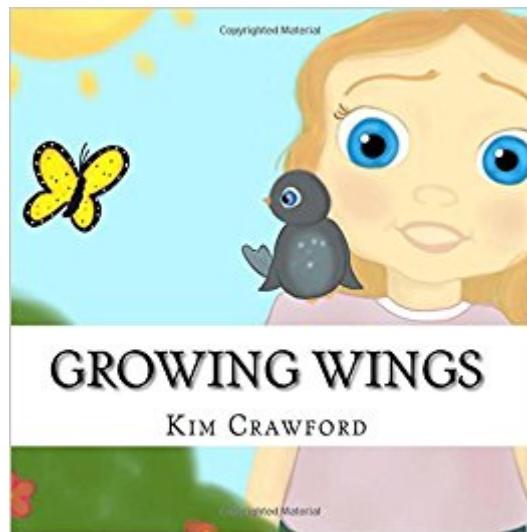


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Growing Wings



Synopsis

Growing Wings offers a creative and gentle experience of a childâ™s journey through loss and gain in life. Losing a pet, family member, or friend is a traumatic experience for anyone and especially for a child. There are no perfect words to describe the feelings attached to loss and certainly no concrete rules of how to help a child cope with losing someone or something they love. Â As a Hospital Chaplain, Kim Crawford witnessed many situations in a level one trauma hospital, where adults told children how to feel in difficult circumstances. Sometimes children were told not to cry, not to express, and to sit still and be quiet. Even adults are only able to feel - what they feel - when they feel it, therefore grief and loss are unique to every person. She encourages adults to invite children to talk about how they feel, share their memories of the loved one, and normalize the childâ™s emotions. Children will often blame themselves for a loss, therefore need to know loved ones coming and going in life is normal. Crawford has experienced losses of many forms throughout life. She wrote this book during one of those losses as she realized how much she gained from the relationship.Â Kim Crawfordâ™s, Growing Wings, beautifully, yet simply, expresses through words and illustrations the excitement a child feels when making a new friend, and the pain and disappointment when this loved one leaves for any reason. Crawford then helps to normalize emotions and offer meaning to the gains and losses as the child in Growing Wings concludes, âœNow I know that life is full of change and new beginnings. Just because someone leaves does not mean there is an ending. People and pets leave love forever in our hearts, whether they are near or we are apart. Life is full of people, places, and new things. Life is all about growing our very own wings.â •

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Growing Wings offers a creative and gentle experience of a child's journey through loss and gain in life. Losing a pet, family member, or friend is a traumatic experience for anyone and especially for a child. There are no perfect words to describe the feelings attached to loss and certainly no concrete rules of how to help a child cope with losing someone or something they love. As a Hospital Chaplain, Kim Crawford witnessed many situations in a level one trauma hospital, where adults told children how to feel in difficult circumstances. Sometimes children were told not to cry, not to express, and to sit still and be quiet. Even adults are only able to feel - what they feel - when they feel it, therefore grief and loss are unique to every person. She encourages adults to invite children to talk about how they feel, share their memories of the loved one, and normalize the child's emotions. Children will often blame themselves for a loss, therefore need to know loved ones coming and going in life is normal. Crawford has experienced losses of many forms throughout life. She wrote this book during one of those losses as she realized how much she gained from the relationship. Kim Crawford's, Growing Wings, beautifully, yet simply, expresses through words and illustrations the excitement a child feels when making a new friend, and the pain and disappointment when this loved one leaves for any reason. Crawford then helps to normalize emotions and offer meaning to the gains and losses as the child in Growing Wings concludes, "Now I know that life is full of change and new beginnings. Just because someone leaves does not mean there is an ending. People and pets leave love forever in our hearts, whether they are near or we are apart. Life is full of people, places, and new things. Life is all about growing our very own wings." Â Â

Kim Crawford was born October 21, 1969, but did not breathe for 11 minutes at birth. Doctors told her mother she would have severe brain damage, but instead she thrived and was a completely healthy little girl. Having this miraculous beginning in life always gives Kim the reminder that God has a plan for her life and a purpose. She loves to share her amazing journey through writing. Â As a Board Certified Chaplain, Kim witnesses people in chronic sickness, acute illness, and trauma. She focuses on helping her patients and their families to express their emotions and find coping mechanisms within their own beliefs, abilities, and gifts. Â Kim also worked in the funeral home industry for many years. During this time, she was told by her manager that she had special gifts in

supporting those in grief. The seed he planted grew and she realized her calling to Chaplaincy. As she worked with families, she witnessed children being told not to express their emotions and not to grieve at the loss of a loved one. She wrote Growing Wings after going through several losses in her own life. She pursued publishing the book, after working with children in Chaplaincy, in order to help children express their emotions, validate those emotions, and normalize that people do come and go in our lives yet we can hold their love in our hearts and make meaning of every relationship. The little girl in the book "Growing Wings" is modeled after Kim's granddaughter, Lily. She is a vibrant, beautiful, funny, creative, and very smart little girl. She is expressive, which Kim encourages and hopes Lily will continue to grow in as she experiences life and growing her own wings. Kim may be reached at: psalm40.123@gmail.com / unveiledanduntangled.com She is Board Certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains, endorsed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, serves at a hospital in Birmingham, AL, is an Instructor of Laughter Yoga, and available to speak.

I work as a staff chaplain in a major hospital and can tell you that I deal with a lot of people in deep grief and mourning. This is an incredible book with a powerful message! Ms. Kim Crawford has done a very effective job, in dealing with a very tough topic with a very impressionable population, our children. I highly recommend this book! I would hope parents will take opportunity and make a very smart purchase in buying this book.

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