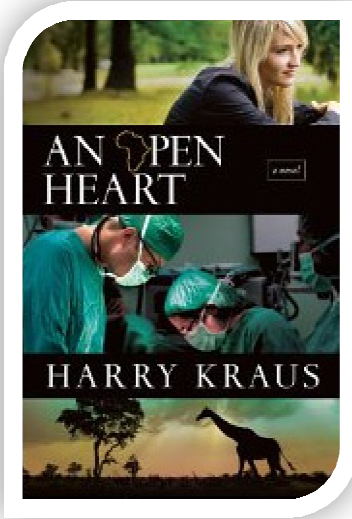


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- August 2013



One of the privileges of being in the writing business for a long time is watching other authors, sometimes protégés, get one book and then a couple more published and all the time keep growing in their writing and storytelling ability.

I met Harry Kraus, a surgeon by trade, at a conference or convention years ago. We both belong to a Christian Fiction Writers organization, so that made keeping track

of each other easier.

Harry did something rather unusual. He left his medical practice in the states and headed for Kenya, Africa. He has served several tours there and now he and his family are back in the US. He has written several novels during this time, and I've no idea how he accomplished that, considering the surgical and teaching schedule he maintained, but he did it.

With *An Open Heart*, Harry Kraus has stepped back into the writing world with a medical suspense novel that grabs the reader and doesn't let go until the final scene.

Dr. Jace Rawlings, a specialist in open-heart surgeries, has come to Africa to set up a hospital unit to repair the hearts of the poor who can't afford fancy hospitals. Feeling sure that this act of dedication will erase some things from his past, he proceeds, only to

discover that not everyone agrees with his plan. Not even hospital staff and politicians around them. Then patients he operates on awaken to tell him messages they received from beyond the grave, when their hearts were stopped for the surgery, and even his life is threatened. Keeping secrets is a killing idea.

The plot is complex, the characters well-drawn, and life in Africa, so different from our own, plays out its own cadence. I have always enjoyed medical thrillers and this is one I've told lots of people that to get. They'll keep coming back for more. I've heard that his next novel, *A Heartbeat Away*, is even more gripping. Keep up the great work, Harry, I'll brag about knowing you any time.

Can you believe August is here already and school is about to start? School never used to start before September and usually after Labor Day. Do those count as the good old days?

The big thing in August for me is the release of *Wake the Dawn*. When a hurricane like storm throws all its fury at a small town in North Western Minnesota, cutting off all contact with the outside world, the community must pull together or perish. Ben James of the Border Patrol is fighting his own demons when his canine partner, Bo, discovers a baby under some bushes in the swampy area known to be a through way for human trafficking.

Physicians Assistant Esther Hanson runs the clinic, has pleaded for the city fathers to bring their only medical facility up to current standards, and now must fight to save lives while what supplies they have disappear at a startling rate. *Wake the Dawn* is a story of

heroism, faith that needs building and rebuilding, a budding romance, and people pitching in to save each other and their town.

The rest of this season will be busy for me, too, with the last novel in The S.A.V.E Squad series, *No Ordinary Owl*, coming out in September. Then my novella, *The Cowboy's Angel*, is part of an anthology coming out called *A Pioneer Christmas*. I love writing Christmas novellas and this one even has an angel. I've always wanted to write a story with an angel in it. Next month I'll give you the rest of my good news.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine