



Reunion

Karen Kingsbury , Gary Smalley

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A fresh new look for the best-selling series from America's number-one inspirational novelist, Karen Kingsbury. Fans will enjoy a personal note from Karen and Gary Smalley as well as discussion questions for book group use. Revisit the Baxter family in all their life-changing events, or share the series with someone who hasn't discovered it yet.

This touching story allows us to see into the lives of the Baxter family as Erin and Sam attempt to adopt a child. As the family looks forward to a heartwarming reunion, they find out that Mr. and Mrs. Baxter have a secret that could change their lives forever.

Reunion Details

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Kim says

Loved this book! It touched my heart. There were many biblical principles and reminders of God's redemption, faithfulness, and His future plans for our lives!

Anne Marie says

This book was wonderful like the rest of the series but very difficult to read. It was primarily about Elizabeth Baxter, mother and matriarch of the Baxter family, losing her battle with cancer. Since I've read the Sunrise series, I knew she was going to pass away, but struggled along with the family and never lost hope for a miracle. I also noticed on the front cover of the book the grave stone in the Baxter's backyard. If this is supposed to be Elizabeth's, next to the bench her and John would spend talking on, it doesn't make sense because in the Sunrise series the family would visit a cemetery with a bench beside the grave. Anyway, the family gets to say their goodbyes, but a secret between Elizabeth and John remains. They gave up their first born son when Elizabeth got pregnant before they were married. They tried to locate him when Elizabeth first battled cancer in the 90's, but had no luck. Instead, Dayne Matthews, movie star, finds Elizabeth. Through a series of coincidences, Dayne's entertainment lawyer is in a firm where Luke Baxter is working as an intern/part-time, before he gets his law degree. Dayne is introduced to Luke and they have no problem having a conversation. When Luke shows Dayne pictures of his family and his mother, Dayne is struck with a knowing that he's seen Elizabeth's picture before. He finds a box marked adoption papers in a storage unit he kept with his parents' belongings. (His parents were killed in a plane crash doing missionary work.) In the box is a picture that resembles the picture that was on Luke's desk. Only after hiring a private investigator is the truth confirmed...Elizabeth is his birth mother, the Baxter's his family. Dayne is able to arrive at his mother's bedside hours before her death, and they are able to meet for the first time, alone. A nurse sees him, but thinks he is Luke.

Ashley and Landon get married. They have to move up their wedding a week earlier due to Elizabeth's impending death, but the day turns out perfectly.

Kari and Ryan have the Flanigan family over for dinner. We are introduced to the family. Jim works with Ryan coaching football at the college.

Brooke and Peter's daughter, Hayley, continues to make progress from her drowning.

Erin and Sam are living in Texas. They are waiting to adopt a baby girl, but the baby's mother, boyfriend, and his friend make Adam and Erin pay them an extra \$5000 for "expenses." Only when they ask for another large amount of money do they call the authorities. Then when the baby is born, the biological mother, Candy, refuses to give up her daughter. But as time passes, Candy gets more addicted to drugs, and leaves her baby with a neighbor to take care of. She doesn't return, and in the meantime, she gets arrested for shooting a man in a drug deal. Because of her jail sentence, and because Candy's mother will be working on a cruise ship, Erin and Sam not only can adopt the baby, Amy Elizabeth, but also her two sisters, Chloe and Clarisse. Erin and Sam also adopt a baby that was abandoned by its mother who they name Heidi Joe! So they now have four daughters!

Stephanie Davis says

I fell in love with the Baxter family from book 1--so obviously I'm gonna love it! Yes, so the books are a bit predictable, but who cares?! The message is so strong and it's so nice to see scripture in a fiction book, so

you see it's not all fiction, because we know God is real!

Nathania says

The final book in Karen Kingsbury's "Redemption" was a brilliant conclusion to the series. Elizabeth Baxter has lived many years without her cancer arising again but as they say, all good things must come to an end. The Baxter family plans for a reunion knowing deep down that this may be the last reunion where everyone will be there. As the reunion plans are underway, so are the plans for a wonderful wedding. As Elizabeth battles the cancer, memories of her biggest secret come to mind constantly. Off in Hollywood, a famous actor named Dayne Matthews, hunts down the remaining fragments of his past. The results shock him but at the same time excites him. Experiencing the sorrow and pain of the Baxter family was surprisingly a highlight of the book. Throughout the series, the reader grows connected to the characters and the ending was just as emotional as all the other books. I recommend this book for anyone who wants to finish the series or wants to see real family love, pure and whole.

Heather says

[terminal cancer (hide spoiler)]

Mayda says

This is the fifth book in the series, but I have a feeling that it is not the end of Baxter family saga. Each book in the series focuses on a different sibling and their problems, but none of the books is really a stand-alone tale. The story threads seem to continue into the following books. In this final book, the matriarch of the family is tragically ill, and how she and the family cope with her sickness is the crux of the novel. But there is a secondary story of a secret that the parents have been keeping from their children. This series has an overall feel of a Christian soap opera, if there is such a thing, with all the overwhelming emotions and strong Christian "preachiness," but not very compelling writing. The plots are predictable for the most part and as well as trite, and I'm not sure, but it seems like the characters never do anything – and I mean ANYTHING – without praying about it and TELLING you they are praying about it. This series is heavy-handed in its witnessing but missed the mark as well-written inspirational Christian fiction.

LadyCalico says

My library had only two of the five books of this series--Remember and Reunion. Remember wasn't so hot, but Reunion was better. This series seriously overemphasizes the importance of physical beauty, which struck me as sadly superficial to be so hung up on surface values. I was ambivalence about this book. Much in the story felt soapish, juvenile, and often contrived and unrealistic. Her adult characters are ridiculously immature, and I was repelled by adult Christians responding hysterically and rather meanly to some difficulty, with the maturity of a 13-year old. Personally, I haven't noticed that the Christians in real life respond more histrionically to problems; actually quite the opposite, but Kingsbury characters do way too much emotional over-reacting and not nearly enough pro-active thinking and doing--just deal with it like

other adult humans do! However, when the characters finally do get around to seeking answers in prayer, Scripture, and counseling and start to think and communicate, some actual maturity and biblical insights emerge--they just take so long to get there! On the plus side the Bible lessons she works into the solutions to her problems are right-on once she finally gets around to them. If I ever read any other Kingsbury books I will have learned the necessity of skimming over the juvenile hysterical junk and seek out the meat of the scriptural life lesson.

Valerie May Rabak says

Wow; this is the fastest I've ever read a book! I love how each book introduces us further into the lives of each character in the Baxter family. This one was a tear jerker for me, but I love how Karen weaves faith, hope, trust ... redemption ... into the stories of each life. Life doesn't always turn out the way we want, and what we ask for isn't always what we get. But, God is always good, always faithful and is working out His perfect will in and through us (if we allow Him to). I loved the imagery in the book about being in God's will! No spoilers ;-) Look forward to the next series!!

Jaye says

I loved getting an insight into the lives of John and Elizabeth Baxter, the mother and father of the Baxter family i have come to "know" and "love" through reading all the Baxter family books. The previous books opened a window into each of their children's lives, so I really enjoyed finding out how the couple met, the troubles and trials they went through initially and how the Baxter family first got started.

I don't want to give too much away about the story line but this was THE most touching of the series, contained the most miracles and really emphasized and highlighted what it truly means to have a relationship with God and to know Him as your Heavenly Father. Elizabeth's character especially touched my heart: her quiet, gentle and maternal spirit. Beautiful and inspiring. This whole series managed to show what true faith really is and I can see these books touching many hearts for God and showing the difference between Love and religion :)

Neaner says

This was my favorite of the redemption series. It reminded me to be thankful every day for my husband, daughter, and-granddaughters. I really like how close the family is and how much they care and support one another. Ashley was my favorite character. The new series is the Firstborn series which is about more characters in the Baxter family. I'm looking forward to read that series. For me it is just uplifting to read Karen's books.

Rissa says

??????????

? This book broke me. It was amazing and beautiful and i cant wait for the greatest reunion of my own.

Baxter family drama ranking

1. Redemption
 2. Reunion
 3. Rejoice
 4. Return
 5. Remember
-

K.Heart says

A really bad book. i cried like 5 times, but i dont care about the mom, just because all "charters" like the mom dosen't mean i do, i had barley even seen her talk before this book. i would use one word to describe this book, and its "salad" because there where legit 3 pages (in different parts of the book) where she just told you what she used to make a freaking salad. For me, the saddest part of this book was a line by the dad (witch would have been en even bigger impact if he got sick because unlike the mom, hes an okay charter) i quoit "...felt Elizabeth beside him, felt her hand on his shoulder, her soothing fingers near the base of his neck. she meant to comfort him, but her touch only made him sadder then before... in far too few days, her hand on his shoulder wouldn't be a comfort to him. It would be a memory." that line hit me hard, and no joke thats the best part of the book. most of this book is just "boo hoo im sad, but wait!" then "a calming peace washed over them." no joke that happened at least three times. the only good charters in this are Ashley, Landon, Cole, and maybe Luke, every one else is a blank slate, like the charters are so forgettable that i forgot Tim (that one guy from the first book) got MURDERED. HOW. DO. YOU. FORGET. SOMETHING. LIKE. THAT. Thats how forgettable everyone is. If i where you, i would skip this one, or if you (for some reason) REALLY want to read them skip the first and go read the second, that is by far the best one out of the series.

Gloria Hallie Kay {†~I am second~†} says

I really, really love Ashley. I love how fiercely protective she is of Landon and of Cole. I love seeing how far she's grown with God since the beginning of the series. She's such a woman of God now. She is a great example for me to look up to.

Shela says

I skipped three novels in the Redemption series since most of them were on waiting list in the library but this book gave a fair summary of what have transpired in the other novels. I liked the story and the struggle, which is **very deep and haunting**. I think Karen Kingsbury did well in doing a summary of the series but also hinted on the plot for the next coming series.

Since most of the character development were done in the earlier novels, I did feel there was a lack of serious engagement with the readers who hasn't touched on the other novels. The multiple plots running parallel can also be daunting to follow and is *emotionally taxing* but taking a couple a chapter at a time, it helped me finish the book. It also helped me understand that *many people go through such events in the real world* without break, family and any support.

I'm grateful for this summary and willing to look into the other series, as soon as I finish the other novels in

Redemption series. I do recommend reading this book even if many are saying that it is a depressing book. If it seemed sad for an "ending" then look forward to the next series. This is a good book to read during Easter because that's how it felt to me at the end of the book. *You never end Easter at Jesus' crucifixion but in his resurrection and his promise to come back for those who love him.*

Hannah Austin says

In this book all of the Baxter children return for a dinner. It had been awhile since all of them had been together in one setting. They are finally happy when they find out that their mother has cancer. She will not be able to fight it off. As they wait for a miracle, we see that they had a big secret. They had had a child before marriage, but had given him up for adoption because they were too young. He is a famous actor, but cannot find his biological parents. He has tried many times, but always gets dead ended. Finally, he learns that his mother has cancer and does not have long to live. He goes to see her, and sees her right before she dies. Her last wish was to see him before she died. John, his father, goes in to check on her and she tries to explain that she had seen him. He automatically thinks it is the cancer spreading throughout her body.

This book reminds me of how the love of a family can conquer anything. All of the children set aside their own personal feelings when they found out their mother was severely sick. They had a great unity in the end, and it was definitely breath taking.

Ginger says

Months ago when I learned of Karen's new release, I decided to start at the very beginning and re-read as many Baxter books before her new book releases. I was able to read the entire Redemption series. However I did struggle through the last 8 chapters of Reunion. These chapters reflected a similar situation our family experienced about 4 years ago. Reading these pages brought it all back. In spite of the sadness, I did enjoy this book. As a believer, I treasure how Karen incorporates faith and scripture into these realistic stories.

Taryn Spearey says

This was great. The Baxter family is going to have a reunion, because Elizabeth has cancer. When she finds out, she wants to get her family together one last time. There's only one person missing; Elizabeth and John's first born son.

Dayne Matthews is a well-known movie star who wants to find his birth mother. He's always known that he was adopted, and wants to find his birth family. When he arrives in Bloomington and meets his other, he decides against meeting his siblings. He does this because he doesn't want to subject them to a life in the spotlight.

Another event that happens in this book is Ashley and Landon's wedding. They decide to move the wedding up, so that Elizabeth can be part of it. I found the wedding to be beautiful.

The ending of the story was both happy and sad. The happy part was that Dayne went to the hospital and finally meets his birth mom, right before she dies.

Awesome book, as usual!

Kasy Long says

This book moved me to tears. I don't cry very often, and I was crying at the end of this book. That alone should convince you to read it. I get so attached to these characters. They feel like my family. Elizabeth Baxter is so much like my mother, so I hated seeing her have cancer and eventually die (spoiler alert). But, the family reunited, came together like The Baxters always do, and will move forward as one family—even if it's without Elizabeth. This is one book you need to read. Just have tissues nearby.

Arin Dean says

Worst book I've read in a while.

Awful. It seemed like she let a 4th grader write this book. Did she think about how any of this sounded before she sent it off?! Does she even have an editor?? Weird contradicting details, although small. I noticed a lot of this throughout the series but it was a lot worse in this book--to the point where I struggled to even finish it. It's like all the characters have some fairytale life. Maybe some people like this type of literature but not me.

Amber says

The Redemption series is wonderful.

There are so many true to life examples in them that they could touch and change anyone's lives.

I can't capture everything I feel about this series in mere words. If I could put words on what my heart has read and is now digesting, it still wouldn't be sufficient.

Even if you don't think you are a Karen Kingsbury fan, please reconsider this one time and read this series.

I can't wait to go on to the Firstborn series and get more food for my soul.
