



EXCERPT

For weeks after Steven's funeral, Laura was unable to do much more than move mechanically through the daily routine of caring for Annie. She was so lost, as if a zombie. She would lie on the sofa for endless hours, sometimes sobbing so hard it felt as though she couldn't physically survive. And while waiting, hoping to wake up from what had to be a nightmare, she avoided going into their bedroom. She was unable to sleep in the bed she had shared with Steven, unable to contemplate sleeping there without him.

And then one day as she lay on the sofa staring toward the window, her face void of emotion as if in a trance, five-year-old Annie walked in the room and went to her to comfort her. She planted a big wet kiss on Laura's tear-stained cheek. Then she cupped her mother's face in her tiny hands. "Momma, please don't cry anymore. I'll take care of you. Daddy is an angel in Heaven now and he'll watch over us. Okay?"

Laura had looked at her daughter with pure wonder and amazement. She wiped the tears from her eyes and hugged her as hard as she could. Annie brought reality back into Laura's thoughts. It was time to get her act together and be a mother to Annie. Steven would not have wanted her to mourn this way. He would have wanted her to celebrate their life together, as short as it was.

The grief and pain had taken its time but slowly life began to take on the external appearance of normality, even though Laura still missed Steven so very, very much.

Laura wiped away another tear and swiped at her runny nose with the back of her glove. Anyone watching would think she was merely reacting to the cold wind.

With only about two feet of sidewalk left to clear, she bent to the task. An odd sound broke into her reverie and she straightened up just in time to see a gray car sliding on the icy street toward her. Her mouth opened, but no sound escaped. She felt the jarring pain as her feet literally left the ground, the handle of the shovel twisting in her hand as blackness engulfed her, replacing the collage of memories that had crowded her mind only seconds ago.

PURCHASE INFORMATION

Print - Lulu \$16.98

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Print - Signed by the Author - \$16.98

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

An avid reader since childhood, [Cindy Bauer](#) often dreamed of becoming a writer. She graduated from Assumption High School in Davenport, Iowa in 1975, married her husband Robert in 1976 and left her dream behind.

While working at a small town newspaper, prompted by her sister's encouragement, Cindy published her first novel, [Chasing Memories](#), in 2006 and went on to publish her second novel, [Shades of Blue](#), in 2007. She published a second edition of both those novels again in 2008, finishing off the trilogy in 2009 when she published her third novel, [Crystal Clear](#).

Since mysteries are her favorite books to read, Cindy is currently working on a series of mystery-suspense novels, along with co-authoring some young adult books with two other authors as well.

Besides writing and marketing her own works, Cindy is a volunteer partner with [Books In Sync](#), a site dedicated to promoting authors and their books.



"I believe the Lord has chosen me to spread His word through my words and who am I to question His plans for me?" ©2008 Cindy Bauer

"Dreams can be turned into reality if one has the courage to try. Failure comes only to those who don't." ©2006 Cindy Bauer

Contact

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