



# Only Glimpses

by Alice Gray

Laurel knew she was dying. Over the weeks, we often talked about Heaven, what it would look like and how it would be to live there. It seemed we always ended crying and then holding each other tight in gentle hugs of hope.

The hardest part was trying to imagine something we had never seen, something about which we knew only a little.

And then I remembered this story:

The young girl with the blond hair and the deep blue eyes had been blind since birth. When she was twelve, the doctors were able to perform a new type of surgery that, if successful, would give her the gift of sight. The outcome would not be known for several days. After the bandage were removed, her eyes had to be protected from the light. So she sat in darkness, waiting.

The mother spent long hours answering her daughter's questions about what things looked like and what she should expect. They were both so excited about the possibility of being

able to see that neither of them slept much. Over and over, even in the darkness, they talked about every lovely thing they could imagine, colours, shapes, beauty of every kind.

Finally the moment came when the young girl's eyes could endure enough light for her to look out the window. She stood there for a long time without saying a word. Outside, the spring day was ideal, bright and warm with fluffy white clouds decorating the blue sky. Lacy blossoms sprinkled to the ground like pink snow as soft breezes stirred the cherry trees. Yellow crocuses proudly lined the brick walkway that wound across the grass.

When the girl turned back to her mother, tears were streaming down her cheeks. "Oh, Mother. Why didn't you tell me it would be so wonderful?"

I shared this story with my friend, tears filling my own eyes; "Laurel, right now we're sitting in the darkness, but before long you will be asking God the same question."

## One Way To Heaven?

Peter stopped a man at the Gate of Heaven and asked him to give an account of himself. "Tell me one good thing you did in your life," demanded Peter. The man paused for a moment and then responded, "I saw a gang harassing an elderly woman, so I kicked the leader in the shins." Peter asked, "When did this happen?" The man replied, "About forty seconds ago."

\* Reader's Digest, July 1991, p. 43

## McHeaven?

When my daughter, Meagan, was four years old she asked a lot of questions about death. During a trip to Dallas, we promised her a roadside stop at McDonald's. Although we frequented the "Golden Arches" too regularly, each visit was a thrill to her. As we began our much-anticipated lunch, Meagan asked one of her profound questions. "When you die, does Jesus take you to McDonald's?"

## The End Of The World?

Ralph Waldo Emerson was once approached by a concerned and inquiring person. He said, "Mr. Emerson, they tell me that the world is coming to an end." Emerson calmly replied, "Never mind, we can get along without it." The hope of heaven gives us confidence beyond this present world.

## The Wrong Side

A little girl was walking with her father in the country. As she looked up into the star-studded sky, her eyes were filled with wonder. Turning to her father she asked, "Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what do you think the right side will be like?"