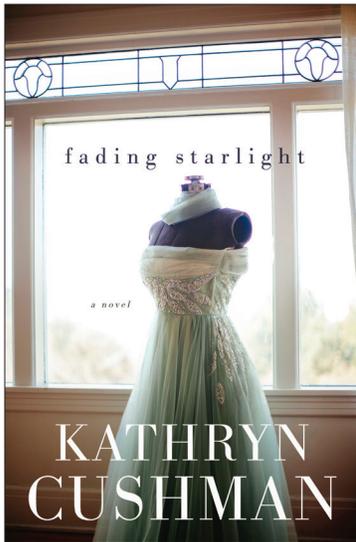




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH KATHRYN CUSHMAN**



**Fading Starlight**  
by Kathryn Cushman  
Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1262-8  
\$14.99; 304 pp.  
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**1. Where did you get the idea for *Fading Starlight*?**

This book was unlike any other I've written, in that I started with a character and had to go in search of her story. I had a very clear picture in my mind of an elderly woman, living alone in a Victorian mansion, who dressed for dinner every night in antique gowns and jewels. It took me quite a while to discover who she was and why she might be doing that.

**2. Did starting without a storyline make it more difficult to write?**

YES!! The funny thing was, though, when I described my character to friends, they always had immediate and great ideas about who she was and where she'd come from. This book utilized more brainstorming than any other book I've ever written.

**3. This book involves a lot of sewing and dressmaking. Is that something you enjoy doing?**

Honestly, I cannot sew on a button. I mean, I really, really can't sew on a button.

**4. So how did you manage to write those kinds of scenes?**

First of all, I found someone who knew what she was doing. Angie Carobini, daughter of food friend and fellow novelist Julie Carobini, is currently studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. I emailed her countless questions, which she answered very patiently. I also watched season after season of Project Runway, as well as several documentaries about the fashion world.

**5. What did you enjoy most about writing this book?**

Research that involved looking through the old Hollywood glamour photos. The gowns during that time were so beautiful. I wish the red carpet looked more like that now.

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