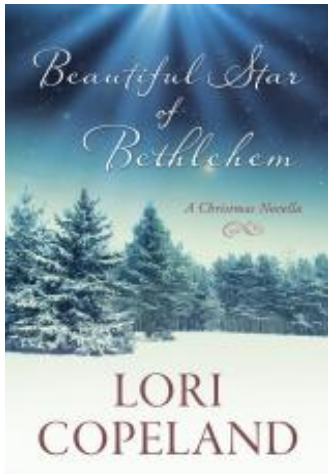


# Beautiful Star of Bethlehem: A Christmas Novella

by Lori Copeland

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## About the Book

Meet Arlene Santana, a vibrant wife and young grandmother whose life suddenly takes a confusing and often laughable turn into a new reality as a result of a severe brain injury. As one holiday after another speeds by, Arlene takes comfort in the amusing old people who surround her in the rehabilitation center and one special friend who relates well to Arlene. But when will her husband, whose love is more real to her than anything, come to visit her? Treasure this Christmas novella from bestselling author Lori Copeland, which demonstrates the healing power of true love.

## Discussion Guide

1. Now that you have read BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM, how do you hope to spend your final days on earth? Be silly, be serious.
2. A few have written Lori Copeland and said, "This book is too sad. I can't read it." Did you have a similar response? What chords did Arlene Santana strike with you?
3. After the accident, was Arlene's life tragic? Explain why or why not and discuss why her life changed, but did not necessarily end after the accident. God never forgets us or our circumstances.
4. Most readers are parents themselves now (don't forget our little dogs and kittens!). What do you most admire about Jack and Arlene's two sons, Steven, Jack Jr. and their families? Are you similarly blessed with your immediate families? This might be a great time to minister to one another.
5. Una was a vital character in the book. When did you start to suspect that Arlene's best friend did not exist? Did you have an imaginary friend when you were little?

6. Lori's husband's mother lived to be 98. She spent most of the last 10 years of her life in assisted living, so many of the stories Lori included in the book she actually witnessed. She grew more compassionate during those years. Share what you believe was Arlene's greatest gift during her time in assisted living. Was there one? See if you can list five blessings she didn't realize she had.

7. Discuss some of your funniest incidents in a nursing home. Remember, laughter is good for the soul! The patients often laugh with us!

8. Where are all the good stories about marriage? There are so many Jack and Arlene marriages still alive in this world.

9. The spirit of God and the spirit of the world: How often do we incorporate both in our lives? Lori admits that she was plagued with a whole lot of guilt when she finished this book. She could have done better with her loved ones. She could have done worse. How about you?

10. What was your most take-away whisper from the story?

## Author Bio

Lori Copeland is a popular bestselling author of both historical and contemporary fiction. Her books have been nominated for the prestigious Christy Award, and she received two *Romantic Times* Lifetime Achievement Awards. Lori makes her home in Missouri with her husband, Lance, three sons, and ever growing family. Her hobbies include knitting prayer and friendship shawls and baking chocolate chip cookies.

## Critical Praise

"BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM caught me totally unprepared. I expected a sweet Christmas story, but instead discovered a poignant, tender love story that evolved into something deeper and richer than I'd anticipated. While Copeland's story has its sad moments, the beauty of family and depth of love portrayed is not to be missed."

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**Publication Date:** October 1, 2015

**Genres:** Christian, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Love & Romance

**Paperback:** 192 pages

**Publisher:** SHILOH RUN PRESS

**ISBN-10:** 1634090365

**ISBN-13:** 9781634090360