

# EASY BIAS-COVERED **CURVES**

Create Quilts with **WOW** Appeal



**WENDY HILL**



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**CURVES**

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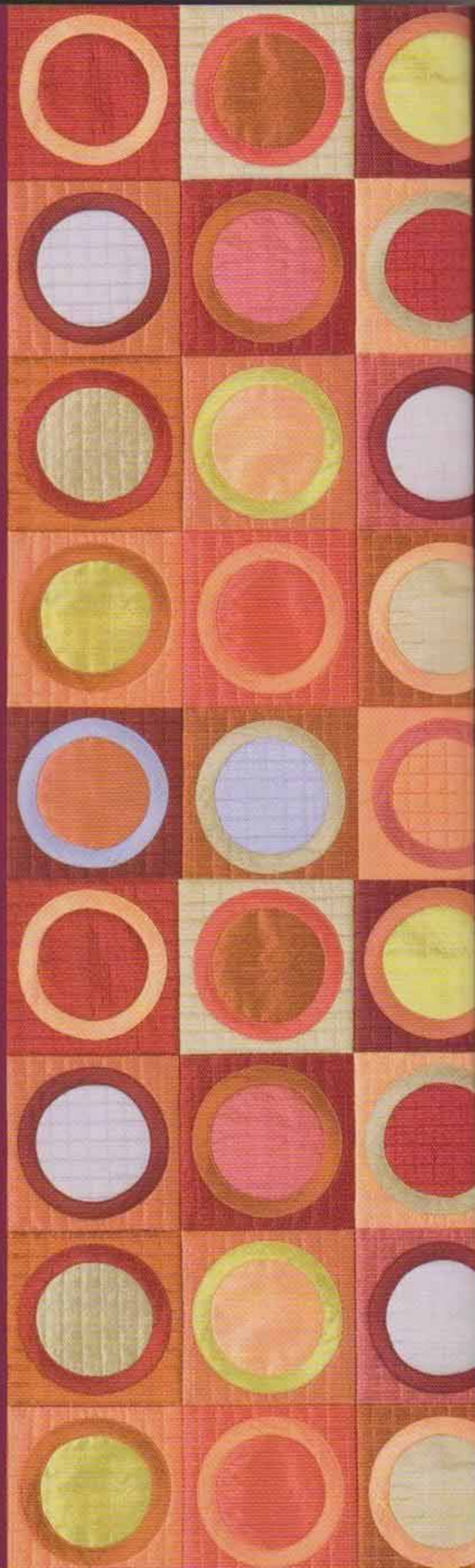
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## Dedication

### For Quilters Everywhere...

Dream With Your Eyes Open

In Memory of Lorraine Scouler

1948–2005

"To live on in the hearts of others is not to die."



## Remembering Lorraine Scouler

Lorraine always began her emails to me with "Olleh Wendy!" How exciting to be able to talk to someone in Australia—literally the other side of the world, where her mornings were my evenings. When I finally asked about the Aussie greeting, I found out it was classic Lorraine instead: the down under, back-to-front quilter simply wrote "hello" backward!

Lorraine's garden art mimicked her unique approach to life. Among abundant beautiful plants and flowers, Lorraine mixed in assorted fun accents, such as broken crockery, a world globe, a dead exercise bike, and a range of blue bottles on poles—all jostling for position with more conventional garden fixtures. In the quilt world she also followed her ideas without categorizing herself as either an art quilter or a traditional quilter, although she went back and forth between those realms with ease. She won prestigious awards;

wrote two successful books, *Appliqué Back to Front* (1997, Quilters Resource) and *Quilting Back to Front* (2001, C&T Publishing); volunteered with various quilt-related organizations; and exhibited her work in Australia, Japan, and the United States of America. We all believed she couldn't be stopped, but she lost her battle with leukemia September 20, 2005.

I first met Lorraine in the fall of 1997 at International Quilt Market in Houston, Texas. A group of Aussie authors swept through the C&T Publishing booth, carrying me along in their giddy group. Lorraine hoped to stand out among all the new authors in Houston, so she had chunks of her naturally red hair dyed magenta. She needn't have worried—her humor, her patchwork genius, and her cheerful, indomitable, and tireless spirit made Lorraine stand out in any crowd.

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- My family for never letting reality get in the way of imagination!

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**ANYTHING GOES** Wendy Hill, with blocks made by Judi Brown, Christine Hindle Drumright, Pauly Ruth Edwards, Sheila Finzer, Janet Gehlert, Susan Howell, Sarah Kaufman, Beverly King, Crys Kyle, Joan Metzger, Janice Mottau, Dolores Petty, Karla J. Rogers, Linda Saukkonen, and Bj Tinker, 63<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 63<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"; quilted by Linda Bussey

In response to my block challenge, 15 people made 73 blocks with a scrappy color scheme. Sixty of the blocks ended up in the quilt, with the blocks on point.

# INTRODUCTION

Lucky us! We quilters get to live in our imagination, connected to a network of other quilters. Playing with color, texture, and pattern, we create beautiful quilts to give as gifts, to offer as comfort in a crisis, to display as art, or to wrap love around our family members and friends—all just for the pure enjoyment and satisfaction of it. With our hands, heart, and mind, and just a few supplies, we make quilts!

My imagination led me to thinking about circles. I found circles everywhere around me, in fabrics, architecture, nature, and even in the patterns of car rims. Nonquilters told me I was obsessed, but I know you understand—I just wanted to make quilts with circles, curves, arcs, and wavy lines.

So I did. After finishing a wallhanging with 256 *pieced* curved seams, I decided to experiment with *covered* curves. Pieced curves are great, but covering the curves allows beginners to try out patterns too daunting to piece and gives quilters of all levels an opportunity to play with design. There is a place for piecing curved seams, but not in this book.

Look at two quilts with the same basic pattern. The first quilt shows pieced curves; the second quilt shows *off* covered curves. The bias-covered seams add another design element to the pattern, a bonus that adds complexity without adding difficulty.



Detail of *Circling the Block*, Wendy Hill; **pieced** curves



Detail of *In the Woods*, Wendy Hill; **covered** curves

Please join me on my island of imagination. The next three chapters introduce the basics of curvy patterns, including my method of building blocks (instead of piecing) and making bias tape to cover the curves. Each of the six block pattern chapters provides a small project to start you off plus plenty of ideas, samples, and tips for making your own version. Be sure to look for the challenge quilt in each chapter, made by someone just like you. Each person took my block pattern idea and ran with it—and so can you. But wait, there's more: Each chapter concludes with even more ideas for making quilts with related curvy block patterns.

Experiment with individual blocks as you learn this new technique. Even simple techniques like this one take a little practice, so don't put pressure on yourself to make a masterpiece the first time around. To each project, simply bring your creative spirit and your desire to make quilts. Let this book guide you through the process of making your own quilts with WOW appeal. Come on, let's go sew!