



# The Hurting Angels

By

Delores Gempel Lekowski

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## DEDICATIONS

This book is dedicated to all the Hurting Angels and the special people in their lives that through love and support help them heal emotionally and physically.

TO

My three beautiful Angels Cynthia Patterson, Christine Schwarzman, and Lisa Ballard. My Sons-in-Law Tim Schwarzman and Jeff Ballard. My eight Grand-Angels Dyvid, Lauren, Leigh, Devin, Brendan, Mackenzie, Emily, and Steven.

TO

John Patterson, who is a true inspiration and profile of courage. Your strength and fight amaze me.

TO

My Mom Evelyn Gempel, who shared a year of pain and tears with me. My Dad Harry Gempel, for maintaining the home front while my Mom stayed at my bedside every day for the year I spent in the hospital. My Sisters Joan Engle and Harriet Hepner, and Brother Harry Jr., for never complaining about the hardships they endured during that year.

TO

Kiley Marie Reising, a baby Angel who touched us with her innocence and fight. She brought out the love and compassion in all of us.

TO

All the families that are touched by a Hurting Angel.



## TO THE PARENTS

This book is designed to give children a positive outlook, and help reinforce their self-esteem. Whether your child is having a sad day, or is recovering from a major trauma, anything that makes a child feel different hurts. Incorporating your child's picture into this book will help to make it a very special book for your

VERY SPECIAL ANGEL.



## MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHOR

I wrote this book as a way to address some very difficult issues that a child and his or her parents face when their child is going through trauma, or illness, or a rough time. I was such a child, and this book was created from the feelings and issues that I and my parents were forced to face. I was burned on 85% of my body when I was ten years old. As you can imagine, my family was not equipped to handle this very delicate life-altering experience. Do you mention that people might stare or ask questions, and when they do, how do you handle this? This is a delicate area. Do you ignore it and pretend that it won't happen? Or do you address it and, if so, how? I realize that every child is different. The issues your child is facing might be worse than mine or they might not be as bad as mine. However, I believe anything that makes a child feel different is very real to the child and has to be addressed. I hope my book will give both the child and the adult caregiver a very gentle way to open communication on some very sensitive subjects.

I also want the parents and child to know that, no matter how bad it is, everything will be all right. We as survivors are wonderful people, and we have a lot to offer society. We are very strong people, and we know the value of life and love. My life is wonderful, and so is everything in it. I have been blessed in many ways. I have become the person I am in spite of and because of the trauma I was forced to face when I was ten. I always remember during that year I was in the hospital the nurses and doctors would say that everything would be okay and some day I would forget all of this. Even though I was ten, I remember I never believed any of them. I felt that they didn't know what they were talking about because this terrible thing didn't happen to them. Well, I am qualified to say that everything *will* be all right. Remember, life is what we make it; embrace it and don't waste it by wishing yours was different. Only we can make our lives the way we want it to be.

I hope this book helps your Hurting Angel through any difficult times he or she may be facing.

Please give your Angel a hug for me.

*Delores L. Kowalski*



## HURTING ANGEL

I am a hurting Angel, I sometimes feel the pain.

Yes, I'm a hurting Angel, but sunshine follows the rain.

My wings have been broken, but someday they will mend.

Yes, I'm a hurting Angel, my pain will someday end.

So let's sing a song of laughter, let's sing a song of cheer.

Faith will heal our broken wings. Hope will heal our tears.

Now I'm a happy Angel, God loves me so, indeed.

Yes, I'm a joyous Angel with healed and happy wings.

Written by Elizabeth A. McClure



*[Handwritten signature]*

Put your child's  
picture here.

Angels are so special!

And so are you,

because you are an ANGEL too!



Your white bandages are your Angel's clothes.

Your ball cap, or your hair bows,

are your halos.

You are so special!

You are an ANGEL!



This pain is real!

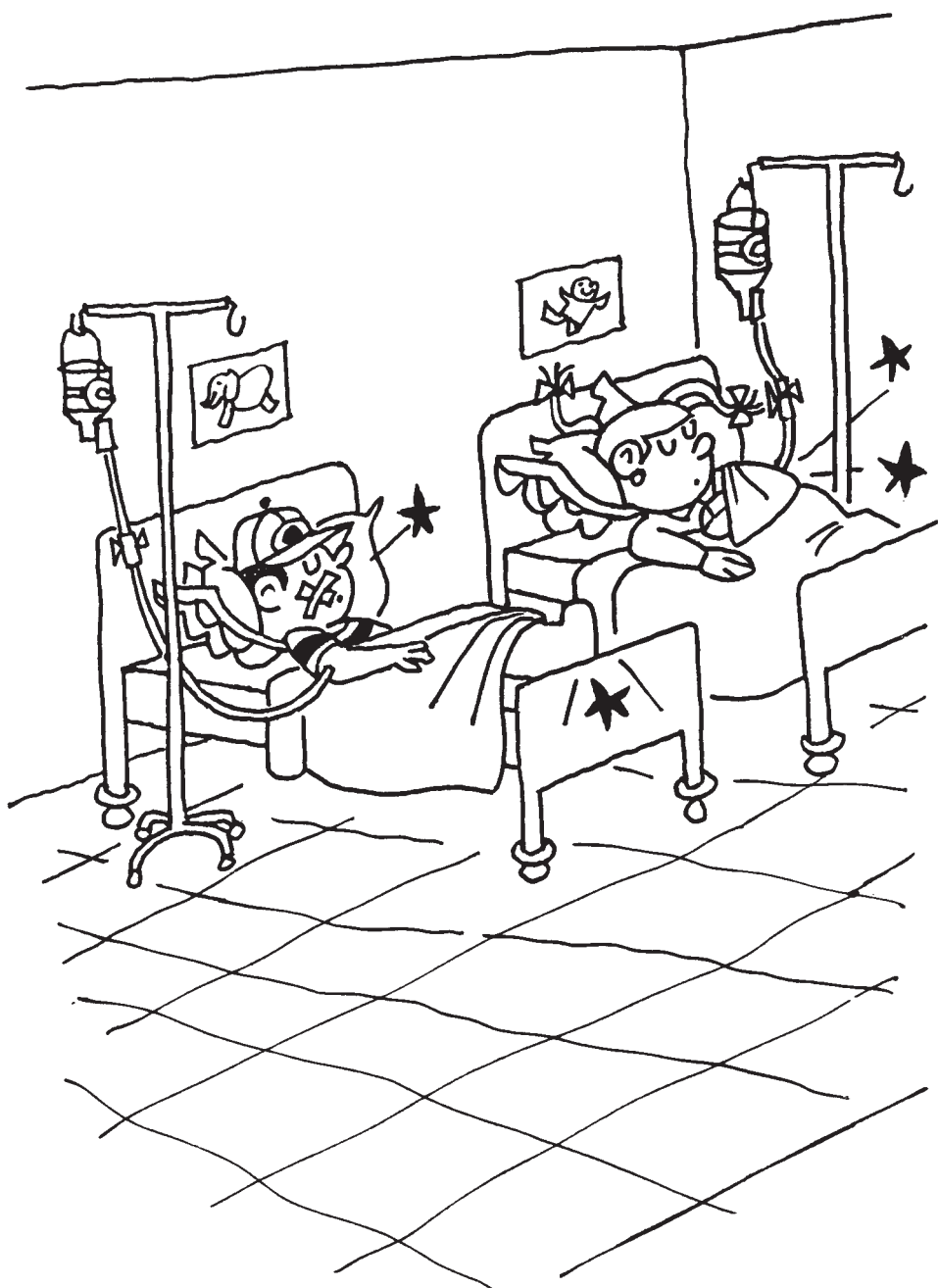
But I promise you this will all go away.

You are not alone, ever, because there are

millions of Angels as precious as you.

You are all special, because you are

all ANGELS!



When you are a sad little Angel,

lay real still and close your eyes.

Don't think of the hurt or the sadness.

Think how special you are, because

you are an ANGEL!



Always remember that  
very special and wonderful  
things happen to Angels.

You are so special.

You are an ANGEL!

НА НА НА НА!



And always remember if someone says  
something that hurts your feelings,  
you are so special, because  
you are an ANGEL!

IT'S OKAY!



When you cry, the tears are from a beautiful Angel.

Angels know it is OK to be sad, and to cry.

You are so special, because

you are an ANGEL!



See those kids pointing and whispering?

Don't be sad, and don't be angry.

They can tell you are special, because

you are an ANGEL!



Everyone loves an Angel!

Everyone loves you!

You are so special!

You are an ANGEL!



When you are all healed,  
and the pain is gone,  
you will always be special, because  
you are an ANGEL!



Now, beautiful, special little Angel,

don't be sad. I know it hurts.

But I promise you, some day

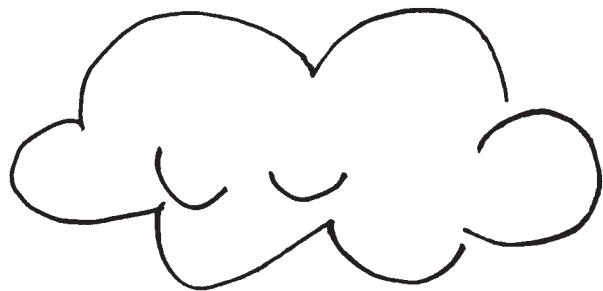
the hurting will stop, and

everything will be OK.

I know this, because, you see,

I am an angel, too, and

I love you!







## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to acknowledge everyone who believed in me and encouraged me throughout this project.

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Louise, Bill, Roy, Larry, Jay, Norma, Ron, Hattie, Mick, Jim, and Arlene, for always paying attention when I was talking about my book.

If I have missed anyone, I am sincerely sorry.



Credit: Cleveland Plain Dealer



Delores Gempel at age 10, in the hospital. Despite her pain, she was able to smile a lovely smile for the camera.



Credit: Jeff Ballard

Delores Gempel Lekowski today. With lots of surgery, determination and prayer, she has led a full and satisfying life. She has 3 children and 8 grandchildren. And she is still smiling.