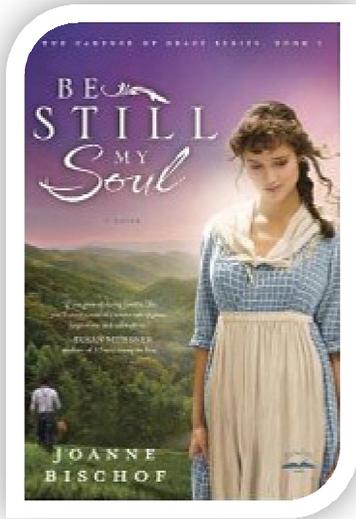


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- April 2013



The sun is rising earlier in the mornings. Well, that is until they messed us all up with Daylight Savings time.

My pot of bright red tulips is in full bloom and the lilacs are purpling, so spring must really be here and yet I find myself transported to the Appalachian Mountains and beginning of autumn.

How did that happen? A friend of mine said, “Lauraine you HAVE to read *Be Still My Soul*.” The author’s name is Joanne Bischoff and this is her debut novel. She is now a new friend of mine on Facebook. I was so excited to tell her how thrilled I was with her first step into the fiction publishing world.

In *Be Still My Soul*, a young woman is forced to marry a young man because her father assumes he defiled her, just on the basis of one very quick kiss that she regretted immediately. The man, er boy, did not make me think “hero”, but more of a user too full of himself. He hauls her after him in a trek to a distant town to find work. I just had to find out what was going to happen.

Why in blazes did she not ignore her self-righteous father? Oh, I forgot to tell you, the time period is around the depression era and girls obeyed their fathers back then. I loved Lonnie immediately. Watching her grow into a woman, in spite of all the hardships she endures, definitely makes for a great story.

When an older farming couple steps in to help her, in spite of her husband, I put up another star on my review line. That's the way our world should be; the older and wiser helping the young and naive, but then I'll not get up on that soapbox.

I learned last week that Joanne's next book *Though My Heart is Torn* has just been released. I'm looking forward to it.

I have to answer the requests for "what else are you reading?" so here is the run down. I am almost finished with Julie Klassen's *The Tutor's Daughter*, which is set in Scotland in a manor house and has a much stronger line of suspense than usual. Julie is such a classic storyteller. I love her books, and her. I have just finished *The Circle Maker*, a book on the adventures of prayer that I think I reviewed a short time ago. Not often do I reread a book this soon if at all, so I'll let that endorsement say it all.

Pat Rushford's *Strangers in the Night*, is on my Kindle since it is only available as an e-book. It is vintage Rushford with a superb line of suspense, a heroine in trouble, and always the question, *will she make it?* The heroine's family buys an entire town in a valley not far from the ocean to turn into an artist's colony. Murder anyone?

I taught at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference shortly before Easter and had the privilege of meeting Suzy Flory, who ghost wrote the book *Thunder Dog* that I know many of you have read. As I suspected, meeting and working with Paul Higdon, who survived the collapse of the Twin Towers thanks to his guide dog, was a life changing experience for her. I hope to meet the man someday.

I am so far behind on my waiting-to-be-read stack, it has now morphed into multiple reading shelves. And that's not counting the e-books. I am so wishing for more concentrated reading time. Ah, the stories waiting for me.

One story waiting for you is just hitting the bookstores. My final novel in the *Wild West Wind* series is out. I hope you enjoy *A Place to Belong*. Sure is hard to say goodbye to Cassie and the crowd. I love the scene starring George, the big bull buffalo. I kept waiting for a chance to feature him. What fun I have as a writer.

So happy spring, and may you never run out of good books to read and hopefully to write. Come join me on Facebook if you want to keep closer tabs on my adventures.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine