



The color of rain: how two families found faith, hope & love in the midst of tragedy

Michael Spehn

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This real-life Brady Bunch story is about what it means to endure the unthinkable---and still open one's heart to what's next. When two childhood friends die of cancer six weeks apart, the shared experience of loss brings their grieving spouses together. After months of late-night phone calls, family dinners, and countless dreams and tears, this unlikely pair builds a trust, a love, and a shared life. Told from alternating points of view, The Color of Rain illuminates the stepping-stones of healing that lead to a joyful new beginning for Michael and Gina Spehn and their five children. Like many who grieve, Michael and Gina had to choose to hope again. Along the way, they discovered that God can restore the darkest circumstances---and even from death, He can bring new life. Michael and Gina's gripping story of 'growing new hearts' will inspire readers not only to survive loss but also to receive the new courage, faith, and identity that God gives in the midst of tragedy.

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From Reader Review The color of rain: how two families found faith, hope & love in the midst of tragedy for online ebook

Rosalie says

This is a true story about two families and their fights with terminal cancer. Heart-wrenching. Faith-based lives. Christian literature. Their religious backgrounds are Lutheran and Catholic. A very touching story centering on the will to live, to touch and impact other lives, and their simple faith in a God. I highly recommend this book.

Yvette Beutel says

For a memoir with an intentional Christian message, this book isn't over the top. The faith component comes through loud and clear without dripping from every word. That control, not always present in this type of book, allows an inspiring story to be told, mourning turned into dancing, as the book cites at the end. I had seen the film, and wanted to compare the book. In this case, the screenwriters did a creditable job picking the jewels from the book and telling the essential story.

Teri says

I was a childhood friend of Cathy so it hit home even more. I was very impressed on how well the book was written. How wonderful for these two families to have found each other after such tragedy. God does work in mysterious ways.

Karan Johnstone says

What a GREAT book. It is sad and happy all at the same time. It is a great reminder to get as much out of life while you can because you never know what God has planned for us in the future.

Jennie Stangel says

It was wonderful how the two families honored their late spouses. My problem with the story is more of a personal one. I feel that they became way too serious way too quickly. I had a problem with this mainly because of the children. I also did not really like the parents encouraging the children to call them mom and dad. Even before they were married, they referred to themselves and one another as the mom and dad of the family. I felt that this was disrespectful to their late spouses to put on the kids so early in the relationship. I also find it a bit difficult to believe that everything went along so perfectly easy for the blending of two families. They relied a lot on faith, which I can appreciate. However, even with faith, one has to be careful when handling such difficult situations when children are involved. I hope that things are still going well for

the blended family.

Marcy says

I saw the movie on Hallmark Channel, but knew there had to be so much more to the story, so I read the book. I am so glad I did. Two couples lose a spouse to cancer. They live in the same town, attend the same church & the spouses die within 2 months of each other. One family is left without a mother & wife, the other is left without a father & husband. Through their shared grief & faith in God, they come together, first consoling each other & their children, then after a few years falling in love & blending two families. The book is filled with tragedy, then hope, especially in God. I was very touched by this book. It will stay with me for a long time.

Emily Flury says

If I could sum up this book, I would say that it gives a wonderful example of how beauty can come from tragedy. The book is about two families, each of whom lose a spouse to cancer but then find their way to each other for comfort, healing, and love. I feel that the authors would want you to know that getting through the tragedies of losing a spouse and then continuing with their lives to find hope and love only happened because of their faith.

What I found interesting is that I got the impression that the events really happened the way they were described. While I have a hard time believing (although you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you) that the the blending of these two was so effortless, the two authors didn't try to make themselves out to be uber holy. What I mean is that the man, Michael Spehn, says that he always had belief in God but he was skeptical of organized religion. He didn't go to church very regularly, he rarely read the Bible but he did pray and he did believe. It is good to know that you don't have to be an A+ Christian in order to follow God's will. In reading this story, I felt, myself, that the only way that two families found their way to each other was because it was so obviously God's will and the families were open to that.

It was heartbreaking (and I cried quite a bit) to read about the events leading up to the deaths of the two spouses. I was pleasantly surprised with how I like the way the book was delivered. Until the end when the couple was married, the chapters were written alternately by Gina and then Michael. Normally I don't like this because I feel like I am rushing through one chapter to get to the next but I think it worked here because each person was describing their lives in a way where no fast forwarding was required. They were just describing life as they knew it and if one person needed an extra long chapter to explain an important life event then they were given that opportunity. In other words, I didn't feel as if I was left hanging between chapters.

I liked this book and I want to recommend it to someone but I am stuck because I am not sure who I would recommend this book to. I probably would not have read it if it had not been sent to me by a friend. I guess I would recommend it to Christian friends who I know like to read sweet but heartbreaking stories about how life can work out.

Sharon Baker-johnson says

"The Color of Rain" is a book about loss, but it doesn't end there. Two people lose their spouses to cancer, five children lose parents. Sound like a downer? It could be, but these authors (the surviving spouses) found that life can continue on in new challenging ways. I found the book to be positive in several ways:

- * Portrayal of losing a spouse and the grief/growth that follows (one was a lingering illness, the other more sudden)
- * Honesty in conveying the struggles
- * A storyline that reveals God's providence in 'seeming coincidences'
- * Writing style that feels as if you are walking beside the author
- * Managing a new romantic relationship in an excellent manner, sensitive to the five children
- * Sharing faith without preaching

What was difficult initially was reading the alternate authors' accounts. I kept finding myself thinking, "Now which family is this?" Perhaps the authors could have written their individual stories and start alternating when they actually met each other.

For some Christians who have trouble allowing themselves or others the necessary time and journey of grieving, this book can be helpful. This is a great quote: "Grief honors your relationship with those you have lost and allows survivors to give expression to the unspeakable pain they feel."

Ali says

This book is devastatingly sad for two families, but out of the sadness came hope. The story goes back and forth between both families and was really interesting. I listened to this book and it is read by the authors. It probably wasn't the best idea to listen to it on the way to work as there were many moments when I was in tears.

Beth says

A wonderful,inspiring true story of two families who grew great happiness from their own tragedies. It was read very well by the authors and I came to know and love all of the participants. it was so uplifting to hear of the part that God plays in the lives of others, sometimes I think we forget that He loves and helps ALL of His children no matter how or where they do or do not worship Him.

" God is love, and like love, He cannot be 'figured out', He must be experienced."

Rebecca says

I haven't given many fives recently--I'm not sure why. This book was definitely a five for me.

I finished it this morning when I should have been finishing other things, but I had to finish. This book is heavy at times, but only because the subject matter is heavy. It is about two young families who lose a young parent to cancer. The book is so inspiring, though, as are the authors, their families, and the lives they are living.

I heard Gina Kell Spehn speak recently and was even blessed with the opportunity to go to lunch with her and some friends. I knew by her words and testimony in God that I would be deeply affected by reading this story of her life, especially the message that when life takes you on a detour down a dark, unexpected, scary path, put your trust in our Heavenly Father and He will make you the better for it--plus He'll add some amazing color through the rain if you just let Him.

The ending was absolutely beautiful--which I suppose since this is a true story with real people, this is just their beginning.

more on my blog: <http://rebeccabelliston.blogspot.com/>

Jill Rourke says

Fantastic book about love, faith and the strength people find in loss. Love the local connection to Rochester.

martha steele says

Fantastic!

The Color of Rain is by far the best book on the subject of loss and all that it means. It has so much insight, talking about some things I had not thought of before. I cried. I smiled. I sobbed while reading this book. The author truly understands what happens to a family when it loses someone to Cancer. It left me with much to contemplate and it left me a better person, with a more complete understanding of myself and what I am still going through to this day. Thank you Michael Spehn. Amazing book!

Dawn says

A friend told me that this was the best book they had ever read so I decided to check it out. It was a great book although I would recommend having a box of tissues handy. After I finished this book, I told my friend how good I thought it was. She chuckled when she told me that I had the wrong book. The title is very close to the book that she had suggested! Oh well! All's well in the reading world!

Kim says

Awesome book if you want to read something that is truly inspiring. Read the book in 2 days...could not put it down.

Be sure to have your tissue around!
