pages. By the time I finished this book, I felt like I knew them both. The story of their relationship, beginning as co-workers and ending as close friends, made me look at my own relationships differently and wonder about my own ability to give and receive unconditional love. The love exchanged between them changes their lives for eternity

Jamie Langston Turner is an incredible author. I love all the literary references she used throughout the story. Her portrayal of real people loving others in a real way, as Christ does, is never religious but rather always God-honoring. I left this book wanting to be more like Birdie in my everyday life because I saw Jesus so clearly in her. This book beautifully illustrates that we as Christians are the hands and feet of the Gospel to those we meet each day. It reminded me that God uses simple acts of obedience to touch those around us for His glory. Great book.

I've read every book written by this author.

Rhonda Mcandrew says

This is the first time I have heard of this author and I don't read a lot of fiction, but I really enjoyed this book. It was well written in how slowly, by love, the very closed Margaret was won to the Lord. Through Birdie's fervent, persevering love, the walls Margaret had erected over her life, due to the many sufferings she had been through, began to crumble.

One of my favorite lines was when Birdie spoke truthfully to Margaret:

"We can't do anything about suffering, Margaret," she said. "It's been around forever, and we're all going to have our share. Just because somebody's had a hard life doesn't mean they've got a right to take it out on other people--or on God, either. Especially on God. He knows all about it. It's part of his big plan somehow--and don't ask me how.

Her words seemed to be pouring forth with increased velocity, and I was aware that I was staring at her in unveiled surprise. "We're all responsible for how we act, Margaret," she went on, "and there are a million ways to be mean. We can be mean in big ways by killing people or stealing or cheating, or we can be mean in little ways by being rude and snapping at everybody. A murderer is guilty in a big way, but all of us are guilty when we wrap ourselves up in our own little world and don't think about how we treat others."

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Karla says

I quite liked this book, which surprised me because I'm not religious and definitely not Christian and this book's main theme is faith in God and in love. The narrator is outwardly very cold and no-nonsense, so the writing style reflects that. But she writes about how a friend and some other people in her life helped to soften her. It's a little bit sentimental, but not sappy. There are also some tragic descriptions of sexual abuse and death that are heartbreaking.

Cathy says

Had a hard time getting involved with this book, I wanted to, I liked the characters, but she went on about things other than the current subject that seemed to get me off track. About half way through I was totally involved. It was slow moving but the characters were very interesting. The main one (Margaret and she tells the story) was very strict and set in her ways and no one was ever going to change that. The other main character named Birdie was so outgoing and such a positive person that you couldn't help but love her and hope she would some day get through to her friend Margaret. It's about personal heartache and how they coped with it individually. Very uplifting and such a tender story.

Jeanie says

I have found there are 3 different kinds of people, those whose hearts only care about themselves, self-absorbed, spoiled, etc., those that their hearts have been rejected, hurt, and so they protect their hearts and have a wall around them, then there are those hearts that love and do not give up on others. This story is about two women (Margaret and Birdie) one heart is protected and one heart loves. Turner always writes with great detail and she does in this time as well. If you have the patience, you will appreciate the details and not hurry so much thru the book. The story is reflective and reveals life that happened to each woman and how she dealt with it. Margaret's heart was protected and during the story, she realized that she had a heart that was pride of suffering. Margaret was trying to work thru her heart difienicies. It is very easy to give parts of this book away and I don't want to do that because it would spoil it for the reader to seek the treasure that is in this story. I will have to say, it is the most emotional ending I have read lately. I pray that my heart is more like Birdie that I love and fight for those hearts that can't.
