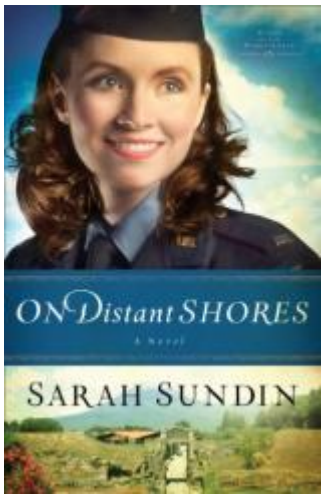
bookreporter

On Distant Shores: Wings of the Nightingale, Book 2

by Sarah Sundin



About the Book

Caught between the war raging around them and the battles within, two souls long for peace --- and a love that remains true.

Lt. Georgiana Taylor has everything she could want. A boyfriend back home, a loving family, and a challenging job as a flight nurse. But in July 1943, Georgie's cozy life gets more complicated when she meets pharmacist Sgt. John Hutchinson.

Hutch resents the lack of respect he gets as a noncommissioned serviceman and hates how the war keeps him from his fiancée. While Georgie and Hutch share a love of the starry night skies over Sicily, their lives back home are falling apart. Can they weather the hurt and betrayal? Or will the pressures of war destroy the fragile connection they've made?

With her signature attention to detail and her talent for bringing characters together, Sarah Sundin weaves an exciting tale of emotion, action and romance that will leave you wanting more.

Discussion Guide

1. Georgie thinks she's gotten herself in over her head as a flight nurse. Do you think she's right or wrong? How so? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you were in over your head? What did you do?

2. Hutch struggles with disrespect in his position. How does he cope at first? How does that change during the story? Have you ever felt like your work wasn't respected? How did you cope?

3. Both Hutch and Georgie are blessed with deep, long-term friendships. How do these friendships help them? Do you have a friendship like that?

4. Hutch and Georgie say they balance each other out. How do you see that in their friendship? In your closest relationships, do you prefer lots of similarities or a balance of differences? Some blend?

5. How does Georgie deal with grief? How does grief change her?

6. Hutch has an interfering supervisor and a rude co-worker. How does Hutch deal well, how does he come up short, and how does he improve? How have you dealt with unpleasant workplace relationships?

7. In what ways is Georgie's family deeply loving? How do they stifle her? How can we avoid locking family members into roles and help them to grow?

8. Hutch and Georgie find themselves in an uncomfortable situation, with the woman outranking the man. How does this create difficulties for them? How do they try to work through these difficulties? In today's economy, it's not uncommon for a wife to earn more than her husband. How can modern couples deal with this?

9. Hutch starts with a good goal, but it turns into an obsession. Why do you think this happened? Do you agree with his decision at the end of the book?

10. How does Georgie handle fear at first? How does she handle fear at the end? Do you ever find fear holding you back?

11. In what ways does Lucia demonstrate the resiliency of children? The vulnerability? How are she and Hutch good for each other?

12. Both Georgie and Hutch find their dreams have changed by the end of the story. Has that ever happened to you?

13. How are stars symbolic in the story? What do they mean to Hutch? To Georgie?

14. Why do you think Vesuvius (which erupted from March 18-23, 1944) is pictured on the book cover?

15. If you read WITH EVERY LETTER, did you enjoy watching Tom and Mellie's story progress? The last book in the *Wings of the Nightingale* series (Summer 2014) follows Lt. Kay Jobson and Lt. Roger Cooper. From what you've seen of these characters, what might you anticipate?

Author Bio

Sarah Sundin is the author of A DISTANT MELODY, A MEMORY BETWEEN US and BLUE SKIES TOMORROW. In 2011, A MEMORY BETWEEN US was a finalist in the Inspirational Reader's Choice Awards and Sarah received the Writer of the Year Award at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. A graduate of UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy, she works on-call as a hospital pharmacist. During WWII, her grandfather served as a pharmacist's mate (medic) in the Navy and her great-uncle flew with the US Eighth Air Force in England. Sarah lives in California with her husband and three children.

Critical Praise

"Sarah Sundin is a master of World War II romance! ON DISTANT SHORES swept me back seventy years into a whirlwind love story that took me to airfields, hospitals, and cities all over the Mediterranean. Kudos to Sarah for writing another exciting novel for those of us who love reading her historical fiction."
— Melanie Dobson, award-winning author of THE SILENT ORDER and LOVE FINDS YOU IN MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

"I love a great love story, all the more one that's set during WWII. Sarah Sundin has given us both. You can't help but care about her characters, and the romantic tension kept me turning the pages to the very end. It's a fabulous addition to her *Wings of the Nightingale* series. I already can't wait to read the next one."
— Dan Walsh, bestselling author of THE DISCOVERY, THE REUNION and THE DANCE

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