



Stepping into Sunlight

by Sharon Hinck
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BIO:

Sharon Hinck writes "stories for the hero in all of us," contemporary novels praised for their strong spiritual themes, emotional resonance, and unique blend of genres. She was named 2007 Writer of the Year at Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference and has been a Christy Award finalist and an ACFW Book of the Year finalist. When she's not wrestling with words, she enjoys speaking at churches and conferences. Sharon earned a M.A. at Regent University, located in the Tidewater area of Virginia, the setting for *Stepping Into Sunlight*. A wife and mom of four, she now makes her home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Visit her web site at www.sharonhinck.com and check out the special Penny's Project blog at <http://pennysproject.blogspot.com>.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Penny, a Navy chaplain's wife, witnesses a violent crime and struggles with post traumatic stress while her husband is on his first deployment. Far from family and friends, she fights to heal for the sake of her seven-year-old son, even though ordinary tasks take heroic efforts. She's haunted by flashbacks and is tormented by fear, so she designs a project to speed her recovery: doing one small, kind act for a different person each day. The results are sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking, and often used by God in surprising ways.

REVIEWS & ENDORSEMENTS:

"Hinck, a 2008 Christy finalist for visionary fiction, offers an especially grounded tale of sudden trauma and slow healing.

Narrator Penny Sullivan witnesses a horrific crime shortly before her navy chaplain husband is deployed, so she is forced to cope alone with the psychological fallout from what she saw. Family issues from her past complicate her struggle and enhance its credibility. Strong Christian themes form a natural part of the narrative. Penny Sullivan's faith is shaken, and she wonders why God would appear to permit evil and whether her emotional turmoil can be healed.

A supporting cast of characters, from a nosy neighbor to the busy faithful servant to the downtrodden who heads a local mission, adds quirk and richness. Hinck is a mother of four, and

it shows in authentic details in her characterization of the narrator's worried, loving seven-year-old son who gets his first pet in some cute comic relief. Hinck has done her homework on post-traumatic stress syndrome, and is not afraid to show readers that challenges can deepen faith.”
— **Publisher's Weekly**

“In this uplifting novel set in Chesapeake, VA, Penny Sullivan is losing her grip after witnessing a traumatic event. She cannot even go to the grocery store without feeling that familiar panic. Tormented by nightmares and unable to enjoy life the way she used to, Penny is desperate. Making things worse is that Tom, her Navy husband, receives orders to ship out, leaving her alone in charge of their family. In an attempt to regain control of her life, Penny decides to start doing things for others in hopes that she will get better before Tom returns. Well written and compelling, this title will appeal to readers of Karen Kingsbury, Ann Tatlock, and Angela Elwell Hunt. Recommended for CF and women's fiction collections.” — **Library Journal**

“With emotional and spiritual honesty, *Stepping Into Sunlight* chronicles the rebirth of faith and courage in a young woman traumatized by the unthinkable. Sharon Hinck's authentic and endearing heroine is so convincing that I found myself praying for her! I laughed. I cried. I asked God a lot of questions. Hinck's concise yet poetic language ushered me into a worshipful place.”—**Patti Hill, author of *The Queen of Sleepy Eye***

“Told with humor and lump-in-the-throat insight, *Stepping Into Sunlight* is a compelling story of learning to live again after trauma. This was my first Sharon Hinck novel, but it garnered her a permanent spot on my favorite authors list.” —**Deborah Raney, author of *A Vow to Cherish* and THE CLAYBURN NOVELS series**

“For anyone who has ever been afraid of what life may hold (and who hasn't?), Sharon's novel is a beacon of hope and healing. Kudos!” —**Roxanne Henke, author of *After Anne* and *Learning to Fly***

“With a deft hand Hinck ushers the reader into the frustrating, inward world of the victim, challenging us to gauge the level of our compassion for those who walk a journey we can't adequately imagine and daring us to wonder if we, too, could flatten our fears and replace them with modest, indiscriminate kindness.” —**Susan Meissner, author of *Blue Heart Blessed***

“A beautifully woven story of one woman's desperation, determination . . . and hope. A cast of oddball, but thoroughly charming, characters, make this book a delightful read from start to finish. Highly recommended.” —**Kathryn Cushman, author of *A Promise to Remember* and *Waiting for Daybreak***

“After finishing it, I wanted to press it into the hands of everyone I meet and say, ‘THIS! This is what my God is like! This is where you can find hope! This is what it means to live for Christ even when things are horrifically ugly around you. This is healing. This is what it looks like to hurt and to heal.’ No pious platitudes. Reality Faith.” —**Cynthia Ruchti, “Heartbeat of the Home” radio broadcasts**



Find more information about Stepping into Sunlight as well as all of Sharon's other novels at www.sharonhinck.com