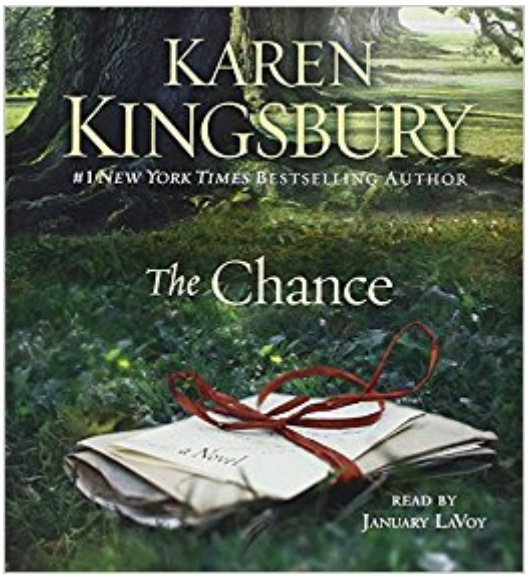
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The Chance: A Novel



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Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Karen Kingsbury comes a heartwarming story about childhood friends, broken lives, and a long ago promise that just might offer the hope of love for today.Dubbed the Ã¢â ¬Å“Queen of Christian FictionÃ¢â ¬Â• by Time magazine, #1 New York Times and USA TODAY bestselling author Karen Kingsbury is arguably AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s favorite inspirational novelist with a dozen bestsellers to her credit. In The Chance, she delves deeply into a theme that resonates with us all: ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s never too late for those willing to take a chance. Years ago, the day before 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 sealed them in a rusty old metal box. The plan was to return eleven years later and read them. But now, as that date arrives, much has changed. Ellie, bereft of the faith she grew up with, is a single mom living in a tired apartment trying to make ends meet. Sometimes she watches television to catch a glimpse of her old friend Ã¢â ¬â •Nolan, now an NBA star, whose terrible personal tragedies fueled his faith and athletic drive in equal measure. But Nolan also suffers from a transcendent loneliness that nothing has ever eased. In their separate lives, as Ellie and Nolan move toward the possibility of a reunion at the oak tree, Kingsbury weaves a tale of heart-wrenching loss, the power of faith, and the wounds that only love can heal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In The Chance, Kingsbury (The Bridge, 2012) delivers another excellent novel filled with heart, adventure, and second chances. Best friends Ellie and Nolan are forced apart when Ellie suddenly

has to move. Nolan makes a plan to bring them together as adults in case they lose touch, though theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re confident that will never happen. Years later, their planned reunion is drawing close. Their lives have gone down wildly different paths, and Ellie and Nolan both worry whether the other still cares. NolanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life is exactly what he hoped it would be, but he canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t fully enjoy it without Ellie. Each day Ellie struggles with her lot in life, convinced Nolan would never want her if he knew what she was like. Kingsbury is one of the most dependable names in inspirational fiction, and The Chance may be her best yet. She infuses such real emotion into her characters, readers will find themselves in tears multiple times throughout the novel. A beautiful balance of human fragility and the power of GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grace makes this is a must-read. --Carolyn Richard --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

""Leaving" is about families and relationships and the different kinds of 'leaving' that occur in life. Well-drawn characters and hometown stories make this another Kingsbury hit." -- "CBA Retailers and Resources ""As with Kingsbury's other novels ("Unlocked"), her latest is emotionally charged and features well-drawn characters struggling with their faith. The author is a perpetual CF favorite. Characters from her Baxter series appear in this series launch, and fans will be clamoring for it. Readers of Janette Oke may also enjoy."-- "Library Journal""Kingsbury, a CBA bestselling author, delivers her signature mix of melodrama, formula and genuine emotional punch in this novel. Kingsbury fans will undoubtedly be pleased by more of the inspirational fiction for which this author has become beloved."--"Publishers Weekly""Another weeper from Christian-fiction diva Kingsbury, this time featuring a prayerful NBA star and his long-lost first love.""In "The Chance", Kingsbury ("The Bridge", 2012) delivers another excellent novel filled with heart, adventure, and second chances. . . . Kingsbury is one of the most dependable names in inspirational fiction, and "The Chance" may be her best yet. She infuses such real emotion into her characters, readers will find themselves in tears multiple times throughout the novel. A beautiful balance of human fragility and the power of God's grace makes this is a must-read.""At age 15, Ellie finds her world turned upside down when her parents separate and her father moves them from Georgia to California. A devastated Ellie and her best friend, Nolan, write letters to each other and bury them beneath an oak tree. The two agree that in 11 years, no matter what surprises life brings, they will return and dig up the letters together. VERDICT Reminiscent of Nicholas Spark's "The Notebook" and Richard Paul Evan's The Walk, Kingsbury's ("Coming Home") latest novel offers her characters forgiveness and love without an expiration date. Her many fans, and readers who like to escape their daily cares with a gentle Christian romance with elements of women's fiction, will enjoy the reappearances of

Molly and Ryan, familiar characters from "The Bridge", as well as a likable cast of fresh protagonists."Kingsbury knows how to get down to business; readers start worrying from the opening sentence about 15-year-old Ellie Tucker and her family: "Her mom didn't come home for dinner, the third time that week." Family troubles prompt Ellie's abrupt move from Georgia to California, but before that happens she and her best friend Nolan write letters to one another that they bury and agree to unearth in 11 years. During that time, Ellie and Nolan naturally change, their paths diverging; he becomes an NBA star, she a single mother. Reckoning with loss and forgiveness for bad choices are required for healing. Kingsbury's themes are familiar, and her writing has benefited from a change of publisher. The action clips along, and readers root for the main characters. The fan-fic element of her writing remains-- there's not only an NBA star but another celebrity affecting the action. But the author pours a fervent message about love and reconciliation into a novel that makes the lesson of hope go down much more easily than it would via sermon.

After being disappointed (and having a hard time admitting to myself that disappoint) with Karen's last book, The Bridge, I was hesitant to pick up The Chance. I'm glad I did though! Karen was back in this book with the writing style that I'd fallen in love with!I immediately loved Ellie and Nolan. While most of our mothers probably won't have an affair with a famous country singer and break up our families and most boys won't realize the dream to become a NBA star and make millions - I still found this story very believable and heart felt. Life happens, not all good, but God can use these circumstances to grow us in our faith. That's what I've always loved about Karen's books - real life happens....the good, the bad and the ugly. Most of Karen's books do end with the happily ever after, but the characters have to struggle to find their faith and love of God to get there. God is always there. We forget that sometimes. Molly and Ryan (from The Bridge) also make an appearance in this book and I felt more connected to them in The Chance then I did throughout the entire previous book.I just don't know how else to express my feelings for this book! I loved it! I cried several times and to me that's the sign of a good book :)

An amazing story about a love deeper than what is commonly found between two people in this fast paced world, where instant gratification seems more attainable, than true love against all odds.It's amazing, how it turns out, that the two main characters both couldn't let go of what they once had. Parts of it has read like part of my own story. It's about the Forever Love, you find once in a lifetime.....and even if you wanted to, you could not let go.This book gave me hope, to trust, that my

love story might also have a happy ending. I am thankful to Karen for the way, she seems to know, just what I need to read, to keep hanging on, trusting the Lord, that he will make a way, where there seems to be no way!!!A great read indeed and I cried a river reading it!!!God bless y'all - enjoy the book - it's amazing
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I definitely recommend this book. It's a light easy reading fiction novel, but at the same time a very hard to put down book. It kept me engaged the entire time and while I think it had a great ending, I was sad when that came because I enjoyed the book so much. Can't wait until the next Karen Kingsbury book comes out and I'm enjoying these stand-alone books, it's a nice change from the series in the past.

This is a beautiful story of enduring love and God's working everything for good in our lives when we look to God for the answers. I cried tears of sadness which turned to tears of heartfelt joy. Nolan and Ellie are special friends from an early age. At 15 Nolan asks Ellie if someday she will marry him.. When her family has a quarrel and Ellie's dad whisks her far away and prevents her contact with family or friends her life is changed and she has a child. Nolan works toward his dream of being a successful basketball player but always searching for Ellie. Promises made, before they were seperated, about a time and place to meet someday, works to help them find one another.

I love every book I have ever read of hers and this one is no different. I have questioned my faith and even turned away from God just like Ellie had. Sometimes I still struggle, but in those moments I talk to God more than any other time. I also know I can read one of Karen's books and it brings a peace over me. God gave her talent and I am so glad. Her words and stories have helped heal me in so many ways. I love her books and how the reach out to your heart.

I have been a KK fan since I read her first book and I think I have read all of them, usually pre-ordering her books. Many times I have bought both a paperback and one for my kindle. However,sadly, I was very disappointed with the Bailey Flannigan series and I hate to say, not overly impressed with The Bridge. That being said; I did not order The Chance until I had read some reviews. After reading the reviews, I ordered it on my kindle, and Wow! I will probably buy the paperback,too.Let me just say that with this book, the Karen Kingsbury I have grown to love and appreciate is back with a bang. I think this book is one of her best, if not the best!One really gets to

know the characters. They are so well developed that I felt everything they were feeling. I laughed, I cried and I felt their loneliness and heartbreak, their joy and the presence of God all over this book!What a story of forgiveness, healing and doing one's best for God. There were so many lines that grabbed me:"Forgiving people makes us free" and "hurting people hurt people", "where much is given, much is expected". This book contained so many life lessons - truly life changing fiction! Way to go Karen Kingsbury! If you're a fan, get this one for sure. If you have never read a KK book, this is a must read. Get your copy quick. You won't be disappointed.

Defiantly one of Karen Kingsbury's best! A story that will take hold of your heart in the very first chapter and not let go until the very last page! A story of true love, forgiveness, unfailing love of a mother and daughter and the redeeming love of our Heavenly Father!

I don't write a lot of reviews but I have to write this one.This book truly is the best novel I've read so far this year, and I've read a lot!Karen Kingsbury did a great job of drawing me into the story - a story that shows how choices affect many lives, and the brokenness, loss & heartache that poor choices bring, especially to the children.But then there's grace. God's power to bring beauty from ashes, and to redeem the ugliest, messiest circumstances to bring redemption and reconciliation, all for His glory.You'll need a full box of tissues, by the way.

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