



## The Beginning

*Karen Kingsbury*

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## **The Beginning** Karen Kingsbury

Prequel to Karen Kingsbury's new book, *The Bridge*, shedding light on the love story behind the bookstore and how it came to be a place of warmth, hope and encouragement. Includes excerpt from *The Bridge*.

## **The Beginning Details**

Date : Published September 18th 2012 by Howard Books

ISBN :

Author : Karen Kingsbury

Format : Kindle Edition 64 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian

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## From Reader Review The Beginning for online ebook

### Hyacinth says

Kingsbury can do no wrong if you let me tell it. This book of sorrow, healing and hope was good in a settling kind of way. My favorite part of the book was this..."Love is the only thing that we can carry with us when we go, and it makes the end so easy. "

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### Denise says

It's a novella in between other books so for what it was it was good. An interesting story giving us a little background in preparation for the next book.

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### Grace Tolman says

This was a heart wrenching AND heart warming book. The characters have some sad life experiences that they had to go through and I can only imagine the heartbreak they had to endure. But the silver lining is that they are also inspiring in the way that they overcame the pain and sorrow. The bookstore "The Bridge" helped the young widow deal with her loss and the owners found new purpose in their life. I loved the connection to the books and the plot of books helping people heal and come unto God. I love reading books and have found them to be, not only a great escape, but also a way to learn about life and how others are feeling. I can't wait to read "The Bridge" book next.

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### Nancy Holte says

The story of a couple whose baby dies at birth and another woman who loses her husband in Viet Nam. They meet up at "The Bridge-a book store. Good story line but kind of depressing. The bookstore is where the woman learns about God and her life is changed.

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### Leah says

A bittersweet story about loss and grief and moving on.

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### Ginger Mcclintick says

Was a little to short but was good.

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### **Lori Henrich says**

Charles and Donna move to Franklin to start a business that they can use to minister to hurting people in the community. They recently experienced the loss of a child, so they know how pain can seem very overwhelming. They decide to open a bookstore, making it as cozy and welcoming as they could.

Edna is a newlywed trying to cope with her husband off fighting a war in Vietnam. She wakes up one morning with a sense of doom and later that day hears a knock on the door and the doom becomes big and very painful. They have come to tell her that her beloved husband Tom will never be coming home. Struggling with beginning again Edna eventually goes out into the world and finds a job and she also discovers the bookstore.

Edna enters the store to find a book that will help her escape into another world away from her pain. She meets Donna and a thread of a friendship begins that will help to draw her out and into a new future.

I love Karen Kingsbury and her stories are always so well written and the characters so well developed. I can't wait to see who will be the next person that Charles and Donna will meet and help.

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### **Leash says**

This was a nice book to read. I actually enjoyed this slightly more than "The Bridge". It was interesting to get the story of how "The Bridge" came to be.

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### **Noella says**

*The beginning* is a short story of two women, Edna and Donna, who both have lost someone dear to them and struggles to recover from the loss. Donna and her husband set up a cozy bookshop the Bridge, to help provide a place for people to forget their troubles whilst being transported away by a good book. Edna is one of their customers and she finds that books are helping to heal her. The two become friends and share their stories.

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### **Manuel I. says**

Honestly, I have to say, this is one of the most realistic prequel to an even more realistic and true-to-life novels I have ever read! These characters, their emotions, their whole lives, are so vivid, so palpable, as to immerse one in life as we know it and as we don't. Excellent literature from one who is expert in both life and literature in the broad sense of both! My highest praise and adulation to Kingsbury!! My strongest recommendations for those who have not yet experienced this most sensible and sophisticated, admirable author!!

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### **Amy says**

very good book I have enjoyed all of them so far

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### **ken whitsitt says**

#### **Another good book about God's work.**

This book could not be anything but good since it was Karen's. Can hardly wait to start reading The Bridge. Will let you know that book goes. I already know. Or I think I know. Talk to you later

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### **Pam Chaffin says**

I somehow missed this book! I'm glad I finally realized it and read it. I love everything by KK, and this moving prequel is no exception!

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### **Cecly Ann says**

#### **An easy read to the Bridge**

I learned the back stories to the Bridge that were not explained in the original story. Edna's story is particularly heart wrenching.

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### **Melissa ♥ Melissa's Eclectic Bookshelf says**

I absolutely love the premise behind this story. A bookstore named The Bridge, with owners that care more about the people that walk through the front door than the sales that walk out. A place where community members can find a safe haven, open up, get personalized book recommendations as well as friendship, and hopefully eventually find their way out of whatever darkness they were in to the hope and happiness on the other side of the bridge.

I was tempted to pick up The Bridge and then happily saw that there was a prequel called The Beginning....so I figured I'd best start there. The Beginning is a short story/novella that tells the powerful stories of heartbreak and hope of the owners of the bookshop (Donna & Charlie) and the first customer (Edna) that they "help." The stories were heartbreaking in their details and uplifting in the way that they were able to move beyond the pain and re-build themselves and their lives, yet I didn't find that there was any real emotional impact. I felt awful for the characters but didn't manage to find a way to connect with them or really "feel" their pain. That may be a product of the length of the short story but I fear it may have more to do with Kingsbury's writing style.

The narrator did a lovely job of conveying Kingsbury's words, but I don't feel that the content enabled her to shine in any particular way...perhaps/hopefully as the story deepens in The Bridge so will the emotional content thus allowing LaVoy more opportunity to test her acting chops. I don't know however that I'll be

continuing with the series to find out.

On a side note: I did not realize going into this that it was Christian Fiction. I don't read a lot of Christian Fiction as I sometimes feel that the religious elements overshadow the plot. (Just my personal opinion as a spiritual but non-religious individual) That said there were many moments within this story where I felt that the dialogue and actions of the characters seemed too effusive or simply too good to be true. It sort of jarred me and through me off the story. I am sure that the interactions are realistic for a small percentage of the population (and it probably would be a wonderful world if they were true of a larger percentage) but since there were so far out of the realm of what seems realistic to me, I had a little bit of trouble getting past them and back into the story.

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