



About The Awakening

An interview with Angela Hunt

provided courtesy of www.AngelaHuntBooks.com

Q: *How do you get ideas for your novels?*

A: Usually I pick up a fascinating piece, then another piece, then another. And when it's time to write a new book, I put the pieces together. For *The Awakening*, the idea came to me in a flash—what would you do if you heard the voice of God?—but in the idea's first incarnation, the voice was speaking to a woman in a T.J. Maxx dressing room. (Probably because that's my favorite store.)

Later, though, I talked to a woman who suffers from nightmares she described as occurring in "levels"—and by that time I'd become fascinated by the idea of rooftops in New York. So those pieces fitted together and ultimately became *The Awakening*.

Q: *How much time do you spend researching and writing a book?*

A: I write at a fairly fast pace, and I tend to research as I go. Each book takes me between three and four months to research and write. I think about the ideas, however, for months before I begin the actual writing. I talked the idea of God speaking to a woman for at least two years before I began to write this book.

Q: *The Awakening has been described as a parable. How do you "interpret" it?*

A: I love parables, and I realize that part of their power comes from that "a ha" experience a reader enjoys when he or she discovers the meaning of characters and symbols for themselves. I don't want to spoil that experience for you, so if you haven't finished the story, stop reading here.

Still with me? All right, then. I see Theodore Norquest, of course, as God. He created Aurora and he loves her unconditionally no matter how many other children he has. Aurora, of course, represents any person who is living in deception and bound in fear. She yearns for a relationship with God, but it's hard for her to approach him because she's spent her life snared in a web of lies.

Mary Elizabeth, her mother, represents the evil one—Satan, if you will, who was also created and loved by God, but whose pride brought about eternal estrangement. Her chief characteristic is pride and her chief desire is adoration, which she gets primarily from Clara and Aurora. I was surprised when her initials spelled “ME.” I was *amazed* when Aurora looked at the monogrammed bathroom towels and saw her mother’s full initials: MEN. A telling clue of another major flaw, and one I did not consciously insert into the story.

The books her father wrote? His sixty-five novels, plus the pseudonymous historical, represent the sixty-six books of the holy scriptures.

There are other parallels, but one of my chief aims was to illustrate the many ways God tries to reach us. Through the printed word, spoken word, intuited word—he yearns for us with great love. He gives us gifts, he watches over us from afar, and when we make the decision to come to him, he welcomes us to the family with open arms.

There is more to the bigger story, of course. Aurora can go to her father in England because he is human, but we humans could never approach a God who is terrifying in his holiness. We need a human intermediary, so the Father, in his love, provided one: his son, God-in-flesh, Jesus Christ. Through his death, Jesus bridged the gap between flawed humanity and unapproachable holiness.



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