



The Chance

Karen Kingsbury

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The day before a teenage Ellie moved from Georgia to California, she and her best friend Nolan sat beneath the Spanish moss of an ancient oak tree where they wrote letters to each other and buried them in a rusty old metal box. The plan was to return eleven years later, dig the box up, and read the letters. But now, as that date approaches, much has changed. Ellie has abandoned the faith she grew up with, her days consumed with loving her little girl and trying to make ends meet. Sometimes she watches TV to catch a glimpse of her old friend Nolan, now an NBA star, whose faith is known by the entire nation. But few know that Nolan's own personal tragedies have fueled both his faith and athletic drive. Despite his success, Nolan is isolated and lonely, plagued by a void in his heart that has remained since that night beneath the old oak tree with Ellie. For both Ellie and Nolan, the coming date is more than just a childhood promise. It's the chance to make sense of it all—the chance to find out if it's ever too late to find love again.

Karen Kingsbury weaves a moving tale of heart-wrenching loss, the power of faith, and the wounds that only a forever kind of love can heal. She delves deeply into a theme that resonates within us all: Hope lives for those willing to take a chance.

The Chance Details

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Denia Books and Baubles® says

I love the story of this book. It was really beautiful. please give it a try.

A. R. says

Wow...I'm not sure where to begin. If you want to read a book about emotional self-flagellation - this is your book! It was page after page of "what an awful person am I" being sung by all but one of the main characters. I literally had to push myself through to the end. "The Chance" was hardly the uplifting read I expected from Christian Lit.

I think perhaps, Karen Kingsbury needs to take a break and revamp. The Bailey Flannigan series was the first indication...and this is it's follow up. I found none of the compelling characters in this book that I have found in her previous works. With the exception of Peyton Anders(who is more a passing thought, a vehicle to sensationalize the story) I found all the characters to be pretty one dimensional.

And as much as I love a good romance, I could never suspend my belief long enough to buy into Ellie and Nolan's attachment. Seriously? Two 15 year-olds who are separated for 11 years still moon and pine over each other? And when they come together again, they immediately fall right back into the dreams they had as 8th graders? (and a note for Kingsbury...most 8th graders are 13 turning 14...her characters should have already been in high school.)

I think perhaps I have purchased my last Kingsbury book. I am disappointed with the superficial treatment of flawed personalities. I am discouraged by her simplistic idea of repentance. And I am really tired of worn out phrases like, 'my happily-ever-after in Jesus' or 'they threw accusations at each other like so many bricks...or like so many bullets...or like so many (fill in the blank).

Next time I want a Christian Lit fix, I think I'll look up another Francine Rivers book.

Lisa B. says

My Thoughts:

.....with God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

This was a very nice read. Clean, uplifting and touching. A nice story about having faith and not giving up hope, even when things seem dark. A few thoughts came to mind when I read this. First, learn to live life in God's time (meaning - be patient Lisa). Also, that having faith doesn't mean bad things won't happen. It means we should use our faith to get through the difficult times. This story shared a nice message about all of this.

Thank you very much to Howard Books and Netgalley for allowing me to read this in exchange for an

unbiased review.

Publish date: March 5, 2013.

cocktailsatfive says

I have read just about every book by Karen Kingsbury with the exception of the Bailey Flanigan series and some of the Fame and Firstborn series (she wrote so much about the Baxter family that I had started to grow sick of them especially when she started throwing the whole Hollywood thing in).

Her earlier works, however, are some of the best Christian fiction I've ever read. In fact, Karen was the first Christian author I started reading. At the time, I was going through a rough patch and my mom gave me one of her books which really helped me through things and I've been hooked ever since. But that was back when her books really were "life changing fiction," as she calls them. Lately, her books aren't very life changing at all. They don't seem to move me the way they used to. Her earlier books were all about real people -- pilots, teachers, lawyers -- all going through real problems that I could identify with. But now her books are all about famous people -- actors, NBA players, NFL players, and singers. It makes me question what the author's angle is with all this celebrity obsession. I know she's had at least one book that was turned into a movie and it almost feels like maybe that's the angle -- wanting to get more of her books made into movies like a lot of other mainstream authors we've been seeing.

All I know, is that there is a definite difference between the quality books she used to write and the unrealistic syrupy plots she's writing now. Whereas once I used to be moved to tears by her writing, I now find myself skimming her over the top flowery prose. I also think perhaps even the plots might somehow be getting recycled because it seems like each storyline is achingly familiar -- boy meets girl, boy gets separated from girl, boy finally finds girl again and they live happily ever after. At least she's been changing up the Bible verses and using different Scriptures to help illustrate the different lessons a character is learning, which is great, but I just don't think it's enough anymore. This romanticized version of her writing is just getting too hard to stomach. Which is a shame because she really has so much talent and it just pains me to even write this.

In closing, while nowhere near the caliber of books she used to write, The Chance is still better than a lot of what she's published lately. I just wish she'd get back to her roots and leave all this false sweetness, tired plot formula, and celebrity stuff behind.

Isa_correia says

Estive bastante indecisa sobre qual a pontuação a dar a este livro... só não tem 5 estrelas pois acho que a autora deu demasiada enface a Deus e á fé. Não fosse isso e teria 5 estrelas garantidamente, assim é um 4,5!

Cheryl Olson says

Ah, the second chance. Why is it that novels that stress that theme just seem to resonate for so many of us?

Maybe it's because we all know that we need them, right- a second chance, or in my case, third and fourth chances as well. You know what I mean- a second chance on a relationship that you thought was long over, or a chance to have a do-over on a job you messed up pretty well the first time. We are human, we are fallible and we all need a second chance. So if you take the concept of the second chance, throw in a large measure of forgiveness, grace and faith in God, you have the story line for The Chance - Karen Kingsbury's latest offering from Howard Books.

As the novel opens we meet the 2 main characters Nolan Cook and Ellie Tucker living in Savannah, Georgia-. Two 15 year old best friends, on the verge of being something more, are torn apart by the broken relationship of Ellies' parents Alan and Caroline. Because of this broken relationship, Alan takes Ellie away to San Diego to a new job and what he is hoping for is a new life away from his wife. That doesn't go so well as when we try to run away, our troubles usually follow us. On the night before Ellie is whisked away from Nolan and her mother, Nolan and Ellie meet in the park, their usual place to go and talk and decide to write each other a letter telling each other how they really feel about one another and bury it in an old tackle box. The plan was to return in 11 years, dig up the box and read what the other person wrote. Neither one thought that they would be separated from each other for that time period. Even with Ellie's move, they could write each other, call each other, etc. Unfortunately through some unforeseen circumstances, they were separated for that long, but still in the back of their minds was returning to that tree as promised all those years ago.

Their lives each took very different directions- Nolan's in the world of professional basketball living out the dream he had had for himself for many, many years. And Ellie, her journey was the complete opposite- she didn't reach the dreams that she had for herself, which included writing the perfect novel and being a part of Nolan's life. His faith had grown, hers had shrunk. How could this work out?

This story, as most of Karen Kingsbury's stories do, resonated with me. I love the second chance- the beauty from ashes story lines. They just always make me want to stand up and cheer. This one did as well. The heart string pull was pretty strong for me and I appreciated the journey this novel takes you on. When God is allowed in the middle of relationships, there is forgiveness, grace and restoration. And this is portrayed beautifully in several of the story lines. So if you feel like reading a novel that makes you stand up and cheer both at the basketball portions as well as the relationship journeys, I recommend you pick up Karen Kingsbury's novel The Chance.

4 stars

I was provided a complimentary copy of this novel from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Kami Reeve says

I wanted to like this book. I try to support and encourage writers who write clean, uplifting literature. But I really didn't like this one. The trite way she wrapped up all the family issues at the end just wasn't believable. I picked it up because I enjoyed reading The Bridge last December. Perhaps she'll do better next time.

Joanna says

I found it difficult to believe a 26 year-old NBA player would still be carrying a torch for a girl he hadn't seen since both he and she were 15. Difficult to believe, also, was the story of the husband kicking his wife out of the house for coming home pregnant with another man's child, yet this husband never initiated the divorce process during those 11 long years. WTH? Surely, none of the above mentioned ridiculous plot points in this unbelievable book happen in real life, right? Right??? Gag me.

Christian Fiction Addiction says

A tender story of loss and love, of forgiveness and second chances, Karen Kingsbury has woven a moving tale in "The Chance ", one that brought tears to my eyes more than once. The characters are beautifully developed and their interwoven stories are soul-stirring, as they deal with heart-ache and shame and the messy reality of being human and making mistakes. But they also point towards the power of God to take what is broken and to breathe new life. While I enjoyed getting to know the main characters Ellie and Nolan, my favorite character was Ellie`s precious daughter Kinzie, a young girl who had an intuitive grasp on life, a belief that Jesus is good and his love is enough for us all. Like Karen`s other novels, I love how the characters hear God`s voice speaking clearly to them, such as prompting them to pray. It`s a beautiful portrayal of God`s loving heart and how he is still in the business of orchestrating the events around us. Probably more than any other book Karen has written, this novel portrays that truth that though the evil one sets out to destroy us and keep us mired in despair, God is bigger and stronger and loving, and shines light into the darkness. "The Chance" illustrates the tremendous power of forgiveness, not just for the one who needs forgiving, but for the one who was wronged. Ellie says it best when she teaches Kinzie that "As soon as you forgive, you're free!" There is power in those words, indeed. The ending is definitely inspiring, and though things may get wrapped up a bit too neatly for some readers, it's hard to argue with a happy ending!

Sure to appeal to her faithful fans as well as acquire a host of new ones, "The Chance" finds Karen Kingsbury still the master of "Life-Changing Fiction". I award this book 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of the publisher, Howard Books (Simon & Schuster Canada), for the purposes of this unbiased review

Pathway Midland says

"The Chance" by Karen Kingsbury was simply fabulous. I rarely read fiction, but I had heard only amazing things about Kingsbury,so I decided to try this stand-alone title. I was not disappointed-Kingsbury definitely lives up to the hype.

The book focuses on two childhood friends, Ellie Tucker and Nolan Cook, who are torn apart when Ellie's dad moves her family across the country. The night before she leaves, they write letters to each other sharing how they feel and how much they care about eachother. They bury these letters beneath their favorite big tree in the park that they have grown up in. They vow to return 11 years later, dig the letters up and reconnect. Both of them are sure that they will be together, but it is done just in case. Both Ellie and Nolan's family devastated by loss in the years that follow. And the chance to find one another and reconnect looms large for both of them.

Kingsbury does an amazing job of conveying real emotion and feeling through her characters. This book is full of many characters and deep hurts, but it also conveys hope and how God can restore all things.

Katherine

Arista says

I could not put this book down - not for anything. I am so excited to have found a new favourite author in Karen Kingsbury.

This was a beautiful, moving story that I would recommend to absolutely anyone. It brought both tears of sadness and tears of joy to me. Karen Kingsbury is able to write her characters in a way that their heart and soul is bared. Raw emotions are described with such accuracy that that you feel your whole being compelled to comfort characters when they are sad, to hug them when they are joyful, to cry out with them in pain and to celebrate their victories beside them. Karen Kingsbury must be an incredible person to be such a talented author.

Aside from the amazing, vivid characters Karen brought to life; the story itself is undeniably beautiful. Redemption, second chances, love, family bonds, self-esteem and faith are woven together to create a heartfelt, exquisite story.

Five huge stars are awarded to this read and I cannot wait to delve into more (sure-to-be-amazing) books from Karen Kingsbury.

Julie Barrett says

The Chance by Karen Kingsbury

Ellie Tucker learns that her father wants her mother to leave because she's pregnant with the other man's child. She leaves the house in search of her best friend, Nolan Cook who's playing ball at the high school. Her father tried to stop her by telling her to go to her room and pray to God and that some things just weren't meant for a teen to hear-that she couldn't comprehend it all.. We also learn of the mother's side...

Love the idea of when they said goodbye to one another, their memories will remain, their one last chance... After she moved she was not able to contact Nolan and they both prayed that it would all work out. He continued concentrating on his basketball games.

Nolan's dad convinced him that with faith you could do anything, even play in the NBA.

He tried many times to find her and had never gotten a letter or another phone call from her since she moved. After he signed with a college basketball team he spent money hiring a PI to find her, who also came up with nothing.

He started dating and he had faith he would find her again. They had that one last chance also if all else failed.

Her life did not go as planned but she made the most of it...

She still planned to be at the park in her old hometown on June 1 so she could dig up the memories they had each left...

She figured Nolan would be too busy to do that.

Love the reference to The Bridge Bookstore in Franklin-awesome book to read about that.

Caroline Tucker's story is also followed as others hope to follow what happened once she left her daughter Ellie and husband Allan to have Peyton Anders baby, by herself. As a country singer Peyton has to do some promo and give back and he selected to help a kids wish to go to a Hawks game, and he can make that happen. Caroline had also written to her daughter every week sending them to her ex mother in law. She never heard back from anybody and she prayed Ellie would get them.

Alan Tucker's story is also followed as he is the guard at a brig on the west coast. He thinks of his daughter

also as she's not living there with him any longer and the roads she took...He also thinks he should've stuck with his wife and prayed more to God.

Many scriptures are quoted to help explain the story to the one asking for God's help.

Added bonus of an excerpt from 'Fifteen Minutes'

1451647034

Joy says

Another amazing Karen Kingsbury novel! Heartwrenching and yet heartwarming The Chance is a love story that lasts through the years as two teens are separated through a long distance move but whose love for each other doesn't end. On their last night together they write a letter telling each other how they feel. Unread they place the letters in a tin box and bury it underneath a tree at their favorite place in the park promising to meet in eleven years to open the box and read the letters.

Elle and Nolan's lives turn out very different yet they never stopped loving each other. Elle's father manages to keep all correspondence hidden and she believes her beloved Nolan has forgotten about her as well as the mother she loves and needs. Nolan goes on to fame and Elle is embarrassed by how her life has turned out. This is the story of how their love for each other doesn't change but circumstances do. Elle must overcome an abusive relationship, anger and bitterness.

A beautiful love story that shows how God works even when we don't think He is. Kingsbury has such an amazing talent! Loved loved loved this book!!

I received a copy of this book free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Charly says

This was a somewhat predictable piece. This was predicated on a series of mistaken impressions by a number of people resulting in a happily-ever-after for all involved. Karen Kingsbury is a Christian author and there was no doubt that God was the leading character.

I generally do not read "Christian" novels but was too far in before the predominance of the style dawned on me.

Kav says

Another blockbuster literary event from Karen Kingsbury! I always feel like making popcorn before settling into one of her books because it's like watching a movie rather than just reading. That might have something to do with the fact that I listened to the audio book read by January Lavoy. Honestly, that woman could read the phone book and I'd be riveted. She has an uncanny ability to create identifiable voices for each character with just a subtle shift of tone. It's truly amazing! And addictive. I binged listened to The Chance because the combination of Lavoy's dulcet tones and Kingsbury's stellar storytelling was irresistible.

This is classic Kingsbury. Told from multiple points of view, she depicts real life struggles with a twist of grace. Ellie and Nolan's love story is also a God love story. I am thrilled at the way this author celebrates faith in her novels. Lots of tears shed -- from heartache and from joy as the author deftly weaves diverse plot threads into an inspirational tale of love and loss and second chances.
