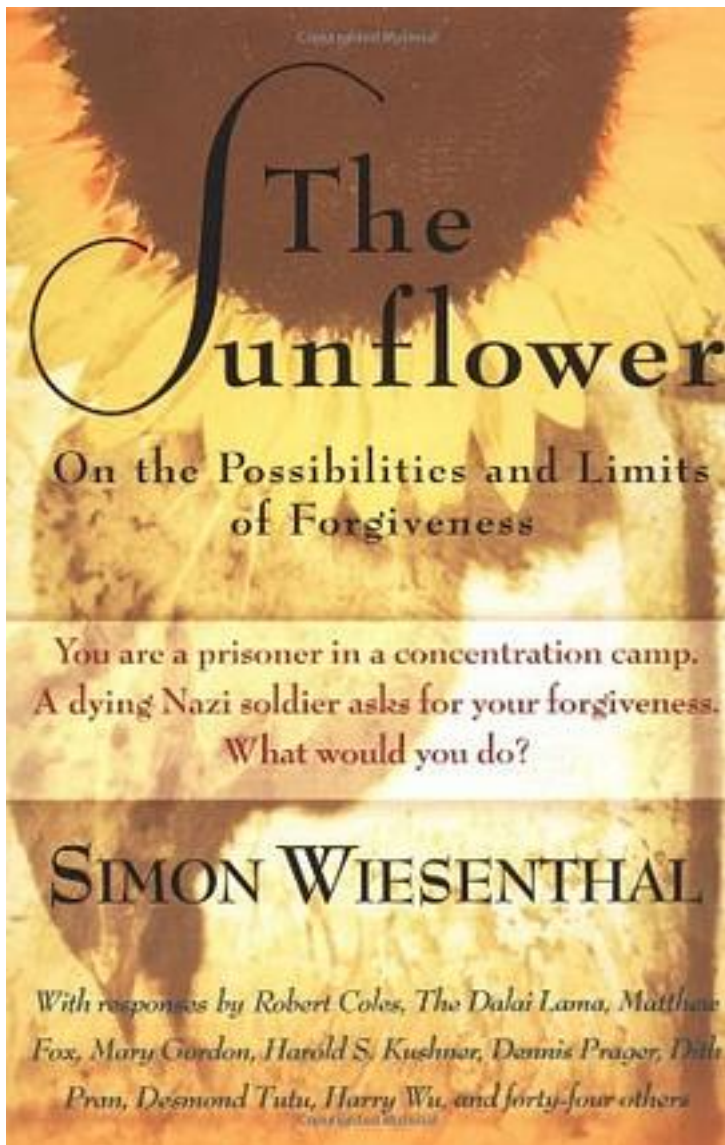


# The Sunflower



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著者:Richard Paul Evans

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From Publishers Weekly Author of the smash The Christmas Box and spinoffs, Evans delivers an entertaining albeit syrupy picking-up-the-pieces romance. Heartbroken and bereft when her fianc&eacute; backs out a week before the wedding, Christine Hollister allows herself to be talked into a volunteer work trip to Peru by best friend Jessica so that the pair can work together in an orphanage called the Sunflower. There she meets Paul Cook, the handsome but damaged former ER doc who left the U.S. after being blamed for a series of tragic Christmas deaths on the ward. The budding romance between Paul and Christine is totally predictable (including the awkwardness of their initial meetings). Evans adds a nice dramatic touch when Jessica's newfound boyfriend is seriously hurt while guiding a group of orphanage workers through the mountains near Machu Picchu, and he has a nice feel for framing devices, dialogue and scene-pacing. Evans also puts the jungle setting to good use during the couple's "dates." Although the various references to Christmas feel gratuitous, and a sudden appearance by Jilter Martin doesn't do much to make the ending harder to anticipate, the finish nonetheless remains satisfying. (Oct.) Copyright &copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Evans, author of The Christmas Box (1994) and Perfect Day (2003), returns with a heartwarming tale about two people who have to pick up the pieces after their lives derail in unexpected ways. Paul Cook is a successful ER doctor, but one night he loses two patients in one evening and his taste for medicine. Dental hygienist Christine Hollister is preparing for her wedding when her supposedly perfect fianc&eacute;, Martin, tells her a week before the big day that he can't go through with it. Heartbroken, Christine allows her best friend, Jessica, to talk her into a group trip to Peru for charity work. Christine reluctantly agrees, and once there she tries to distract herself with her work. But when her wallet is snatched and the culprit caught by handsome Paul, Christine becomes enamored of the mysterious stranger. She begins spending time with Paul at the orphanage he runs, and as they grow closer, both begin to wonder what kind of future they'll be able to have together once her trip ends. Sweet and uplifting, Evans' new tale is as enjoyable as his previous ones. Kristine Huntley Copyright &#169; American Library Association. All rights reserved See all Editorial Reviews

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