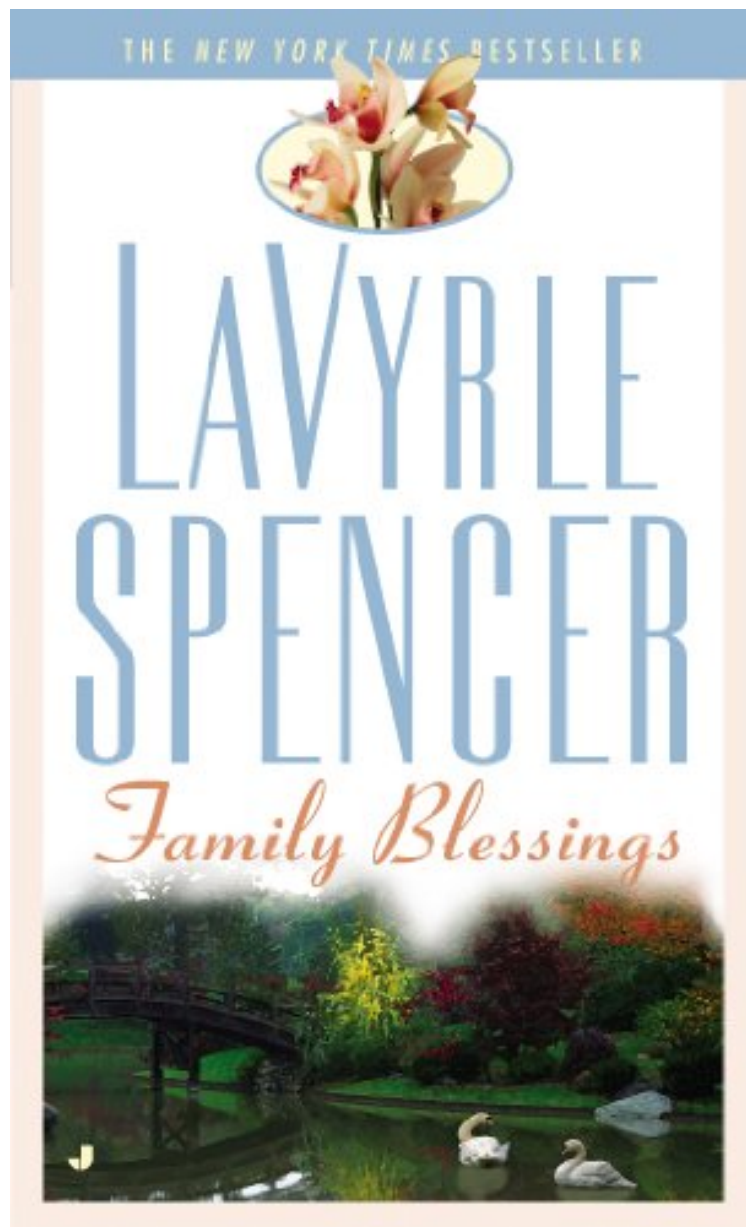


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Family Blessings

Von Lavyrle Spencer

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Von Lavyrle Spencer : Family Blessings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my

time, and all praised Family Blessings:

KurzbeschreibungThe classic New York Times bestseller. Lee Reston has a fulfilling life imbued with the love of her three wonderful children. Then a shattering event—the loss of her oldest son, Greg—tears her world apart. In her anguish, she turns to police officer Christopher Lallek, Greg's best friend. Their shared mourning develops into friendship, and then something deeper. But life is never simple. The family that was once the core of her existence becomes a mixed blessing, as Lee explores where family ties end—and her needs as a woman begin.

From Publishers WeeklyOrdinary people coming to grips with real problems are handled with a sure, restrained touch that makes this latest novel from the bestselling author of *Bygones* a moving tale. When Greg Reston, a young policeman in the small Minnesota town of Anoka, is killed in an automobile accident, it is up to his best friend and fellow officer Chris Lallek to break the news to Greg's widowed mother Lee. In the months following the tragedy, Chris proves invaluable to the Reston family, as a surrogate brother to Greg's siblings Janice, 23, and Joey, 14, and a source of unwavering emotional strength for all of them. But underlying his devotion is a clandestine and highly charged affair with the 45-year-old Lee, 15 years his senior. Is their need for each other really love, or is it simply comfort for two grieving people? When Chris proposes marriage, Lee must consider not only her judgmental mother and prudish sister, but also Janice, who has developed a crush on Chris. Spencer depicts the Reston clan with empathy, presenting fully dimensional characters with carefully limned vulnerabilities and hostilities. While residing safely within the parameters of romance fiction, this novel has an appealing candor that transcends the genre. Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club main selections. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From BooklistLee Reston answers her front door and learns that her son, Greg, has been killed in an accident. Chris Lallek, Greg's roommate and fellow police officer, brings the news and grieves with the Reston family. Lee, a widow who has already lost one son, tries to be strong for her remaining children and for Chris. Chris refuses to let her shoulder her grief alone, and through shared memories, the two are drawn closer together, first as friends and then as lovers. Lee and Chris face opposition from her family: her mother and sister feel Chris is too young for Lee, and her daughter wants Chris for herself. Only with strong support from Lee's son and from her former father-in-law do Lee and Chris find the courage to elope and make plans for a life together. Spencer delivers a moving novel, which revives memories of the loss of loved ones and allows a resolution of feelings and a sense of peace. Melanie Duncan