

A former food and wine writer and editor, **Jill Hunting** is the author of *Finding Pete: Rediscovering the Brother I Lost in Vietnam*. She lives in Pasadena, California.

FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS AND OTHER

PUBLICITY INQUIRIES CONTACT:

KATIE BAKER, PUBLICITY MANAGER

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

TEL: 405 325 3200

FAX: 405 325 4000

KATIE-BAKER@OU.EDU

For Want of Wings

A Bird with Teeth and a Dinosaur in the Family

By Jill Hunting

"Jill Hunting has given us the story of a beautiful, intimate, and unforgettable journey that shows how ineffably the past is woven into the present, how our ancestors' complicated lives shape our own, and what is gained when we come face to face with our history."

LYNN NOVICK, documentary filmmaker and collaborator, with Ken Burns, on *Hemingway*, *The Vietnam War*, *Baseball*, and *The Civil War*

"Jill Hunting is a great storyteller and this is a truly great story. As she notes, *Hesperornis* is perhaps the least famous of the most important fossils ever discovered. Her book should change that. As Darwin emphasized, an intermediate form like *Hesperornis* helps us understand how evolution works in ways that are fundamental to understanding both the past and future of our planet."

DAVID K. SKELLY, Frank R. Oastler Professor of Ecology, Yale University School of the Environment and Director, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

"Partly a rousing adventure in pursuit of scientific discovery, partly a series of intimate ruminations on self and history, *For Want of Wings* charms the reader to explore unexpected byways of knowledge as it crisscrosses the United States through time and space."

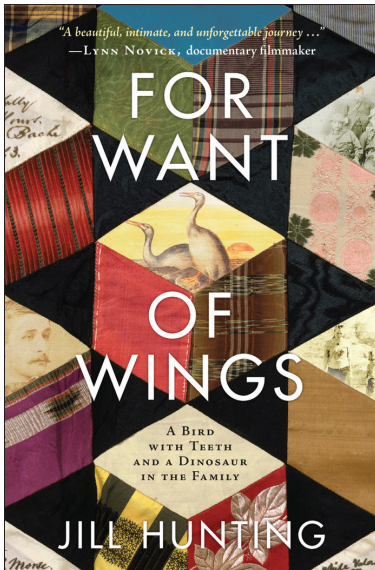
NANCY F. COTT, Jonathan Trumbull Research Professor of American History at Harvard University and author of *Fighting Words: The Bold American Journalists Who Brought the World Home between the Wars*

"Jill Hunting has woven together an unforgettable tapestry of family history, fossil hunting, and high adventures in the American West. This finely honed and deeply original book reminds us that the past and the present aren't as far apart as they sometimes seem to be, and the lives of Hunting's Yale-centric ancestors have surprising resonances today. A fascinating read for both dinophiles and history lovers."

JULIA FLYNN SILER, New York Times best-selling author of *The White Devil's Daughter*, *Lost Kingdom*, and *The House of Mondavi*

"In this engrossing memoir, Jill Hunting has woven her own family's past into the weft and the warp of American history. This rich tapestry truly contains multitudes, ranging from the founding of Skull and Bones at Yale University to the discovery of toothed birds in western Kansas, from antebellum debates over the abolition of slavery to the forced relocation of indigenous tribes on the Great Plains. It is emotionally complex and beautifully told, an absolute pleasure to read."

LUKAS RIEPPEL, Associate Professor of History, Brown University and author of *Assembling the Dinosaur: Fossil Hunters, Tycoons, and the Making of a Spectacle*



For Want of Wings

*A Bird with Teeth and a
 Dinosaur in the Family*

By Jill Hunting

.....
 FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS AND OTHER
 PUBLICITY INQUIRIES CONTACT:
 KATIE BAKER, PUBLICITY MANAGER
 UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS
 TEL: 405 325 3200
 FAX: 405 325 4000
 KATIE-BAKER@OU.EDU

“Jill Hunting’s *For Want of Wings* follows a delightfully discursive and personal path across important American history, tracking the footsteps of ancestors whose adventures in scientific discovery and political change resonate to this day. I avidly followed, feeling as enriched as did Jill and her daughter, May, out on the Great Plains and the Rockies. This is a warm and touching story showing the simultaneity of past and present just my kind of book.”

DAVID HAWARD BAIN, author of *Empire Express* and *The Old Iron Road*

“A person’s life is not just a thread from birth to death, but rather a complicated tapestry interwoven with the lives of many others. In the case of *For Want of Wings*, the author’s careful research has restored the fabric surrounding the life of Thomas Hubbard Russell (1851–1916), her great-grandfather. Russell was a Yale graduate who made an important, but largely forgotten, scientific discovery in 1872 while collecting fossils with O. C. Marsh in the wilds of western Kansas, and then went on to become a respected medical surgeon in his hometown of New Haven, Connecticut. His life and the background of his once-in-a-lifetime discovery of a ‘bird with teeth’ make for a fascinating read.”

MICHAEL J. EVERHART, author of *Oceans of Kansas: A Natural History of the Western Interior Sea* and Adjunct Curator of Paleontology, Sternberg Museum of Natural History

“Jill Hunting is a sleuth when it comes to finding details, and she has the talent to weave many threads together to create a coherent story that combines personal history, family history, national history, natural history, travel, the American West, important characters, and more. She takes the reader on the search and adventure to tell the story of finding the first complete fossil of *Hesperornis regalis*. Hunting illuminates a long-buried facet of the paleontology and history of Kansas. It is a gem.”

LEO E. OLIVA, author of *Fort Wallace: Sentinel on the Smoky Hill Trail* and *Fort Larned on the Santa Fe Trail*