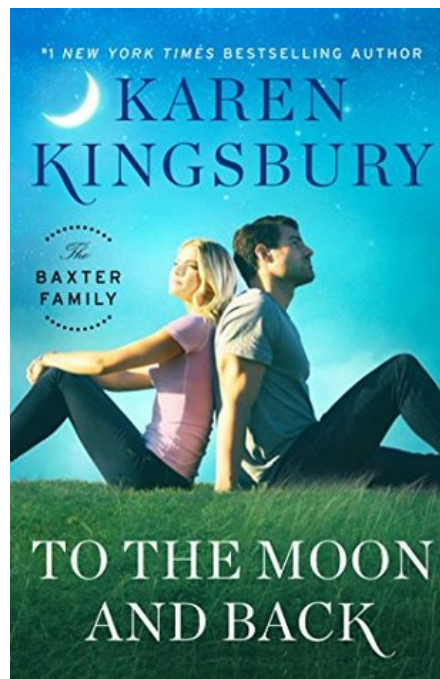




To the Moon and Back: A Novel

Karen Kingsbury

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To the Moon and Back: A Novel Karen Kingsbury

From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Karen Kingsbury comes a brand-new love story in the Baxter Family collection about two people who lost their parents in the same national tragedy—two people desperate to find each other and the connection they shared for a single day...a day that changed everything.

Brady Bradshaw was a child when the Oklahoma City bombing killed his mother. Every year, Brady visits the memorial site on the anniversary to remember her. A decade ago on that day, he met Jenna Phillips, who was also a child when her parents were killed in the attack. Brady and Jenna shared a deep heart connection and a single beautiful day together at the memorial. But after that, Brady never saw Jenna again. Every year when he returns, he leaves a note for her in hopes that he might find her again.

This year, Ashley Baxter Blake and her sister Kari Ryan and their families take a spring break trip that includes a visit to the site to see the memorial's famous Survivor Tree. While there, Ashley spots a young man, alone and troubled. That man is Brady Bradshaw. A chance moment leads Ashley to help Brady find Jenna, the girl he can't forget.

Ashley's family is skeptical, but she pushes them to support her efforts to find the girl and bring them together. But will it work? Will her husband, Landon, understand her intentions? And is a shared heartache enough reason to fall in love?

Deeply emotional and beautifully romantic, *To the Moon and Back* is an unlikely love story about healing, redemption, hope and the belief that sometimes a new tomorrow can grow from the ashes of a shattered yesterday.

To the Moon and Back: A Novel Details

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Author : Karen Kingsbury

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From Reader Review To the Moon and Back: A Novel for online ebook

Kav says

Five Tissue Box Alert! (and then some!!)

What an exceptionally moving story! Much more than a romance, To the Moon and Back is also (and more importantly) God's love story for us. Kingsbury expertly weaves diverse lives together in powerful ways. My goosebumps had goosebumps in places. And I cried buckets as these characters learned that "God isn't the reason bad things happen. He's the rescue." The author illustrates that in numerous ways throughout the read. Nothing is random where He is concerned. I loved how the promptings of the Spirit moved different characters in different ways -- all to achieve a purpose that only a loving Father in Heaven can see clearly. Such a profoundly faith-inspiring read!

And yes, this is a short review for me but I'm so gobsmacked I'm at a loss for words. Really. You don't want to miss this story. It's a life changer.

Kelly says

I have always loved these books, for the plots and also for the powerful messages they speak. How sad it is so easy for someone to be so hurt that it just consumes his or her life! I'm so glad, though, that God really can heal and change someone's heart. Nothing is impossible with Him. Also, I am really glad that they focused on Amy in this book. I've always felt so bad for her. She is such an example of what a survivor really is. She didn't let that make her bitter, but she is a better person because of it. Very well done!

Jerry says

Karen Kingsbury hits it out of the park once again with this novel! Even though it's been a while since I've read any of the stories of the Baxter family, this felt like a reunion with old friends. Can't wait for her next book!

Susan says

To the Moon and Back

Karen Kingsbury

Received from Atria Books

Wow, all I can say is, TO THE MOON AND BACK blew me away! Keep the tissues close by as you are reading and be prepared to go on an emotional roller coaster ride like you have never experienced before. It

is the third book in The Baxter Family series but it can easily be read as a stand alone, which is what I did.

Brady Bradshaw returns to the memorial site every year to mourn his mother who was tragically killed in the Oklahoma City bombing! One year while he is there he meets Jenna who is there mourning her parents who were also killed in the bombing. They share an instant connection as they feel no one else can possibly know what they are going through. TO THE MOON AND BACK is a childhood book that holds a special place in both of their hearts. This year, while at the memorial, Ashley Baxter sees Brady and the pain in his eyes and wants to help him. She sees Brady put a note on the fence and the detective in Ashley comes out. Will Brady ever see Jenna again and be able to move on and heal? He leaves her a note every year hoping to reconnect with her.

TO THE MOON AND BACK is all about family and the past and the secrets that come out are heart tugging. It had me flipping through the pages like a woman on a mission. I had to know what was going to happen to Brady and Jenna and all the secondary characters. The characters are all well written and totally believable. TO THE MOON AND BACK is without a doubt one of the best books I've read in 2018 so far. I was instantly emotionally invested in all of the characters. My heart broke for Brady and Jenna and for all they were dealing with but Brady shredded me. Karen Kingsbury really knows how to write about family drama, heartbreak, and forgiveness. I can not wait to read more by this wonderful and heart tugging author.

Melissa says

The third novel in Kingsbury's Baxter Family series is heart tugging and emotional. Although at times it borders on preachy, the inclusion of the Oklahoma City Bombing and themes of surviving despite horrible circumstances will touch readers deeply. Brady's struggle with faith is raw, yet so realistic. Fans of the Baxters will love this newest offering with both familiar and new characters.

When he was five years old, Brady Bradshaw's mother sacrificed herself in the Oklahoma City Bombing to save him. He has always wondered why God abandoned him and why God didn't stop this horrific event from taking his mother. When he was 17, he met Jenna (who also lost her parents in the event) at the memorial site, and the two clicked completely. They agreed to stay in touch, but Brady never heard from her again and has returned to the ceremony every year for the past eleven years in hopes of seeing her again. Ashley Baxter Blake and her family travel to the memorial at the request of Amy, who identifies with the survivors. When Ashley sees Brady, she feels that God is calling her to help him find Jenna and hopefully lead him back to God.

<https://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-re...>

Brooke says

Karen Kingsbury is a master at her craft! I absolutely loved the storyline for these characters and how they grew through the story! There was so much to like about this book that I couldn't find one thing I didn't like! It was an easy read and was even easier to fall in love with!

Laura says

I normally love Karen Kingsbury books, in particular the Baxter Family books....but I struggled with some of the storyline in this one.

Anna says

Ashley Baxter Blake and Kari Baxter Taylor and their families are taking a vacation together for Spring Break. Their neice, Amy, who lost her parents and sisters in a tragic car crash, wants to visit the memorial site of the Oklahoma City Bombing. She is hoping for a sapling from the Survivor Tree that they hand out on the anniversary of the bombing. She wants to plant it in their backyard as an emblem of her own journey of hope and moving forward. While they are at the site, Ashley encounters a young man, Brady Bradshaw, who is leaving a note in the fence to Jenna. He met Jenna eleven years prior and their connection was something he couldn't forget. Both Brady and Jenna lost their parents in the bombing, a grief they shared. Brady returned every year hoping Jenna would be there. Ashley is determined to find Jenna in hopes of healing Brady's heart. Can God work the miracle to reunite the two?

Another beautiful story of redemption and faith.

Ashley (5171MilesBooks) says

Check out this full review and many more at: [5171 Miles Book Blog](#)

Many thanks to Howard Books/Simon and Schuster for the chance to read and review this novel!

I was absolutely delighted when Simon and Schuster contacted me about Karen Kingsbury's upcoming release *To the Moon and Back*, part three in her much-loved Baxter series. Even before I was an avid reader I heard nothing but praise about Kingsbury's writing. She is a family favorite and go-to author for my mother-in-law.

Though this is the third book in this particular Baxter Family collection, it can be read perfectly as a standalone and is a great place to get started with the series or with Karen Kingsbury books in general! *To the Moon and Back* was a special read for me because I happen to be the same age as a couple of the main characters.

Brady Bradshaw and Jenna Phillips were five years old when the Oklahoma City Bombing took their parents' lives. Every year Brady visits the memorial, unable to move on from the heartbreak of losing his sole caregiver – his mom. On one anniversary, a chance encounter at the memorial brings Brady and Jenna together for a full day of remembrance and shared heartbreak. After exchanging numbers, the pair plans to see each other again after they both felt their unmistakable connection. Unfortunately, a set of circumstances keeps that from ever happening. Though they both fondly remember the day and the connection they shared, they no longer have the means to get in touch.

A decade later, Ashley Baxter Blake, her sister, and their children venture to Oklahoma City for Spring Break to pay their respects on the anniversary of the bombing. When Ashley happens upon Brady, a perfect stranger, she can't help but be drawn to his haunted expression. She feels compelled to find a way to help this young man, no matter how crazy everyone thinks she may be.

Like Brady and Jenna, I was five years old at the time of the Oklahoma City Bombing. It was the first American tragedy in my lifetime I remember vividly. I remember watching days of news coverage with my mom, asking questions, and wondering how and why something like this could happen. Then I remember hearing children like myself were inside and some had died. It was terrifying to imagine.

Karen Kingsbury brought these characters to life in the most realistic sense. I could truly envision the heartbreak and brokenness that comes with such tragedy. Though some characters had been through more difficulty than others, the prospect of redemption made this an exciting and encouraging read. I loved the chance to equally explore each character's past and present, making me anxious for every page and new perspective. Though the story is told from three characters' point of view, it was never a challenge to follow. The only negative for me was the abundance of characters in certain scenes, making it slightly difficult to keep up with who was who. This was the only point I thought it would have been helpful if I had read the other books in the series because I would have known the backstory behind each character's name.

Overall, this was an interesting and heartwarming read, keeping me interested from beginning to end. I enjoyed Ashley's influence in the story, and not just because we share a name. She acted as a kind of "middle-man" helping to make a love connection happen. I have been known to feel compelled to do things for strangers in a similar fashion, making me especially enjoy her perspective, as "out-there" as it sometimes seemed.

I'm looking forward to catching up on more of Karen Kingsbury's books and possibly the TV series, which will be coming soon to Lightworkers.com. If you're looking for a clean, inspirational Romantic read, *To the Moon and Back* is one to keep in mind. This beautiful story is available for pre-order now, releasing on May 29th.

Gabrielle Stoller says

Oh goodness. I keep wanting to love Karen Kingsbury latest works.....but there is always something that bugs me. Perhaps it is the now obvious endings we will get (think saccharine Hallmark). Maybe it's the "pray and/or have an interaction with an angel and everything will be alright." Maybe it's the emphasis on Ashley Blake.....and how it ALWAYS is about Ashley. I like that character, I do...yet we do have other Baxter family members we could have as the protagonist.

I did love Amy, the little niece and daughter of Erin. Her sweetness, her innocence, her childlike faith. That was one of the bright spots in "To the Moon and Back." I did love all of the attention and detail to OKC's bombing. I was also five years old so I don't remember anything about that event.....I found myself wanting to look things up and learn more.

The message of the book was a good one. I like this quote "The reason a tree survives the storms of any season is because its branches bend in the wind. Otherwise it would blow over and die....Whenever God's spirit might to her (Erin) or lead her in a certain direction, whatever He whispered for her to do or not do....she wanted to be sensitive." May the same be said of me.

So yes, I'll keep reading Kingsbury's books because I can't stay away. But I do wish she felt it okay to leave characters broken sometimes. Because we are human. Even with Christ, we don't always get a happy ending.

Ali (Ali's Bookshelf) says

I'm giving this book a 4 puppy/star rating. Will post a full review soon!

Margaret Fraleigh says

Love Karen Kingsbury books.

This book is no exception. This story is about the Jenna and Brady and their interaction with the lady family. It is a love story and how it came about. You may need to grab a tissue and have it handy. This tugs at the heart strings.

Thank you Karen for sharing your amazing gift to write stories that draw us closer to God.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I don't think when I picked this up exactly what kind of story I was getting myself into. For now, I'm going to put this one on hold. I don't think it is the type of story for me right now.

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Stephanie Dulac says

Karen Kingsbury does it again another wonderful book by her i swear as many books ive read about the Baxter family i cant get enough i could read on forever about them. One of the best parts about her books is she includes people from her other books so you get updates on what happened with them and i know these people are not real but they feel real!!! Must read. 100%

Melissa Henderson says

A beautiful story of loss, love, hope and faith. Karen Kingsbury writes with great details and compassion in her stories. This is another great one.
