



Oceans Apart

Karen Kingsbury

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A riveting story of secret sin and the healing power of forgiveness.

Airline pilot Connor Evans and his wife, Michele, seem to be the perfect couple living what looks like a perfect life. Then a plane goes down in the Pacific Ocean. One of the casualties is Kiahna Siefert, a flight attendant Connor knew well. Too well. Kiahna's will is very clear: before her seven-year-old son, Max, can be turned over to the state, he must spend the summer with the father he's never met, the father who doesn't know he exists: Connor Evans. Now will the presence of one lonely child and the truth he represents destroy Connor's family ? Or is it possible that healing and hope might come in the shape of a seven-year-old boy?

Oceans Apart Details

Date : Published March 30th 2004 by Zondervan (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780310247494

Author : Karen Kingsbury

Format : Paperback 350 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian, Romance

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From Reader Review Oceans Apart for online ebook

Maleah says

It was a good book about sacrifice and what happens when life is full of its worst drama. It's a lot of real life which so far makes it a good read. I would recommend reading it, but know that I don't think I'll be buying it. For me, the subjects and characters angered me longer than the book had enough paper to cover. And while I must say its was a interesting read it still was upsetting and kinda emotional abusive to the reader.

Amainary says

This book is really amazing. It makes you think more on the right and wrong decisions and it makes you think in faith and if your being loyal to a certain person. It could be a friend,a boyfriend or even a husband if you're married. In this book Conner Evans, a pilot, makes a poor decision that leads to a major concequence. He was a married man with children when he breaks the greatest promise he ever made. He had an affair with a flight attendant named, Kiahna Siefert. He never saw her again. But eight years later he receives a call related to her. Unfortunately she died when the plane she was on crashes in the pacific ocean. And she has left behind a seven year old boy named Max. Max is the son of Conner Evans. Her will clearly states that if she dies she would like Max to meet Conner Evans, though Max would go thinking he is a very special friend of his mom. She would like Max to stay with him and his family for two weeks, then they would have to decide if they want to adopt him because Mr.Evans is not named as his father in his birth certificate or if they want him to go to another family. Now Conner Evans has to make a decision if to keep his boy or to let him go in order to save his family from destruction. This book has to do a lot with religion the characters are Christians.

Cynthia Marcano says

Karen Kingsbury is a master storyteller and I cried way too often while reading this story of forgiveness.

While it was a capturing tale. I was disappointed when, as a reader, we learned what happened in Connor's past. I found it wanting, especially on Kiahna's behalf. I felt that Kingsbury had truly developed her character and then blew it apart in a very non-believable way. Yes, we are humans and we all have flaws, but even character's mistakes usually have a reason no matter how crazy or emotional.

For a character to do something so out of character and for no apparent reason (for none was given) is rather disappointing. After finding out the history of a major part of the story, I felt cheated as a reader. It was built up just to disappoint (not purposefully).

While I did feel let down, the story is still heart-warming, thought-provoking, and a good read. I do recommend it.

rjp316 says

This book is about how your wrong decision (sin) can come back to get you even after you have moved on

and even after 9 years has pasted. Kingsbury is a religious author but I found her most interesting and religious main character was the 8 year old boy. None of the adults seemed to be daily Christians but rather "Sunday only when I can fit Christ in" Christians, except Max's mom. Found that the theme of forgiveness was ok in the book. I liked the son/father forgiveness storyline but the wife/husband forgiveness seemed to be a little too quick – in reality it takes more than 2 weeks after you find out your husband had an affair to forgive him. I hated that the wife did things without even considering what her husband would say. Parts of the book were very sad but who would not be moved by an 8 year old boy whose' mother just died. Very simple easy read book but not sure if I would recommend it to anyone.

Lynn says

I think my problem with this book was the overwhelming perfection of a woman who slept with a married man... she was perfection personified...in love with a man she slept with once....she never had another man after him...she birthed a perfect son..a 40 year old god trapped in a 7 year old child's body.. yeah that's the whole setup.... the paragon of virtue dies and it so happens his perfect mother seeing fit to never tell her "beloved" one night stand of her pregnancy she leaves a letter to him to keep their son (he has two daughters who don't seem to matter much as he apparently only wanted a son...and now he has one by the paragon of his one night mistress). Could not get past the perfection of both other woman and the perfect kid.. the book made the cheated upon spouse seem a shrew...i mean what woman would not welcome a child from a woman who slept with her cheating husband at her kitchen table every night. I agree the child is innocent however once he arrived the stupid anti hero only saw his son...his daughters and wife would just have to put up with him since it was HIS dream child. Now their paragon apparently only thought he was separated...uh paragon..if he's still married your a slut to sleep with him...bible thumping aside. she assumed he was separated not because he said so, but because he was cute and lived apart from his family and mistakenly started something with her and they both sinned...but in this story the only sin is the vile shrew who won't forgive him and take a child in. Pissed at reading it and reminded me of why i seldom read christian fiction...they never react the way real people do..no one would ever react like any of the characters in this book. The husband is so selfish and driven by a male heir that he is unlikable and pretty much thinks since he hasn't cheated again she should just forget it... he cares not what the child does to his other children..after all they are just worthless girls...sadly the only person i liked was the shrew...she at least acted like most humans...until she was shamed by her feelings. No i do not ever blame a child, but I cannot ever imagine watching my husband love a child that represented the worst of our marriage nor face the humiliation that would come in his showing up in our lives. I would have taken my daughters and left him with his beloved son, even at the end he only saw his son's return as his life complete, her "forgiveness": was a means to the ends. disappointed and irritated, much prefer a non christian book as they tend to have "less perfect" real life endings.

Jana says

I got it from the library and decided to give it a try.
The writing wasn't the best, but overall it was a good story with a good message of forgiveness. I might read more from this author if i'm in the mood for an easy read.

Dianna says

Typical Karen Kingsbury's -- FANTASTIC.

I am an avid Kingsbury fan. This is the story of a man who made a mistake 8 years ago, but what you do in the dark will come out in the light. That is what happened to Conner. Only this mistake stands to break up his marriage and also destroy the lives of his wife and the children involved.

Kingsbury always keeps God in the forefront of all her stories. Her point is that when we feel we are truly alone, that is when if we listen we will hear God speaking to us.

Randy Tramp says

Airline pilot Connor Evans and his wife, Michele, seem to have a perfect life. Then a plane goes down and a casualty is Kiahna Siefert, who leaves a seven-year-old son, Max.

In Kiahna's will she states that her desire is for Max to spend two weeks with his biological father.

The secret Connor had hidden for many years now explodes in his life.

My wife and I have fostered many children. Max reminded me of Ryan, a child we had in our home for several months. We instantly bonded and understandably felt crushed when he left.

I shed many tears over this book as it took me to those days of grief. The deepest love comes during the darkest times. God doesn't take us around the valleys. He takes us through, and that travel causes deep pain. Pain only he can make beautiful like he does with a caterpillar.

Love happens when you forgive. I can't say enough about this book. It'll change you forever as it did me.

AlegnaB † says

4.4

Rick says

Indescribable

This is my 1st ever KK book. As a Liberty U alum, I saw that KK received an honorary doctorate this year, 2017. So, I decided to buy this kindle book for \$2. I can barely describe in words what this book did to me. KK so vividly described my own journey with death, remarriage and adoption and so much more. I am still in awe. Thank you.

Vikki Vaught says

Loved the story, and this book is a wonderful redemption story. It kept me on the edge of my seat throughout the book. At one point, I greatly feared it would go a different way, but Ms. Kingsbury gave me a fantastic ending. I listened to the audio version and the narrator is fabulous. Happy reading!

Jennifer says

God's plans are not our plans. Forgiveness. Those were the lessons here. This book packs an emotional punch though I think the time frame should have been spread out a bit. In real life humans are stubborn and prideful and it takes us awhile to forgive and know that God has good plans for us.

Kathryn says

This was a little predictable at times, but I appreciated the lessons that were woven into it. I especially liked a saying of one of the characters in the story - that love happens when you forgive. I haven't read a Karen Kingsbury before, but it won't be the last of hers I read.

Georgie says

Had this book focused purely on Max's story, and cut down significantly on the shove-it-down-your-throat God/Jesus/Forgiveness stuff, I would have a) been able to finish it, and b) given it more stars.

Basic plot - in 1996, married pilot Connor Evans has a one night fling with air hostess Kiahana while they are both stuck in Hawaii. Kiahana has a son, Max, but doesn't tell Connor as she doesn't want to wreck his marriage. 7 years later, she dies in a plane crash. Her will includes a wish that before Max is placed in state care or adopted, he spend two weeks with Connor, but not be told he is his dad. Then if Connor wants to, he can keep Max forever. So Max goes to spend two weeks with Connor, who has to tell his wife Michele the truth about what happened that one night seven years ago..

Connor and Michele are proof that just because someone calls themselves a 'Christian' doesn't immediately make them a good or even a nice person. Connor is a typically arrogant pilot who convinces himself that the affair he has with an air hostess is not in the least his fault. However, beneath the arrogance I think he's actually an okay guy who really wants to do right for Max.

Michele is a horrible person. She's arrogant, self-obsessed, whiny, over-emotional, vain, nasty and mean. I think I was supposed to feel bad for her because her husband cheated on her, but I didn't. IMO, he should have divorced her and taken up with the air hostess Kiahna in Hawaii!

The constant God/Jesus/Forgiveness stuff was just too much, I get that this is a Christian book by a Christian author but in the name of God (heh, get the pun?) has she heard of SUBTLETY?

I thought Max was the best character in the book. He's sweet and funny and while I think Kingsbury fell down a bit on the language (sometimes she made him sound about 4 y/o rather than 7) I think she got the emotions and world-view of a 7 y/o kid whose life gets turned upside down in the space of a few hours very very well. Max has very strong faith, but with his character it came off as innocent and charming rather than forced like it did with the adults - especially Connor and Michele - in the book. Max seemed to handle the whole situation much more capably and maturely than the adults, and he's only 7 !
His dog Buddy is probably my second favourite character.

As much as I liked Max, I got to within 2 hours of the end of the audiobook version of this, and just couldn't stand the idea of another minute of Connor and Michele's near incessant whining and stupid, immature behaviour. Poor little Max, he loses his Mom and then he gets stuck with those two, and he can't even take his dog along.

Meghan says

This book wasn't about real people, it was about fake people! The author manipulated the characters to her ideal end. It was unnatural and unbelievable and preachy. I gave it a 2 because I like the premise of forgiveness, and the ideal end would have been what I wanted, if only the story had been told more realistically.

Emily Brunswick says

I gave this book five out of five stars, because it is a really good book. It also is really easy to read, but I recommend it to all girls, teenagers and adults.
I liked this book, because it has a very good theme behind it, and it was really easy to read, like all of Karen Kingsbury's books. This book is about Conner and his wife Michael, and how they have to get through their struggles, while eight year old Conner has to live with out his dead mom. All Conner wants is a dad, and his dog, but allot of forgiveness is needed. I like how this book changes point of views every chapter, so you know all of the main characters feelings throughout the whole book. I enjoy how this book references prayer, God and bible phrases, because it helps me with my own personal faith. I also like how all of Karen's books are inspirational, and how they quickly change you feelings from happy to sad all of the time. I hope you to read this great and inspiring book.

Marla says

Likes:

- * theme of the book was forgiveness and that means you love someone
- * Max was great and he was easy to love
- * Max and his mom, Kiahna had a great relationship and you gotta love their song
- * Connor's father, Lauren, explaining Pilot's Pride to him
- * butterfly afternoons

Dislikes:

- * infidelity and the hurt and anger it causes
- * the Christian parts seemed forced into the story and onto the reader, but even though I am a Christian, I do

not, as a rule, like Christian fiction

* young Max got caught in the middle

* story was just too contrived for me, but don't get me wrong, it was a quick read and I cried buckets

* Kiahna is not a true Hawaiian name (no silent H's) and there aren't sand dollars on the beaches in Hawaii and the variation of slang English that Ramey spoke was not the pidgeon that is spoken in the islands, so pick an exotic location and make stuff up.

Cathy says

i will not list all of Karen Kingsburys books, but if you pick up one of them, you will read them all, they are a great way to escape and find how people handle common crisis in life. Awsome author.

Shawnette says

As with all of Karen Kingsbury's books, I loved this one. She tackles tough subjects head on. Having learned about forgiveness the hard way myself, this story was a reminder of the healing power of forgiveness and that the consequences of sin are not limited to yourself.

Terra says

I seriously hated this book... but it was a book club pick so I read it.

The story is about an airline pilot who has a wife and two daughters and living a perfect life in Florida. But, his family doesn't know that he had a one-night stand eight years ago in Hawaii on a layover during a hurricane. What he doesn't know is that the chick got knocked up and he has a son. The woman gets killed in a plane crash - she's a stewardess still - and her will states that her son should spend two weeks with his father (not knowing he is his father but rather his mother's friend) and then the guy can decide if he wants to keep him or send him back where he'll become a ward of the state and hopefully be adopted. Knowing it is a Christian author, I bet you can't guess that it's a story about forgiveness. *gag* The convenient aspect is that the harlot stewardess was really a "good girl" who only ever slept with this pilot this one night and ended up pregnant. (Now it sounds like what my parents used to tell me when we'd have the 'don't have sex until you're married' talk... it only takes once!) Apparently she somehow fell in love with this one-night stand and pinned away for him and never loved anyone else. (Like that's realistic... NOT!) Now she is devoted to her son and God and thus the little boy is this bible reading 7-year old. Sorry, my eight year old isn't that advanced of a reader so I don't buy it!

The first problem was the preaching and heavy-handed shove-it-down-your-throat-on-every page religious bullshit. Seriously, I get that there is a market for people who want to read books with characters in them who share their religious beliefs. However, I do not believe there are any real people living who think or act like these characters did. The book was more like a sermon with a little bit of a story thrown in for entertainment. I knew this was a religious book going in and could have overlooked it.

But then there was this problem of bad writing. How the hell does drivel like this get published? And I heard this author was a bestseller... and it wasn't her first book? The characters were so shallow it was like little walking cardboard puppets on popsicle sticks. The dialogue by the little boy was done so it sounded like he was 5 instead of 7. And, the ending was so badly foreshadowed that I knew exactly what was coming from about the third chapter and just kept waiting for her to get to it already. The descriptions lacked depth - I still don't have a clear picture of what the two daughters even looked like nor most of the main characters. "Handsome" doesn't really tell me anything, does it? But go ahead and tell me he's handsome over and over again! (Show, don't tell, people! It's the first lesson an author should learn!) And the religious stuff wasn't even woven into the story. Just all of a sudden the character would be spouting off about how "I know this is God's plan" without the benefit of hearing the human struggle of deciding that's what they were going to choose to believe. Plus the preaching was so repetitive... find a new phrase because you used that exact one two paragraphs ago, lady! The actual content of the story could have been summed up as a short story but instead was drawn out far too long.

Skip this one... I wish I had!
